

2024 NEWSLETTER

VBL UPDATE

Dear Bands,

Apologies for the delay between newsletters, how is it August already?!

Congratulations to all the bands who competed at the recent State Band Championships. See page two of this newsletter for a full review of that wonderful weekend of music making.

Bandstand Sunday

We're excited to announce that Bandstand Sunday is back in 2024! Applications are now open for the event which is taking place on Sunday November 3rd. We are aware that it is Melbourne Cup weekend however it was the only date available when we made the booking last year. We've been on a waitlist for another date however it's become clear that November 3rd is the only option available to us. There will be plenty of people in Melbourne for the Spring Cup Carnival so we still anticipate a big audience at Federation Square however we know for some bands that player availability may be an issue.

Unfortunately the ongoing viability of this event is at risk. Fed Square have changed their hiring policy and you can no longer just hire the stage. You have to hire the complete Fed Square space at a cost of A\$12,000 plus GST (plus tech and other misc charges) or none of it. This is a huge increase in cost when compared to past years. We've been able to negotiate a significant discount for this year however it's still a much higher fee than in the past. We'll be looking for grant and sponsorship opportunities to secure the future of the event but wanted to let bands know of the challenge ahead.

[All details including the application form are available here](#)

Applications close on Sunday September 8th

Band Contact Information

The VBL is going to be relaunching the band contact page on the website shortly and we'd like to make sure we have the most up-to-date information for you band. In addition to the band contact page on the website, we'd also like to make sure we have the correct contact information for your ensemble for general VBL correspondence. Please have someone from your band complete this online form so we can ensure the correct information is published on the website.

[Update your band contact details here](#)

2025 Nationals

You may have seen a post on Facebook this weekend announcing that there will be five Open Brass grades at the 2025 Nationals. The post read:

For the 2025 Nationals, there will be 5 Open Brass grades - Premier, A, B, C and D. This is a one year trial with feedback to be sought from bands at the conclusion of the 2025 event.

The decision to trial an extra Open Brass grade was made in light of feedback from adjudicators and participating bands about the apparent disparity between the playing standards of top-ranked and bottom-ranked bands competing across all Open Brass grades and in light of the relatively large number of bands in the higher grades.

Open Concert will remain with 4 grades but in recognition of the parity of standard between the top brass and concert bands, Open A Grade Concert will become Open Premier Grade Concert, Open B Grade Concert will become Open A Grade Concert and so on.

To create the Open Premier Brass grade, the top 5 placed bands from Open A Grade Brass at the 2024 Nationals have been automatically promoted. It is then up to each state to determine the gradings across the 5 grades for their remaining bands.

The Victorian Music Advisory Board has met and given each Victorian band a national grading. All bands that have been placed in a grade that is different to their state grading have been contacted. If your band has not been contacted, then you can assume you are graded in the same grade as your state grading. Any questions – please reach out to president@vbl.org.au

A reminder that the test pieces for the 2025 Nationals are announced on September 1st. Also released on this date is the 2025 NBCA Yearbook which contains the latest rules for the Nationals. We strongly encourage bands to read the new document carefully.

Megan Stapleton
President

2024 NEWSLETTER

STATE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2024 Victorian State Band Championships saw a record number of bands taking part across three days. It was truly a celebration of Victorian banding and congratulations to all bands that took part!

A survey was sent to all bands asking for their feedback to help shape future events. If you haven't completed it yet, please do so as soon as possible. [You can access the survey here.](#)

A huge thank you to all the volunteers (from 17 different bands!) that contributed to the success of this event. From stage managing, ticket selling, announcing and more – these volunteers generously gave up their time to make sure the event ran smoothly. Our thanks go to:

Volunteer Name	Band	Volunteer Name	Band
Tim Scott	Ballarat Memorial Concert Band	Kenny Nicholson	Moonee Valley Brass
Robyn Lowenstein Waugh	Boroondara Harmony Brass	Stacey Camilleri	Moonee Valley Brass
Vinotha Bheem	Box Hill Academy	Raymond Isaac	Moonee Valley Brass
Michael Jongebloed	Box Hill City Band	Louise Peters	Moonee Valley Brass
David Hague	City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band	Owen Scott	Moonee Valley Brass
George Melitsis	Darebin City Brass - Preston Band	Fiona Redding	Moonee Valley Brass
Jared Moore	Darebin City Brass - Preston Band	David Redding	Moonee Valley Brass
Ali Teece	Footscray Yarraville City Band	Anna Taylor	Richmond Youth Brass Band
Stuart McCorkelle	Footscray Yarraville City Band	Jenny Hall	Stonnington Brass
Kathryn Cooper	Footscray Yarraville City Band	Ken Emory	Stonnington Brass
Amanda Linton	Geelong Concert Band Community Band	Jeremy de Korte	Stonnington Brass
Linda Ely	Hyde Street Youth Band	Andrew Wilson	Sunshine Community Brass
Fern Gass	Hyde Street Youth Band	Jared McCunnie	Western Brass
Layne Peatling	Knox Wind Symphony	Jarrold Handley	Western Brass
Michelle Brown	Knox Wind Symphony	Ternia Davies	Western Brass
Mark Thompson	Marist Brass	David Abel	Western Brass
Brad Johnston	Moonee Valley Brass	Timele Stewart	Wodonga Brass

