



Newsletter – July 2007

Australian National Championships



Over the Easter holiday weekend the band travelled to Melbourne to participate in the Australian National Band Championships. This was the first time in eleven years that the band had taken part in the competition. The band flew out on the 'midnight horror' on Wednesday & arrived early on Thursday morning. The day was

spent settling into the hotel & navigating around the fine city . On Good Friday the band travelled to the Defence Force School of Music Simpson Barracks, Watsonia to rehearse. The following day the band travelled to Ivanhoe & as part of the contest the band had to take part in the street parade of bands which involved all of the 53 competing bands. Immediately after the street parade the band headed off to the Ivanhoe Centre to make its stage performance of the hymn tune "Crimond" & set test piece Martin Ellerby's 'Terra Australis'. The band felt it gave creditable performances of both pieces. Returning on Easter Sunday the band performed its stage march 'Viva Birkinshaw' & own choice test piece 'Journey into Freedom' again giving creditable performances. Unfortunately the band was not placed by adjudicator Ken McDonald. Musical Director Gareth Jones said "that he was very satisfied with the band's performance in this closely contested competition". President Allan Conroy declared that the band would like to participate in the national contest more than once a decade, but the tyranny of distance and the associated cost makes this difficult. *Midland Brick Brass* is thought to travel further than any other band in the world to take part in its own national competition - "we even travel further than the New Zealand bands that take part in the Australian contest".

Classic Performances

ABC Classic FM played the bands performance of the hymn 'Crimond' on Saturday 28 April & march 'Viva Birkinshaw' & own choice test piece 'Journey into Freedom' on Saturday 9 June as part of the Australia wide 3:30pm broadcast of its popular radio program 'Strike Up The Band'. The pieces had been selected for airing from recordings of all A grade brass bands that participated in the 2007 National Band Championships held in Melbourne over Easter. The band is very pleased that the producers of 'Strike Up The Band' selected our performance pieces for broadcast, from the sixty four possible choices of recorded items available to them.

State Championships Cancelled

The WA State Championships to have been held on Saturday June 2 were cancelled due to insufficient entries being received by the state body WABA. WABA are now proceeding with plans for an entertainment type contest to be held on 15 September 2007.

Lotterywest Grant comes to fruition

Midland Brick Brass recently purchased a new Premier Concert Timpani to complete its set of 4 and a new Besson Prestige Euphonium thanks to the generosity of Lotterywest. Lotterywest are great supporters of local community groups and believe in the importance of providing funds for a variety of purposes to benefit the West Australian community.

The Euphonium purchased is the first Besson Prestige Euphonium to be imported into Australia since the Besson company was taken over by Buffet Crampon & moved its manufacturing centre to Markneukirchen, Germany. The new Prestige Euphoniums are all made using all new tooling as the old equipment was purchased by the makers of the 'York' line of imitation-Besson euphoniums. For those readers with access to the internet the following links contain fascinating reports on the production & testing of the new Prestige range of instruments.

www.patstuckemeyer.com/Besson.html

www.euphonium.net/articles/besson/besson.html

The photograph to the right shows percussionist Kym Reeves & Euphonium player Justin Freeman with the new instruments.

Midland Brick Brass would like to acknowledge the support of Lotterywest in providing the funds to help maintain the quality of instruments within the band.



Petes Big Trip

Longtime cornet player Pete Garnaut reports on his latest venture:

Hooray for the indulgent life of us retirees. Beryl and I are off on another trip, this time to the US. Prior to flying out of Sydney on 1st October, we plan to leave Perth around 7th July, travelling North by car (with caravan in tow) on the 'inland' road, visiting towns such as Cue, Meekatharra, Newman and then on to the coast road, not stopping too long at towns such as Halls Creek etc.!!! We intend making our way right through to Darwin at a leisurely pace and then South again doing a left turn just North of Tennant Creek on the way to the Queensland towns of Mt. Isa and Cloncurry. Then heading South to visit Winton and Longreach (the home of the Qantas museum). While all of the above travel does involve a lot of quite ordinary boring landscape, I find there is also natural beauty in the vast open spaces and of course the amazing national parks such as Karijini and Litchfield. Neither of us have been to Brisbane, so we hope to spend several days in this lovely city. From there we plan to head further South, leaving car and van with friends near Maitland (no more floods I hope).

Following the eighteen hours or so flights to LA and Chicago, then three hours drive West to Davenport, we are looking forward to sharing good times with our son Glenn, daughter in law Debbie and their four teenagers. Before the weather closes in for winter, we hope to do some touring by road and/or rail into Canada and then the West Coast and wherever else in the US time and money permit. Christmas will no doubt be very cold and possibly our very first white Christmas.

The earliest possible flight back to Sydney was 31st January. and due to our home being occupied by our eldest daughter Dayle and family until mid 08, we will fly home for a fortnight (thanks to frequent flyer points) before returning East to continue our caravanning for a few more months.

We are both very thankful for good health and still being able to enjoy travelling.

Best wishes to Pete & Beryl we wish them a Bon Voyage & safe return

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 @wabass.com](mailto:secretary@wabass.com) or visit the band website on www.wabass.com