



February 2010

First Newsletter of the Decade!

Welcome back for 2010! The band has been quite busy so far this year, with rehearsals and two playouts on Australia Day. We are now preparing to play at the 'Birdsville Races' (at the Bendigo Racecourse, not Birdsville thank god!), **This Sunday the 21st of February**. We will be playing from 2pm somewhere near the main grandstand. Please be there by 1:40, and bring your hat.

In other news, the band recently received a very kind letter and generous donation of \$500.00 from Bob McCaskill. Bob commenced playing in the band in 1932 at the age of 10, and became bandmaster at the young age of 18 years when his father (Bob McCaskill Snr) joined the armed services. He was a very devoted and committed band member right up to his retirement from banding in his 80's, so much so that I can even cite his own book 'Banding through Three Centuries with the City of Bendigo Brass Band' as a reference for this information! The letter received from Bob reads:

President, Committee, and Members of the City of Bendigo Brass Band,

Dear Friends,

My association with the band for some eighty years gave me great pleasure, and I made some wonderful friendships within the band.

I was honoured to be able to contribute in some small way to the band and the Bendigo public over those years.

I would like to make a donation to the band of \$500.00, and wish you all great success in the future.

*Yours Sincerely,
Bob McCaskill*

The City of Bendigo Brass Band as a whole thank you very much Bob for your kind words and very generous donation. We will be sure to put it to good use!

In other news, we have the first Spring Gully dance catering coming up on Saturday 27th of Feb. Please see Val if you are able to help or supply some supper.

Cheers!

Brendan

MUSICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Welcome back one and all. I hope everybody had a great Christmas and a great start to 2010.

Since our last Newsletter we've been a part of a few concerts, albeit separated by our 4 week break. Before Christmas we combined with the Neale Street Choir to perform at the church. I thought we did a great job and that the program moved nicely along, unlike prior years where the format had seemed a bit long. The only disappointment was that we didn't have a full house. Obviously we need to work on our advertising. The final concert last year was at Raywood Primary and again the band turned out well and did the job asked of it. In both cases well done for the standard of music we provided.

To kick 2010 off, we had the two playouts on Australia Day. Much to my amazement, I didn't mind getting up at the crack of dawn to perform at Maiden Gully. I actually enjoyed, as (I believe) all of you did as well. The Lions Club and the Maiden Gully community were certainly very receptive and have already asked us back. They have also asked us to play some music at their "Birdsville" race meeting at the Bendigo Jockey Club, which I've accepted on the

band's behalf. The second playout at the lake was obviously under slightly hotter circumstances, but again the band did a sterling job. Well done..!

Looking forward, the band will have some challenges as we try to fill the seats of four of our members who have headed off to University in 2010. As expressed at our last rehearsal, many thanks to Ben, Jaan, Trent and Robert for your many years of great service. You will be missed and obviously an invitation is always there to drop in and play whenever you are able.

Even though we face these challenges of renewing our numbers, particularly in the cornet division, we are extremely blessed to welcome back Hannah Trewartha. Hannah will be a great asset to our organisation and is already making her mark in the Secondary College music scene and is starting to take on private learners. Welcome back Hannah..!

Anyway, that's enough for this month. Let's have a great year..!

Andrew Trewartha
Musical Director.

DIARY DATES

- **Sun Feb 21st** - Birdsville Races @ Bendigo Racecourse. Racecourse Rd Epsom. Arrive by 1:40pm, near the main grandstand.
- **Sat Feb 27th** - Dance Catering.
- **Wed Mar 3rd** - Combined Youth Band and Senior Band Rehearsal
- **Sat Mar 20th** - Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Parade
- **Sun Apr 4th** - Torchlight Parade
- **Mon Apr 5th** - Bendigo Easter Parade