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# 2026 National Secondary Schools' Bands

Representing 48 secondary schools from Auckland to Invercargill, 67 of New Zealand's brightest young musicians gathered in Christchurch from 29 September to 3 October for the 2026 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band (NSSBB) course. These talented players, aged 13 to 18, brought infectious energy and remarkable technical flair to an intensive week of music-making, personal growth, and community.

The National Secondary Schools' Brass Band was led by the fantastic Linda Filimoehala. This was Linda's third year on the course, starting as Development Band Musical Director and then spending two years as NSSBB Musical Director. Linda has an amazing approach to music-making, where the music flows effortlessly and calmly from her, with very clear, high expectations for the students. Students respond with hard work and show enormous improvement in just a few short days.

Aishah Leitner was the Musical Director for the Development Band. Aishah was a guest soloist with the band in 2023 and has been the trombone tutor on six courses, so she had a good idea of what was needed for this role. Aishah brought her energy and enthusiasm from the moment the course started, and the students couldn't help but be inspired, even when they had to be in the auditorium for breathing exercises at 8.30am each day (after Aishah had done an hour of personal rehearsal!).

With many first-timers on the course, it was important for the students to get to know each other. Once everyone arrived at St Margaret's College, we started with band rehearsals and then moved into the accommodation. In the evening, we played games like Human Bingo and Two Truths and a Lie, along with other activities to learn more about each other, make new friends, and ensure everyone felt welcome and comfortable. We also had a quiz, with one round consisting entirely of unusual facts about the players.



*MDs Linda Filimoehala and Aishah Leitner.*

Days two and three (Wednesday and Thursday) focused on rehearsals. Each day started with breathing exercises and warm-ups, then moved into band rehearsals. Every day balanced separate and combined band rehearsals with sectionals led by our fantastic tutors. In total, we rehearsed about six and a half hours each day.

It was amazing to see the bands come together musically. Linda and Aishah chose music that was interesting and exciting, but also very challenging. As rehearsals progressed, the sound became more unified,



*Best Section winners - the bass team from each band. L to R. Niko Russell, Zack Cannons, (Aishah), Michael James, Lachlan Checketts, Harry Donald, (Linda), Willy Keith and Andrew James.*

2026 NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS' BRASS BAND

and sections that initially seemed too hard began to take shape and become highlights.
On Wednesday evening, we were treated to a masterclass from fantastic Pablo Ruiz Henao, Bass Trombone with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. He covered a wide range of topics, including warming up, rehearsing, and note production, and gave lots of great tips and advice. Pablo invited students from the band to join him to work on these aspects of playing. During the Q&A session, he was asked to play a solo for us and initially said he didn't have anything, but then wowed us with the third movement of a tuba solo!

On Thursday evening, half of the students attended the "Seriously Brass: Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" Woolston Brass concert. This was a great opportunity for students who don't live near an A Grade band, or who don't regularly play in brass bands, to hear a top-quality band in action. The rest of the students had a quiet night in the accommodation playing games and watching a movie.

Friday was the first concert. After a short morning rehearsal, the T-shirt colour was revealed, and we packed up, ready to head to Te Matatiki Toi Ora The Arts Centre to perform an outdoor concert. The weather was stunning, and a large crowd gathered in the South Quad surrounded by the old stone buildings to hear the combined band present a 25-minute performance. The students then had a couple of hours to explore central Christchurch, visiting places like the Riverside Markets, Quake City, the Central Library, and the city centre.

Friday evening was the talent show. The rules were that students couldn't play brass instruments (and percussionists couldn't play percussion). They could perform solo or in groups. We were treated to brilliant singing, dubious rapping, an incredible Rubik's Cube display (solving a cube blindfolded!), and a great magic card trick show. We then had the awards presentation, followed by some fun free time in the accommodation.

Congratulations to this year's award winners:
Best Audition: LeBron Ah Young (Bass Trombone)

Outstanding Player: Joshua Curham (Euphonium)

**Development Band**
Principal Cornet: James Peng

Most Improved Player: Ben Scallan
Best Section: Basses (Niko Russell, Zack Cannons and Lachlan Checketts)

Best Team Player: Harry Spicer-Kendrick

Best Support Act: Callum Thompson

Musical Director's Award: Leah Maas

**National Secondary Schools' Band.**
Principal Cornet: Oscar Stove

Most Improved Player: Mitchel Cosford

Best Section: Basses (Willy Keith, Harry Donald, Michael James, and Andrew James)

Best Team Player: Jonas Osborne

Best Support Act: Hugo Brieba

Musical Director's Award: Lucy Morgan

Saturday's concert at the Charles Luney Auditorium was a huge success. We had a great audience, and the students really played at the top of their game. Guest artists Megan Gooding (cornet) and Keina Rollinson (marimba), former NSSBB and current National Band members, performed incredible solos. The full concert livestream is still available on YouTube and has over 1,000 views!

Thank you to all those who supported the course:
Musical Directors: Linda Filimoehala and Aishah Leitner
Section Tutors: Anthony Smith and Megan Gooding (cornets), Brad Mancer (horns/flugel), plus Hazel Wilson assisting the Development Band, Andrew Yorkstone (trombone), Dave Mallet (eupho/baritone), Ryan Peni (bass), Grant Myhill and Cameron Burnett (percussion)

Guest soloists: Megan Gooding and Keina Rollinson

Band managers: Malcolm Barr and Hayden Cullen.
The New Zealand Army Band, Addington Brass, Te Reo Genefaas, Kiwi Gaming Foundation, Four Winds Foundation, Youthtown, Pub Charity, Air Rescue and Community Services and the Ministry of Education.

# Brass Art



What happens when 60 brass instruments are squashed flat by the lift mechanism of the London Tower Bridge in London? ART.

City Gallery Wellington reopens after a two-year closure with an exhibition from one of the most significant artists of the 21st century, Cornelia Parker. On display is *Perpetual Canon:* the aforementioned squashed brass instruments, which is one of the artist's many pieces that deal with themes of destruction and resurrection, creating order from chaos and taking everyday objects and transforming them with magic and drama.

Parker arrived in Wellington in late September to install the exhibition. "Much of my work is concerned with aftermath, with what remains after something has been through a violent or transformative event, and its potential to be reanimated. The reopening of City Gallery Wellington strikes me as that kind of story. Something paused, now back. I'm delighted that my first major survey in Aotearoa New Zealand is part of that new beginning," she says.

The exhibition runs until 7 March 2027 at City Gallery Wellington, 67 Victoria Street, Wellington Central. Open daily from 10.00am to 5.00pm, plus late-night Thursdays; tickets are $25 for adults, $22 for concession, and $2 for children.



*Photographs courtesy of City Gallery Wellington*

# Free Workshops

As part of the AGM weekend, BBANZ will host a series of workshop sessions covering aspects of banding, so there should be something for everyone's particular strengths and interests. There will be three sessions, followed by a social hour and dinner, all on-site at the Novotel Christchurch Airport Hotel, Christchurch. And it's FREE, including all-day parking at the airport.

Registration before 4 November is required

12.00 – 12.30
Welcome, introduction and light lunch.

12.30 – 1.30
Resonate: Find out how the new training programme featuring the National Band works. What would you like from it for your District?

2.00 – 3.00
Composition Conversation: with Jack Bewley, Daniel Dalgleigh and Mia Yee, aimed at new composers.

3.00 – 3.30 Afternoon tea

3.30 – 4.30
Picking up the Baton: with Raynor Martin and Lachlan Grant, aimed at new conductors.


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# Out and About



From the friendships formed at our training courses to the service recognised in our bands, our community's strength lies in its people. And I have certainly enjoyed meeting many people at a variety of events over the last month.

In early October it was very special to hear 67 talented young musicians in our secondary schools' bands perform to an appreciative audience at the Charles Luney Auditorium, St Margaret's College. Congratulations to the management and tutors on delivering such a successful training course. In particular, I acknowledge Band Managers Malcom Barr and Hayden Cullen; Musical Directors Linda Filimoehala and Aishah Leitner; guest soloists Megan Gooding and Keina Rollinson; and the many volunteers who gave so generously to create a fun-filled week of learning and music-making. Most exciting of all was seeing the camaraderie and friendships these annual courses build. I have no doubt many will last a lifetime, just as the friendships I cherish have kept me involved in brass banding for more than 45 years.

Congratulations also to the management and members of the National Band of New Zealand on completing their first *Resonate* weekend. The programme focuses on community collaboration, and the strong engagement of Christchurch brass bands and players showed that purpose in action. For many, the highlight was the joint concert with the Canterbury youth players—an experience that I hope will motivate and inspire these young musicians. Wearing the silver fern as a national representative is an honour, and I look forward to doing so again at the next *Resonate* weekend at St Peter's in Cambridge on 27, 28 and 29 November.

The National Band of New Zealand is just one part of our brass band movement's rich history and enduring legacy. Few musical organisations in New Zealand match the longevity and community commitment demonstrated by our brass bands. They are built on generations of service, dedication and a shared love of music. It is always a pleasure to present BBANZ Long Service awards, recognising the people who have contributed so much to our movement. Last month, I joined Whangārei District Brass as they celebrated eight members' outstanding service. Later this month, I'll have the pleasure of doing the same with Hamilton City Brass. These occasions are a wonderful reminder of the people behind our bands and are among the real privileges of my role.

While it is important to celebrate our heritage, we must also look ahead. Our Annual Conference and AGM, in Christchurch on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 November, give conductors, players and administrators an opportunity to come together, share ideas and help shape the future direction of our organisation. If our brass bands are to thrive for another 100 years, we must keep evolving, embrace new ideas, and equip ourselves to meet the challenges ahead. The conference's free workshops are designed to build the knowledge and skills our community needs to move forward. Topics include an update on the National Band *Resonate* programme, Composition, and Picking Up the Baton. The conference day will conclude with time to connect, share experiences and continue the conversations about the issues that matter most to you and your band.

The AGM on Sunday is equally important. Attendees will have the opportunity to consider and endorse key decisions that will shape the direction of BBANZ and our wider brass band community. Your voice matters, and your involvement can make a real difference.

Our brass band movement has a proud history, built on the commitment of generations who have given their time, talent and energy to keep it alive. It is now our responsibility to build on that legacy and ensure it continues to flourish. Please support this year's Conference and AGM. Bring your ideas, share your perspectives, and help shape the future of brass bands in New Zealand. Together, we can honour our past while creating a vibrant future for the generations to come.

Yours in banding.



John Sullivan – President
Brass Band Association of New Zealand

# Canterbury Youth Band

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Peter Croker | Soprano Cornet | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Luca Cable | Principal Cornet | Woolston Brass |
| Jack Banks | Solo Cornet | Addington Brass |
| Dante Ewings | Solo Cornet | Rangiora Brass |
| Amélie Mackay | Solo Cornet | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Emma Shore | Repiano Cornet | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Erika Cable | 2nd Cornet | Woolston Concert Brass |
| James Schofield | 2nd Cornet | Addington Workshop Band |
| Alec McGeorge | 3rd Cornet | Woolston Junior Band |
| Sophia Hickman | 3rd Cornet | Woolston Junior Band |
| Kate Croker | Flugal Horn | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Simon Winship | Solo Horn | Woolston Brass |
| Jessica Playford | 1st Horn | Addington Brass |
| Soren McKubre-Jordens | 2nd Horn | Addington Workshop Band |
| Huey Duncan | 1st Baritone | Addington Brass |
| John Gibbs | 2nd Baritone | New Brighton Silver Band |
| Walter Hughes | 1st Euphonium | Woolston Brass |
| Ruichen Ma | 2nd Euphonium | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Jonny Croker | 1st Trombone | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Chenaé Marillier | 2nd Trombone | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Cooper Mallett | 3rd Trombone | Woolston Junior Band |
| Milla Smith | Bass Trombone | ChCh School of Music |
| Willy Keith | Eb Bass | Nor' West Brass |
| Andrew James | Eb Bass | Addington Brass |
| Grace Seaton | Eb Bass | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Bernè Liebenberg | Eb Bass | Sumner Silver Band |
| Liam Dixon | BBb Bass | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Michael James | BBb Bass | Addington Brass |
| Thomas Su | Percussion | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Polly Scurr | Percussion | Woolston Junior Band |
| Kota Hirose | Percussion | Westburn School Orchestra |

# 2026 Canterbury Youth Band



*The National Band and Canterbury Youth Band 11-strong bass section.*

For the first time in a decade, the Canterbury Provincial Brass Band Association has raised an Under 23 Youth Band. Applications were advertised in July in collaboration with the National Band of New Zealand, and local Canterbury musicians from within the National Band selected the band. The National Band Musical Director, David Bremner, selected the repertoire, and music and recordings were sent to all successful applicants.

After a lot of personal practise, the band met for the first time at the Addington Brass bandrooms on Sunday 6 September and rehearsed their programme. On Friday 9 October, the Canterbury Youth Band combined with the National Band of New Zealand at the Charles Luney Auditorium (St Margaret's College) for intensive rehearsal under the baton of David Bremner. On Saturday 10 October, many of the youth musicians attended the *Resonate* masterclasses at St Margaret's College, and the National Band evening concert at The Piano.

Then on Sunday afternoon, to conclude the *Resonate* Community Brass Band Showcase, the combined Canterbury Youth Band and National Band performed the following programme (with the solos within the works performed admirably by the musicians of the Canterbury Youth Band): *Gaelforce* by Peter Graham, Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, the *Harry James Concerto for Trumpet*, featuring Principal Cornet Luca Cable, and the rocking *All Night Long*, a Lionel Richie classic.

The weekend provided an extremely positive experience for the youth band musicians, and the following are some recollections in their own words:

**Luca Cable** (Cornet – Woolston Brass):
The National Band's *Resonate* weekend was a cool experience, and it had a big impact on both my playing and how I approach my parts in brass bands. Being surrounded by some of the country's top cornet players was unreal. It was great to go to the cornet masterclass and watch how the national band cornet players practise and perform, and there was obviously some good mouthpiece chat.

I learnt a lot to take back to my own practice. On top of that, it was awesome getting to meet and hang out with other youth brass musicians from around the area. Connecting with people my age who are just as into it as I am made the whole weekend feel super fun and motivating. Huge thanks to David Bremner, Graham Hickman, the BBANZ governing committee, and the CPBBA for organising the weekend and making it happen.

Hearing the National Band perform live on Saturday night was amazing; their precision and overall sound were next level. Experiencing a performance like that really inspired me to push my own playing further and set new goals for myself on the cornet. Overall, it was an amazing weekend that left me energised and excited to keep improving.

**Bernè Liebenberg** (Eb Bass – Sumner Silver Band):
Kia Ora everyone! My name is Bernè Liebenberg, and I had the great honour of playing the Eb tuba in the Canterbury Youth Band as a fourteen-year-old, and I've played alongside the National Band! I started playing tuba back in March, which is roughly eight months now, and back then I thought I would never be able to play in a brass band as kind and talented (and famous!) as the New Zealand National Band. Everyone in the band was truly supportive, which really helped my confidence as a relatively new player (compared to most people who had been playing for years and years).

Music truly is a gift and brings so many people together, and I'm very grateful for this amazing opportunity. I'm constantly reminded that music truly makes the soul happy, and the joy of playing with others is unmatched. Thank you to everyone who made this possible; it was the performance of a lifetime. My advice to any young, developing musician is: no matter your age or talent, believe in yourself and go for any opportunity presented to you! Who knows, maybe you can also play alongside the New Zealand National Band. Dream big, and you'll go far!

# Gig Guide

**Saturday 7 to Thursday 12 November**
An art installation about brass banding in Aotearoa will be free-to-view at the University of Canterbury's Ilam Open Studios in Ōtautahi (Christchurch). 22-year-old Jack Banks, a cornet player with Addington Brass, created it as his final submission for his Fine Arts degree. Event information HERE:

**Saturday 7 November**
BBANZ conference workshops at the Novotel Christchurch Airport Hotel, Christchurch. Free event
please register by 4 November.

**Sunday 8 November**
BBANZ Annual General Meeting at the Novotel Christchurch Airport Hotel, Christchurch.

**Monday 23 November**
***'Tis The Season.*** 50's Up Brass presents its annual Christmas concert tour - 2.00pm at the Papanui Club, Christchurch. Entry $5. For more info, contact publicity@50sUpBrass.co.nz

**Friday 27 November**
***'Tis The Season.*** 50's Up Brass presents its annual Christmas concert tour - 2.00pm at the Kaiapoi Club, Kaiapoi. Entry $5. For more info, contact publicity@50sUpBrass.co.nz

**Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November**
***Resonate*** with the National Band of New Zealand during a weekend of free workshops and community performances from 9.30am at St Peter's School, 1716 Cambridge Road, Cambridge. Registration required.

**Saturday 28 November**
***Resonate:*** The National Band of New Zealand in concert, 7.30pm at St Peter's School Auditorium, 1716 Cambridge Road, Cambridge. Book now.

**Wednesday 2 December**
***'Tis The Season.*** 50's Up Brass presents its annual Christmas concert tour - 2.00pm at the Hornby Club, Christchurch. Entry $5. For more info, contact publicity@50sUpBrass.co.nz

**Saturday 5 December**
***Christmas @ Holy Trinity*** with North Shore Brass, 7.30pm at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. Book at Eventfinda.co.nz Door sales available.

**Wednesday 11 December**
***'Tis The Season.*** 50's Up Brass presents its annual Christmas concert tour - 2.00pm at the Cashmere Club, Christchurch. Entry $5. For more info, contact publicity@50sUpBrass.co.nz

**Saturday 12 December**
The Great Christmas Concert with North Shore Brass Academy Bands, 5.00pm. Family picnic-style concert @ Lake House Arts – Takapuna.
Entry by Koha/Donation.

**Tuesday 22 December**
Christmas @ The Basin with Whangārei District Brass, 7.30pm at the Whangārei Town Basin
Bringing a bit of Christmas music to the Town Basin a few days before Christmas.

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

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# Wellington District Contest



*Duet Champs Helen Quaggin-Molloy and Lynda Carter with adjudicator Luke Giri-Spence.*



*Oliver Frost with adjudicator Luke Giri-Spence.*

On Saturday 17 October, 40 players and their supporters gathered at Hutt International Boys' School for the annual Solo and Party Contest.
Contest organiser Wayne Kedzlie, on behalf of Upper Hutt Brass, used AI to assist with the planning and scheduling of the event, possibly a first for a brass band competition. Using information on solos, competitors, accompanists and events across multiple rooms, AI helped produce a randomised draw and detailed schedule. The approach worked well, with the schedule proving accurate and effective on the day.

Adjudicators Luke Giri-Spence and Jim Downey were impressed by the high standard of performances across both the senior and junior competitions. The quality on display strongly demonstrated that brass banding talent in the Wellington region, both now and for the future, is in excellent shape.
Results:

**Open Air Varie**
1 Byron Newton, Buzzing Brass Wellington
2 Brad Mancer, Wellington Brass Band
3 Ethan Mancer, Wellington Brass Band

**Open Slow Melody**
1 David Maas, Levin and Districts Brass
2 Brad Mancer, Wellington Brass Band
3= Byron Newton, Buzzing Brass Wellington
3= Jonty Zydenbos, Hutt City Brass

**Veterans Air Varie**
1 Brian Stewart, Levin and Districts Brass
2 Mark North, Masterton District Brass
3 Tom Daniels, Porirua City Brass

**Open Percussion**
1 Aran Quaggin-Molloy, Hutt City Brass

**Open Duet**
1 Lynda Carter & Helen Quaggin-Molloy, Levin and Districts Brass

**Junior Air Varie**
1 Oliver Frost, Buzzing Brass Wellington
2 Max Sarkies, Buzzing Brass Wellington
3 Will Jackson, Buzzing Brass Wellington

**Junior Slow Melody**
1 Toby Brown, Buzzing Brass Wellington
2 Oliver Frost, Buzzing Brass Wellington
3 Jack McDougall, Buzzing Brass Wellington



# Canterbury Contest

*Adjudicators Peter Adams and Hilary Muir with members of the champion Development Band, Woolston Junior Band.*

On Saturday, 26 September, hundreds of players from twelve bands took to the stage of Cashmere High School's Performing Arts Centre in Christchurch. We were delighted to host Peter Adams MNZM from Dunedin as our chief adjudicator and Hilary Muir of The Breeze Canterbury as our entertainment judge.

The next day was another big day, with nearly 200 individuals participating in solo and ensemble events. Thank you to Sho Kubota, Peter Adams, Cameron James, Hazel Wilson, Walter Hughes, Matt Toomata, and Leigh Martin for taking the time to provide helpful feedback to all competitors. Congratulations to our Junior Champion of Champions, Willy Keith of Nor'west Brass; C+D Grade Champion, John Sturgeon of Sumner Silver Band; Open Champion, Luca Cable of Woolston Brass; Veterans Champion, Grant Dempsey of Addington Brass; and Canterbury Soloist of the Year, Anthony Smith of Woolston Brass.

The CPBBA Committee extends its gratitude to the following organisations and individuals whose contributions were instrumental in the success of the contest: the Kiwi Gaming Foundation, Woolston Brass, and Todd Turner for their invaluable support in supplying and transporting percussion gear. Rolleston Brass for running a café, which was very well received for the second year in a row. We thank Dave Johnstone for his exceptional work designing the programme, and all the amazing accompanists. Special thanks to event supervisors Caroline Burt, Todd Turner, Zac Powell, Georgia Hoy, Chris Gourlay, Bronwyn James, Adrian Dalton, and John Butler. Thanks also to Peter Thorby, who ran the programme sales desk and to our contest manager, Simon Winship. This year, we trialled the use of Podium Results, designed and run by Caroline Burt.
Full results can be found **HERE**



*Joint winners of the D Grade Entertainment section Matt Harris (Addington Workshops) and Joel Williams (Nor'west Zephyrs) with adjudicator Hilary Muir.*

**Results CPBBA Contest**

**Under 10 Solo**
1 Madelyn Burnell, Rolleston Brass
2 Bo McLintock, Timaru Brass
3 Aoife Lynch, New Brighton Silver Band

**Under 13 Slow Melody**
1 Juliette Purcell, Woolston Junior Band
2 Amelia Goodall, New Brighton Silver Band
3 Ben Eggers, Addington TRAINing Band

**Under 13 Variation**
1 Ben Eggers, Addington TRAINing Band
2 Juliette Purcell, Woolston Junior Band
3 Henry Mallett, Woolston Junior Band

**Under 16 Slow Melody**
1 Mika Muraji-Green, Addington Brass
2 Ruichen Ma, Woolston Concert Brass
3 Erika Cable, Woolston Concert Brass

**Under 16 Variation**
1 Ruichen Ma, Woolston Concert Brass
2 Mika Muraji-Green, Addington Brass
3 Erika Cable, Woolston Concert Brass

**Under 19 Slow Melody**
1 Willy Keith, Nor'west Brass
2 Theo Michaelides, Nor'west Brass
3 Isaac Ryland, Rolleston Brass

**Under 19 Variation**
1 Willy Keith, Nor'west Brass
2 Theo Michaelides, Nor'west Brass
3 Isaac Ryland, Rolleston Brass

**Junior Champion of Champions:** Willy Keith, Nor'west Brass

**Under 15 Percussion**
1 Thomas Su, Woolston Concert Brass
2 Kyle Yee, Addington Workshop Band
3 Polly Scurr, Woolston Junior Band

**Open Percussion**
1 Reuben Clarkson, Addington Brass

**C and D Grade Slow Melody**
1 Chris Hollis-Locke, Sumner Silver Band
2= John Sturgeon, Sumner Silver Band
2= Michelle Kirk, New Brighton Silver Band

**C and D Grade Variation**
1 John Sturgeon, Sumner Silver Band
2 Michelle Kirk, New Brighton Silver Band
3 Aiyana Manson-King, Sumner Silver Band

**C and D Grade Champion:** John Sturgeon, Sumner Silver Band

**Open Slow Melody**
1 Luca Cable, Woolston Brass
2 Julia Mallett, Woolston Brass
3 William Herewini, Woolston Concert Brass

**Open Variation**
1 Luca Cable, Woolston Brass
2 Ken Douglas, Timaru Brass
3= William Herewini, Woolston Concert Brass
3= Monika Duncan, Addington Brass

**Open Solo Champion:** Luca Cable, Woolston Brass

**Veterans Slow Melody**
1 Grant Dempsey, Addington Brass
2 Kevin McMorran, Rangiora RSA Club Band
3 Ken Douglas, Timaru Brass

**Veterans Variation**
1 Grant Dempsey, Addington Brass
2 Ken Douglas, Timaru Brass
3 Ron Vereen, Addington Brass

**Veterans Champion:** Grant Dempsey, Addington Brass

**Championship Slow Melody**
1 Anthony Smith, Woolston Brass
2 Emma McMorran, Rangiora RSA Club Band
3 Grant Dempsey, Addington Brass

**Championship Variation**
1 Dave Mallett, Woolston Brass
2 Anthony Smith, Woolston Brass
3 Cameron James, Hamilton City Brass

**Canterbury Soloist of the Year:** Anthony Smith, Woolston Brass

**Junior Ensemble**
1 Woolston Juniors 1
2 Timaru Youth Development Band
3 Woolston Juniors 2

**Open Duet**
1 Bob Reid & Dave Thorne, Rangiora RSA Club Band
2 Grant & Pam Dempsey, Addington Brass
3 Bill Vail & Barbara George, Addington Brass

**Open Ensemble**
1 Addington Basses, Addington Brass
2 Grey Snotes, Addington Brass
3 JaBand, Addington Brass

**Junior Percussion Ensemble**
1 Woolston Junior Band

**Band Events**

**Development Grade**
1 Woolston Junior Band (MD Vickie van Uden)
2 Addington TRAINing Band (MD Adrian Dalton)

**D Grade**

**Sacred Item**
1 Addington Workshop Band
2 New Brighton Silver Band
3= Nor'west Zephyrs
3= Sumner Silver Band

**Major Work**
1 Addington Workshop Band
2 Nor'west Zephyrs
3 New Brighton Silver Band

**Stage March**
1 Addington Workshop Band
2= New Brighton Silver Band
2= Nor'west Zephyrs

**Entertainment Programme**
1= New Brighton Silver Band
1= Nor'west Zephyrs
3= Sumner Silver Band
3= New Brighton Silver Band

**D Grade Champion Band:** Addington Workshop Band (MD Matt Harris)

**C Grade**

**Sacred Item**
1 Rangiora RSA Club Band
2 Timaru Brass
3 Nor'west Brass

**Major Work**
1 Rangiora RSA Club Band
2 Nor'west Brass
3 Timaru Brass

**Entertainment programme**
1 Rangiora RSA Club Band
2 Nor'west Brass
3 Timaru Brass

**C Grade Champion Band:**
Rangiora RSA Club Band (MD Dwayne Bloomfield)

**B Grade**

**Sacred Item**
1 Addington Brass
2 Rolleston Brass
3 Woolston Concert Brass

**Major Work**
1 Addington Brass
2 Woolston Concert Brass
3 Rolleston Brass

**Entertainment**
1 Addington Brass
2 Rolleston Brass
3 Woolston Concert Brass

**B Grade Champion Band:** Addington Brass (MD Tyme Marsters)

The Best Compere award went to Nick Catto (Rolleston Brass) and the Best Soloist to Kevin McMorran (Rangiora RSA Club Band).

# Historical Snapshot



**The Te Awamutu Municipal Band Looks for New Members**

This striking picture of a proud father and his four sons was taken in Hamilton at the 1936 South Auckland Brass Band Union Contest.

Published in the *Auckland Weekly News*, it shows Robert D. Lee (1896–1958) flanked by Allan (b.1922), Roy (b.1926), Bob (b.1924), and Lloyd (b.1921). All five are dressed in the uniform of the Te Awamutu Municipal Band, despite the family living in Te Kūiti, more than 40 km away.

Only three years earlier, the four boys had been described as "the pride of the Te Kuiti Band" at the inaugural South Auckland contest. At that point, though, they'd already played in a Te Awamutu Municipal Band concert, billed as a "wonderful quartette ... of marvellously clever cornetists, with triple-tongue items their speciality." Then, from 1934, all five Lees played with the Te Awamutu Band for several years, making a major contribution to the group's standard of performance.

It's something of a truism that brass band membership waxes and wanes over time, influenced by a multitude of factors. But how did brass bands find new players during the first half of the twentieth century, a period when World War I, the 'Spanish' Flu pandemic, the Great Depression, and World War II wreaked havoc? Then, as now, learners' classes were offered, and local musicians were encouraged to join the band. But there were also other routes for recruitment.

A treasure trove of correspondence at the Te Whare Taonga o Te Awamutu Museum illustrates other ways the band gained new members. These included unsolicited applications from men living outside the town, among them a young cornetist, Robert Lee (later our 'proud father,' above). In August 1915, Lee wrote from Karamu to the band secretary: "asking you or any of your fellow bandsmen if you know of a vacancy for a farmhand near Te Awamutu ... I will gladly help in your Band if you manage to secure me a suitable position."

As World War I wore on, the band's numbers dwindled, with multiple bandsmen leaving for military service. By early 1918, the ensemble's strength had halved and their conductor, Arthur Newsome, had also departed for the front. In desperation, the committee placed a short advertisement in Auckland and Wellington newspapers in April 1918: "The Te Awamutu Municipal Band has Vacancies and Situations in industry will be found. State trade, qualifications and wages expected." In response, brass players and percussionists wrote in from Frankton, Hamilton, Mangapehi, and Waikino, and as far away as Napier and Wellington. In each case, the band secretary Arthur G. Warburton worked industriously to find them suitable employment. Immediately after the War, the band suffered a further major blow when five members died in the Great Influenza pandemic.

The Lee family's connection with the Te Awamutu Municipal Band continued for decades to come. Indeed, young Lloyd (pictured above) was to have great success as their conductor. I wonder whether the Lee boys' three sisters (Alice, Elsie and Millie) might have also enjoyed playing with the band? But, of course, in line with the norms of the time, that development was yet to come. It wasn't until the 1960s – as recounted in Denise Wilson's excellent history – that Joy Bradley became the first woman to join the band. In the process, she led the way to a wealth of potential new members.

Samantha Owens

*Many thanks to Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections (Image: AWNS-19360422-41-01) and Callan Bird (Te Whare Taonga o Te Awamutu Museum)*

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# WaiBOP Contest

*Champion D Grade Band - Kerepehi Brass*

With springtime and the end of the school term upon us, the Waikato Bay of Plenty Regional contest was here. We continue to take brass banding around our region, with the stop for 2026 being Te Awamutu, the heart of the Waipa district, on the 26 and 27 of September.

Musicians young and old descended upon Te Awamutu College to catch up with mates, play well and have a good crack at some silverware. We were privileged to have amazing adjudicators for the weekend, Brendan Agnew and Tavite Tonga. They have extensive musical experience as performers, itinerant teachers and conductors across many different musical groups. Waikato's own Te Reo Genefaas assisted with the solos; a very busy mother, conductor and member of the 2026 National Band.

All our Solo classes were well supported, with more than 100 performances throughout the day. Young or old, the musicianship on display was impressive. Young ten-year-old Sifa Fonuafoou of North Shore Brass Academy had a day to remember, winning the Under 16 Slow Melody section and showing that age is no barrier. Well done, Sifa.

In the hotly contested Championship sections, Chris Lawrence dazzled us again, winning the Championship Variation for the second year running, but being pipped by Andrew Leech in the Championship Slow Melody by just half a point.

Sunday morning rolled around quicker than usual, with Daylight Saving starting that weekend. It meant an early start for the first of our eight bands.

Unfortunately, the rain also arrived sooner than forecast, so bands had to enter and exit the stage area differently. They had to line up through the middle of the Cafe. Fortunately, no one missed out on ordering a snack, or entered the stage with a muffin instead of their music.

The D Grade contest was very close again this year. Koru Brass Hamilton and Kerepehi Brass shared the prizes, but this year Kerepehi Brass came out on top overall. A highlight of the D Grade was Bay of Plenty Youth Brass marching in to start their programme.

The Open Grade was just as competitive. Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass and Hamilton City Brass picked up where they left off in 2025. This year Hamilton took home top honours. All bands impressed with quite diverse musical programmes featuring soloists from across the bands: cornet, flugel, bass, and marimba. I'm glad I didn't have to try and pick the winners.

And just like that, another contest was done and dusted. Special thanks to Alan Patterson, Sarah Carroll and their team from Te Awamutu Go Bus Brass for ensuring everything ran smoothly all weekend. Big thanks to all the accompanists, sponsors and advertisers, and to all those who gave freely of their time to make the weekend a success. Sadly, there was one Te Awamutu stalwart who could not be there. We missed you J.P. (John Pye), and know how much you really wanted to be there. I hope you feel a bit better soon.

So where are we heading next year? Next year we'll be in Hobbit country, mighty Matamata, to once again renew friendships, strengthen band connections and battle for silverware.

Ross McAdam
President, Waikato Bay of Plenty Brass Band Association

## Contest Results:

**Junior Percussion**
1 Bella Jiao, Koru Brass Hamilton
2 Piki Te Ora Genefaas, Koru Brass Hamilton

**Novice**
1 Caleb Wood, Koru Brass Hamilton
2 Corinne Woolsey, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
3 Lopini Lea, Koru Brass Hamilton

**Under 13 Variation**
1 Oliver Vikultsev, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
2 Martha Wells, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

**Under 16 Slow Melody**
1 Sifa Fonuafoou, North Shore Brass Academy
2 Arthur Thompson, Tauranga City Brass
3 Kiara Curtis-Apeu, Kerepehi Brass

**Under 16 Variation**
1 Ethan Jobe, Matamata Brass
2 Arthur Thompson, Tauranga City Brass
3 Kiara Curtis-Apeu, Kerepehi Brass

**Under 19 Slow Melody**
1 Anessa Ginever, Hamilton City Brass
2 Aidan Jobe, Matamata Brass

**Under 19 Variation**
1 Anessa Ginever, Hamilton City Brass
2 Aidan Jobe, Matamata Brass

**Intermediate Social Class**
1 John Broadbent, Kerepehi Brass

**Open Percussion**
1 Charlie Garica-Gill, Hamilton City Brass
2 Claire van der Goes, Koru Brass Hamilton
3 Ayesha Brooky, Matamata Brass

**Open Slow Melody**
1 Keith Patey, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
2 Tracey Seifert, Hamilton City Brass
3 Patrick McCarthy, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

**Open Variation**
1 Andrew Leech, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
2 Danielle Oram, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
3= Laura Patey, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
3= Chris Thompson, Tauranga City Brass

**Masters Slow Melody**
1 Lisa Marshall, Hamilton City Brass
2 Clyde Dixon, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
3= Clive Burnell, Koru Brass Hamilton
3= Tracey Seifert, Hamilton City Brass

**Masters Variation**
1 Keith Patey, Tauranga City Brass
2 Clive Burnell, Koru Brass Hamilton
3 Richard Edgecombe, Hamilton City Brass

**Championship Slow Melody**
1 Andrew Leech, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
2 Chris Lawrence, North Shore Brass
3 Lisa Marshall, Hamilton City Brass

**Championship Variation**
1 Chris Lawrence, North Shore Brass
2 Andrew Leech, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
3 Ross McAdam, Hamilton City Brass

**Junior Duet**
1 Kailel Isaiah & Alec Collins, Te Awamutu Go Bus Brass
2 Howard & Ryanne Yang, Kerepehi Brass
3 Moses & Hosanna McIntosh, Kerepehi Brass

**Primary School Ensemble**
1 Kerepehi Brass

**Intermediate Social Class Duet**
1 Te Awamutu Development Band

**Open Duet**
1 Hamilton City Brass #2
2 Ben & Jeremy Thompson, Tauranga City Brass
3 Chris & Arthur Thompson, Tauranga City Brass

**Open Quartet**
1 Tauranga City Brass

**Open Ensemble**
1 Te Awamutu Go Bus Brass

**D Grade Ensemble**
1 Kerepehi Junior Ensemble No 2
2 Kerepehi Junior Ensemble No 1

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AIR FORCE BAND

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*Whangārei's Long Service award presentation. L-R Dennis Lee, Sharon Lundberg, Frank Lundberg, John Sullivan (BBANZ President), Glen Chaplin, Rodney White and Chris Barber.*

# Whangārei Celebration

On Sunday 18 October, members of Whangārei District Brass gathered at The Palms Lifestyle Village to celebrate the presentation of BBANZ Long Service Awards. The occasion recognised eight dedicated members whose service to brass banding ranges from 33 to an impressive 60 years, representing a remarkable, combined total of 366 years of service.

A special thank you goes to BBANZ President John Sullivan and his wife, Rachel, for attending and presenting the awards. Their presence helped make the occasion even more memorable.

It was wonderful to come together in a setting other than the band room and share this special occasion with our families. The afternoon was filled with appreciation, friendship, and admiration for these valued members' commitment, dedication, and outstanding contributions.

Congratulations to all our award recipients on reaching these significant milestones. Your years of loyal service are an inspiration to us all, and we thank you for the lasting contribution you have made to Whangārei District Brass and the brass band community.
Dennis Lee – 57 years
Sharon Lundberg – 35 years
Frank Lundberg – 60 years of service, including 34 years as Musical Director
Glen Chaplin – 33 years
Rodney White – 43 years
Chris Barber – 37 years
Michael Austin – 55 years
Chris McIntosh – 46 years

# Contest Countdown

The countdown has begun to the 2027 National Brass Band Championships in Invercargill in April. Based on replies to the expressions of interest request, up to 30 bands could be in the deep south, including one from Tonga.

The first and most exciting milestone was the recent announcement of the test pieces for bands and solos. Congratulations to New Zealand composer Mia Yee on the selection of her work, *When One Sees Light*, as the D Grade test reflective item.

The next milestone is the announcement of the chief adjudicator at the BBANZ AGM, followed by the release of the contest entry forms on Monday 16 November. Contest entries will close on Saturday 13 February 2027.

**Band works:**

| | |
|---|---|
| A Grade | *The Cosmographic Mystery* by Ingebjørg Vilhelmsen |
| B Grade | *Terra Australis* by Martin Ellerby |
| C Grade | *Viking Age* by Thierry Deleruyelle |
| D Grade | *When One Sees the Light* by Mia Yee |

**Open Brass Solos**

| | |
|---|---|
| Soprano Cornet | *Slate, Sea and Sky* by Liz Lane |
| Championship Cornet | *Diabolical Burlesque* by Eddy Debons |
| Amateur Cornet | *Souvenir de St. Petersbourg* by Oskar Bohme |
| Flugel Horn | *Rhapsody for Flugelhorn* by Andre Waignein |
| Tenor Horn | *Abenzoares* by Tony Cheseaux |
| Baritone | *Baritone Concerto: Turbulence, Tide and Torque* (Mvt I: Turbulence only) by Peter Graham |
| Euphonium | *Tilt* by Todd Smith |
| Tenor Trombone | *Piece in Bb Minor* by Guy Ropartz |
| Bass Trombone | *Sonata for Bass Trombone* by Todd Goodman |
| Eb Bass | *Sonata for Tuba op. 204 Mvt 1* by Derek Bourgeois |
| BBb Bass | *Concerto in One Movement* by Aleksej Lebedjew |

To stay up to date with contest announcements, visit the contest Facebook page regularly.
https://www.facebook.com/ChampionBrassNZ/

# Resonate



*Luca Cable, Principal Cornet for the Canterbury Youth Band.*

**Resonate strikes a chord in Christchurch**

The inaugural *Resonate* weekend brought musicians and audiences together in Ōtautahi Christchurch to celebrate brass music, learning and connection.

Held on 10 and 11 October, the weekend featured a series of masterclasses and workshops, giving musicians the opportunity to learn from leading performers, develop their skills and connect with the wider brass community.

On Saturday evening, the National Band of New Zealand took to the stage at The Piano, delivering a showcase of musical excellence under Musical Director David Bremner.

The programme ranged from Eric Ball's majestic *The Kingdom Triumphant* to the dazzling virtuosity of Philip Wilby's *Paganini Variations*. Featuring soloists Anthony Smith, Aishah Leitner and Luke Giri-Spence, the concert showcased the band's remarkable breadth of talent.

Sunday's Community Brass Band Showcase celebrated local talent, featuring Woolston Concert Brass, Rolleston Brass and Nor'west Brass, before the Canterbury Youth Band joined the National Band for a special massed performance. A standout moment came from the Youth Band's principal cornet, Luca Cable of Woolston Brass, whose memorable rendition of the *Harry James Trumpet Concerto* was a highlight of the weekend.

With participants and audiences travelling from across the South Island, *Resonate* highlighted the strength of New Zealand's brass community and the importance of creating opportunities for musicians of all ages and abilities.

Next up, *Resonate* heads to Cambridge on 28 and 29 November, bringing its blend of education, performance and community to Waikato. Set against the impressive facilities and grounds of St Peter's School, the weekend will bring the National Band together with musicians from across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty region. The band looks forward to working with the recently selected Waikato/BOP Youth Band, Matamata Brass, Te Awamutu Brass and Koru Brass Hamilton.

Building on the success of its Christchurch debut, *Resonate* continues its journey across Aotearoa, strengthening connections, inspiring musicians and celebrating the future of brass music in New Zealand.



*Cornet workshop with National Band members Chris Lawrence and Semisi Ahoatu.*



THE NATIONAL BAND OF NEW ZEALAND PRESENTS

# RESONATE

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**SATURDAY, 28 NOVEMBER**
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7:30PM
**National Band in Concert**

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# Next-Gen

*In this issue of the Mouthpiece, Stacey Adams interviews 18-year-old Joshua Curham, who plays for North Shore Brass and has been selected for his first National Youth Band.*

*What was your first musical experience?*

I began learning the trombone at intermediate school. My high school trombone teacher, Mark Close, asked me to join the North Shore Youth Brass Band. There I picked up the euphonium, and over a few years I made it to the Academy Band, then to the senior band. My family doesn't play any music or instruments; however, I am lucky to have supportive parents who have supported me since the day I started playing.

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

Winning the Junior Euphonium title at the 2025 National Brass Band Festival. Being principal euphonium of NSSBB and winning the "Outstanding Player" award.
Winning the R&J Massey Trophy for the most outstanding performance at the 2026 NZ Concert Band Association Festival.

*What have you gained or enjoyed most about being in the Secondary Schools' Band?*
Playing in an ensemble full of passionate musicians from all across the country.

*Who has been your greatest inspiration?*

I have been massively inspired by Andrew Leech and Luke Spence's playing, as they have been my euphonium tutors since I started playing the euphonium. Listening to many of Philip Sparke's euphonium solos also inspires me, hoping someday it would be me playing them.

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

You get to play challenging music you otherwise wouldn't get to in other ensembles like concert bands and orchestras.

*What do you hope to achieve in the future?*

I hope to become a euphonium soloist and gain a spot in one of the military bands.

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

My instrument tutors, Andrew Leech, Luke Spence, and Mark Close, and my parents, Saori and Peter.

***Quickfire questions***

*What type of music do you listen to most?* Brass band music, typically Eric Ball, Peter Graham, and Philip Sparke.

*Other interests?* Fish keeping.

*Favourite food?* My mum's cooking.

*Favourite place?* The band room.

*Favourite film? Grave of the Fireflies.*

*Favourite instrument?* Euphonium.

*Favourite piece of music? Pavane for a Dead Princess* by Maurice Ravel.

*What do you dislike most?* Euphoniums being called baritones.

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

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# Brass Unite

*Buzzing Brass*

**Delivering Epic Hits, Symphonic Drama, and Green-Wigged Trolls in Upper Hutt!**
*Reviewed by John Smith*

Upper Hutt's Salvation Army Hall was buzzing on Sunday, 27 September, as BRASS UNITE brought four ensembles together for an unforgettable celebration of community brass. Charming compère Kate Lineham kept the audience engaged and entertained throughout the afternoon, smoothly guiding everyone through an ambitious programme that spanned cinematic blockbusters, brass band classics, and a delightfully cheeky finale.

Under the baton of Buzz Newton, Buzzing Brass Wellington hit the ground running with William Rimmer's classic march *The Victor's Return*, instantly filling the hall with crisp articulation and traditional flair.
Then came the heavyweight moment of the set: Philip Sparke's monumental *Saint-Saëns Variations*. Built around the iconic organ theme, the band delivered thunderous harmonies that genuinely rattled the rafters. Shifting gears into cinematic royalty, they rounded out their performance with John Williams' *Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Jedi Steps and Finale)* and Howard Shore's sweeping *The Fellowship of the Ring*.

Next up was the combined force of the Buzzing Brass Beeginner Band and Upper Hutt Academy Band, skillfully conducted by Kate McGregor. Opening with a bold *Dynamic Overture*, these rising stars showed off fantastic dynamic control and infectious enthusiasm right from the start.

Their set was an absolute crowd-pleaser, featuring a menacing rendition of *The Imperial March*, the soaring *On the Wings of Glory*, and a lively, foot-tapping finish with the sea-shanty hit *The Wellerman*. Seeing the region's up-and-coming brass talent perform with such confidence under McGregor's leadership was a genuine highlight.

Upper Hutt Brass Band, led by conductor Jim Downey, took over for the third set, striking a slick balance between traditional repertoire and modern high-energy arrangements.

Downey kicked off the set with Bramwell Coles' classic march *Under Two Flags*, followed by a beautifully resonant rendition of the hymn tune *Tu es Petrus*. The band then showcased their modern chops with Martin Cordner's rhythmically vibrant *Fusion*, before dialling up the energy with Michael Giacchino's jazz-infused theme from *The Incredibles* (arranged by Philip Harper).

Complete with tight horn lines and punchy solos, Downey kept the ensemble swinging effortlessly.

For the ultimate finale, Buzz Newton returned to the podium to lead the massive combined massed bands.

The piece de résistance was *In da Hood of the Mountain King,* a wildly fun, urban-infused mashup of Grieg's classic. The Beeginners and Academy musicians stole the spotlight, decked out in bright green wigs as mischievous trolls! It was pure, joyous chaos.

With musical direction from Buzz, Kate, and Jim; Kate Lineham's warm hosting; and a hall overflowing with generous donations for the Salvation Army Food Bank, BRASS UNITE proved that local community music-making is thriving, vibrant, and outrageously fun.



*Beeginner Band and Upper Hutt Academy Band.*

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**2027 National Contest in Invercargill 14 to 17 April.**
https://www.facebook.com/ChampionBrassNZ/


MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT BRASS BAND

**Director of Music**
**Vacancy**

***Marlborough Brass*** *is a community band based in Blenheim. We compete regularly at National and Provincial Contests, as well as staging local concerts and serving as the primary music organisation in the region. The band enjoys good support from local businesses, public, and Council.*

A vacancy exists for an enthusiastic individual to take up the responsibilities of:-

- training and conducting our B grade band
- mentoring our development band
- reinvigorating our student recruitment activities, and
- overseeing student tuition.

Brass Band experience is preferred but not essential. The ability to foster players talents and develop the bands full potential is more important.

Remuneration and supporting employment options will be discussed with the successful applicant as appropriate.

The position becomes available after the 2027 National Contest, with starting date negotiable.

Applications and enquiries are invited to be emailed to eo@marlboroughbrass.nz


**Friends of the National Youth Brass Band:**
Pete and Kylie Adams, Brendan Agnew, BJ Aldridge (in perpetuity), E Aldridge (in perpetuity), J Aldridge, Pete and Billie Harbidge, Brian Hodges, JB and NC Hollick, Trevor Kempton, I Levien, Marlborough District Brass, Morrine and Leigh Martin, John McGough, Owen Meluish & Sandra Ivelja, D Miller, NZ Army Band, New Zealand Veterans Band, B and M Platt and J&R Sullivan.
If you would like to support the activities of the National Youth Brass Band please contact the **Executive Officer.**

**Life Members of the BBANZ**
Graeme Aldridge MNZM, Betty Bremner, Trevor Bremner MNZM, Kevin Dell ONZM, Ian Levien QSM, Stephen Leader, Leigh Martin KSM, 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.

# 2027 National Youth Brass Band

The BBANZ Bo is delighted to announce the members of the 2027 National Youth Brass Band, who will work with musical director Mark Carter and assistant director Raynor Martin. The names of these talented young musicians are listed below. You will see that the band is a wonderful mix of experienced musicians and new faces, a testament to the growth of the youth music programmes run by our community-based bands. Congratulations to the nine players who have been selected for the Youth Band for the first time.

Instead of the usual January training course and concert tour, the 2027 Youth Band will assemble in June to take part in a Youth Music Festival alongside the National Youth Orchestra and National Youth Choir. The NZSO is hosting the Festival, which will take place in Wellington from 26 June to 3 July 2027.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Principal Cornet | Liam Wright | North Shore Brass |
| Soprano Cornet | Peter Croker | Woolston Concert Brass |
| Solo Cornet | Luca Cable | Woolston Brass |
| Solo Cornet | Dimitrios Koulianos | North Shore Brass |
| Solo Cornet | Mia Yee | Wellington Brass |
| Solo Cornet | Abby Lindsey | Hutt City Brass |
| Repiano Cornet | Hugo Carter | Wellington Brass |
| 2nd Cornet | Dante Nugroho | Auckland City Brass |
| 2nd Cornet | Jack Banks | Addington Brass |
| 3rd Cornet | JP Moynihan | Marlborough District |
| 3rd Cornet | Aiden West | North Shore Brass |
| Principal Horn | Hazel Wilson | Woolston Brass |
| Flugel Horn | Emily Sullivan | North Shore Brass |
| 1st Horn | Brianna Loan | St Kilda Brass |
| 2nd Horn | Lachie McGregor | Ascot Park Hotel Brass |
| Principal Euphonium | Walter Hughes | Hamilton City Brass |
| Euphonium | Wesley Richards | Waitakere Auckland Brass |
| 1st Baritone | Joshua Curham | North Shore Brass |
| 2nd Baritone | Isla Craigie | Mosgiel Brass |
| Principal Trombone | Logan Ready | Woolston Brass |
| 1st/2nd Trombone | Shane Mannerings | Palmerston North Brass |
| 2nd Trombone | Anna Lee | Hutt City Brass |
| Bass Trombone | Benjamin Pickering | St Kilda Brass |
| Principal Bass | Hamish Williams | Woolston Brass |
| Eb Bass | Mika Hayashi | Wellington Brass |
| Eb Bass | Willy Keith | Nor'west Brass |
| BBb Bass | Kilian Casey | Auckland City Brass |
| BBb Bass | Nikhil Rawat | St Kilda Brass |
| Principal Percussion | Keina Rollinson | Woolston Brass |
| Percussion | Aran Quaggin-Molloy | Hutt City Brass |
| Percussion | Vin Marsden | Auckland City Brass |
| Percussion | Keegan Fong | Auckland City Brass |

# MUSICAL DIRECTOR WANTED

Hāwera Brass seeks an enthusiastic, inspiring **Musical Director** to lead our band through an exciting period of growth and renewal.

Located in the heart of South Taranaki, Hāwera Brass is a proud community band with a rich history and a dedicated core of passionate players. Currently competing in **D Grade**, we are focused on rebuilding our membership, raising our musical standards, and developing a strong contesting culture with regular participation at regional and national events. We are seeking an enthusiastic Musical Director to inspire our players, develop our musical capabilities, and lead the band through this exciting period of growth and renewal.

This is a unique opportunity for a Musical Director who enjoys developing brass musicians, building a positive band culture, and making a lasting impact on the future of a community brass band that will turn 150 in 2028.

**The successful applicant will:**

- Be passionate about brass banding and community music-making.
- Demonstrate strong conducting, rehearsal planning, and musical leadership skills.
- Inspire and motivate players of varying ages, experience, and ability levels.
- Foster individual and ensemble development.
- Work collaboratively with the committee to support the band's growth and strategic direction.
- Encourage player recruitment and retention as we continue to strengthen the band.
- Work alongside the Academy Director to ensure the sustainability of our programmes.

**Key responsibilities include:**

- Conducting weekly rehearsals.
- Preparing the band for concerts, community performances, and contests.
- Selecting and developing appropriate repertoire.
- Helping create a welcoming, positive musical environment.
- Supporting the organisation's continued growth and development.

**We offer:**

- A supportive and enthusiastic committee.
- A committed group of players eager to learn and improve.
- Well-equipped rehearsal facilities.
- The opportunity to shape the future direction of a proud provincial brass band.
- A rewarding role in a friendly, passionate musical community.
- Remuneration will be negotiated based on experience and qualifications.

For further information or a confidential discussion, please contact:
**Kevin Frank**, Chairperson, Hāwera Brass
**Phone:** 02272360156 **Email:** hawerabrass@outlook.com

**Applications close:** Friday 12 November 2026

***Help us build the next chapter of Hāwera Brass.***

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Michael Rath
ENGLAND



'Since the very first note I played on **Michael Rath Trombones** 20 years ago, I have been a dedicated supporter and keen advocate.

'They are simply the best trombones on the market - with no exceptions.'

*Dr Brett Baker, Rath Artist*

**Rath Trombones**, available from **Brass Direct**!
Includes Rath custom trombones, crafted from start to finish in the UK, and Rath's popular 00 Series!

**brassdirect.co.nz**