



Newsletter - March 2006

Busy end to 2006

The band enjoyed a reasonably busy end to the year. As well as fitting in the normal end of year festivities that individuals usually enjoy the band managed to perform at a number of Christmas functions. Early in December the band held its annual Christmas Dinner & Awards evening where the Bandsperson of the Year was



awarded to Solo Horn player, committee member & librarian Sarah Ross for an outstanding year of effort on & off the bandstand. The award for Musical Achievement was presented to BBb Tuba player Gary Beswick for his stirring performances throughout the year. Gary & Sarah can be seen above with President Allan Conroy (middle). The following week saw the band perform at the Carinya Village Carol Concert, in Coolbinia & at the Herald Ave Senior Citizens Centre in Willetton. The Channel 7 Christmas Pageant was the next engagement performed at by the band, once again a great performance in this very prestigious event. The following day the band performed at Carols by Candlelight at Len Shearer Reserve, Booragoon to a huge crowd on a bitterly cold summers evening. The performance was broadcast live on Sonshine FM & across the worldwide web. The commitments were completed on the 17th December where the band performed as part of celebrations for supporters of Perth Glory at Members Equity Stadium, East Perth.

Sponsorship Renewed

Midland Brick's association with the band is to continue following recent negotiations. The Midland Brick company has agreed to continue its sponsorship of the band for another two year term following discussions between the committee, the company & its marketing & promotional advisors 'Professional Public Relations'. Our thanks to Tom Guthrie & Penny Carrol at Midland Brick for their continued support.

Comings & Goings

As mentioned in the last newsletter Ben Bull has returned to the band on Eb Tuba after a two year break touring the world. The band also welcomes BBb player Andrew Walker (brother of Solo Trombone Matthew). Andrew joins the band from Bussleton while he is in Perth to study Sports Science at UWA. 2nd Cornet player Alexia Reeves recently married in early February & long time Repiano player Victor Moss decided to call it a day & has since joined the City of Canning Band. We wish Vic well & thank him for his service to the band.

Forthcoming Events

19 th March	-	Hymns of Praise, Winthrop Baptist College, North Lake	3.00pm
25 th April	-	Anzac Day Parade, Perth City	9.00am
30 th April	-	May Pole festivities, Austria Club of WA, Orange Grove	2.30pm

Life Membership for Tony

The first rehearsal of December saw a special presentation to former Secretary & Bass Trombone player Tony Turner who was awarded the status 'Life Member' of the Band.

Life membership has been awarded for the special service he had rendered the Band as an office bearer of the committee and, in particular, for his audio and photographic recordings of the Band. There is no doubt that this significant archive would not exist if it was not for his assiduity in recording the Band's performances at numerous concerts and all Western Australian State Band Championships from 1979 to 2002. Tony was presented with a life members badge, his name added to the life members board & as a token of our gratitude for his efforts he received a set of tin bandsmen which he promised 'would be going straight to the poolroom'



Matthew represents WA

The 32nd annual **International Soloist of the Year** or as it is more familiarly known in Australia the 'Ern Kellar' competition took place in early February at the St Mary's Band Club, NSW. WA was represented by state 'Open Champion' Matthew Walker (Midland Brick's principal trombone) the competition was extremely tight with representatives from each state of Australia, last year's Australian national champion & national champions from New Zealand & Great Britain taking part. The adjudicator was Ken MacDonald. The eventual winner was Paula Russell, a Cornet player with Brisbane Excelsior Band, herself, a former British Open Solo Champion.

European Tour

Matthew Walker (gee he's been busy), David Timlin (cornet) and Julia Conroy (cornet) recently returned from a three-week tour of Europe with the West Australian Youth Orchestra, visiting and performing in locations throughout England, France and Belgium. Performance venues ranged from the St Georges' girls' school in Ascot to the enormous La Madeleine Cathedral in Paris. They were also lucky enough to perform in Australia House, in London, and enjoy a post-concert reception there also. A highlight for many of the younger (and also some of the more experienced) players was the concert in Disneyland Paris. Non-performing visits to war memorials in and around Ypres, including Hill 62 and the Flanders Battlefields provided some historical perspective to the tour. Fortunately, Matt, David and Julia survived extreme cold, illness and the travails of a European winter to return to the sunny ranks of Midland Brick Brass.

To receive further information about the band contact the Secretary, Midland Brick Brass, P.O. Box 2165, Dog Swamp, WA, 6060 or e-mail on secretary@wabrass.com or visit the band website on www.wabrass.com