

Award Winners

The band held its annual dinner and award presentation on Saturday 12 December at the home of Secretary, Sarah Draper. The traditional presentations were made and the recipients this year were Matthew Walker (principal trombone) for Musical Achievement who received the Edward Martin Trophy. (photo below left with Matt receiving the trophy from MD Alan Lourens and President Mike Willett) The recipient of the Allan Conroy Trophy for Best Bandsman was Sarah Draper who has been responsible for a tremendous amount of work for the band in the past year (photo below right). This year Martin Bowker was made a Life Member of the band. Martin has contributed over 25 years of service to the band, many of which have been spent serving as an active committee member. (pictured below centre)



Lotteries Grant

The band was very fortunate to receive confirmation that our application for assistance with purchasing some new instruments had been approved just before Christmas. This will enable the band to purchase 5 new Xeno Bb Cornets similar to those purchased in 2007. Over the coming months we will be assessing the condition of a number of instruments within the bands stocks with a view to replacing those which have seen better days. Our thanks go to Lotterywest for their assistance with the grant.

Sad Loss



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of former President and percussionist Allan Conroy. Allan, a member of the band for over 25 years and President for 20 years, had been suffering with Motor Neurone Disease for the past 7 years. Our sympathy and thoughts go to wife Alison and daughters Louise and Julia. His contribution to the band was tremendous and his guidance and leadership will be sorely missed.

Another passing to be noted is that of Ken Leek who over recent years became a great supporter of the band. Ken was generous enough to offer to assist the band by covering the expense of flying the 4 tubas to the National Band Championships in Hobart, 2010.

Forthcoming Events

21 March	-	Dress Rehearsal for Nationals – Venue – TBA	TBA
27 March	-	City of Joondalup Festival Parade, Joondalup	4.00 pm
31 March	-	Australian National Band Championships, Hobart	
25 April	-	Anzac Day, St Georges Terrace, Perth	9.00 am
May	-	Joint Concert with WASWE – Venue - TBA	TBA
5-7 June	-	WA Sate Band Championships – Scotch College	TBA

More hatches and a wedding

Since our last newsletter we have had another batch of births to band members. Dave Timlin (solo cornet) and wife Vicki welcomed their son Will in October. Tim Jewell (soprano) and wife Inga were blessed with their daughter Hillevi in November. Just before Christmas Jason Payne (bass trombone) and wife Neilina welcomed twins Caitlin and Abbey somewhat earlier than expected. Both girls are currently in KEMH and are doing well. Again congratulations to all our new parents

In late September we also had a wedding in the band with the marriage of Jen Key (second cornet) to Dermott Blackweir. A number of band members provided music during the ceremony which took place at Lake Monger. Our best wishes go to Jen and Dermott for their future happiness together.



Nationals 2010

Preparations continue for the band to participate in the 2010 National Championships. The event is to be held in Hobart over the Easter weekend. The music to be performed for the 'Set Test' is Extreme Makeover by Johan De Mej. It really is a testing piece for all bands with every section required to stretch its abilities in terms of range and technique. It is certainly the most challenging piece the band has ever had to perform. As our 'Own Choice' piece the band will play The New Jerusalem by Philip Wilby. This was Wilby's first brass band work and features an offstage cornet solo (ably played for us by Dave Timlin). As our Hymn Tune the band will perform Melita – The ANZAC Hymn arranged by MD Alan Lourens and also a March which as yet, has not been selected. The band will also have to participate in the Parade of Bands.

Evan Williams

Members of the band were quick to rally around former member Evan Williams when the shocking news of events of the WAYO tour to Singapore and Hong Kong was received. Evan (formerly 2nd trombone) left the band just prior to the WAYO tour as he was unable to commit to the planned rehearsal schedule we had set in place. We hope Evan makes a full recovery in the coming weeks and our sympathy goes to the family of Oboe player Daniel Hall who tragically passed away.

To receive further information about the band contact the Secretary, RASWA Brass, 24 Woodhams Street, Willagee, WA 6156 or e-mail on secretary@wabgrass.com or visit the band website on www.wabgrass.com

Banding makes Friends by Tony Turner, retired secretary.

Playing in a brass band opens up some surprising possibilities.

For Norwegian Anniken Ødegård, it meant coming to Perth from Norway in 2005 to complete her final two year nursing degree.

Anniken, a fine flugel and cornet player had played with the Stavanger Band under Dr David King at the 2004 British Open Brass championships Gala Concert. Their contribution, to quote the DVD: “played entirely without music, and with some of the most complicated choreography you could wish to see delivered with the precision a military band would have been proud of, the Norwegians brought the house down with a program that showcased their immense talent as players and musicians”.

Keen to continue playing whilst in Australia, Anniken contacted us through our website and was welcomed into the Band.

As Band representative I met Anniken and her three fellow students at the airport and introduced them to Australian ways with a quick tour of Kings Park, lunch at home and delivery to their accommodation. Later Anniken came to spend her first eight months of 2005 in Perth with Carol and myself, and is now considered to be an “honorary daughter”. With us she happily kept “Norwegian Time”, studying through the day and “internetting” with friends, family and bandspersons late into the evening and early morning.

Having completed her nursing course and worked at RPH for a year, Anniken returned home in 2007, having played with the Band in both the State and National Championships.

And this is when our surprising possibility came about. Back in Norway, Anniken’s long time partner, Rolf, took her to the top of one of the many local peaks, got down on one knee, proposed and was accepted. That’s how it’s done in Norway.

An invitation for us to attend the wedding followed. Accommodation before the wedding was arranged with a wonderful couple, Anniken’s previous teachers, and afterward with her parents in the delightful town of Andalsnes situated at the end of the Romsdals Fjord surrounded by some of Norway’s finest mountain scenery. The countryside best described as “England with Alps”.

We were overwhelmed by the welcome and hospitality we received, made so easy by the wonderful command of English all Norwegians have.

On the day before the wedding a hike was arranged to a viewpoint overlooking the valley leading to the town of Åndalsnes. The climb was mostly in mist, cloud and rain. As we arrived at the viewpoint, shrouded in mist which prevented us seeing the valley below, in the distance vague images of people began to appear; trolls we wondered? Suddenly a beautiful cornet fanfare and melody broke out through the mist. Anniken’s father had brought his instrument up with him to serenade the guests on their climb – MAGIC!!

Music featured in all the wedding arrangements. At the church ceremony, the organ was accompanied by a group of brass playing friends, Anniken played a surprise solo tribute to her husband Rolf on flugel during the ceremony and whilst waiting for the couple to arrive at the reception we were entertained by a fine little 16 piece “scratch band” of relatives and friends which included Anniken’s parents. Later at the reception Anniken joined her father and step-sister with more music making. Anniken and Rolf’s 60th birthday present to her Dad was a guided climb to the top Romsdalshorn. They took their wedding clothes with them in rucksacks for the breathtaking photographs you can see by going to:

<http://www.terjeaamodt.com/blog/2009/08/20/bryllup-andalsnes-stavanger/>

Even if you don’t read this article, don’t miss going to this website for the most stunning wedding photographs ever!

We continued to explore Scandinavia for the next three weeks, all beautiful, but Norway and the Norwegians won our hearts – and all due to banding!

