



NEW ZEALAND Mouthpiece

The Official Journal of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand

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2026 National Champions!



Congratulations to North Shore Brass on their first win in the A Grade and to St Kilda Brass on their clean-sweep defence of the B Grade Championship!





Rolleston Brass - C Grade Champion Band



*Brass Whangānui - Concert Brass,
D Grade Champions.*



Junior Champion of Champions: Kilian Casey (2nd place), Dimitrios Koulianos (3rd place), Keina Rollinson (winner) and Mia Yee (Highly Commended)



Invitation Sow Melody: David Maas (Highly Commended) Luke Giri-Spence (3rd place) Helen Williams, Glyn Williams, Russell Gray, Aishah Leitner (winner) and Keina Rollinson (2nd place).



Russell Boyle is delighted to receive his 72 year BBANZ Long Service award



Accompanist of the Year - Penny Brown



Administrator of the Year - Ella Tunnicliffe-Glass



Champion of Champion Buzz Newton with adjudicators Glyn Williams, Helen Williams and Russell Gray.



Beyond the Trophies

One hundred and forty-six years after our very first New Zealand National Contest, another Nationals is done and dusted, and I'm still buzzing from it. Hearing bands and soloists play to large, supportive audiences, and then getting the chance to catch up with friends and familiar faces around the venues, is one of the real joys of this week each year.



My congratulations to the contest committee: Mike Sander, Aaron Lloyd, Kate Pilkington, Denis Spurdle and their team of volunteers, who worked so hard to make the contest run as smoothly as it did. Thanks also to our Contest Administrator, Helen Lee. It felt great to be back in Wellington, and to spend time again at Te Whaea, the Wellington Opera House, and the wonderful Michael Fowler Centre. Thank you to Russell Gray, Glyn Williams, Helen Williams, and to every adjudicator, supervisor, volunteer, scribe, and compere who quietly kept everything moving. I also want to acknowledge our sponsors and media partners; your support makes a genuine difference. Well done, everyone.

One of my favourite moments this year was presenting two special long-service awards. Congratulations to Russell Boyle on reaching 72 years, and to Errol Miller on an incredible 80 years. Thank you both for your commitment to banding over a lifetime.

Putting on a National Contest each year is a major undertaking — time, money, and a lot of volunteer hours — so I often ask myself: what are we getting back for that investment? For me, this is our

flagship event because it tells our story in the most convincing way possible: it puts our best amateur musicians in front of the public and reminds people how wonderful brass bands can sound. It also matters in a very practical sense. BBANZ relies on the income the National Contest generates, and the contest remains something people want to watch and support — especially with the ongoing demand for live streaming from around the world. And beyond the trophies, I love what contests do for the music itself, pushing us to explore, develop, and grow our repertoire, including championing New Zealand compositions, as we saw again this year.

On a personal note, Wellington 2026 is a contest I will never forget — so please indulge me for a moment. After 102 years of trying, North Shore Brass has finally become the Champion Band of New Zealand. Many of us have poured years into this band, and performing on stage with my two daughters and some of my closest friends was a powerful reminder of why brass banding is so special. It's not just about the music, it's about the people we share it with. I'm deeply grateful to Nigel Weeks, Harmen Vanhoorne, Colin Clark, and every member of the band for the hard work and belief that went into creating this lifetime memory. I won't pretend I kept it together — I've shed more than a few tears, on the night and afterwards, thinking about the people who helped build the platform for this win and who aren't here to see it. To Gill Morrison, Jack and Jean McDonnell, Riki McDonnell, Greg Moverley and many others — thank you. In so many ways, this victory belongs to you.

And of course, we must recognise what Wellington Brass has achieved. Seven National Contest wins in a row is simply extraordinary — and it's hard to imagine that record ever being topped. David

Bremner and the musicians of Wellington Brass: you set the standard, year after year, and you made the rest of us lift our game. To everyone who took the stage — whatever grade, whatever result — thank you for the work you put in to get there. I also want to give a special mention to our outstanding accompanists, who so often make the difference in performance. It was a pleasure to hear the Open and Junior Champion of Champions, Byron Newton and Keina Rollinson, play with such poise and control. Congratulations too to Tonga College Brass Band, Brass Whanganui Concert Brass, Rolleston Brass, and St Kilda Brass for winning your respective grades — your results reflect a huge amount of dedication behind the scenes.

Then, almost straight after the contest, most of you were back out in your communities — leading Anzac Day services around the country. Every year, I'm reminded that these services rely on community brass bands in a way that's easy to overlook until the music isn't there. I sometimes wonder if local councils — and the public more broadly — truly see the commitment band members make, and how willingly it's given. Bands have done this without fuss since New Zealand's first Anzac Day observance in 1916. To everyone who turned up to dawn services, played with passion, and helped your community remember — thank you. To me, that is one of the clearest measures of what a successful brass band looks like.

Yours in banding.

John Sullivan - President
Brass Band Association of New Zealand

Gig Guide

Monday 11 – Friday 15 May

Radio NZ: Highlight performances from the A Grade at the 2026 National Championships on RNZ Concert Days with Nick Tipping from 1.00pm daily.

Sunday 24 May

In conjunction with New Zealand Music Month, Addington Brass presents **Echoes of Aotearoa**, 2.00pm at The Piano, Armagh Street, Christchurch. Performing a programme of all-New Zealand composers and arrangers, and featuring trombone soloist Joe Thomas. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for students and children. Book [HERE](#)

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June

Nelson Marlborough West Coast Association band and solo contest in Blenheim.

Sunday 14 June

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

Sunday 21 June

Auckland Bands Association solo and ensemble contest at Carmel College, Milford, Auckland.

Sunday 5 July

"Pink Rhythm and Groove." Bras and

Brass in concert with Marlborough District Brass Band, 2.00pm at ASB Theatre, Marlborough. Tickets [HERE](#)

Thursday 9 to Saturday 11 July

Casino Royale: Porirua City Brass and Wellington's local theatre talent bring you three nights of cabaret entertainment, 7.30pm at the Linden Community Centre, 10 Linden Avenue, Tawa, Wellington. Tickets available [HERE](#)

Sunday 19 July

"Pink Rhythm and Groove." Bras and Brass in concert with Hamilton Brass Band, 2.00pm at Playhouse Theatre, Gallagher Academy, Hamilton. Tickets available [HERE](#)

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. Join the band to celebrate this special anniversary with a variety of events. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Sunday 9 August

125th Anniversary Concert, 2.00pm at Kings and Queens Performing Arts Centre, Dunedin.

Featuring St Kilda Brass, conducted by Ian Porthouse, musical director of the UK's Tredegar Band, and Peter Adams.

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 August

Otago Southland District Association band and solo contest in Duedin.

Sunday 13 September

Auckland Bands Association band contest with the Open Class at Birkenhead College and the Youth Class at Birkdale Intermediate.

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September

Waikato Bay of Plenty District Association regional band and solo contest in Te Awamutu.

Canterbury Provincial Brass Band Association band and solo contest at McComb Performing Arts Centre at Cashmere High School, Christchurch.

Tuesday 29 September to Saturday 3 October

The 2026 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band training course in Christchurch.

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



Papakura City Brass is seeking an enthusiastic Musical Director to join our team and lead our band based in South Auckland. We are looking for someone who:

- is a great leader and can inspire and motivate the band musically through a wide range of musical genres
- can plan and help direct rehearsals and community concerts, and prepare for contests
- can develop our players' abilities and help grow our band membership
- is approachable, patient, and communicates well with all types of players.

A brass band background is preferred but not essential. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact papakuracitybrass@gmail.com by 1 June 2026.

50's UP BRASS
IS RECRUITING!

Experienced Musicians Needed

- Drummer for Kit
- Solo Cornet Player

publicity@50supbrass.co.nz

2026 National Championships Results

Under 15 Cornet

- 1 Mason Ding Auckland City Brass Youth Band
- 2 Ben Cookson Buzzing Brass Wellington
- 3= Michke Grobbelaar The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass
- 3= Ryan Large Waitakere Auckland Brass
- 3= Luke Donovan North Shore Brass Academy

Under 15 Other Instruments

- 1 Moata Leivo Benegas Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass
- 2 Oliver Frost Buzzing Brass Wellington
- 3 Kiara Curtis-Apeu Kerepehi Brass

Under 15 Percussion

- 1 Thomas Su Woolston Concert Brass
- 2 Quinn Boylin Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass
- 3 Eshton Huang Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass

Under 15 Slow Melody

- 1 Celine Wu North Shore Brass Academy
- 2 Ben Cookson Buzzing Brass Wellington
- 3= Moata Leivo Benegas Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass
- 3= Oliver Frost Buzzing Brass Wellington

Junior Cornet

- 1 Dimitrios Koulianos North Shore Brass
- 2 Luca Cable Woolston Brass
- 3 William Stewart Wodonga Brass (Aus)

Champion instrument:

E♭ Cornet: Lucus Zhao, Buzzing Brass Wellington

B♭ Cornet: Dimitrios Koulianos, North Shore Brass

Junior Horn

- 1 Mia Yee Wellington Brass
- 2 Lachie McGregor Ascot Park Hotel Brass
- 3 James Peng Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass

Champion instrument:

Flugel Horn: Mia Yee, Wellington Brass

Tenor Horn: Lachie McGregor, Ascot Park Hotel Brass

Baritone: Isla Craigie, Palmerston North Brass

Junior Euphonium

- 1 Inoke 'Unga Auckland City Brass
- 2 Joshua Curham North Shore Brass Academy
- 3 Mami Koizumi Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass

Junior Trombone

- 1 Hugh Maas Levin and Districts Brass
- 2 Anessa Ginever Hamilton City Brass
- 3 Bryn Morgan Brass Whanganui

Junior Bass

- 1 Kilian Casey Auckland City Brass
- 2 Mika Hayashi Wellington Brass
- 3 Alex Dunning The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass

Champion instrument:

E♭ Bass: Kilian Casey, Auckland City Brass

BB♭ Bass: Alex Dunning, The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass

Junior Percussion

- 1 Keina Rollinson Woolston Brass
- 2 Lucy Morgan Brass Whanganui
- 3 Zane Lehr St Kilda Brass

Junior Slow Melody

- 1 William Stewart Wodonga Brass (Aus)
- 2 Luca Cable Woolston Brass
- 3 Dimitrios Koulianos North Shore Brass

Junior Champion of Champions

- 1 Keina Rollinson Woolston Brass
 - 2 Kilian Casey Auckland City Brass
 - 3 Dimitrios Koulianos North Shore Brass
- Highly Commended: Mia Yee, Wellington Brass

Open Soprano

- 1 Jonty Zydenbos Hutt City Brass
- 2 Kay MacKenzie NBS Nelson City Brass
- 3 Matt Howell Waitakere Auckland Brass

Championship Cornet

- 1 David Maas Levin and Districts Brass
- 2 Raynor Martin Woolston Brass
- 3 Megan Gooding St Kilda Brass

Amateur Cornet

- 1 Toby Pringle Wellington Brass
- 2 Jean-Luc Pitcaithly Nor'west Brass
- 3 Semisi Ahoatu North Shore Brass

Open Flugel Horn

- 1 Kevin Hickman Woolston Brass
- 2 Brad Mancer Wellington Brass
- 3 Tyme Marsters Addington Brass

Open Tenor Horn

- 1 Mike Ford Wellington Brass
- 2 Brianna Loan St Kilda Brass
- 3 Simon Winship Woolston Brass

Open Baritone

- 1 Cameron James Hamilton City Brass
- 2 Ross Gerritsen Wellington Brass
- 3 Steven Booth Waitakere Auckland Brass

Open Euphonium

- 1 Buzz Newton Buzzing Brass Wellington
- 2 Luke Giri-Spence Wellington Brass
- 3 Walter Hughes Hamilton City Brass

Open Tenor Trombone

- 1 Aishah Leitner North Shore Brass
- 2 Isaac Oram Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- 3 Shane Mannerings Palmerston North Brass

Open Bass Trombone

- 1 Benji Pickering St Kilda Brass
- 2 Matt Donaldson North Shore Brass
- 3 Brady Foxley-Conolly Woolston Brass

Open E♭ Bass

- 1 Joel Williams Woolston Brass
- 2 Steve Lucas-Smith Canberra Brass (Aus)
- 3 George Humberstone Hamilton City Brass

Open BB♭ Bass

- 1 Lachlan Grant Woolston Brass
- 2 Chris Collings Wellington Brass
- 3 John Mason Woolston Brass

Open Percussion

- 1 Sho Kubota Woolston Brass
- 2 Jack Holmes Canberra Brass (Aus)
- 3 Ben Smith Wodonga Brass (Aus)

Champion Instrument

Timpani: Sho Kubota, Woolston Brass

Mallet: Ben Smith, Wodonga Brass (Aus)

Multi Percussion: Sho Kubota, Woolston Brass

Masters

- 1 John Sullivan North Shore Brass
- 2 Kevin Hickman Woolston Brass
- 3 Mike Ford Wellington Brass

Masters Age Group winners:

55-64 years: John Sullivan, North Shore Brass

65-74 years: Mike Ford, Wellington Brass

75-84 years: Pete Adams, Auckland City Brass

85+ years: Ken Austin, The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass

Open Slow Melody

- 1 Kevin Hickman Woolston Brass
- 2 Ross Gerritsen Wellington Brass
- 3 Cameron James Hamilton City Brass

Invitation Slow Melody

- 1 Aishah Leitner North Shore Brass
 - 2 Keina Rollinson Woolston Brass
 - 3 Luke Giri-Spence Wellington Brass
- Highly Commended: David Maas, Levin and Districts Brass

Champion of Champions

- 1 Buzz Newton Buzzing Brass Wellington
 - 2 David Maas Levin and Districts Brass
 - 3 Kevin Hickman Woolston Brass
- Highly Commended: Toby Pringle, Wellington Brass

Junior Duet

- 1 Wellington Brass
- 2 Buzzing Brass Wellington
- 3 North Shore Brass Academy

Junior Ensemble A (3 to 5 players)

- 1 Brass Whanganui
- 2 Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass
- 3 Marlborough District Brass

Open Duet

- 1 Woolston Brass No 2
 - 2 Wellington Brass
 - 3 Tauranga City Brass No 2
- Section 2 winner: Westport Municipal Band

Open Ensemble A (3 to 5 players)

- 1 Wellington Brass
 - 2 Waitakere Auckland Brass
 - 3 Addington Brass
- Section 2 winner: Palmerston North Brass

Open Ensemble B (6 to 12 players)

- 1 Hutt City Brass
 - 2 Auckland City Brass
 - 3 St Kilda Brass
- Section 2 winner: Feilding Brass

Open Ensemble C (Trombones)

- 1 St Kilda Brass
- 2 Addington Brass

A Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 Woolston Brass, *The Light of the World* (Dean Goffin)
- 2 North Shore Brass, *His Provision* (Ivor Bosanko)
- 3 Wellington Brass, *Silent Vigil* (Kenneth Dowie)

Test Selection, *Taniwha* by Scott Kennedy-French

- 1 North Shore Brass
- 2 Woolston Brass
- 3 Hutt City Brass

Best soloist in the Test:

Walter Hughes (euphonium), Hamilton City Brass
Best section in the Test: Percussion, North Shore Brass

Own Choice Selection

- 1 North Shore Brass, *Brussels Requiem* (Bert Appermont)
 - 2 Wellington Brass, *A Gabrieli Fantasy* (Bert Appermont)
 - 3 Woolston Brass, *This World* (Thomas Doss)
- Best principal cornet: Harmen Vanhoorne, North Shore Brass

Championship

- 1 North Shore Brass Musical Director, Nigel Weeks QSM
- 2 Woolston Brass Musical Director, Phillip Johnston
- 3 Wellington Brass Musical Directors, David Bremner and Reuben Brown

B Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 St Kilda Brass, *Be Thou My Vision* (Trad. arr. A Wainwright)

- 2 Addington Brass, *Nicaea* (William Himes)
- 3 Levin and Districts Brass, *In Love For Me* (Philip Harper)

Test Selection, *Images* by David Woodcock

- 1 St Kilda Brass
- 2 Levin and Districts Brass
- 3 Addington Brass

Best soloist in the Test: Harry Porthouse (cornet), assisting St Kilda Brass

Own Choice Selection

- 1 St Kilda Brass, *Tallis Variations* (Philip Sparke)
 - 2 Levin and Districts Brass, *Traversada* (Oliver Waespi)
 - 3 Porirua City Brass, *Cap Hoorn* (Mario Burki)
- Best principal cornet: Harry Porthouse, assisting St Kilda Brass

Championship

- 1 St Kilda Brass Musical Director, Peter Adams
- 2 Levin and Districts Brass Musical Director, David Maas
- 3 Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass Musical Director, Andrew Leech

C Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 Rolleston Brass, *Lloyd* (Cuthbert Howard arr. A Fernie)
- 2 Rangiora RSA Club Band, *His Provision* (Ivor Bosanko)
- 3 Te Awamutu Go Bus Brass, *Gresford* (Robert Saint arr. S Smith)

Test Selection, *Where the Light Falts* by Kodi Rasmussen

- 1 Rolleston Brass
- 2 Rangiora RSA Club Band
- 3 Upper Hutt Brass

Own Choice Selection

- 1 Rolleston Brass, *Renaissance* (Peter Graham)
- 2 Howick Brass, *Saint-Saens Variations* (Philip Sparke)
- 3 Te Awamutu Go Bus Brass, *Black Gold* (Thierry Deleruyelle)

Championship

- 1 Rolleston Brass Musical Director, Raynor Martin
- 2 Rangiora RSA Club Band Musical Director, Dwayne Bloomfield
- 3 Te Awamutu Go Bus Brass Musical Director, Sarah Carroll

D Grade

Test Sacred Item, *Elegy for Brass Band* by Fraser Bremner

- 1 Lighthouse Brass
- 2 Buzzing Brass Wellington
- 3 Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass

Own Choice Selection

- 1 Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass, *Neverland* (Christopher Bond)
- 2 Tonga College Community Band, *Oregon* (Jacob de Haan)
- 3 Lighthouse Brass, *Resurgam* (Eric Ball)

Stage March

- 1 Tonga College Community Band, *Centaur* (Derek Broadbent)
- 2 Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass, *Barnard Castle* (Goff Richards)
- 3 Buzzing Brass Wellington, *Entry of the Gladiators* (Julius Fucik)

Championship

- 1 Brass Whanganui – Concert Brass Musical Director, Ray Farrow
- 2 Tonga College Community Band Musical Director, Sione Hapa
- 3 Lighthouse Brass Musical Director, Tom Waugh

Youth Grade

Major Work

- 1 Tonga College Brass Band, *Oregon* (Jacob de Haan)
- 2 Auckland City Youth Band, *Little Suite for Brass* (Malcolm Arnold)
- 3 Maamaloa Youth Band, *Dakota* (Jacob de Haan)

Concert Programme

- 1 Tonga College Brass Band
- 2 Maamaloa Youth Band
- 3 Auckland City Youth Band

Championship

- 1 Tonga College Brass Band Musical Director, Sione Hapa
- 2= Maamaloa Youth Band Musical Director, Tevita Moli 'Unga
- 2= Auckland City Youth Band Musical Director, Xiaoyang Hu
- 3= Buzzing Brass Wellington Youth Band

Musical Director, Buzz Newton
3= Marlborough Youth Band
Musical Director, Robert Evers
Best soloist in the Youth Grade: Pesa Latu, Tonga
College Brass Band

Special Awards

Administrator of the Year: Ella Tunnicliffe-Glass,
nominated by Auckland City Brass

Accompanist of the Year: Penny Brown, nominated
by Tauranga City Brass

Pat Cole medal for youngest winner of an Open
Solo: Benji Pickering, St Kilda Brass

Our grateful thanks go to:

Chief adjudicator Russell Gray, assistant
chief adjudicators Glyn Williams and Helen
Williams.

The solo and ensemble judges: Aishah
Leitner, Anthony Smith, Ben Robertson,
Cameron James, David Gallaher, David
Miller, Fraser Bremner, John McGough, Joel
Williams, Leigh Martin, Linda Filimoehala,
Luke Giri-Spence, Mark Close, Matt Stein,
Shannon Pittaway and Tyme Marsters.

Comperes: Amy Laithwaite, Andrew
Clark, Dave Merrall, Emily Sullivan, Grant
Langdon, Hannah Darroch and Marilyn
Edgecombe.

Supervisors: Anna Redmond, Caroline Burt,
Grant Myhill, Hannah Neman, Hayden
Cullen, Jememy Richardson, Kirsty Hurnen,
Laine Ratsep, Marilyn Edgecombe and
Memorie Brooky.

Writers: Chris Craddock, Daniel Dalglish,
Georgia Hoy, Rachel Sullivan, Rosie Evans
and Soraya Clemens.

Organising Committee: Mike Sander (chair),
Aaron Lloydd (co-chair), Kate Pilkington
(secretary), Martyn Smith (treasurer), Denis
Spurdle (venue manager), Wayne Kedzlie,
Rangimakehu Hall, Melanie Jiang and
Robert James (volunteer co-ordinator).

Thank you to our corporate sponsors,
funding and logistic partners whose
support ensured we provided the best
contest experience for competitors and
audiences alike:

WellingtonNZ and Sharesies (Principal
Sponsors).

Antoine Courtois, ABI Music Ltd, Besson,
Brass Direct including John Packer Limited,
Michael Rath, Smith Watkins; Brendan and
Susan Agnew, Dame Adrienne Stewart,
David Miller, Kiwi Gaming Foundation, New
Zealand Army Band, Onslow Brass Band
Old Boys Association, Owen Melhuish - The
Mortgage Supply Co, Pelorus Trust, Porirua
City Brass, Pub Charity, Queensland Band
Association, Radio New Zealand, Royal New
Zealand Air Force Band, Stratum, Simon
Woolf Photographer and the Cudby Family.

Thank you to Barry Williams and Blake
Spurdle for the photographs taken during
the contest.

NSSBB Appointment

BBANZ is pleased to announce the
appointment of Aishah Leitner as the musical
director of the 2026 NSSBB Development
Band. Aishah will be well known to members
of the Secondary Schools' Band as she has
been the trombone tutor on six courses and
was the guest soloist in 2023. She has also
tutored at five National Youth Band courses.



Aishah is the principal trombone of the New
Zealand Army Band, North Shore Brass and
the National Band of New Zealand and is
in her second year as the musical director
of the Canterbury Youth Band camp. She is
the current Open Tenor Trombone national
champion and won the Invitation Slow
Melody event at the recent national contest.

Aishah and Linda Filimoehala, the musical director of the National Secondary
Schools' Band, will soon be busy listening to all the audition recordings from
players keen to be on the 2026 course. The course will be held in Christchurch
from Tuesday, 29 September to Saturday, 3 October. Applications close on
Sunday, 3 May.

Bands on Air



For one week during New Zealand Music Month, you will be able to relive the glorious
sounds of our A Grade bands, recorded and broadcast by Radio New Zealand Concert.

We are very grateful that RNZ has once again recorded our contest and provided live
sound to Brassbanned, so that everyone watching the livestream could also enjoy it.

Tune into RNZ Concert at 1.00pm from Monday, 11 May to hear the following:

Monday 11 May

The winning Sacred Item, *The Light of the World* by Dean Goffin, performed by
Woolston Brass, musical director Phil Johnston.

The test piece *Taniwha* by Scott Kennedy-French, performed by Hamilton City Brass,
musical director Te Reo Genefaas and featuring the winner of the Best Soloist prize in
the test piece, Walter Hughes on euphonium.

Tuesday 12 May

Sacred Item, *His Provision* by Ivor Bosanko performed by North Shore Brass, musical
director Nigel Weeks.

Music of the Spheres by Philip Sparke, the Own Choice work from Hutt City Brass,
musical director Matthew Stein.

Wednesday 13 May

Sacred Item, *Silent Vigil* by Kenneth Dowie, performed by Wellington Brass Band,
musical director Reuben Brown in his debut as a conductor of a band at a national
contest.

This World by Thomas Doss, the Own Choice work from Woolston Brass.

Thursday 14 May

Sacred Item, *Be Thou my Vision*, traditional arranged by Andrew Wainwright,
performed by Auckland City Brass, musical director Mark Close.

A Gabrieli Fantasy by Bert Appermont, the Own Choice work from Wellington Brass
Band, musical director David Bremner.

Friday 15 May

World O World by Jacom Collier, and arranged by Steven Booth, the musical director of
the performing band, Waitakere Auckland Brass.

The winning Own Choice performance of *Brussels Requiem* by Bert Appermont, from
North Shore Brass, musical director Nigel Weeks and featuring the winner of the Best
Principal Cornet prize, Harmen Vanhoorne.



NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA
NZ ARMY



**BOOK
TODAY!**

• Booking fees apply.

NZ ARMY BAND BRASS IN CONCERT

25 May
7.30pm

**Nativity Church,
Blenheim**

Tickets available at
eventfinda.co.nz

26 May
7.30pm

**Theatre Royal,
Nelson**

Tickets available at
theatroyalnelson.co.nz

27 May
7.30pm

**NBS Theatre,
Westport**

Tickets available at
[www.nbstheatre.co.nz/
events-and-live-shows](http://www.nbstheatre.co.nz/events-and-live-shows)

28 May
7.30pm

**Regent Theatre,
Greymouth**

Tickets available at [www.
regentgreymouth.co.nz/movie/
new-zealand-army-band](http://www.regentgreymouth.co.nz/movie/new-zealand-army-band)

Sumner Events



Sunny skies and a refreshing sea breeze set the stage for a delightful Sunday at Scarborough Park in Sumner, where families gathered for the much-anticipated Teddy Bears' Picnic. The park came alive with vibrant picnic rugs, baskets filled with treats, and, of course, the cutest teddy bears, creating a heartwarming scene of laughter and joy.

The Sumner Silver Band kicked off the festivities with a lovely Concert by the Sea, drawing in crowds eager to soak up the music and camaraderie. Children engaged in various activities, including teddy bear colouring sheets and the ever-popular "Cuddly Care Clinic," where they took on the role of doctors to care for their plush friends. The highlight for many was the lively teddy bear parade, where certificates were awarded to the Best Dressed Bear and the Most Cuddly Bear, adding to the day's excitement.

Musically, the afternoon was a showcase of incredible talent. Chris Hollis-Locke enchanted listeners with his rendition of *The Lazy Trumpeter*, while James Upton delivered a vibrant performance of the classic *Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White*. Robyn Porter turned heads with a gentle lullaby for the teddy bears, playing *First Light* on the baritone. Sylvia Duncan wowed the audience on bass guitar during spirited renditions of *Skyfall*, accompanied by the talented principal trombonist Geoffrey Wheeler. Jenny Bartley brought a beautifully atmospheric moment to the gathering with her expressive saxophone performance of Piazzolla's *Oblivion*. A steady rhythm and decades of dedication were provided by Colin Lyons on percussion, a beloved life member of the Sumner Silver Band who embodied both commitment and musicianship.

As the sun began to set, the band wrapped up the day with their signature showstopper, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, leaving the crowd buzzing with excitement and joy.

The scenic seaside backdrop, the joyous atmosphere, and the strong sense of community made the Teddy Bears' Picnic a truly unforgettable day. It was the perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon in Sumner, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us in this celebration! Thank you to all those who came to listen and show their support!

Anzac Day

The Sumner Silver Band was proud to support the Sumner RSA Anzac Day service, performing to a large and respectful crowd on a clear autumn morning.



Chris Hollis-Locke performs the Last Post.

The band presented a programme reflecting remembrance and national pride. Preservice music included *Aces High*, *Elizabeth Remembered*, a tender, contemplative piece composed by Debbie Wiseman OBE in 2022 to honour Queen Elizabeth II, *Amazing Grace* and *Abide With Me*. Additional items featured *Hine e Hine*, *Band of Brothers*, and *First Light*, delivered in an exceptional performance by Robyn Porter on baritone.

Guest bagpiper Gregory Shannahan added a distinctive and moving element to *Amazing Grace*, *Abide With Me*, and *Highland Cathedral*. The service also included a parade led by a local pipe band, a wreathlaying ceremony, and *Last Post* and *Rouse*, performed by principal cornet player Chris Hollis-Locke.

Soprano vocalist Lizzie Drury supported the service, leading *Abide With Me (Eventide)* and the national anthems. Speakers from the local community addressed the crowd, reflecting on the significance of Anzac Day and the importance of remembrance.

Following the service, the band performed a lighter programme, including *1914*, *Cherry Pink*, *Invercargill*, conducted by guest conductor Lydia van Uden (7 years old), and ending with *Now Is the Hour*.

Sumner Silver Band is honoured to continue supporting Anzac Day commemorations in the community, remembering those who served and sacrificed.

Aiyana Manson-King



80 Years of Service

Errol Miller and BBANZ President John Sullivan

Errol Miller started his banding life at the age of nine when his dad, Tom, returned from the war and took him to join the Ashburton Silver Band juniors.

Father Tom was a member of the 5th Infantry Brigade Band, along with his Uncle Claude, and served through Greece, Crete, Egypt, Sicily and Italy. Tom was an accomplished Euphonium player, and Claude was the musical director.

Upon his return home in 1946, Tom rejoined his younger brother Albert as a member of the Ashburton Silver Band. Young Errol was encouraged to learn the cornet and joined the Junior band with lots of other kids. His dad, Tom, took up the job of teaching the junior band.

Soon Errol was promoted to the senior band, where he was given a tenor horn to try. It must have been all right, because all these years later, he is still playing the tenor horn.

Ashburton Silver Band was an active community band that enjoyed contesting at both provincial and national levels.

At 18, Errol completed his compulsory military training (C.M.T.) His intake of 700 young men was enough to provide both a brass band and a Pipe Band.

In 1963, work commitments led Errol and his family to move to Christchurch. They settled in Wainoni, and shortly after, a carolling band came into the street. When the musical director, Geoff Butler, heard that Errol was an accomplished horn player, he was instantly enrolled as a member of the New Brighton Silver Band.

Errol has been recognised as a very fine horn player, often filling in soprano cornet parts as needed. He is still a very active player with New Brighton and took his place in the horn section at this national contest.

For 80 years, banding has been a part of Errol's life. He has been an integral part of the New Brighton Silver Band's management, having served as treasurer for 17 years, president for seven years, and as an active committee member. He is also a trustee and our patron.

Behind every good man is a good woman, and wife Margaret was awarded a 60-year bar for long service last year. She has been the secretary of our Supporters Club for 47 years.

Errol and Margaret are our band's 'Taonga', and we are very proud of them.



A Call For Peace

Auckland City Brass (ACB) felt very privileged to round off their Anzac weekend with a concert in collaboration with Uwe Grodd and Auckland Choral at the Auckland Town Hall, *A Call For Peace*.

The concert featured outstanding vocalists Faamanu Fonoti-Fuimaono and Madeleine Pierard. It also provided an opportunity for ACB's Peter Reid to perform a glorious *Benedictus* on flugel horn, and ACB Life Member Stephen Bemelman a rousing *Last Post*.

It was particularly meaningful to open the concert with two works by New Zealand composers. Fendall Hill's *Perspectives from Gallipoli*, inspired by first-hand Anzac accounts, traces the path of a young soldier from enlistment through the realities of war to recovery. David Hamilton's *A Call to Arms* for solo baritone vocalist, choir, and brass band takes text not from famous war poets but from the writings of ordinary people in trench magazines, personal journals, and more, elevating their voices so they are not forgotten.

Karl Jenkins' epic work, *The Armed Man*, needs little introduction as one of the most-performed choral works of our time, combining text and melody from multiple faiths and cultures. This work, as well as the Hill and Hamilton, provided a programme singular in its call for unity and peace. "Better is peace than always war."

Photography credit: Sav Schulman (www.savsphotography.co.nz)



Peter Reid

Stellar Homecoming for Buzzing Brass



The National Brass Band Championships, held in its hometown, Wellington, proved to be a landmark event for Buzzing Brass Wellington (BBW). It was a week defined by musical growth, theatrical ambition, and a palpable sense of community that resonated through every performance.

BBW's Youth Grade entry, "On Wings of Glory: The Temporal Labyrinth," brought a unique flair to the stage. This wasn't just a musical set; it was a narrative experience complete with a full-scale Dalek built by the musical director Buzz Newton.

A special mention must go to Aedan (Buzz's son), who displayed incredible versatility. Not only did he play the role of Icarus with poise, but he also spent the rest of the performance inside the Dalek, operating the "tin can" with menacing precision. One of the musical highlights was a guest appearance by former principal cornet Hugo Carter, who returned to deliver a truly beautiful rendition of Joy Webb's *Share My Yoke*. The performance of this piece was made even more poignant by the delicate euphonium duet at the start, setting a soulful tone for Hugo's solo.

The show reached a high-octane climax when the band members collectively pushed a Dalek off the stage into a thick cloud of smoke—a moment of pure theatrical joy that perfectly captured the story's spirit and the band's teamwork.

The progress seen in the D Grade was perhaps the most rewarding narrative of the week. Less than nine months ago, the band had finished at the bottom of the table. Fast forward to this Nationals, and BBW secured a highly respectable fourth place overall in a competitive field of eight bands, just 3 points off top spot.

The band placed second for a sensitive rendition of the test piece *Sacred Item, Elegy for Brass Band*, by Fraser Bremner, and third for its rousing rendition of *Entry of the Gladiators*. This rise from the bottom to the middle of the pack is a testament to the dedication of the players and teachers. BBW is officially a band on the move.

The "Busy Bee" nickname was well-earned, with nine soloists and five ensembles representing the organisation and giving us many standout moments:

- Lucas Zhao (Eb Soprano): Continued his impressive form, performing in his second Junior Champion of Champions.
- Mika Hayashi: Secured a fantastic second place in the Junior Bass.
- Principal cornet Ben Cookson: A very consistent run, placing second in both the U15 Cornet Solo and the U15 Slow Melody.
- Oliver Frost: Earned second place in the U15 Other Instruments and third place in the U15 Slow Melody.

- The "Super Mario Brothers": Euphonium duo Jack McDougall and Oliver Frost brought a smile to the adjudicator's face, placing a very close second in the Junior Duet.

- Beginner Band: Our newest players made their contest debut in the Open B Ensemble—a huge milestone for the next generation of brass.

- MD Buzz: Led from the front, winning the Open Euphonium with a perfect score of 100% and ultimately claiming his first Champion of Champions title on his third attempt.

The National Championships in Wellington were about more than just the results—they were about the journey. From the smoke-filled "extermination" of a Dalek to the soulful notes of *Share My Yoke*, the "Bees" showed they have the heart and the hustle to match their talent.

It's been a massive nine months of improvement, and if this contest was any indication, the future for Buzzing Brass Wellington is looking exceptionally bright.

By John Smith – Band Supporter



Next-Gen

In this issue of the Mouthpiece, we interview 18-year-old Dimitrios Koulianos, a member of North Shore Brass Band, Auckland Youth Orchestra and the 2026 National Youth Brass Band.

What was your first musical experience?

I started learning trumpet in Year 7 through the compulsory music programme at St. Peter's College. For the first few months, I honestly didn't enjoy it much. That changed when another student in my class could already play a piece better than I could—I became competitive, started practising more seriously, and slowly began to enjoy the instrument.

My first experience with a brass band came in 2024, when Harmen Vanhoorne began teaching at St. Peter's and invited me to join North Shore Brass Band for their Christmas concert at the end of the year. In November 2024, I was handed a cornet and a mouthpiece much larger than anything I had played before, and was placed on 3rd cornet for the concert. Since then, I've been completely hooked on brass bands.

Describe how musical ability runs through your family.

There isn't really a musical background in my family, as neither of my parents have experience in music or brass bands. However, they have been incredibly supportive from the very beginning. They've encouraged my practice, supported all my commitments, and made it possible for me to take every opportunity that has come my way. That support has played a huge role in my development as a musician.

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

Some of my biggest musical highlights so far include performing as Repiano Cornet with North Shore Brass when the band became the 2026 New Zealand Champion Band. I've also been fortunate to win the National Under-19 Junior Cornet Championship in both 2025 and 2026, as well as placing third in the 2026 Junior Champion of Champions. Another major highlight was performing with my chamber group, Los Piazzolanos, reaching the national finals of the NZCT Chamber Music Contest in 2025 alongside Keegan Fong, Kilian Casey, and Paul Kassir. Those experiences have been especially meaningful because of the people I've shared them with.

What have you gained or enjoyed most about being in National Youth Band?

The best part has been connecting with people from all over the country and building friendships through music. It's a really unique environment where everyone shares the same passion, and that makes it easy to learn from each other, push each other musically, and enjoy the experience at the same time.

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

I'd love to see regional youth bands that run year-round rather than just short-term courses.

Having consistent ensembles would give young brass players more regular performance opportunities and the chance to grow alongside peers of a similar level. I think that kind of ongoing environment would strengthen musical development, build stronger social connections, and help more young players stay engaged in brass bands long-term.

Who has been your greatest inspiration?

My greatest inspiration has been the North Shore Brass community, particularly my teachers Harmen Vanhoorne and Neville Grenfell, whose guidance and musicianship have had a major impact on my playing and development. I also take a lot of inspiration from soprano cornet player Colin Clark, whose standard of playing is incredibly high and constantly motivates me. I'm very fortunate to sit next to him in the band.

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



The best thing about being in a brass band is being able to perform at a high musical level while being part of a strong, supportive community. It's a place where you can seriously challenge yourself musically, but also genuinely enjoy the people you're working with.

Is there anyone you would like to thank for helping you achieve so far?

I'd like to thank my parents, extended family, friends, everyone in the North Shore Brass Band, Harmen Vanhoorne, Colin Clark, Neville Grenfell, Antun Poljanich, Zya-Li Teh, Da-hae Kim, and anyone else who has taught me along the way. I'm especially grateful to Peter O'Shaughnessy for all the rides to and from band, as well as for his advice, support, and for always being there to listen.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

My goal is to win as many band and solo competitions as possible and to develop a career in music by teaching brass and helping inspire the next generation of players.

Quickfire questions

What type of music do you listen to most? Pop rock, big band, and brass band.

Other interests? Teaching.

Favourite food? KFC.

Favourite place? The KFC, next to the North Shore Brass band room.

Favourite film? Wayne's World.

Favourite instrument? Bb and Eb cornet.

Favourite piece of music? Scenes From an Italian Restaurant by Billy Joel.

What do you dislike most? Out-of-tune pianos at solo events.

For the more technical amongst us, what make of instrument do you play? Besson BE2028 Prestige Bb Cornet with an Alliance 3 Cornet mouthpiece.



Casino Royale in Porirua

Bringing Community and Cabaret Together: Porirua City Brass is betting big this July with *Casino Royale*: a glitzy, high-energy cabaret packed with cheeky charm, sparkling music and more than a few surprises. The band and Wellington's local theatre talent are collaborating to perform thrilling show music, immersive atmosphere and (with a bit of luck), a storyline that will make you pine for Vegas.

Taking centre stage alongside the band's top brass notes are actor Mike Bryant and a multitude of local singers and dancers, under the creative direction of Letitia Garrett, best known for acting and directing with the Wellington Footlights.

"We have such a great cast of awesome performers who know how to put on a show and absolutely love it," Letitia says.

The story follows Jack Potts (Mike Bryant), the owner of a once-thriving casino, now fighting for survival following the pandemic and a myriad other misfortunes and bad decisions. Watch him and the talented cast reminisce about the once glamorous casino lifestyle through music from the 1920s to the present day.

You will be entertained not just by the performance but also by

delicious drinks, games of chance, and other interactive elements. We encourage you all to dress for the occasion.

Letitia says it's always a delight to collaborate with the band's musical director – who is also her husband, Nick Garrett.

This show is just one gamble Porirua City Brass will be taking over the next 12 months. For the first time since 1975, the band is travelling overseas - to Australia next year, to compete in the Australian National Brass Band Championships. This cabaret is one of many fundraising projects to help the band reach the international stage.

Edrick Child, band Chair (and 007 enthusiast), says prepare to be shaken, not stirred by this performance. "It's not often that we combine with local theatre. These actors will bring vibrancy, stage presence and pizzazz, making it unlike any other show we've done before."

Get ready to don your glad rags in July. Porirua City Brass can't wait to see you there.

Tickets available [HERE](#)

Behind the Scenes



Tonga College back satge

I was a volunteer helper at the recent National Championships in Wellington, mostly working backstage at the Opera House, assisting the C and D/Youth Grades.

I want to congratulate the BBANZ and the Wellington Committee on running such a wonderful contest.

From the timing, commitment and organisation to the performances, it was a truly superb event. The commitment and organisation from all concerned were a great credit to all involved.

At band contests, I have usually been involved with A and B grades, but this year, it was C and D/Youth grades. The passion, pride and efforts were just as memorable as those in the A and B Grades.

I took a number of photos and videos backstage and at the prizegiving, and here

is some background information that might help to explain the passion and pride evident in the photos and movies.

Prizegiving: such enormous joyous support for the bands and individuals receiving prizes from adjudicator Helen Williams: Buzz Newton, Raynor Martin, Ray Farrow, Tom Waugh and Sione Hapa.

Tonga College clapped Brass Whanganui Concert Brass off the stage following Whanganui's performance - like rugby teams clap each other off the field following a game. Such sportsmanship!

Tonga College sang a salute to Whanganui and the other bands following the prizegiving, then immediately sang the Lord's Prayer in Tongan. That was stunning.

Lighthouse Brass, in existence for only a matter of months, performed *Resurgam* with

just three solo cornets, the principal cornet being just a teenager. The solo triangle player is just six years old!!!! She waited off-stage, sitting on her nanny's knee, before going on stage to sit by her mum, and when her mum waved her hand, Miss Six played the trill on the triangle!!! Fantastic!!! That is brass banding at its very, very best.

Buzz Newton, leading his Buzzing Brass, with a Dalek he built himself: coming home from winning the Champion of Champions the previous evening, Buzz was up until 1.30am finishing the Dalek. His son Aedan was inside it, going up and down the stage. The kids and audience loved it.

There were 23 bands in the three sections. Three bands had players in wheelchairs, and four others had players on crutches. In all cases, other players assisted them both on and off the stage and in and out of the multi-storied Opera House. The very best of commitment to their fellow players and performers. That is what brass banding is all about!

I could go on, but I will leave it there. This event was one of the finest examples I can think of of a whole community in action.

After returning to NZ in 1976, over the past few years, I have despaired about where we are heading as a country and why I bothered to come back.

What I saw at the contest, however, reminded me of the best of Aotearoa/New Zealand and why I signed up again in 1976.

Once again, thank you and congratulations on the organisation and staging of a marvellous contest.

Kind regards,
Barry Williams

Lighthouse Brass and their young triangle player



Ian, Leanne and Harry Porthouse.

The Saints go marching on ... celebrating 125 years

2026 is the 125th anniversary year of St Kilda Brass, which began life as the Mornington Brass Band in 1901. It changed its name to the St Kilda Brass Band ten years later, after the St Kilda Borough Council offered it twenty times more annual funding than the Mornington Council did.

For the last 125 years, the band has been part of the soundtrack of Dunedin – in concert, on the march, on the contest stage, and at the heart of the community.

This year, we celebrate this long history and musical contributions through concerts, contests, and a special weekend. The year has already begun in great style with the band winning the national B Grade championship for the second year in a row – and with a clean sweep of all categories. On 14 June, the band welcomes guest conductor Reuben Brown for a concert focused on youth, and featuring Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with piano soloist Ozan Biner-McGrath.

The highlight of the year will be the celebrations and concert taking place on 8 and 9 August. We are hoping to see many friends, former members and supporters this weekend. The band is flying over special guests Ian, Leanne and Harry Porthouse from the UK. Ian and Peter Adams worked together as principal cornet and conductor for five contests in the 1990s and the centenary concert in 2001. Harry has followed in his father's footsteps and played as guest principal cornet with the Saints for the last two national contests. Ian and Peter will share conducting the Sunday afternoon concert, and the Porthouses will feature as cornet soloists. The concert will be a fitting celebration of the band's legacy. A new composition from Ken Young, commissioned for this anniversary concert, will be premiered.

As well as the concert, there are Friday night informal drinks at Emersons Brewery, activities in the band room on the Saturday, and a celebration dinner that night with Master of Ceremonies, the one and only Mr Ted Pheloung! There will be drinks, photos and many stories told ...

Registrations for the weekend are now open. We look forward to welcoming our friends and fellow bands-people. Go to <https://stkildabrass.org.nz/events/125th-anniversary-weekend/>

St Kilda Brass



Would you like to broaden your conducting experience by working with the best young brass and percussion players in New Zealand?

Expressions of interest are sought for the position of Assistant Musical Director of the National Youth Brass Band for 2027. The 2027 course will be held in Wellington from 28 June to 4 July 2027 as part of a youth festival featuring the National Youth Orchestra and National Youth Choir, culminating in performances at the Wellington Town Hall.

This is an excellent opportunity to be part of a unique collaboration and work alongside Mark Carter (Sub-Principal Trumpet in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Musical Director of the National Youth Brass Band) to contribute to the future development of brass banding in New Zealand. We are particularly interested in hearing from people who see this as the next step in their development as a conductor.

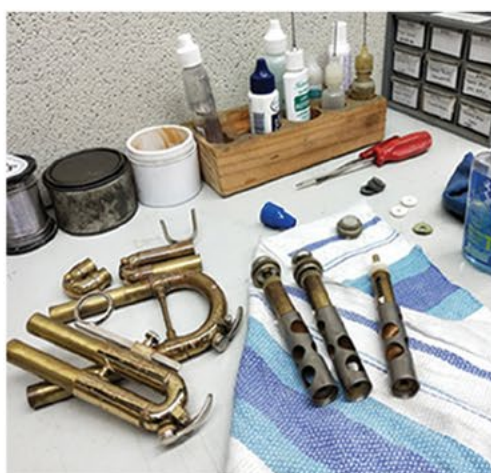
Please email Helen Lee at bbanzeo@gmail.com by 30 June 2026 to tell us why you would like the role, including what you would gain from it and the ways in which you can contribute, along with outlining your conducting experience.

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2027 National Contest in Invercargill 14 to 17 April.

2029 National Championships

Applications are called for from organisations wishing to host the **2029 National Championships** in the upper half of the South Island. Please contact Helen at the **BBANZ Office** to discuss your application and request an application form. Applications close on Monday, 31 August 2026.

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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.

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