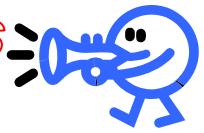


BRASS WANGANUI HIGHNOTES

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2009



Welcome to the September – October edition of our Brass Wanganui newsletter. The Band continues to maintain its busy performance and contesting schedule.

This edition we have two contributed items from players who were in the National Secondary Schools Band (Stacey Randles) and the National Youth Band of New Zealand (Hamish Jellyman).

National Secondary Schools' Band:

So what would you say if a group of 45 Secondary School students spent six days in an army camp? You would say possibly Boot Camp!

So what if I said all these students played Brass? You would say Band Camp! Well you would actually have the 2009 Secondary School Brass Band held this year at the Burnham army camp on the 2nd – 8th September.

For many young Brass players attending High School, the opportunity of playing in a national brass band specifically aimed at their age group is gratefully received. This is the chance for these young players from all of New Zealand to come together for the passion of playing.

But of course there has to be some sort of catch to it, because you can't just turn up. To be fortunate enough to be able to play in this band there is the process of applying before acceptance. This consists of practicing selected music and then auditioning with it. You receive the music and then its crunch time, you either practice or you don't; it all depends on how much you want to get in. Then after preparing you go for your audition. This can be the scariest experience if you have never done it before, but it's nothing to stress over (as I have been told numerous times). You go in, play then leave - It's all over within minutes. Many students apply each year but there are only a select number who get through.



The NSSBB in Christchurch

This year Brass Wanganui was proud to have five of its players selected for this band. Kieran Smith – Cornet, Rhys Goodier – Cornet, Anthony Kerr – Tenor Horn, Tanya-May Lyne – Baritone and myself, Stacey Randles – Euphonium. Being selected to play in this band is an exciting experience.

So everyone who got accepted all gathered together at the camp sorting out rooms, meeting old friends and making new ones. The band personnel are all here so the playing and learning commences. The six days that the course went over were filled from dawn to dusk (not quite) with playing as a whole band, concert band, sectionals and ensembles. There were learning sessions about music we played, the Army Band, techniques in helping us become better musicians and our "selective groups" which consisted of Conducting, Drum Majoring, Sound Engineering and Arranging.

Everyone who went pushed themselves to achieve an extremely high standard. What was achieved in this band was not just beneficial for all who listened but all players sitting in the band.

You go into it thinking frightening thoughts like: you're going to have to run through a firing range because you stuffed up a note or made to stand in the rain for the whole night because you forget to count your bars rest. (Don't worry it doesn't happen). You come out with knowledge, excitement, friends and the buzz from the performances you did to thousands of screaming children.

This course, being at Burnham, more specifically the army band hosting us was a whole other experience on top of been in the band. You are surrounded by people who have the same passion as you but this is their career.

For anyone who is contemplating whether to try out or hasn't quite got in yet, keep trying. For secondary school students this is an amazing opportunity if you get in. The experience of playing in that environment with people you hardly know and the high standard that the band in the end accomplishes is the true highlight of the course. You not only come away as a better musician but you really feel like a true Brass Band Player. We are all band geeks at heart and proud to be!
Stacey Randles

The results sheets from the contest are listed here for your information:



Performing on stage in the Christchurch Town Hall

Central Districts Contest:

This was the major activity for us in September, travelling to New Plymouth to compete. Our performance in this contest last year set us up for our win in Napier earlier this year so we were very keen to again perform as well as we could. Unfortunately, the excellent National Secondary Schools' Band week was on at the same time. (Who on earth arranged that terrible clash on the national schedule??). We had health issues causing us major concerns with flu and other problems taking their toll. We went into the contest under considerable numbers pressure and came out with some very fine performances. The photo below shows a very happy group of players and supporters with the collection of trophies.



The achievements of the Auxiliary Band must be mentioned here. Yet another health issue required that Maestro Kevin Jarrett had to step into the MD role once more at only a few days notice. Regular MD, Mark Keelty, had prepared the band very well and Kevin put a real final polish on the performances. Not only did the Auxiliary Band win everything in their grade, but they also had the 3rd highest number of points overall, coming in ahead of every other junior and adult band. What a tremendous achievement! Congratulations to Kevin and Mark.

BAND NAME & SECTION	Stage Presentation	Concert Programme	Solo Item	Concert Aggregate	Champion Band	
New Plymouth JAY Band	3	77	73	67	213	115.5
Brass Wanganui Auxiliary	3	79	80	76	236	235
Hastings Citizens Brass	2	74	77	68	222	220
Levin & Districts Brass	2	76	76	70	222	226.5
Palmerston North City Brass	2	75	74	71	219	217
Feilding Brass	2	78	79	72	230	227
Brass Wanganui	1	83	83	92	268	254.5
New Plymouth Brass	1	85	86	89	261	252

TROPHY WINNERS:	Stage Pres	Solo Item	Aggregate	Champion
Section 3	Wg	Wg	Wg	Wg Aux
Section 2	F	F	F	F
Section 1	Wg	Wg	Wg	Wg

BAND NAME & SECTION	SACRED ITEM	MAJOR WORK	AGGREGATE	
Brass Wanganui Auxiliary	3	78	78	117
New Plymouth JAY Band	3	72	71	107
Levin & Districts Brass	2	79	76	115.5
Hastings Citizens Brass	2	74	72	109
Feilding Brass	2	76	74	112
Palmerston North City Brass	2	75	70	107.5
Brass Wanganui	1	83	84	125.5
New Plymouth Brass	1	81	81	121.5

PLACINGS:	1st	2nd	AGGREGATE
Sacred Item	3	NP	Wg
Major Work	3	NP	Wg
Sacred Item	2	E	L
Major Work	2	F	L
Sacred Item	1	NP	Wg
Major Work	1	NP	Wg

STREET MARCH	Music / 100	Drill / 400	Total / 500	
Feilding Brass	2	63	322	405
Palmerston North City Brass	2	80	284	365
New Plymouth Brass	1	88	336	424
Brass Wanganui	1	90	346	436
Hastings Citizens Brass	2	78	300	378
Levin & Districts Brass	2	79	313	347

PLACINGS:	1st	2nd	3rd
Section 2	Feilding	L	
Section 1	Wg	NP	
Champion Drum Major:	Amanda	NP	

What a super record of achievement!
Congratulations Bruce and the Band!

National Youth Band 2009 Tour to Japan:

Our Brass Wanganui representatives were: Hamish Jellyman, Ian O'Malley, Catherine Carter, Chris Smith and Kyle Lawson. This report comes from Hamish Jellyman. "The youth band trip was amazing. To start off with recording a CD on Queen's Birthday weekend in Wellington, learning our music and meeting new band members. On 14 July we all went to Christchurch to practice for 3 days with the NZ part of the tour following straightaway. Each of the NZ concerts was great and the band was building up steam along the way. Almost no sleep that night and then we were on our way to Japan. 13 hours later and 25 degrees hotter we landed at Tokyo Airport and got straight on a bus for 4 hours to our accommodation. Very nice too, although only a few people were game enough to use the

bum washer bidet things. Next day straight into rehearsal and meeting of the other 7 groups from around the world; choirs, Italy, Chinese, America, and Czech, 2 violin groups, Russia and Sweden, and bands. A jazz band was from Guam while we were the only Southern Hemisphere group.

For a week we played concerts in around Shizuoka, including street concerts, school concerts, band fiesta, and opening and closing ceremonies. It was great to meet and play along with musicians from all over the globe with the same passion. Everyone was interested in a few of the novelties, Japanese McDonalds, and of course beer.

A lot of sushi was eaten, as were noodles. After our week in Shizuoka at the Youth Musical Festival it was time for us to move on. We went south to play a concert with the Osaka All Stars Band. We spent one night at a retreat out in the wops rehearsing, had our first meeting with communal bathing, before heading to Osaka for the concert. That concert went off like a rocket, and we felt privileged to have played with what is the best of 8 bands in one city put together.

A rather late night, some prize-giving at 8.30 am was followed by sightseeing at the Osaka castle and a river cruise. By then the trip was almost over. Off to the airport, and it wouldn't be an international trip without a 4 hour delay.

Finally, it was back to reality. 16 days took a long time then but now is just a flash. All the Wanganui kids represented us very well and played at a very high standard the whole time. And just to top it off, Kyle did manage to lose his passport and wallet while there, Choice."

Thanks, Hamish and congratulations to all of you for achievements and representing us so well. We are very proud of all of you.

Jay Neal's Progress Up-date:

Many of you will recall that long time member of the Band, Jay Neal has been ill. Speaking to him recently, he said that he has come through his long term treatment as well as can be expected but he has had a few recent set-backs during the recovery process. He has had to return to hospital several times for further treatment. He is still fighting hard and our thoughts and best wishes continue to be with him. Hang in there, Jay!

Bill Kinaston Obituary:

This obituary comes to us from Andrew Toy. "Bill played as a younger man in a number of South Island bands, Alexandra and Timaru to name a few. After arriving in Wanganui and wanting to support Pita, Bill started to play the cornet once again. This support for Pita found Bill involved with the City College school brass band and their trip to Singapore in the late 1980's.

He was a strong, reliable and genuine bands man and would freely give his time to all aspects of banding, including the tutoring of young players, administration, and would always be on hand for Dance and Beer band events; Bill also spent a time as band President when he was called upon.

His enthusiasm and commitment to playing continued up until just a short time ago when he was playing with the Top Brass group. Even when he stopped playing in our senior band he continued to come along in support of the young players in the Auxiliary band. I know he enjoyed the children and especially enjoyed seeing them develop as musicians.

Bill was a man who enjoyed making music, having a good laugh with you, and never at you, and one who would always show a genuine interest in helping and caring for others.

Bill leaves us all with very special and fond memories. Ann, Pita and Laurie we thank you for sharing Bill with us and it has been a privilege making music with him."

Band Schedule to the End of the Year:

With the end of the year now fast approaching, we still have some performances you will wish to catch up on before we get into Christmas Carolling.

Sunday 8 November we are performing at the Tartan Club function from 4:00 to 7:00.

Sunday 22 November, we have two charity concerts, at 2:00 pm and another at 7:00 pm in the Salvation Army Citadel Hall, corner of Guyton and Wicksteed Streets. This is to help raise money for the Salvation Army and we will be playing a programme of Salvation Army brass band music. Prices are: Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Children \$5, Family \$20 .Tickets can be bought from the Salvation Army Shop on the corner of Dublin Street and Victoria Ave or simply contact Bruce on 06 3438251.

Saturday 28 November is the Christmas Parade. December sees us each Monday and Thursday out Carolling around the town.

Sunday 13 December is Carols by Candlelight at Virginia Lake Bowl at 7:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these performances.

Thanks for all your interest in our Band during the year and we look forward with great interest to doing Wanganui proud as we try to defend our B Grade Championship title in Dunedin in July next year.

Meantime, keep tootling,
Cheers
Barry Williams