



December 2009

Another decade of banding comes to a close!

This newsletter is more of a 'wrap up' of the band's activities over the past year, and relaying information from the band's recent 147th Annual General Meeting.

A number of 'City of Bendigo Brass Band' and 'Bendigo Youth Brass' members were given awards and special recognition at the AGM. Very special congratulations go to Alan Shearn, David Hague, and Andrew Trewartha for being awarded 'Life Membership' of the City of Bendigo Brass Band. As indicated by Andrew at the start of the presentation, Life Membership is something the band takes very seriously, and saves for members who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the band over quite a long period. Heather Shearn, Margo Hague, and Leanne Trewartha were also recognised for their long term efforts and support of the band (and their husbands). Congratulations to Alan, David and Andrew!

Every year the City of Bendigo Brass Band awards the 'Les Rigby Award' to a band member who has shown outstanding commitment and dedication to band over the past year, in honor of Les Rigby who was a passionate and dedicated band member. This year the 'Les Rigby Award' was awarded to Erynn Trewartha, who has shown fantastic commitment to the band over recent years. A band is nothing without a percussion section and in most cases this year Erynn has single-handedly filled this role and shown great improvement and dedication. Having previously played percussion in the band myself, it's easy to take for granted the amount of control and influence percussionists (especially drumkit

players) have over the band as a whole until you are actually back there playing. It's fantastic that the band's principal percussionist has been recognised with this award. Congratulations Erynn!

Bendigo Youth Brass also recognised a few members for commitment, leadership and improvement in 2009. Trent McNeil and Robert Greenaway were awarded joint 'Band Person of the Year', recognised for their dedication to the band and leadership as senior members of the ensemble. Alex Kuhn was given the 'Encouragement Award', and has shown great improvement on the Trombone over the last year. Congratulations to Trent, Robert and Alex!

In other news, Hannah Trewartha is moving back to Bendigo in 2010, and rejoining the band on a full time basis. Hannah has been based in Canberra undertaking music and teaching studies, and subsequently teaching in Young NSW for quite a few years, so it will be fantastic to have Hannah back around Bendigo and playing with the band again. The fact that she has also put her hand up to be a committee member in 2010 is an indication of her keen enthusiasm for the band. We are all looking forward to having Hannah around in 2010.

Cheers!

Brendan



Brass in the Park 2009 (Photo Margo Hague)

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Overview

2009 has seen the Band continue to make progress in challenging ourselves to be better musicians and to look at ways to further the band membership and effectiveness of performances. Our performances have once again been varied and we trust entertaining for the public. We have continued to support local and district charities, businesses and service groups who in turn have supported us.

Some organisations to thank include:

- Bendigo Highland Pipe Band
- Bunnings
- Bendigo Band's Group and affiliated Bands
- Bendigo Competitions Society
- Bendigo & District Concert Band
- Bendigo & District R.S.L.
- Bendigo IT (webhosting and design)
- City of Greater Bendigo Council
- Huntly Hall Committee
- Inglewood & District Health Service
- Neale St Uniting Church
- Raywood Primary School
- Spring Gully Dance Committee
- Victorian Bands League.

Bendigo Youth Brass

Thank you to the Youth Brass M.D. Cally for her continued hard work with the group. As in all groups where age is a criteria for membership numbers have fluctuated as players have left for further study or other reasons and issues of instrument balance and player availability have become a problem.

The BYB have performed at concerts and contests and have made a real fist of playing to a reasonable level. The recent success in gaining a CoGB Council Community Groups grant will ensure the BYB can be better promoted. We need to look at ways to further develop the co-operation established with fellow sponsoring band, Marist Bros, so we can continue to develop the BYB.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (CONT.)

Committee

Over many years I believe the success of this Band has been underpinned by the work of the Committee who have persevered to ensure the Band is doing its best to be recognised as a successful and organised community band capable of carrying our name.

The 2009 committee have had excellent numbers at meetings with plenty of input and discussions about ways to improve what we do. I would like to thank all members for their efforts. In particular Bruce and Michael for their secretarial work, to Alan for keeping the books in the black and keeping an eye on Andrew's excesses, to Dave for his representation of our band at a VBL and local Group level, to Val as the OIC Dance fundraising and to Brendan for putting together and sending out the all important Band News communications. To all committee members a huge thanks for your work in 2009.

Of interest to note is that exciting plans have already commenced to ensure we properly recognise and celebrate our sesquicentennial anniversary in 2012. We hope to make this a real year to remember for the Band and will work hard to see us humming along ready to enjoy this incredible milestone.

Musical Directors

Once again we have had a busy year doing what we're here for as a Band! Without the expertise of our MD Andrew and Assistant MD Cally we could not achieve this quantity or quality of music making. Congratulations to both for the way you go about conducting and leading of the bands.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone for your support of the Bands and to those who help us in any way we would like to encourage you to once again get behind the bands in twenty-ten.

Thanks,

Trevor Trewartha, President.

MUSICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

2009 began under interesting circumstances. Totally without warning, City of Bendigo Brass Band was promoted to C Grade by the VBL. This was not a total surprise, based largely on a very successful 2007 at local, state and national level, however, the fact that it occurred more than 12 months after this success left us a little taken aback at the subsequent committee meeting. It also introduced a dilemma that has never existed before in the Bendigo area - all competing bands were for the first time in the same grade. This opened up all sorts of issues, particularly in the sharing of players across the four bands. An issue that still remains and will be further exacerbated by the VBL's new contest rules.

With that in mind, the committee took a collective deep breath and decided to accept the VBL's decision and go forth, starting at the bottom of C grade after enjoying a number of years at the top of D Grade. It felt a little like the first day at high school after 7 years at primary level.

Thankfully, our baptism into C Grade was not too bad. While not achieving a top 3 placing, the band performed extremely well (definitely at a higher standard than 2008) and achieved fifth at both Bendigo and Ballarat. From this experience, it was very obvious that there are two distinct halves to C Grade. Therefore, our initial goal as a band needs to be about scaling to the top of the lower half.

Apart from competing, the band also performed in public on a variety of occasions. This included our regular gigs at: Australia Day, both Easter processions and the ANZAC Day ceremonies at Huntly and Bendigo. Our annual concert at Inglewood was once again well received, this year incorporated into celebrations at the Inglewood Hospital during October. Since then, the band has

had a great time participating at the Bendigo Bands Group event in Flora Hill and last weekend at Brass in the Park. To complete the year the band will perform two Christmas concerts, at Neale Street Uniting Church and Raywood Primary School.

To the committee, you have once again provided outstanding service to the band in 2009. Well done to Trevor, Bruce, Dave, Michael and Alan for keeping us on track from an administrative point of view. Also, well done to Brendan for the very informative monthly newsletter. To the rest of the committee thank you for your support and enthusiasm, particularly Val Harvey who continually volunteers to do the stuff that no one else is willing to do and makes more money out of the dance catering than the band's concerts.

To assistant Musical Director, Cally Tromans, along with those who've contributed to musical direction in various ways, thank you for your thoughts and advice throughout the year. It is a blessing to be surrounded by people who have sound musical knowledge, years of experience and unique ideas. In particular, well done Cally on keeping the ball rolling with the Youth Band and steadily building it again, pretty much from scratch. The COBBB Seniors have certainly enjoyed the trial of the combined monthly rehearsals with the juniors and certainly hope that this is continued next year. We would also encourage members of Marist Brothers to come to these rehearsals.

In finishing, thank you again to all band members for your support this year. Have a safe & enjoyable Christmas...

Andrew Trewartha
Musical Director.



BENDIGO YOUTH BRASS NEWS

Contact: Cally Tromans 0431 031 853

Congratulations to Trent McNeil and Robert Greenaway for being awarded joint 'Band Person of the Year', and to Alex Kuhn for receiving the 'Encouragement Award' at the recent COBBB AGM. Refer AGM report above for more detail.

The Bendigo Youth Brass has continued to play an important and active role within the community during 2009. The band has had a consistent core group of 14 members with a number of other players helping out during the year. Towards the beginning of the year the Bendigo Youth Brass were working towards a play out at the Bendigo Competitions. This resulted in them being awarded 2nd place in the Junior 'C Grade' competition against a much larger and more experienced band. The adjudicator had many wonderful things to say about the group and the feedback was greatly appreciated. The band also played admirably at the Bendigo Bands Group Inter-band Competition, held at Bendigo South-East Secondary College, and at the Brass in the Park Concert in Rosalind Park.

In the second half of the year we held a trial of the combined Youth Band and City of Bendigo Band practices which gave the students an opportunity to play within a larger ensemble and tackle some more tricky repertoire. The students appeared to enjoy this experience very much, with some of them assisting the City of Bendigo Brass Band for performances throughout the year. Following the success of this idea it will be carried through into 2010 and this will hopefully help the students develop their skills further.

This year the band has had two Year Twelve members who have been a

great support to the students in years below them. Trent McNeil has been a member of the band for a number of years and is always a fabulous mentor for the other students in the band. Robert Greenaway has also been a mentor for students leading in a quiet and careful manner. We wish Robert and Trent the best of luck as they pursue their chosen careers passed their schooling days.

In the final part of 2009 the Bendigo Youth Brass were awarded a City of Greater Bendigo Development Grant of \$2000 for the future development of the band. The funds will be used in 2010 to purchase uniforms, new music, and promote the group so that they can perform at more community events in the future. Many thanks to Alan Shearn and David Hague for their help in preparing the grant application.

As the Musical Director of the ensemble I would like to thank Andrew Trewartha and Bruce McWilliam for their constant support of the students throughout the year. I would also like to thank John O'Connor for his assistance. My final thank-you is for the parents of our students, who have been continuously supportive this year and I look forward to working with you all in 2010.

Cally Tromans
Musical Director
Bendigo Youth Brass



DIARY DATES

- **Dec 16th** - Raywood Community Christmas Carols. To begin playing at 7pm, Raywood Primary School.
- **Jan 20th** - Senior Band Rehearsals Resume.
- **Jan 26th - Australia Day.**
 - Band to play first at Maiden Gully / Marong Lions Club Breakfast (To Be Confirmed). Event to start at 6:30am, Maiden Gully Reserve (Beckhams Road, off Calder Hwy).
 - Band to play at Australia Day festivities at Lake Weeroona later in the morning. Time to be confirmed.
- **Feb 3rd** - Youth Band to resume. Combined rehearsal.



Brass in the Park 2009 (Photo Margo Hague)

A good friend and trumpet player Nick Bryant sent the photo below. He is currently traveling around Europe with his fiancée. They were having a coffee in the Victoria and Albert museum in London, looked up and noticed there was an entire brass band of instruments, flattened and on perspex above them!