

THE POSTHORN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TRUSTS WAITAKERE BRASS

National Contest

2011 saw the New Zealand Brass Band Championships on our own doorstep in Auckland this year. The Bruce Mason Centre played host to bands from across the country and around the world for five days of brass band competition which was truly A Festival Of Brass

The Band performed exceptionally in the Hymn and Test on day one, which the results later showed had us up there with the best of them. After the own choice on day two and some spectacular playing from the other bands the final scores on the doors saw us placed fifth overall out of a strong field in the A grade competition. The winning band was Woolston Brass from Christchurch who continue to dominate the contest rankings and are a formidable team to beat, well done to Woolston and all the other competing bands.

One a sad note, 2011 was the last nationals in New Zealand and indeed last performance with the band for our Soprano Cornet Fendal Hill. Fendal has relocated with his family across the ditch to the Sunshine Coast in Australia after being offered a wonderful career move by his employer. Fendal will be sadly missed but such an exciting time ahead for him and we managed to fit a farewell dinner in the middle of contest so we could celebrate his time with the band.

As we were on home ground this year we were fortunate enough to have lots of our supporters in the audience which was great and we were thrilled to receive one supporters feedback which we wanted to share with you below:

Feedback From The Stands

After listening vigilantly to seven marvelous bands playing their interpretations of the same set test piece (as well as different hymns of course) I felt in a great position to make a personal judgment on the seventh: The Trusts Waitakere Brass Band. As it transpired, I had also been sitting in an excellent position to unexpectedly gauge the body language of the audience – something the adjudicator in the ogre-like black tent could not do. Even assuming that many of the individuals in the audience were potentially biased to one or other of the bands competing I became acutely aware of a significant degree of increased audience attention the moment Steven curved his expressively precise right hand down, three times, to conduct the first three focusing chords – those three chords had also set the scenes for previous performances but, these three were manifestly different. Their precision seemed to have signaled to the audience this band meant trouble for previous ones. Not a head, not a shoulder, not an arm moved – audience transfixed – and for some time! Now, I don't pretend to be able to "judge" technical playing at this level but I'm quite sure many in the audience were and, whereas previous performances elicited a degree of restlessness amongst the audience, now they were locked to the show and, what's more, stayed that way to the last note.

I don't doubt following performances were just as great, indeed, some must have been technically better – I wasn't able to stay – but, for a purely attention-seeking score: 100/100 TWBB - well done!

Anon (letter received from one of our supporters who was in the audience on day one of the contest)



Contest Moments

We asked the band to share some of their favourite contest moments.

Players reflect

Without a doubt my outstanding memory of the contest was Fendal in tears at the end of the Friday performance as we stood up on stage, part relief after a huge piece for him, part sadness as his last contest as he moved to Oz, part relief I'm sure of the commitment he had made to band whilst balancing his family needs for the previous couple of months.

Matt Booth (solo cornet)

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It would have to be playing with Waitakere Brass at an A grade contest sitting alongside my father Malcolm Gapes!

Althea Walker (Eb Bass)

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A contest moment for me was having Althea on the A grade contest stage in my band with me!

For years she had said she wasn't good enough but thanks to Steven's encouragement she gave it her best shot!

The look on her face as we came off-stage on the Friday night spoke volumes!

A very special milestone for us both!

Malcolm Gapes (Eb Bass)

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The Band would like to thank all our supporters who volunteered as official volunteers at this years contest. A huge thank you goes to:

Michele Mill
Bronwynne Hildreth
Ken Young
Peter Vellekoop
Althea Morley

TOYS FOR KIDS CONCERT SUNDAY 11TH SEPT NEW START TIME 2PM

A Toy Is Just The Ticket

Due to popular demand our annual **Toys for Kids Concert** is back at Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre for 2011 and at a **new earlier time of 2pm**. As you read this there will be less than a week to go before the concert, to be held on **Sunday 11th September** at the iconic theatre venue.

"We're going to have some fun and surprises for our audience this year. Plus we have some cool new music for the kids including Cars the Movie theme and High School Musical" concert organiser, Tracey Ashton, said.

We asked for feedback on what you liked about this event and what we could improve and based on that feedback we are back at Glen Eden Playhouse as the drama of being in the theatre was a hit with the majority of you. We have also changed the start time to the slightly earlier time of 2pm. The children's afternoon tea is still firmly on the agenda but will be held after the band have played i.e. shorter program and no interval which was suggested by many of you, especially those with young children.

There will be raffle with some great prizes donated by local businesses tickets are \$5 for 3 tickets and can be purchased on the day. We encourage children to come in fancy dress as there will be a prize for the best dressed boy and girl. These prizes have been kindly donated by Xpress Stationery on Veronica Street in New Lynn. If anyone is looking for somewhere to buy their donation Diane stocks a wide range of children's books and craft items which would be great for the children in the hospital. The nurses on the wards have asked if we can mention that they always have a need for bubbles and stickers as these are used every day when children are undergoing treatments.

Entry as always is by a donated toy, which the Band will pass on to children at Waitakere Hospitals Children's Unit.

The Band is pleased to acknowledge the support of our sponsors who without their support we would struggle to host this event every year. This years sponsors include; The Lauren & Delwyn Project, My Canvas, Xpress Stationery and Auckland Cake Art.

The Trusts Waitakere Brass Band presents

**Toys for Kids
Concert**

Sunday 11th September 2011
2pm start
Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre
15 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

Entry Fee
Please bring a toy
donation on the day



- ✦ Fab raffle prizes
- ✦ Free afternoon tea for the kids
- ✦ Prize for best kids fancy dress
- ✦ Come and listen to the band play all your favourite music

♥ All toys donated to Waitakere Hospital Children's Unit ♥



Canvas
Bringing your photo memories to life on canvas



the lauren + delwyn project



THE TRUSTS WAITAKERE BRASS BAND
Working for you



Enquiries please contact tracey@waitakerebrass.com | Visit www.waitakerebrass.com

Waitakere Youth Band Workshop with Top Brass.

The bandroom was filled with excitement when Andy McDonald from Wingates Band in the UK was in town.

Andy who is one of the UK's most talented cornet players took some time out of contest preparation to deliver a brass workshop to our youth band kids which went down a treat.

Covering all aspects of brass playing Andy took our young players through a series of sessions to help them with their technique and share a few tricks of the trade.

Andy has 15 years experience as a qualified music teacher with the Salford Music Service where many of his former students have gone on to play for some of the worlds top bands.



Interview with The Langdon 4

Banding runs in the family for some of our players and who better to profile in this issue than the Langdon family. Grant, Lynne, Scott and Steven are all members of the band. Read to find out about the Langdon family musical journey which brought them to our band room.

Grant started his musical life as a 7yr old in a brass band on Tenor Horn, rapidly growing into a Euphonium. At college he started trumpeting as well, playing in school and community groups.

Grant left school to join the RNZ Navy Band. During, and after, this time Grant played in many Big Bands, Orchestras, and Wind Bands. One of which, Auckland Youth Symphonic Band, was where he met Lynne, who was playing the Euphonium. Grant swapped from Trumpet to Eupho, for obvious reasons!

Lynne left school and completed an apprenticeship in Musical Instrument Repairing, continued playing in a Concert Band, and a Territorial Army Band. Grant went back to the Trumpet and started playing casually in the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, and for professional shows. Five years later they got married and five years after that along came Steven, then Scott.

Two small boys called a halt to Lynne's playing, but Grant continued busily as usual, also conducting groups such as Auckland Symphony Orchestra, NZ Secondary Schools Orchestra and the Auckland Youth Symphonic Band. Grants musical life then stepped up a gear, moving from an Automotive Parts Manager to a fulltime university student, studying Trumpet Performance and Conducting. During this time he played fulltime with the APO. When he graduated, Grant trained as a teacher, and moved the whole family to Tauranga where he had taken a position as HOD Music at a local secondary school.

Steven and Scott started learning the Piano, and both wanted to play the Trumpet (just like Dad!), so learnt that too. Taking advantage of lessons at school, Steven also plays the Bass Guitar and Scott the Drums.



Pictured above from top left clockwise; Grant (Cornet) Lynne (Baritone) Steven (Cornet) and Scott (Percussion)

Grant was by now conducting Tauranga City Silver Band, so suddenly we had a compulsory family activity – Brass Band. Steven moved to Auckland to go to University, and 2 years later Scott was going as well, so back to Auckland we all came.

Steven played briefly with the Artillery Band, then Waitakere for the Napier Contest. Grant and Lynne joined their local band, Howick, with Scott helping out for the Dunedin Contest. Grant later moved bands, to Waitakere, and slowly convinced the rest of us to join him.

So here we are, at The Trust Waitakere Brass – the Langdon 4.

Editor's Corner:

Hope you have all been keeping warm over the winter months I for one am looking forward to some warmer day with Spring and Summer ahead of us. We are more than half way through the year! No rest for the wicked though, as we have three more concerts to do before the year is out and another contest later this month.

Toys for Kids is less than a week away and we are back at The Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre which we know you all love. Please note the earlier start time this year of 2pm (this was previously advertised at 3pm).

As soon as the curtain falls on Toys For Kids we will be busy with Jazz Mania event planning which is well underway already. This is our biggest event and the planning starts months in advance but this year we are planning on this event being bigger and better than ever. Check out our advert in this issue and contact me if you are interested in making a group booking or contact iticket for individual ticket purchases.

In the meantime if you are a Facebook user why not check out the Band's Facebook Page for news as it happens. www.facebook.com/TheTrustsWaitakereBrassBand

That's all for now but we look forward to meeting you all at our concerts soon.

Don't forget feel free to phone or email if you have any questions or comments about this publication. We are always on the look out for content so if you feel like contributing a story or photo please get in touch. Send your stories to tracey@waitakerebrass.com

Tracey



Friends Of The Band Club Corner

Hello Friends

It certainly has been much colder over the last few weeks and I'm sure you are now all looking forward to Spring and with that the warmer weather.

The Band has been busy over the last few months with the lead up to the Festival of Brass held recently at the Bruce Mason Centre. It was lovely to see some of your faces at the Contest volunteering and also supporting our Players. I know that at the end of the contest I was exhausted, however pleased to have been involved and listen to some great pieces.

We have had a number of new Friends, which is great news and I have some exciting things in the pipeline, so watch out for these in your letterbox, however if you are on email please email me; friends@waitakerebrass.com so I can update your details and you will be the first to find out what's happening in the Friends Corner. Don't forget that is you have any Birthdays or events coming up where you need a gift idea - why not give a membership to the Friends of Waitakere Brass? At only \$30 a year it's great value.

Michele

2011 Concert Series

Toys For Kids
11th September, 2pm
Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre

ABA Contest
25th September
Hawkins Centre, Papakura

Jazz Mania
13 November, 5pm
The Trusts Stadium, Henderson

Christmas Concert
3rd December, 7.30pm
Salvation Army Citadel in The City

For information and tickets to any of these events email us at tracey@waitakerebrass.com 09 817 7363

The Trusts Waitakere Brass

Presents...

Jazz Mania

**Sunday 13th November 2011, 5pm till late
The Trusts Stadium, Henderson, Auckland**

With special guests...

*Brett Baker of the world famous Black Dyke Mills Band
and John McGough leading NZ Entertainer*

Plus a GRAND PRIZE DRAW!!!

Tickets \$25 & \$20 Band Friends*

Group & Corporate packages available (See reverse for details)

Platters and a cash bar in operation

For more info visit www.waitakerebrass.com



BOOK ONLINE AT www.iticket.co.nz
OR PH 09 361 1000 *booking fee may apply



THE TRUSTS WAITAKERE BRASS

www.waitakerebrass.com

Band Room: The Bandroom 36 Portage Road • New Lynn • Waitakere City • Auckland

Acting Band Manager: Scott Langdon

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