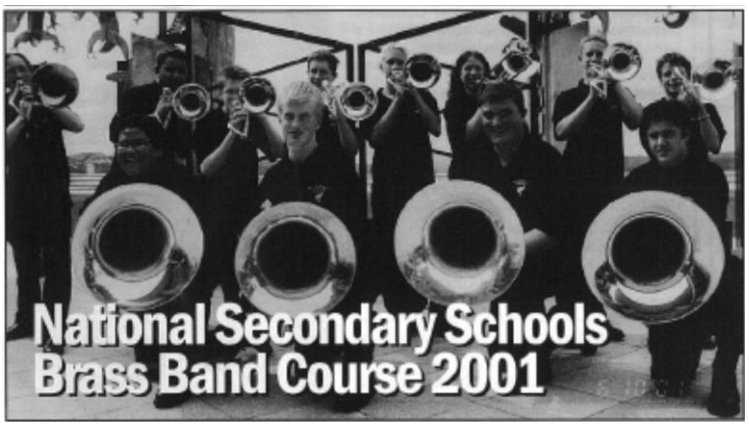
National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

2001

The first National Secondary Schools' Brass Band (NSSBB) was held at Silverstream Camp, Upper Hutt in October. The musical director was Nigel Weeks. The band performed at Te Papa Museum and Old St Paul's Church, Wellington.



2002

The band assembled in Keswick Camp in Rotorua in September. The musical director was Nigel Weeks. The band of 73 students gave concerts at City Focus and Keswick Camp. The guest soloists were Ryan Peni (Eb Bass) and Robert Simpson (euphonium).



2003

The band was invited to attend National Youth Arts Festival 2003 held in Wellington in August along with 10,000 other students from around New Zealand. The band was part of the opening ceremony, attended a master-class, performed at Te Papa Museum Marae and the Wellington Town Hall. The band of 62 students was directed by Nigel Weeks. Guest soloists were section leaders from the National Youth Band, Kieran Byrne (trombone), Abby Edlin (tenor horn) and Ryan Peni (Eb Bass).


Lunchtime Concert at Te Papa (on the Marae)

2004
The band assembled in Christchurch in August and was again directed by Nigel Weeks. Concerts were performed at Christ Church Cathedral and the Theatre Royal, Timaru. The guest soloist was Andrew Large (cornet).



2005
The band assembled in Auckland in July and gave concerts at Green Bay High School, Kings Prep School, Sacred Heart School and Manurewa High School. As well as a public concert at Epsom Girls' Grammar School. The musical director was Simon Kerwin.



2006
The band assembled in Upper Hutt in July and gave a concert at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club and Viard College, Porirua. The musical director was Simon Kerwin.



2007

The band assembled at Silverstream Camp, Upper Hutt in August and gave concerts at the Salvation Army Citadel, Wellington and Expressions Theatre plus two school concerts. The musical director was Mark Carter. Director of Education David Bremner was the course director and Barrett Hocking (trumpet) the guest soloist.



2008

A band of 46 students assembled at Burnham Military Camp, Christchurch on 31 July. The musical directors were Graham Hickman and Dwayne Bloomfield. The band performed as the guest band at the South Island Concert Band Festival, recorded a CD and DVD and did a school concert in Ashburton. The course also involved elective studies in arranging, sound recording, conducting and drum majoring.



2009

The band assembled at Burnham Military Camp, Christchurch. The musical directors were Graham Hickman and Dwayne Bloomfield. The band performed in the Christchurch Town Hall with the New Zealand Army Band.



2010

The band assembled in Nelson in October. The musical director was Nick Sharpe and Mick Dowrick. The band recorded a CD of its concert in the Theatre Royal, Nelson.



2011

The band assembled in Nelson in October. The musical director was Nick Sharpe. The band gave a public concert in the Theatre Royal, Nelson. The band was split into five small groups, with each group playing at three schools. The course concluded with a concert at Stoke Intermediate.



2012

The band assembled in Keswick Camp in Rotorua in October. The musical director was Alan Spence. Concerts were given at Keswick Camp and Rainbow Springs Rotorua, Trident High School and Whakatane Little Theatre



2013

The band assembled at Keswick Camp in Rotorua in October. The musical director was Alan Spence. Concerts were given at Matamata High School, Hobbiton and Matamata Baptist Church. A new work by Philip Sparke, "*Pukaea Waiata – Trumpet Song*", was commissioned.



2014

The band assembled at El Rancho Camp, Waikanae in October. The musical director was Mark Carter with guest soloist Matthew Stein (cornet). Concerts were given at El Rancho Camp and St James' Anglican Church, Lower Hutt. The band attended a workshop by internationally renowned trumpeter Hakan Hardenberger and a concert by the NZSO. The band also performed flash mobs outside the Waikanae Public Library and at Midland Park Wellington.



2015

The band assembled at Hunua Falls Camp, Auckland, in October. The musical director was Mark Carter. Concerts were performed at Rainbow's End Fun Park, Birkenhead College, with guest band Kumeu Brass and to the students at Birkenhead College. The band performed an original work *Te Tangia a Wairaka* written by band member Jack Bewley.



2016

The band assembled at Burnham Military Camp, Christchurch in October. The musical director was Mark Davey. Concerts were performed at the Christchurch Ice Festival and at the new performance venue The Piano. The guest soloist was Luke Spence (euphonium).



2017

The NSSBB band assembled at Napier Boys' College in October. The musical director was Mark Davey. Concerts were performed in Carterton and Napier. The guest soloist was Kyle Lawson (cornet).



2018

The NSSBB band assembled at St Margaret's College, Christchurch. The musical director was Leigh Martin. Concerts were performed in Christchurch and Timaru. Due to a serious injury to Leigh during the course of the concerts were conducted by Tyme Marsters, Nick Johnson and Raynor Martin. The guest soloist was Trevor Bremner (cornet).



2019

The NSSBB band assembled at Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth. The musical director was Leigh Martin. Concerts were performed in Whanganui and New Plymouth. The guest soloist was Mike Ford (tenor horn).



2020

A new programme was trialled for the NSSBB, with two separate camps being held. One in Christchurch for 41 South Island students and a second the following week in Taupo for 44 North Island students. The musical director for both camps was Andrew Snell from Christchurch, with Te Reo Hughes from Hamilton the assistant MD at the North Island camp. Belgian international cornet soloist Harmen Vanhoorne was the guest soloist. End-of-camp concerts were held at Christchurch Boys' High School and St Andrew's Anglican Church, Taupo.





2021
Following on from the change in format the previous year, two bands were selected. Both bands were to be in-camp at the same time. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic forced the cancellation of the course. In its place, Musical Director Andrew Snell ran an online course of activities. And, each band member individually recorded their part of *Hector the Hero,* arranged by Steven Booth, which was edited together and played on social media.

2022
Sixty-nine students were selected by audition for two bands, which assembled in Christchurch in October. The musicals were Andrew Snell and Reuben Brown, and the guest soloist was Ross Gerritsen (baritone). The bands were scheduled to perform a free outdoor concert, but it was cancelled due to weather. The bands performed a final formal concert at the YMCA theatre.



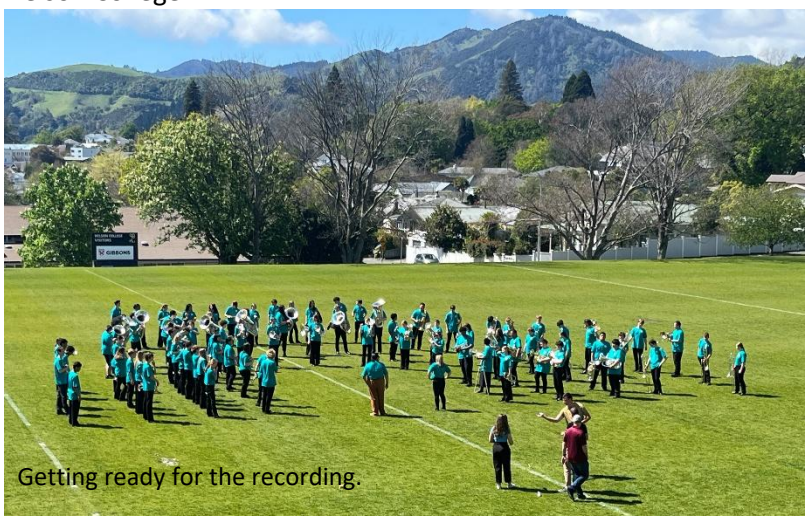
2023
Seventy students were selected by audition for two bands, which assembled in Cambridge in October. The musical directors were Vickie van Uden and Reuben Brown, and the guest soloist was Aishah Leitner (tenor trombone). The bands performed a final formal concert at the Cambridge Town Hall.



2024

Eighty-two students were selected by audition for two bands, which assembled in Nelson in October. The musical directors were Vickie van Uden and Linda Filimoehala, and the guest soloists were Mike Ford (tenor horn) and Kay McKenzie (cornet). The bands recorded videos of several pieces while marching, and performed a final formal concert at Nelson College.





Getting ready for the recording.

2025

Sixty-eight students were selected by audition for two bands, which assembled in Wellington in October. The musical directors were Linda Filimoehala and Nic Scott, and the guest soloist was Luke Giri-Spence (euphonium). The bands performed an outdoor concert on the Waterfront near Te Papa, and a final formal concert at Scots College.

