

VBL UPDATE

Dear Bands - Lots of updates this edition, read on for more!

2026 Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod – September 12th & 13th
2026 sees the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod celebrating 70 years! We encourage all bands to show their support by entering this years event. You can find all the details, including how to enter, at [this link](#).
Saturday September 12th – Solos and small groups
Sunday September 13th – Jnr and Open Bands
Entries close June 30th

2026 State Solo & Ensemble Championships – July 25th
With 493 competitors across 71 sections, we’re looking forward to a great day of music! We still need volunteers so if you’re able to spare any time, [please complete this form](#)

2026 State Band Championships – August 14th to 16th
Entries have closed and we’re thrilled to announce that we’ve received the highest number of entries in decades. 38 bands will be taking part, 31 Brass Bands and 7 Concert Bands. All bands will be emailed their draw by July 6th and adjudicators will be announced shortly. A full break down of entry numbers by grade is below:

- Open A Grade Brass: 6 bands
- Open B Grade Brass: 3 bands
- Open C Grade Brass: 10 bands
- Open D Grade Brass: 8 bands
- Junior Brass: 3 bands
- Primary School Brass: 1 band
- Open A Grade Concert: 1 band
- Open B Grade Concert: 3 bands
- Open C Grade Concert: 2 bands
- Open D Grade Concert: 1 band

World Music Contest 2026
Australia Brass is off to Kerkrade to compete at the 2026 World Music Contest, the first time a group from Australia has competed at this prestigious event. The band features a number of Victorians including Dr Matthew van Emmerick (MD), Adam Arnold, James Blackford, John Collinson, Tom Curnow, Broden Ford, Mark Ford, Quinn Kellock, Stuart McCorkelle, Wendy Steele and Katie Thomas. We wish them the best of luck! They are competing on July 11th and 12th and [you can find all the details to stream the event here](#).

Yours in banding,
Megan Stapleton
President

Save the Date!

Lock these dates into your diary for 2026

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

August
Delegates Meeting – August 2nd
[State Band Championships – August 15th & 16th](#)

September
[Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod – September 12th & 13th](#)

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