



NEW ZEALAND

Mouthpiece

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Introducing... Addington Workshop Band

In the heart of Addington, amidst the rhythmic pulse of New Zealand's railway history, a new musical endeavour is taking to the rails. Emerging as an intermediate extension of the highly successful Addington TRAINING Band, the newly established Addington Workshop Band promises to uphold a legacy rich in brass harmonies and community spirit.

Named in homage to the former Addington Workshops Band, with its deep-rooted connections to the nation's railway heritage, the Workshop Band embarks on its melodic journey under the baton of talented Musical Director Matthew Harris.

The first rehearsal of this fledgling ensemble took place on the evening of Tuesday, 26 March. Here, amidst the enthusiasm of a new venture, members came together for a successful first blow, anticipating their public debut in just four short weeks at 'Organic Brass' alongside renowned local organist Grant Bartley and the Addington Brass Band.

Addington Brass MD Adrian Dalton said, "AWB is an exciting addition to the Addington family of bands. I'm looking forward to witnessing the growth and vibrancy that the Workshop Band will bring to Canterbury banding. It's also been great using my own bass mouthpiece!"

Under Matthew's expert guidance, the Addington Workshop Band will provide a step-up from the TRAINING band, offering a more adult-focused member experience and serving as a bridge for young talent

progressing to the main band. Additionally, AWB will also serve as a hobby band for those more interested in social performances. However, this does not preclude the Workshop Band from gracing the contest stage at Christchurch 2025.

"The founding of a new band is always an exciting experience. I am privileged to be named the Addington Workshop Band's first musical director, and I am excited to start working with the band on its first programme," Matt said.

The band has started at almost full strength

(nearly 76 trombones!), with just a few vacancies on the cornet seats. If there are any dormant players in the Christchurch region who wish to dust off their instruments and join us for a weekly blow, Adrian would love to hear from you. Please contact him at chchchooba@y7mail.com

As the first strains of music emanated from the rehearsal room on that joyous March evening, a new musical legacy—the Addington Workshop Band—stands as a testament to the growing strength of Canterbury banding.



Addington Workshop Band MD Matthew Harris and Addington Brass MD Adrian Dalton

Contest Time

Thank you, everyone, for your feedback on my monthly columns. I continue to be surprised that anyone reads what I write, so I appreciate hearing your thoughts on the topics raised. Please keep them coming.



With Easter weekend early this year, the 2024 Australian National Contest in Adelaide will be done and dusted by the time this edition of the Mouthpiece goes to press. Many New Zealand players and conductors had been called on to assist bands across the ditch, and no doubt you all represented our organisation with distinction. South Australia and its wonderful vineyards also benefited from the influx of brass band tourists.

Entries for our own 2024 National Contest are now open. Initial indications are that as many as 40 bands will attend this year, including bands from Australia, Tonga, Hong Kong and Japan. The National Contest has always been a highlight of my year. The chance to catch up with friends and colleagues and measure oneself against our country's best has motivated me to do whatever it takes to attend contests for more than 45 years.

However, I fully appreciate that many bands throughout the country struggle with justifying the effort and cost to transport and accommodate a full brass band and its significant equipment to this four-day event in a different location each year. There is also the environmental impact of the contest in its existing format with the large carbon footprint due to all the air travel. We understand these issues and difficulties for bands, but finding a solution that obtains agreement from the majority of our members is not easy. We are, however, blessed with intelligent and passionate people, so let us keep this debate and dialogue going because the contest remains a key event for our movement. It is important that we develop a National Contest model that meets our needs and requirements without creating excessive financial pressure on bands.

The Brass Band Association regularly seeks feedback from its members through multiple forums. Music selection, however, is the topic that motivates many to put pen to paper. Each year, we receive positive and negative comments from bands and players around the test music selected for the National Contest. Therefore, it might be worthwhile to outline BBANZ's process to select the band test works each year. Despite popular opinion, the National Management Committee does not select the test pieces. Since we are all active members

of bands, we work hard to maintain neutrality and only find out what we will be playing each year at the same time as everyone else. Our adjudicators have the unenviable task of deciding on the test works. Last year's adjudicators, having listened to all the bands at our previous contest and understanding the standard of each grade, are asked to provide our Executive Officer with a shortlist of possible test pieces. Our EO checks that the works are available and then forwards the shortlist to the incoming adjudicators, asking them to select pieces they would like to listen to. The incoming adjudicators then makes the final selections as they need to be comfortable they can compare bands performing the piece and sit in the box and listen to it played multiple times. No system is ever 100% perfect, but I believe it has served us well for many years. Again, we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

There is a wealth of test music available to bands locally and internationally, so I look forward to hearing all the Own Choice selections in three months' time

Happy rehearsals!

Yours in banding,
John Sullivan – President
Brass Band Association of New Zealand

2024 National Contest Test Music

A Grade: *Whitsun Wakes* by Michael Ball.

B Grade: *Diversions on a Bass Theme* by George Lloyd.

C Grade: *Salford Sinfonietta* by Darrol Barry.

D Grade: *Nicaea* by William Himes.

E♭ Soprano Cornet: *Escapade* by Joseph Turrin

Championship Cornet: *Wonderous Day* by Erik Leidzen. Pub: Salvation Army

Amateur B♭ Cornet: *Carnival of Venice* arr. William Rimmer. Pub: Wright & Round

Flugel Horn: *Concertpiece Opus 12* by Vassily Brandt. Ed, R Nagel. Pub: International Music Company.

Tenor Horn: *(The) Piper 'O Dundee* by Kenneth Downie. Pub: Kantaramusik

Baritone: *Rangitoto* by Goff Richards. Pub: Studio Music Co.

Euphonium: *Concertpiece No1. Op 11* by Vassily Brandt. Pub: qPress Music Publishing.

Tenor Trombone: *Thoughts of Love* by Arthur Pryor. Pub: Carl Fischer Music.

Bass Trombone: *Concerto in One Movement* by Alexander Lebedev, arr. Allen Ostrander

E♭ Bass: *Fatherland* by John Hartmann arr. L Blaauw. Pub: Molenaar Editions

BB♭ Bass: *Arioso and Allegro* by Joseph Hector Fiocco, arr. R Childs & P Wilby. Pub: Winwood Music.



Gig Guide

Thursday 4 to Monday 8 April

SAVE THE DATE - Gumboots Band Showcase in the Manawatu with lead tutor Harmen Vanhoorne. Player enquiries to Kathy Clark 021 689 005.

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April

Otago Southland band and solo contest in Dunedin. Chief adjudicator – Adrian Dalton.

Sunday 7 April

New Zealand Army Band Diamond Jubilee Concert, 2.00pm at the Christchurch Town Hall

Tickets are available **HERE**. Adults \$25, Seniors/Students \$20, Children \$10

Saturday 20 April

Annual General Meeting of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Band Association, 10.00am at Matamata band room, Huia Street, Matamata.

Organic Brass '24 featuring organist Grant Bartley, Addington Brass and Addington Workshop Band, 7.30pm at Knox Presbyterian Church, 28 Bealey Ave, Christchurch. Tickets \$20/\$15 at the door. Under 18s free.

Wednesday 24 April

ANZAC Salute, 7.00pm at the Cambridge Town Hall. Entry by gold coin donation at the door - proceeds to Cambridge RSA.

Thursday 25 April

All For Peace – Anzac Day tribute featuring the North Shore Brass Academy bands, 4.00pm St Peters Anglican Church, Takapuna. Entry by donation.

Woolston Brass presents ANZAC, with guest artist Rebecca Nelson, 2.00pm James Hay Theatre. Book at **Ticketek**

Tuesday 30 April

Rhythm and Brass, featuring the New Zealand Army Band Jazz Ensemble and the United States Air Force Brass Quintet, 7.30pm at The Piano, Christchurch. Tickets are available **HERE**.

Wednesday 1 May

Rhythm and Brass, featuring the New Zealand Army Band Jazz Ensemble and the United States Air Force Brass Quintet, 7.30pm at the Ashburton Event Centre. Tickets are available **HERE**.

Sunday 5 May

New Music Workshop from 10.00am in Wellington. Contact Aaron Lloyd for details. aarongrahamlloyd@gmail.com

Central Districts solo and party contest in New Plymouth.

Saturday 11 May

Closing date for entries to the 2024 national contest.

Music For Our Mothers, North Shore Brass and Academy Band, 7.30pm at North Harbour Lounge at North Harbour Stadium.

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May

West Coast Association band and solo contest to be held in Greymouth.

Sunday 26 May

Wellington District Association solo and party events to be held in Masterton.

To have your events listed in the Gig Guide, email the editor at bbanzeo@gmail.com



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Obituary Ron Wass

With great sadness, we report the death of long-time Marlborough member and life member **Ron Wass**. He was approaching 92 years of age and played with the Marlborough District Brass Band for 62 years, only hanging up his tenor horn in 2020.

Ron was born the sixth of eight children in 1932 to an emigrant family living in Petone. In his younger years, Ron enjoyed camping, hiking, tramping, and hunting. He joined the Petone Brass Band while studying as a draughting engineer at Petone College.

After relocating to Blenheim to take up a

position in town planning with the Blenheim Borough Council in 1958, Ron joined the Blenheim Municipal Band, where he formed strong friendships with George Hope, Evan Musgrove, and Ewan Robinson. It wasn't long before Ron became secretary and chief organiser of everything for the band, a position he held for 32 years. He also played with the Woodbourne Air Force Band and was secretary of Rapaura Tennis Club for many years.

In 1987, Ron was awarded Life Membership of Blenheim Municipal Band, later known

as Marlborough District Brass Band, and in 1990 he received a Queen's Service Medal for services to the community. Ron's meticulous, unflappable nature and boundless generosity of his time earned him the admiration and respect of all who knew him.

Ron's funeral was held in Blenheim on 23 February 2024, and Marlborough District Brass gave him a touching send-off.

**RIP Ronald Leonard William Wass
(14 May 2032- 19 February 2024)**



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The new band at Mounga' Olive.

5Qs for Pasifika Brass Leaders

Andrew Leech, director of ABI Music Ltd

Tell us about ABI Music and its connection to Tongan brass bands.

ABI Music started as a small brass and woodwind repair shop 36 years ago and has developed into one of the leading sales, repair and rental companies in New Zealand, as well as the distributor of Besson and Courtois instruments in New Zealand and Tonga.

Since we started, we've been doing repairs for school and church bands in Tonga. We've also been going to Tonga regularly over the last twenty years to spend time working with the school bands, and it's been fantastic to see them develop over that time.

What was the purpose of your recent trip, and did you achieve what you had set out to do?

We had two main objectives for this trip: to take Courtois artist Dave Bremner up to continue his work with the school bands and to distribute more of the donated instruments we had repaired ready for the schools that needed them the most. I must say a huge thank you to all of the bands and individuals around New Zealand who have donated their old instruments to help the young people of Tonga.

What were some of the highlights from your trip you'd like to share?

The absolute highlight of this trip was at Mounga' Olive - a small school with a roll of about 50. We visited them 18 months ago when they won a Sovereign cornet from the Besson prize draw. At that stage, they only had a few old instruments that needed much work, but they really wanted to start a band.

This year, we were able to present them with 12 donated instruments, and Dave, Bron, and I set about teaching them all how to play. It was so rewarding two hours later when they were all happily playing a C major scale!

We also took Dave to the island of 'Eua, worked with the local schools and churches there, and donated some more instruments. Due to work commitments, Dave couldn't travel to the islands of Vava'u with us, but we did a similar workshop with the combined bands of the three top high schools there. The kids' responses are always fantastic!

We have two really exciting projects underway with Dave for next year, so watch this space!

Thinking about the diverse communities we have here in Auckland, what do you think will be crucial in promoting brass banding in the wider Auckland region?

Auckland has one of the most diverse cultural mixes in the country, so I think it's fantastic that we're embracing this, especially with the strong Pacific (particularly the Tongan) communities in South Auckland, where this year's national contest is based. Virtually every school and church in Tonga has a brass band, and we have around 30 Auckland-based Tongan churches with bands. Because brass bands are so accepted in the Tongan culture (playing in a band carries the same prestige as being in the first XV rugby team!), it's great for our New Zealand brass band scene to be able to showcase elite players in our bands to such an interested audience. ABI Music is also proud to be sponsoring the live-streaming of the contest again so that everybody in the Pacific can watch and support their bands (on brassbanned.com)

What's one thing you're excited about in the lead-up to this year's national contest?

I'm really looking forward to helping the bands from Tonga get here. I can't wait to see all the Kiwis' reactions to them when they hear them play—I think there will be a few shocked people around! The level of the school bands over there is really impressive.



At Eua High School.

Next-Gen

In this issue, Lachlan Spence interviews 17-year-old Hamish Williams, who plays for Wellington Brass, Buzzing Brass and the RNZ Air Force Band.

How did you come to join a brass band?

In early 2018, I was in Lower Hut with my mum and just so happened to watch Hutt City Brass play. I straight away knew I wanted the biggest horn. I initially didn't want to play in a brass band with the tuba, but after some looking around, my mum discovered Buzzing Brass. Once she got the offer of a free instrument if I played with the band, it was decided for me. I've been playing with Buzzing Brass since then.

Does musical ability run through your family?

My family is pretty musical in a casual way. They all play instruments, though not as hard out as I do. I have three sisters: one plays bass guitar in an Indie rock setting, one plays guitar in high school bands, the last sister and my mum play in the Capital City Wind Band on sax and clarinet, respectively, and my dad jams drums at home.

What have been some of your musical highlights?

The 2023 Nationals was definitely a musical highlight as it was my first year playing with Wellington Brass in the A Grade. It was a huge step up from playing in D Grade with Buzzing Brass the year before. The music choice was amazing; having such a skilled band around me was awesome experience. Competing in the Under 19 duet competition with Malachy Holborow was also a ton of fun. For me, duet playing is the hardest to get right, but when it all works it's the most rewarding.

What have you gained from being in the Secondary Schools' and National Youth Bands?

Mainly, what I got out of these programmes was meeting people who are just as passionate about music and working just as hard as I am. Playing some cool music is a big part of it, giving everyone a common goal to work towards. But making friends around the country who share your interest in music is so special; it makes all the hard work everyone puts in worth it.

Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?

My biggest inspirations have been Nick Scott and Byron Newton. Nick Scott is a



phenomenal player and listening to him across from me playing in Wellington Brass really expanded my view on what is possible on the instrument. I also learned so much from him as the 2023 national youth band tutor. Buzz (Byron) is also an amazing player, but I also love what he is doing with Buzzing Brass. It's the youth bands that keep the brass band tradition alive. I certainly would never have gotten so into brass banding if it wasn't for Buzz and Buzzing Brass.

What's the best thing about being in a brass band?

The community and competitions. There aren't really many other music competitions like brass band championships. It gives you a week of the year to catch up with friends from around the country and to show off what you've been working on for months.

Is there anyone you would like to thank for helping you with your achievements thus far?

Buzz, for introducing me to brass bands; James Sutherland, for being my tutor for six years; and Dave Bremner and Wellington Brass, for giving me something to work towards and a high standard to strive for.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

I'm not pursuing music as a career, but when I move to Christchurch to study engineering, I hope to join a band I can call home for a few years while studying at Canterbury University.

Quickfire questions

What type of music do you listen to most? Jazz fusion like Snarky Puppy and Shubb Saran.

Other interests? Cooking and baking.

Favourite food? Neapolitan pizza.

Favourite place? Inside by the fire on a rainy day.

Favourite film? Inception.

Favourite instrument? F tuba would be my favourite because of its beautiful sound in the upper register, but the cello is also a very beautiful instrument.

Favourite piece of music? Audi Media Nocte

What do you dislike most? Hangnails.

For the more technical amongst us, what make of instrument do you play?

A Sovereign 982 Eb tuba.

Rising Stars Buzz Off

Three talented musicians, Hugo Carter, Hamish Williams, and Thomas Baker, have recently been promoted from the Buzzing Brass youth band to the prestigious Wellington Brass Band (WBB), marking a significant milestone in their musical journeys.

Hugo Carter, currently in Year 11 at Wellington College, has had a remarkable year of development in 2023. His exceptional performance saw him clinch a top-three placing in both the Under 15 and Under 19 cornet competitions at the 2023 National Contest. Ending the year by playing for WBB at the District contest, Hugo's dedication and skill have undoubtedly earned him this promotion.

Hamish Williams, a tuba player in his first year out of Wellington High School, made waves last year when he was promoted to the senior band and showcased his talent with both Buzzing Brass and WBB at the Dunedin Nationals. Notably, he secured victory in the Junior Bass solo and the Junior Duet and emerged triumphant in the A Grade. Hamish's achievement as the principal tuba player in Buzzing Brass is a testament to his musical prowess, further validated by his recent audition success to join the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band.

Thomas Baker, a late bloomer in the brass scene, has shown remarkable progress since joining Buzzing Brass two years ago. Starting on soprano cornet and Bb cornet, Thomas's steady improvement caught the attention of WBB's Musical Director, David Bremner. His journey from novice to WBB member is a testament to his dedication and perseverance in honing his craft.

As these players embark on this new chapter with the Wellington Brass Band, the members of Buzzing Brass extend their heartfelt wishes to Hugo, Hamish, and Thomas. Their promotion not only highlights their individual talents but also reflects the nurturing environment and guidance provided by Buzzing Brass in fostering young and old musical talent.

The Wellington Brass Band gains three promising musicians poised to contribute to the ensemble significantly. With their skill, dedication, and passion for music, Hugo, Hamish, and Thomas are set to shine brightly on the senior stage, representing the vibrant future of brass music in New Zealand.



Thomas Baker

Hamish Williams



Hugo Carter

A promotional poster for the Addington Brass Band. The background features a close-up of brass instruments. The text reads: "ADDINGTON BRASS PRESENTS Organic Brass '24". Below this, it says "Featuring Organ Soloist Grant Bartley Saint-Saens Organ Symphony (Final Movement)". The date and location are "7.30pm Saturday 20 April 2024 Knox Presbyterian Church 28 Bealey Ave, Christchurch Central". It lists "Addington Brass Band Music Director Adrian Dalton" and "Introducing Addington Workshop Band Music Director Matt Harris". Ticket information: "Tickets available at the door. Cash sales only. Adults \$20, Seniors, students and unwaged \$10 Under 18s free". The website "www.addingtonbrass.co.nz" is at the bottom. Two circular logos for "ADDINGTON BRASS CHURCH • NEW ZEALAND" and "ADDINGTON BRASS WORKSHOP BAND" are on the right.

A circular logo for the Brass Band Association Charitable Trust of New Zealand. The text "BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND" is around the top and "CHARITABLE TRUST" is in the center.

BBANZ Charitable Trust

What legacy will you leave?

One way to leave your mark on the world is a planned bequest to the Brass Band Association Charitable Trust. By doing so, your kindness will live on and help the next generation of brass band musicians.

The BBANZ Charitable Trust is grateful for bequests received from the Estates of
Elaine Aldridge, Barrie Aldridge,
J W Bambery, K Martin and Jeffrey Mulraney.

BBANZCT contact details:
murrayshonaw@outlook.com
28 Hyatt Grove, Greenmeadows, Napier 4112



Colab Brass

Over the weekend of March 23rd and 24th, Te Awamutu Brass hosted the second annual “Colab Concert” with Taupo Brass (who hosted it in 2023). The bands rehearsed separately on Saturday before working on three pieces together as a mass band. With all the hard work paying off, it was time for a feed and some very entertaining renditions of songs via Karaoke.

Sunday, the bands came together to set up and rehearse at the Te Awamutu Intermediate School Hall concert venue before lunch. At 2.30pm, “Colab Concert 2024” began with Taupo playing a variety of pop, rock and brass band classics from the 1980s. This also marked the first time they wore their new uniforms, which were kindly donated by their pals at North Shore City Brass. The middle section of the concert saw Te Awamutu take the stage playing a variety of swing, musical theatre, rock ‘n roll and more. There truly was something for everyone between both bands’ performances. The final segment saw both bands on stage to perform the classics - *LOVE*, *Lemon Tree* and *Breezin’ Down Broadway*. You can also follow the bands on their [Facebook](#) pages to see highlights from the concert.

Thanks to all who came to collaborate. We look forward to seeing where we will collaborate in 2025.





BBANZ – Directory

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National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

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Course Manager: Sandra Ginever
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M: 021 211 2321

2024 National Contest in Auckland 10 to 13 July

Contact person: Owen Melhuish
owenmelhuish@gmail.com

2025 National Contest in Christchurch 2 to 5 July.

Contact person Graham Hickman
festivalofbrassnz@gmail.com

2026 National Contest in Wellington

Contact person Mike Sander
mike.sander@tpl.co.nz

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Your employer deducts the money on your behalf and passes it on to the organisation. For every dollar you donate you get 33.33 cents back as a tax credit. The credit reduces the amount of PAYE you pay. You do not need to do anything at the end of the tax year as you've already received the tax credits.

More information [HERE](#).

National Secondary Schools' Brass Band Course



Applications are now open for the 2024 National Secondary Schools' Training Course to be held in Nelson from 1 to 5 October.

Application Criteria

✓ Players must attend a New Zealand secondary school or be attending an equivalent educational institution (area school, correspondence school, home school)

✓ You do not have to be a member of a BBANZ-affiliated brass band.

✓ Players should be playing at **Grade 4 level** or above.

To apply, contact the Course Manager, Sandra Ginever, at nssbrassbandnz@gmail.com or 021 211 2321 to sign up for Google Classroom, where the audition requirements are available.

Applications close on Wednesday, 8 May, 2024.

Friends of the National Youth Brass Band:

BJ Aldridge (in perpetuity), E Aldridge (in perpetuity), J Aldridge, D and M Dawson, Tony Garing, Pete and Billie Harbidge, JB and NC Hollick, I Levien, John McGough, O Melhuish, D Miller, G and C Moseley, NZ Army Band, Otago Southland Brass Band Association, B and M Platt, RNZ Air Force Band, Evan and Lorraine Sayer, J&R Sullivan.

If you would like to support the activities of the National Youth Brass Band please contact the **Executive Officer**.

Life Members of the BBANZ

Graeme Aldridge MNZM, Betty Bremner, Trevor Bremner MNZM, Tony Cowan BEM, JP, Kevin Dell ONZM, Ian Levien QSM, Stephen Leader, Leigh Martin, Bill Platt, Evan Sayer, Dianne Smeehuizen MNZM JP, Rodney Sutton MBE JP and Murray Warrington MNZM.

Life Members who have served BBANZ

JF Allen, GH Bailey, RE Belgrave, A Brieseman OBE JP, RM Brooker, Trevor Cudby, W Currie, Graham Dick, J Drew, RJ Estall, HCA Fox, WL Francis, NG Goffin QSO, EJ Gohns, T Goodall, HL 'Drummer' Hall, ER Holden, RB Hean, A Homer, KL Jarrett MBE, Beverley Kench, Mrs C Kendall, JC King, WS King, GB Knowles, Tony Lewis MNZM, WP MacLachlan, Riki McDonnell QSM, H Nielson, E Ormrod (sen), JG Osborne, E Palliser, J Rafferty, WV Siddall, R Simpson, P Skoglund, KGL Smith MBE, T Taylor OSM, LE Thorne QSM, FJ Turner, RS Waterston.



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