



NEW ZEALAND

Mouthpiece

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2026 National Youth Brass Band



NYBB Section of the Year: L to R: Lachlan Grant (Asst MD), Danielle Oram (principal), Brianna Loan, Lachie McGregor, Emily Sullivan with MD Mark Carter.

Welcome to 2026

Happy 2026, everyone. I hope you all enjoyed some quality time with your families and have made the most of the summer holidays. Unfortunately, as is often the case, bad weather, floods, and landslides have impacted many across the country, and my thoughts go out to all those affected.



As many of us are just now reintroducing ourselves to our instruments, our finest young musicians have obviously continued to practise in preparation for the 2026 National Youth Band of New Zealand. Based at the Auckland University School of Music, a week of rehearsals culminated in a fantastic concert at Holy Trinity Cathedral, featuring organ accompaniment.

Once again, I witnessed the significant effort that goes into organising and running a successful course. A big thank you to Mark Carter, Lachlan Grant, Emily Richards, tutors, the NZ Army Band, the Royal NZ Navy Band, local Auckland bands and the many others who supported this year's band. Your assistance and hard work provided wonderful lifelong memories to another group of young musicians. The high quality of the final concert and the genuine team spirit among the players are a credit to everyone involved. Like the other parents of band members, I would like to especially acknowledge the players for "putting in the mahi" over summer and making us so very proud. Another real banding highlight for me – thanks, Emily S.

One of the biggest challenges we continue to face each year is raising the funds required to operate our representative bands. Perhaps indicative of current economic conditions, we were unsuccessful with all grant applications for this year's National Youth Band. We even applied to other trusts when the first round of applications were declined. Therefore, we are extremely grateful to the Friends of the NYBB, who, over many years, have continued to generously support the band with an annual donation. Many of the Friends were members of the Youth Band themselves, or have children or band members in the band, and all are committed to supporting our next generation of

musicians.

We must continue to explore alternative methods to secure the funds needed to deliver the National Secondary Schools' Band, National Youth Band, and National Band, all of which are vital to the sustainability of brass banding in New Zealand. We are very open to ideas to improve this situation. We already have a couple of initiatives in place, Payroll Giving and gifting to the BBANZ Charitable Trust; we just need you to support them.

As I've mentioned before, Payroll Giving is a reasonably "painless" way to give back to our movement by providing a regular income stream, allowing the Association to plan with more certainty, all for the price of one coffee a week! The Charitable Trust is designed to aid individuals and all bands, not just representative ones. By gifting now and contributing to the existing fund, you can witness our organisation grow and prosper. Thank you to those who are already contributing. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch with [Helen](#) or [me](#) to learn more.

With an early contest, we all have to think like it is April already, as contest entries for the 2026 National Contest in Wellington close this month. Initial indications suggest as many as 40 bands will attend, including at least three from Australia and potentially bands from further afield.

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 attend contests for more than 45 years. However, I fully appreciate that many bands across the country have struggled to justify the time and cost of transporting and accommodating a full brass band and its significant equipment to this four-day event. We acknowledge the issues and difficulties bands face. Nevertheless, we are fortunate to have intelligent and passionate individuals involved, so I encourage everyone to participate in developing and evolving our National Contest model.

Yours in banding.



John Sullivan – President
Brass Band Association of New Zealand

Gig Guide

Saturday 7 February

Closing date for entries to the 2026 National Championships.

Saturday 14 March

Kumeū Vintage Brass performs at the 2026 Kumeū Show from 11.00am – 2.00pm, 35/41 Access Road, Gate 2/Main Gate, Kumeū.

Wednesday 8 April

Trombone Masterclass with Jorgen van Rijen, Principal Trombone at the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (RCO) in Amsterdam. He is also a founding member of the Dutch trombone ensemble, New Trombone Collective, and Professor of Trombone at the Amsterdam Conservatory.

FREE event 4.45pm to 6.45pm at the Tawhiri Performance Warehouse, 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington.

Wednesday 8 to Saturday 11 April

Champion Brass 2026 – the New Zealand National Brass Band Championships in Wellington. Events at Te Whaea - NZ School of Drama and Dance, Wellington Opera House and the Michael Fowler Centre.

Sunday 12 April

The National Band of New Zealand in Concert, 2.00pm at the Opera House, Wellington. Tickets available soon from [ticketmaster](#)

Sunday 14 June

St Kilda Brass presents *Celebration of Youth*, with pianist Ozan Biner-McGrath. Trinity College Auditorium, Dunedin.

Monday 20 July

Kumeū Vintage Brass playing at Morning Melodies, Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna from 11.00am – 12.00pm.

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 August

St Kilda Brass - 125th Celebration weekend. The band is celebrating this special anniversary with a variety of events, including a concert with Ian Porthouse, Musical Director of the UK's Tredegar Band. Contact St Kilda Brass secretary@stkildabrass.org.nz to register your interest.

To have your events listed in the Gig Guide and on the BBANZ Facebook page, email the editor at bbanzeo@gmail.com

2026 NYBB – from the MD's Perspective

On 19 January, the 2026 National Youth Band assembled in Auckland for an intensive rehearsal schedule including several sectional rehearsals. This year's band was smaller than in previous years, and every player rose to the challenges of the music from the first rehearsal.

I would like to thank our fantastic tutoring team of Colin Clark, Orson Paine, Kevin Hickman, Luke Giri-Spence, Aishah Leitner, Lachlan Grant and Jeremy Richardson for their time and expertise. The improvement after sectional rehearsals was noticeable.

We had originally planned an outdoor lunchtime concert, but the weather had other plans. Instead, we performed a concert of light music to an appreciative audience at Thursday lunchtime at the School of Music, which was livestreamed.

Our final concert was at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell, a majestic venue that showcased the sound of the band and organ. We performed a diverse programme including *Cloudcatcher Fells*, *Tam O'Shanter's Ride* and the Finale from Saint-Saëns' *Organ Symphony*. We were also delighted to feature our very talented Principal Percussionist (and current Champion of Champions), Keina Rollinson, who gave a masterful performance of the Finale from Emmanuel Séjourné's *Concerto for Marimba and Strings*. This was followed by *Watercolour Sun* for four players on marimba, featuring our fantastic percussion section.

It was a privilege to stand in front of this group of talented young musicians, and I will remember this concert for many years. The band played with confidence and great control, and technical passages were executed with ease. If you weren't at the concert, you will be able to hear it on Radio NZ at a later date – we'll post the details on our Facebook page as soon as we know the broadcast date.

I would like to thank Lachlan Grant for his fantastic support as Assistant MD. It was great to sit out in the audience when he conducted Philip Harper's *The Rings of Saturn* and Stephen Roberts' arrangement of *Uranus* from the *Planets Suite* by Holst. The band really enjoyed working with him, and he has a great future ahead as a conductor.

I would also like to thank our organ soloist, Gemma Lee, for her time and playing prowess, and Band Manager, Emily Richards, for the planning and running of the course.

I am already looking forward to the 2027 NYBB course taking place in Wellington in July. We are delighted to be part of a youth festival showcasing talented young musicians from across New Zealand. We will be performing with the NZSO National Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Choir, as well as performing our own concert in the Wellington Town Hall. This will be a great event, so make sure you apply early and submit a well-prepared audition.

Mark Carter

And from the Band Manager

We had quite a few new players this year, and it was great to see old friends reunite and new friendships form. We were also delighted to welcome Mark Carter for his first year as Musical Director, very ably supported by Lachlan Grant as Assistant Musical Director. While we didn't livestream the main concert this year, we did livestream our hastily rearranged lunchtime concert. For those who didn't see the concert, it is still available to watch on our [Facebook page](#).

Mark has given an excellent summary of the course, so I won't repeat that, but I just wanted to add a few thanks. Thanks to all the players who applied, particularly those who weren't selected for the band this year; it takes a lot of preparation and courage to submit an audition, and it can be disappointing when you're not selected, but

please don't let this put you off from applying for future bands. A big shout-out to all our amazing section principals who all turned up very well-prepared and led their sections superbly. And a huge thanks to Mark and Lachlan for their musical vision and leadership; the band relished the challenge of the music you picked, especially performing with the organ at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

We wouldn't be able to put on NYBB courses and tours without the fantastic support of the banding community. This year, we had phenomenal support from North Shore Brass, Auckland City Brass, and the Auckland Bands Association – North Shore Brass generously hosted our end-of-course social function and put on a great feed.

A huge thanks to the Royal New Zealand Navy Band and New Zealand Army Band for their support with tutors. Thank you to Colin Clark, Kevin Hickman, Luke Giri-Spence, Aishah Leitner, Lachlan Grant and Jeremy Richardson, as well as our fabulous 'civvy' tutor, Orson Paine.

Year after year, the NYBB reinforces the critical role the young players play in the future of our movement. I've been fortunate to be involved with the NSSBB and NYBB for several years now, and it's been a privilege to see these talented young players develop not only as musicians but also as individuals as they move on to further education or into the workforce. Thank you to everyone across the motu who spends their time supporting youth development.

And last but by no means least, the biggest thanks go to the 2026 NYBB musicians: as always, you guys were amazing.

Emily Richards – Band Manager

And the awards went to....

Best audition	Keina Rollinson, Woolston Brass
Most improved player	Logan Ready, Marlborough District Brass Band
Best soloist	Keina Rollinson, Woolston Brass
Bandsperson of the Year	Anna Lee, Hutt City Brass
Musical Director's award for the most outstanding musical contribution	Liam Wright, North Shore Brass
Outstanding player	Kilian Casey, Auckland City Brass
Best section	Horns. Tutor: Kevin Hickman Emily Sullivan, Danielle Oram (principal), Brianna Loan, and Lachie McGregor

BBANZ thanks the following organisations and individuals for their financial and logistical support for the 2026 National Youth Brass Band:

Friends of the National Youth Brass Band
BBANZ Charitable Trust
Royal New Zealand Navy Band
New Zealand Army Band
North Shore Brass
Auckland City Brass
Auckland Bands Association
School of Music, University of Auckland
Radio New Zealand
Holy Trinity Cathedral
Gemma Lee (guest organist)
Michelle Starns (programme and poster design)

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Lighthouse Brass: A New Sound on the Coast

A new brass band is emerging from coastal Taranaki, bringing together musicians who share a passion for quality music-making and the desire to perform at a high level.

Lighthouse Brass is a newly formed ensemble made up of experienced brass players from across the region. Founded by Tom and Kelly Waugh and their family, the band draws inspiration from the iconic historic lighthouse near their coastal home, reflecting both a strong sense of place and a shared commitment to musical growth, collaboration, and performance.

Although newly established, Lighthouse Brass is already preparing for its first major appearance at the brass band national contest this year. This will be an exciting milestone for the group and a valuable opportunity to learn, perform, and connect with the wider brass band community.

"Our aim is to create a supportive and focused environment where musicians can challenge themselves and grow together," says the band's leadership. "We're passionate about making high-quality music while enjoying the journey as a team."

Membership is open to experienced players who are enthusiastic about rehearsing, performing, and contributing positively to the band. Rehearsals are purposeful, the repertoire is engaging, and there is a strong emphasis on teamwork and shared musical goals.

While several positions are already filled, a small number of places remain for committed brass musicians who would enjoy being part of a friendly, motivated, and forward-looking group keen to push musical boundaries and perform at a high competitive level.

Proudly based in Taranaki and inspired by its coastal identity, Lighthouse Brass represents a fresh and positive addition to the local brass scene — one that values both musical excellence and community spirit.

As the band prepares for Nationals, the focus remains on enjoying the music, supporting one another, and celebrating the rich brass tradition in New Zealand.

Musicians interested in joining Lighthouse Brass are welcome to contact founding member Tom Waugh on 022 624 5736.



Gumboots Band Turns Five

The Gumboots Band Project will begin 2026 with its annual February Band weekend on 21/22 February in the Feilding Bandrooms, led by Harmen Vanhoorne who has been the lead tutor for the band since it began in 2021, working with more than 200 young musicians across the Central Lower North Island.

Thanks to the generosity of the Earle Creativity and Development Trust, the Gumboot Band will start its fifth birthday celebrations with a weekend of rehearsals, lessons, masterclasses and a brand-new piece of music, commissioned by the band and written by local composer, Craig Holdaway. *River Valleys of the Rangitikei* tells the journey of the band as it navigates the uncharted territory of building a regional band network in rural New Zealand.

"The band has come a long way in five years, and it is only fit and proper that they have a piece of music that tells their story," Gumboots Band Manager Kathy Clark said, explaining the reason for commissioning the work.

Established in 2021, the band's mission is to bring community banding to all residents of the Central North Island region by taking the tutors to the students. Since the first band weekend in January 2022, more than 350 young and new band musicians have attended more than 10 events, ranging from full banding weekends to hour-long masterclasses at schools from Palmerston North to Napier, Ohakune to Danniverke.

"Rural and regional musicians should have access to New Zealand's finest band musicians without having to travel to a major centre," says Kathy. "We are grateful for the support of musicians such as Harmen, our local bands, professional ensembles such as the defence force bands, and the schools across our region."

Working with Harmen for 2026 and taking care of woodwind, as well as the very young and very new players, is fellow Belgian Janna Van de Velde.

Players can register their interest by emailing gumbootsbrassandwind@gmail.com or by texting their name, band, and email to 021 689 005.

The band has a busy year, launching an ambitious Bands In Schools programme, supported by the JBS Dudding Trust and local councils, alongside its regular programme of events.

The Gumboots Band project is open to all players aged 8 to 23 (ish) across the Central North Island, and welcomes anyone to its rehearsals.

For further information, contact the Band Manager, Kathy Clark, gumbootsbrassandwind@gmail.com or 021 689 005.



Brass Blast into 2026

Christchurch was buzzing recently with the sound of brass as musicians from across the city, and Westport, gathered for a three-day Brass Blast Workshop — and by all accounts, it was incredibly worthwhile.

Thirty participants attended, representing more than six bands, including a committed group from Westport Municipal Band. The three-day workshop brought together players of all ages and stages — from 11 to 80+ — united by a shared goal: to strengthen fundamentals, deepen musical understanding, and reconnect with the joy of brass playing, ready for the new banding year ahead.

A strong focus throughout the weekend was placed on breathing well to play well. Across sectional sessions and full-group learning, participants explored how efficient breathing underpins tone, stamina, control and confidence — insights that many described as immediately transformative for their playing.

Tutors Alex Morton (French Horn), Tyme Marsters (Cornet/Trumpet/Flugel), and Joe Thomas (Trombone) generously shared their expertise, offering clear, practical advice grounded in real-world performing and banding experience. Their approachable teaching styles created an environment where players felt supported to experiment, ask questions and challenge old habits.

The workshop also included masterclasses and private half-hour lessons, allowing musicians to perform, receive personalised feedback and work directly on individual goals. For many, this was a highlight — a rare chance to focus deeply on their own development while learning alongside peers. The three-day event was managed by Barbara George, who ensured everyone had what they needed to do their best work, pre-, during and post-workshop.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with enthusiasm running high as the weekend wrapped up. Perhaps the clearest measure of success came from the most frequently asked question at the end of the workshop: “When is the next one?”

A sincere thank you must also go to Sshhmute, who came on board as a sponsor and generously gifted a Sshhmute to one of the participants — a gesture that was warmly appreciated and very much in the spirit of supporting musicians at all stages of their banding journey. Thanks also to Vicky van Uden for her outstanding accompanying during the masterclasses.

Brass Blast has proven that there is a real appetite in New Zealand for high-quality, accessible development opportunities that strengthen both individual players and the wider banding community — for musicians of all ages and abilities. If this workshop is anything to go by, the future is sounding bright — and well-supported — for brass banding in Aotearoa.



Expert presentation by Alex Morton



Huey Duncan during a masterclass with Joe Thomas





News from Sumner Silver Band

In December, the Sumner Silver Band was proud to be part of the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the arrival of the first four ships into Lyttelton, held at Ferrymead Heritage Park. This event brought together history, community, and shared celebration in one of Canterbury's most treasured heritage settings.

Ferrymead Heritage Park provided an ideal backdrop for the occasion, with its historic buildings, working exhibits, and living-history atmosphere drawing visitors of all ages. As guests arrived and began exploring the park, the band opened the day with light background music, creating a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. Families, heritage enthusiasts, and casual visitors alike enjoyed the music as part of their experience, with the sound of a live brass band adding warmth and life to the surroundings.

The band then moved into a more formal role, providing a ceremonial fanfare to mark the beginning of the official proceedings. Speeches from Christchurch City Councillors followed this, then the singing of the New Zealand National Anthem. These moments of ceremony and reflection anchored the celebration in civic pride and remembrance, reinforcing the occasion's importance to the wider Canterbury community.

Following the formalities, the Sumner Silver Band presented a varied concert programme designed to engage a broad audience and reflect the inclusive spirit of the day. Familiar favourites such as *Cherry Pink* and *Bring Me Sunshine* proved popular with listeners,

sparkling smiles and a sense of nostalgia among many in the crowd. More reflective moments were offered through the march *1914* and the much-loved Māori lullaby *Hine e Hine*, providing space for quiet reflection and acknowledging the diverse strands of history and culture that shape Aotearoa New Zealand.

As the festive season was approaching the programme also adopted a seasonal feel. Christmas selections, including *Merry Christmas Everyone* and *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, added an extra sense of enjoyment for visitors, particularly families and younger listeners. These lighter moments helped create a shared, relaxed atmosphere where people could pause, listen, and connect through music as part of their day out.

After a short break, the band was delighted to support the Morris Dancers, whose colourful costumes and energetic performances added movement and visual interest to the afternoon. This collaboration highlighted how music and traditional performance can work together to enhance community events and celebrate cultural heritage in a lively, accessible way.

The wider commemoration featured a rich range of attractions that complemented the band's performance. Visitors enjoyed displays and activities from the Canterbury Early Settlers Society, traction engines, train and tram rides, vintage cars and penny farthings, costumed characters, heritage demonstrations, and traditional old-fashioned games. Together, these

elements created an engaging and family-friendly event, with live music providing a unifying backdrop across the park.

The band's final set brought the celebration to a joyful close, featuring upbeat and widely-loved favourites such as *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *All I Want for Christmas Is You*, and *Feliz Navidad*. These pieces encouraged toe-tapping, singing along, and spontaneous engagement from the audience, reinforcing the sense of togetherness that characterised the day.

The performance also reflected the Sumner Silver Band's ongoing and valued relationship with Ferrymead Heritage Park. As the band in residence, it has the privilege of rehearsing at the Friendly Societies Lodge within the park, a unique arrangement that places the band at the heart of a living heritage environment. This partnership enables the band to perform regularly at the park throughout the year, supporting public events, seasonal celebrations, and commemorations while remaining closely connected to the local community.

Being part of the 175th anniversary commemorations was a meaningful opportunity to contribute to an event that celebrated Canterbury's past while bringing people together in the present. The Sumner Silver Band is proud to support Ferrymead Heritage Park and its role as a gathering place for history, culture, and community, using music to connect generations and share Canterbury's story.

By Aiyana Manson-King

Champion Brass 2026 Update

The Wellington contest committee, led by Mike Sander, is working hard to ensure that this year's contest in the Capital is a success. To assist bands in their planning for the contest, here is some more information on venues and the street march.

Te Whaea - NZ School of Drama and Dance, 11 Hutchison Road, Newton, will be the venue for all activities on Wednesday and Thursday. This venue was used for the 2017 contest. The venue is 2 kilometres from the Wellington CBD, a 10-minute drive. Buses depart every 10 minutes from outside Te Whaea, with trips taking approximately 16 minutes. There is a large on-site carpark with free parking available.

All the brass solo and ensemble events will be held at the Te Whaea complex, which has four halls and a warm-up room. Percussion events, the trombone masterclass with Jorgen van Rijen, and percussion checks will be held at Tawhiri Performance Warehouse, a new venue in the building directly behind Te Whaea.

The Junior Champion of Champions, Invitation Slow Melody and the Champion of Champions will be held in the Te Whaea Theatre. Tickets on sale soon.

There will be a Food Coffee Cart outside the venue, and in Newtown, a short walk away, there is a supermarket and cafes.

For the Band events, the A and B Grades will be held at the **Michael Fowler Centre**, 111 Wakefield Street, and the C, D, and Youth Grades will be held at the **Opera House**, 111 Manners Street. These two venues are very close, less than two minutes' walk between them. There will be an area on Wakefield Street where bands can be dropped off and then move to the Opera House or the Michael Fowler Centre. There will be no parking available at this drop-off point, and buses and other vehicles must move off immediately. There are many parking options in the immediate vicinity, all well signposted. Charges apply. Both venues will have areas where bands can drop their instrument cases before going on stage.

Bands will not be able to blow as a band in these areas. More details of the flow of bands in these venues will be given closer to the contest.

A list of the supplied percussion was included with the contest entry form sent to bands in November 2025. Percussion load-in for the Opera House is via the stage door at the rear, accessed via the Lane off Manners Street. The stage at the Michael Fowler Centre is not at ground level. Bands have two options for moving their percussion instruments to the stage at level one.

- By a stage lift **before** and after each grade event.
- During the event, by 20 stairs from the loading bay at the rear of the stage.
- Use the lift option if you have a large percussion instrument.

The loading bay for percussion is at the backstage entrance of the Michael Fowler Centre. Access to the loading bay is off Wakefield St and down the side of the Michael Fowler Centre. Vehicles must not be left parked in the loading bay and must be removed once the instruments are unloaded/loaded.

There will be refreshments and a bar in the foyer of the Michael Fowler Centre, along with trade stands and big screens to watch the contest livestream.

Parade of Bands on Friday afternoon

Once again, the Parade of Bands will take place on Wellington's waterfront, although in a different area from previous years. The Parade route will start in Queens Wharf, turn right into the lane behind Shed Five, then move into Lady Elizabeth Lane. It will progress along Lady Elizabeth Lane, with the halt point a short distance past Master Kong Restaurant. Total length 267 meters. The narrowest section is 5.5 meters wide, so Bands should march, with a maximum of five across. Full route measurements will be sent to the bands that have entered the contest.



As we did last year, bands will be allowed to halt and perform a short entertainment evolution in the area of the saluting dais. Bands are to be halted for no longer than **30 seconds**. This entertainment evolution is optional and will NOT be judged by the drill judges. The entertainment judges will evaluate these evolutions for the Entertainment Award. The location of the saluting dais and the full route measurements will be provided in the detailed route map sent closer to the event.

There is a drop-off area close to the start point and a pick-up area near the end of the parade route. No parking is allowed in these areas. There is an underground car park at Queens Wharf.

20,000 people are expected to attend the nearby Ultra NZ electronic dance music festival on the Friday of the contest, so the waterfront and town will be extremely busy.

To conclude what promises to be a terrific contest, we are pleased to announce Sunday afternoon's Gala concert will feature the 2026 National Band of New Zealand under the baton of David Bremner. Booking details to be advised asap. This is a performance you will not want to miss.

For general contest information, trade stands, sponsorship, and advertising, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the 2026 Champion Brass committee via mike.sander@tpl.co.nz or aarongrahamlloydd@gmail.com or check out the [BBANZ Contest Facebook page](#). We are all looking forward to bringing you a great contest.



Next-Gen

In this issue, Lachlan Spence interviews 19-year-old Wesley Richards, who has just completed his first National Youth Band course. Wesley is the Principal Euphonium for The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass, and occasionally Hawera Brass. He also plays in the Taranaki Youth Orchestra, mostly playing 1st trombone music on the euphonium.

What was your first musical experience?

The New Plymouth JAY (Juniors, Adults, Youth) Band visited my primary school for a concert, and I really enjoyed it. Inspired by the performance, I signed up for lessons. I chose the euphonium because it was the only instrument I could easily get a sound out of at first. I joined the JAY Band and later progressed to the senior band. From there, I was moved straight onto first baritone, as there were no other baritone players there at the time. I eventually worked my way up to principal euphonium.

Does musical ability run in your family?

My dad used to play the piano in his younger days. My half-brother has been a professional guitarist for many years, and my auntie was a professional singer. Music does not run through Mum's side of the family. And then there's me.

To date, what have been some of your musical highlights?

Some of my musical highlights include winning the Junior Baritone in 2021, completing my ATCL on euphonium in 2024, and being part of the best section in the band.

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

Secondary Schools' Brass Band was very enjoyable. I didn't expect to be the principal eupho for my first and only time in the secondary schools' band, but I was very fortunate to be the principal and part of a very strong eupho section. Sectionals with Ross Gerritsen were very beneficial, and I was fortunate to spend a few extra minutes with him working on my solos in *The Plantagenets*. I came away with memories that I'll never forget. The National Youth Brass Band was a great experience. I've learnt a lot during my time there. Having Luke Giri-Spence as our section tutor was very beneficial and inspiring, and it helped improve my confidence as a player.

What sort of things would you like to see happen to support young players?

I would like to see more young players encouraged to audition for the Secondary Schools' Band and not reject their spot just because they didn't make the main band. I would also like to see more players entering



the Junior Euphonium solo at nationals.

Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?

My greatest inspiration has been watching the A Grade bands at nationals, and I hope to play for one soon.

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

Playing at regional and national contests.

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

I want to thank my tutor, Bryce Gordon, for always pushing me beyond limits I thought were impossible. I would also like to thank my parents for their support.

Quickfire questions

What type of music do you listen to most? Classical.

Other interests? I also play the piano and have completed Grade 8 with distinction.

Favourite food? Sushi

Favourite place? At band, of course

Favourite film? It's hard to choose a film, but my favourite series has to be *Monk*.

Favourite instrument? Euphonium.

Favourite piece of music? *Resurgam* by Eric Ball.

What do you dislike most? The baritone.

For the more technical amongst us, what make of instrument do you play? I play a Besson Prestige 2052 euphonium with an Alliance DC2 mouthpiece.

Long Service Awards

In 2025, awards for long service to the brass band movement in New Zealand were presented to 27 people from 10 bands. Our heartiest congratulations to all those who have given so freely of their time to brass banding as players, conductors, administrators and accompanists over many years.

Feilding Brass: Carissa Davies, 28 years.

Gisborne Civic Brass Band: Judith Livingston (58 yrs), Wayne Carpendale (56 yrs), Rodney Cutts (39 yrs) and Grant Harris (27 yrs).

Hamilton City Brass: Malcolm Barr, 35 years.

Levin & Districts Brass: Graham Lawton (70 yrs), Chris Lawton (60 yrs), Lynda Carter (50 yrs), David Miller (35 yrs) and Louise Fenn (35 yrs).

Marlborough District Brass: Graham Moseley (52 yrs), Brian Ross (48 yrs), Ian Nicholas (41 yrs), John White (40 yrs), Brian Nicholas (35 yrs) and Grant Wright (30 yrs).

Motueka District Brass: Paul Hawkes (56 yrs), Vanesa Harris (40 yrs), Colin Hope (30 yrs) and Shanon Kissell (26 yrs).

NBS Nelson City Brass: Peter Goodman, 73 years.

Porirua City Brass: Geoffrey Warren, 55 years.

Te Awamutu Brass: Michelle Robertson (45 yrs), John Pye (40 yrs) and Sarah Carroll (25 yrs).

The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass: Paul Lamb, 50 years.

Long Service awards start from 25 years and are given to players, accompanists and administrators of BBANZ bands. If you would like an application form, please email Helen at the BBANZ Office at bbanzeo@gmail.com



BBANZ Charitable Trust
Registered Charity CC48032

Grant Applications Open

Financial assistance available to individuals and organisations seeking to further brass music education, or performance excellence, in New Zealand

Application criteria and forms available from BBANZ Web Site
www.brassbanz.org/bbanz-charitable-trust/

Donating to BBANZ Charitable Trust

- Donations may be made with or without caveat, from a named donor or anonymously
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- Investment returns from donations assist brass musicians in NZ



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Quick Notes



David Bremner

Congratulations to our NZ bandies who made the 4barsrest award nominations for 2025. **David Bremner**, musical director of Wellington Brass, was again nominated in the Conductor of the Year category, with Wellington Brass again nominated in the Band of the Year section. Also nominated in the Conductor of the Year category was our incoming adjudicator, Glyn Williams..

Principal cornet of Wellington Brass, **Kyle Lawson**, was nominated in the Player of the Year section with his newly released CD,



Introduction, nominated in the CD of the Year. Kyle, along with Keina Rollinson (Woolston Brass) were named in the 4BR Band of the Year..

Congratulations to **Andrew Brown**, member of Hutt City Brass, on his receipt of the New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD) for services to the New Zealand Defence Force in the New Year's Honours list.

Commodore Andrew Brown was the Senior National Representative for New Zealand's response to the grounding and sinking of HMNZS MANAWANUI on the south coast of Upolu, Samoa, in October 2024.

Congratulations to 2026 NYBB member **Mia Yee**, whose composition *When One Sees Light*, was performed by the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band (YYBB), conducted by Richard Marshall, at a concert on 25 January 2026 as part of the RNCM International Brass Band Festival.

Founded in 2006, the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band (YYBB) is a junior arm of the world-famous Black Dyke Band and inspires young musicians aged 11-21 to play high-quality brass music.

Looking for the latest band-related movie? Check out *My Brother's Band* in cinemas. Even though it is in French with subtitles, you will definitely get the band vibe of the story. It's a bit like *Brassed Off* and *Maestro* combined

with the heart of *Red, White and Brass*. And, you will see why we don't ever have contesting bands entering and exiting the stage from the same side.

A sensation at Cannes and one of France's biggest box-office and audience favourites, *My Brother's Band* expertly strikes the perfect harmony between laughter and tears as it follows two very different siblings, separated by fate and reunited by their love of music.




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2026 National Contest in Wellington 8 to 11 April
Contact person Mike Sander
mike.sander@tpl.co.nz

Incorporated Societies Time is running out!

Reregister before 5 April 2026
to continue operating as an
incorporated society.

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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, Kevin Dell ONZM, Ian Levien QSM, Stephen Leader, Leigh Martin JP, Bill Platt, Evan Sayer, Dianne Smeehuyzen MNZM JP, Denis Spurdle and Murray Warrington MNZM.

Life Members who have served BBANZ

JF Allen, GH Bailey, RE Belgrave, A Brieseman OBE JP, RM Brooker, Tony Cowan BEM, JP, 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, Rodney Sutton MBE JP, T Taylor OSM, LE Thorne QSM, FJ Turner, RS Waterston.



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