



September 2009

Well it shaped up been quite a busy month, with the Ballarat Competitions and associated preparations and rehearsals. Well done everyone for putting in the effort and playing quite admirably, and taking on the tougher C grade competition.

In other news, we recently said goodbye to Isabel Thomas Dobson, who's moved down to Melbourne to take on her new role as Moderator of the Uniting Church, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. We wish Isabel and Kevin all the best with the move, and Isabel with her exciting new role in the Uniting Church!

Thanks also to Cliff and Enid Samson for donating a new urn to the band (to replace the old rusty one). It's good to have a new excuse for a coffee break in rehearsals, and in turn you've probably improved the life expectancy of band members somewhat..!

Cheers!

Brendan



PRESIDENTS PONDERINGS

Thanks to everyone for making a good fist of the Ballarat comps last month. I'll leave Andrew the opportunity to comment more but I think the limited Adjudicators comments were encouraging or maybe he hadn't woken yet? Whatever the result we have once again made an important and worthwhile effort to further improve as a group of musicians. Let's get behind the next series of play-outs and get the Band in the face of the district communities. Finally thanks to Enid and Cliff for the generous donation of the very much need urn.

Thanks,

Trevor Trewartha

MUSICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Since our last Newsletter the major event to have transpired was the State Brass Band Championships at Ballarat. As has been our custom for a number of years, we entered South Street, though for the first time in a decade we tackled C Grade.

Overall, I believe that we certainly took a step forward and played a few degrees better than we did at Bendigo back in June. It was reasonably obvious that this occurred, based on the fact that we played Oregon and both events and there was certainly a marked improvement in the playing of this major work at Ballarat. Our hymn, march and concert items were also well

received and I believe also reflected an improvement on what we did at the Bendigo comps. Thank you to Narelle, Bryan, Robert, Louisa and Turps for helping us out.

Obviously, as we endeavor to "mix it" with other C Grade bands, there are definitely three "ability" levels in this one grade, more so than was evident in D Grade. There are the top few bands (ie. Advent, Darebin and Greater Bendigo), who are probably knocking on the door of B Grade. There are the bands in the middle of the grade (ie. Marist and Sunshine). And then there are the bands that are either progressing into or retreating through C Grade. We are most definitely in the latter group at present, but thankfully not at the tail end of it. Thus, I believe there is some light at the end of the tunnel, to encourage us in improving and moving ourselves up a notch into the middle group of C Grade bands. I firmly believe this is achievable in the next year or two. In fact, this should be our major aim in going to future contests. Winning C Grade is beyond us at the moment, but getting say a 3rd or 4th in a field of 6-10 C Grade bands is not out of the question. This needs to be our first objective.

That being said, I have to return to the perennial problem. If each of us isn't serious about our own personal development, then the band will just fumble around in C Grade for a year or two and then nose dive back to D Grade. This is in your hands..! I honestly don't care if you're 12 years of age or 80, you can

improve and improve rapidly if you do some quality practice time at home. It is obvious that some of you already do this. It is also blatantly obvious that many of you don't and really haven't improved in the 10 years I've been conducting the band. What will it take for you to lift yourselves to a new level..?

My plan is to put out increasingly challenging music, not just for contests, but for regular concerts. If we tackle this music with an open mind and are prepared to work on the "hard bits" at home, then you, me and the whole band will benefit as a result.

Andrew Trewartha
Musical Director

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.

OTHER DIARY DATES

- **Sept 26** - Spring Gully Dance Catering
- **Oct 7** - Combined COBBB and BYB rehearsal, starting 7pm.
- **Oct 18** - Bendigo Bands Group Contest - Bendigo SE Secondary College.
- **Oct 31** - Inglewood Concert
- **Nov 4** - Combined COBBB and BYB rehearsal, starting 7pm.
- **Nov 21** - Spring Gully Dance Catering

- **Dec 2** - Combined COBBB and BYB rehearsal, starting 7pm.
- **Dec 6** - Brass in the Park (formerly Brass on Bull)
- **Dec 13** - Neale St. Christmas Concert, around 2:30pm.

UNIFORM

It has been requested to list the current full band uniform, as there have been a few different 'interpretations' of this in recent times.

HATS

Green 'Akubra' hats with brims flat, for outdoor performances.

TIES

Women - 'Police-type' tie for all occasions.

Men - Long tie for marches or military-type events (ie ANZAC day). Bow tie for all other performances.

SHIRTS

White short sleeve collar shirt with epaulettes (King Gee type). COBBB tabs attached.

BAND JACKET

Worn unless otherwise indicated for hot weather.

BLACK TROUSERS / SKIRT

SHINY BLACK SHOES

BLACK SOCKS / TIGHTS

OTHER ITEMS

The following was submitted by a contributor who wished to remain anonymous.

If you would like to submit anything for future newsletters, email Brendan@bblarch.com.au or see me at rehearsal.

How to you make a bandstand?

Take away their chairs!

What did the tie say to the hat?

You go on a head, I'll just hang around..

What did the spider do on the computer?

Made a website!

Doing nothing is very hard to do, you never know when you're finished..



BENDIGO YOUTH BRASS NEWS

Contact: Cally Tromans 0431 031 853

Bendigo Youth Brass are currently preparing for the Inter-Band Competition held in Bendigo this year on Sunday 18th October. In recent weeks we have started working on some new music, including the well-known tune "Smoke on the Water" and the popular medley from the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean". The Youth Band members also participated in the first combined rehearsal session with the senior band, and many of the young players commented on how fun it was to sit in and contribute to such a large sound.

The Youth Band will have their traditional break over the school holidays for two weeks, and return on the 7th October and participate in another combined rehearsal with the Senior Band, starting at 7pm. The following week rehearsals will return to their normal time of 6:30pm.