



June 2009

Welcome to the new COBB News for 2009!

We'll try to keep you better informed of news, upcoming events, and general band goings on through this newsletter in the future.

If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to COBB News (articles, photos, stories, jokes, things for sale, etc..) please see me at rehearsal, or send me an email at brendan@bblarch.com.au

Cheers!

Brendan



Marching in Pall Mall - Easter 2009

PRESIDENTS PONDERINGS

I'd like to start with huge thanks to Brendan for putting this Newsletter together. Musically we don't do a bad job but sometimes we fall down on the communication side despite Andrew's excellent work on the band website.

(see www.bendigobrass.org.au).

We greatly need this Newsletter to get info out about events and other important happenings.

Congratulations to Andrew as the CoBBB stepped up a grade and showed we can achieve at this level. I know Andrew will urge us to make an effort to improve individually so that as a Band we achieve a better sound at a more complex standard. How we might do this is more than increased home practice but concentrated development of skills we need to develop such as can we play in tune softly and quickly? I'm confident we can continue to improve as we support our MD's.

BYB also made a solid effort at the Bendigo Comps. Cally has also worked so hard to bring the Youth Band up to an improved standard and those who heard them at the comps may not have recognised them, they really lifted on the day which is tremendous as they obviously enjoyed playing for a crowd.

Thanks also go to our committee members for their perseverance in supporting the Band in sometimes laborious but essential monthly meetings and fundraising events

Regards,

Trevor Trewartha

MUSICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Hello again one and all. It's been a few months since our last newsletter, so it's great that Brendan has taken up the challenge of producing this document on a semi-regular basis. To get us up to date, I won't bore you with a look at the past six months, but will just focus on the events of the past 4-6 weeks.

Obviously the past month (or so) has revolved heavily around preparation for and participation at the Bendigo Comps. This was our first tilt at C Grade in approximately six years, so it was always going to be a challenge for us to finish in the "placings". That being said, I think we can all hold our heads up high on what we achieved. Certainly, immediate feedback from a number of audience members was extremely positive and rated us highly among our peers. In listening to four of the other bands, my thoughts were that 4th was about the best we could hope for, with Sunshine, Greater and Marist standing out. Therefore, 5th place was OK and not too far below where I thought we'd probably end up.

Overall, we should be very happy with our performance and we certainly have some valuable comments to work on, based on the adjudicators immediate thoughts on the CD provided.

It should also be noted that one significant improvement in the lead up to the contest was the attendance levels at the Sunday rehearsals. In the past it has been very difficult to get reasonable numbers to such rehearsals. It was therefore very pleasing to have around 80% of the band present on both weekends. Obviously, the promise of a free BBQ might have swayed a few of you, but that's OK. Thank you to Dave for doing the cooking on both occasions and for providing the smoky atmosphere for us to really get into the swing of things.

On the playing front, thank you to Bryan, Louisa and Catherine for your assistance on the night. It was greatly appreciated. Well done to the junior members of the band for your great work and also congratulations to you, Cally and the rest of Bendigo Youth Brass for having a red hot go in the Junior Band contest.

Hopefully, you all realise that the only thing stopping us from really shaking up C Grade and the bands in the top half of the results, is "ourselves". Just a couple of hours of practice at home per week will make an enormous difference to our sound. Please make every effort to put a little extra home practice in. It will bring you, me and the entire band immense satisfaction...!

Andrew Trewartha

BAND FEES

A friendly reminder that band fees are now due. Please see Michael or Alan to pay these if you haven't already done so.

- Single adult \$70 per year or \$20 per quarter,
- Junior players \$50 per year or \$15 per quarter,
- Families \$100 per year or \$30 per quarter.

DIARY DATES

- **Aug 1** - Spring Gully Dance Catering
- **Aug 22 or 23** - VBL State Championships (Ballarat)
- **Sept 26** - Spring Gully Dance Catering
- **Oct 31** - Inglewood Concert (to be confirmed)
- **Nov 21** - Spring Gully Dance Catering
- **Dec 6** - Brass in the Park (formerly Brass on Bull)



BENDIGO YOUTH BRASS NEWS

Contact: Cally Tromans 0431 031 853

The Bendigo Youth Brass has welcomed a number of new players into the ranks this year and they have proved themselves to be invaluable as we prepared for the Bendigo Competitions. The group played 3 works for this event and the improvement in standard as we worked on these pieces was fabulous to see. The adjudicator's comments were kind and he mentioned that the ensemble had a lot of enthusiasm. We came a very respectable 2nd and all of the students are to be congratulated on their dedication and playing on the day.

A special thank-you to Jan Butler who stepped in to play tuba at the last minute, even though he had never played one before! A big thank-you as well to the parents who came along and supported on the day! Our next endeavor will be to have our uniforms looking spiffy with new badges to be sewn onto black shirts, but more information on that in coming weeks.

Cally Tromans

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Guaglione

We've been rehearsing this piece lately, and a bit of research brought up some interesting background.

Guaglione was written by Giovanni Fanciulli (with Italian lyrics added by Nisa), and was made famous in the 1950's by Perez Prado and his Orchestra. Perez Prado was known as the 'King of Mambo', a Cuban bandleader, composer and organist credited for making this style of Latin music popular worldwide.

Perez Prado's version of Guaglione can be heard here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfxv_lw2CDw

Perez Prado's version of this song was again made famous in 1995 when it was used in a Guinness ad. In this year, the original recording reached number 1 on the Irish music charts, and number 2 on the UK charts. The Guinness ad can be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5HU5axz6GI>

Interestingly, another original Perez Prado recording was on the top of the charts worldwide in 1999, when some idiot by the name of Lou Bega put some stupid words over Prado's 1949 tune "Mambo No. 5", and probably made a lot of money from it! Prado's original version can be heard here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSnaXDzg_rl&NR=1

Apparently it was his trademark to grunt over the top of the music whilst performing. Perhaps we could insert some grunts in Guaglione for stylistic accuracy? Any takers?!