

2013 Yamaha National Band Championships

Over the Easter long weekend the band took part in this years' National Championships. The event was the culmination of 3 years planning and organising, in the main, by members of RASWA Brass & Canning City Brass Band. The weekends activities took place at UWA utilising Winthrop Hall, the Octagon Theatre and the Callaway Music Auditorium. With a street parade taking place in Northbridge to round out the events. RASWA Brass engaged the services of legendary musical director Bob Childs, who had recently been appointed to the position of associate director of music with the world's most famous band 'Black Dyke Band'.



The band put in an enormous amount of work in the weeks beforehand to prepare for the competition, with additional rehearsals and sectional practices in order to be ready for Bobs arrival from the UK in the week before the competition. The final week saw an extraordinary effort by Bob and the members of the band whipping the music into shape with rehearsals all weekend and each night prior to the start of events on Good Friday. The first day's program involved the band performing the 'Hymn Setting' "Praise my Soul the King of Heaven" and the 'Set Test' Derek Bourgeois' "The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" later described by adjudicator (& also brass band legend) Richard Evans as 'fiendishly difficult'. Drawn number 4 of 8 'A' grade bands performing the piece RASWA Brass gave a terrific performance, setting itself for a good finish in Sundays part of the program. On Saturday the band took part in the compulsory Parade of Bands which was held through the streets of Northbridge. The band was led in the march by Drum Major Pete Garnaut (pictured left). Sunday

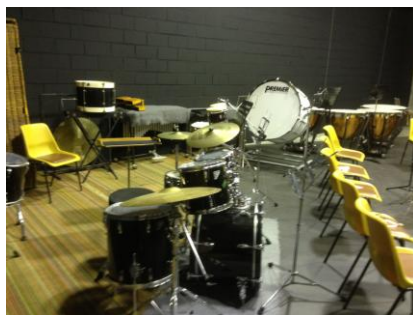
morning saw the band return to Winthrop Hall primed ready to perform its 'Own Choice Test' Philip Sparke's "A Tale as Yet Untold" and the march "Old Comrades". Again, Richard Evans in his closing remarks said that he and the audience had heard 'an absolutely stunning performance' given by RASWA Brass which he awarded first place in the 'Own Choice Section'. 4 Bars Rest (the international band press) had flown in from the UK to cover the Australian Nationals described the overall result as a 'nail biter' with RASWA Brass being pipped as National Champions by Brisbane Excelsior by the narrow margin of 0.8%. Individual Players also performed the following day in the Solo and Party sections with Bass Trombone player Graham Cruickshank becoming National Champion in his section and representing the band in the Champion of Champions event.

The weather, venue and the food & beverage facilities played their part to make what was an extremely satisfying weekend both musically and organisationally with many visitors saying that Perth had set the standard for future National Competitions.



RASWA Brass has a new home

RASWA Brass was given another shot in the arm with the news that the Royal Agricultural Society had renewed its sponsorship of the band for another 4 years. Further to that the RAS had made part of the Ellie Eaton Pavilion, at the Showgrounds, Claremont, available for the band to utilise as its home base. The area to be used by the band includes a 300 seat auditorium, stage, storage room, library/meeting room & kitchen.



A good contingent of members helped move all of the bands equipment & music library from its previous home at the Wembley Recreation Centre on Saturday 20 April & setup in the fantastic new facility. To be able to leave the stage setup with stands, chairs & percussion equipment is a godsend. The ability to display the bands trophies & memorabilia which had previously been in storage is an added bonus. To celebrate the bands arrival we will be holding a house warming concert on Sunday 8 September at the Ellie Eaton Pavilion, the proceeds from door entry will be donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Association of WA.

Forthcoming Events

18 August	- Sunset @ Subi - Subiaco Arts Centre, 180 Hamersley Rd	2.00pm
8 September	- Housewarming Concert, Ellie Eaton Pavilion	2.00pm
28 Sep-5 Oct	- Perth Royal Show, Claremont Showgrounds	6.00pm
19 October	- Opening of the Sailing Season - RFBYC	12.00pm
1 December	- Private Wedding - RFBYC	TBA
7 December	- Ch 7 Christmas Pageant, Perth City Centre	TBA
22 December	- Christmas Carols - All Saints Church, Henley Brook	TBA

New website launch

The band has launched its new website. The same address www.wabrass.com but a new look and feel.

On the new website you'll find regular posts and pictures on our News page, our Google calendar with all our events on the Concerts & Engagements page, lots of band pictures and band news.

To receive email updates on what's happening with the Band go to the website and click the Follow link.

Follow us by Email

Click to follow this blog
and receive notifications of
new posts by email.

Follow