



May 2010

Welcome to the (long overdue) May edition of COBB news!

A lot has been happening over the past couple of months. This newsletter is somewhat of a 'catch up' of recent band news, as well as informing members and friends of upcoming events and projects.

The traditionally busy March - April period is now over, with the band performing well at the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Parade, both Bendigo Easter Festival parades, and Anzac day services in Huntly and Bendigo. We are currently preparing to compete at the Bendigo Competitions in late May.

From June onwards, the band has deliberately planned a relatively free schedule commitment-wise. This will enable us to get a good selection of concert items up to scratch for the usual concerts and public performances later in the year. We hope to focus on 'presentation' and 'entertainment' factors, as well as planning for upcoming performances and events.

One particular upcoming event is the band's 'sesquicentennial' or 150th anniversary in 2012. This makes the City of Bendigo Brass Band one of the oldest existing brass bands in Australia. A special committee is being formed to begin planning events and celebrations to mark this unique and historical milestone. Ideas and suggestions are currently being sourced for how we can properly recognise and celebrate this event. So, the invitations out to put your 'thinking caps' on for creative ideas, suggestions or thoughts, which can be either emailed to myself or passed on to Trevor Trewartha - President at rehearsal. There's even a form to fill out at the end of this newsletter if you are so inclined!

In other news, you may have noticed a lot of shiny new percussion equipment in the band room lately, which has been provided by the Bendigo and District Concert Band. This is a great example of successful 'sharing' of resources, and many thanks to the concert band for their ongoing supportive relationship with the COBBB. Also, in case you're wondering who this 'Cally Bartlett' is conducting the youth band, Cally and I recently got married on Easter Saturday! Thanks to all the band members for their kind wishes and support for this joyous event!

Cheers!
Brendan

MUSICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

As is the norm around April of each year, it has been a busy month, with the Easter processions and the ANZAC Day services being only a few weeks apart. A big well done to all who participated. This included (obviously) our current members, but as usual our friends from Echuca and a number of our former players also turned up, particularly for the Easter processions, to help create a big sound. Well done to Janine and Trevor for leading us through the various processions. Well done to Michael for performing the Last Post at both ANZAC Day services. All in all we should be proud of our efforts at each of these events.

Next year will be interesting, as ANZAC Day falls on Easter Monday. At this stage, I'm not sure on how this will pan out, but be guaranteed that it will be a busy Easter Monday morning for the band.

Looking forward, Bendigo Eisteddfod's Annual Brass Band Competition looms in 4 weeks. If you haven't been at rehearsals over the past two weeks, you will probably feel a little in the dark on what we are playing. Our chosen items are: Metropolis (Major Work), A Hymn Song of Phillip Bliss (Concert 1) and Strike Up the Band (Concert 2). Obviously, our next four rehearsals will be heavily focusing on the contest. At this stage, I would like to have one Sunday rehearsal on 16th May (time to be discussed). On the following Sunday, Greater Bendigo has invited us to participate (as we have done on a few occasions) at its pre-contest recital at Kangaroo Flat. Again, nothing is confirmed here, but we probably should gather on that day regardless of whether we participate or have a second Sunday rehearsal.

Overall, the most crucial thing for all band members is that we practice our pieces at home. This includes senior players, as much as it involves the younger brigade. There is no one in the band currently who could say they are 100% confident with their part. Thus, please get your instrument out at home regularly (even if its just 10 minutes a day) and run through the sections that you are struggling with. Use a metronome, if the particular passage is quick. Most of all, just playing your instrument outside of rehearsals, strengthens your embouchure and improves your overall sound and confidence.

Andrew Trewartha
Musical Director.



Anzac Day March - 2010

Bendigo Youth Brass has started 2010 by working on some challenging repertoire in the lead up to the Bendigo Competitions. We have benefited greatly from the combined sessions with the senior band, and also through the help of Bruce, Andrew, and Peter, who regularly attend rehearsals to support the students.

Members are encouraged to seek help if there are any parts they are having trouble with, and always remember to keep up the practice. After the Bendigo Competitions, Bendigo Youth Brass will be working on building up it's repertoire for future performances later in the year.

Cally Bartlett
Musical Director
Bendigo Youth Brass

DIARY DATES

- **Wed May 5th** - Combined Youth Band and Senior Band Rehearsal
- **Sun May 16th** - Senior Band Rehearsal. Time to be decided. Possibly incorporating a barbecue.
- **Sun May 23rd** - Pre-competitions practice recital with other participating bands. JB Osborne theatre Kangaroo Flat. Time TBA.
- **Sun May 30th** - Bendigo Competitions. Crook St. Hall Strathdale. Time TBA.
- **Wed June 2nd** - Combined Youth Band and Senior Band Rehearsal
- **Sat June 19th** - Spring Gully Dance Catering
- **Sat Sept 18th** - Spring Gully Dance Catering
- **Sat Nov 6th** - Spring Gully Dance Catering

BAND FEES

Please note 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.



Anzac Day March and Service - 2010

IDEAS FOR CITY OF BENDIGO BRASS BAND'S 150th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The City of Bendigo Brass Band will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2012, making it one of Australia's oldest existing brass bands. The band is currently brainstorming ways of recognising and celebrating this unique and historical milestone.

Ideas or suggestions are most welcome. Either email brendan@bblarch.com.au, or provide suggestions below and return to Trevor Trewartha, President.

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