



# KENDALL NATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION

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I have pleasure in presenting the twelfth Annual Report of the Kendall National Violin Competition.

This year of great excitement began with the excellent recitals played by 2009 winner Glenn Christensen with Jeanell Carrigan at Kendall, and later in Sydney and Newcastle. Glenn's delightful manner and presentation were as warmly welcomed at these recitals as were his performances. The Newcastle recital is worthy of particular mention as it introduced the Competition to a totally new – and very enthusiastic – audience and fostered a connection with Susan Collins who later accepted a position as judge at the 2010 semi-final and final. For the first time we had sponsorship from the Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce to assist with recital expenses specifically to relieve Jeanell Carrigan of some of the driving.

The 2010 Competition drew the largest number of applicants to date and presented at the semi-final and final what was described as 'the most interesting and diverse group of violinists in the competition's history'. The excitement was increased by Graham Caldersmith's generosity in donating a viola as well as a violin to allow the winner to make a choice. Graham's initiative was prescient as the winner, Liisa Pallandi, is also a committed viola player and chose accordingly.

The delight the young musicians have in performing in the intimate atmosphere of the Kendall School of Arts, the home of the Competition, is palpable, as in this excerpt from Liisa Pallandi's recent email: *the chances I have had to perform in Kendall are some of my fondest memories to date. The audiences were always receptive and generous, and I am looking forward to performing in Kendall again without the added stress that a competition (even one as welcoming as the KNVC) inevitably inspires.*

Lindsey Paget-Cooke of the Department of Investment & Industry (the department to which Forests NSW belongs) came to her first final when she accompanied enthusiast, Deputy Director Regina Fogarty, this September. Lindsey regularly attends launches at the Conservatorium and semi-finals at Government House. She caught hold of me at the end to say 'This is far better than Government House! Everything is just perfect: the old timber hall, the coved ceiling, the size of the audience, the coat of arms, the whole atmosphere... don't ever give this up!'

This is my final report. One of a number of things Eric asked me to promise when he was dying three years ago, was that I would continue with the Violin Competition. He shared my enthusiasm for the music and for the young musicians and enjoyed offering hospitality as much as I did. Having fulfilled that promise, I have for some time flagged my intention to retire, waiting for more committee members to be recruited and engaged for long enough to become familiar with the running of the Competition. I hope that will now happen.

My thanks for their hard work and dedication go to all committee members and supporters I have worked with over these twelve years. I also thank the sponsors and donors for their positive and faithful responses to my earlier requests. On the matter of sponsorship, I presume to offer some advice. At all times I have been circumspect in what I have asked for, never made ambit claims but followed that excellent maxim – as much as necessary and as little as possible. I believe this has engendered much goodwill that the Competition can continue to enjoy.

I thank the many musicians who have become friends, numbers of them house guests and many of them dinner guests over the years.

Most of all I thank Graham Caldersmith whose beneficence opened this door for me and others and I thank Goetz Richter and Jeanell Carrigan for the inspiration they have provided since the beginning.