



May 2011

Welcome to the May 2011 edition of the City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band newsletter!

We have been extremely busy since the last newsletter, with the following events being undertaken over the past couple of months:

- Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Parade (with the band winning the annual prize for best band!).
- Maryborough Fire Brigade 150th Anniversary torchlight parade.
- City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band Launch Concert, held at JB Osborne Theatre.
- Bendigo Easter Festival Torchlight Parade.
- Bendigo Easter Festival Gala Parade.
- ANZAC Day services and parades at Huntly, Bendigo, Korong Vale and Wedderburn.

Positive feedback was received from organizers and attendees of each of these events. Of particular note was very positive comments received from the ANZAC day services. The band more-or-less split in two, with Bendigo Youth Brass and a selection of senior members traveling to Korong Vale and Wedderburn, and the rest of the senior band undertaking Huntly and Bendigo services. ANZAC services are certainly one of the most important commitments on our yearly calendar, and the band should be proud to have undertaken four of these on the one day to such a high standard. Well done!

Another major event undertaken was the City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band Launch Concert, celebrating the merger of City of Bendigo Brass Band and Greater Bendigo Brass. This launch was a great success, with a good attendance, and solid performances

by both senior and youth bands. Among attendees was state MP Maree Edwards. Thankyou to all who attended to celebrate this special occasion and historical milestone!

Our main upcoming event is the Bendigo Competitions, which is on Sunday 29th of May. As we have been so busy of late, the comps have somewhat crept up on us. As such, a number of additional rehearsals have been scheduled. Refer 'Diary Dates' below.

The band currently has a number of 'sub committees' working on specific projects. See below for a current summary of this work.

Cheers!

Brendan

MUSICAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

The band has recently been through a process to formally appoint a Musical Director for the new merged band. A sub-committee was established to oversee this process, with the final appointment approved by the band committee. Applications for the position were invited from within the existing band membership base.

It is to be noted that Andrew Trewartha has taken this occasion to step down as musical director, and not apply for the position. Andrew has been Musical Director of City of Bendigo Brass Band for 11 years, being appointed musical director in 2001. The commitment, dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work Andrew has put into the band over the last 11 years is truly an inspiration, and of great appreciation from the band as a whole. Andrew is continuing on as a playing member of the band,

and continuing to take an active role in organization of the band, in particularly the upcoming 150th anniversary celebrations. All the best to Andrew for all future musical pursuits and activities!

During rehearsal last Wednesday, band president Trevor Trewartha announced that Colin Wellard will be taking the band to the upcoming Bendigo Competitions, after which Cally Bartlett will be taking the ongoing position of Senior Band Musical Director. Congratulations to Cally on the appointment to this ongoing position! The position of assistant musical director is to be determined in the coming weeks.

UNIFORM SUB-COMMITTEE

A sub-committee has been meeting to help determine the uniform for the newly merged band. A number of ideas and 'subtle' changes to the existing bands uniforms are being discussed and investigated, working towards presenting a mock-up of a potential uniform for band comment. This will be focused on after the Bendigo competitions.

Another task being undertaken is design of a new logo for the band. As well as featuring on uniform jackets, this logo will be applied to items such as signs, banners, webpage etc. After receiving a number of submissions, suggestions and feedback from the band, the concepts have been refined down to four options, which are to be voted on by band members. These options are currently pinned up on the band room wall, and are also attached to this newsletter. A ballot of current band members will be undertaken

during rehearsal **this Wednesday May 18th**. This initial process will refine these concepts down to the two most preferred options. It is intended that the final ballot will be undertaken **the following Wednesday May 25th**. Note that current members are required to attend these rehearsals if they wish to make a vote, however votes may be accepted via email from current members unable to make these rehearsals. Refer concepts at the end of this newsletter..

150th Anniversary Working Party

The working party planning the bands Sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary celebrations in 2012 have been meeting regularly, and a number of special events are being planned for throughout next year. At the moment, potential events and items in the pipeline include:

- An update and re-publish of Bob McCaskill's book 'Marching Through Three Centuries with the City of Bendigo Brass Band', which was originally published in 2001.
- A large celebration concert.
- A Sesquicentennial ball.
- A historical exhibition of some type, presenting the history of the

band, significant items, and involvement and relationship with the development of Bendigo since 1862.

- Other commemorative items potentially including casual clothing, mugs, cufflinks, and possibly a DVD.

This 'working party' is somewhat of an informal committee, chaired by Graeme Trewartha. If anyone associated with the band is keen to be involved in the planning of this event, get in touch. Your input is welcome!

DIARY DATES

- **Sun May 15th** - Senior band rehearsal, JB Osborne Theatre. 3pm to 6pm
- **Mon May 16th** - Senior band rehearsal, Tom Flood Bandroom. 7:40pm to 9:40pm
- **Wed May 18th** - Usual senior and youth band rehearsals, Tom Flood Bandroom.
 - (Including initial ballot of logo concepts.)
- **Sun May 22nd** - Senior band rehearsal, JB Osborne Theatre. 3pm to 6pm.
- **Mon May 23rd** - Possible senior band rehearsal (depending on progress), Tom Flood Bandroom. 7:40pm to 9:40pm
- **Wed May 25th** - Usual senior and youth band rehearsals, Tom Flood Bandroom.
 - (Including final ballot of logo concepts.)
- **Sat May 28th** - **Bendigo Youth Brass - Bendigo Competitions.** Strathdale Hall.
 - Arrive ready by 3:45. On stage 4:30.
- **Sun May 29th** - **Senior Band - Bendigo Competitions.** Strathdale Hall.
 - Arrive ready by 1:30. On stage 2:30.

CURRENT BAND LOGO CONCEPTS

For voting, logos are presented as they could potentially look on the pocket of a green jacket. The selected logo can then be adapted for other uses as required.



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Brass bands merge

JAMIE DUNCAN

TWO of Bendigo's oldest bands have celebrated their merger with a combined concert.

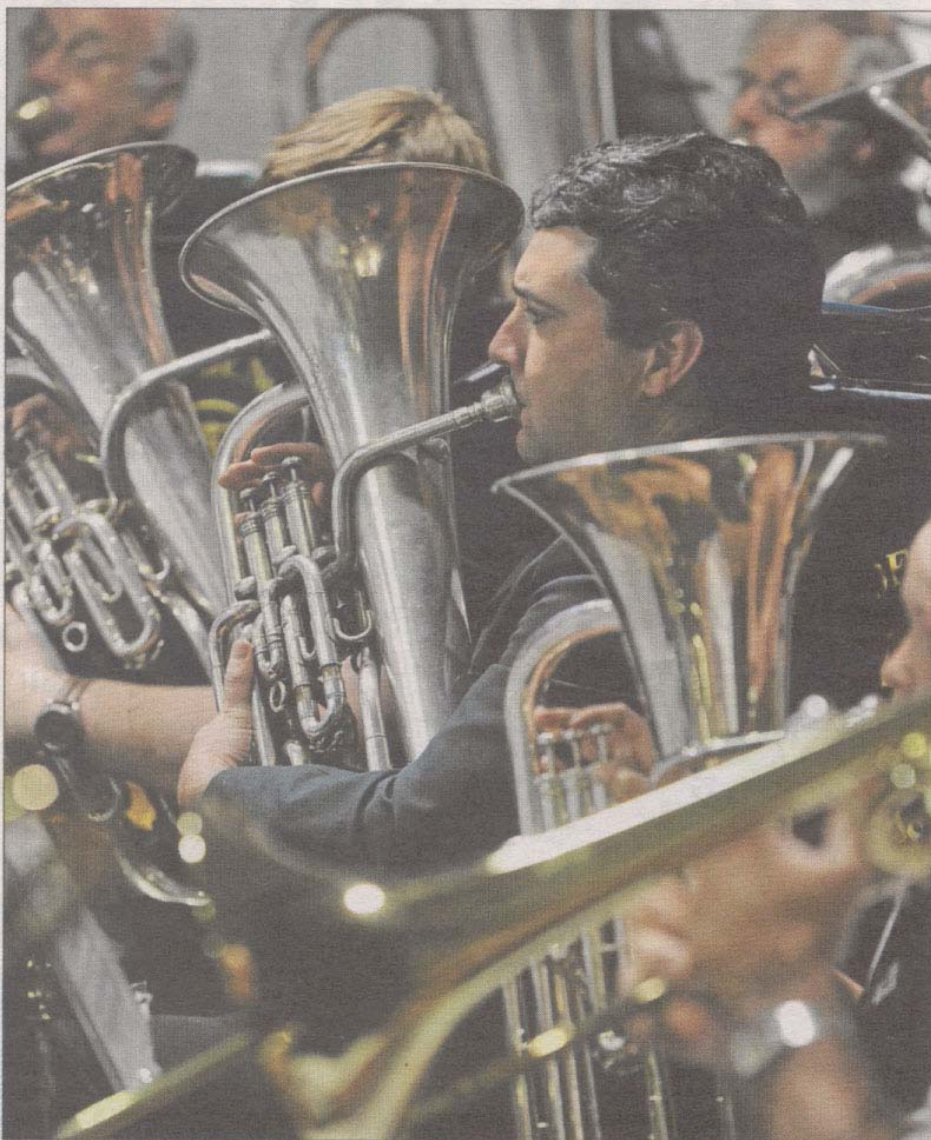
The new City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band has been formed from the Bendigo Brass Band, established in 1862, and Greater Bendigo Brass, which was formed in 1998 from a merger of the Strathfieldsaye and Marong municipal bands.

Those bands can trace their origins to 1864.

The new band was launched with a concert at the JB Osborne Theatre in Kangaroo Flat last Sunday, featuring music from traditional marches to television themes, band member Cally Bartlett said.

Both the new band and the affiliated youth band, Greater Bendigo Brass, performed.

After the concert, musicians and their friends mingled together over afternoon tea.



FIRST GIG: Andrew Trewartha plays in the newly formed brass band.

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Bendigo bandmaster memories

OSCAR'S Walk is in front of the new Bendigo Bank building, between it and the City Family Hotel, parallel with the Bendigo Creek, on Charing Cross, facing the site of the former Lyric Theatre.

It commemorates the famous musician and bandmaster, Oscar Flight. Oscar George Charles Flight was born at Inglewood in 1871. At the age of 15, he was appointed a State School teacher and taught at Specimen Hill, Violet Street and Golden Square schools.

But his first love was music and by 1898, he had established a music warehouse in Forest Street.

Anything musical in Bendigo attracted his attention, be it accompanying choirs, brass bands or the orchestral concerts of the Austral competitions.

When the Lyric Theatre opened in Charing Cross in February 1913, it showed silent movies as well as catering for concerts.

Oscar Flight led the orchestra that played for the movies, keeping up with the passions and atmosphere being shown on the screen.

By 1929, films with their own sound recordings were their way in and Oscar's orchestra retired, although concerts were still held occasionally.

Long before this, Oscar was making a significant contribution to the entertainment and musical world of Bendigo.

The biggest and best known band in the city was Northcott's Band and when bandmaster James Northcott died in 1904, Oscar Flight was elected Band Major and it became known as "Flight's City Band".

This band competed with others state-wide and won many accolades.

There were a number of other brass bands in and around Bendigo and contests were often held. In 1904 a band contest was held in the Upper Reserve (now Queen Elizabeth Oval), with Flight's City Band coming

first, Eaglehawk second, Maldon third, Hopetoun Band fourth, Rushworth fifth and Echuca sixth.

The band members thought so highly of his services that in 1906 they presented him with a large montage of photos featuring all of the band members.

This now hangs in the band practice rooms in the Upper Reserve with many other photographs and trophies.

Oscar's outstanding ability as a musician gained him such a reputation that warehouse required larger and larger premises and he moved to Mitchell Street.

As a teacher, he had great success with his pupils having occupied winning positions repeatedly at the Austral and Ballarat competitions, in connection with orchestral, vocal and instrumental music.

His name appeared often in editions of the *Bendigo Advertiser* as an accompanist at charity concerts and he was for many years the



SOUND: Flight's City Band outside the Upper Reserve Grandstand at the QEO.

leader of the Liedertafel orchestra.

He retired from leading the brass band in 1921 and it was during the time of his replacement, Arthur Taylor, that the band changed its name to Bendigo Municipal Band.

The band is now called the City of Bendigo Brass Band and an excellent history of the band may be found in Robert McCaskill Jnr's *Marching through Three Centuries The History of the City of Bendigo Brass Band 1862-2001*.

Rita Hull, for the material in this article.
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New books by local historians

Two excellent new books by Bendigo authors have just been published: *St Just's Point* by George A. Ellis (\$15 Purchase from the author) and *Chinese Ancestral Shrines in Victoria* by Carol Holsworth (\$8 from the Bendigo Joss House).

Frank Cusack Memorial

Michele Matthews from BRAC has set up a display to commemorate the work of the doyen of Bendigo historians, the late Frank Cusack, on the first floor of the Bendigo Library.

Shamrock tours

Shamrock Tours are running on Sunday, April 17 and Sunday, May 1, at 11 am and 2.30pm. Bookings at the Shamrock, phone 5443 0333.

Oscar still continued his strong involvement in all things musical and he worked for many years as manager of the Allan & Co firm.

Oscar Flight died in 1962 at the age of ninety one, leaving four children and the Bendigo music world much the poorer for his passing.

An organ owned by Oscar Flight is in the vast and valuable collection of the Bendigo Historical Society.

Thanks to Bendigo Historical Society member,



MEMORY: The memorial of Oscar Flight





Bendigo Advertiser Webpage. Bendigo Easter Parade 24/04/2011
Photographer: JIM ALDERSEY



Bendigo Advertiser Webpage. Bendigo Easter Parade 24/04/2011
Photographer: JIM ALDERSEY

PHOTOS FROM LAUNCH CONCERT

Photos Courtesy Bendigo Advertiser:



Photos Courtesy Jason Hague:



City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band



Bendigo Youth Brass

Photos Courtesy Cally Bartlett:

