

VBL UPDATE

Dear Bands,

And just like that, we find ourselves in October! It's been a busy few months with record entries in both the State Solo & Ensemble Championships (493 competitors!) and State Band Championships (40 bands!). Congratulations to everyone who took part in those events and a huge thank you to the wonderful team of volunteers who gave up their time to make the events run so smoothly.

As 2026 draws to a close, we are already looking ahead to what promises to be an exciting year of banding in 2027. A particular highlight will be the **2027 Victorian State Band Championships, which will be held in Traralgon for the very first time on 31 July and 1 August**. This marks an exciting new chapter for the Championships and a wonderful opportunity to take one of Victoria's major banding events to the heart of Gippsland. We look forward to welcoming bands from across Victoria to Traralgon for what promises to be a memorable weekend of music and competition.

There is plenty more to look forward to throughout 2027, with the Bendigo Eisteddfod on 29/30 May, the State Solo & Ensemble Championships on 19/20 June and the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod on 11/12 September. We encourage bands to mark these dates in their calendars now and start looking forward to another fantastic year of Victorian banding. [Entries are also now open for the 2027 Australian National Band Championships in Canberra.](#)

The VBL is currently undertaking a review of its Contest Rules and is inviting all member bands to contribute to the process. Bands are encouraged to submit any proposed changes or feedback for consideration. **The submission deadline has been extended to Sunday 4 October**, with submissions to be emailed to president@vbl.org.au.

All submissions received will be compiled and circulated to VBL member bands **by 11 October**, giving everyone time to consider the proposals and discuss them within their bands. The Contest Rules Review will then form part of the **November Delegates Meeting, to be held online on Sunday 22 November at 10.00am**. This will provide an opportunity for delegates to discuss the submissions and proposed changes together before any motions are put to a vote. We encourage all VBL bands to take part in the process and help shape the rules that govern our contests.

Yours in banding,
Megan Stapleton
President

Save the Date!

Lock these dates into your diary for 2026

November
Delegates Meeting (Contest Rules Review) – Nov 22nd

Lock these dates into your diary for 2027

March
National Band Championships – March 26th to 29th

April
VBL Annual General Meeting – April 11th

May
Bendigo Eisteddfod – May 29th & 30th

June
State Solo & Ensemble Championships – June 19th & 20th

July / August
State Band Championships – July 31st & August 1st
Delegates Meeting – August 15th

September
Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod – September 11th & 12th

November
Delegates Meeting – November 21st

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.](#)

Instruments wanted

The 4 Wing Australian Air Force Cadets Musicians Flight is looking for instruments! Created in 2022, they provide opportunities for cadets from across Victoria to play in concert, marching, and rock bands and drum corps. They are looking to acquire/buy a Bb Tuba and a Baritone Saxophone.
Contact: Neil.Fitzclarence@airforcecadets.gov.au

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