



NEW ZEALAND

# Mouthpiece

The Official Journal of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand

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*Wellington Brass - making history with a seventh consecutive A Grade Championship win.*



*Photo credit Daisuke Hayashi*

*The young members of the Champion B Grade band, St Kilda Brass.*



*The C Grade champion band, Levin and Districts Brass.*





*Winners of the D Grade championship, New Brighton Silver Band*

# Banding Together

One hundred and forty-five years after our very first New Zealand National Contest, another contest is done and dusted. Bands and soloists once again played to large appreciative audiences, and

we all enjoyed catching up with banding friends and colleagues. Congratulations to Major Graham Hickman, Stephen Leader and everyone involved in making this contest such a success. It was wonderful to be back in Christchurch at the outstanding Christchurch Town Hall with all events under one roof. Also, a big thank you to Helen Lee, Denis Spurdle, Frédéric Théodoloz, SSGT Nick Johnson, Vickie van Uden, and all the adjudicators, supervisors, volunteers, scribes, and comperes. We also extend our gratitude to our sponsors and media partners for their invaluable support. Well done, all.

Contests are a time of intense dedication for our band members. For conductors and players, the anxiety and nerves leading up to the performance are followed by the exhilaration during and after. It is especially challenging for our dedicated band managers. Their tireless efforts in arranging accommodation, rehearsals, and transportation to and from events, as well as ensuring everyone arrives safely



with all their instruments and uniforms, are truly commendable. I would like to extend my personal thanks to Peter O'Shaughnessy, Owen Melhuish, and other members of North Shore Brass for taking on the contest workload in Christchurch and putting up with my grumpy moods and my occasional absences at the most inconvenient times. A special thanks to Harmen Vanhoorne for all the lessons and patience; who would have thought that practise actually works? As always, I offer my apologies to my very supportive and understanding wife, Rachel, for everything she has to endure, especially during contest week. What makes banding so special is being able to share my passion with my family. It was a special moment to perform on the contest stage with both Emily and April this year. Thanks, girls, for creating another banding highlight for me.

It was an honour to present special National Youth Brass Band long service pins to three outstanding young musicians. My congratulations to Luke Giri-Spence, Logan Ford and Jonty Zydenbos – to be members of ten National Youth Brass Bands is a remarkable achievement. The National Band pins have proven very popular, and I observed many players wearing them with pride at the contest, a testament to their dedication and love for banding. The NYBB pins are a similar initiative and a small way in which BBANZ can acknowledge the achievement of representing New Zealand in five, eight or ten National Youth bands.

Please see more details in this edition on how to obtain yours.

Finally, congratulations to everyone who performed, regardless of the event or result, and a special shout-out to our outstanding accompanists. It was wonderful to witness the flawless playing of our Open and Junior Champion of Champions, Keina Rollinson and Kilian Casey. I am inspired every day by the incredible young musicians within our organisation, and nothing highlighted this better than the achievement of two of our finest juniors, seventeen-year-olds Keina and Matt Donaldson, who won their respective Open solo classes. Well done also to Box Hill Academy Brass, New Brighton Silver Band, Levin and Districts Brass, and St Kilda Brass for winning your respective grades. Your performances were a testament to the hard work and dedication you all put in.

Of course, we must acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of Wellington Brass. To win seven National Contests in a row is an historic achievement. What a legacy. Take a bow, David Bremner and the talented musicians in Wellington Brass – you lift the bar every year, setting a standard that others aspire to.

John Sullivan – President  
Brass Band Association of New Zealand

# Gig Guide

## Saturday 9 August

Waitakere Auckland Brass presents *Brassy Broad* starring Anita Wig'lit, 7.30pm at Sky City Theatre, Auckland City. Tickets available [HERE](#)

## In Your Neighbourhood: Tuba Tones

Presented by the Auckland Philharmonia

6.30pm Mon 18 Aug, Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre, Auckland

6.30pm Tue 19 Aug, Devonport Holy Trinity, North Shore

6.30pm Thu 21 Aug, St Luke's Church, Remuera

Tickets are just \$30 for adults and seniors, \$15 for students and children. Book [HERE](#)

## Saturday 16 August

Organ & Brass. Palmerston North Brass presents a feast of music, 4.00pm Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Broadway, Palmerston North. Featuring renowned organist Roy Tankersley, performing *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor* and *Suite Gothique*.

## Sunday 24 August

50s Up Brass presents *Into Spring*, 3.00pm at the Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham Street North, Christchurch. Tickets from \$5 to \$20 available [HERE](#)

## Sunday 31 August

Addington Brass Band presents *Checkmate*, 2.00pm in the Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham Street North, Christchurch. Tickets from \$5 to \$15 available [HERE](#)

## Saturday 6 September

Woolston Brass presents *Seriously Brass: Metamorphosis*, 7.30pm at The Piano, 156 Armagh Street, Christchurch. Guest Euphonium Soloist Byron "Buzz" Newton. Tickets available [HERE](#)

## Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September

Central Districts Association band contest in Palmerston North.

## Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September

Canterbury Provincial Association band and solo contest at Cashmere High School, Christchurch.

## Sunday 14 September

Auckland Bands Association band contest from 9.00am at King's College, Auckland.

## Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September

Waikato Bay of Plenty Association band and solo contest hosted by the Hamilton Citizens' Band, in Hamilton.

## Tuesday 30 September to Saturday 4 October

2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band Training Course in Wellington.

## Monday 20 October

Announcement of the test music and release of entry forms for the 2026 National Championships.

## Saturday 8 November

BBANZ Conference workshops. A free event – all welcome. At the West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, from 10.30am.

## Sunday 9 November

BBANZ Annual General Meeting at the West Plaza Hotel from 9.00am. All welcome.

To have your events listed in the Gig Guide and on the BBANZ Facebook page, email the editor at [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com)

# 2025 Festival of Brass Review

There is definitely something special about a Christchurch contest. The Town Hall complex provides everything required in a contest venue: two great theatres, plenty of rooms for solos and warm-up areas, a large foyer for socialising and browsing trade stands, and plenty of accommodation, restaurants, and bars, all within a short walk. With the venues and location taken care of, it was over to the 37 bands from New Zealand and Australia to make the event a memorable one.

The solo and ensemble events on the first two days of the competition showcased the calibre of trans-Tasman talent. The beautiful performances at the Invitation Slow Melody on the first night set an extremely high standard. Congratulations to David Maas, Levin and District Brass, who won the title for the fourth time. The evening included performances by Kay MacKenzie, Lachlan Spence, and Brad Mancer of the winning compositions from the SOUNZ slow melody competition. For the first time, the event was recorded for broadcast by Radio NZ, which also recorded the Champion of Champions and A Grade band events.

Congratulations to 17-year-old Kilian Casey from Auckland City Brass on winning the Junior Champion of Champions at his first National Contest. The Open Championship of Champions was a truly Australasian event

with Nicky Abkiewicz, Adam Arnold (playing twice) and James Blackford representing Australia, plus the 2025 Australia Cornet Champion, Raynor Martin from Woolston Brass. However, the title went to 17-year-old Keina Rollinson from Woolston Brass with a near note-perfect performance on marimba.

The band events were as competitive and intense as ever, and Chief Adjudicator Frédéric Théodoloz, the 2024 4barsrest Conductor of the Year, was impressed with the standard of playing in the A Grade. Wellington Brass, directed by David Bremner, wrote its name in our history books again by winning its seventh championship title in a row and its tenth in 11 years. Woolston Brass (Phillip Johnston) with a win in the Sacred Item placed second overall, with North Shore Brass (Harmen Vanhoorne) in third place. The Australian bands provided fierce competition with Brass Band Newcastle (Conrad Curry) placing second in the Own Choice and fourth overall, and Darebin City Brass (Andrew Snell), third in the Sacred Item and fifth overall.

The B Grade contest was a story of the regeneration of St Kilda Brass under the baton of Emeritus Professor Peter Adams. The band was thrilled with their win in the grade and gave credit to the young players who now populate the band, including Harry Parker, who was awarded the Best Principal

Cornet trophy.

Second place went to Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass (Andrew Leech), and third place to Windsor Excelsior Band from Brisbane (Dale Hoskings). Making a good showing was Woolston Concert Brass in their first appearance in the B Grade, placing third in the Sacred Item and Test piece and fourth overall.

Adjudicator Nick Johnson enjoyed the performances in the C Grade as well as the witty remarks by compere Paul van Uden. Levin and Districts Brass (David Maas) took home the C Grade Championship title for the first time in 16 years with a win in the Own Choice and second placings in the Test piece and Sacred Item. Rolleston Brass (Raynor Martin) continued their good form, placing second at consecutive contests with newly promoted Rangiora RSA Club Band (Dwayne Bloomfield) a close third.

A special mention to the 90-strong party from the Whitehorse Brass and Box Hill Academy Brass. Their maroon jackets could be seen throughout the contest as they supported their many soloists and celebrated a win by Box Hill Academy (Lauren Innes) in the Youth Grade and a fourth placing for White Horse Brass in the C Grade (Brodan Ford).

It was a four-point victory in the D Grade

for New Brighton Silver Band and its young conductor, Lachlan Grant, with two wins and a second placing giving the band its first-ever national title. Second place went to Mosgiel Brass (Philip Cragie QSM) and third to Addington Workshop Band (Matthew Harris) at its first national contest.

For the first time in twenty-nine years, a national contest concluded with a marching event. The Parade of Bands on Sunday morning drew a large, supportive crowd to cheer on 30 bands. Many bands demonstrated innovation in their music choices and interesting manoeuvres around the change of direction or in front of the dais. Congratulations to the winning bands and to all bands that embraced the change in the contest schedule. This change certainly allowed the Friday of the contest to run smoothly and less stressfully.

Helen Lee  
Contest Manager and Executive Officer



## Our grateful thanks go to:

Chief adjudicator Frédéric Théodoloz, assistant chief adjudicator SSGT Nick Johnson, Youth Grade adjudicator Vickie van Uden and chief marching judge and contest manager Denis Spurdle.

The solo and ensemble judges: Adrian Dalton, Brent Hoy, Cameron James, Dave Fiu, Dr Errol Moore, Grant Langdon, Jody Keehan, Joe Thomas, Justin DeHart, Kay MacKenzie, Keenan Buchanan, Lachlan Grant, Lachlan Spence, Linda Filimoehala, Michael Dowrick, Emeritus Prof Peter Adams, Raynor Martin, Trevor Kempton, Tyme Marsters.

Marching judges: Allan McDonnell, David Miller, Philip Spriggs, Campbell McKellar, David Gallaher, Nick Johnson, Shannelee Palenski and Dave Fiu.

Comperes, Supervisors & Writers: Andrew Clark, Dave Merrall, Jane Myhill and Paul van Uden.

Brian Nicholas, Caroline Burt, Kirsty Huren, Marilyn Edgecombe, Memorie Brooky, Murray Warrington, Todd Turner and Wayne Jennens.

Chris Craddock, Corrina Hoy and Mollie Cornfield.

Festival of Brass Organising Committee: Major Graham Hickman, Stephen Leader and Denis Spurdle. Assisted by Todd Turner, Cameron Burnett, Rebecca Reside, Emily Sullivan and members of the NZ Army Band Association.

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

Ōtautahi Christchurch (Principal Sponsor).

ABI Music Ltd, Ara Institute of Canterbury, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Besson, Brass Direct, Chris and Kate Bull, Dame Adrienne Stewart, David Miller Associates, Four Winds Foundation, Ian Tilley Productions, John Packer Limited, John Rhind Community Partnership, Kiwi Gaming Foundation, Mainland Foundation, Michael Petterson, New Zealand Army Band, One Foundation, Owen Melhuish - The Mortgage Supply Co, Pub Charity, Pelorus Trust, Royal New Zealand Airforce Band, Royal New Zealand Navy Band, Smokey Joe's, Venues Ōtautahi, Waitoa and Yamaha/Music Works.



*David Maas, winner of the Invitation Slow Melody with adjudicators Frédéric Théodoloz, Jody Keehan and Nick Johnson.*



*2025 Champion of Champion Keina Rollinson (centre) with James Blackford (third place) and Tyme Marsters (second place).*

# 2025 National Championships Results

## Solo events

### Under 15 Cornet

- |                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Celine Wu     | North Shore Brass Academy |
| 2 Callum Morgan | Brass Whanganui           |
| 3 Dante Nugroho | Auckland City Brass       |

### Under 15 Other Instruments

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Ruichen Ma        | Addington Workshop Band  |
| 2 Mika Muraji-Green | Addington Brass          |
| 3 Oliver Frost      | Buzzing Brass Wellington |

### Under 15 Percussion

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Kyle Yee       | Addington Workshop Band |
| 2 Polly Tiplady  | Woolston Junior Band    |
| 3 Harry van Uden | Woolston Junior Band    |

Champion instrument:

Timpani: Kyle Yee, Addington Workshop Band

and Harry van Uden, Woolston Junior Band

Mallet: Kyle Yee, Addington Workshop Band

Multi Percussion: Kyle Yee, Addington Workshop Band

### Junior Cornet

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Dimitrios Koulianos | North Shore Brass         |
| 2 Luca Cable          | Woolston Brass            |
| 3 Celine Wu           | North Shore Brass Academy |

Champion instrument:

E♭ Cornet: Lucas Zhao, Buzzing Brass Wellington

B♭ Cornet: Dimitrios Koulianos, North Shore Brass

### Junior Horn

- |                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Mia Yee       | Addington Brass             |
| 2 Danielle Oram | Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass |
| 3 James Peng    | Brass Whanganui             |

Champion instrument: Flugel Horn: Mia Yee, Addington Brass

Tenor Horn: Danielle Oram, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

Baritone: Boyu (Marcus) Guo, Box Hill Academy Brass (Aus)

### Junior Euphonium

- |                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Joshua Curham   | North Shore Brass Academy          |
| 2 Spencer Keoghan | Westport Municipal Band            |
| 3 Dodie Pickett   | Ascot Park Hotel Development Brass |

### Junior Trombone

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Matt Donaldson  | North Shore Brass   |
| 2 Shane Mannering | Brass Whanganui     |
| 3 Anessa Ginever  | Hamilton City Brass |

Champion instrument:

Tenor Trombone: Shane Mannering, Brass Whanganui

Bass Trombone: Matt Donaldson, North Shore Brass

### Junior Bass

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Kilian Casey          | Auckland City Brass                |
| 2 William Keith         | Nor'west Brass                     |
| 3 Delavan Domney-Mackey | The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass |

Champion instrument: E♭ Bass: Kilian Casey, Auckland City Brass

B♭ Bass: Liam Dixon, Woolston Concert Brass

### Junior Percussion

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Aran Quaggin-Molloy | Hutt City Brass |
| 2 Keina Rollinson     | Woolston Brass  |
| 3 Lucy Morgan         | Brass Whanganui |

Champion instrument:

Timpani: Keina Rollinson, Woolston Brass

Mallet: Aran Quaggin-Molloy, Hutt City Brass

Multi Percussion: Keina Rollinson, Woolston Brass

### Junior Slow Melody

- |                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Luca Cable     | Woolston Brass            |
| 2 Emily Sullivan | North Shore Brass         |
| 3 Celine Wu      | North Shore Brass Academy |

Highest placed Under 15 soloist: Celine Wu, North Shore Brass Academy

## Junior Champion of Champions

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 Kilian Casey    | Auckland City Brass                       |
| 2 Mia Yee         | Addington Brass                           |
| 3 Matt Donaldson  | North Shore Brass                         |
| Highly Commended: | Boyu (Marcus) Guo, Box Hill Academy Brass |

## Open Soprano

- |                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Jake Krishnamurti | Auckland City Brass         |
| 2 Kerry Wood        | Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass |
| 3 Fendall Hill      | Brass Whanganui             |

## Championship Cornet

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 Raynor Martin | Woolston Brass         |
| 2 Anthony Smith | Woolston Brass         |
| 3 Megan Gooding | Ascot Park Hotel Brass |

## Amateur Cornet

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 John Sullivan       | North Shore Brass      |
| 2 Will Herewini       | Woolston Concert Brass |
| 3 Jean-Luc Pitcaithly | Woolston Concert Brass |

## Open Flugel Horn

- |                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Tyme Marsters | Westport Municipal Band     |
| 2 Andrew Large  | Waitakere Auckland Brass    |
| 3 Clyde Dixon   | Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass |

## Open Tenor Horn

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Nicky Abkiewicz | Brass Band Newcastle (Aus) |
| 2 Mike Ford       | NBS Nelson City Brass      |
| 3 Arthur Webster  | Brass Band Newcastle (Aus) |

## Open Baritone

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Steven Booth         | Waitakere Auckland Brass |
| 2 Francisco Ruiz Henao | Waitakere Auckland Brass |
| 3 Toby Clark           | Woolston Brass           |

## Open Euphonium

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 James Blackford | Darebin City Brass (Aus) |
| 2 Ross Gerritsen  | NBS Nelson City Brass    |
| 3 Walter Hughes   | Hamilton City Brass      |

## Open Tenor Trombone

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Aishah Leitner  | North Shore Brass        |
| 2 Jack McKenzie   | Woolston Brass           |
| 3 Christopher Lee | Darebin City Brass (Aus) |

## Open Bass Trombone

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Matt Donaldson       | North Shore Brass   |
| 2 Tavite Tonga         | Hamilton City Brass |
| 3 Brady Foxley-Conolly | Woolston Brass      |

## Open E♭ Bass

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Adam Arnold      | Brass Band Newcastle (Aus)  |
| 2 Jeshua Oram      | Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass |
| 3 Scott Frankcombe | Brass Band Newcastle (Aus)  |

## Open B♭ Bass

- |                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Adam Arnold    | Brass Band Newcastle (Aus) |
| 2 Chris Collings | Wellington Brass Band      |
| 3 John Mason     | Woolston Brass             |

## Open Percussion

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Keina Rollinson | Woolston Brass  |
| 2 Reuben Clarkson | Addington Brass |

## Masters

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Kevin Hickman  | Woolston Brass         |
| 2 Mike Ford      | NBS Nelson City Brass  |
| 3 Kevin McMorran | Rangiora RSA Club Band |

Masters Age Group winners:

55-64 years: Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass

65-74 years: Mike Ford, NBS Nelson City Brass

75-84 years: Pete Adams, Auckland City Brass

### Open Slow Melody

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Aaron Ford     | Whitehorse Brass (Aus) |
| 2 Liam Wright    | North Shore Brass      |
| 3 Ross Gerritsen | NBS Nelson City Brass  |

### Invitation Slow Melody

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 David Maas      | Levin and Districts Brass |
| 2 Keina Rollinson | Woolston Brass            |
| 3 Aishah Leitner  | North Shore Brass         |

Highly Commended: Aaron Ford, Whitehorse Brass (Aus)

### Champion of Champions

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Keina Rollinson | Woolston Brass           |
| 2 Tyme Marsters   | Westport Municipal Band  |
| 3 James Blackford | Darebin City Brass (Aus) |

### Ensemble Results

#### Junior Duet

- 1 Matamata Brass
- 2 North Shore Brass Academy

#### Junior Ensemble A (3 to 5 players)

- 1 Brass Whanganui
- 2 Marlborough District Brass

#### Junior Ensemble B (6 to 12 players)

- 1 Marlborough District Brass
- 2 Cashmere High School

#### Open Duet

- 1 NBS Nelson City Brass No 1
- 2 Woolston Brass
- 3 Waitakere Auckland Brass

Section 2 winner: Whitehorse Brass (Aus)

#### Open Ensemble A (3 to 5 players)

- 1 Wellington Brass
- 2 Woolston Brass
- 3 NBS Nelson City Brass

Section 2 winner: Levin and Districts Brass

#### Open Ensemble B (6 to 12 players)

- 1 Auckland City Brass
- 2 Levin and Districts Brass
- 3 Addington Brass

Section 2 winner: Levin and Districts Brass

#### Open Ensemble C (Trombones)

- 1 Auckland City Brass
- 2 Addington Brass
- 3 Rolleston Brass

### Band Stage Event

#### A Grade

##### Sacred Item

- 1 Woolston Brass, *Ave Maria* (Franz Biebl)
- 2 Wellington Brass, *O Magnum Mysterium* (Morten Lauridsen)
- 3 Darebin City Brass (Aus), *Silent Vigil* (Kenneth Downie)

##### Test Selection, *A Tale As Yet Untold* by Philip Sparke

- 1 Wellington Brass
- 2 Woolston Brass
- 3 North Shore Brass

Best soloist in the Test: Luke Giri-Spence (euphonium), Wellington Brass

Best section in the Test: Trombones, Wellington Brass

##### Own Choice Selection

- 1 Wellington Brass, *Apokalypsis* (Jack Bewley)
- 2 Brass Band Newcastle (Aus), *Brussels Requiem* (Bert Appermont)
- 3 North Shore Brass, *Sand and Stars* (Thierry Deleruyelle)

Best principal cornet: Kyle Lawson, Wellington Brass

##### Championship

- |                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Wellington Brass | Musical Director, David Bremner    |
| 2 Woolston Brass   | Musical Director, Phillip Johnston |

- |                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 North Shore Brass | Musical Director, Harmen Vanhoorne |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|

### B Grade

##### Sacred Item

- 1 Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass, *Reflections in Nature* (Robert Redhead)
- 2 Windsor Excelsior Band (Aus), *In This Quiet Moment* (Ivor Bosanko)
- 3 Woolston Concert Brass, *The Lord Bless and Keep You* (John Rutter)

##### Test Selection, *Sounds* by John Golland

- 1 St Kilda Brass
- 2 Windsor Excelsior Band (Aus)
- 3 Woolston Concert Brass

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

##### Own Choice Selection

- 1 St Kilda Brass, *St James's – A New Beginning* (Philip Harper)
- 2 Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass, *English Heritage* (George Lloyd)
- 3 Porirua City Brass, *Legacy* (Tom Davoren)

Best principal cornet: Harry Parker, St Kilda Brass

##### Championship

- 1 St Kilda Brass, Musical Director, Emeritus Prof Peter Adams
- 2 Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass, Musical Director, Andrew Leech
- 3 Windsor Excelsior Band (Aus), Musical Director, Dale Hosking

### C Grade

##### Sacred Item

- 1 Rangiora RSA Club Band, *Crimond* (arr. Goff Richards)
- 2 Levin and Districts Brass, *Be Still* (arr. D Gates)
- 3 Rolleston Brass, *In the Love of Jesus* (Kenneth Downie)

##### Test Selection, *The Lost Village of Imber* by Christopher Bond

- 1 Rolleston Brass
- 2 Levin and Districts Brass
- 3=Rangiora RSA Club Band
- 3=Timaru Brass

##### Own Choice Selection

- 1 Levin and Districts Brass, *Albinus Variations* (Etienne Crausaz)
- 2 Rangiora RSA Club Band, *The Saga of Haakon the Good* (Philip Sparke)
- 3 Whitehorse Brass (Aus), *The Saga of Haakon the Good* (Philip Sparke)

##### Championship

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Levin and Districts Brass | Musical Director, David Maas        |
| 2 Rolleston Brass           | Musical Director, Raynor Martin     |
| 3 Rangiora RSA Club Band    | Musical Director, Dwayne Bloomfield |

### D Grade

##### Test Sacred Item, *Be Still* by David J Evans, arr. S Tighe

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band
- 2 Nor'west Zephyrs
- 3=Addington Workshop Band
- 3=Mosgiel Brass

##### Own Choice Selection

- 1 Mosgiel Brass, *Divertimento for Brass* (Darrol Barry)
- 2 New Brighton Silver Band, *I, Daedalus* (Andrea Price)
- 3 Nor'west Zephyrs, *Smoke Sketches* (Daniel Hall)

##### Stage March

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band, *Star Lake* (Eric Ball)
- 2=Addington Workshop Band, *Barnard Castle* (Goff Richards)
- 2=Mosgiel Brass, *Men of Harlech* (Gordon Langford)

##### Championship

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band Musical Director, Lachlan Grant
- 2 Mosgiel Brass, Musical Director, Philip Craigie QSM
- 3 Addington Workshop Band, Musical Director, Matthew Harris

##### Youth Grade Concert Programme, Major Work and Championship

- 1 Box Hill Academy Brass (Aus), Musical Director: Lauren Innes

## Street March

### A Grade

- 1 Woolston Brass, Drum Major Todd Turner
- 2 Brass Whanganui, Drum Major Jonathon Greenwell
- 3 Hamilton City Brass, Drum Major Shaun Chalmers

### B Grade

- 1 Marlborough District Brass, Drum Major Denis Teeling
- 2 Addington Brass, Drum Major Dave Clearwater
- 3 Porirua City Brass, Drum Major Helen Holt

### C Grade

- 1 Rolleston Brass, Drum Major Brian Eckersley
- 2 Levin and Districts Brass Drum Major Nigel Hewitt
- 3 Te Awamutu Brass, Drum Major Alan Patterson

### D Grade

- 1 Mosgiel Brass, Drum Major Darren Wilden

**Champion Drum Major:** Todd Turner, Woolston Brass

**Champion Drum Major of a B Grade Band:** Dave Clearwater, Addington Brass

**Champion Drum Major of a C Grade Band:** Brian Eckersley, Rolleston Brass

**Band gaining highest music points in the Street March:** Woolston Brass and Brass Whanganui

**Most entertaining band:** Addington Brass.

### Special Awards

**Administrator of the Year:** Brian Nicholas, nominated by Marlborough District Brass

**Accompanist of the Year,** Julia Cassels, nominated by Canterbury Bands

**Pat Cole medal for youngest winner of an Open Solo:** Matt Donaldson, North Shore Brass



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## Musical Director opportunity Kapiti Brass

Kapiti Brass has an opening for an experienced musician to become Musical Director following our current MD's decision to step down.

We are a community-focused brass band comprising approximately 25 members who have performed at events, ceremonies, and concerts in Kapiti for the past 35 years. We're an enthusiastic group who enjoys playing a wide range of music. We may not strive for contest glory, but we do put our heart and soul into serving our community. The MD's role is supported by a tutor who provides weekly lessons to players.

Practise nights are Tuesdays, 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Scots Hall, Weka Road, Raumati Beach. Remuneration is negotiable.

If this sounds like you, please contact the secretary, Marilyn Jeffery – [teawaiti@xtra.co.nz](mailto:teawaiti@xtra.co.nz) or 0274 864 267 with your expression of interest.



## Musical Director

Applications are invited for the position of Musical Director, Feilding Brass Inc. We are seeking a skilled musician, available late 2025, whose musical knowledge, conducting and leadership, flexibility, experience, positive attitude, and desire to achieve, will assist with the band's development and performance as it continues a proud legacy of bringing brass music to the community.

Feilding Brass is a C grade community-based band with a playing group of approximately 20 members. Located in the heart of Manawatu, we rehearse once a week and perform at local events, concerts and contests. Our musical repertoire spans a wide range of traditional and modern idioms.

To apply, please send your current CV outlining your leadership and musical experience with covering letter to: The Secretary, [feildingbrass@gmail.com](mailto:feildingbrass@gmail.com) by 2 September 2025.





# Apokalypsis – a review

5 July 2025

We're all at risk of taking Wellington Brass for granted. Its excellence has been sustained for well over a decade now. But musical director David Bremner may have taken an even bigger risk recently, putting his faith in a rising Wellington composer. Let's pause to recognise just how bold and remarkable it was for the band to seek yet another national championship by choosing to perform the brand new work, *Apokalypsis*.

Young composer Jack Bewley has been making a name for himself locally for a while. Yet this was a mighty effort, larger than anything he had attempted before. Those of us lucky enough to be in the Christchurch Town Hall on 5 July will not quickly forget those 23 minutes of wonder.

The programme notes for *Apokalypsis* invite listeners to consider the end of the world from a range of historical and religious perspectives. This theme of final days implies we're about to experience something ambitious. Perhaps we will imagine a revelatory or visionary judgement day, in a spiritual sense. Or instead, something more profanely catastrophic. Do we see heaven or do we see a meteorite? That might depend on you. I hear some moments of beauty and lamentation, and others that invoke dread. There are times here when I recall the impending doom of Lars von Trier's film

*Melancholia*, which I loved but found so terrifying I'll probably never watch it again.

The work has two slow and two quick movements. It opens with an extended mournful cry from an offstage Brad Mancer on flugel horn, with a theme built on an uneasy minor seventh interval. The solos feel like they were written precisely for the individuals playing them, as they probably were. No fewer than eight principals enjoy long moments alone, which they grasp like they personally own them.

Nic Scott's burst of dynamism on tuba is so frenetic I initially mistake it for a euphonium. The best solos are the elegiac cadenzas that begin with a sustained note growing subtly out of the gentle hum of the accompaniment, such as Luke Giri-Spence, who has such confidence and control in his pianissimo that he stands and turns his euphonium bell away from the auditorium, encouraging Kyle Lawson on cornet to join him. The audience holds its breath. And then, as if from the ground, emerge delicate voices in song. Just for a moment, in soft focus, and then I am left wondering what that was and where it went.

The louder movements showcase Wellington Brass's typical restraint. David Bremner, as always, controls his band's smooth, mellow sound with warmth and balance, avoiding anything harsh or flashy. The six basses and three euphoniums create a sense of

vastness without ever having to blast. Matt Stein on soprano offers a layer of clarity, not brashness. The percussionists, who in most bands tend to draw the eye, know how to contribute without appearing to show off.

Our audience can feel the end looming. Or maybe The End. The chord progressions become tense, ominous, and unnerving. Something scary is approaching, and we're not sure it's good. The basses dig a hole towards the centre of the earth in powerful motions, while rows of standing cornets alternate in hurling arrows from either side of the stage. Wilby's *Revelation* is definitely present, and I somehow hallucinate an echo of Shostakovich's devastating *Leningrad* symphony. The massive last chord eventually resolves, so as to offer a blessed release. There's no doubting it's the sound of finality. I'm not convinced it's a note of triumph, although you might hear it that way. That's the thing with good music.

A standing ovation erupts and lasts over two minutes, while the composer is hauled up out of the band's baritone section and presented with the score.

What an incredible creation Jack Bewley has given us in *Apokalypsis*. And what a magnificent introduction of his work to the world from Wellington Brass. I hope European brass bands take note of this talented New Zealand composer.

Edrick Child



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A photograph of Kaiaho "Butch" Green, an older man with white hair, wearing a black tuxedo and a bow tie. He is playing a silver trumpet. In the background, another person is partially visible, and the setting appears to be a stage or a performance space with warm lighting.

# King's Service Medal for Kaiaho "Butch" Green

## A Lifetime of Service to Community Music

Kaiaho "Butch" Green, a name synonymous with big band jazz in Christchurch, was recently honoured with the King's Service Medal, a fitting recognition for more than 30 years of musical leadership, mentorship, and community spirit.

Many in the New Zealand brass and jazz community know Butch as the founder and musical director of Sideline Swing. This multigenerational big band has performed at community events, festivals, and swing dances across Christchurch since 1994. However, his influence extends far beyond the stage. Butch's story is one of vision, generosity, and lifelong service — not only to music, but to people.

## A Band Built on Belonging

Sideline Swing celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, a milestone made possible by Butch's tireless leadership. He has worn every hat imaginable: arranger, conductor, manager, sound technician, and mentor, all as a volunteer. More importantly, he has shaped the band into a welcoming space where musicians of all ages and skill levels can thrive.

In the words of 18-year-old Ryan Scammell, guitarist in Sideline Swing:

*"He welcomes, guides and challenges*

*people with songs they might think are beyond their capabilities... Butch has created an environment where everyone is encouraged to be the best they can be without competition. It's a family."*

That sense of family is deeply felt. The band regularly includes teenagers, university students, and musicians well into their 60s and 70s. Several young players Butch has mentored have gone on to professional careers or music study at Berklee College of Music, USA, in London, and top New Zealand institutions. His belief in giving people a go, especially rangatahi, has built both confidence and careers.

## Champion of the Community

Beyond his work with Sideline Swing, Butch has left his mark on many other corners of the music scene. He was a founding member of the Christchurch Big Band Festival and sat on its committee for over a decade, helping shape it into a cornerstone of the local arts calendar.

He has also been a regular bugler at Anzac Day commemorations. He lends a hand to community brass bands when called upon, including Rangiora RSA Club Brass and Rotorua Brass Band, where he's also played.

Butch's early years in the New Zealand Army Band included creating arrangements

that are still used today, a testament to his enduring musical craftsmanship. Today, he continues to write fresh, challenging charts for Sideline Swing, keeping the repertoire alive with a blend of swing, funk, and soul.

## A Legacy Still Growing

Butch's commitment hasn't wavered in three decades. Judith Bell, Director of the Christchurch Big Band Festival, describes him as *"the backbone of a thriving, popular community band"* and praises his thoughtful leadership, from setlist planning to choreography and affordability.

One of Butch's most beloved traditions is inviting young jazz players, some as young as 10, to join Sideline Swing for performances. It's more than a thrill; it's a glimpse into a musical future. Many return years later, still playing and still learning, side-by-side with the players who raised them musically.

In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to music and community, Butch Green was awarded the King's Service Medal, a well-deserved honour for a man who has given so much, to so many, for so long.

By Caroline Burt

Photo credit: Gary Easterbrook



## “Turkey The Bird Goes Brass” In Palmy

Palmerston North Brass definitely epitomised NZ Music Month in May with an incredible collaboration of brass and Kiwiana folk! Turkey the Bird is a unique group of highly talented individuals from Taranaki who have taken folk music and evolved their version of it into a high-energy, catchy, feel-good vibe. Bouncing off the Taranaki Festival of the Arts with Hawera Brass a few years ago (the brainchild of Karl Anderson and Andre Manella), Palmerston North Brass invited the group down the road a bit to feature the best of their first and second albums with a mighty brass backing.

Playing to a near sell-out audience at local theatre The Globe, a fantastic night was had by all. Starting with *Journey of the Sorcerer*, featuring Nic ‘Sol Bear’ Coulton on banjo (and Australasia’s only Deering Banjo Ambassador), the majority of the pieces were a combo between the two groups. Turkey the Bird featured a few pieces from their latest album, and Palmy Brass chucked in some traditional brass band bangers to keep the purists happy. Overall, though, it was the collision of two musical worlds that created something truly special, exposing two very different types of audiences to two

distinct genres.

The theme of the night was definitely all about fun - for the audience, and for the players. Now that there is a library of brass arrangements for Turkey the Bird pieces, the group is keen to work with other bands around the country. If your band is interested in getting involved in something completely different, but a heap of musical fun, get in touch with Andre at [manellaproductions@gmail.com](mailto:manellaproductions@gmail.com)

Carmel Spencer

## News from Kumeu Brass

Instead of attending the National Championships in Christchurch this year, the band travelled to Matamata to compete in the Matamata Festival, an alternative that offered a great performance opportunity.

This Festival of Music is organised by Matamata Brass, and what a great event it is. It is organised and run by friendly and enthusiastic people. Thank you, Matamata Brass!

Held on May 24 and 25, the weather was terrific, with a cloudless, warm weekend. Brass, wind and concert bands from the Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Auckland entered, playing music that ranged from crowd pleasers to technically challenging pieces. Plenty of younger players got a chance to test their skills, and it’s always heartening to see the next generation

getting into the music. And a big thanks to Andrew Leech for his judging work - Kumeu Brass’s efforts paid off with a Gold Award!

Big congratulations to our 1st baritone Ian Voss, a “recent” addition to the band (with us for fewer than 10 years, haha), who was awarded Best Soloist in the Senior Category. Ian returned to brass playing after a decades-long hiatus and is now invaluable to the band as an instrument fixer, librarian, committee member, Kumeu Vintage Band player, and general helper - and, of course, 1st baritone for Kumeu Brass.

Looking ahead, the band

is planning a special concert featuring Waiora Paul-Utiera, principal cornet of Ratana Brass. Following that, we plan to have a combined Christmas concert with Papakura Brass.





# Woolston Academy's KidsFest

Just one week after entertaining the crowd inside and outside the Christchurch Town Hall before the Parade of Bands at the national championships, the members of Woolston Junior Band performed their annual KidsFest concert.

This year's concert, a true community event, was held at Te Raekura Redcliffs School. Tamariki from Te Raekura, the Woolston Learners Group, and the Woolston Junior

Band, along with the enthusiastic audience, created a memorable experience with their talent and energy.

The Try-an-Instrument stand was also a massive hit! Thank you to all the Woolston members who volunteered their time and helped inspire our next generation of musicians.

A massive shout-out to Todd Turner,

General Manager of Woolston Brass Inc., for organising all the equipment, having just completed returning the huge amount of percussion supplied to the national contest.

It has been more than 26 years since the Woolston Junior Band presented its first KidsFest concert. Great to see that the members of the band back then now bring their own children and grandchildren along to start on the brass band journey.



# Bringing the Band Back Together

## A Call to Former RNZN Band Members

If you've ever played *Heart of Oak* on a windy parade ground, you're part of a unique musical legacy, and now there's a chance to reconnect with the people who made it so memorable.

A former member of the Royal New Zealand Navy Band (RNZN Band) is gauging interest in forming an association, one that could unite past members through reunions, newsletters, and support for the current serving band. To kick things off, a short survey has been launched, open until October 2025, for former members to register their interest in forming an association.

The RNZN Band has long been a cornerstone of New Zealand's military music scene, touring locally and overseas, performing ceremonial duties, and fostering lifelong friendships through

music and service. But like many former military or brass bands, staying connected after discharge can be difficult.

The idea of an association for former members is being floated informally, and the current initiative aims to bring shape to that vision, asking former members whether they'd be interested in joining and what they'd like the association to offer.

The survey is short and open to anyone who previously served in the RNZN Band. Possible future activities could include:

- National or regional reunions
- A digital newsletter to share updates and stories
- An online community or directory
- Opportunities to support the current serving band

Organisers are keeping the vision flexible at this stage, focusing first on gathering

interest. If the response is positive, the next step would involve forming a small working group to help set things up.

The team encourages all past members to complete the survey and share it with friends and colleagues from their time in the band.

### How to Get Involved

**Survey link:** <https://forms.gle/xZzbUBec4toFWkl96>

**Open until:** October 2025

**Please pass it on!** Reach out to former bandmates and help spread the word.

This grassroots effort to reconnect RNZN Band members reminds us of what makes New Zealand's banding community special: shared history, deep friendships, and the music that ties us together. If successful, the RNZN Band Association could be a new chapter in a long-standing tradition of service, harmony, and kinship.

## NYBB Long Service Pins

Since 1959, the National Youth Brass Band has been New Zealand's premier band for young players. Individuals selected for the band are among New Zealand's most talented young brass and percussion players, many of whom have gone on to have successful careers in music as performers or educators.

To acknowledge the commitment and talent of these young players, BBANZ has introduced pins to recognise long service by NYBB members. There are pins for five years,

eight years, and ten years. We were proud to award pins for ten years of NYBB service at the 2025 National Contest in Christchurch to Luke Giri-Spence (Euphonium), Logan Ford (Cornet) and Jonty Zydenbos (Soprano/Flugel/Cornet) and congratulate all of them on this fantastic achievement.

From the 2026 NYBB course onwards, long service achievements will be recognised at the awards night held at the end of the course. For those individuals no longer eligible for the NYBB, BBANZ would like to

recognise your long service to the NYBB retrospectively.

There is a Google Form available for you to complete regarding your NYBB long service, which can be found [here](#):

Any questions about the form or eligibility can be sent to Helen Lee at [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com)

Please note that being a Development Player/Associate Player does not count towards NYBB long service.





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# 2025 National Secondary Schools' Band

BBANZ is delighted to announce that 73 young musicians from 40 secondary schools have been selected for the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band training course. The players come from all regions of New Zealand, with 88 per cent being members of BBANZ-affiliated community brass bands.

The course will be held at Scots' College in Wellington from Tuesday, 30 September, concluding with a public concert on Saturday, 4 October.

Congratulations to all those selected, as well as their tutors, teachers, and families, for their support.

## National Secondary Schools' Brass Band, musical director Linda Filimoehala

Soprano Cornet	Christopher Tsai	Rangitoto College, Auckland
Principal Cornet	Hugo Carter	Wellington College
Solo Cornet 2	Callum Shuker-Brown	Homeschool, Auckland
Solo Cornet 3	Oscar Stove	Christ's College, Christchurch
Solo Cornet 4	James Hendra	Westlake Boys' High School, Auckland
Solo Cornet 5	Arabella Waugh	Coastal Taranaki School
Repiano Cornet	Sam Paget	Christchurch Boys' High School
2nd Cornet 1	Hugo Briebe	Rosmini College, Auckland
2nd Cornet 2	Callum Keer-Keer	Rangitoto College, Auckland
2nd Cornet 3	Isaac Lamb	Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth
3rd Cornet 1	Lizzie Barr	Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton
3rd Cornet 2	Ben Cookson	Wellington College
3rd Cornet 3	Jack Rudhall	Nelson College
Flugelhorn 1	Mia Yee	Riccarton High School, Christchurch
Flugelhorn 2	James Peng	New Plymouth Boys' High School
Solo Tenor Horn	Lachie McGregor	Verdon College, Invercargill
1st Tenor Horn	Jeremy Kylie Contreras	New Plymouth Boys' High School
2nd Tenor Horn	Paige Chatterton	New Plymouth Girls' High School
Euphonium 1	Inoke Unga	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
Euphonium 2	Joseph Tongotongo	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
1st Baritone	Mami Koizumi	Woodford House, Havelock North
2nd Baritone	Isla Craigie	Queen's High School, Dunedin
1st Trombone	Anessa Ginever	Morrinsville College
2nd Trombone	Bryn Morgan	Whanganui High School
Bass Trombone	Benjamin McDonald	Nelson College
Eb Bass 1	Daniel Hulley	Macleans College, Auckland
Eb Bass 2	Willy Keith	Burnside High School, Christchurch
Eb Bass 3	Delavan Domney-Mackey	Inglewood High School
Bb Bass 1	Michael James	Papanui High School, Christchurch
Bb Bass 2	Andrew Zambazos	Awatapu College, Palmerston North
Percussion 1	Aran Quaggin-Molloy	Scots College, Wellington
Percussion 2	April Sullivan	Westlake Girls' High School, Auckland
Percussion 3	Lucy Morgan	Whanganui High School
Percussion 4	Amazing-Grace Tufue	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School



## A Youth Band for Tonga

The Brass Band Association of Tonga is thrilled to announce the formation of the very first National Youth Brass Band of Tonga (NYBBT). This exciting new initiative will provide young musicians living in Tonga with a life-changing opportunity to develop their talent, connect through music, and represent their culture on a national stage.

Tonga is a country full of gifted, passionate, and determined young people. For many of them, music is more than a hobby — it is a calling, a way to express their identity, and a path to a brighter future. The National Youth Brass Band of Tonga will bring together the best young brass players from across the islands for intensive training, cultural exchange, and public performances, all organised by passionate musicians keen to support them.

The Youth Band can be a beacon of pride for Tonga - showcasing the nation's talent and spirit, and inspiring the next generation of musicians. Of this project, New Zealand champion conductor David Bremner said, "On my many trips to Tonga to teach and perform, I have seen first-hand the level of passion and talent that is on display in the friendly islands, and I know this opportunity for them to come together and showcase that is going to bring so much pride to Tonga."

But your support is needed. Every dollar you give will directly empower a young Tongan musician to chase their dreams and be part of something truly historic. If you believe in the power of music, in investing in youth, and in the strength of Pacific talent - please consider donating today through our [Givealittle page](#).

Together, let's help this band play its first notes, and let those notes echo with hope, pride and unity across the Kingdom of Tonga.

# National Secondary Schools' Development Band, Musical Director Nic Scott

Soprano Cornet	Lucas Zhao	Hutt International Boys' College
Principal Cornet	Ariel Rofe	Marlborough Boys' College
Solo Cornet 2	Tevita Tongotongo	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
Solo Cornet 3	Luke Riley	Marlborough Boys' College
Solo Cornet 4	Mark Jackson	Marlborough Boys' College
Solo Cornet 5	Melody Gordon	New Plymouth Girls' High School
Solo Cornet 6	Tyler Williams	New Plymouth Boys' High School
Repiano Cornet	Frankie Lamb	Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth
2nd Cornet 1	Janet Luka	Marlborough Girls' College
2nd Cornet 2	William Sanders	Hutt Valley High School
2nd Cornet 3	Paula Kafoika	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
3rd Cornet 1	Callum Thompson	Otago Boys' High School
3rd Cornet 2	Harry Spicer-Kendrick	Dannevirke High School
3rd Cornet 3	Bella Price	Paraparaumu College
3rd Cornet 4	Harper Shallard	Mt. Maunganui College
Flugelhorn 1	Sophie Wood	Glenfield College, Auckland
Solo Tenor Horn	Claire Frew	New Plymouth Girls' High
1st Tenor Horn	Ariana Ng	Homeschool, Nelson
2nd Tenor Horn	Maile Kauvale	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
2nd Tenor Horn 2	Joshua Wesley Vao	St Peter's College, Palmerston North
Euphonium 1	Spencer Keoghan	Buller High School
Euphonium 2	Gibson Waugh	Coastal Taranaki School
1st Baritone	Oliver Frost	Hutt International Boys' College
2nd Baritone	Ruichen Ma	Burnside High School, Christchurch
2nd Baritone 2	Dodie Pickett	Southland Girls' High School
1st Trombone	Oliver Diamond	Nelson College
1st Trombone 2	Samuel McGregor	Verdon College, Invercargill
2nd Trombone	Katie Martin	New Plymouth Girls' High School
2nd Trombone 2	Daniel Shelton	Onslow College, Wellington
Bass Trombone	Tomasi Latai	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
Eb Bass 1	Niko Russell	Marlborough Boys' College
Eb Bass 2	Sione Taufa	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
Eb Bass 3	Andrew James	Papanui High School, Christchurch
Bb Bass 1	Tyrese Bristowe	Marlborough Boys' College
Bb Bass 2	Alex Dunning	New Plymouth Boys' High School
Percussion 1	Callum Christie	Verdon College, Invercargill
Percussion 2	Eliana Sululoto	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
Percussion 3	Joydamena Ioelu	Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School
Percussion 4	Emma Warren	New Plymouth Girls' High School

## Whangārei District Brass brings VE Day Spirit

As part of their winter concert series, the Whangārei District Brass has been delighting residents at Jane Mander and Somerset Retirement Villages with a heartwarming and foot-tapping musical tribute to VE Day.

Bringing the music to the people, the band performed indoors where residents were warm, dry, and ready to clap along and sing the good old songs. The programme was specially curated to honour the spirit of Victory in Europe Day 1945, blending nostalgia with vibrant energy.

A highlight of the concerts was the emergence of young talent, with up-and-coming solo cornet player William van den Bogaart delivering a moving rendition of *The Bridge (Il Silenzio)* arranged by Riwai Hina. His performance was met with enthusiastic applause and admiration from the audience. The programme also featured Bain and Ben, pipers from the Northland Caledonian Pipe Band, who captivated listeners with *The 79th Farewell to Gibraltar*, *Amazing Grace* and the rousing *Scotland the Brave* and *Black Bear* accompanied by the band.

The concert was expertly compered by Frank Lundberg, the band's musical director, who added a visual storytelling element by projecting historical images behind the band. These visuals brought each piece to life, deepening the audience's connection to the music and the memories it evoked.

From solemn tributes to lively marches, the band's repertoire had toes tapping and hands clapping. The joy was mutual — the band members love performing at these venues, where the warmth of the welcome is as strong as the music itself.

This series of concerts has been a resounding success, and the band is already hard at work compiling a fresh program for their next round of performances. With a blend of tradition, talent, and community spirit, the Whangārei District Brass continues to be a cherished part of Northland's cultural life.



# National Band of New Zealand

The purpose of the band is to engage with and inspire all NZ brass bands and players, to reconnect with and grow our audiences domestically, with the vision of having the band recognised as a worldwide leading exponent of brass band music.

## Musical Director

BBANZ seeks applications for the next Musical Director of the National Band. The successful applicant for the position will be responsible for the musical leadership and artistic direction of the band for the next three years.

The successful applicant will share the vision for the National Band and have a plan to achieve the National Band's purpose over their term.

The successful applicant will be able to provide evidence of the following core skills:

- Skills, knowledge and experience
- Leading a band of quality players.
- Innovative programme selections.
- Delivering major projects/initiatives as musical leaders of their own band.
- Musical knowledge and ability.
- Passion for musical excellence and the drive to maintain this.

### Other duties

- Directing band rehearsals and workshops, focusing on continuously improving the band's standard.
- Planning with the Management Team, programmes, concert repertoire and exploring new possibilities for band performances in domestic and international arenas.
- Featuring works by NZ composers, including new commissions.
- Supporting financial opportunities planned for the band.
- Creating and maintaining a supportive atmosphere.
- Providing motivation and encouragement to the band towards achieving the goals of the band.
- Holding auditions for band selection when required.
- Networking with other performing arts groups.
- Working with the Management Team on publicity, media campaigns and promoting the band if required.

Applicants are asked to prepare an outline of a three-year programme for the National Band to inform the selection process.

The successful applicant will be required to agree to the terms and conditions set by BBANZ and will be paid an honorarium. All applicants should provide a CV and covering letter to the Executive Officer of BBANZ at [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com) by 18th August 2025.



Tauranga City Brass Band pays tribute to band member Dave Lawrence; we honour a man whose quiet strength, unwavering dedication, and lifelong passion for music have left an indelible mark on our band, our community, and everyone who has had the privilege of knowing him.

Dave stood as a testament to the enduring spirit of service and the transformative power of music. For decades, he was a committed brass band player and performer - not always in the spotlight, but always present, always reliable, and always generous with his time, knowledge, and kindness.

Dave has supported generations of players, always patient, with a steady hand and a willingness to go the extra mile. Many of us remember him welcoming us into the band room, often with a soft smile and a kind word, instantly making us feel like we belonged.

Behind the scenes, he worked tirelessly, arranging and sourcing music, cataloguing and sorting with the kind of meticulous care few would ever notice unless it wasn't done. But he never sought recognition. His reward was always in seeing the music played well, and the band thrive.

Dave wrote a lot of music as well; his arrangement of Nearer My God To Thee was an arrangement used often by this band as well as many other bands throughout New Zealand.

Above all, he carried himself with the quiet dignity of a true gentleman. He demonstrated what it meant to lead by example — with humility, with humour, and with heart.

We thank you, Dave, for the years you've given, the wisdom you've shared, and the love you've poured into this band. You were not just a member — you were part of its spirit.

With deep respect and affection, you will be remembered and missed immensely.

Member of the National Band in 1978 and 1980

Christchurch Fire Brigade Band 1971-1978 Band Member

RNZ Artillery Band 1978-2000 Administrator, Bandmaster, Director of Music

Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass 2011- 2012 Bandmember

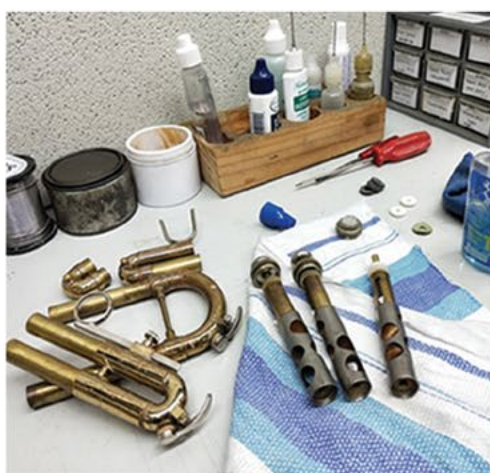
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## AGM and Conference

The 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand will be held in Wellington on Sunday, 9 November at the West Plaza Hotel, 110 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

Registration is from 9.00am with the AGM running from 9.30am to approximately 3.30pm.



## 2028 National Championships

Applications are called for from organisations wishing to host the **2028 National Championships** in the upper half of the North Island. Please contact Helen at the BBANZ Office to discuss your application and request an application form. Applications close on Sunday, 31 August 2025.





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## Big News!

The management committee of BBANZ is pleased to announce the appointment of David Bremner as the musical director of the National Band. This is a role David held from 2020 to 2023, during which the National Band performed joint concerts with the NZSO and the New Zealand Army Band, as well as undertook the first tour to Australia by a National Band.

Since 2006, David has been the musical director of Wellington Brass, leading the band to an historic seven consecutive New Zealand championship titles this year, a total of ten in eleven years, plus a win at the 2015 Australian Band Championships. In 2024, he led Brisbane Excelsior Band to win the Australian championships, following up with a second place this year. In January this year, he conducted the Brighouse and Rastrick Band at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) Brass Festival in Manchester, England.

David is passionate about supporting and developing young musicians, having founded the NZ Brass Foundation, worked with school bands in Tonga, as well as the National Youth Brass Band of Tonga. Closer to home, David has served as the BBANZ Director of Education and Music Director of the National Youth Brass Band from 2015 to 2018.

David has held the Principal Trombone seat of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra since 2002. He has been a guest principal trombone with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (London), the Melbourne Symphony, the KBS Symphony (South Korea), the San Francisco Symphony, and the Singapore Symphony.

As a soloist, David has won the New Zealand Champion of Champions and performed solos with the National Band of New Zealand, as well as with bands throughout the UK, Europe, Asia, and Australasia. His 2009 *CD Gung Ho* won the NZ Music Award for Best Classical Album.



BBANZ looks forward to working with David in this next chapter of the National Band of New Zealand. If you would like to be part of this journey, check out the call for applicants for players below.

### National Band Auditions

BBANZ is seeking players for the next National Band of New Zealand. Applications are open to brass and percussion players registered with a BBANZ-affiliated band. Successful applicants will be required to commit to the National Band until the end of 2027. Initial planning is underway to convene the band in late November or early December this year for a weekend camp to rehearse, record, video, and produce a range of promotional materials.

To apply, email the BBANZ Office at [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com) to request an application form and the audition requirements. Applications close at 5.00pm on Friday, 26 September 2025. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the National Band of New Zealand under the leadership of David Bremner.



### Trans-Tasman Collaboration

The National Band Council of Australia (NBCA) and Brass Band Association of New Zealand (BBANZ) are very pleased to announce that internationally renowned conductor and cornetist Russell Gray will be adjudicating at both countries' championships in April 2026.

Russell will be in Brisbane over the Easter weekend, 2 to 5 April, serving as one of the panel of adjudicators for the Australian National Band Championships and will then travel to New Zealand to serve as the chief adjudicator at the BBANZ National Championships, to be held in Wellington from 8 to 11 April.

Executive Officer of BBANZ Helen Lee said, 'We are delighted to be working with our Australian counterparts to make this happen. Having had Russell as our chief in 2018, we are looking forward to his return.'

Chairperson of the Yamaha Australian National Championships, Annette Ries, also commented that, 'Collaborating with BBANZ to bring Russell Gray to both countries will strengthen the bond between our banding communities and allow for optimum use of Russell's musical expertise.'

NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS' BRASS BANDS

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# Banding Together

Like any other organisation, our core members are very passionate about what we do. That passion results in fantastic achievement, given the limited resources of time and money most bands deal with.



However, sometimes that passion is expressed in a negative way when we see things that could be done better or seem unfair. What we should all remember is that we are all passionate about the same thing - brass banding - and we all try our best. Yes - I often say that if you have any suggestions, please let us know; however, I couch that with a request to remember that we are volunteers trying to do our best for you.

Speaking about limited funds, it was a significant wake-up call to learn recently about the Online Casino Gambling Bill introduced by the Government. This issue was brought to our attention 12 days before submissions were required to the Select Committee. Fortunately, we have a very experienced person who was able to draft a submission on behalf of BBANZ. We also quickly sent information and a template to our bands and were pleased to hear that many of you also made submissions. No doubt you passionately detailed all the great things your band does in the community, including performances and teaching, all

for little or no cost and undertaken mainly by volunteers. I "volunteered" to speak to the Select Committee on behalf of BBANZ and will keep you updated on any developments.

Speaking of great things, later this month, our national secondary schools' training course will get underway. With over 73 players selected for the two bands, it is exciting to see that 30 of these talented young musicians are attending an NSSBB course for the first time. What is also great to see is young players coming from many new or development bands, such as the Addington Workshops Band, New Plymouth JAY band, and Maamaloa Youth Band. This shows that there is excellent teaching, along with administrative support, happening around the country.

If you are in the Wellington region on Saturday, 4 October, please come and listen to these two fine young bands, led by Linda Filimoehala and Nic Scott. I look forward to seeing you there.

More great news in this issue is the announcement of the 2026 National Youth Brass Band. Ten players have been selected for the Youth Band for the first time, once again demonstrating the depth of talent emerging and the excellent teaching taking place. The band will assemble in Auckland in January under the direction of Mark Carter. While Aucklanders are known for not attending events, I hope you will make an effort to come along and hear our talented young musicians.

It's time to start thinking about our Annual Meeting and Workshop Conference. While you may think this sounds like a very dry weekend, it is not. It is an opportunity for bands to set the direction of our movement. Your input is invaluable. It is also an ideal opportunity for conductors, players and administrators to share ideas away from the pressures of a contest.

We are pleased to announce that Jessica Palalagi, General Manager of The Arts Foundation, will be attending and presenting at the workshop. This is not only an excellent opportunity to learn about The Arts Foundation, but also to inform Jessica about all the things brass bands do.

Other workshop sessions planned are on Score Preparation, Music in Schools, Marketing and Social Media, and, by request, something for treasurers. Please join us in Wellington on Saturday, 8 November, for our Annual Conference, some social time on Saturday night, and then the all-important AGM on Sunday, 9 November.

This conference weekend presents an exciting opportunity to engage with a broad cross-section of our members. Remember, this is your organisation, so get involved and help guide us.

John Sullivan – President  
Brass Band Association of New Zealand

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# Gig Guide

## Saturday 6 September

### Woolston Brass presents *Seriously Brass: Metamorphosis*

7.30pm at The Piano, 156 Armagh Street, Christchurch. Guest Euphonium Soloist Byron "Buzz" Newton.

Tickets [HERE](#)

## Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September

Central Districts Association band contest at the Speirs Centre Palmerston North Boys' High School and hosted by Palmerston North Brass.

## Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September

Canterbury Provincial Association band and solo contest at Cashmere High School, Barrington Street, Christchurch.

## Sunday 14 September

Auckland Bands Association band contest from 9.00am at King's College, Auckland.

### **Battle of Britain: A commemoration of the Kiwi connection 85 years on.**

2.00pm at the Town Hall, Cambridge, followed by afternoon tea. Presented by Cambridge Brass Band and Cambridge Little Big Band with music

arranged especially by musical director Rob Hocking.

## Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September

Waikato Bay of Plenty Association band and solo contest hosted by the Hamilton Citizens' Band, in Hamilton.

## Tuesday 30 September to Saturday 4 October

2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band Training Course in Wellington.

## Sunday 12 October

New Brighton Silver Band present a Spring Concert from 2.00pm at the Bandsmen's Memorial Rotunda, Christchurch Botanical Gardens, in support of the Pink Ribbon Family Run.

## Monday 20 October

Announcement of the test music and release of entry forms for the 2026 National Championships.

## Monday 27 October

New Brighton Silver Band Spring Concert at the Christchurch Country Fair, Vintage Car Club grounds, 661 McLeans Island

Road, Christchurch

## Sunday 2 November

New Brighton Silver Band join with 'The Champion Centre' (Burwood Hospital) for their picnic and fundraiser day. Larcombs Vineyard, 307 Larcombs Road, Rolleston. From 2.00pm.

## Saturday 8 November

BBANZ Conference workshops. A free event - all welcome. At the West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, from 10.30am.

## Sunday 9 November

BBANZ Annual General Meeting at the West Plaza Hotel from 9.00am. All welcome.

## Saturday 22 November

NBS Nelson City Brass in concert with Tom Hutchinson, principal cornet of the Cory Band, plus the Young Musician of the Year competition. More details [HERE](#)

**To have your events listed in the Gig Guide and on the BBANZ Facebook page, email the editor at**

[bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com)

## Musical Director

Applications are invited for the position of Musical Director, Feilding Brass Inc. We are seeking a skilled musician, available late 2025, whose musical knowledge, conducting and leadership, flexibility, experience, positive attitude, and desire to achieve, will assist with the band's development and performance as it continues a proud legacy of bringing brass music to the community.

Feilding Brass is a C grade community-based band with a playing group of approximately 20 members. Located in the heart of Manawatu, we rehearse once a week and perform at local events, concerts and contests. Our musical repertoire spans a wide range of traditional and modern idioms.

To apply, please send your current CV outlining your leadership and musical experience with covering letter to: The Secretary, [feildingbrass@gmail.com](mailto:feildingbrass@gmail.com) by 2 September 2025.



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# Dunedin Youth Band

Following a mere eight days of rehearsal, Dunedin Youth Brass returned to the stage for the second time ever. The band is made up of players under the age of 25 from local Dunedin brass bands St Kilda, Kaikorai Metropolitan and Mosgiel, as well as players from around the wider Dunedin community and a few friends from Invercargill.

On Thursday, 26 July, the band met for its first rehearsal under the baton of the Assistant Musical Director, Harry Smith. The following Thursday, the band was introduced to their musical director for the weekend, David Bremner, the Musical Director of Wellington Brass (New Zealand's current champion band) and Principal Trombonist of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. After a quick icebreaker (much to everyone's dismay) to get to know each other better, the band got straight into the very exciting repertoire that they had collectively selected.

On Friday, the band met up again for another evening rehearsal. The following day, everyone came together bright and early (9.00am!) for a long day of rehearsal. The day began with sectionals in the morning, followed by a full-band rehearsal. After

having a break for lunch, with the Southern Sushi being a highlight for most of the band (including myself), the band continued their rehearsal before stopping in the afternoon for a conducting workshop, led by David. Aspiring conductors had the opportunity to have a go at conducting the band through a piece and receive feedback on their conducting from David and the band.

The highly anticipated second-ever annual Dunedin Youth Brass Kahoot was held later that evening, followed by Laser Tag, arcade games and mini golf.

On Sunday, the band met for the final rehearsal before the concert scheduled for later in the afternoon. The concert featured a wide range of pieces, including *MacArthur Park*, *Jurassic Park*, *Embers*, *Spain*, *In Perfect Peace*, *Soul Bossa Nova*, *Hymn for Africa*, *Olympic Fanfare and Theme* and the major work for this year, *Hymn of the Highlands*. The concert was a huge success, receiving nothing but positive feedback from both the audience and players.

I would like to give a huge thank you to David Bremner for coming down from Wellington to take the band for this event.

Furthermore, a huge thank you to Patrick Lepine and Harry Smith for taking the sectionals in the lead-up to the event, to Kaikorai Metropolitan Brass and St Kilda Brass for the use of their band rooms, to the University of Otago for providing a rehearsal space and concert venue, to BBANZ and the BBANZ Charitable Trust for providing a generous grant towards the cost of the event and to Peter McHenry and Trevor Kempton for helping make this event a reality. Of course, an event like this would not be possible without volunteers, so we'd like to thank everyone who gave up their time to volunteer, whether it be organising food for lunches, shifting percussion to and from the venue or taking photos during the event.

Last of all, I'd like to say a huge thank you to the rest of the committee members, Brianna Loan, Rachel Checketts (Secretary), Connor Purvis and Ben Walker (Chairman) for all the hard work that they put into making this event a reality in the lead-up to and during the weekend.

Stacey Adams  
Dunedin Youth Brass Committee Member



# New Plymouth Bands' Big Blow

Recently, New Plymouth's brass bands were fortunate to share a weekend with renown musician and conductor David Gallaher.

David worked with both The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass Band and New Plymouth JAY Band (junior, adult & youth) as part of their preparation for the Central Districts regional contest being held during the first weekend of September.

David was full of helpful hints and anecdotes for our players. He made a particular impact on our junior band back row cornets, by telling them that the band was the coffee, and they were the cream on top... we could hear them after that!

Dave also shared his expertise with the bands' musical directors, covering a wide range of points related to band preparation and on-stage performance.

A shared evening meal on Saturday provided a great opportunity to bring the two groups together socially. The bands look forward to an ongoing relationship with Dave as a mentor and are very grateful for this BBANZ initiative, co-ordinated by executive member Leigh Martin.

Paul Lamb, Band President



*David and percussionist Molly Berndt working on a tricky part.*



*The conducting team, Linda Warren, Karl Anderson and Bryce Gordon, with David.*





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## World-Class Cornetist Comes to Nelson

NBS Nelson City Brass is proud to announce a spectacular week-long event this November featuring one of the world's finest brass musicians: Tom Hutchinson, Principal Cornet of the internationally acclaimed Cory Band from Wales.

"A Week with Tom Hutchinson" promises to be an unforgettable celebration of brass music, culminating in a show-stopping concert where Hutchinson will perform as a soloist alongside NBS Nelson City Brass. The concert will showcase his extraordinary artistry and the vibrant sound of one of New Zealand's leading brass ensembles.

In addition to the concert, the week will host

the New Zealand Young Brass Musician of the Year competition on 22 November. This exciting event invites brass players aged 23 and under from across the country to perform a Slow Melody and Technical Solo (Air varié, concerto movement, etc).

Finalists will not only have the chance to perform for top honours, but will also participate in an exclusive masterclass led by Tom Hutchinson, offering invaluable insights and mentorship from a global brass icon.

Entries are now open, and young brass musicians are encouraged to apply and showcase their talent on a national stage by visiting the band's [Facebook page](#) to

find the entry form or contact Sheena at [secretary1@nelsonbrass.org.nz](mailto:secretary1@nelsonbrass.org.nz)

\*Please note the deadline to enter is extended to 19 September\*

Event Highlights:

- Concert featuring Tom Hutchinson as soloist with NBS Nelson City Brass on Saturday, 22 November.
- Young Brass Musician of the Year Competition (November 22nd).
- Masterclass with Tom Hutchinson for all finalists.

## A Call to Former RNZN Band Members

Interested in the formation of a former members' association? A short survey has been launched, open until October 2025, for former members to register their interest.

The survey is short and open to anyone who previously served in the RNZN Band. Possible future activities could include:

- National or regional reunions
- A digital newsletter to share updates and stories
- An online community or directory
- Opportunities to support the current serving band

Organisers are keeping the vision flexible at this stage, focusing first on gathering interest. If the response is positive, the next step would involve forming a small working group to help set things up.

The team encourages all past members to complete the survey and share it with friends and colleagues from their time in the band. [Survey link:](#)

## AGM and Conference

The 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand will be held in Wellington on Sunday, 9 November at the West Plaza Hotel, 110 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

Registration is from 9.00am with the AGM running from 9.30am to approximately 3.30pm.

### Conference

The 2025 BBANZ Conference will be held on Saturday, 8 November, with free workshops also at the West Plaza Hotel.



# Papakura Packs the House



Papakura Brass drew a standing-room-only crowd for its mid-winter concert on Sunday, 20 July at the local Off-Broadway Theatre. With more than 100 people in attendance, the concert showcased a 30-piece brass band in full force, joined by award-winning soloist Mike Ford from NBS Nelson City Brass and compered by the popular John McGough.

Led by Musical Director Elliot Gray, the band delivered a crowd-pleasing programme from start to finish. Audience members filled the theatre in Papakura, Auckland, to hear a mix of traditional brass repertoire and well-known toe-tapping tunes.

Headlining the event was celebrated tenor horn soloist Mike Ford. A regular on the contest and concert stage, Mike is one of New Zealand's most accomplished brass musicians. He has won the New Zealand

Open Tenor Horn title 16 times, the National Masters title seven times, and placed in the Champion of Champions event 10 times — winning it twice, in 2002 and again in 2024. He is a member of the national champion NBS Nelson City Brass Quartet and a long-time performer with the National Band of New Zealand, where he has served as Solo Horn since 2007.

At the Papakura concert, Mike performed four solo features — *Over the Rainbow*, *Bulgarian Beats*, *Feelings*, and *Variations on a Tyrolean Song* — showcasing both the skill and experience that have made him a standout performer for nearly five decades.

The concert had something for everyone, featuring classic brass band works like *The Cossack* and *Prelude on Lavenham*, alongside popular pieces including *Hine e*

*Hine*, *Breezin' Down Broadway*, and *Sing, Sing, Sing*. The night wrapped up on a high with an energetic encore of Pharrell Williams' *Happy*, earning enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

Compère duties were handled by well-known entertainer and "Trumpet Guy" John McGough, who kept the concert flowing with humour, warmth, and local flair, as well as playing with the band on stage.

Papakura Brass would like to thank all the guest musicians who supported the performance, the Off-Broadway Musical Theatre for hosting the event, and the volunteers who assisted with front-of-house. With such a strong show of community and talent, the band is now looking forward to its next concerts in November and December.

## NYBB Long Service Pins

To acknowledge the commitment and talent of these young players, BBANZ has introduced pins to recognise long service by NYBB members. There are pins for five years, eight years, and ten years.

From the 2026 NYBB course onwards, long service achievements will be recognised at the awards night held at the end of the course. For those individuals no longer eligible for the NYBB, BBANZ would like to recognise your long service to the NYBB retrospectively.

There is a Google Form available for you to complete regarding your NYBB long service, which can be found [here](#):

Any questions about the form or eligibility can be sent to Helen Lee at [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com)

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All prices subject to 15% GST. Deadline for copy: 22nd of the month before publication. Ten issues are published per year.

# Remembering Dave Marriott. 1958 - 2025

David Ernest Marriott was born on the 19th of September at St George's Hospital in Christchurch. He attended Banks Avenue Primary (where he became the Dux), Heaton Intermediate and then, following in his father's footsteps, Christchurch Boys' High.

In 1974 David (aged 16) joined the Skellerup Woolston Band as a cornet player. His entry in the Junior Cornet Solo that year, *I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls* (Round), was awarded third place by Kevin Jarrett. At the 1975 contest Dave played Tyler's *Pacific Echoes* for Tom Taylor in the Junior Cornet event and the following 1976 contest marked his first start in the Amateur Cornet event. The Christchurch contest of 1977 opened in the Town Hall Concert Chamber with Bill Stewart judging the Amateur Cornet. Dave represented Woolston playing Roy Newsome's *Concorde*.

While a capable and determined soloist, Dave is best remembered as a team player. This is borne out by his membership of a band that, at that time, dominated New Zealand contesting, and also mounted Merv Waters' audacious assault on the British Open in 1975.

In 1980 Dave, now a baritone player, served as Woolston's Assistant Secretary to Murray Scambary and was instrumental in the management of the band's tour to Mt Gambier and Western Australia that year.

During his early years at university Dave

met Robyn Olsen, daughter of the late Herb Olsen (Woolston percussionist alongside Jack Elliot back in the day) and Dave's wife to be.

Dave was an exceptional student. On qualifying, his first job was with Christchurch law firm Western Ward and Lascelles, but in 1983 he moved to Wellington to take a position with Chapman Tripp where he became a partner at just 28 years of age.

At the peak of his legal career Dave and his growing family travelled to various parts of the world. One of these trips included a secondment in Kiribati where David was advising the World Bank - a significant achievement in his career.

Dave had many interests outside of banding, all of which he pursued with characteristic fervour: marital arts (he was a sixth-degree black belt), fishing, running, reading, ballroom dancing, bonsai, hunting, chess and, of course, music.

Once their children left home, Robyn and Dave returned "home" to Christchurch with retirement in mind, but Dave took a position with Lane Neave in the meantime. After the Christchurch earthquake Dave was offered a position in Timaru at Quentin Hix Legal where he managed the practice for three years before being diagnosed with dementia in 2018.

Dave and Robyn returned to Christchurch after his diagnosis to be closer to family.

While the earlier move to Wellington in 1983 brought about the end of Dave's playing days with the Skellerup Woolston Band, he remained interested in, and supportive of, the band serving as an adviser and as a trustee of the Woolston Foundation up to the time of his dementia diagnosis.

Dave lived a colourful life, and he is remembered by band-folk, family and colleagues alike as being brilliant, unique, stylish and funny. He passed away on March 24th and is survived by his wife Robyn, three children and five grandchildren.



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# Next-Gen

*In this issue, Lachlan Spence interviews the 2025 Junior Champion of Champions, Kilian Wei Juan Casey, who plays for Auckland City Brass, the Auckland Youth Orchestra, St Peter's Senior Concert Band and St Peter's Combined Symphony Orchestra.*

*How did you join a brass band?*

At school, I had Josh Rogan as an itinerant teacher, and he invited me to come to this week-long 'camp' he ran for the ACB Youth Band and any other brass kids who wanted to play. I had just started on tuba in 2020 and had braces at the time, so back then it really, really pushed my playing. I remember by the end of the week, my lips were straight-up cut on the inside by my braces, but I improved a huge amount by the end. After that, I played with the ACB Youth Band for four years. Then, in 2023, I played for the senior band's Christmas concert and joined the Senior Band!

*Describe how musical ability runs through your family.*

My family is quite musical. We don't have any pros in the family, but both my siblings learnt piano from a young age, which made me want to start learning at the age of four, but I started when I was five. On my mum's side, we often sing together, sometimes making up a church service musically run by only our family singing four-part harmonies!

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

My biggest highlight would have been my tour with the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir to China! It was such an eye-opening experience, showing me how diverse the voice can be, given that it's the oldest instrument ever, you'd expect so. Brass-wise, my first national band competition this year with Auckland City Brass in Christchurch would definitely be up there. It's not often you're around so many other brass players, and the most tubas I'd seen in one room before. Also, being part of 'Los Piazollanos', the first brass group in decades to make it to the National Chamber Contest finals, was a huge achievement and having it professionally recorded and posted on YouTube is really cool as well.

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

I've never been part of one, but I'll be on BBb Bass January 2026 with the National Youth Band!

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

It would be great if there were more opportunities for young players to play together outside of school groups. The brass workshop I had with Josh Rogan honestly changed my life. The push I got when I first started playing tuba was what kick-started



me to want to continue playing and enjoy the process of learning an instrument. Auckland has the KBB Music Festival, which, in a sense, is more of a competition, though honestly, my highlight with it over the six years I've been in it (aside from the awards) was the Honours Band, just an opportunity to play music with people of the same age. It was such a fun experience. I'm sure some players who have never had that kind of opportunity to play in such a strong ensemble would have found it a new experience as well.

*Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?*

I think my greatest inspiration would be the idea of having the power to resonate with people with my music. To be able to translate what I feel to other people without even needing words, like that's so sick. I know this comes from having your instrument be almost like an extension of your body, which is the level I am striving to achieve. To do this for a living means I'll be able to do this regularly, and it's pretty fun to think that each time I play for someone, I might be able to inspire them to discover how cool this music stuff is as well.

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

Just the community and the vibes, I think there's something really special about how most of the people play in these bands for free, like it feels really authentic, and the standard is pretty damn high as well.

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

I'd like to thank my teacher Alex Jeantou and previous teacher Lachlan Grant for not only being my instrumental teachers but also

inspirations as musicians. And of course I'd like to thank my parents for supporting me, driving me to all my rehearsals and being there to help me take any opportunity that comes my way.

*What do you hope to achieve in the future? Playing and work-wise.*

If it's financially feasible, next year I'll be moving to Melbourne to study under Tim Buzbee, maybe joining a brass band there. If not, weighing up between Wellington and Auckland. Long term, my goal is to win a job in an orchestra and see what happens from there. Though orchestral playing is my main thing, I love jazz, chamber music, and singing, so I'd want to find a way to keep on going with these, along with brass band. #ACB4LYF

*What type of music do you listen to most?*

Literally everything, folk, jazz, classical, indie, as long as it's not pop.

*Other interests?* Checking out new food places and video games

*Favourite food?* Nasi lemak with beef rendang; it's a Malaysian dish.

*Favourite place?* My room.

*Favourite film?* Dune.

*Favourite instrument?* I kinda have to say tuba, don't I?

*Favourite piece of music?* COLORATURA by Ichiko Aoba

*What do you dislike most?* People who touch random keys on a piano while you're playing it.

*For the more technical amongst us, what make of instrument do you play?* B&S 3098 (PT-6) is my C tuba I got from Texas. Good 'ol Besson Sovereign for my Eb, which I rent from ACB, it's old but does the job.

# 2026 National Youth Brass Band

The BBANZ management committee is delighted to announce that the members of the 2026 National Youth Brass Band have been selected. 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. Ten players have been selected for the Youth Band for the first time, including the 2025 Junior Champion of Champions, Kilian Casey from Auckland City Brass. And for what may be the first time, the current Open Champion of Champions winner is a member of a National Youth Band. Congratulations, Keina Rollinson from Woolston Brass.

Joining musical director Mark Carter as the assistant MD is Lachlan Grant. It was only a few years ago that Lachlan was sitting in the band. Lachlan began playing the tuba at the age of 10, in the Waitakere and Auckland City Youth bands. He went on to obtain a Bachelor of Music from the University of Auckland, where he primarily played in orchestral and chamber music contexts. During this period, Lachlan taught as an itinerant music teacher at several high schools. He returned to brass banding with Auckland City Brass in 2019 and went on to join the NZ Army Band. He was selected for the 2022 National Youth Band and the National Band tour of Australia in 2023. Lachlan conducts the New Brighton Silver Band, leading them to win the D Grade at this year's national contest.

The course will be held in Auckland from January 19 to 24, 2026, with two exciting concerts planned. The first event is a lunchtime concert held outside the Ellen Melville Centre in Auckland on Thursday, 22 January. The main event takes place on Saturday, 24 January, at 2:00 pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland. The band will perform several pieces, including the *Finale from Symphony No. 3* by Saint-Saens, that showcase the unique sound of a brass band and organ at the cathedral. The band's major works will be *Cloudcatcher Fells* and the jaunty *Tam O'Shanter's Ride*.

Principal Cornet	Liam Wright	North Shore Brass
Soprano Cornet	Jonty Zydenbos	Hutt City Brass
Solo Cornet	Zac Powell	Woolston Brass
Solo Cornet	Luca Cable	Woolston Brass
Solo Cornet	Jack Banks	Addington Brass
Solo Cornet	Dimitrios Koulianos	North Shore Brass
Solo Cornet	Mia Yee	Addington Brass
Repiano Cornet	Hugo Carter	Wellington Brass
2nd Cornet	Abby Lindsey	Hutt City Brass
2nd Cornet	Monika Duncan	Addington Brass
3rd Cornet	Connor Franklin	Papakura Brass Band
3rd Cornet	JP Moynihan	Marlborough District Brass Band
Principal Horn	Danielle Oram	Eastern Bay of Plenty 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	Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass
1st Baritone	Kate McGregor	Hutt City Brass
2nd Baritone	Simon Winship	Woolston Brass
Principal Trombone	Logan Ready	Marlborough District Brass Band
1st/2nd Trombone	Anna Lee	Hutt City Brass
2nd Trombone	Shane Mannerings	Palmerston North Brass Band
Bass Trombone	Matt Donaldson	North Shore Brass
Principal Bass	Jeshua Oram	Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
Eb Bass	Mika Hayashi	Wellington Brass
Eb Bass	Willy Keith	Nor'west Brass
BBb Bass	Kilian Casey	Auckland City Brass
BBb Bass	Liam Dixon	Woolston Concert Brass
Principal Percussion	Keina Rollinson	Woolston Brass
Percussion	Sho Woodhouse	Woolston Brass
Percussion	Aran Quaggin-Molloy	Hutt City Brass
Percussion	Hannah Kagawa	Addington Brass
Management		
Musical Director	Mark Carter, Wellington	
Assistant Musical Director	Lachlan Grant, Christchurch	
Manager	Emily Richards, Wellington	



Mark Carter



Lachlan Grant



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at [iTicket.co.nz](http://iTicket.co.nz)

**13 November,  
7:30pm**

**Mayfair Theatre,  
Dunedin**

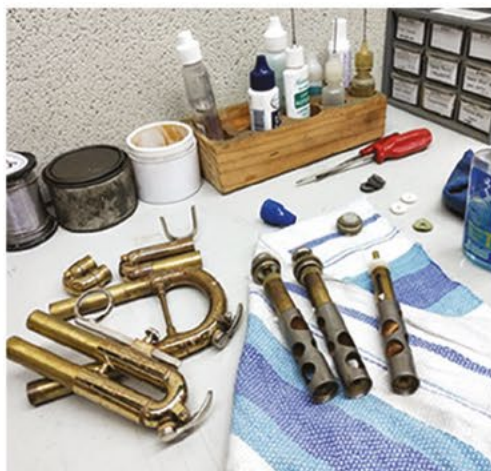
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## BBANZ – Directory

Postal: 159 Gayhurst Road,  
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Website: [www.brassbanz.org.nz](http://www.brassbanz.org.nz)

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Helen Lee  
[bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com) M: 029 770 4588

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### National Youth Brass Band

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### National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

Musical Directors: Linda Filimoehala,  
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Course Manager: Malcolm Barr  
[manager@nssbb.org](mailto:manager@nssbb.org)  
M: 021 606 428

**2026 National Contest** in Wellington 8 to 12 April  
Contact person Mike Sander  
[mike.sander@tpl.co.nz](mailto:mike.sander@tpl.co.nz)

# BBANZ Charitable Trust



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[www.brassbanz.org/bbanz-charitable-trust/](http://www.brassbanz.org/bbanz-charitable-trust/)

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### Friends of the National Youth Brass Band:

Pete and Kylie Adams, BJ Aldridge (in perpetuity), E Aldridge (in perpetuity), J Aldridge, D and M Dawson, Tony Garing, Pete and Billie Harbidge, JB and NC Hollick, I Levien, John McGough, O Melhuish, D Miller, G and C Moseley, NZ Army Band, New Zealand Veterans Band, B and M Platt, Evan and Lorraine Sayer 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 JP, Bill Platt, Evan Sayer, Dianne Smeehuyzen MNZM JP, Denis Spurdle and Murray Warrington MNZM.

### Life Members who have served BBANZ

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



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# Mouthpiece

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NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS' BRASS BANDS

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**2025**  
NATIONAL  
SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS'  
BRASS BAND

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS



# Banding Together

As this month's edition of the *Mouthpiece* goes to press, 70 young musicians assemble in Wellington with the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Bands.



A camp of this size is a major logistical and financial undertaking. The management team, Malcom Barr and Hayden Cullen, have worked tirelessly to ensure the event is safe and rewarding for everyone involved. BBANZ is very grateful to the volunteers supporting the management team, musical directors Linda Filimoehala and Nicholas Scott, plus guest soloist Luke Giri-Spence. I am very confident it will be a huge success and a wonderful learning experience for the young musicians attending.

I am looking forward to joining what I am sure will be a large audience to hear the bands perform at their concert at Scots College on Saturday, 4 October.

Funding our representative bands remains a significant challenge. Gaming Trusts

continue to be a primary source of funds for both BBANZ and our member bands, which is why we felt it necessary to actively engage in the review of the Online Casino Gambling Bill introduced by the Government. It was a privilege to present an oral submission on behalf of the brass band community. After hearing numerous other presenters, it became clear that nearly all sporting and arts organisations share our opinion that the Online Casino Gambling Bill should be amended to incorporate the principle from the Gambling Act 2003, ensuring that gambling revenues benefit the community, as is the case with Class 4 operators. Hopefully, the select committee will give clear feedback to the Government along these lines.

BBANZ is YOUR organisation. Despite what many believe, it is not the Management Committee that sets the rules and regulations or the direction of brass banding in New Zealand, but YOU, the players, member bands and District Associations. The annual conference is an ideal opportunity for conductors, players and administrators to share ideas without contesting pressures. Join us in Wellington on Saturday, 8 November, to hear Jessica Palalagi, General Manager

of The Arts Foundation, and participate in the workshop sessions covering Score Preparation, Music in Schools, Marketing and Social Media and Something for Treasurers. The next day, our AGM is where vital decisions on the future direction of your organisation are made or endorsed by those in attendance. Proposed changes to our Bylaws impact you and your band, so ensure all remits are reviewed in your bandroom and that your band representative is well-prepared to voice your opinion.

It is vital that we have input from as many bands as possible in setting the direction of our movement, so I look forward to catching up with you all next month. And as this year's conference and AGM are in Wellington, it is also an ideal opportunity to review your planning for next year's National Contest, such as checking accommodation and rehearsal venues.

John Sullivan – President  
Brass Band Association of New Zealand



## Planning to commence tertiary study in 2026 at Otago University or Polytech?

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Entries close 15 November 2025.



## Seeking Expressions of Interest - Musical Director

### About Us

Upper Hutt Brass is a community-focused brass band of around 25 members, with a proud history of performing at events, ceremonies, and concerts across the Upper Hutt region for more than 100 years. Our ANZAC parade is one of the largest in the country, with 3,000–4,000 attendees, and our recent Last Night of the Proms was performed to two sell-out shows at our local premier theatre, and received rave reviews. We are proud to be a band that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### Our Achievements

- The only C Grade band in the Wellington region
- Winners of the National C Grade Championship title in 2022
- Supported by a thriving youth programme

### The Opportunity

We are seeking an experienced Musical Director (MD) to lead the band from 2025 and beyond. This is an excellent platform for a motivated MD to bring musical vision, leadership, and inspiration.

### Rehearsals & Remuneration

Rehearsals: Wednesday evenings, 7.00pm–9.00pm, at our band room on California Drive, Totara Park, Upper Hutt. Remuneration: Negotiable.

### How to Apply

If this opportunity sounds like you, we would love to hear from you. Send your written expression of interest to Jacque at [secretary@upperhuttbrass.band](mailto:secretary@upperhuttbrass.band) by 31 October 2025.

We aim to appoint our new MD in November 2025, in time for a stable build-up towards the National Brass Band Championships in Wellington, April 2026.

[www.upperhuttbrass.band](http://www.upperhuttbrass.band)



Graeme Aldridge

# Wigram Base Reunion

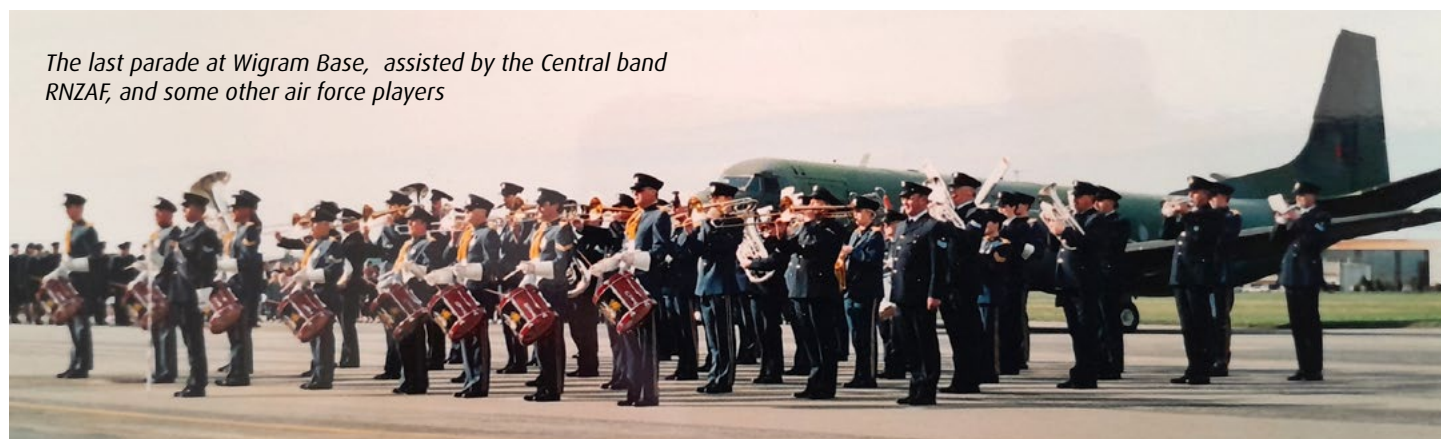
It has been 30 years since RNZAF Base Wigram closed down. It was the last big parade, and the band marched off the tarmac for the very last time, back to the bandroom to a nothingness as they no longer existed. An unforgettable day. However, such good times aren't quickly forgotten, and so ten years later the band had a get-together, including a potluck lunch at Irene Campbell's place, band practise in the garage, and a street march with Peter Wilson out the front, wielding a broom. The band continued to lunch together every couple of years, and now they do it yearly, as the ranks have begun to thin. The fact that they still want to see each other 30 years on is a testament to Bandmaster Graeme Aldridge's leadership and the bond of friendship that they still have today

To commemorate 30 years since the base closed, band members and partners gathered this July in Christchurch, following the national brass band contest, to remember and enjoy each other's company. We were delighted that our Director of Music, Graham Hanify, made the trip especially to be there; thank you, Sir, it was appreciated. There was a specially made cake which Graeme Aldridge ceremonially cut. There were also a few impromptu beer band tunes, a few drinkies, and the retelling of stories of misdemeanours and the inter-base contests where the most sought-after trophy was for the last man standing at the bar.

Ahhh, those were the days!



Wigram Base Band playing in the Officers' mess for dining in.



The last parade at Wigram Base, assisted by the Central band RNZAF, and some other air force players

# Gig Guide

## Friday 3 October

FREE lunchtime concert by the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Bands, 12.15pm at Odlins Plaza, Wellington waterfront.

## Saturday 4 October

**Tū Māia** presented by the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Bands, 1.00pm at Scots College, Monogan Road, Strathmore Park, Wellington. Tickets \$25/\$20 with children under 12 free. Book now [HERE](#)

## Saturday 11 October

Workshops with brass musicians of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, 10.00am to 3.00pm at Auckland City Brass Bandroom - 98 Captain Springs Road, Onehunga, Auckland. Free admission; no registration required. Simply come on the day.

## Sunday 12 October

New Brighton Silver Band present a Spring Concert from 2.00pm at the Bandsmen's Memorial Rotunda, Christchurch Botanic Gardens, in support of the Pink Ribbon Family Run.

## Monday 20 October

Announcement of the test music for the

2026 National Championships.

## Monday 27 October

New Brighton Silver Band Spring Concert at the Christchurch Country Fair, Vintage Car Club grounds, 661 McLeans Island Road, Christchurch.

## Saturday 1 November

Woolston Brass presents **Curtain Up**, an evening of Broadway magic, 7.30pm at The Piano, 156 Armagh Street, Christchurch. Tickets [HERE](#)

## Sunday 2 November

New Brighton Silver Band join with 'The Champion Centre' (Burwood Hospital) for their picnic and fundraiser day. Larcombs Vineyard, 307 Larcombs Road, Rolleston. From 2.00pm.

Canterbury Provincial Brass Band Association AGM, 3.00pm at the Addington Brass bandroom, Vulcan Place, Christchurch.

## Saturday 8 November

BBANZ Conference workshops. A free event - all welcome. At the West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, from 10.45am.

## Sunday 9 November

BBANZ Annual General Meeting at the West Plaza Hotel from 9.00am. All welcome.

## Thursday 13 November

Kumeu Vintage Brass in concert, 11.00am at Maygrove Village, 65 Tauranga Place, Orewa.

## Wednesday 19 November

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Hornby Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

## Saturday 22 November

NBS Nelson City Brass in concert with Tom Hutchinson, principal cornet of the Cory Band, plus the Young Musician of the Year competition. More details [HERE](#)

## Tuesday 25 November

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Papanui Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

## Thursday 27 and Friday 28 November

NZ Tongan Brass Band National Championships at the LeseliTonga Auditorium. Contact Kalino Pongi at [k.pongi@tmcs.co.nz](mailto:k.pongi@tmcs.co.nz) for details.

## Friday 5 December

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Kaiapoi Club, Kaiapoi. Tickets \$5.

## Friday 12 December

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Cashmere Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

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



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# AGM Preview

Yes, it is that time of year again, where every BBANZ-affiliated band, District Association and Life Member has the opportunity to have a say on the future of our movement, at our AGM.

This year's AGM will be a little different as we join the digital age, with bands and Districts having the option for their delegate to attend the meeting in person or online. While we have live-streamed our meetings over the last few years, allowing anyone to watch, now a delegate will be able to speak and participate in voting. This change is likely to enable more bands to be involved in the decision-making process.

Following the adoption of the new constitution last year, a new set of contest regulations has been prepared and is now referred to as the Bylaws. The Bylaws include some general operational clauses from the old constitution, along with the contest regulation that we all love.

This year, we have received only two remits from bands, but as usual, they are thought-provoking and require bands to discuss them thoroughly so that their delegates are fully informed of the band's views on the matter.

So, how do your band members feel about the Sacred/Reflective item being played on Saturday before the Own Choice? Or the addition of an Open Own Choice solo class? And one from the contest administrator: dropping the ability for players to start in two or more Open solos, or in an open and junior solo section?

Your participation and feedback are not just anticipated but also highly valued, as your thoughts and ideas are integral to our decision-making process. So join us in person or online on Sunday, 9 November.

Helen Lee – Executive Officer



Jessica Palalagi

## AGM and Conference

The 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand will be held in Wellington on Sunday, 9 November at the West Plaza Hotel, 110 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

Registration is from 9.00am with the AGM running from 9.30am to approximately 3.30pm.

### Conference

The 2025 BBANZ Conference will be held on Saturday, 8 November, with free workshops also at the West Plaza Hotel.



## Free Workshops

As part of the AGM weekend, BBANZ will host a series of workshops on Saturday, 8 November covering various aspects of banding, ensuring there is something for everyone's particular strengths and interests. The workshops, including lunch, are free and open to everyone.

Email [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com) to register.

10.45 – 11.00	Welcome and introduction
11.00 – 12.00	What's the Score: David Bremner offers tips on preparing a score for a concert or contest.
12.00 – 1.00	Lunch
1.00 – 2.00	Guest Speaker: Join Jessica Palalagi, General Manager of The Arts Foundation, for an insight into the arts in NZ.

	Room 1	Room 2
2.15 – 3.15	Brass Music in Schools: Vickie van Uden will inspire you to get a programme running.	'Know your value: the vital role of treasurer in keeping the band going, with  Carolyn Cordery, Adjunct Professor of Victoria's School of Accounting and Commercial Law.
3.15 – 3.30	Afternoon tea	
3.30 – 4.30	Promotion: Cameron Burnett from the NZ Army Band gives tips on how to use social media to tell your story and boost engagement.	Got Issues? Leigh Martin explains how BBANZ has been helping individual bands with their training and development issues. Plus, the exciting plans for 2026 with an international guest.

# Introduction

Reviewed by David Bremner

I listened to Kyle Lawson's album *Introduction* straight through—and then immediately played it again. It's that good. The playing is world-class, as we've come to expect from Kyle, but what truly stops you in your tracks is the maturity of his artistry. His technique is flawless, his sound golden, and his range, colour, and stylistic sensitivity are extraordinary. This is an album that everyone should hear, and as a Kiwi brass musician, I couldn't be prouder of the dedication and craft Lawson has poured into sharing this gift with us.

From the opening notes of Bertrand Moren's *Southern Stars*, Lawson sets the tone with breathtaking ease. Moren's brilliant writing shines through, and Lawson's performance feels both effortless and captivating. Pianist Julia Cassels is the perfect partner, providing a wonderfully responsive and supportive accompaniment. Together they create the kind of musical synergy that makes chamber music so rewarding.

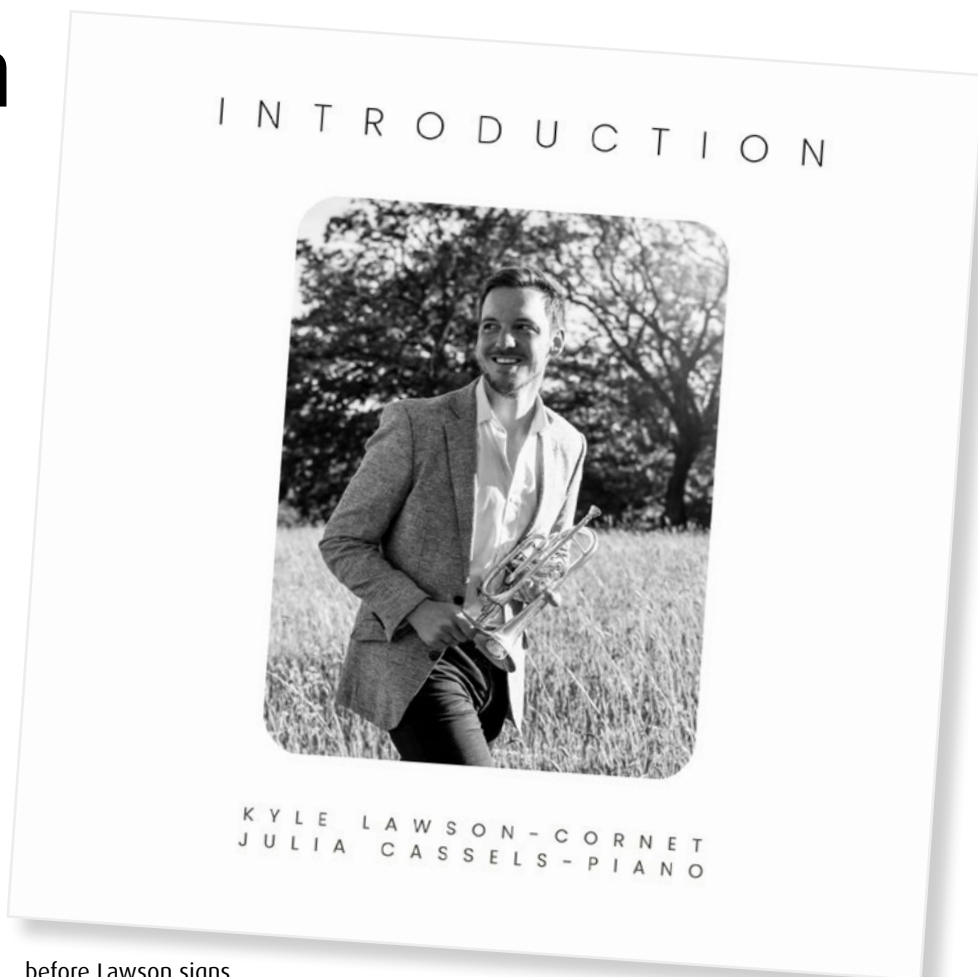
Rachmaninoff's *How Fair This Spot* is another highlight, delivered with tenderness and lyrical beauty. Lawson shapes each phrase with elegance, making the music sound deceptively simple when in reality it demands the utmost control and finesse.

Piazzolla's *Oblivion* is intoxicating in Lawson's hands—a sultry, expressive performance that reaffirms why brass players so often turn to Piazzolla for inspiration. For me, it's one of the standout moments of the album.

Perhaps the boldest choice is Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in D minor*. Few cornet players would dare attempt such a work, given its formidable technical and musical challenges. Yet Lawson approaches it with assurance and artistry. While one might miss the raw bite of the violin, his cornet offers a different kind of brilliance—nimble, fluid, and refined. In the finale especially, Lawson's familiarity with the piece is evident; he dances across its hurdles with dazzling ease and infectious joy.

John Golland's *Ballade* and Goff Richards' *Dark Haired Marie* are two brass band staples, the latter an obvious tribute to Kevin Jarrett, who was such an important influence in Lawson's musical journey. Both are played with warmth, fluidity, and heartfelt sincerity.

The penultimate track is Rafael Méndez's stylish and debonair *Chiapanecas*,



before Lawson signs off with Sam Powell's *Milford*. *Milford* is a touching and fitting conclusion, beautifully captured and recorded.

*Introduction* is more than a debut—it's a statement. Lawson demonstrates not only technical mastery but also a rare ability to communicate deeply and

meaningfully through music. This is an album that rewards repeated listening and firmly establishes him as one of the most exciting cornetists of his generation.

Available for purchase at <https://www.kylelawsonmusic.online/>



*The team; Nic Scott (advisor), Julia Cassels (pianist), Kyle Lawson, Samuel Powell (assistant audio engineer, composer, arranger) and Jean-Luc Pitcaithly (recording engineer).*



**How 50's Up Brass and Kumeu Vintage Brass are enriching lives in later years.**  
By Ron Vereen.

In two corners of Aotearoa – Christchurch in the South Island and Kumeu in the North – two bands are proving that music really does keep you young. The 50's Up Brass Band in Ōtautahi and the Kumeu Vintage Brass Band just out of Tāmaki Makaurau are made up almost entirely of retirees, bringing joy, purpose, and the thrill of performance to members well into their golden years.

With average ages of about 76 in the 50's Up and 79 in Kumeu Vintage, these ensembles are more than just musical groups. They are vibrant communities dedicated to proving that age is no barrier to passion, creativity, and camaraderie. In doing so, they are also shining examples of the immense benefits the performing arts offer to senior citizens.

50's Up Brass was founded in 1994 to provide a welcoming and encouraging musical home for older players who still wanted to play their horns, but without the pressure of contesting or late-night rehearsals. In fact, the band's constitution prohibits contesting as well as evening rehearsals and performances. Also, the band has no weekend requirements. Any activities outside the norm require a band vote. Rehearsals are held during the day, Wednesdays at 9:30am in the New Brighton Band Room, and performances are geared toward community audiences – retirement villages, public concerts, and civic events.

"At the professional level, it is easy to fall into the trap of thinking of making music as just work," says Alex Morton, Musical Director of 50's Up Brass. "So, I find it very refreshing to work each week with a community ensemble where the people are

there mainly to have a good time, catch up with friends over tea and a bikkie, and to make some music in between as well."

In the North Island, Kumeu Vintage Brass shares a similar ethos. Having grown out of the Kumeu Brass Band, the origins of Kumeu Vintage date back to 2005, when some retired members started "having a blow" on Thursday afternoons. These "Old Farts" (as they were known) formed the nucleus of the Kumeu Vintage Brass. Their goal was to carry on with their love of brass banding in a relaxed, friendly setting. In 2008, the Kumeu Vintage Brass started giving public performances. Today, the band has grown into a full ensemble that rehearses weekly, on Thursdays from 10:30am to 12:30pm, and performs regularly around the Auckland area.

Kumeu's solo tenor horn player, Pete Adams, said, "Kumeu Vintage Brass isn't just about music. It's about community. Everyone is warm, friendly, and full of good humour. The halftime tea break is legendary – especially when someone brings a birthday shout!"

#### Science Behind the Music

The work these bands are doing is not just about entertainment – it's about health and wellbeing. Research shows that active participation in music can have profound cognitive, emotional, and physical benefits for older adults:

- Cognitive stimulation: Music-making engages memory, attention, and coordination, helping to maintain mental sharpness.
- Emotional wellbeing: Being part of a band offers purpose and connection, reducing loneliness and improving mood.

- Physical health: Playing brass instruments supports lung function, posture, and motor skills.
- Motivation: The excitement of performance activates reward pathways, reinforcing purpose, pride, and long-term engagement

Together, these benefits make community banding a powerful recipe for both wellbeing and joy, turning every rehearsal and performance into an investment in healthier, happier living.

Both Kumeu Vintage and 50's Up Brass are rich with heartwarming stories of rediscovery, resilience, and lifelong friendships. In Kumeu, Brenda shared how she grew up playing trumpet but gave it up after school, when women weren't allowed in her local brass band. Years later, she picked up a cornet, joined Vintage Brass, and hasn't looked back.

Dennis and Norman began their brass journeys together in the Congress Hall Band in the late 1950s. When Norman left banding in the '60s, the two lost touch until 2017, when a friend invited Norman to a Kumeu Vintage rehearsal. To his delight, he found Dennis there still playing after all those years.

The same spirit of connection is true for Rob and brothers Bruce and David, who first played together in the Takapuna Grammar School Cadet Band in the 1950s. Today, all three continue to share the stage in Kumeu Vintage.

In Christchurch, Jane describes herself as a self-taught trombonist. "Though some of the players have been professional musicians in the past, they are tolerant of my amateur efforts," she said. "It is enormous fun and so



*At rehearsal, Kumeu Vintage Brass*

satisfying to be making music with such a diverse group of interesting people.”

Across both bands, members often speak about the deep support they receive from their fellow players, especially during times of grief or illness. Weekly rehearsals provide not only music but also motivation. As Noelene put it: “Music is a catalyst for getting out of bed in the morning.”

Performing for audiences in aged care homes and retirement villages is a highlight for both bands. For many in the audience, the music evokes deep memories and stirs emotions. Without question, playing familiar tunes for these audiences is magical. At every performance, you find the toes tapping and the eyes lighting up, but the music does more than entertain — it

rekindles spirit, connection, and life itself.

As the population of Aotearoa ages, community groups like 50’s Up Brass and Kumeu Vintage Brass will become more essential. They stand as joyful reminders that creativity, fellowship, and passion for music don’t retire at 65. Community banding is not just about performances. As Alex Morton says, “it’s about people surviving, thriving and jiving together well beyond retirement.” So, here’s to the silver horns – and the silver-haired musicians who continue to bring them to life. Long may they continue to “thrive and jive.”

#### **Want to join?**

Both bands welcome new members. No audition is necessary, just a love of music and a willingness to give it a go. Whether

you’re a former contest player or someone who’s just rediscovered an old horn in the attic, these groups offer the perfect place to reconnect with music. “Someone once asked: How long can you play a brass instrument? The answer was — for as long as you want to practise; age isn’t a barrier to our playing!” said John Knowles, Music Director of Kumeu Vintage.

50’s Up Brass: Weekly rehearsals on Wednesday. Find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/50supbrass/](https://www.facebook.com/50supbrass/) or email them at [info@50supbrass.co.nz](mailto:info@50supbrass.co.nz)

Kumeu Vintage Brass: Weekly Thursday morning rehearsals. Visit their website for more info, [Vintage Brass – Kumeu Brass](https://www.vintagebrass-kumeu.org.nz) or email them at [vintagemd@kumeubrass.org.nz](mailto:vintagemd@kumeubrass.org.nz)



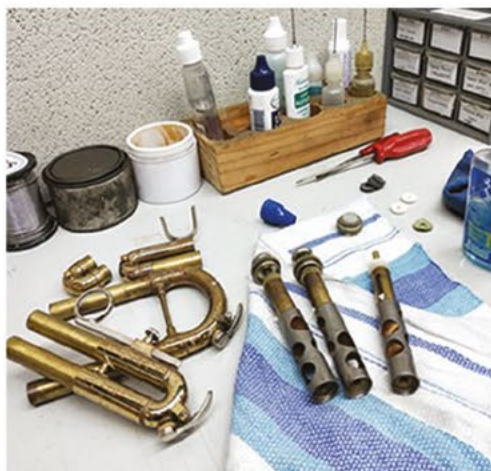
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# NZSO Brass comes to South Auckland

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce a celebration of all things brass in South Auckland this October. NZSO musicians David Bremner (Section Principal Trombone), Shannon Pittaway (Principal Bass Trombone), Michael Kirgan (Section Principal Trumpet), David Johnson (Associate Principal Trumpet), and Alexander Hambleton (Associate Principal Horn) will present an inspiring weekend of music making culminating in a free-of-charge combined concert featuring South Auckland's own Seventh-Day Adventist High School Brass Band and Maamaloa Brass Band. Among the works to be performed are *Prismatic Light* by Alan Fernie, *Dakota* by Jacob De Haan, *Reflection in Nature* by Robert Redhead and excerpts from *West Side Story*.

In addition to the concert, we invite you to join us in a series of free masterclasses that will cater for all ages and levels and are designed to offer valuable insights for performing and technical improvement. There will be a full range of workshops to choose from: whether a specialised Trumpet/Cornet or Horn, and Trombone / Euphonium session, a more general Low Brass event or a full Brass Band Conducting Workshop, there promises to be something

for everyone.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to join brass players from your national orchestra as they work with South Auckland's finest.

**This project is organised by NZSO Education and Community Engagement and made possible by a generous bequest to the NZSO Foundation.**

**Date: Saturday, 11 October**

**Times: 10.00am – 3.00pm**

**Location: Auckland Brass Bandroom - 98 Captain Springs Road, Onehunga, Auckland**

**Free admission; no registration required. Simply come on the day.**

10.00am: Trumpet/Cornet workshop with NZSO Section Principal Trumpet Michael Kirgan and Associate Principal Trumpet David Johnson

11.00am: Horn workshop with NZSO Associate Principal Horn Alexander Hambleton

12.00pm: Low brass workshop with NZSO Principal Bass Trombone Shannon Pittaway and Section Principal Trombone David Bremner

1.00pm: Trombone/Euphonium workshop with NZSO Section Principal Trombone David Bremner

2.00pm: Conducting workshop with NZSO Section Principal Trombone David Bremner



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o Aotearoa

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**Seventh-Day Adventist High School Brass Band  
Maamaloa Brass Band  
New Zealand Symphony Orchestra brass musicians**



**Sunday, 12 October, 2pm  
Seventh-Day Adventist High School  
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Auckland**

**Free Admission, Koha accepted**

This project is made possible by a generous bequest to the NZSO Foundation

# Central Districts Contest

Eight bands competed in the Central Districts Band Contest held at the Speirs Centre in Palmerston North over the weekend of the 6 and 7 September.

On Saturday, the bands presented their Reflective Item and Major Work. Brass Whanganui won both events in the first section, as did Palmerston North Brass in the second section. Palmerston's performance of their Reflective Item achieved a second place across all grades. The New Plymouth JAY Band won the third section.

In the Concert Programme on Sunday, Brass Whanganui and their featured soloist Hamish Jellyman were clear winners in the first section. It was a very close affair in the second section, with Palmerston North and Feilding Brass sharing both the Concert Programme and solo events, which featured Elizabeth Rane from Feilding and Russell Schwarfeger from Palmerston North. Hawera Brass claimed the March at the Halt award held outside, and all three bands shared the Stage Presentation award.

Section three was another tight tussle with Brass Whanganui Concert Brass winning the Concert Programme, Solo Item (Moata Leiva-Benegas), and Stage Presentation.

The contest highlighted the strength of youth bands in the district, with Palmerston North Academy making its first contest appearance in Section Three, and Hawera Brass featuring a strong contingent of young musicians.

Special thanks to adjudicators Ben Robertson and Clynton Payne, who provided the bands with wonderfully positive and constructive feedback and to Palmerston North Brass for hosting the event.

## Saturday – Reflective Item & Major Work

Section		Reflective	Major Work	Aggregate
1	Brass Whanganui	92	136	228
1	The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass	88	133	221
2	Palmerston North Brass	90	128	218
2	Hawera Brass	85	124	209
2	Feilding Brass	80	120	200
3	New Plymouth JAY Band	83	121	204
3	Brass Whanganui Concert Brass	82	118	200

## Sunday – Concert Programme

Section		Concert Programme	Stage Presentation	Soloist	& Band	Soloist Total
1	Brass Whanganui	236	44	49	49	98
1	The Devon Hotel New Plymouth Brass	219	44	40	42	82
2	Palmerston North Brass	213	41	44	40	84
2	Feilding Brass	213	41	42	42	84
2	Hawera Brass	210	41	41	42	83
3	Brass Whanganui Concert Brass	204	43	45	43	88
3	New Plymouth JAY Band	203	42	38	40	78
3	Palmerston North Brass Academy	200	40	36	36	72



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# Auckland Contest

On Sunday, 14 September, members and supporters of 12 Auckland bands converged on King's College for the annual Auckland Bands' Association District Contest. Emeritus Professor Peter Adams adjudicated the A and B Sections while Reuben Brown adjudicated the Youth Section.

We were excited to have a record five youth bands entering this year, with newcomers Ikuna Talateu Brass Band joining the usual quartet of Auckland City, North Shore, Maamaloa Youth bands and Auckland Seventh-day Adventist High School Band (ASDAH). All bands delivered well-prepared and exciting performances. Once again, ASDAH were the standouts, placing first in both the Music and Public Appeal categories. In addition, the band's principal euphonium player, Joseph Tongotongo, won the award for Best Soloist.

Second place went to Auckland City Brass Youth, and third place to Maamaloa Youth Brass. The award for Best Compere went to Petolo Lea'aetoo, from Ikuna Talateu Brass.

Simultaneously, the B Section was in full swing next door with four bands engaged in a fierce competition. In the end, North Shore Brass Academy emerged victorious, winning both the Reflective Item and the Major Work. Maamaloa Brass claimed the March category, securing the second position overall, with Howick Brass and Kumeu Brass following closely in third and fourth places, respectively.

Celine Wu won first prize in the Soloist category with her performance of *Concerto d'Aranjuez* with North Shore Brass Academy.

After lunch, it was time for the A Section bands to perform. With only three bands

performing, every band was guaranteed a podium finish! In third place was Auckland City Brass, second place went to Waitakere Auckland Brass, and first place went once again to North Shore Brass. In a sporting gesture, North Shore didn't win everything, with Kilian Casey from Auckland City Brass winning the Best Soloist Award and Peter Mumby from Howick Brass winning the Compere Award. North Shore won the Reflective Item, March, Major Work and of course the Aggregate, thereby retaining their title of Champion Band of Auckland.

Thanks are due to all the volunteers, in particular Kathy McDonald, Owen Melhuish, Ben Harrington, John Sullivan, Leslie Borthwick and Lee Martelli.

Mark Close  
President - ABA



Students from the champion ASDAH band.



North Shore Brass Academy Band.



Best soloist, Joseph Tongotongo and proud family.

# Canterbury Contest

On Saturday, 13 September, 423 players from thirteen bands took to the stage of Cashmere High School's Performing Arts Centre in Christchurch. The role of chief adjudicator was shared between Tyme Marsters and Jody Keehan of the Christchurch School of Music. We welcomed back Dr Graham Sattler, CEO of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, as the entertainment judge for the second year.

The next day was another big day, with nearly 200 individuals participating in solo and ensemble events. Thank you to Cameron Lee, Nick Johnson, Kevin Hickman, Cameron James, Hazel Wilson, Brent Hoy, Adrian Dalton and Jordan Seaton for giving their time to provide helpful feedback to all competitors. Congratulations to Willy Keith of Nor'west Brass, who won the Junior Champion of Champions award as an under-16 player.

The CPBBA Committee extends its gratitude to the following organisations and individuals whose contributions were instrumental in the success of the Festival: 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 patronised. We thank Dave Johnstone for his exceptional work designing the programme, and all the amazing accompanists. Special shout-out to Vickie van Uden, who encouraged many players (old and young) to start in their first solo event, then accompanied 35 players on the day. A special thanks to event supervisors Stephen Leader, Caroline Burt, Todd Turner, Chris Gourlay, Simon Winship and Georgia Hoy. Thanks also to Wayne Shearers, who ran the programme sales desk and to our contest manager, Helen Lee. John Butler also generously gave his whole weekend to help out with the contest, as well as present new trophies for the Development grade in memory of his father, Geoff.



*Mario Yin - the Under 10 champ.*

## Under 10 Solo

- 1 Mario Yin, Nor'west Cyclones
- 2= Alex Straver, Addington TRAINing Band
- 2= Madelyn Burnell, Nor'west Cyclones

## Under 13 Slow Melody

- 1 Mika Muraji-Green, Addington Brass
- 2 Sophia Hickman, Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Benjamin Holtmark van Dijkhof, Nor'west Zephyrs

## Under 13 Variation

- 1 Mika Muraji-Green, Addington Brass
- 2 Sophia Hickman, Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Henry Mallett, Woolston Junior Band

## Under 16 Slow Melody

- 1 Willy Keith, Nor'west Brass
- 2 Thomas Flavell, Woolston Concert Brass
- 3 Sam Paget, Nor'west Zephyrs

## Under 16 Variation

- 1 Willy Keith, Nor'west Brass
- 2 Fergus McKinnon, Rolleston Brass
- 3 Sam Paget, Nor'west Zephyrs

## Under 19 Slow Melody

- 1 Luca Cable, Woolston Brass
- 2 Toby Clark, Woolston Brass
- 3 Emma Shore, Woolston Concert Brass

## Under 19 Variation

- 1 Luca Cable, Woolston Brass
- 2 Emma Shore, Woolston Concert Brass
- 3 Theo Michaelides, Nor'west Brass

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

## Under 15 Percussion solo

- 1 Kyle Yee, Addington Workshop Band
- 2 Thomas Su, Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Harry van Uden, Woolston Junior Band

## Under 19 Percussion solo

- 1 Keina Rollinson, Woolston Brass

## Open Percussion solo

- 1 Sho Kubota, Woolston Brass
- 2 Reuben Clarkson, Addington Brass

## C and D Grade Slow Melody

- 1 John Sturgen, Sumner Silver Band
- 2 Chris Hollis-Locke, Sumner Silver Band
- 3 Wayne Coddington, New Brighton Silver Band

## C and D Grade Variation

- 1 Adair Sherriff, Nor'west Brass
  - 2 John Sturgen, Sumner Silver Band
  - 3 Wayne Coddington, New Brighton Silver Band
- C and D Grade Champion: John Sturgen, Sumner Silver Band

## Open Slow Melody

- 1 Simon Winship, Woolston Brass
- 2= Caroline Turner, Woolston Brass
- 2= Julia Mallett, Woolston Brass

## Open Variation

- 1= Simon Winship, Woolston Brass
  - 1= Sarah Hickman, Woolston Concert Brass
  - 3 Julia Mallett, Woolston Brass
- Open Solo Champion: Simon Winship, Woolston Brass

## Veterans Slow Melody

- 1 Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass
- 2 Grant Dempsey, Woolston Brass
- 3= Steve Griffin, Rangiora RSA Club Brass
- 3= Dave Johnstone, Woolston Concert Brass

## Veterans Variation

- 1 Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass
  - 2 Steve Griffin, Rangiora RSA Club Brass
  - 3 Denis Broadbent, Woolston Concert Brass
- Veterans Champion: Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass

## Championship Slow Melody

- 1= Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass
- 1= Raynor Martin, Woolston Brass
- 3 Grant Dempsey, Woolston Brass

## Championship Variation

- 1 Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass
  - 2 Logan Ford, Woolston Brass
  - 3= Raynor Martin, Woolston Brass
  - 3= Cameron James, Hamilton City Brass
- Canterbury Soloist of the Year: Kevin Hickman, Woolston Brass

### Junior Ensemble

- 1 Thomas Flavell & Charles Button, Woolston Concert & Junior Band
- 2 Henry Mallett & William Finch, Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Finn Purvis & Felix Adams, Woolston Junior Band

### Junior Ensemble

- 1 Addington Junior Band
- 2 Woolston Junior Band
- 3 Addington Junior Band

### Open Duet

- 1 Grant Pitcher & David Mallett, Woolston Brass
- 2 Bob Reid & Dave Thorne, Rangiora RSA Club Band
- 3 Grant & Pam Dempsey, Woolston & Addington Brass

### Open Ensemble

- 1 Front Bench, Woolston Brass
- 2 Japan Band, Addington Brass
- 3 Addington Brass Trombones

### Open Percussion Ensemble

- 1 Rolleston Brass

### Band Events

#### Development Grade

- 1 Woolston Junior Band (MD Vickie van Uden)
- 2 Rolleston Academy (MD Karen St Guillaume)

#### D Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band
- 2 Addington Workshop Band
- 3 Nor'west Zephyrs

Major Work

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band
- 2 Sumner Silver Band
- 3 Nor'west Zephyrs

Stage March

- 1 Addington Workshop Band
- 2 New Brighton Silver Band
- 3 Sumner Silver Band

Entertainment Programme

- 1 New Brighton Silver Band
- 2 Addington Workshop Band
- 3 Sumner Silver Band

D Grade Champion Band: New Brighton Silver Band (MD Lachlan Grant)

### C Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 Rolleston Brass
- 2 Rangiora RSA Club Band
- 3 Timaru Brass

Major Work

- 1 Rolleston Brass
- 2 Rangiora RSA Club Band
- 3 Nor'west Brass

Entertainment programme

- 1 Rolleston Brass
- 2 Nor'west Brass
- 3 Rangiora RSA Club Band

C Grade Champion Band: Rolleston Brass (MD Raynor Martin)

### B Grade

Sacred Item

- 1 Woolston Concert Brass
- 2 Addington Brass

Major Work

- 1 Woolston Concert Brass
- 2 Addington Brass

Entertainment

- 1 Woolston Concert Brass
- 2 Addington Brass

B Grade Champion Band: Woolston Concert Brass (MD Matt Toomata)

### A Grade

Sacred/Major Work/Entertainment

- 1 Woolston Brass (MD Phil Johnston)

The Best Compere award went to Paul van Uden (Rolleston Brass) and the Best Soloist to Keina Rollinson (Woolston Brass).

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### National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

Musical Director: Linda Filimoevala, Auckland  
and Nic Scott, Christchurch  
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[manager@nssbb.org](mailto:manager@nssbb.org)  
M: 021 606 428

**2026 National Contest** in Wellington 8 to 11 April  
Contact person Mike Sander  
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## 2028 National Championships

Applications are called for from organisations wishing to host the **2028 National Championships** in a New Zealand location. Please contact Helen at the BBANZ Office [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com) to discuss your application and request an application form. Applications close on **Friday, 17 October 2025**.

### Friends of the National Youth Brass Band:

Pete and Kylie Adams, BJ Aldridge (in perpetuity), E Aldridge (in perpetuity), J Aldridge, D and M Dawson, Tony Garing, Pete and Billie Harbidge, JB and NC Hollick, I Levien, John McGough, O Melhuish, D Miller, G and C Moseley, NZ Army Band, New Zealand Veterans Band, B and M Platt, Evan and Lorraine Sayer 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 JP, Bill Platt, Evan Sayer, Dianne Smeehuysen MNZM JP, Denis Spurdle and Murray Warrington MNZM.

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## 2025 National Secondary Schools' Bands

The National Secondary Schools' Brass Band and Development Band, made up of 68 young musicians from Auckland to Invercargill, represented 38 different schools, including Homeschool students.

The students assembled at lunchtime on Tuesday, 30 September, at Scots College in Wellington and immediately got to work rehearsing as a combined band under Musical Directors Linda Filimoehala (National Secondary Schools' Brass Band) and Nic Scott (National Secondary Schools' Development Band). This was followed by each band rehearsing on its own before being taken to the boarding rooms and settling into their new home for the next five days.

After dinner and some more rehearsals, it was game time to get to know each other. The students enjoyed a variety of activities, including Human Bingo, Would I Lie To You, Balloon Races, and Balloon Juggling. It was a joy to see the students making new friends and catching up with friends made in previous years.

Wednesday saw a huge day of rehearsals with over six hours of playing including rehearsals with guest soloist Luke Giri-Spence (Royal New Zealand Navy Band) and sectionals with the amazing tutors: Nicholas Garrett (Solo Cornets/Soprano); Liam Wright (Back Row Cornets); Ray Farrow (Tenor Horns/Flugel); Luke Giri-Spence (Euphoniums/Baritones); Leo Read

(Trombones); Jordan Seaton (Basses); Jeremy Richardson, Riwai Hina, Grant Myhill (Percussion). The students put in a massive effort from start to finish, and you could really hear the progress they were making.

On Wednesday evening, we welcomed guest speaker Mark Carter. Mark is the Musical Director of the National Youth Band and Sub-Principal Trumpet with the NZSO. He told us stories of his musical journey from starting as a young player in brass bands in the UK to a life as a professional musician. His stories about some of the people he has met and performed with, including Wynton Marsalis and Pavarotti, were incredible. Then he told us some details about sitting on an audition panel for top orchestras and what he listens for in audition performances, which the students found very interesting and useful, before taking 15 minutes for questions.

Thursday saw another six hours of rehearsal, as well as time to get into groups for the evening Ensemble Competition. Each ensemble had 8-12 students, and they could choose their own music from a selection of about 20 tunes. Students were encouraged to have fun, and they didn't necessarily have to play their own instruments. The competition in the evening was a highlight of the week, with lots of laughs and some "creative" interpretations of the music, judged by the Boarding House Matron. The tutors and course staff also performed a medley, culminating in a moving

performance of *Moana* with Linda singing.

Friday morning, there was time for a short rehearsal before handing out the official t-shirts and taking band photos before piling onto a bus and heading to the Wellington Waterfront. It was great to have a large crowd for our 20-minute taster concert by the combined bands in the sun. (Phew! There had been some cold wind and rain on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.) Students then had nearly two hours to explore Wellington, visiting some of the attractions, including Parliament and Te Papa, while others focused on the fashion shops!

Saturday was the big day with the concert in the afternoon. We had a large audience in attendance, and the livestream has had over 900 views. It was a fantastic concert that showcased the exceptional talent of these young stars in the making. Luke Giri-Spence was inspirational with his virtuoso solo playing, performing solos with both bands. We were treated to 40 minutes from each band and 20 minutes from the combined bands.

Check out the **National Secondary Schools' Brass Band Facebook page**. For a link to the livestream of the concert, lots of photos, and videos of the ensemble competition.

**And the course awards went to...  
National Secondary Schools' Band**

Principal Cornet: Hugo Carter

Most Improved Player:  
Jeremy Kylie Contreras

Best Section:  
Flugels and Horns - Mia Yee, James Peng,  
Lachie McGregor, Jeremy Kylie Contreras,  
Paige Chatterton

Best Support Act: Oscar Stove

Best Team Player (outstanding bandsperson):  
Delavan Domney Mackey and Mami Koizumi

Musical Director's Award:  
Mia Yee and Inoke Unga

Most Outstanding Player: Daniel Hulley

**Development Band:**

Principal Cornet: Ariel Rofe

Most Improved Player: Spencer Keoghan

Best Section:

Basses - Niko Russell, Sione Taufa, Andrew  
James, Tyrese Bristowe, Alex Dunning

Best Support Act: Callum Christie

Best Team Player (outstanding bandsperson):  
Samuel McGregor

Musical Director's Award: Tomasi Latai

Most Outstanding Player: Sophie Wood

Best Audition:

Aran Quaggin-Molloy and Anessa Ginever

Recognition for 5 Years' Service:

Aran Quaggin-Molloy and Mia Yee

**We extend our gratitude to the  
individuals and organisations who  
made this week possible:** Pelorus Trust,

Lion Foundation, Ministry of Education,  
Pub Charity, and BBANZ Charitable Trust  
for their generous financial support; the  
NZ Army Band (Personnel), Royal NZ Navy  
Band (Personnel), Royal NZ Air Force Band  
(percussion), and Porirua Band (percussion)  
for their invaluable contributions; Scots  
College for the use of their facilities, their  
amazing catering, and the wonderful staff  
who ensured we had everything we needed;  
Assistant Manager Hayden Cullen for his  
exceptional charm and ability to get things  
done; all of our "Seat Sponsors" (check the  
Facebook page for the complete list); and  
the staff of Auckland Seventh Day Adventist  
College for their unwavering support and  
help with supervision.



*NZSSBB Most Outstanding Player, Daniel  
Hulley, with Linda Filimoe hala.*



*NZSSBB ensemble night antics.*

# Banding Together

Congratulations to the 2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band Camp management and tutors for their outstanding work in running a highly successful training course.

The sight and sound of 68 talented young musicians performing to a very appreciative audience at Scot's College was a testament to your dedication and the potential of our future generation of brass band members. Well done, Band Managers Malcom Barr and Hayden Cullen, Musical Directors Linda Filimoehala and Nicholas Scott, guest soloist Luke Giri-Spence, and the many volunteers who generously gave so much to provide a fun-filled week of learning and music-making. Most importantly, witnessing the camaraderie and friendships formed at these annual training courses is exciting. Undoubtedly, many will develop into life-long friendships similar to those I cherish highly and have been vital in keeping me involved in brass banding for over 45 years.

Congratulations also to the 34 members selected by Musical Director David



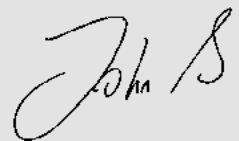
Bremner for the 2026 National Band of New Zealand, especially those in their first National Band. Wearing the silver fern as a national representative is an honour and privilege, and we are all excited to learn more about the band's plans for next year.

The National Band of New Zealand is just one piece of the rich history and enduring legacy of our brass bands. Few musical organisations within New Zealand can boast longevity of continuous service to their local community comparable to brass bands'. It highlights the key role bands have played and continue to play in towns and cities throughout the country. We have prospered through three centuries due to our commitment to serving the communities that support us and by providing a healthy and nurturing environment for musicians of all ages. One can only guess at the thousands of players who, over the years, have had the opportunity to learn and perform music in a family-friendly brass band environment in almost every town in New Zealand.

We must continue to evolve to ensure we will be around for at least another 100 years. Our Annual Conference and AGM, on Saturday, 8 November, and Sunday, 9 November, in Wellington, is an ideal opportunity for conductors, players, and administrators to share ideas and discuss our future direction without the pressures

of contest. The free workshops, designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to lead our community forward, will cover various topics, including Score Preparation, Music in Schools, Marketing and Social Media and Something for Treasurers. Our guest speaker this year is Jessica Palalagi, General Manager of The Arts Foundation. The day will round out with some social time and an opportunity for further discussion on what is important to you and your band.

The next day, many critical decisions on your organisation's future are made and endorsed by those in attendance at the AGM. This is not just a meeting, but a platform where your voice matters and can shape the future of our brass band community. We appreciate that there is a cost to attend; however, we have done our best to provide more value to our members by adding the conference workshops. Ensure your voice is heard by supporting this year's conference and AGM, as your participation is crucial in shaping the future of our community.



John Sullivan – President  
Brass Band Association of New Zealand



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# 125 Years for Levin

On 21 April 1900, the then Levin Municipal Band was formally established. Over the years, it has grown in stature and reputation, becoming a cornerstone of the community. Following the 1989 New Zealand local body reforms, resulting in the amalgamation of the Levin Borough Council and Horowhenua County Council into Horowhenua District Council, the band's name was changed to Levin and Districts Brass. The band will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding with a concert at The Village Hall, Speldhurst Country Estate, Levin, on Sunday, 7 December, followed by a dinner for current and past members. The concert will feature cornet soloist, and the band's musical director, David Maas, the current Slow Melody Champion of New Zealand.

Levin and Districts Brass, the 2025 C Grade Champion Band of New Zealand, has recently achieved a significant milestone: promotion to the B Grade. This is a testament to the band's dedication and talent. Currently, the band is in a phase of growth and consolidation, with a full complement of players and a \$50,000

project underway for the purchase of new percussion instruments. The band is also in the process of establishing a brass youth academy.

As the band works towards a busy December, the anniversary concert will be the culmination of a busy week of activities for the band, starting on Wednesday, 3 December, with eight hours of carolling at the Levin New World Christmas Club Day (in four shifts of two hours). On Friday, the 5th, the band travels to Marton for an evening concert at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. On Saturday, the band will participate in the Levin Christmas Parade, followed by a BBQ and fellowship at the band room. (If you can't make it to the Levin concert, get along to the Marton concert as the programme is the same.)

Band President Chris Craddock extends a warm and personal invitation to all past members

to visit the band during any of these events and to attend the 125th Anniversary concert and dinner.

For further information about the anniversary events, please email [secretary.levinbrass@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.levinbrass@gmail.com) and see the Gig Guide on page 5



Back Row (left to right):  
B. Williams, E. Dalby, S. Greer, W. Kaye, D. Lockyer, G. Lawton, F. Brenmuhi, V. Kaye, G. Hawthorne, K. Shearman.  
Second Row (left to right):  
D. Winiata (Drill Instructor), J. Gardiner, T. Gilbert, N. Davies, R. Davies, F. Fallen, J. Collett, P. Jensen, O. Dalby,  
E. Tomba, W. Diffey (Drum Major).  
Front Row (left to right):  
J. Wells, B. Russell, J. Foote, R. Hayfield, G. Bignal, T. Taylor (Conductor), A. J. H. Allen (Chairman), D. Hornblow,  
F. Williams, J. Sissons.  
In Front: B. Taylor. Inset: J. Buck.

# Gig Guide

## Saturday 1 November

Woolston Brass presents **Curtain Up**, an evening of Broadway magic, 7.30pm at The Piano, 156 Armagh Street, Christchurch. Tickets [HERE](#)

## Sunday 2 November

New Brighton Silver Band join with 'The Champion Centre' (Burwood Hospital) for their picnic and fundraiser day. Larcombs Vineyard, 307 Larcombs Road, Rolleston. From 2.00pm.

Canterbury Provincial Brass Band Association AGM, 3.00pm at the Addington Brass bandroom, Vulcan Place, Christchurch.

**Spooktacular Brass:** presented by Tauranga City Brass Auxiliary, 6.00pm at Wesley Methodist Church, 100 Thirteenth Avenue, Tauranga South. Tickets [Here](#)

## Saturday 8 November

BBANZ Conference workshops. A free event – all welcome. At the West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, from 10.45am.

## Sunday 9 November

BBANZ Annual General Meeting at the West Plaza Hotel from 9.00am. All welcome.

## Thursday 13 November

Kumeu Vintage Brass in concert, 11.00am at Maygrove Village, 65 Tauranga Place, Orewa.

## Wednesday 19 November

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Hornby Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

## Saturday 22 November

NBS Nelson City Brass in concert with Tom Hutchinson, principal cornet of the Cory Band, plus the Young Musician of the Year competition. More details [HERE](#)

## Sunday 23 November

Porirua City Brass presents **Encore!** 2.00pm at Pataka Art + Museum  
17 Parumoana Street, Porirua City Centre, Porirua. Tickets [HERE](#)

## Tuesday 25 November

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Papanui Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

## Thursday 27 and Friday 28 November

NZ Tongan Brass Band National Championships at the Lesieli Tonga Auditorium, Mangere East, Auckland. Contact Kalino Pongi at [k.pongi@tmcs.co.nz](mailto:k.pongi@tmcs.co.nz) for details.

## Friday 5 December

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Kaiapoi Club, Kaiapoi. Tickets \$5.

## Sunday 7 December

Levin and Districts Brass 125th Anniversary concert, 2.00pm, at The Village Hall, Speldhurst Country Estate, Kimberley Rd, Levin. Door Sales only, cash or EFTPOS, adult \$20/child \$5.

Levin and Districts Brass 125th Anniversary dinner, at The George Café, Speldhurst Country Estate, Kimberley Rd, Levin. Fellowship from 4.30pm with dinner at 6.00pm. To attend, please confirm by RSVP to [secretary.levinbrass@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.levinbrass@gmail.com) by Sunday, 23 November.

## Friday 12 December

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Cashmere Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

## Saturday 13 December A Christmas Celebration:

Auckland City Brass returns to St Matthew-in-the-City for a festive spectacular featuring tenor Christopher McRae, at 7.30pm. Tickets via [Eventfinda](#).

## Sunday 14 December

**In Your Community: Town Takeover** by all three Woolston bands in central Christchurch, 1.30pm-2.00pm, at the Bridge of Remembrance, Cathedral Square, and the Margaret Mahy Playground. Then all three Woolston bands to perform together in the North Quad of the Christchurch Arts Centre 3.00pm-4.30pm. Free outdoor concerts.

To have your events listed in the Gig Guide and on the BBANZ Facebook page, email the editor at [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com)

# Free Workshops

As part of the AGM weekend, BBANZ will host a series of workshops on Saturday, 8 November covering various aspects of banding, ensuring there is something for everyone's particular strengths and interests. The workshops, including lunch, are free and open to everyone.

Email [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com) to register.

10.45 – 11.00	Welcome and introduction
11.00 – 12.00	<b>What's the Score:</b> David Bremner offers tips on preparing a score for a concert or contest.
12.00 – 1.00	<b>Lunch</b>
1.00 – 2.00	<b>Guest Speaker:</b> Join Jessica Palalagi, General Manager of The Arts Foundation, for an insight into the arts in NZ.

	Room 1	Room 2
2.00 – 3.00	<b>Brass Music in Schools:</b> Vickie van Uden will inspire you to get a programme running.	<b>'Know your value:</b> the vital role of treasurer in keeping the band going, with Carolyn Cordery, Adjunct Professor of Victoria's School of Accounting and Commercial Law.
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon tea	
3.30 – 4.30	<b>Promotion:</b> Cameron Burnett from the NZ Army Band gives tips on how to use social media to tell your story and boost engagement.	<b>Got Issues?</b> Leigh Martin explains how BBANZ has been helping individual bands with their training and development issues. Plus, the exciting plans for 2026 with an international guest.



## Bands on Air

Keep an ear on RNZ Concert from Monday, 17 November to Friday, 21 November, for highlights from the 2025 National Championships starting at 1.00pm in Days with Nick Tipping.

The broadcast will include selections from the A Grade section as well as solo performances from the Champion of Champions and 'An Evening of Melody'. Check [www.rnz.co.nz/concert/schedules](http://www.rnz.co.nz/concert/schedules) for details.

# NATIONAL YOUTH BRASS BAND

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# WAIBOP Contest

It's Saturday, 20th September, the third weekend of spring. The sun is out, and a strong smell of fresh coffee hangs in the air. Soon, brass band musicians, young and old, emerge from their cars and descend upon Southwell School Auditorium, in the heart of Hamilton.

This year, it's Hamilton's turn to host the Waikato Bay of Plenty contest. Some of you will be familiar with Southwell School, as it hosted the B and D grade bands of the 2019 National Contest. What a fantastic place! Plenty of room, and everything under one roof. Today is the Solo and Party contest. More than 100 entrants of all ages and abilities. We were delighted to have Grant Langdon and Riwai Hina as adjudicators. They had the unenviable task of critiquing more than 20 performers in both Open Slow Melody and Variation classes.

As in previous years, they were assisted by a local adjudicator. This year that was Sergio Marshall, who tackled everything from nervous 10-year-old Novices to exceptional Open class duets.

The excitement turned to nervousness and for some sheer terror, but they were all soon put at ease by our wonderful supervisors, Marilyn Edgecombe, Stephen Clayton and Tinka Adamson. And then it was done for another year. Time for coffee and a sausage roll!

The always reliable and beautiful playing of Lisa Marshall took out the Championship Slow Melody title, with the technically dynamic and always impressive Chris Lawrence winning the Championship Variation.

And as the sun set, the halls were cleared, the cafe restocked, ready to converge again on Sunday for the Bands' competition.

And so it began. Another beautiful Waikato spring day and the smell, you guessed it, of coffee and sausage rolls filling the air.

Today was special as we welcomed the next generation of superstars in the making, Tauranga City Auxiliary Brass, performing for the first time. We also witnessed another new beginning: Koru Brass Hamilton.

We all recognise a Koru, but what does it represent? It represents a fresh start, marked by personal growth and development, and unwavering hope for the future. How appropriate then that Hamilton Auxiliary Brass burst out of the shadows of their big brother with new musical director, Michelle Panko.

So, to the performances themselves. All seven bands impressed with very diverse programmes. The D Grade contest between Koru Brass and Kerepehi Brass was very close. Each took a share of the prizes, with Koru Brass winning the D Grade Aggregate by just one point.

It was equally close among the Open grade bands. Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass, under musical director Andrew Leech, and Hamilton City were separated by only the public appeal points, with a narrow win to Eastern Bay. There were very strong performances by Tauranga City and Matamata Brass, also.

And just like that, it was done. Special thanks to all our sponsors and advertisers. In particular, Hamilton Creative Arts Council and Creative Communities, Intawood Products,

Brain Bloom Room and Jobe Valves. And to all those who gave freely of their time to make the weekend such a success.

Next year we'll be in another corner of our region, the mighty Te Awamutu, to meet up with old friends and make fantastic music together again. Until then, what's next on your banding calendar?

Ngā mihi,  
Ross McAdam  
President, Waikato Bay of Plenty Brass Band Association



*Phoebe Jennens performing with the Kerepehi Drum Corps.*



*Tauranga City Auxiliary Brass*

## WAIBOP Contest Results

### Novice

- 1 Masi Funaki, Koru Brass Hamilton
- 2= Oliver Vikultseva, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- 2= Arlo Shallard, Tauranga Auxiliary
- 2= Jakeem Van Wyk, Tauranga Auxiliary
- 2= Ethan Klem, Tauranga Auxiliary

### Under 16 Slow Melody

- 1 Anessa Ginever, Hamilton City Brass
- 2 Lizzie Barr, Hamilton City Brass
- 3 Kiara Curtis-Apeu, Kerepehi Brass

### Under 16 Variation

- 1 Anessa Ginever, Hamilton City Brass
- 2 Arthur Thompson, Tauranga City Brass
- 3 Kiara Curtis-Apeu, Kerepehi Brass

### Under 19 Slow Melody

- 1 Pire Pio Wilson, Matamata Brass
- 2 Hoani Wilson, Matamata Brass

### Under 19 Variation

- 1 Pire Pio Wilson, Matamata Brass

### Intermediate Social Class

- 1 Sue Williams, 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 Andrew Leech, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- 2 Ian O'Malley, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- 3 Sarah Carroll, Te Awamutu GoBus Brass

### Open Variation

- 1 Cameron James, Hamilton City Brass
- 2 Mason Holloway, Hamilton City Brass
- 3 Danielle Oram, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

### Veterans Slow Melody

- 1 Richard Edgecombe, Hamilton City Brass
- 2 Kerry Wood, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
- 3 Keith Patey, Tauranga City Brass

### Veterans Variation

- 1 Keith Patey, Tauranga City Brass
- 2 Richard Edgecombe, Hamilton City Brass
- 3 Gaynor Krippner, Te Awamutu GoBus Brass

### Championship Slow Melody

- 1 Lisa Marshall, Hamilton City Brass
- 2 Cameron James, Hamilton City Brass
- 3 Andrew Leech, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

### Championship Variation

- 1 Chris Lawrence, North Shore Brass
- 2 Jeremy Thompson, Tauranga City Brass
- 3 Jeshua Oram, Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass

### Junior Duet

- 1 Pire Poi & Hoani Wilson, Matamata Brass

### Primary School Ensemble

- 1 Kerepehi Primary School

### Junior Ensemble

- 1 Kerepehi Brass
- 2 Hamilton Auxiliary Brass

### Intermediate Social Class Duet

- 1 Etuini & Lavinia Halapua, Koru Brass Hamilton
- 2 Ayesha Brooky & Josh Adamson, Matamata Brass

### Open Duet

- 1 Andrew Leech & Ian O'Malley, EBOP Brass
- 2 Ben & Jeremy Thompson, Tauranga City Brass
- 3 Chris & Arthur Thompson, Tauranga City Brass

### Open Quartet

- 1 Hamilton City Brass
- 2 Tauranga City Brass

### Open Ensemble

- 1 Te Awamutu GoBus Brass
- 2 Hamilton City Brass
- 3 Matamata Brass

### D Grade Ensemble

- 1 Kerepehi Junior Band
- 2 Te Awamutu GoBus Brass
- 3 Tauranga Auxiliary

# National Band of New Zealand

The Brass Band Association of New Zealand takes great pride in announcing the National Band of New Zealand for 2026-2028.

The recruitment process attracted an exceptional calibre of applicants, with more than sixty auditions submitted. From these, Musical Director David Bremner has selected a very strong band for the upcoming projects. The high standard of performances made for some very difficult decisions, and David extends his sincere congratulations to all who applied, for the quality of their auditions.

The band's first event will be to convene for a weekend early in the new year to record pieces for promotional use, as well as to start building a programme of concert music. There will also be promotional videos and brief interviews with selected members. This is to produce a full promotional pack for marketing purposes.

David and the band's management team are excited to get this project in place and are working on a three-year plan for the band. More information to come...

Musical Director	David Bremner	Wellington Brass
Principal Cornet	Anthony Smith	Woolston Brass
Soprano Cornet	Colin Clark	North Shore Brass
Solo Cornet	Chris Lawrence	North Shore Brass
Solo Cornet	Mason Elliot	Koru Hamilton Brass
Solo Cornet	Raynor Martin	Woolston Brass
Solo Cornet	Brendan Agnew	Wellington Brass
Repiano Cornet	Semisi Ahoatu	North Shore Brass
2nd Cornet	John Sullivan	North Shore Brass
2nd Cornet	Megan Gooding	Ascot Park Hotel Brass
3rd Cornet	Daniel Dagleish	Wellington Brass
3rd Cornet	Graham Hickman	Woolston Junior Band
Flugel Horn	Kevin Hickman	Woolston Brass
Principal Horn	Mike Ford	NBS Nelson City Brass
1st Horn	Hazel Wilson	Woolston Brass
2nd Horn	Anne Filimoehala	North Shore Brass
2nd Horn	Te Reo Genefaas	Hamilton City Brass
1st Baritone	Ross Gerritsen	NBS Nelson City Brass
2nd Baritone	Michael Robertson	NBS Nelson City Brass
Principal Euphonium	Luke Giri-Spence	Wellington Brass
Euphonium	David Mallett	Woolston Brass
Principal Trombone	Aishah Leitner	North Shore Brass
2nd Trombone	Jack McKenzie	Woolston Brass
2nd Trombone	Mark Bingham	Auckland City Brass
Bass Trombone	Ben Robertson	Wellington Brass
Principal Eb Bass	Nicholas Scott	Wellington Brass
Eb Bass	Nigel Seaton	Woolston Brass
Eb Bass	Jordan Seaton	Woolston Brass
Principal BBb Bass	Lachlan Grant	Auckland City Brass
BBb Bass	John Mason	Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
Principal Percussion	Rachel Thomas	North Shore Brass
Percussion	Keina Rollinson	Woolston Brass
Percussion	Grant Myhill	Wellington Brass
Percussion	Fraser Bremner	Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass
Percussion	Jeremy Richardson	Wellington Brass

# News from The Hutt

This September, Hutt City Brass took the reins in hosting the Wellington District Brass Band Association band contest. This year's district contest was a unique blend of musical prowess and variety, following the format trialled last year. Each of the six competing bands showcased their talent in a set of up to 50 minutes, featuring a major work, a solo, a sacred item, and a work by a New Zealand composer. The remaining time was filled with an entertaining programme, making for a day filled with diverse musical experiences.

WDBBA welcomed Squadron Leader David Gallaher MNZM as music judge and BBANZ Board Member Emily Richards as entertainment judge.

Four bands, including the newly promoted Levin and Districts Brass, competed in section 1. Section 2 saw the participation of Upper Hutt and Buzzing Brass. Despite some technical hiccups that prevented the visual presentations some bands had prepared from being shown, the day was filled with great music. The banding spirit was alive and well, with many people from across the region coming together on what was a typical windy Wellington day. The McDonnell Family Shield, a stunning new trophy crafted in pohutukawa by Allan McDonnell, was presented to the best performer of a New Zealand work in section 1.

Results:

## Section 1

Sacred Item: 1st Wellington Brass, 2nd Hutt City Brass, 3rd Levin and Districts Brass  
Entertainment: 1st Wellington Brass, 2nd

Hutt City Brass, 3rd Porirua City

Major Work: 1st Wellington Brass, 2nd Hutt City Brass, 3rd Porirua City Brass

Aggregate: 1st Wellington Brass, 2nd Hutt City Brass, 3rd Porirua City

Best soloist: Matthew Stein (Cornet), Wellington Brass

Best performance of a NZ work: Wellington Brass for *The Light of the World* by Dean Goffin.

## Section 2

Sacred Item: 1st Upper Hutt Brass, 2nd Buzzing Brass Wellington

Entertainment: 1st Buzzing Brass Wellington, 2nd Upper Hutt Brass

Major work: 1st Upper Hutt Brass, 2nd Buzzing Brass Wellington

Aggregate: 1st Upper Hutt Brass, 2nd Buzzing Brass Wellington

Best soloist: Jack McDougall (Euphonium), Buzzing Brass and Lance Kedzlie (vocalist), Upper Hutt

Best performance of a NZ work: Upper Hutt Brass for *Kinloch* by Jack Bewley

Following our successful organisation of the district contest, Hutt City has had a bustling October. We were honoured to supplement the brass section at the recent Orchestra Wellington concert, where we performed a suite from Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. This collaboration provided a wonderful insight into the world of orchestral music. After joining the orchestra

for two rehearsals, the performance at the Michael Fowler Centre, attended by a large crowd, was a resounding success.

The following day, the Salvation Army Cuba Street band joined Hutt City for a concert - this being the third year we have performed a joint concert, it has become a popular fixture in our annual calendar. The audience, filled with joy and camaraderie, loved the range of music performed; the crowd favourite was Goff Richards' *Breezin' Down Broadway*, with some audience members even conducting along from their seats!



Wayne Kedzlie from Upper Hutt Brass and adjudicator David Gallaher.



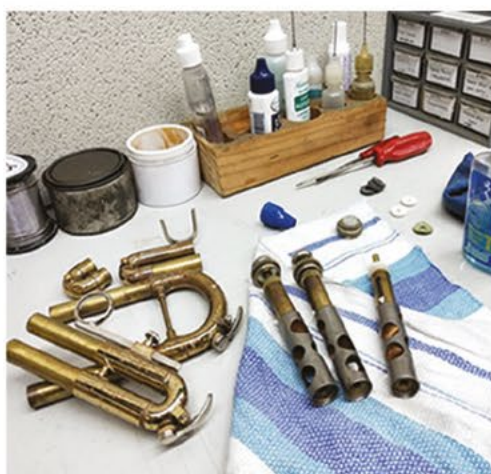
Hutt City Brass with Orchestra Wellington

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# NZ Test Works

BBANZ was delighted to receive almost 40 submissions to be considered for the test selections for the 2026 National Brass Band Championships. These were evenly distributed across the four grades, which was also pleasing.

Entries opened on the 25th of February, and composers had until the 31st of July to submit their works for consideration.

The music was anonymously assessed by three leading figures in the brass band world, who provided feedback on each piece before indicating which works they thought should be shortlisted for selection. Our international panel of experts was pleased to see such a high level of work being submitted, and they spent quite some time studying and assessing the works before creating their shortlist. Our incoming adjudicators then made their final selections from this list.

Panel chair **Professor Philip Wilby** expressed his enthusiasm, stating that it was “indeed very encouraging to see so much creativity and expertise on show for the future of brass banding in New Zealand”. He described the works as “fascinating and varied”. **Dr Tom Davoren** praised the “strong music in the field”, and **Dr Liz Lane** also shared her enjoyment of reading the scores and getting to know the music of our composers.

Here are the programme notes from the composers, and a few highlights from the panel’s comments about each of the selected works:

**A Grade:** *Taniwha* (Scott Kennedy-French)



In Māori mythology, taniwha are powerful, semi-aquatic, supernatural creatures that inhabit dangerous waterways, ranging from rivers and deep pools in caves to the

seacoast. They are mainly to be found in places with perilous or deceptive currents or waves. In some instances, they act as fierce guardians of places, tribes, or individuals, sometimes as notorious punishers of taboo-breakers, and sometimes as predatory monsters who eat men and abduct women.

A *sinfonia selvaggia* (wild symphony) for brass band. In three movements, played as a single sequence. The fast outer movements share elements, such as tempo and core thematic material, that unify the work, much like a rondo form (A-B-A). At the same time, each also contains and develops individual materials and character. These turbulent outer movements are contrasted with a slow, atmospheric, and lyrical inner movement that features extended rising solo voices and culminates in a rich, chorale-like conclusion.

**PW:** This score has many excellent qualities, being aurally fresh and harmonically inventive.

**LL:** Exciting. Nice shapes through the band. Lots of rhythmic vitality in percussion. Vibrant last movement with plenty of intricacy. A long, dynamic build-up to the unexpected end – skillfully done!

**TD:** More abstract than your typical brass band test piece. Motivic development is strong but non-traditional. Very strong piece.

**B Grade:** *Images* (David Woodcock)



The title *Images* reflects the work’s unfolding narrative: a sequence of contrasting musical episodes that evolve from a central motif. Though varied in character, each section is connected by a thread of thematic continuity, creating a vivid tapestry of sonic impressions.

The piece is driven by the rising and falling motion of the initial motif and its associated

upbeat. A strident, forceful opening is soon replaced by a period of calmness and serenity, abruptly disturbed by the timpani and low brass, ushering in a dark, menacing atmosphere that gives way to a mysterious and shadowy episode. A fanfare-like moment emerges, which evolves into a winter landscape. The original motif reappears in a fragmented form, with the menacing theme never far away, blending earlier elements into a turbulent and chaotic milieu. From this disorder springs a playful, even banal interlude, which morphs into a restless, nervous passage that assumes a demonic, dark character. A canonic section built over bare fifths evokes echoes of earlier music, only to be interrupted by a strident, sarcastic outburst. This is followed by a lighter moment, reminiscent of the earlier playful section, but which soon turns more sinister.

As the work draws to a close, the music becomes reflective and wistful, then brooding, before shifting into a brighter, more lighthearted mood, and ultimately to a majestic and climactic conclusion — a powerful resolution to this journey through sound and emotion.

**PW:** Immediately arresting. Pure musical shapes are attractive, with an interplay between solo material and massed sounds. This is an excellent submission, ideally designed for B Grade bands.

**LL:** Lots of dramatic contrast. Effective moments including texture, angularity and unexpected chords. Sophisticated approach to band writing.

**TD:** Very strong piece. Engaging motifs are developed well. Great contrasts in style in sections, but still holding continuity with the rest of the piece.

**C Grade:** *Where the Light Falts* (Kodi Rasmussen)



Unfolding across four interconnected sections, *Where the Light Falters* explores the tension between regimental drive, darkness, and fleeting glimpses of light. The piece opens with distant, precise snare drum semiquavers and a dark bass motif, which swell into a commanding brass fanfare. This triumph quickly unravels into a cynical, dance-like episode—a jester's tune weaving through moments of lyrical warmth in the horns. The dance transforms briefly into harmony and light, though its joy remains fragile. A reflective third section follows, almost sacred in tone. A cornet cadenza laments before a trombone's fierce reply, leading to a chorale-like passage driven by the euphoniums. Earlier themes re-emerge, now softened and luminous, building toward a hopeful, prayer-like climax. The finale unites all past material—the cynical dance, brooding motifs, and triumphant fanfare—into a dramatic conclusion. Yet its closing twist, a sudden plunge back into darkness, leaves one question lingering: have we conquered the shadows, or merely learned to live with them?

**PW:** This is an outstanding composition. It is perfectly designed for its purpose, fitting the best Section C bands perfectly. Equally, it will bring out the very best performances from its executants and be totally involving for the audiences. It has a variety of texture, with clean tutti's contrasting with eloquent solos and precious moments of chamber music. If its final pages were to be longer, I would not complain, and best of all, it is a complete experience, allowing the composer to make a perfectly judged personal statement. In short, it has everything that could be asked of a lower section score. Bravo!

**LL:** Interesting build-up at the beginning

to full band. Good use of texture and developing motifs. Nice reference later on to earlier material. Would be engaging to play.

**TD:** A good piece. Well-paced, the motivic material is convincing and develops well. The music has good clarity and is well organised. With solos and section ensemble sections, it should prove an effective test.

**D Grade:** *Elegy for Brass Band* (Fraser Bremner)

The composer, Fraser Bremner, wrote this work based on his own experiences with personal loss and his focus on the light at the end of the tunnel. In the Oxford Dictionary, the word *Elegy* is described as a poem of serious reflection and, sometimes, a lament for the dead. Although this piece of music isn't so much about the loss of life, it is focused on the loss of things that are meaningful to a person. The composer's focus for this work was on moments in his life when he struggled due to loss and how he managed to find positivity in these challenging situations.

*Elegy* was written for the Eastern Bay of Plenty Brass and their Musical Director, Andrew Leech, and dedicated to both Andrew & Bronwynne Leech for their years of continued friendship and love.

**PW:** This short score has much to commend. It shows natural invention and variety. This piece will be welcomed by performers, listeners and adjudicators alike.

**LL:** Engages the listener from the outset. Lovely use of lyricism. Nice how the return of the original theme at Fig. F is different. Lovely ending.

**TD:** Well-considered use of doubling. Full band scoring has clarity and consistency.

The phrasing/articulation is detailed, but not overmarked.

The call for scores extended to solo works for the Open Brass sections. Again, we were delighted by the number and quality of works received. As you will see from the list below, the majority of pieces are by New Zealand composers. For information on where to purchase the pieces, [use this link](#)

### Open Brass Solos, title and composer

#### Soprano Cornet

*Luciferous*, Steven Booth (NZ)

#### Championship Cornet

*Chaos for Cornet*, Fraser Bremner (NZ)

#### Amateur Cornet

*Two Contrasting Scenes*, Jack Bewley (NZ)

#### Flugel Horn

*Silver-backed Fox*, Andrea Hobson

#### Tenor Horn

*A Rhapsodic Spirit*, Grant Pitcher (NZ)

#### Baritone

*Pulcinella*, Philip Sparke

#### Euphonium

*Concerto for Euphonium* (Piano), Philip Wilby (**Movement 1 of Part One only**)

#### Tenor Trombone

*Caricatures for tenor trombone and piano*, David Woodcock (NZ)

#### Bass Trombone

*Basically Speaking*, Brian A Hodges (NZ)

#### E♭ Bass

*Variations on the Bear Went Over the Mountain*, Dale Vail (NZ)

#### B♭♭ Bass

*GBC*, Fendall Hill (NZ)



Fraser Bremner

# Next-Gen

*In this issue, Lachlan Spence interviews 18-year-old Aran Quaggin-Molloy, who plays for Hutt City Brass, Wellington Youth Orchestra, and the school orchestra, choir, jazz combo, and rock band at Scots College, Wellington. Aran has recently been selected for the National Youth Band for the first time.*

*What was your first musical experience?*

My first musical experience I remember is seeing my mum play trumpet in a Big Band, and I was always fascinated by what the drummer was doing. So, I asked my mum for drum lessons at the age of 7, and soon after, I joined Buzzing Brass. From there, I branched out from drums to percussion. After my first NSSBB course in 2022, I wanted to push myself and joined Hutt City Brass. The rest is history ;)

*Describe how musical ability runs through your family.*

My great-grandfather played the cornet in a brass band in the UK, and that's how my mum started learning cornet. My mum and I both now play in Hutt City Brass, and I'm sure it's the highlight of her week. Unfortunately, my dad is completely tone deaf and can't even sing in tune.

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

Some of my highlights include the first time I played tims on stage in *Dances and Alleluias* for Hutt City Brass at the nationals in 2023. I was also honoured to be able to play the bass drum part for *Tchaikovsky 4* with the NZSO at the Young Artists Showcase. A recent highlight would be playing *Lady Macbeth* with Orchestra Wellington at their most recent concert.

*What have you gained from being in the Secondary Schools' Brass Band?*

I think the secondary schools' courses have been a real highlight for me, as playing with so many other amazingly talented musicians my age has been so humbling and has also allowed me to make lots of lifelong connections with people. I then love being able to catch up with all these people at Nationals.

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

The NSSBB is a great opportunity for young players, and I'd strongly recommend it to anyone for many reasons.

*Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?*

I've met many great players along the way who've influenced me to try different styles, new groups, and to perform on stage to develop my confidence.

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



*band?*

The whole reason I will always prefer playing percussion in a brass band over an orchestra is the amount of experience you get. The sheer amount of percussion playing compared with orchestral playing is what makes it for me. I like to be able to play without having to count hundreds of bars rest and be able to play as loud as I want!

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

I'd like to thank my teacher, Thomas, who's always pushed me to be better and better every week, and my parents for driving me around to every rehearsal and concert and putting up with loud percussion in the house.

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

I aim to begin studying music at Te Kōki NZSM next year, but I still haven't decided if it's jazz or classical performance. But either way, I'll always continue with brass banding.

*Quickfire questions*

*What type of music do you listen to most?*  
Drum and Bass

*Other interests?* Making my own digital music on Ableton Live

*Favourite food?* Chicken burger

*Favourite place?* Isle of Man

*Favourite film?* Inception

*Favourite instrument?* Drum kit with double kick pedal

*Favourite piece of music?* *Test Drive* from *How to Train Your Dragon*

*What do you dislike most?* The rain and injections

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

My drum kit is a Pearl Roadshow with Zildjian A Custom Crash, Zildjian Sweet Ride, Zildjian Planet Z Crash/Ride, and Meinl Sand Hats. My marimba is the 5 Octave MK - Omnia by Monkman Studios.

# NYBB 2026

The NYBB management team is delighted to announce the details of the concert in Auckland scheduled for the end of January 2026, marking the first concert under the baton of Musical Director Mark Carter.

The concert is called 'Resonance', a very appropriate name as the band will be playing a number of works featuring the organ. Programme highlights include the classic brass band works *Cloudcatcher Fells* by John McCabe and *Tam O'Shanter's Ride* by Denis Wright, the Finale from Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No 3* (also known as the *Organ Symphony*) featuring the organ, and *Uranus* from Gustav Holst's 'The Planets' suite. We are also very proud to feature the 2025 Champion of Champions, NYBB member Keina Rollinson from Christchurch, playing the *Finale from Concerto for Marimba and Strings* by Emmanuel Séjourné, arranged for brass band by Brendan Agnew.

The concert is at 2.00pm on Saturday, 24 January at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. Tickets are on sale now via [TryBooking](#), and door sales will also be available on the day.

It would be wonderful to get a full house to watch this talented group of young musicians perform, and we hope to see as many of you as possible there!



## Tertiary Scholarship

We invite applications from brass and percussion players, either beginning or continuing tertiary study in Dunedin in 2026, to join Kaikorai Metropolitan Brass through our tertiary scholarship programme.

We are a friendly C Grade band located next to the University of Otago campus. The value of the scholarship is \$500 plus a subscription fee waiver. Up to four may be awarded each year. Successful applicants are expected to remain committed playing members of the band for at least the duration of 2026.

To apply, email [kaikmetrobrass@gmail.com](mailto:kaikmetrobrass@gmail.com) outlining your brass band or other musical experience and study intentions, along with a letter of recommendation and contact details from a musical director or tutor.

Applications close November 30, 2025.



## Planning to commence tertiary study in 2026 at Otago University or Polytech?

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**13 November,  
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**Mayfair Theatre,  
Dunedin**

Tickets available  
at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)

# More Free Workshops

The NZSO brass and percussion section is on tour in December throughout the North Island, during which David Bremner, NZSO principal trombone, is offering free workshops for bands before the concerts. Named *Brass Ready - the Art of Preparation*, David will share invaluable tips on getting mentally and physically ready for a performance. The dates and venues of these workshops are listed opposite.

Following the workshop, internationally acclaimed musician and conductor Gail Williams joins the NZSO Brass and Percussion for a celebration of all things brass in the concert programme *Summer Brass*.

After 20 years with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Williams is currently the Principal Horn of the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra, a founding member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and is in demand as a soloist and pedagogue throughout North America, as well as in Europe and Asia.

Summer Brass is a great concert for the whole whānau, featuring a mix of bold classics, fantastic fanfares and even the odd Christmas carol or two.

Tickets for Summer Brass are available [HERE](#)

*Members of the Auckland Seventh-day Adventist High School Band and Maamaloa Brass joined the NZSO Brass section in concert following a day of workshops held in Auckland in October.*



*NZSO Brass section workshop at Auckland Seventh-day Adventist High School.*

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**SATURDAY DECEMBER 13**

• TAURANGA  
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YATTON STREET, GREERTON, TAURANGA

CONTACT HELEN AT [BBANZEO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BBANZEO@GMAIL.COM) FOR MORE DETAILS





## BBANZ – Directory

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### National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

Musical Director: Linda Filimoevala, Auckland  
and Nic Scott, Christchurch  
Course Manager: Malcolm Barr  
[manager@nssbb.org](mailto:manager@nssbb.org)  
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**2026 National Contest** in Wellington 8 to 11 April  
Contact person Mike Sander  
[mike.sander@tpl.co.nz](mailto:mike.sander@tpl.co.nz)

# AGM and Conference

The 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Brass Band Association of New Zealand will be held in Wellington on Sunday, 9 November at the West Plaza Hotel, 110 Wakefield Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

Registration is from 9.00am with the AGM running from 9.30am to approximately 3.30pm.

### Conference

The 2025 BBANZ Conference will be held on Saturday, 8 November, with free workshops also at the West Plaza Hotel.

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### Friends of the National Youth Brass Band:

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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

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The solo and ensemble judges: Adrian Dalton, Brent Hoy, Cameron James, Dave Fiu, Dr Errol Moore, Grant Langdon, Jody Keehan, Joe Thomas, Justin DeHart, Kay MacKenzie, Keenan Buchanan, Lachlan Grant, Lachlan Spence, Linda Filimoehala, Michael Dowrick, Emeritus Prof Peter Adams, Raynor Martin, Trevor Kempton and Tyme Marsters.

Marching judges: Allan McDonnell, David Miller, Philip Spriggs, Campbell McKellar, David Gallaher, Nick Johnson, Shannelee Palenski and Dave Fiu.

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## 2025 National Youth Brass Band

Tyme Marsters (Musical Director) and Emily Richards (Band Manager). Section Tutors: Aishah Leitner, Anthony Smith, Cameron James, Kyle Lawson, Matt Toomata, Mike Ford and Roanna Funcke. Thanks also to Bethany Mitchell, harp player from the Christchurch Youth Orchestra.

Grants and Donations: Friends of the National Youth Brass Band, Pub Charity, Creative Communities Scheme from Ashburton District Council, Kiwi Gaming Foundation, Four Winds Foundation and Youthtown Trust.

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## 2025 National Secondary Schools' Brass Bands

Linda Filimoehala (Musical Director), Nic Scott (Development Band Musical Director), Malcolm Barr (Course Manager), Hayden Cullen (Assistant Manager) and guest soloist Luke Giri-Spence. Section tutors: Nicholas Garrett, Liam Wright, Ray Farrow, Leo Read, Jordan Seaton, Jeremy Richardson, Riwai Hina and Grant Myhill.

Grants and Donations: Pelorus Trust, Lion Foundation, Ministry of Education, Pub Charity, BBANZ Charitable Trust and "Seat Sponsors".

Logistical support: The NZ Army Band (Personnel), Royal NZ Navy Band (Personnel), Royal NZ Air Force Band (percussion), Porirua City Brass (percussion), Scots College, Wellington City Council and staff of Auckland Seventh Day Adventist College.



# 'Tis the Season

I say this every year, but it's hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us once again. A hectic time as work, school, and banding hype up before winding down for the summer. Most bands will be preparing for Christmas concerts, parades, and carolling. For many, carolling is not just a festive tradition but an excellent opportunity to be visible in the community and a primary fundraising project for the year. Your unique service brings the joy of music to our local communities, and we are proud of your contribution.

2025 has also been a busy and successful year for your Association. The year began with our highly talented National Youth Band providing the soundtrack to the Wallace & Gromit movie "The Wrong Trousers" to a capacity audience in Christchurch. In July, the impressive sounds of our country's best brass bands, and five bands from Australia, returned to the wonderful Christchurch Town Hall for the National Contest. In October, 70 young musicians rehearsed and performed in Wellington at the National Secondary Schools' Band training course. And last month, members gathered in Wellington



for our Annual Conference and 93rd Annual General Meeting.

The AGM and conference workshops are critical events in the banding calendar, and although "meetings" are not how everyone would like to spend their weekends, the robust and respectful debates in the meeting room and over lunch or drinks are vital in shaping our organisation's future. We shouldn't be afraid of differing opinions; instead, we should encourage all members to participate so we have a broad range of life experiences to draw on in our decision-making. This may become even easier as we adapt to the "new" technology of having our conference and AGM accessible online.

We must embrace the opportunity for change because change enables growth and keeps us relevant. We only made it to where we are today because over the past 145 years we took the odd risk and made constructive changes. Our National Contest and representative bands are all a result of continual evolution. As with life, not everything we try will succeed, but you won't know unless you try.

I want to express my gratitude to every player, tutor, conductor, administrator, supporter and volunteer for the work you do, which enables your band and, in turn, our organisation to prosper. We all have considerable demands on our

time, so I am deeply grateful that you generously gave some of this precious commodity to brass banding. I'd also like to sincerely thank the businesses and groups that have generously supported BBANZ's activities through grant funding, sponsorship and logistics. To the National Management Committee, thank you all for your unwavering commitment to the betterment of brass banding in New Zealand. Finally, thank you, Helen Lee, for all the support and assistance you give me and all bands throughout the country.

2026 will start all too soon for many as we prepare for an April contest and the start of the National Band programme. But first, if you find yourself in Auckland during your summer holidays, why not plan your travels to hear our best young musicians, the 2026 National Youth Band, in concert? I assure you it will be worth the effort.

From my family to yours, I wish you a safe and very merry Christmas, and I look forward to catching up with you all again in 2026.

Yours in banding.

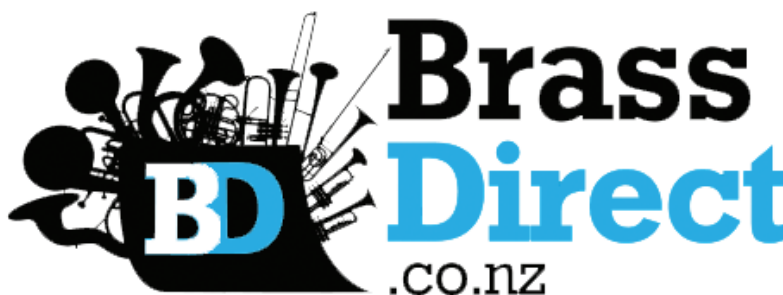
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# Champion Brass 2026

Wellington City is rolling out the red carpet for Champion Brass 2026, AKA the NZ Brass Band Championships. We're thrilled to have the event land in the Capital for what is shaping up to be a great and memorable Championship.

We're very fortunate to have legendary organiser Mike Sander leading our Contest Committee again, bringing his wealth of experience and trademark enthusiasm to the role. Mike is supported by logistical wizard Denis Spurdle, along with Aaron Llyod, Kate Pilkington, Martyn Smith, Rangi Hall, Robert James and recent recruit Melanie Jiang. This vibrant mix of seasoned pros and fresh talent means we're perfectly positioned to deliver an unforgettable contest experience.

Our planning sessions are held regularly at our favourite local haunt, Waitoa Victoria. We've made it our mission to leave no detail unchecked. And yes — in the spirit of thorough research — we've been diligently sampling Waitoa's finest beers and non-alcoholic offerings to ensure we can confidently recommend the best sips to our visitors next April. Cheers to that!

Wellington's iconic Michael Fowler Centre will host the A and B Grades, with the contest hub in the Renouf Foyer featuring trade stands, a large screen, and refreshments. Just a 5-minute walk away, the Wellington Opera House will showcase the C, D, and Youth Grades.

With the two venues so close together, it's going to be a seamless, music-filled experience right in the heart of the Capital!

The solo and ensemble events are being held at Te Whaea, the National Dance and Drama Centre in Newtown. This fantastic venue, a favourite from the 2017 championships, has everything under one roof and is just a hop, skip, and a jump from the CBD. With space for over 350 cars, plus a handy bus stop right outside, access to the venue should be super easy.

Need a caffeine fix? There's a coffee caravan on-site to keep you fuelled up, and if the line's a bit long, don't worry—some of Wellington's best cafés are just a short downhill stroll away.

The Invitation Slow Melody and Champion of Champions events will be taking centre stage in Te Whaea's main theatre. We're planning to have a bar open in the evening, so you can sip, snack, and soak up the sensational sounds in style. It's going to be a vibe—don't miss it!

A huge shout-out to WellingtonNZ for jumping on board as our core sponsor—their support is helping us bring the magic to life, including the crowd favourite Parade of Bands, which will be staged on the waterfront opposite Te Papa, just like in 2017. So, if you were there, you know it's going to be epic! And with April's more settled weather, we're crossing our fingers (and toes!) for one of those glorious, sunshine-filled, can't-beat-it Wellington days.

On Sunday, 12 April, there will be a Gala Concert at 2.00pm in the Opera House featuring The National Band of New Zealand plus a guest band. Tickets will be available

soon from Ticketmaster. Look out for more details coming soon to our social media sites.

For supporters and visitors to Wellington during the championship dates, the city has a treasure trove of adventures waiting for you. Check out the wonders of Te Papa and the Wellington Museum—they're packed with stories, surprises, and Insta-worthy moments. Fancy a bit of politics? Pop by Parliament for a peek behind the scenes. Nature lovers, don't miss Zealandia in Karori, where native wildlife roam free.

For a classic Wellington experience, hop on the Cable Car, take in the views, then wander back down through the Botanical Gardens—it's pure chill, and most importantly, downhill. Got a bit more time? Head to Weta Cave in Miramar for a behind-the-scenes look at movie magic or stretch your legs with a scenic stroll (or energetic jog!) around the waterfront. And of course, no visit is complete without exploring the city's vibrant shopping quarters, quirky cafés, and buzzing bars. There's never a dull moment in the coolest little capital!

More information will be available very soon, and look out for our social media posts for the latest updates.

If you have an urgent query, please get in touch with Mike Sander or Aaron Lloyd in the first instance, at [mike.sander@tpl.co.nz](mailto:mike.sander@tpl.co.nz) or [aarongrahamlloyd@gmail.com](mailto:aarongrahamlloyd@gmail.com)

See you in April!

**Absolutely  
Positively  
Wellington**

# Gig Guide

## Friday 5 December

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Kaiapoi Club, Kaiapoi. Tickets \$5.

## Saturday 6 December

North Shore Brass presents **Christmas @ Holy Trinity**, with special guest Tim Beveridge, 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell, Auckland. Door sales available or book [HERE](#)

## Sunday 7 December

Levin and Districts Brass 125th Anniversary concert, 2.00pm, at The Village Hall, Speldhurst Country Estate, Kimberley Rd, Levin. Door Sales only, cash or EFTPOS, adult \$20/child \$5.

Levin and Districts Brass 125th Anniversary dinner, at The George Café, Speldhurst Country Estate, Kimberley Rd, Levin. Fellowship from 4.30pm with dinner at 6.00pm. To attend, please confirm by RSVP to [secretary@levinbrass@gmail.com](mailto:secretary@levinbrass@gmail.com) ASAP.

## Friday 12 December

50's Up Brass Xmas Concert, 2.00pm at the Cashmere Club, Christchurch. Tickets \$5.

## Saturday 13 December

North Shore Brass Academy and Lake House Arts launch **The Great Christmas Concert** at 6.00pm in the outdoor gardens at Lake House Arts, Takapuna. Entry by Koha – gates open at 5.00pm

## A Christmas Celebration:

Auckland City Brass returns to St Matthew-in-the-City for a festive spectacular featuring tenor

Christopher McRae, at 7.30pm. Tickets via [Eventfinda](#).

## Sunday 14 December

**In Your Community: Town Takeover** by all three Woolston bands in central Christchurch,

1.30pm-2.00pm, at the Bridge of Remembrance, Cathedral Square, and the Margaret Mahy Playground. Then all three Woolston bands to perform together in the North Quad of the Christchurch Arts Centre 3.00pm-4.30pm. Free outdoor concerts.

## Thursday 22 January 2026

Lunchtime concert by the National Youth Brass Band, 12.30pm at Ellen Melville Centre, Cnr High St & Freyberg Place, Auckland CBD. FREE event!

## Saturday, 24 January

The National Youth Brass Band presents **Resonance**, 2.00pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell, Auckland. Tickets are on sale now via TryBooking at [www.trybooking.com/nz/BABD](http://www.trybooking.com/nz/BABD) and door sales will also be available on the day.

A ticket would make an excellent present for a band enthusiast.

## Saturday 7 February

Closing date for entries to the 2026 National Championships.

To have your events listed in the Gig Guide and on the BBANZ Facebook page, email the editor at [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com)



Gemma Lee

## NYBB 2026

If you are in Auckland in late January, come along to hear the 2026 National Youth Brass Band on 24 January at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell. This amazing venue will truly resonate with the glorious sound of brass and organ. The guest artist joining the band in concert is Gemma Lee. A highly sought-after pianist, music teacher, and arts manager, Gemma has recently branched out into organ study and currently serves as one of the organ scholars at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell under the tutelage of Dr Phillip Smith, where she is also a member of the Cathedral Choir.

Alongside her organ and choral work, Gemma is an accomplished pianist and chamber musician with a Master of Music (First Class Honours) from the University of Auckland. Her performances have taken her to internationally renowned venues such as the Goldener Saal of the Vienna Musikverein, St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, and the Sydney Opera House. She also coaches senior music students at Dilworth School.

Musical director of the band, Mark Carter, said, "It will be a great privilege working with New Zealand's finest young brass and percussion players on my first NYBB course. Our concert at Holy Trinity will be an event not to miss.

"Let's fill the venue and give these fantastic young musicians the audience they deserve. I'm putting out a challenge to everyone who will be coming: bring at least one person who has never been to an NYBB concert before. Get your tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BABD> and give the gift of music this Christmas."

## National Secondary Schools' Brass Band – Musical Director For the Development Band

Applications are invited from musical directors with the appropriate experience and motivation to work with our outstanding young musicians during their annual training course during the school holidays in October 2026.

The role will involve working with MD Linda Filimoehala to

- review all player auditions
- to assist with assigning the seating positions within the two bands
- to select music for the Development Band
- to rehearse the Development Band during the training course to prepare it for a concert performance.

To apply, please send a CV detailing your musical training and experience, notes of support from two referees and a cover letter to Executive Officer [bbanzeo@gmail.com](mailto:bbanzeo@gmail.com) by Friday, 30 January 2026.



# World-class Williamses

BBANZ is delighted to announce that Glyn and Helen Williams will be joining Russell Gray as adjudicators for the 2026 National Championships. This is not the first time New Zealand has hosted a married couple in the judges' tent. In 2019, at the Blenheim contest, Russell was joined by his wife Mareika Gray.

Glyn Williams was born in Aberystwyth, Wales, where he was introduced to music by his uncle and enjoyed playing euphonium with Towyn Silver Royal Oakley and Menai Bridge, all local bands.

Glyn was appointed as solo euphonium with the Foden's Band in 1995, contributing to many contest victories, including the Swiss Open, All England Masters, French Open, Brass in Concert, North West Area Finals more than 10 times, the titles of National and British Open Brass Band Champions of Great Britain, English National Champions and All England International Masters Champions. 2012 was the pinnacle of this contesting success, when Foden's won both the Open and National Championships.

Glyn has been awarded individual awards at all the major contests, including a 'Double' in 2008 when he was awarded the best instrument prize at both the British Open and National Brass Band Championships. He has been awarded the best Euphonium prize on no fewer than nine occasions at the Brass In Concert Championships.

After 20 consecutive years of service at Foden's Band, Glyn made the decision to move to South Wales and to join the Cory Band in the summer of 2015, beginning a whole new chapter in his brass banding

career. Since then, Glyn has been pivotal in helping Cory to make history in an unprecedented Grand Slam year of 2016, when the Band won the European, British Open, National and Brass in Concert titles. In 2019, Glyn was part of the Cory Band, which again achieved the Grand Slam and added the Brass Pass UK Band of the Year title to their accolades. In 2017, Glyn was awarded Best Instrumentalist at the European Championships, and more recently, he was awarded Best Instrumentalist at the Welsh Regional Championships in 2022 and 2024.

In January 2025, Glyn celebrated 30 years as Principal Euphonium player with both Foden's and Cory, an achievement he is very proud of.

Helen Williams began playing the cornet at the age of ten, encouraged by her father, who played cornet with Poynton Band, where she also played for 10 years.

She joined The Marple Band in 1986 as Principal Cornet, performing with the band in many concerts and contest successes, culminating in Helen becoming the first female Principal Cornet to win the 1996 British Open Brass Band Championship. She was also awarded the Stanley Wainwright Memorial Trophy as the day's best soloist.

In December 1999, Helen was appointed as Flugel Horn Soloist with Foden's Band, where she remained for just over 15 years, enjoying many contest and concert performances. Contest successes with Foden's were many, including six successive years as North West Regional Champions, English Nationals Champions, All England Masters Champions, US Open Champions, three British Open wins

and of course the historic "double" when the band also won the National Championships in October 2012.

The Summer of 2015 saw Helen invited to take up the Flugel seat at the Cory Band, subsequently becoming part of the unprecedented Grand Slam band, which won the European, British Open, National and Brass in Concert titles in 2016. She was also awarded the Best Instrumentalist Prize at the Open and the Nationals, Best Flugel Horn at Brass in Concert, and earned the accolade of Player of the Year from her peers at Cory. Topping off an incredible year of personal achievements, Helen was also named Player of the Year by 4barsrest.com.

Of course, history does have a way of repeating itself, and in 2019 Cory again achieved the Grand Slam, this time also adding the title of Brass Pass UK Band of the Year to their crown. Her ten years at Cory have coincided with the most successful time in the band's history, accruing three British Open, three National, three European and five Brass in Concert titles to her tally.

Helen works as Deputy Registrar at the Brass Band Players' Registry, which covers all competing English and Welsh bands. She is proud to be a regular tutor at the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and the National Youth Brass Band of Wales, and to have also taught at the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland and the National Youth Brass Band of Switzerland (where she was guest soloist in 2019).

Helen is proud to be an Adams Artist and an endorsee of Denis Wick Products.



*Award Recipients: (L to R) Shanon Kissell, Paul Hawkes, Vanessa Harris and Colin Hope  
In Front: Bella Kissell with the Horace Boyes Baton award.*

# News from Motueka District Brass Band

At the recently held Annual General Meeting of Motueka District Brass, two members were awarded Life Membership.

Paul Hawkes and Vanessa Harris were both awarded this honour for their dedication and continued work with the band. Brass Band Association Long Service Awards were awarded to both of them, as well as to Colin Hope and Shanon Kissell, whilst the band's own award for the Most Improved Junior Player was presented to Bella Kissell.

**Paul Hawkes:** 56-year Long Service award and Life Member

Paul started his banding career in 1969 in the Cornet section, until eventually he transferred to Eb Bass. In 1995, he "took the mace" as Drum Major, which he still carries. When not drum majoring, he plays Eb Bass

in the band.

**Vanessa Harris:** 40-year Long Service award and Life Member

Vanessa started in the Takaka Band on trombone in 1985. She remained with Takaka until she moved out of the area to attend Polytech in Nelson in 1992, at which stage she transferred to Motueka, remaining attached to her trombone. During her time with Motueka, she has fulfilled many roles, with her tenure as Librarian being her most significant.

**Colin Hope:** 30-year Long Service award

Colin's introduction to the banding world was via his son at the 1995 AGM, where he was elected to the committee as 'parent representative' and Drill Instructor. Since then, he has been integrated into the

band as a Percussionist, primarily as a Bass Drummer, with a smattering of other percussion instruments, whilst continuing as a committee member.

**Shanon Kissell:** 26-year Long Service. His banding life started with Marlborough District Brass in 1998 on the cornet before switching to Eb Bass. In 2009, he transferred to Nelson, where he remained until moving to Motueka in 2020. Whilst with Nelson, he played Euphonium, BBb Bass, and finally Eb Bass, which he still plays with us here in Motueka.

**Bella Kissell** received the Horace Boyes Baton for most improved Junior Player. Fourteen-year-old Bella joined the band earlier this year, playing baritone and is growing in confidence every week.



# A Tri-Region Triumph

From 17–19 October, the Nelson Marlborough West Coast Brass Band Association held its annual Youth Band Camp—an inspirational weekend that brought together the region’s young brass and percussion players for three days of music, learning, and fabulous fun!

This year’s camp, held at the Sport and Recreation Centre in Murchison, welcomed 30 enthusiastic students. Participants ranged from absolute beginners who had been learning for just four months to seasoned young musicians with 10 years of experience. They travelled from Greymouth, Westport, Lake Rotoiti, Nelson, and Marlborough, representing the full spread of the association’s diverse and vibrant brass banding community.

Ages ranged from our youngest player at 8 to the eldest at 19, creating a dynamic environment where new learners were inspired by older role models, and experienced musicians enjoyed the chance to mentor and support their younger peers.

The band was expertly led by Musical Director Elliot Gray, whose energy and rapport with the students proved exceptional. Elliot’s rehearsals were fun, focused, and motivating—quickly

transforming a group of mixed experience levels into a cohesive ensemble brimming with confidence.

Supporting Elliot was a talented team of tutors, Ross Gerritson and Sophie Ward-Murray from Nelson and Nathan Keoghan and Dylan Taylor from Westport. Together, they provided sectional coaching, encouragement, and musical guidance that helped each student—no matter their level—make real progress over the weekend.

No camp runs smoothly without good food, and this year’s catering duo, “Granny & Annie”, were nothing short of legendary. They kept hungry teenagers (and tutors!) fuelled with warm, hearty meals and plenty of home-style comfort. Their efforts were appreciated by all and became a talking point almost as popular as the music itself.

The camp concluded with a Sunday afternoon concert, proudly performed for an audience of 45 Murchison locals. The programme included a special highlight: Spencer Keoghan from Westport performed a euphonium solo with the band, impressing the audience with his confidence and musicianship. What began as a polite crowd soon warmed into enthusiastic supporters—

with calls for “more music!” Unfortunately, the entire repertoire had already been performed, so a repeat of the last item was called for. This was flattering proof of how impressively the band had come together in just three days!

Perhaps the greatest endorsement came from the students themselves. Even the youngest and most junior participants were asking if they could “do band camp again next weekend.”

The Nelson Marlborough West Coast Brass Band Association extends its sincere thanks to Pub Charity and Pelorus Trust for their generous funding support, which made the event possible.

Association President, Nathan Keoghan, expressed particular appreciation for the strong support shown from all regions and praised Elliot Gray’s exceptional leadership throughout the weekend.

With another successful camp now behind us, and many students already counting down, plans are already stirring for next year.

Till next year—bring on Youth Band Camp 2026!





WISHING YOU ALL A VERY

~ MERRY CHRISTMAS ~

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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NBS Nelson City Brass with the finalist of the Young Brass Musician of the Year.

# Tom Hutchinson in Nelson

Nelson played host to an unforgettable weekend of brass music as internationally acclaimed cornet virtuoso Tom Hutchinson brought his talent and expertise to the region. Hutchinson adjudicated the New Zealand Young Brass Musician of the Year competition, offering invaluable insights to the country's rising stars through lessons and workshops. The weekend culminated in a spectacular concert, An Evening with Tom Hutchinson, where he joined NBS Nelson City Brass at the iconic Nelson Cathedral to celebrate the rich tradition of brass music in the region.

Nine young musicians from around the country gathered in Nelson for the Young Brass Musician of the Year competition. Each finalist was required to perform two contrasting pieces: a slow melody and a technical work. The slow melody allowed competitors to demonstrate musicality, tone quality, and expressive phrasing, while the technical piece tested precision, agility, and control. This dual format allowed Hutchinson to hear over 15 minutes from each player over the afternoon. Thank you to Brendan Agnew and Zeb Wulff, who accompanied the soloists.

The finalists were Jonty Zydenbos - Soprano Cornet; Celine Wu - Cornet; Luca Cable - Cornet; Monika Duncan - Cornet; Emily Sullivan - Flugel Horn; Mia Yee - Flugel Horn; Amy Laithwaite - Trombone; Walter Hughes - Euphonium; and Logan Ready - Trombone.

First place was awarded to Mia Yee from Addington Brass, with Jonty Zydenbos (Hutt City Brass) second, and Logan Ready (Marlborough District Brass) third.

The highlight of Tom's weekend with the band was undoubtedly his feature concert in the Nelson Cathedral. His command of the cornet is well-known and unquestioned, but to hear it in person was breathtaking. His mastery of the technical aspects of playing, combined with exquisite control and sound, really makes him a complete package. The standing ovation at the end of the concert was a fitting tribute and recognition of his excellent performance.

Tom performed *The Paragon* by E. Sutton; *Don't Doubt Him Now* by L. Ballantine, *Tico Tico* arr. J. Iveson, *Fuego!* by P. Harper and *Mr Bojangles* arr. D Griffiths.

The final part of the weekend was a workshop run by Tom in the theatre at Nayland College. The focus of the session was exploring daily practise routines and the need to be consistent in what and how we practise, with the underlying message being that if we don't put time into maintaining control of our sound, flexibility and technique, we can't expect those things to be ready when we call on them!

Reflecting on the week, Tom said, "It's been an incredible week in New Zealand with Nelson City Brass. The band were such fantastic hosts and have some extremely talented players around the stand. They recognise the importance of developing youth not only within the band, but across the country, attracting players from all over to compete in the New Zealand Young Brass Musician final, hosted by the band. The competition was a huge success, and it will no doubt attract more young musicians, given the high standard of the participants. A special thanks must also go to Sheena Whitehouse, Nigel Weeks and Ross Gerritsen for their hospitality, friendship and the invitation to visit the band this past week. It's been amazing!"



# Next-Gen

In this issue, Lachlan Spence catches up with Kodi Rasmussen, who was interviewed back in 2018. Back then, Kodi was playing with Marlborough District Brass and the National Youth Band and was about to start studying trumpet at the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington the following year. And now, 25-year-old Kodi has had a composition selected as a test piece for the 2026 national contest.

*What are you doing now?*

Right now, I'm based in Wellington, working full-time as a composer while balancing a range of contract projects on the side. Living here has been great for my creativity, as it keeps me close to the ensembles, collaborators, and performance groups I work with. Alongside my full-time role as Resident Composer and Repertoire Co-Ordinator for the Wellington Chapel, I'm writing music for a variety of commissions, currently including concert works and a musical, and I'm also developing my composition portfolio. I also play with Wellington Brass, which keeps me connected to performing and the banding community. So at the moment it's a mix of steady writing, contract composing and arranging projects, performing with Wellington Brass, and ongoing creative work.

*What have been some of your musical highlights?*

Some of my biggest musical highlights include having my work performed by groups like the NZSO, NZ String Quartet, and Wellington Brass, and winning the Orchestra's Choice Award at the NZSO Todd Young Composer's Competition. Writing music for shows like 'Too Bald Clowns' and 'Delightfool' has also been a standout, along with returning to Marlborough Civic Orchestra with my recent piece *Tenfold*. Working with young musicians and my time teaching and directing music projects in Cambodia were also really meaningful experiences. Overall, the highlights are the moments where musical collaboration and community come together.

*What positive impacts has brass banding had on your musical success?*

Brass banding has honestly been one of the biggest influences on my musical journey. Playing in bands has kept me sharp as a performer, but it's also shaped the way I write music. You learn so much just by sitting in the middle of that sound: how parts fit together, how to listen properly, and how to work as a team. It's also opened a lot of doors for me. I've met great players, worked with notable conductors, and taken on projects I wouldn't have had access to otherwise. Plus, teaching and helping out younger musicians through banding has made me a better communicator. Overall,



brass banding has kept me inspired, connected, and constantly learning, and that's had a huge impact on where I am today.

*What would you say to young brass musicians who'd like to explore composition?*

I'd say absolutely go for it. The great thing about being a brass player is that you already understand how instruments breathe, phrase, blend, and balance, and that's a massive head start in composition. Start small: write for the people around you, your band, your section, or even just yourself. Hearing your music played live is the best teacher you'll ever have. Don't worry about making something "perfect." Just experiment, try ideas, and learn as you go. Ask players and conductors for feedback. Brass band musicians are usually more than happy to help. And listen widely, not just to brass music but to orchestral, film, contemporary, whatever inspires you. Most importantly, enjoy the process. Composition is just another way of expressing your musicianship, and the sooner you start exploring it, the faster your voice will grow!

*Tell us about composing "Where the Light Falters"*

*Where the Light Falters* is my first composed test piece, which an international panel has selected as the C Grade set test piece for the 2026 New Zealand Brass Band Championships. This was a personal piece to write. It explores that feeling of moving through uncertainty, the moments where things feel dim, heavy, or unclear, but you keep pushing forward anyway. Musically, I wanted to capture the quiet tension of

those darker moments, while still letting a sense of hope break through. The piece moves between fragile, reflective textures and more powerful, expansive sections. That contrast represents those shifts we experience when we're navigating difficult periods: the dips, the hesitation, and then the sudden clarity or resolve. It's also a piece that gave me the chance to lean into my orchestral style, with long lines, rich harmony, and a focus on atmosphere. Hearing bands bring it to life, especially the way they shape the slow, expressive sections, will be one of the most rewarding parts of the process. Overall, *Where the Light Falters* is about finding brightness in places where things feel uncertain and trusting that the light will return, even if it takes time.

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

Absolutely, I've been really lucky to have a lot of support along the way. First and foremost, I'm grateful to the teachers and mentors who've guided me, especially during my studies. They helped shape my musical voice and pushed me to grow both creatively and professionally. I also owe a huge thanks to the ensembles and musicians who have trusted me with their time and talent, from brass bands to orchestras and chamber groups. Having people believe in your music and bring it to life is something I never take for granted. My colleagues, collaborators, and the people I work with in Wellington have also played a big part in my journey. Their encouragement, feedback, and friendship have made the process so much more rewarding. And

finally, my friends and family, their support behind the scenes has been massive. They've been there through every late night, deadline, and new opportunity. Overall, I wouldn't be where I am without the community around me, and I'm really grateful for all of them.

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

Looking ahead, I want to keep growing as a composer while taking on projects that push me creatively. I'd love to write more large-scale works, both for brass band and for orchestra, and continue building a portfolio that reflects my voice across different styles. I'm also aiming to expand my work in media composition, whether that's for TV, theatre, or other collaborative projects. I really enjoy storytelling through music, so developing more long-term creative partnerships is a big goal. Another focus is helping strengthen the brass band community through arranging, mentoring younger musicians, and contributing new works to the repertoire. And with my partner and I planning to move to Europe next year, I'm excited to connect with new ensembles, new creative circles, and new opportunities over there. Overall, I hope to keep creating meaningful music, continue collaborating with great people, and find ways for my work to resonate with performers and audiences alike.

**Quickfire questions**

*What type of music do you listen to most?* (2018) Honestly, whatever is playing on the radio. But I'd prefer to listen to orchestral, big band and brass band works.

(Now) Surf, Indy and rock/pop.

*Other interests?* (2018) Composing/arranging music. Acting/performing. Video games. Being with my friends and family. (Now) Being outside and active with friends.

*Favourite food?* (2018) Sushi. (Now) Apple cinnamon crumble with vanilla ice cream!

*Favourite place?* (2018) My bedroom. (Now) The Wellington outdoors.

*Favourite film?* (2018) I don't really have one. I'd watch anything if it's not a horror film.

(now) *Hundreds of Beavers*.

*Favourite instrument?* (2018) To play, trumpet. My favourite in general: Clarinet, French Horn or Marimba. (Now) Piano.

*Favourite piece of music?* (2018) Mahler's *5th Symphony*. (Now) I'm listening to a lot of Ravel.

*What do you dislike most?* (2018) Nothing. (Now) Probably when Sibelius decides to crash, exactly when I'm feeling inspired. Truly character-building stuff.

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

(2018) Yamaha Xeno Trumpet with a 16C4 mouthpiece.

JP Cornet with a 4 mouthpiece.

Finally, an Eastman Flugelhorn with a 4FL mouthpiece.

(Now) Smith Watkins Cornet, 4B Dennis Wick Mouthpiece.

# Conference and AGM Summary

Now in its fourth year, the conference workshops are proving to be a useful event alongside our AGM weekend. This year, we started with a presentation from David Bremner, aimed primarily at musical directors, but its content was very interesting to band managers and members alike. David shared his philosophy on building a band both musically and culturally, setting realistic goals and how he prepares his players for performances.

In the first of the split workshop sessions, Vickie van Uden detailed how Woolston Brass runs its Wider Opportunity instrumental music programme in primary schools. Vickie is the driver of this programme, which has enabled over 800 young students to play a brass instrument. In the other room, Carolyn Cordery, Adjunct Professor at Victoria University's School of Accounting and Commercial Law, gave an informative presentation on what the annual accounts say about an organisation, protecting your assets, especially from fraud, budgets and opportunities to maximise revenue.

The group came together again to hear from Jessica Palalagi, the General Manager of The Arts Foundation. Some quick facts from Jessica's presentation include that 117,912 people are employed in the arts in NZ and that in 2024 the arts contributed \$17.5 billion to GDP. However, 50% of New Zealanders don't think the arts are for them because they're not creative enough, academic enough, wealthy enough or the arts are seen as intimidating. The Arts Foundation aims to break down barriers so more people can engage in the arts and creativity, and to rally funders to support this. The Arts Foundation runs the Boosted crowdfunding website, which is for arts projects only.

Back to split workshop sessions, where Cameron Burnett from the NZ Army Band gave a very practical presentation on how to use social media to tell your story and boost engagement, which had most people in the room changing their phone settings, ready to take their first reel to post. Next door, BBANZ Board member Leigh Martin outlined how the Association has been helping individual bands with their training and development needs. Whether this is through arranging a mentor, a workshop leader or some funding, the programme has supported 18 different events in the last year. The biggest takeaway from the session is that Leigh can also arrange support for your band.

Most of the workshops were live-streamed and can still be watched on the BBANZ Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/brassbanz/> - 4.5K have already viewed David Bremner's presentation.

Those who attended the sessions agreed it was a valuable opportunity to gain information and ask questions. But best of all was the opportunity to share ideas and chat with people in similar situations.

**Quick notes from the AGM meeting:**

This was the first year that delegates could attend the meeting online with the ability to vote and speak.

The 2027 National Contest in Invercargill will now be held from Wednesday, 14 to Saturday, 17 April. The reason for the change is to enable the National Youth Brass Band to be part of a youth festival sponsored by the NZSO featuring the NYBB alongside the National Youth Orchestra and National Youth Choir.

The location for the 2028 contest has yet to be decided because no applications were received by the original closing date. Following the extension of the closing date and opening of the location up to all of New Zealand, three expressions of interest were received. The Board will now engage with the applicants and will announce the location early next year.

In a break from tradition, the discussion on the Remits was uneventful and over rather quickly, with the only changes to the Contest Bylaws being that soloists at the national contest, other than in the Masters and Slow Melody events, can only play in one section. This change is a return to the status quo from 2020. Delegates did not support changing the performance of the Sacred Item to the Saturday nor the introduction of an Open Own Choice solo.

The 2026 Conference and AGM will be held in Christchurch on Saturday, 7 and Sunday, 8 November.

Helen Lee – Executive Officer



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## Free Workshops

The NZSO brass and percussion section is on tour in December throughout the North Island, during which David Bremner, NZSO principal trombone, is offering free workshops for bands before the concerts. Named *Brass Ready - the Art of Preparation*, David will share invaluable tips on getting mentally and physically ready for a performance. The dates and venues of these workshops are listed opposite.

Following the workshop, internationally acclaimed musician and conductor Gail Williams joins the NZSO Brass and Percussion for a celebration of all things brass in the concert programme *Summer Brass*.

The NZSO Brass and Percussion sections bring a bold, majestic style to Christopher Mowat's arrangement of Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*, Samuel Barber's *Mutations* from Bach and Henri Tomasi's dramatic, sombre, stately and theatrical *Fanfares Liturgiques*.

But don't forget the reason for the season! With Christmas just around the corner, nothing gets you ready for the festive season more than a Brass ensemble performing some Christmas classics! Summer Brass is a great concert for the whole whānau, featuring a mix of Baroque classics, fantastic fanfares and some Christmas classics.

The NZSO has a special offer for the Wellington concert on 5 December. A 15% discount on all tickets. Simply go **HERE** and enter "NZSO15" in the 'Enter Offer Code' box. Plus a Family Deal for four tickets (two adults and two children) for \$90.

The Family Deal is also available at other concert locations. Four tickets (two adults and two children) for \$90. **Book HERE**

## BRASS The Art of READY Preparation

**FREE WORKSHOPS BY DAVID BREMNER, NZSO PRINCIPAL TROMBONE**  
 GET MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY READY FOR A PERFORMANCE

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 9

• WHANGANUI  
 5:00PM, BRASS WHANGANUI BANDROOM, 7 PUKENAMU DRIVE, WHANGANUI

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10

• NAPIER  
 5:00PM, ASHER HALL, 1 DALTON STREET, NAPIER

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

• ROTORUA  
 5:00PM, LITTLE THEATRE 1-8 AMOHAU STREET, VICTORIA, ROTORUA

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 12

• HAMILTON  
 5:00PM, HAMILTON CITY BRASS BANDROOM, 245 CLYDE STREET, HAMILTON EAST.

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 13

• TAURANGA  
 3:00PM, TAURANGA CITY BRASS BANDROOM, 10 YATTON STREET, GREERTON, TAURANGA.

CONTACT HELEN AT [BBANZEO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BBANZEO@GMAIL.COM) FOR MORE DETAILS



05–13 December  
**Wellington**  
**Paraparaumu**  
**Whanganui**  
**Napier**  
**Rotorua**  
**Hamilton**  
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### National Management Committee

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### National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

Musical Director: Linda Filimoevala, Auckland  
and Nic Scott, Christchurch  
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**2026 National Contest** in Wellington 8 to 11 April  
Contact person Mike Sander  
[mike.sander@tpl.co.nz](mailto:mike.sander@tpl.co.nz)



Thank you to all those who contributed articles and photographs to  
*The Mouthpiece* in 2025.

Your input gave us a vibrant and interesting magazine worth reading.

A big vote of thanks to Rhys McDonnell, JP Musical Instruments and  
Brass Direct for sponsoring *The Mouthpiece*.

Wishing you all a safe, joyful, and restful holiday season.

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

### Life Members of the BBANZ

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

### Life Members who have served BBANZ

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



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