

CANNING CITY BRASS BAND



Newsletter
Winter Edition 2010

Canning City Brass Band (Inc.)
Rehearses Thursday Nights
7.30 to 10 pm
All players welcome
Canning Town Hall
Cnr Albany H.way & Station St.

FROM TASSIE TO ADELAIDE



Over Easter, I was able to attend the National Band Championships in Tasmania, thanks to the generosity of the Canning Band committee. It was great to be able to hear a range of bands from around Australia, from A through to D grades, and listen to the variety of repertoire across the different grades. The trip was undertaken in the knowledge that we (Canning) would like to compete in the Nationals in Adelaide next Easter. A couple of observations came to mind:

- ♪ The quality of sound from the A grade bands, especially the Brisbane bands, was extraordinary. They play with a roundness of sound, and a warmth that we need to emulate – while the B grade bands didn't differ much in terms of technique, the B grade bands did tend to sound more 'blary' in the louder passages. They lacked subtlety.
- ♪ The range of repertoire was extremely varied, and bands played many contemporary pieces, obviously taken straight from the lists of recent international championships. Thus one B grade band played The Saga of Haakon the Good as their 'own choice'.
- ♪ Even the A grade bands suffered momentary lapses in intonation and ensemble – they were not all perfect. However, they do generally tend to be more conscious of how their parts interlock, and they play well together as ensembles. They all have good percussion sections!

What lessons can we learn from this? Well, to be a real contender in B grade at a national level, we need to keep working on our sound quality. Our breathing exercises are having an effect – I really feel that we are playing with a fatter, fuller sound than this time a year ago. However, we still need to watch our sound quality in loud passages – it still gets a bit harsh at times. Practicing the breathing exercises away from band, every time we touch our instruments, is a key.

Also, the old adage of 'one ear on what you are playing, one ear on what is going on around you' remains critical. We are definitely getting better in this regard. We are definitely playing more sensitively, but we still need to be more aware of the band sound as we play, and play into the band sound. Blend, not fight the band sound.

Continued Pg 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- CCBB would like to thank Paul De Cinque for taking 2 band rehearsals for us over the last month.
- The Band would also like to congratulate Geoff and Kaye on their marriage!
- WABA State Championships are being held at Churchlands on the long weekend in June, Come along to hear some great music!
- We have **Stubbies!** Well done to Morty for winning the slogan competition. To find out the winning slogan, purchase one for about \$5

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From Tassie to Adelaide Cont. from pg 1.

We are up against it when we compete in the Nationals. Most top bands enter at least three competitions per year – the nationals, their respective states, and additional competitions such as Ballarat South Street, or Tanunda. We really only get one shot each year – our states each June. We just don't get the same level of competition preparation. However, having attended the Nationals, I now feel better equipped in terms of what we need to work on, to have a fighting chance.

Shortly, the committee will be sending out a letter asking players to indicate their commitment to the Nationals next Easter. I hope most people would be keen to attend. Competing at the Nationals will really give us a yardstick on where we are as a band. It will give us idea of the level we need to constantly perform at, if we are truly to be a force in WA and national banding. Who knows, in time and with hard work, we may even end up defending an A grade title. Wow, wouldn't that be great...

Dr Geoff Lowe
Music Director

NAME THIS NEWSLETTER

Canning is looking to rename this newsletter and we want **your** help in deciding on a name.

If you have a suggestion or two send them ASAP over the following three months to

secretary@canningcitybrass.com

or speak to a band member.

Look forward to hearing the suggestions!

A Wrap Up - NATIONALS 2010



In the wee hours of the morning on Wednesday 31st March 32 performers and 9 supporters of the

Busselton Shire Brass

Band headed off on their journey to the National Band Champs in Hobart. After taking the scenic route through Sydney we arrived in fine shape and headed off to dinner. During the dinner I was lucky enough to present our life member John Piper with a 60years of service badge commemorating his contribution to our band.

The next day involved putting the final touches on at our last rehearsal, where I was please to find that everyone had remembered their instrument and importantly mouthpieces & music. Later that afternoon a group of 20 headed off on a quick 10mins walk (actually took 50mins opps!!) down to Sandy

Bay for a paddle around the bay. Friday morning started in true "Brassed Off" style with a quick marching practice in the car park at the BWS Bottle shop across from our hotel, which to our surprise was open on Good Friday. In the afternoon we uniformed up and headed into town to the Hotel Grand Chancellor Ballroom for the performance of our first two pieces Deep Harmony and Convergents. Saturday started nice and early with our parade march at 8:30 and with that being our only band commitment for the day, left us with some free time to explore the Salamanca Markets and hop on a bus for the "City Tour".

Sunday was another early start with us performing our stage march Army of the Nile and Own Choice Triptych in the first bracket of the day. This concluded our playing so now that we no longer had to worry about breaking bones we headed to the top of Mt Wellington for 17 of us to bounce the 22km down to the bottom at top speed on mountain bikes. This incorporated a cross country section where our treasurer was kind enough to offer anyone who drew blood a

beer. The rest of the group stayed at the venue to appreciate the fine talents on display in the A grade brass section. That night most of the group enjoyed the marathon Gala Concert involving the Mahidol University Senior Wind Symphony, Glenorchy "A" Grade City Concert Brass and Hobart "A" Grade Wind Symphony.

In the darkness again, half the band rose (I say rose because it was like waking the dead) to catch the bus at 3:45am to start the journey home while the rest stayed on throughout the following week to enjoy the beautiful sights of Tasmania. By all accounts we had a wonderful trip, we played extremely well and I was very proud of what we had achieved. This achievement was of course because of the hard work put in by the committee, musical director and every member of the band. I particularly enjoyed spending time with my fellow musicians and with the only casualty being an instrument I would call it a success. After all it was only "a bloody euphonium". Lol

Cheers
Kylie
President

A Wrap Up - NATIONALS 2010

RASWA Brass took part in the 2010 National Championships held in Hobart over the Easter weekend. We flew out of Perth on the 'Red-Eye' arriving in Melbourne before catching another flight on to Hobart. Arriving mid-morning we were greeted with an SMS from Monkey telling us the adjudicator had been refused entry to Tasmania because of a visa problem - it took at least 2 minutes to twig that might not be the case given it was April 1.

The hotel was part of a complex connected to the contest venue & soon after arrival at the hotel we were having a preview of the stage & hall. The hotel was situated right opposite Constitution Dock where the Sydney to Hobart boats dock at the conclusion of the race. A late afternoon rehearsal was planned in order to ensure a run through with permit percussionist Natasha French (who recently relocated from Perth to Hobart). On completion of the rehearsal a small party made their way to a reception at the Governor of

Tasmania's official residence. The following day was the first day of competition & was spent listening to the competition, supporting fellow WA band Busselton Shire band & then generally killing time before our allotted assembly time - the last band of the day. The 'Set Test' was Extreme Makeover by Johan De Mej.

The following day was the 'street march' & saw drum major Ben Noonan receive his highest result in the inspection. The afternoon was then spent wandering through the Salamanca Markets before heading off to another rehearsal for the own choice piece 'The New Jerusalem'.

Sunday was 'Own Choice' day & again the band played well. The band felt very pleased with their performances and had never played such a difficult set piece to such a high standard. Whilst receiving some great feedback from a number of recognised personalities in the Australian banding scene, who placed us in the top six, and an excellent review from the 'Brass

Hub', unfortunately the adjudicator didn't agree.

The highlight of the weekend for the band was the result of the Open Cornet Solo which saw RASWA's principal Cornet, Ben Noonan crowned as National Cornet Champion and Sarah Draper placed a commendable 3rd in the Open Tenor Horn Section. Some of those not taking part in the solo's & ensembles competition took the opportunity to see something of the area, many making the trip south to see the beautiful Port Arthur site.

The majority of the band returned to Perth the day after whilst a good number decided to stay & see more of the island.

Overall an enjoyable trip, the contest was very well organised & ran very smoothly just a disappointing outcome with the result.

Mike Willett RASWA BRASS



PARADE OF BANDS 2011

The Parade of Bands is not an exercise in following military discipline, a mindless reaction to orders. It is a carefully rehearsed theatrical performance involving sound and movement.

Canning has gained a place in every National Marching event we have entered. Our last entry in 2008 achieved a very good result. We need to review the mistakes in that campaign and clarify the methods needed to do better this time.

For all players need to apply proven techniques in keeping their correct position. Apart from the music, most of the band has one thing to do in order to maintain correct covering and dressing.

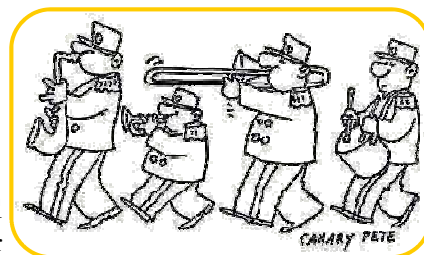
Influencing our last performance were as follows.

1. We trained for the inspection on a level paved surface similar to the area nominated by the contest committee. After our last drill rehearsal, it was announced at the Drum Majors meeting the inspection was to be held on a grassed slope. The only time available to practice on this surface would have been before 8:30am assembled on the morning of the contest. To put contest shined shoes on wet grass was not an option I considered.

2. The front rank had been trained to take 'sight lines' to maintain intervals. On our pre-contest walk over the route I should the front rank the tracks I wanted them to follow after the change of direction, to be used in conjunction with the 'sight lines'. During the intensity of the competition though these tracks were not followed.

The march to be played has not been chosen by MD. When it is, band members will need to learn it completely. At this years Nationals the highest scores over all grades were 38/40 for Music on the March and 83/100 for Drill. Achievable targets for 2011 will be Music 38, Drill 90+ and inspection 16. This will be achievable if all players understands what it is they have to do.

Barrie Hill
Drum Major



SLOW MELODY CONCERT

Sunday 14 March 2010 was anticipated with excitement and not a little trepidation by most band members. The afternoon's concert was another test of the progress of the band as a whole but the activity planned for after the concert was a real worry for the individual; especially yours truly. You see, I've been blowing one piece of brass or another for a lot longer than most of the other members have been alive and, although that experience should give me a distinct advantage, it also serves as a warning that things can go wrong. I'm talking about standing up in front of one's peers and playing a solo unaccompanied: the dreaded SLOW MELODY COMPETITION.

Worse was to happen. We had been entertained by junior and group competitors, most of whom performed with merit. Then it came the turn of the experienced players in the Open Section and Dr Geoffrey Lowe stood up and announced the first competitor; me.

Now, one may practise a piece of music 'til it's perfect (in the

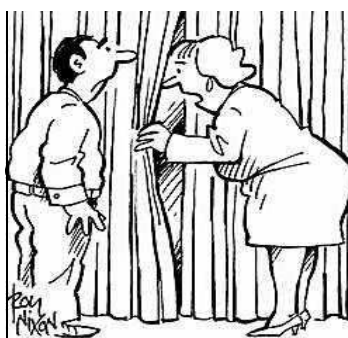
bedroom with the accompaniment of one's Jack Russell howling) but here I was in unfamiliar territory and not a Jack Russell in sight. I told myself "keep calm, remember your breathing and take your time". I took a deep breath and blew the first note: the relief when it came out ok was probably evident for all to see. As the piece went on I was feeling increasingly confident until I became distracted by a slight buzzing in my lips; probably caused by performing the full-length concert earlier. I tried moving the mouthpiece slightly from left to right to no avail. Then I forgot to take a breath as planned and a minor panic tried to take hold. "KEEP CALM" screamed in my head. By now I was starting to snatch breaths every second bar or so it seemed and I could feel my face flush even redder than usual and I made the dreaded mistake of glancing at the audience of fellow players. "There's no escape: if I don't finish this with some semblance of competence then I'll never be able to show my face at

band again". So, I pulled myself together and scrambled through the remainder of the piece without totally destroying my personal integrity.

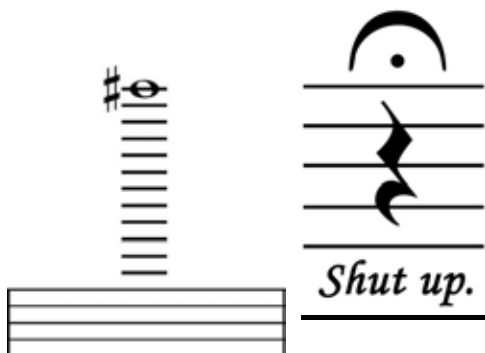
After the competition, similar stories were repeated by other performers and we all lived to tell the tale of another Slow Melody Competition. There were some surprising highlights: who would have thought that the competition would have been won by the demure Robyn playing Bach on her Baritone. And what about Sean's performance on his drums (although I can't remember how the tune went). Of course a huge vote of thanks must go to Dr Lowe who had to adjudicate and managed to put a positive note into each critique: a neat trick.

I can't wait until next year; maybe I'll take leave of absence for the week.

Victor Moss
Cornet



"DON'T MENTION MUSIC WHILE THEY'RE HERE. HE'S BROUGHT HIS TUBA."



ANZAC DAY

ANZAC day comes around every year even though for some they live in memory of family and mates lost everyday. It is always a privilege to play in honour of the people involved in defending this nation—both past and present.

Despite the significance of the day to the nation and it's people, ANZAC day in the life of a CCBB member is less than relaxing. The day begins with a morning service at Canning. The band marches to the war memorial from the town hall where the service is held. The parties include veterans, the public, various political and religious figures, a pipe band and other cadets.



Following the service the band leads the march back to the town hall.

Once we have returned there is little time to waste as we head to another march in Cockburn.

Once we arrive we assemble at the back of the parade. This march is bar far the longest. Again we march to the war memorial for a service at about 11am. Once the service is complete we walk back to the RSL at our own pace. There we are treated to a sausage sizzle, drink, rest and chat.

Most of us stayed a while at the RSL regaining our energy before the afternoon arrived. This is always a highlight for me; being with the band as people rather than a band is something I think is important...and fun!

After sharing stories, jokes and drinks we move on to Swan Yacht Club where we do our last short march through the car park



and finish the day with a concert.

When we arrived we set up under the marquee and assembled for the march. After the short ceremony the band was treated to drinks and a yummy spread of food! But not for long as we had a couple of sets of music to play through. Despite not having played much of the music for the concert recently due to our preparation for states, we played the music well, concentrating on our core sound.

Once the concert came to a close the day was over and the band could once again enjoy good food, drink and company.—all in the spirit of ANZAC day.

Rachel Goodman-Jones

CONTEST CAMP

Every year about a month before the WABA state championships, Canning tries to get away for the weekend to really break the back of our contest pieces. This year was no exception. The camp was held at Club Capricorn in Yancheop over the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of May.

The camp begins early with everyone arriving for a 9pm start. Rehearsals began with Geoff introducing us to some very useful warm ups. We began focussing on breathing properly and deeply. This involved getting up close and personal with your lungs and other

band members. Once we started breathing properly we moved on to exercises involving our instrument. Long notes and scales were the context in which we worked on our intonation and ultimately our core sound; listening for it and enhancing it. The end of the morning's rehearsal we worked on bits and bobs in the contest piece that were shaky. After a long but productive morning we were given a break for morning tea. After a short break the band was back into it, playing the program right through.

After this it was lunch time! After lunch the band had another

afternoon rehearsal in which we continued to work on bits in the pieces that weren't sitting, then we did another whole run through. To finish the rehearsal Geoff moved the band around for the run through of one piece encouraging the band to listen to each other and be confident in their part.

The evening held lots of fun, ginger beer and socialising. The next morning was our final rehearsal in which we ran through the contest pieces which were beginning to sit and sound good!

The camp was a successful venture in our contest preparation and I'm looking forward to it next year!

Rachel Goodman-Jones

FRIENDS OF CANNING NEWSLETTER

I would like to say a very big thankyou to everyone that has contributed to this big issue of the newsletter!! A lot has happened in the last 3 months in the brass banding world with Anzac day and the Nationals competition in Tasmania! In the coming week the West Australian Brass Band Championships is also happening. Thank you to everyone for taking the time over the intense rehearsing to write for this issue! It is also great to see a wider variety of people having a go writing an article for the newsletter!

The Spring issue I feel will be just as packed with great articles giving more insight into the preparation that goes into the states.

Keep up the banding and writing!

Music expresses
that which cannot be
put into words and
cannot remain silent

Victor Hugo 1802-85

Rachel Goodman-Jones

WHO ARE YOU RELATED TO?

In Canning City Brass there are a number of players who are related either by family ties or name.

First, in no particular order, we have family ties.

- ♪ Rachel Goodman- Jones, our editor, who plays Trombone, sits behind her twin brother Phil Goodman-Jones who plays Baritone.
- ♪ Reg, Solo Horn, and Anita Buchanan, 2nd Cornet, are married, to each other, and their son, Blake, has recently joined the band on Percussion.
- ♪ Andrew, Flugel Horn, and Lisa, Percussion, are married.
- ♪ Helen, Percussion, is married to Dave, Tuba.
- ♪ Matt Barker sits next to his father, Peter, in the Tuba section and (last time I heard) is in a relationship with Rachel Goodman- Jones.
- ♪ Jason Catchpowle, who plays Tuba, comes to band with his father, Alan, who plays Solo Cornet.
- ♪ Zoe Salt, Trombone, when she comes to band, sits in the Trombone section with her mother, Carol.

Other family ties within the band are:

- ♪ Rohan Hardie is the son of John Hardie, who played Euphonium in the band for many years.
- ♪ Rohan is married to Donna whose father, Fred Rooke, conducted the band for many years. Donna also played in the band
- ♪ Paul Torrance is the son of Alec Torrance who played in the band for many years.

There are also a few name sakes in the band:

- ♪ **Rachel** Goodman-Jones and **Rachael** Harmer
- ♪ **Lisa** West and **Lisa** Symons
- ♪ **Helen** Junk and **Helen** Grimm
- ♪ **John** Parker, **John** Walker and **Johann** Du Plessis (Johannes being the original form of John)

At one stage in the eighties there was **John** Burgoyne (founder of the band), **John** Hardie (see above), **John** Parker and **John** Walker.

Finally at the moment the name on every ones lips, literally, is **Haakon!** But that, as they say in the classics, is another story and if it is a long story it could be a saga.

John Parker
CCBB Vice President

BLAST FROM THE PAST

The biggest challenge I faced writing about this photo was working out the year and place. At the risk of being proven wrong by the bands human almanac, Rohan Hardie, I am going to go out on a limb and say that the photo was taken during a National Championship campaign in Melbourne during 1998.



Joining me (front left) for a spin in the Flintstones vehicle are Peter Boughen (front right) and Norm Littlefair (back seat driver). Both Peter and Norm later left CCBB to join the Air Force Association Brass Band.

Standing in the background, doing a little shopping, is Carol Salt. Carol is another who undoubtedly will let me know if I have dated this photo incorrectly.

And just for the record 1) yes, after chucking a few laps in the Flintstones vehicle we did remember to go back and pick up the cornet and 2) yes, we did run the photographer over.

Reg Buchanan

ALAN CATCHPOWLE



- ♪ **Born:** Birmingham UK – 1963
- ♪ First started playing the cornet aged 11 when I started high school in 1975.
- ♪ Around 1977 joined The City of Birmingham Brass Band on 3rd Cornet and worked my way up through the ranks over the next 2-3 years to play principal cornet and then Flugal.
- ♪ Around 1979 played with Birmingham School of Music Band back on 3rd cornet, came 3rd in the Championship Section National Finals the first time they competed.
- ♪ 1982 Met my future wife -1983 stopped playing to pursue other interests

- ♪ 1988 Got married to Viv
- ♪ Our daughter Jody was born and is currently studying Bio chemistry at UWA.
- ♪ 1994 Jason was born
- ♪ 1999/2000 Jason starts keyboard lessons with my old music teacher from high school. And then switches to piano 2 years later.
- ♪ 2003 Decide to give brass banding another try and joined Shirley Band, during my time there I alternated from back row, front row and flugal until we left to move to Oz.
- ♪ 2007 Jason wins a scholarship to study piano at The Birmingham Conservatoire (formerly the Birmingham School of Music where I played back in the late 70's)
- ♪ 2nd Jan 2008 we arrive in Perth.
- ♪ Jason is offered a place at Churchlands SHS, on there Gifted and Talented program and starts to learn the Tuba. I join Midland brick on 2nd Cornet
- ♪ 2009 We both join Canning, the rest you know!

♪ Jason hopes one day to have some sort of career involving music, I'm just happy to play in a band that doesn't take themselves too seriously, and is mostly about having fun J

JASON CATCHPOWLE

DoB: 4th December 1994

Other Hobbies: Windsurfing, surfing

Music History: starting playing piano aged six (taught by Peter Brown) and gained a place and was sponsored to go to the Birmingham conservatoire at around eleven and studied with international concert pianist Margaret Newman for a year but had to leave due to migration to Perth in late 2007 also started playing the trombone.

Got a new piano teacher in Australia (Tomaso Polio) gained a place at Churchlands SHS gifted and talented music program also later in the year gained 1 of 25 places at an exhibition program for gifted musicians to go and study for 3-4 hours on a Friday evening with Anthony Maydwell and Allen bonds.

Started playing the tuba (taught by Robert Benton) instead of trombone aged 13 and play in canning city brass band and all the senior ensembles at Churchlands SHS.

Actively compose lots of music. hoping to go study music at UWA and become a professional Musician after I leave school



CANNING CITY BRASS BAND (INC.)

Canning City Brass Band ('CCBB') is a community based Brass Band proudly sponsored by the City of Canning. Formed in 1974, CCBB has a distinguished record both to the community and in competition. The band is made up of thirty five musicians who come from all walks of life including teachers, managers, accountants, students and self-employed.

CCBB has entertained audiences all over Western Australia and in 1986 made its first interstate trip to compete in the Australian National Band Championships in Adelaide, South Australia. The trip proved to be a great success for the band who received very enthusiastic responses from crowds at the competition and numerous performances around Adelaide and the Barossa Valley. CCBB has since returned to compete at the Australian National Band Championships in 1987, 1991, 1995 1998 and 2008.

Together with National and local contests, CCBB is also involved in numerous local shows, events, indoor concerts and productions most notably CCBB members performed with The West Australian Symphony Orchestra in the 1997 Opera production of Aida and annual performances in the Blessing of Fleet ceremony in Fremantle attended by in excess of 10,000 people. CCBB has approximately 30 public performances per year and during busy times may have three or more engagements during any given week.

To book the Band or to find out further details please email the band secretary secretary@canningcitybrass.com.

WHO'S WHO?

President:
Simon Hunter
Vice President:
John Parker
Music Director:
Dr Geoffrey Lowe
Secretary:
Helen Junk
Treasurer:
Reg Buchanan
Band Sergeant:
Carol Salt
Drum Major:
Barrie Hill
Property Officer:
Lisa Symons
Librarian:
Wiebe Wilbers
Committee Members:
Emma Mondy
Victor Moss
Andrew Symons

CANNING CITY BRASS BAND



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Donations to help pay for printing and postage
are gratefully received, ask a band member for
more information

UPCOMING GIGS 2010

- 6/7 June :
WABA State Band Festival
Churchlands SHS
- 12 June :
Concert
Subiaco Church of Christ
- 26 Aug :
AGM
- 24 Oct :
Blessing of the Fleet
- 6 Nov :
Canning Show

For more details and future gigs check
out our website!
www.canningcitybrass.com

CONTACT US

The best way to contact us is by email -
info@canningcitybrass.com
The secretary can be reached by email or
phone -
0447 917 711
secretary@canningcitybrass.com

OR

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