

2025 NEWSLETTER

VBL UPDATE

Dear Bands,

Congratulations to all bands and soloists who competed at the Bendigo Eisteddfod last weekend. Next year will be the 100th year of the Bendigo Competitions Society Eisteddfod so save the last weekend in May now and make sure your band is there to celebrate this achievement!

Yesterday the VBL AGM took place and the following people were elected to the VBL Executive for 2025/2026:

President: Megan Stapleton

Vice President: Jeremy de Korte

Vice President: Andrew Wilson

Treasurer: Brad Johnston

Registrar: John Kelly

Executive Councillors:

Shani Clark

Ian Douglas

Linda Ely

Fern Gass

David Hague

Michael Jongebloed

The Victorian banding movement is run by volunteers and we thank all those that have volunteered their time to our movement. The AGM saw two members of the Executive from last year not renominate this year. Louise Peters has served as Minute Secretary for over 5 years now and we thank her service and dedication. Daniel van Bergen has also stepped down to spend more time with his family. He joined the VBL Executive in 2003 and his incredible 22 years of service is worthy of special recognition. He has held various positions including Minute Secretary and Vice President and has served on multiple Nationals Organising Committees. Thank you Daniel for your remarkable contribution to Victorian banding.

The financial outcome of the 2025 National Band Championships was announced at the Delegates meeting which took place after the AGM. The event was a financial success for the VBL with a profit of just over \$50,000. This is the first time the VBL has had back-to-back profitable Nationals since the 1990's. This result is only possible thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers who generously gave their time in the lead up to the event and across the competition weekend. A sincere thank you to every member of the Organising Committee for their hard work in making this event such an artistic and financial success.

A reminder that entries are NOW OPEN for the **2025 Victorian State Band Championships**. This year it is being held IN BENDIGO on the weekend of August 30th and 31st. [Find all the details here](#). Based on feedback from the post-event survey last year, the State Band Championships will alternate between Melbourne and a different regional city each year. Entries are also now open for the **2025 Victorian State Solo & Ensemble Championships** taking place on Saturday July 26th. [You can find all the details here](#). Entries close June 6th – LESS THAN A WEEK TO GO!

Yours in banding,
Megan Stapleton
President

Save the Date!

Lock these dates into your diary for 2025

July

[State Solo & Ensemble Championships – July 26th](#)

August

Delegates Meeting – August 16th at 9am via Zoom
[State Band Championships – to be held in BENDIGO August 30th & 31st](#)

September

[Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod - September 13th & 14th](#)

November

Delegates Meeting – November 23rd at 9am via Zoom
Bandstand Sunday – November 30th

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](#).

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](#).