

# ICTM-ANZ Regional Committee Newsletter 1/2010

10 February 2010

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## 1. Introduction

Dear friends and colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to initiate the activities of the new ICTM Regional Committee (RC) for Australia and New Zealand in the form of this newsletter. Further newsletters will be compiled on a regular basis, and these will include news and events submitted by the broader RC membership.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the scholarly community about the establishment of the RC in late 2009, and to announce other initiatives that have arisen in the mean time. I hope this can become a useful forum for discussion and networking in our field in the future.

Dan Bendrups, Dunedin, 10 February 2010

## 2. Election of the Regional Committee

On 23 November 2009, Returning officer Dr Shelley Brunt (Otago) provided the following results on the election of the candidates nominated for the RC:

Chair: Dr Dan Bendrups (15 votes for, none against)

Secretary: Dr Kirsty Gillespie (15 votes for, none against)

On this basis, Kirsty and Dan have assumed these roles and are now liaising with IASPM-ANZ, MSA and NZMS for 3 further members to be appointed to the ICTM regional Committee.

## 3. Launch of Regional Committee

The formation of the RC was publicly announced to the academic community in New Zealand and Australia on consecutive weekends in November-December 2009 in the following forums:

- On Saturday 28 November, the launch of the RC was included as an agenda item in the IASPM-ANZ AGM at the 2009 IASPM-ANZ Conference in Auckland. A discussion session was held as part of the conference program on the following day.
- On Friday 4 December, the launch of the RC was included as a program item in the schedule of the *Ethnomusicological Futures* meeting convened by Prof Huib Schippers at the Queensland Conservatorium. A discussion session concerning the initial role and purpose of the RC was held on the following morning.

## 4. Points Arising from Discussion about Strategic Direction

In both Auckland and Brisbane, members of the wider academic community (staff and postgraduate students) made many useful suggestions about the initiatives that the RC might be able to pursue, including:

- Addressing the sense of disciplinary/institutional isolation experienced by some postgraduates
- Generating information about what 'ethnomusicologists' do, so as to influence how the field of 'ethnomusicology' is perceived by others
- Organising workshops aimed at building knowledge of theory in particular areas
- Liaising with other scholarly organisations and committees in order to build the potential for sharing knowledge and research initiatives
- Establishing connections with community music groups and migrant community groups to create a broad-based network of scholars and practitioners.
- Advocating for researchers, particularly by providing guiding statements about ethnomusicological theory and method (especially in the area of constructing ethics applications for fieldwork)
- Creating a register of topics and contact details of postgraduate students and independent scholars
- Managing an online blog and a listserv as the primary means of communication for the RC
- Advocating for ethnomusicology, folk music studies or other areas in the public domain

The RC will begin to address these comments once a full committee is formed.

### **5. Immediate actions of the RC**

The immediate actions of the RC will be as follows:

1. Develop a blog site for the RC
2. Create an email listserv for the RC
3. Devise a position statement on research ethics in ethnomusicology (this was discussed at length at the Brisbane meeting)
4. Advocate for an expanded postgraduate forum to be formally included in the next conference of the MSA (also discussed at length in Brisbane)
5. Write an item for the next ICTM bulletin to introduce the new RC

### **6. Sydney bid for 2013 ICTM world Conference**

I have been approached as chair of the RC by a consortium of Business Events Sydney and University of Sydney representatives regarding a bid to host the 2013 world conference of the ICTM. This has been initiated by new Dean of Research at the Conservatorium, Prof Keith Howard. I am keen to lend the RC's support to the bid through a letter of support, but only if this is in accordance with the broad opinion of the RC membership. I can't provide much more detail about the bid at this stage, other than to simply state that a successful bid will result in the 2013 world conference being held in Sydney and hosted by the University of Sydney.

If any RC members have a strong opinion in favour or against the RC supporting this bid, please express this to me by email ([dan.bendrup@otago.ac.nz](mailto:dan.bendrup@otago.ac.nz)). We will need to make a decision on this within the next few weeks. In the absence of further discussion, I will assume that the broader membership consents to the letter of support being written, and I will go ahead with it.

### **7. Networks and Contacts**

There are many scholars who may be interested in the development of the RC who are no longer on the ICTM membership list for the region. I would encourage everyone to distribute this newsletter to others who may have an interest.

Pending the creation of an online forum for the RC, queries and comments can be directed to [dan.bendrup@otago.ac.nz](mailto:dan.bendrup@otago.ac.nz).

Finally, if you do not wish to receive any further information from the RC by email, please email [dan.bendrup@otago.ac.nz](mailto:dan.bendrup@otago.ac.nz) and indicate this request so that your name can be taken off the list.