



Newsletter - December 2005

Geoff Guy Retires from banding

Geoff Guy, Midland Brick Brass's longest serving player, has decided to call it a day. Geoff joined the band for 6 weeks "just for the contest" some 26 years ago. He started on Bass Trombone, as a member of the junior band of the 11/44th Battalion of the City of Perth Regiment, got demoted to Principal Trombone & has seen out the last 10 years "back at the top" on Bass Trombone!

Geoff has been a stalwart of the band over the years having served on committee's for 21 of his 26 years. We wish Geoff & family all the very best in his retirement.



Ben Returns in 2006

Having spent the last two years touring the world with girlfriend Nat, Ben Bull has indicated his intention to return to the band in January of 2006. Ben, a former principal Eb Bass player with the band, has been working in the UK & touring to the US, Canada, most of Europe, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Mongolia, Siberia & Russia to name but some of the countries visited. Ben & Nat have always kept everyone at home abreast of their movements reporting back with regular & highly informative emails of their travels.

Recitals

During the month of November a number of the bands members who are completing studies at the University of WA performed their end of year recitals. Matt Walker (trombone) & Dave Timlin (trumpet) performed their senior recitals as part of their final year of studies receiving 85% & 90% respectively whilst Julia Conroy (trumpet) performed her third year recital. Congratulations to them, their efforts were warmly received by their supporters who thoroughly enjoyed their performances.

Forthcoming Events

7 th December	-	Carinya Village, Carol Concert, Plantation St, Coolbinia	7.00pm
9 th December	-	Herald Ave Senior Citizens, Herald Ave, Willetton	
10 th December	-	Channel 7 Christmas Pageant, Perth City	7.00pm
11 th December	-	Carols by Candlelight, Len Shearer Reserve, Booragoon	6.00pm
17 th December	-	Carols by Candlelight, Members Equity Stadium, East Perth	5.00pm

MBB & Perth Glory

As you will note from the above forthcoming events Midland Brick Brass will be performing at the Perth Glory Family Day and Carols by Candlelight. On Saturday 17 December (5-8pm). Proceeds are in aid of the Good Samaritan Toy Drive, entry is by gold coin donation. Don't miss this opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy a family evening with the Perth Glory players, staff & families, Steve Armstrong & the band.

John goes for Prestige

Principal euphonium John Kent tells us the story behind his latest acquisition:

Having decided to purchase a new Euphonium on my overseas trip to the UK, I did a little research before leaving home in order to make a decision on what instrument I should purchase. It quickly became clear that many of the top Euphonium players in the UK playing in Championship Section Bands were playing Besson Prestige Euphoniums. Some of them included world class soloists in David Childs (Cory Band), David Thornton (Black Dyke), and Steven Mead, who is Professor of Euphonium at the Birmingham Conservatoire. Steven Mead was in fact consulted about the design of the new Besson Prestige Euphonium, and tours the world as a soloist, as well as a clinician and instrument consultant for Besson.

As luck would have it, the YBS Band (formerly Yorkshire Building Society) were in Perth for a concert just before I left for the UK. I was lucky enough to have a chat with Morgan Griffiths (Principal Euphonium), who manages a music shop in Leeds.

So in mid September I went to his shop to try out the Prestige Euphonium. I might add at this point that I was lost in various parts of Leeds for nearly 2 hours trying to find the shop!!!! However, having finally reached the shop, I spent over half an hour playing the instrument, and was very impressed with its quality of sound and ease of playing. Decision made, and a good purchase price from Morgan as well. The cost was quite a bit less than any of the prices I had seen here in Australia.



The Prestige Euphonium I purchased is silver plated with various parts on the instrument being gold plated. One of the other reasons for purchasing this model, is that it has a tuning slide trigger. I believe it is the only Euphonium currently on the market that is fitted with one. Usually in a brass band, the only instruments that have triggers are Cornets and Trombones. The trigger helps in tuning, in particular for a euphonium the top Fs and Gs which can often be sharp. I have already used this special feature to good effect.

It has taken me a little while to get used to playing a larger bore instrument, but having played the new Euphonium for a few weeks, I can now make comparisons with my old euphonium. The valves on the Prestige Euphonium are much quieter and easier to push down, thereby making faster passages in the music easier to play. The range of the instrument is also greater. Pedal notes are not nearly as difficult to play on the new instrument, and the higher register is also now getting easier. I believe the tone of the new euph is superior to any other euphonium I have played. All in all I am very happy with my purchase of the Besson Prestige Euphonium, but there is a downside. When purchasing the instrument, I tried to get the model that had no wrong notes in it, but alas there were none in stock at the time!!!!