



Newsletter - March 2008

WA Festival of Brass



The inaugural WA Festival of Brass took place on November 10 2007 at the Swan Districts Football Club, Bassendean. The event featured eight of WA's local brass bands in a format that gave some bands a chance to perform in a 'traditional style' contest comprising Hymn, March and Own Choice Test Piece & then later to perform in an 'Entertainment' type competition. The competition was run on a handicap basis to try to encourage bands of all standards to participate. It was particularly satisfying for the organisers to see this many bands taking part as recent State events had not been well supported. Midland Brick Brass, Canning City, Melville AFA and City of Belmont took part in the 'traditional style' contest & were joined in the Entertainment Competition by Town of Victoria Park Brass and Challenge Brass with The City of Perth Band and The Silver Threads Band taking part for performance opportunity only. MBB took out the best March with Wilfred Heaton's *Praise* & also the best own choice piece with Peter Grahams *Essence of Time* but with a greater aggregate score the City of Canning Band took home the top prize of the Westminster London Bb Cornet valued at \$1,850 which was offered by event sponsors MusicInstruments. So, plans are underway for the 2008 event to be held later in the year, with the hope that more of WA's bands including those from the country areas who were unable to take part will be able to schedule the event into their calendars. For a full retrospective of the day those with internet access can see Peter Younghusband's report on the 4 Bars Rest website at <http://www.4barsrest.com/articles/2007/art759.asp>

Another 'Saturday Arvo at the Club'

The band is planning to hold another in the series of its 'Saturday Arvo at the Club' concerts. The last concert was a great success with a larger than anticipated audience turning up for a wonderful afternoon of music, refreshments & entertainment. In addition to the music performed by the band the audience will this time be entertained by 2 quartets who will be representing the band at the National Championships to be held in Brisbane over the Easter weekend. Join us on Saturday May 10 at the Lake Monger Rec Centre.

Forthcoming Events

8 March	-	Pickering Brook Country Club	2.30pm
20-25 March	-	National Band Championships, Brisbane	
25 April	-	ANZAC Day, St Georges Terrace, Perth	9.00 am
10 May	-	Saturday Arvo at the Club, Lake Monger Rec Centre, Gregory St,	5.00 pm
24-25 May	-	WABA State Championships, TBA	TBA

Christmas Dinner & Awards



The band held its annual dinner & awards evening on Friday December 14 2007 at the Herdsman Tavern just a stones throw from the bands' rehearsal venue. As is the tradition presentations were made to the Band Person of the Year & an award for Musical Achievement throughout the year. The recipients this year were Mike Willett (bandperson) & Ben Bull (musical achievent) pictured right. Guests included life members & former players Geoff & Don Guy, Bob Lafferty & their wives, Roland & Kay Law-Davies, club barman Joe Spencer & wife Dorothy & special guests Derek & Muriel Ross who were given thanks for their efforts throughout last year assisting with the Saturday Arvo at the Club concert & with the renovations to the new storeroom.

New Purchases

The band has recently sort to renew some of its instrument stocks. After obtaining a number of quotaions & researching prices from suppliers overseas two new Yamaha Xeno cornets were purchased from Brass Music Specialists in Brisbane. The plan is to purchase a further 2 or 3 later this year to enable the whole of the front row cornet rank to be playing on the same instrument. The existing front row instruments will be used to replace older stocks amongst the back row players & any instruments which become surplus used to offset the cost of the new purchases. It is something of a departure from the bands previous policy of purchasing Boosey & Hawkes instruments but because the the new Xeno range of Yamaha's has received very positive reviews around the world & its pricing was very attractive it was decided to give them a try.

For a very detailed & enlightening review of the instrument visit the attached link: <http://www.4barsrest.com/reviews/products/inst025.asp>



Stolen

On Christmas eve the bands Flugel player, Julia Conroy, had her Yamaha Xeno Bb trumpet stolen from the boot of her car in Northbridge. If you should by chance happen to see a silver Yamaha Xeno Bb trumpet with the serial number **455843** being sold cheaply either privately, in a music store or pawnbrokers please notify the police. About 3 weeks prior to Christmas another trumpet was stolen from a car in Sorrento. This was a Giardinelli 512, and is distinctive as it is a black trumpet. It was in a green hard gig bag. The instrument belongs to Stuart Ferguson, a relatively new arrival to Perth & former member of the Darebin City Band. Stuart can be contacted by phone on 0413 222 768 or email stuart.ferguson@daimler.com

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