



ICTM-ANZ Regional Committee Newsletter 1/2011

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1. ICTM World Conference Report

An impressive cohort of Australia/New Zealand researchers presented papers at the ICTM World Conference in St John's, Newfoundland, including a number of new ICTM members, Indigenous researchers and graduate students. With fifteen individual papers, one plenary session, a very well received workshop on Australian Indigenous songs, and three further papers by international scholars on Australian topics, the strength of our presence was noted and remarked upon by many. Meetings were held by both the ICTM-ANZ Regional Committee and the Oceania Study Group, and regional member Stephen Wild, having completed his term as Secretary General, was elected Vice President of the ICTM. Our congratulations to Stephen for this, and for his work over many years as Secretary General. Shanghai was announced as the location for the next world conference in 2013.

2. Statement on Indigenous Australian Music and Dance

In response to issues raised at the Sustainability and Ethnomusicology symposium held in Brisbane in March 2011, a team of Regional ICTM members involved in Indigenous music research prepared a draft statement on Indigenous Australian music and dance, with a view to highlighting the urgent need for support in this area. The Regional Committee Chair sought (and was granted) permission to address the ICTM general assembly at the 2011 World Conference and seek their endorsement for the statement. The attendees at the general assembly were unanimous in their support of the statement, which was thereby formally endorsed by the world body. While the statement is a symbolic gesture, it is one that now carries the support of a forum of representatives from more than fifty nations, which can be used in future as evidence that the needs of Indigenous music research are recognised internationally. The statement is as follows:

**Australia/New Zealand Regional Committee of the ICTM
Statement on Indigenous Australian Music and Dance, 2011**

The International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM), an NGO in Formal Consultative Relations with UNESCO, is a worldwide organization dedicated to the preservation of traditional music. Recent scholarship reveals that Australia's traditions of Indigenous music and dance are in crisis. These traditions are among the oldest and most endangered in the world, and yet insufficient financial support is currently available to undertake the work that is required to protect and preserve them. The Australia and New Zealand Regional Committee of the ICTM, with the endorsement of the ICTM General Assembly, has issued this statement to draw attention to this crisis and to call for greater support and action in this domain of endangered intangible cultural heritage. Songs, dances and ceremonial performances lie at the centre of Indigenous Australian cultures, playing a vital role in religious beliefs and practices. They are important repositories of cultural knowledge. Through song and dance, Indigenous Australians maintain social and personal wellbeing, sustain their cultures, and maintain Law and their own identity. Performance traditions also serve to strengthen Indigenous languages and provide intergenerational links between families and communities. Indigenous songs and dances are therefore essential to

Indigenous culture and society.

Once found all across Australia, these traditions now only survive in a few regions, and it is estimated that 98 percent of musical traditions have already been lost. Many senior composers and performers have passed away leaving limited or no record of their knowledge. Modern lifestyles and the ongoing devastating impact of colonization are affecting the dissemination of cultural knowledge between generations. The preservation of Indigenous Australian performance traditions through recording and documenting is therefore vital for their survival.

Members of the Australia and New Zealand Regional Committee of the ICTM collaborate in projects aimed at preserving and revitalizing Indigenous Australian music and dance, including the establishment of Indigenous Knowledge Centres and initiatives such as the National Recording Project for Indigenous Performance in Australia. The ICTM recognises the benefits of these initiatives, and calls for them to be supported and expanded in any way possible. Urgent action is required to ensure the protection of those living practices that remain, for the benefit of all Australians, and for cultural diversity worldwide.

3. Website Update

In 2010, the Regional Committee established a Google site as a repository for documents and information pertaining to the RC. Following some discussion with the new ICTM Secretariat, this site will now be decommissioned and replaced by a web page within the official site of the ICTM towards the end of 2011.

4. Election of Regional Committee Executive 2012-2013

The term of the incumbent members of the Regional Committee Executive ends in December 2011. The process for electing and appointing Executive Committee members for the 2012-2013 term will now commence. In accordance with the process used to establish the Regional Committee, the following will take place:

1. Partner organisations (IASPM-ANZ, MSA and NZMS) will be contacted by the Regional Committee Chair, and asked to select representatives for the Regional Committee through their own internal processes. ICTM members interested in representing any of these organisations on the ICTM Regional Committee should contact the respective organisation's executive committee to signal this interest.
2. Nominations for the posts of Chair and Secretary of the ICTM Regional Committee will be directly elected by Regional ICTM members by email vote. Where multiple nominations are received, nominees will be invited to prepare a short information statement to be presented to the membership prior to the voting process. Where no more than one candidate is nominated for either position, the nominated candidate will assume that position without a membership vote.

At this stage, we invite ICTM members to submit nominations for the following:

1. Returning Officer (whose role is to receive and count votes cast by email)
2. Regional Committee Chair (incumbent: Dan Bendrups)
3. Regional Committee Secretary (incumbent: Kirsty Gillespie)

Nomination conditions:

- The returning officer should be a member of the academic community with access to email, and who is currently NOT a member of the ICTM. The Returning Officer will be appointed by the ICTM Regional Committee Executive once all nominations are received.
- The nominee for Chair should be a financial member of the ICTM.
- The nominee for Secretary should be a financial member of the ICTM.
- Self-nominations will be accepted
- Nominators must be current financial members of the ICTM
- Nominators must ensure that they have informed the nominee of their nomination, and that the nominee has accepted that they be nominated for the position.

All nominations must be sent by email to both the Chair and Secretary of the ICTM RC, at the following addresses:

Dan Bendrups (Chair): d.bendrups@griffith.edu.au
Kirsty Gillespie (Secretary): k.gillespie@uq.edu.au

All nominations must be received by **Friday 14 October 2011**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

Nominations will be announced to the membership by email after this date, along with voting instructions, and appointments will be confirmed at the ICTM RC meeting that will be held in conjunction with the 2011 MSA conference in Perth.

5. Business Meeting, Nov 2011 in Perth

The next Business Meeting of the ICTM RC will be held in Perth, in conjunction with the conference of the MSA (30 Nov to 3 Dec). This meeting, to be chaired by Kirsty Gillespie, will provide opportunities for discussion on any matter of interest to regional ICTM members. If you would like to suggest an item for inclusion on the meeting agenda, please forward your suggestion to Kirsty (k.gillespie@uq.edu.au) well in advance of the meeting. All ICTM members (and any other interested parties) in attendance at the MSA conference are welcome to attend this meeting. Exact meeting date and time will be advised closer to the conference.

If you do not wish to receive any further information from the RC by email, please email d.bendrups@griffith.edu.au and indicate this so that your name can be taken off the list.