

2026 NEWSLETTER

VBL UPDATE

Dear Bands,

Happy New Year! I hope 2026 has started well for you all. We're looking forward to a great year of banding ahead!

2026 Dates

You can find all the 2026 competition dates on the [VBL website](#). They are also listed below in the newsletter for easy reference. Entries for the State Solo & Ensemble Championships and the State Band Championships will be opening in February. The 2026 State Band Championships are being held in Melbourne.

2026 Nationals

For all bands attending the 2026 Nationals, please take note of the below key dates:

Friday 20th February 2026

- All Player Registrations close
- Own Choice Music Advice Forms & Scores Due to the [Administrator](#). Digital scores only (PDF format).
- Stage Seating Plans Due to the [Administrator](#)

Friday 28th February 2026

- Player Pass Orders due to [Administrator](#)

Friday 6th March 2026

- **Player Lists & Permit Forms** must be submitted to your State Governing Body (all players and conductor)

Band Contact Information

The VBL is going to be relaunching the band contact page on the website on February 1st and we'd like to make sure we have the most up-to-date information for your 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.

Thanks to those bands that have already completed the form. [You can see the draft page here](#).

If your band hasn't yet, please have someone from your band complete the online form so we can ensure the correct information is published on the website. [Update your band contact details here](#)

Yours in banding,
Megan Stapleton
President

Save the Date!

Lock these dates into your diary for 2026

April

National Band Championships – April 2nd to 5th
VBL AGM – April 18th

May

Bendigo Eisteddfod – May 30th & 31st

July

State Solo & Ensemble Championships – July 25th

August

Delegates Meeting – August 2nd
State Band Championships – August 15th & 16th

September

Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod – date TBC

November

Bandstand Sunday – November 8th
Delegates Meeting – November 22nd

VSYYBB 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 for an exciting performance idea – 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](#).

Join us in January

'Join Us In January' is an exciting new campaign to help community music groups, choirs and bands attract new members and make more music! [Find out more here](#).