

## 2022 NEWSLETTER

## VBL UPDATE

Dear Bands,

Hard to believe it's already March! It's been great to see more bands returning to rehearsals and announcing events for the year ahead. Last month we sadly farewelled VBL Life Member Helen Gray. Over her many decades of service to the banding movement she had been an Executive Councilor, member of the Music Advisory Board, Contest Administrator and more. She will be greatly missed.

As many of you would have seen, the 2022 Nationals have been cancelled. This is disappointing news but we look forward to a great event in Newcastle in 2023! In happier news, the Bendigo Eisteddfod have announced that entries for their contest will open on April 4<sup>th</sup> – not long to go now!

Remember, 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](mailto:president@vbl.org.au) or you can contact our administrator Sally for general enquiries at [vbl@vbl.org.au](mailto:vbl@vbl.org.au)

Yours in banding,  
Megan Stapleton  
President

## Save the Date!

## Lock these dates into your diary for 2022

Bendigo Eisteddfod - Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>  
Entries open on April 4<sup>th</sup>

State Solo & Ensemble Championships  
Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>

State Band Championships  
Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>

Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod - Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>

Bandstand Sunday - Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>

## VSYBB Rehearsal Dates &amp; Events

There is still time to sign up for the new Victorian State Youth Brass Band! All brass and percussion players aged 25 and under are welcome. [More information here](#).

**March**

Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 4pm  
Venue: Metro Melbourne (exact location TBC)

**April**

Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 4pm  
Venue: Metro Melbourne (exact location TBC)

**May**

Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am – 4pm  
Venue: Creswick

**June**

Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>  
Alpine Brass Festival – Bright

Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> – Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup>  
Rehearsal Camp – Bright

## Bendigo Easter Parade

All Victorian bands are invited to take part in the annual Bendigo Easter Parade on Easter Monday (April 18<sup>th</sup>). Cash prizes are available for those judged top 3!

1<sup>st</sup> place – A\$1,250 / 2<sup>nd</sup> place – A\$750 / 3<sup>rd</sup> place – A\$500

Bands are asked to email [president@vbl.org.au](mailto:president@vbl.org.au) if they are interested in taking part. Submissions of interest must be received by 5pm Monday March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## General Reminders

## Child Safety Paperwork

It's important that every band has a child safety policy and reviews it annually. 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](mailto: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](mailto:president@vbl.org.au)