



Welcome to the first of our 2009 newsletters. As always, the year is off to a busy start, especially with having the National Contest in Napier so early, on 15-18 April. Have you made your bookings yet???

### CHANGES IN THE BAND:

We have been fortunate in having relatively few changes in the lead up to the contest. Our biggest loss has been that of super euphonium player and top lad, Hamish Jellyman, moving to Hamilton. Our loss is definitely their gain. Fortunately, we will be having his services with us in Napier and we look forward to seeing his face around the Bandroom in the immediate future.

Meantime, young Stacey Randles has been doing a sterling job in attempting some very challenging euphonium parts. And did you know, Stacey broke her toe. Somehow, she said True! She doesn't even know how she did it! Marching practice, maybe??

To Stacey's great relief, we have just had Ian O'Malley back from university in Dunedin. What does he play? Euphonium!! What a smile on Stacey's face! Welcome home, Ian. We hope you can be with us for a while. St. Kilda still want him for their contest band though, so sadly he won't yet be registering back with us just yet. Gordon Holmes has moved from eupho to the heavy department on Eb bass, making a good contribution to the sound in there. Logie is very pleased to have another mate to join him.

### WHAT A STAR, LITTLE EVA MAAS!:

Also joining the Eb bass section in recent weeks is little Eva Maas. At just 4 months old, she is very likely the youngest brass band player in the country, if not the world!! Start them young, is definitely the way to go. Remember Tiger Woods starting at 3 years of age? Well then, Tiger beat this!!! Oh yes, her mother, Rebecca, also comes along and plays too.

Little Eva makes a great contribution to the interesting sounds coming from the bass section. The louder we play the better she likes it. Instead of playing her lullabies to get her to go to sleep, they should play her marches.

There must be something about that bass section, as father David Maas has frequently been seen heading that way. Normally, cornet players would only be seen going into the oompah-loompah department if it was a matter of life or death! Great work the Maas family!!!



Come on, Mum. Give us a tune!  
Rebecca and Eva Maas.



Keep in time please, Mum.  
I just LOOOOVE those DEEEEP sounds.

### CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas fundraising efforts. We are delighted with the funds brought in this time, especially compared to some recent years. It reflects the great efforts everyone has made. Funds like this are vital in ensuring that we have sufficient cash flow to be able to run the band. With costs ever rising, it is a never ending struggle. We certainly appreciate the support so many of you have given us over the years.

### GET WELL SOON DEPARTMENT:

Best wishes to Maestro Kevin Jarrett, following a recent operation on his foot. As ever, Kevin is positive and getting on with it. A lesson to us all. Our thoughts are with him as he continues to recover and attempts to force his way back into the marching ranks. We all know how much he misses that marching and definitely, the Band has never been the same without that inimitable KLJ step in the back row, locking the whole thing together. The space is still there waiting for him, but it is under pressure. Only someone like Bill Platt could match that SMOOOOTH style! Or maybe even Tony Cowan, who was seen at a recent marching practice.

### **NATIONAL YOUTH BAND FUND RAISING:**

Hamish Jellyman and Catherine Carter are both working hard on learning parts while raising funds to pay for the National Youth Band tour of Japan later this year. They started last year with a garage sale and are continuing this year with a garden party in March. Here are two young people who have got off their rear ends to help themselves. If you would like to assist these two super young people, contact Catherine, Bruce or Hamish. Well done and good luck.

### **BRASS WANGANUI ANNUAL DINNER:**

Our annual dinner is this year being held on Friday 27 February in the Bandroom. Drinks from 6:30. Dinner at 7:00. Cost \$20 per person. BYO drinks. If you haven't yet got your ticket, contact Jess Power on 02769622891 or [j.power@ucol.ac.nz](mailto:j.power@ucol.ac.nz) urgently for this important Band function.

### **TARTAN CLUB:**

Once again, this wonderful group of people have given continuing support to the Band. It is not unreasonable to say that without them, the Band would be in a desperate situation financially. Their next function is at Howard McGrath property at Mangaweka on Sunday 1 March. Incidentally, you might be interested and amazed to know that Howard has for years turned up at the Junior Bandroom most Monday nights and sat in helping out on the Eb bass, driving all that way from Mangaweka! Well done, that man. He's another who deserves a DB!! The Band truly appreciates the interest and effort the Club makes on our behalf and we look forward to sharing the afternoon with them. Many of you will recall the superb afternoon late last year hosted by the Tartan Club at the Wanganui Amdram Hall with an "Allo, 'Allo" function. Very, very funny with some lovely presentations made, especially to Drum Major extraordinaire Tony Cowan for his 60 years service to brass bands.

### **SOME MORE OF OUR HISTORY- JAY NEAL:**

Sitting in the baritone section is one of New Zealand's senior players, not just by age, but by experience and achievement. Mr Jay Neal has been there and done that, many times over in lots of cases. Jay grew up in Wanganui and has always had a connection to bands in the city.

Jay joined the RNZAF as Bandmaster in 1960 and was posted to Ohakea, where he played in the Palmerston North City Silver Band under Vince Belgrave. He conducted Feilding Municipal in 1966-67 and Palmerston North Garrison 1968-70, when he was posted to Base Auckland. From 1970-77 he played in Takapuna City Silver and during this time he was in a marvellous quartet, winning 4 NZ Championship titles. In 1978 Jay returned to Wanganui, joining Tenderkist under Maestro Kevin Jarrett, later conducting Wanganui Garrison from 1980-84 and then playing in the band while Selwyn Holmes was the conductor. In 1997 Auckland called again, rejoining Takapuna, which by now was called North Shore Brass, playing trombone and eupho at different national contests. Wanganui was the next stop in 2001, joining the now amalgamated Brass Wanganui. Jay was also conductor of Hawera Brass from 2004-07. These days, Jay serves on baritone and is on our Brass Wanganui committee. He also enjoys playing trombone with the Manawatu Jazz Club Big Band and the River City Trad Band. Jay's solo competition successes include: NZ euphonium champion 1965 (2nd in Champion of Champions) and 1971. Duet Champion in 1965. Jay was also runner- up in the euphonium championship 8 times!!! He gained an LRSM on euphonium in 1977, an FTCL in 1980 and he was in the National Band of New Zealand in 1965 and 1974.

What a list of achievements! How fortunate we are to have someone with experience such as this being shared amongst us. One of my personal favourite memories of Jay was in the old Wanganui Pie cart around 2:00 am one morning while the All Blacks were in South Africa in 1970. A group of us bumped into the famous Fred Allen, who had only a year or two before finished coaching the All Blacks. Jay was quickly involved in deep and technical discussion about the fortunes of the team in South Africa. (We subsequently lost that series, though not through any fault of Jay's as he tried to work out with Fred what the problems were!!!)

### **POP IN AND LISTEN:**

A reminder to all in our Brass Wanganui family, that you are always welcome at any time to pop in and listen, especially as we lead up to the National Contest, Thursday nights 7:30- 9:30. Junior players and their families are especially welcome. Additionally, we will be rehearsing Saturday 14 March, 1:00- 8 and Sunday 15 March 9:00 – 4:00.

### **FINALLY TOP TIP FOR LIPS:**

For the blowers amongst you, remember to breathe from the soles of your feet. To get a big sound, you need to fill up with air every nook and cranny between toes and tongue, while keeping your tongue at the very bottom of your mouth. And remember too, you breathe just as deeply for a quiet tune as you do for a loud one.

Cheerio for now  
Barry Williams