

2024 NEWSLETTER

VBL UPDATE

Dear Bands,

Welcome to 2024! We're looking forward to an exciting year of banding ahead.

We have an exciting announcement – the 2024 Victorian State Band Championships will be held IN MELBOURNE on the weekend of July 27th and July 28th. The full details will be announced shortly. This move is part of a longer term plan to travel the State Band Championships around the state to ensure all Victorian bands have an equal chance to attend the State Championships. The potential future host locations include Gippsland, Bendigo and Ballarat.

We are not severing our ties with the Royal South Street Society, there will continue to be a competition held in Ballarat each year as part of their eisteddfod however the format will be similar to that of the Bendigo Eisteddfod – a major work and two contrasting own choice items.

With the change of date for the State Band Championships, the timing of the State Solo & Ensemble Championships is currently being reviewed with details to be announced in the near future.

Entries for the State Band Championships and the State Solo & Ensemble Championships will open in early March.

In other news, the 2024 National Band Championships are just around the corner and there are a number of Victorian bands taking part. A reminder that all Victorian players planning to compete at the Nationals must be registered with the VBL by February 16th.

Yours in banding,
Megan Stapleton
President

Save the Date!

Lock these dates into your diary for 2024

Bendigo Eisteddfod
Sunday May 26th

State Solo & Ensemble Championships
DATE TBC

State Band Championships – to be held in MELBOURNE
July 27th & 28th

Ballarat Eisteddfod
August 17th & 18th

Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod
September 7th & 8th

Bandstand Sunday
DATE TBC

VSYBB Rehearsal Dates & Events

Get involved with the Victorian State Youth Brass Band! All brass and percussion players aged 25 and under are welcome. [More information here.](#)

Next Rehearsal
Feb 17th – St Kevin's College

General Reminders

Child Safety Paperwork

It's important that every band has a child safety policy and reviews it annually. New Child Safe Standards came into effect on July 1, 2022, You can find more information [here](#). All bands must have these new standards as part of their Child Safe Policy.

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

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

Community Enterprise Foundation

The Foundation facilitates a wide range of grants for eligible charities and not-for-profit organisations in Australia. [You can find details here.](#)