**Community Focus**

**Kaye Fraser**

Kaye Fraser loves her job: she teaches children how to play the piano.

‘Every child has a unique way of playing’ says Kaye. ‘Some take to the piano like a duck to water, whilst others may need extra help.’

**The Building**

The Raymond building was designed by world renowned architects Rosen and Moberg. Both ardent postmodernists they have played up the theatrical aspects of the building while still creating a building which will stand the tests of time. The main entrance is through an arch designed to correspond with the proscenium arch over the stage in Theatre One. Similarly, the ceilings in the foyer are raked at a steep angle to match the tiered seating in the theatres.

The façade is built entirely of blue stone which lends a feeling of history and permanence to the building. The front of the building is decorated with eight massive stained glass windows which were built by a team of local artists led by designer Mervet Darabi. Between the two theatres is a long galley-style gallery space. The roof over the gallery is fitted with an ingenious system of adjustable skylights which allow up to 70% of the ceiling to be opened up to natural light. The café bar is situated on an open mezzanine in the foyer which is constructed from huon pine and polished steel contrasting beautifully with the stone and glass surrounds.

The stage in Theatre One is 7.4 metres wide and 12.8 metres deep. The main auditorium holds 1120 seats on 2 levels and a single level of box seats for 80. The ornate cornices of the proscenium arch, the box seats and the handrails were carved by master craftsman Hugh Daniels with the help of three apprentices. The ceiling is decorated with 24 handmade chandeliers each made up of a thousand individual pieces of glass.

Teaching children how to play the piano differs significantly from teaching adults, according to Kaye. ‘Children have a limited vocabulary. Generally, the younger they are, the smaller their vocabulary. This means that they are learning more than just musical terminology. They are also learning other new words every day.’