

2022 NEWSLETTER

COVID UPDATE

Dear Bands,

I hope you are all well. As we enter our third year of the pandemic, I know that bands are still facing challenges. Some bands have returned to rehearsals and are keen to perform. Other bands are still trying to get access to their venues and negotiate the COVID-safe restrictions put in place by venue owners and/or local councils. The VBL strongly encourages all bands to keep up to date with the latest COVID restrictions. You can find them [here](#). You can find specific guidelines for the arts at [this link](#).

When it comes to plans for 2022, COVID continues to cast a long shadow. The 2022 Nationals have been postponed with hopes of holding the event later in the year. At this stage the Bendigo Eisteddfod, Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod and the State Band Championships are scheduled to proceed as normal but the last two years have taught us that things can change quickly. We will keep you updated as changes occur.

In more exciting news, at the end of last year we announced the reformation of the Victorian State Youth Brass Band! The group has been instrumental in the growth and development of the Victorian banding community and we can't wait to see a new generation of young players start their banding journey. See Page Two of this newsletter for more information.

We're aiming to send a newsletter every month or so with the latest updates for the year ahead. If you would like your band president / secretary or any other member of your band to receive this newsletter, they can subscribe using this [online form](#).

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. You can email me directly at president@vbl.org.au or you can contact our administrator Sally for general enquiries at vbl@vbl.org.au

Yours in banding,
Megan

Megan Stapleton
President
Victorian Bands' League

Save the Date!

Lock these dates into your diary for 2022

Bendigo Eisteddfod
Sunday May 29th

State Solo & Ensemble Championships
Saturday July 23rd

State Band Championships
Saturday August 20th and Sunday August 21st

Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod
Sunday September 11th

Bandstand Sunday
Sunday October 16th

Helpful Reminders

Child Safety Paperwork

It's important that every band has a child safety policy. New Child Safe Standards come into effect on July 1, 2022, You can find more information [here](#). A session on Child Safety was run as part of the Skunkworks Masterclasses last year. You can read the presentation [here](#)

Promoting your band events online

Got a band concert or event coming up? Email a picture and few lines of information to president@vbl.org.au and we'll share your event on our social media accounts.

Grants!

It's a double election year this year (state and federal) and that often means increased grant opportunities. Need money for new equipment or to cover COVID cleaning costs – reach out to your local member to see if they can assist.

Local Councils also run grant programs for local groups. If you would like a letter of support for a grant application please email president@vbl.org.au

VICTORIAN STATE YOUTH BRASS BAND IS BACK!



The Victorian Bands League in partnership with Skunkworks Community Limited is pleased to announce the re-establishment of the Victorian State Youth Brass Band. The Band is open to young brass and percussion musicians up to the age of 25 and will promote and inspire young people to develop their musical talents to their fullest ability.

The re-establishment of the Victorian State Youth Brass Band will again bring together our best young brass and percussion musicians and ensure the continued vibrancy of our community and professional performing arts sector.

Representing an exciting new direction within the VBL, this is a partnership that will also result in an expanded range of services to community bands.

The goals of the VYSBB are to:

- Develop young musicians to the highest level;
- Provide an environment where young musicians can achieve their full potential;
- Provide opportunities to workshop with world class professional musicians;
- Provide performance opportunities of a high standard;
- Provide inspiration for a new generation of musicians;
- Have fun and create friendships that will last a lifetime.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for young musicians from across the entire state of Victoria to gain top level musical direction and performance opportunities whilst creating friendships that will last a lifetime.”

Megan Stapleton, VBL President

“We are very excited to be working with the VBL in this historic initiative. We will be bringing our professional experience and a range of world class musicians to collaborate with the members of the band through new initiatives and our already established programs.”

Colin Harrison, Director, Skunkworks Community Limited.

Some important notes:

- The band will rehearse once a month in either a metro or regional location. (Hawthorn, Creswick, Bendigo and Gippsland)
- Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, March 27th
- The age limit of the band is 25 and is open to all brass and percussion players from Victoria.
- There will be two bands. One will be a development band and the other the Youth Band with a standard of approximately AMEB Grade 6 and above.
- We are working on a camp (to replace the January Bright camp) as well as a tour to Tasmania in the September holidays
- The Musical Director of the Youth Band is Ken McDonald, one of Australia's most successful band conductors.

You can read more about the plans for the band and media releases regarding Artists in Residence and Composers in Residence [here](#)

[You can apply to be part of the new Victorian State Youth Brass Band here](#)