SGMDO Newsletter, December 2014

From the Chair…

I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable and productive year. It has been a busy time since our last newsletter.

In mid-September we held our first Study Group symposium since 2010, with several intrepid travelers making the journey to Papua New Guinea to participate.

Members were also busy submitting individual and panel proposals to the ICTM World Conference, to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan in July 2015. I am delighted to see so many members planning to attend.

As our unofficial archivist, Don Niles has been busy compiling a history of our study group activities and working with Barbara Smith to make our past newsletters available online.

You can read all about these past and future activities and initiatives in the pages within.

A big thank you goes to Keola Donaghy who has recently agreed to take on the management of our ICTM hosted website, as well as continue to manage our email list.

Finally, I’d like to wish everyone a wonderful relaxing, joyous and safe festive season, and all the best for 2015!

Kirsty Gillespie
Study Group activities

Symposium

We held our 8th symposium of the Study Group from 17-19 September 2014 at Madang, Papua New Guinea. Don Niles, Neil Coulter and Kirsty Gillespie organised the event, which was held in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea’s annual conference. Papers were presented by the following members: Don, Neil, Kirsty, Denis Crowdy, Naomi Faik-Simet, Tony Lewis, and Oli Wilson. Further invitations to participate were accepted by Edward Gende and Patrick Matbob, and to Alexandra Aikhenvald of James Cook University who gave a keynote address.

You can find a full report on the symposium, with a list of members’ papers in the latest Bulletin of the ICTM (Volume 126, October 2014, pages 43-44), downloadable from two locations (depending on the size desired):


Those on Facebook can also visit our page to see a number of uploaded photos from the event: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ictmsgmdo

Photo: Day 3 of the symposium and conference, Alexishafen Conference Centre, Madang PNG (photo: Kirsty Gillespie)
Study Group circulars on the web

A website with all the Study Group Circulars, 1984-2001, is now accessible: http://evols.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10524/47067. Click on the green link ICTM Study Group on Music and Dance of Oceania Circulars to take you to a page where all or individual circulars can be downloaded.

Stu Dawrs (Senior Librarian, Pacific Collection, Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii-Mānoa) and his staff prepared the PDFs of the files deposited there by Barbara Smith. In consultation with Barbara, Don Niles did some minor editing of the PDFs to remove personal-contact information. The revised versions have now been uploaded to the web.

A big thanks to Don, Barbara and the staff at the University of Hawaii-Mānoa for their efforts!

General news from our members

After 42 years as a staff member of the East-West Center (EWC) in Honolulu, most of that time coordinating the EWC Arts Program, William Feltz is formally retiring, although he expects to stay involved as a volunteer. During his tenure as an arts administrator, the EWC hosted more than 200 performing individuals and groups from Asia and Oceania, many of them discovered through colleagues in ICTM and this Study Group, and his attending six Festivals of Pacific Arts. Of his many friends and colleagues in SGMDO and across the Pacific, Bill wishes to especially acknowledge two of his mentors, Professors Barbara Smith and Ric Trimillos. Thank you Bill for all your work, and congratulations—we hope that you enjoy every moment of your retirement!

Richard Moyle was guest speaker at the inaugural Samoana Jazz and Arts Festival held in Samoa and American Samoa in October-November: http://www.amsamo.edu/pressreleases/141117Ethnomusicology.html. Speakers on aspects of Samoan music included staff from the American Samoa Community College, the National University of Samoa and the Samoan Indigenous University. The festival, now planned as an annual event, prompted local speakers and musicians to propose that an ethnomusicology forum be an integral part of the activities.

Karl Neuenfeldt was researcher and co-producer of music for the Torres Strait Regional Authority's ‘Ailan Kastom: The Culture of Torres Strait’ (Cinematographer: Brett Charles), which won the Best Documentary Award at the Queensland Multi-Media Awards.

Karl co-produced the CD ‘A Caribbean Songbook’ by Torres Strait Islander elder and two-time ARIA Award winner Henry ‘Seaman’ Dan. The CD features duets with Indigenous singers Archie Roach and Cindy Drummond and also Shane Howard and is a tribute to Uncle Seaman’s West Indian heritage.
Indigenous Music Recordings
'Mango Rain' included on Australian Playground Putumayo Kids 2014
'T.I. Blues' included on Australia Putumayo World Music 2014
Bub Iba Kodo Mir: Family Songs from St. Paul's Community, Moa Island, Torres Strait 2014 CD
Danny Bani db 2014 CD

Paul Wolfram completed and premiered his recent film Voices of the Land – Nga Reo o the Whenua in the NZ International Film Festival and is waiting to hear back about the international premiere location. The film is a cinematic documentary about Richard Nunns, a world-renowned performer of taonga puoro, traditional Maori instruments. It documents Nunn’s journey as he reflects on his more than 30 years working and learning from Maori communities and coming to understand the unique instrumentation of taonga puoro. The film accompanies Nunns and Maori musician and composer Horomona Horo as they perform in a series of South Island wilderness settings. See the end of this newsletter for a copy of the flyer.

Paul is also preparing to return to the Lak region in Southern New Ireland, PNG, to shoot another film over January and February 2015. What Lies That Way will not be released until mid-2016 as the post-production will be undertaken throughout 2015. What Lies That Way is a feature length documentary film on the sorcerers of a remote region of Papua New Guinea and my relationship with them. The film explores the nature of sorcerer and the people who engage with these practices. Notions of magic and sorcery are difficult for many Western audiences to comprehend. The magical practices of subsistence communities are often perceived as “primitive” or counter to scientific rational approaches that dominate Western ways of thinking and being. What Lies That Way is an account of Paul’s personal journey of discovery as he sets aside his biases and preconceptions in order to initiate into the Buai sorcery cult.
Special report: Papua New Guinea activities

In the last few months staff of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (IPNGS) have been particularly active in activities of potential interest to Study Group members. Some of these activities have been partially funded by a grant received from The Christensen Fund for a book on musical instruments of Papua New Guinea and reported on in the June newsletter. These activities are outlined below, and some will be more thoroughly reported on in Naomi Faik-Simet’s report as Liaison Officer for Papua New Guinea in the *Bulletin*.

The 5th Melanesian Festival of Arts and Culture (28 June – 11 July) was documented in thousands of photos and many hours of video by IPNGS Music Department staff, Naomi Faik-Simet, Edward Gende, Gedisa Jacob, and Balthazar Moriguba (Niles was attending the ICTM Executive Board meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan).

IPNGS was also excited by a visit from Allison Jablonko on 2 September. Allison is the first (and only) person to write a dissertation on Papua New Guinea dance. She was returning to her fieldwork area over fifty years after her first visit. Faik-Simet was co-organiser of a Dance Workshop, held at the University of Goroka, 8–11 September. In addition to local artists, teachers, and others involved in cultural activities, we were very happy to have Mohd Anis Md Nor (University of Malaya and ICTM Executive Board member) and Marcia Lloyd (Idaho State University) participate as well.

Gende and Niles documented the Madang Show (13–14 September). As the theme was “Bung wantaim, strongim pikinini lo pasin tumbuna” [Work together to strengthen children in traditional culture], many performances featured children with elders.

That show was followed closely by our Study Group Symposium, held in collaboration with the annual conference of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea, also held in Madang, 17–19 September. Faik-Simet, Gende, and Niles from IPNGS gave presentations, and we were all thrilled to welcome the Study Group to Papua New Guinea.

Finally, Moriguba and Niles recently returned from documenting aspects of the 11th Kenu and Kundu Festival [Canoe and Drum Festival], held in Alotau, Milne Bay Province, 7–9 November.

*Don Niles*
*Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies*
Photo 1: Silimuli Cultural Group from Enga Province, performing and being photographed at the Melanesian Festival of Arts and Culture (photo: Gedisa Jacob)

Photo 2: Jablonko (centre) meets with Faik-Simet and Niles during a visit to IPNGS (photo: Gedisa Jacob)
Photo 3: Anis and Lloyd receiving gifts from Faik-Simet at the conclusion of the Dance Workshop (photo: Don Niles)

Photo 4: Children from Baliau Elementary School, Manam Island, dancing with village leaders play drums during the Madang Show (photo: Don Niles)
Photo 5: Performers from Metaita village, Goodenough Island, dancing at the Kenu and Kundu Festival. Drums are distinctively decorated with pandanus leaves (photo: Don Niles)

Recent Publications


Plaudits

Congratulations to Paul Wolffram who recently received a promotion to Senior Lecturer in the Film Programme at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Karl Neuenfeldt has been appointed an Adjunct Associate Professor with the Queensland Conservatory of Music at Griffith University [k.neuenfeldt@griffith.edu.au]. Congratulations, Karl!
Upcoming conferences and gatherings

**IASPM (ANZ Branch) Conference, 2014**
Conference Title: Into the Mix: People, Places, Processes  
Conference Dates: 5-7 December 2014  
Venue: St David Theatre Complex, corner of St David and Cumberland Streets, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand  
Organizing Committee: Jen Cattermole, Henry Johnson and Oli Wilson

**ICTM World Conference 2015**
The 43rd ICTM conference will be held in Kazakhstan from 16-22 July, 2015. The call for panels and papers has now closed. Thanks to Jane Freeman Moulin who organized the submission of a Study Group sponsored panel, entitled ‘Pacific Mobilities’, which will run over two sessions. A number of individual papers have also been submitted.

During the conference we will have a Study Group Business Meeting, so please keep an eye out for that in the conference program when it is released.

For more information about the conference and to register online, please go to [http://www.ictmusic.org/ictm2015](http://www.ictmusic.org/ictm2015).
LANDSCAPE IS THE BEDROCK, THE BONES, THE STUFF OF MUSIC.

VOICES OF THE LAND

NGA REO O TE WHENUA

FEATURING RICHARD HUNNS, KOROMOHA HORD, BRIAN FLINTOFF, KIRAI MELBOURNE
LOCATION: CINDI, BECHCC, TDU, SEBS, ADJACENT. CINEMA: TBBC, TBBC, TBBC, TBBC, TBBC.
LUCY FRAZER, EDITOR: ANNE COLLINS, PRODUCERS: CATHERINE FITZGERALD, PAUL WOLFREYNG.
DIRECTOR: PAUL WOLFREYNG, BLUEFOX FILMS AND HANDMADE PRODUCTIONS AOTEAROA.
“WE DON’T HAVE A FIRM LINK WITH THE MUSIC OF OUR ANCESTORS BUT WE STILL HAVE A CONNECTION THROUGH THE VOICES OF THE LAND.”
RICHARD NUNNS

“SUBLIMELY CINEMATIC...”
BILL GRODEN, DIRECTOR NZFF

Richard Nunns reflects on the ways in which he came to see the land as having its own voices. With Horomona Hano, Richard takes the recently recovered knowledge of performing taonga puoro, the traditional instruments of the Maori, into the wilderness landscapes of Aotearoa/New Zealand to play to the land and confirm we are listening. A cinematic and acoustic journey into a world of sound rarely encountered.