



*Musica Motuque
Floreamus*

*“Through
music and movement
let us flourish”*



Enrolment Enquiries Now Open

Enrolments Kindergarten - Year 4, 2024

“We teach music because it is unique and good. We teach music so that children can make their own music. We teach music because it acts in a unique way on the heart, mind, soul and spirit of the child, stimulating thought and imagination in very special ways. These are the real reasons for teaching music.”

Richard Gill AO



RICHARD GILL AO

As a passionate musician, music education advocate, and national music leader Richard Gill inspired countless thousands of students, musicians and audiences across Australia. Richard was one of Australia's pre-eminent and most admired conductors specialising in opera, musical theatre and vocal and choral training. Richard conducted all the state orchestras and many productions for Opera Australia. He was Artistic Director of Opera Australia's OzOpera and Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. He was also the foundation Director of the Western Australian Conservatorium and founding Music Director and Conductor Emeritus of the Victorian Opera.

Richard was well known for his advocacy of music education and was respected world-wide for his work in mentoring and educating musicians, conductors and teachers. He was Artistic Director of the Education Program for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Advisor for the Musica Viva Education program. He was Artistic Director of Sydney Chamber Choir, Artistic Director of the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra (ARCO) and the Founder and Director of the National Music Teacher Mentoring Program.



THE SCHOOL

In 2017, there emerged a unique opportunity for the establishment of an independent primary school in Muswellbrook through a series of conversations with the remarkable Richard Gill, the Director of the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music and Muswellbrook Shire Council. After significant analysis of the benefits of the school to the region, Muswellbrook Shire Council resolved to fit out the Council administration building into a primary school. Education architects specialist were engaged to develop a masterplan and works were undertaken to convert and prepare the site for the inaugural 2021 school year. Further works will be undertaken as the school grows. Information sessions will be announced on an ongoing basis for families to view progress of the school development and all opportunities available for a unique education for their children.

OUR SUPPORTERS

The commencement of Richard Gill School was made possible thanks to significant support from Muswellbrook Shire Council. The school now owns the land and buildings on which the school is based, formally the Muswellbrook Shire Council Administration Building. The realisation of Richard Gill's vision for a music school is aligned with Muswellbrook Shire Council's vision to enable and improve access to educational opportunities for all children in the region. The school is committed to low fees and access for all to high-quality primary education. The school acknowledges and is most grateful for the numerous philanthropic supporters who have contributed both financially and in-kind to the schools establishment and ongoing development. Please contact the school should you wish to make a contribution to the school.



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OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Richard Gill School is a comprehensive, secular independent primary school with a musical focus, tailored around the educational philosophy of Richard Gill AO. With music and physical education as cornerstones of the curriculum, the school provides an opportunity for regional students to engage in a unique education where creativity plays a central role in all key learning areas, including English and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) with a specialised teacher.

OUR PURPOSE

To see a society where all children have access to the unique social, emotional and intellectual benefits achieved through music and physical activity as core components embedded within an extensive education program with a curriculum managed by empowered teachers. We believe music and physical activity are transformative and enable the lives of children, their families and communities to develop in vital ways that have enduring life outcomes.

OUR VISION

To see our students grow musically, physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually, developing life foundations of responsibility, confidence, resilience, purpose and performance.

THE CURRICULUM

The Richard Gill School offers teaching and learning across the full suite of primary school subjects, guided by the Australian Curriculum and meeting the requirements of the NSW Department of Education and NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Higher order, critical thinking, creativity, whole school singing and physical activity are core components of the school curriculum, which are supplemented by classroom teaching in these areas. The school will work collaboratively with the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music, and qualified teachers will provide individual and ensemble tuition as students develop.

In keeping with our vision, an emphasis on multi-literacies will ensure students are capable communicators across all 21st century demands. While it is essential to grow confident and competent language readers and writers, students will also work with non-linear texts, developing a wide range of linguistic, communication and technological perspectives and tools in preparation for life in a dynamic connected world. Similarly, a strong foundation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) will be offered, incorporating problem-solving, critical thinking and innovation, readying primary students for diverse pathways of study in secondary school and beyond.

SCHOOL TIMELINE

The school plans to grow to be a K-6 primary school by 2026, with aspirations to become a K-12 school in the future.

We respectfully acknowledge the Wonnarua and Kamilaroi people who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our school is based and our families reside, and pay our respect to Elders past and present

OUR TEAM

In July 2018, the board of the Richard Gill School was established in partnership with Richard Gill himself. Our experienced Board has oversight of the school and is actively committed to guiding it through its development. The Board manages the strategic vision and direction, funding, risk and all regulatory and legal requirements of the school and is informed by a strong cohort of education specialists and advisors.



Principal Chris English

Chris is an experienced educator and musician, having worked in various teaching and leadership roles around the Hunter Valley and beyond. As a passionate and practicing musician who has worked with regional and remote communities, Chris is thrilled to be leading the Richard Gill School as Foundation Principal. Originally hailing from Newcastle, Chris and his young family are now residents of Muswellbrook where they are proud to call home. Chris believes quality relationships are the most important element of successful teaching and leadership and is looking forward to working with the community and welcoming our inaugural students and their families on what promises to be a most exciting educational journey.



Chairman of the Board Kim Williams AM

Kim has had a long involvement in the arts, entertainment and media industries in Australia and overseas and has held various executive leadership positions since the late 1970s including as Chief Executive at each of News Corp Australia, FOXTEL, Fox Studios Australia, the Australian Film Commission, Southern Star Entertainment and Musica Viva Australia and also as a senior executive at the ABC. A decorated musician and composer himself, Kim was lucky enough to be a student of Richard Gill's at Marsden High School, with whom he enjoyed a lifelong friendship. He is an experienced executive, communicator and leader having established numerous large enterprises and effectively driven extensive change management programs in operational and in policy environments. He has been a spirited leader of large workforces and served on many boards.

Board Members

Angela Peverell
Reverend,
Anglican Parish of
Muswellbrook

David Walsh
Financial Controller,
Mining Industry

Philip Pogson
Director
The Leading
Partnership

Jane Simmons PSM
Deputy Director-
General Education
Directorate, ACT
Government, Adjunct
Professor, Macquarie
University

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST  richardgillschool.nsw.edu.au

Contact Principal | **Chris English**

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