



BRASS WANGANUI HIGHNOTES



JULY- AUGUST 2009

Welcome to the July-August edition of the Brass Wanganui newsletter. Much has happened since our last one, so there is plenty to catch up on.

Army Band Concert:

Thanks to our stalwart Tony Cowan, the concert by the New Zealand Army Band in the Royal Wanganui Opera House was a tremendous success in every way. The concert generated over \$2500 towards our Dunedin 2010 contest fund. The Opera House was almost totally full, showing the interest banding continues to have in Wanganui. In an evening full of highlights, it was wonderful to see Maestro Kevin Jarrett, himself a past member of the Army Band, taking them through "Rhapsody in Brass". Young Kyle Lawson featured as a guest cornet soloist to complete a wonderful evening of band music. The night was rounded off with a lovely after-concert function, enabling a catch-up time for those attending. Sorry, but I forgot my camera!!!

Website:

It took longer than expected, but the website finally was launched. Thanks for the positive feed-back along with helpful suggestions for future ideas and improvements. Alan Dean (father of trombonist Hamish Dean) has kindly provided a copy of the history he wrote for the centenary of the Queen Alex Band. These details will be progressively added to our history section. Any photos/items are very welcome for this important record of our past.

Jay Neal:

A special thought goes to baritone veteran par excellence, Jay Neal, as he undergoes treatment for cancer. Despite the very unpleasant nature of the treatment he has to endure, Jay remains positive and cheerful. We look forward to his return to the band. I am especially looking forward to his return, as I am playing baritone in his absence. Stop press: An update today (Saturday 25 July) from Jay, is that he is handling the treatment as well as can be expected and is making as much progress as can be hoped for. All he needs to do now, he says, is to put on some more weight! (I kindly suggested beer, but he wasn't too sure that was the right medicine! Shame. Hang in there, Jay.)

Welcome to Larry Tasker:

An old (literally!!!) ex Queen Alex bandsman, Larry Tasker, has recently returned to live in Wanganui. I know he is old because he is the same age as me! Larry spent much time over the years with Onslow (now Wellington Brass), Kaikorai and Rotorua. Many years ago, Larry and I played together as the Rep and Flugel team in Onslow. Welcome home, Larry.

Central Districts Solo Competition:

This event was held in our bandroom on Sunday 21 June. Once again, both our junior and senior players performed with distinction. The junior results especially, speak volumes about the effort that is going into the vital teaching of the young players of the future. Results for our Brass Wanganui players were as follows.

U13 Slow Melody	
1	Matthew Huria
U15 Slow Melody	
2	Brad Mancer
U15 Air Varie	
2	Matthew Huria
3	Matthew Selby
U17 Slow Melody	
1	Rhys Goodier
2	Keiran Smith
3	Alex Raaymakers
U17 Air Varie	
1	Tanya Lynne
2	Keiran Smith
3	Anthony Kerr
U19 Slow Melody	
1	Matthew Taylor
Open Air Varie	
1	Kyle Lawson
3	Chris Scudder
Open Slow Melody	
1	David Maas
2	Hamish Jellyman
3	Gavin Herdman
Championship Air Varie	
1	David Maas
2	Hamish Jellyman
3=	Gavin Herdman

Band President, Paul McCormick:

As I write, Paul is riding a Harley-Davidson (much better if he was on a B.M.W. bike, of course!!) across the U.S.A. This is a major accomplishment as Paul had a serious woopsy-daisy last month when he drove through cow manure on the road north of Gisborne. However, with broken bones and facial injuries, he has quickly got himself back into the saddle and rode off into the distance. Sadly, the accident also meant that Paul could not play the percussion parts for us in the recent Jazz Club performance. Enjoy the ride, Paul and we look forward to your safe return, without either having messed with any U.S. cow pooh or testing their medical system!!!

National Band of New Zealand:

This month, the National Band of New Zealand has competed in the World Brass Band Championships in Kerkrade, Holland, coming 4th. Our own David Maas was repiano cornet in the band. While it was a disappointment to come only 4th, the National Band did it on just one week's preparation! What a statement about the standards attained by this magnificent band. Can you imagine the All Blacks going off to the World Cup on just 1 week's training? Winners were the Cory Band from Wales. Congratulations to Cory. Despite this result, (and with just one week's preparation, the band were on a hiding to nothing!) we know that the National Band remains one of the world's very finest brass bands. It is the goal of all New Zealand players to perform in this wonderful combination.

National Youth Band of New Zealand:

Also as I write, the N.Y.B. is touring in Japan. Brass Wanganui are again strongly represented in this wonderful young band, with Hamish Jellyman on euphonium, Chris Scudder on trombone, Catherine Carter and Kylie Lawson both on cornets. It is a credit to the teaching and support provided by Brass Wanganui that such numbers can consistently be developed. We know that these young people will represent us with skill and pride and we look forward to hearing their stories on their return.



From left; Catherine Carter, Kyle Lawson, Chris Scudder, Hamish Jellyman.

Wanganui Jazz Club Performance:

On Sunday 5 July, we performed at the R.S.A. for the Wanganui Jazz Club. This turned out to be a very fine performance and was thoroughly enjoyed by a full audience. Solos with band accompaniment were performed by Kyle Lawson on cornet, Chris Scudder on trombone, Andrew Toy on flugel, and Hamish Jellyman on euphonium. (Hamish had come down from Hamilton, where he now lives, especially for this event). Bruce Jellyman not only conducted the band with great aplomb, he wound up singing and playing percussion at the same time due to sickness and accidents. Mr. Versatility indeed! As David Maas was away with the National Band, our new soprano/solo cornet player, Brent Hoy, stepped into the hot seat. He played with tremendous skill and musicianship, as you would expect from a player of Brent's experience and ability. Brent and David will develop a great team in the coming years. Thanks, Brent.



Brent and Kyle working hard at the Jazz Club. This concert was Jess Power's final performance with the band, as she was just about to depart for 2 years in England. Bruce made her departure memorable by ensuring she did not go thirsty during the concert. The rest of us had to watch with our tongues hanging out!

Tartan Club Function:

Our wonderful supporters' group, the Tartan Club, held their most recent function in the Wanganui Opera House. Tony Cowan had set up the stage in the Opera House in Spartan fashion to go with the theme of the 30s economic depression. Band members supported the function by dressing up in clothes from the Wanganui AmDram collection. Joe Power provided a delicious meal. Howard McGrath provided some wonderful old movie clips, including a stunning compilation of Spike Jones and his City Slickers. Old timers reading this will probably recall his many zany recordings The one of the William Tell Overture as back track for a horse race, featuring the famous

“Beetlebomb” was possibly his most well known. Tremendous fun.



Jess Power Departs for England:

One of our young stalwarts, Jess Power (baritone), has finally succumbed to the lure of overseas travel and recently headed to London for 2 exciting years. She will be able to read this newsletter from somewhere in darkest Earl's Court.

We held a farewell for her following rehearsal on Thursday 9 July. A super band person, she will be missed for contribution to the behind the scenes activities of the band and also for a very naughty sense of humour. We look forward to hearing her news from time to time. Kia kaha, Jess!!!



Bruce, Jess and Paul at the knees-up!

Proms Concert:

Our next big event is the Proms Concert in the Wanganui Opera House on Saturday 1 August at 7:30 pm. This is always a popular event, so we look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget to bring flags, funny hats and your singing voice!

Seen Back in the Bandroom Recently:

Great to see our old (well, not really so old!) mate, Carol Molan back in the bandroom recently. With Chris Scudder being away on the National Youth Band tour of Japan, Carol has very kindly stepped in to help us out. We hope we can see more of her in the future.



Always up for a bit of fun, Carol is another with a naughty sense of humour. (As if we didn't have enough trouble in that department already, in the tenor horns especially. I need to get back in there to calm them all down a bit!)

Finally:

It has been a very busy few months, with still plenty to come in the year. Thanks for your support and interest and we look forward to catching up at the various concerts and functions the band will be at over the next few months.

Happy tooting
Cheers
Barry Williams