

2026 NEWSLETTER

VBL UPDATE

Dear Bands,

With less than two weeks to go, we wish all Victorian bands and soloists attending the 2026 Yamaha Australian National Band Championships all the best! In Victorian banding news, entries are now open for the Bendigo Eisteddfod, the State Solo & Ensemble Championships and the State Band Championships! Read on for more information.

[2026 Bendigo Eisteddfod – May 30th and 31st](#)

2026 sees the Bendigo Eisteddfod celebrating their century! We encourage all bands to enter to help make their 100th year the best yet! You can find all the details, including how to enter, at [this link](#).

Saturday May 30th – Solos and small groups

Sunday May 31st – Jnr and Open Bands

Entries close April 3rd

[2026 State Solo & Ensemble Championships – July 25th](#)

Entries are now open for the 2026 State Solo & Ensemble Championships. This event is open to all brass, woodwind and percussion players, regardless of their age or experience. There are sections for Under 10, Under 12, Juvenile, Junior, Open and more. There are also themed sections such as Popular Song and Air & Variations.

After record entries in 2025, we are closing entries earlier this year to allow for planning for additional adjudicators and accompanists if needed. You can find all the details at [this link](#).

Entries close May 1

Late entries close May 15 (a 50% surcharge applies to all late entries)

[2026 State Band Championships – August 15th and 16th](#)

Entries are now open for the 2026 State Band Championships. This year they are being held at the Hawthorn Arts Centre. You can find all the details on test pieces, schedule, entry forms and more at [this link](#).

The draft schedule for the event is as follows:

Saturday August 15th – Junior Concert, Open Concert, Junior Brass, Open D Brass, Open A Brass

Sunday August 16th – Open C Brass, Open B Brass

Entries close June 26th

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

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](#).

Band Contact Details

Does your band have their contact details on the VBL website? [You can check here](#). If you would like to add your details or update them, [please complete this form](#).

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](#).