

Gunnedah Shire Band

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April / May 2008

Registered Charity No: CFN10466

Coming Up

Apr 25	ANZAC Day See details
May 17	Function Swain 21st
May 30/31	Gunnedah Eisteddfod
May 21	AGM
May 31	Gunnedah Nursing Home Dance
Jun 21/22	State Solos Bankstown Grammar School
Jul 5/6	Junior Band Workshop
Jul 6	Golf Day
Aug 2/3	Hunter Solos
Aug 2/3	CD Launch in Sydney (Seniors)
Aug 9	Junior Band Workshop
Aug 9/10	CD Launch in Gunnedah (Seniors)
Aug 10	Junior Band Workshop
Sep 6/7	State Band Championships
Oct 18	Function McAndrew Wedding
Dec 12	Carols @ Gunnedah

Housie Roster

Apr 21	Jamieson
April 28	Heuston
May 5	Hansen
May 12	Neighbour
May 19	Atkinson
May 26	McEvoy

Nationals in Review

The Nationals has come and gone for another year. Both bands can be very proud of their efforts. The juniors under the baton of Bruce Myers were great, impressing both the large audience and adjudicator. The juniors have now stretched their record to 7 consecutive National titles.

The seniors, competing for the first time in A grade at an Australian Nationals, were placed second. Given all the difficulties of the preparation, this achievement was truly amazing. Jason and all the crew should be stoked about the result.

The following members were successful in solo events at the championships:

- Courtney Jamieson
U19 soprano – 2nd
- Marcus Salone
Open soprano – 1st
- Emily Hansen
U19 EEb Tuba – 2nd
Open EEb Tuba – 2nd
- Angus Pettet
U19 EEb Tuba – 3rd
- James Stewart
U19 BBb Tuba – 2nd
- Bruce Myers
Open Tenor Horn – 1st
- Kristy Rowe
Open Baritone – 2nd
- Adam Dickson
Open Snare – 2nd
Open Timpani – 1st
Open Mallet – 1st
Open Multi Percussion – 2nd
- David Macaulay
U19 Mallet – 1st

Once again Fleur and Sally did a great job looking after all the travel and accommodation arrangements. This greatly reduced the burden on players, allowing them to concentrate on the competition and the band is very fortunate to have him on board.

Col Atkinson did another great job organizing all the loading, helping the bands at competi-

tion & rehearsal venues and being a "dad" to all the juniors while away. Col is a rare breed

Our new trailer had its maiden trip to Brisbane and it was a great success. It was ideal for this trip and we were able to get so much gear into it. Once again special thanks to David Jamieson, Bill King & Brian Stewart for all the work they did to get this project off the ground and a huge thank you to Scott Geddes and all the business houses in Gunnedah who contributed towards the trailers manufacture.

The bands success at Brisbane was due to the exceptional musical abilities of Jason and Bruce and the whole hearted commitment of its players. We are indeed fortunate of this exceptional combination. Guest conductors Ken Bradley and Brian Hurdley also made significant contributions and the band is indeed fortunate of such quality training.

Permit players Jamie Cooper, Robert Campbell & Heather Wright for the seniors and Austen McGrane for the juniors, were all great. The band is most grateful of their help.

Nationals Band Photos

Band photos from Nationals are available for sale. Formal photographs cost \$21, fun photos \$11. Check out the samples at the band hall or online at: shaunmurrayphotography.com.au

Pre Nationals Concert 16th March

This year's pre-nationals concert was a full house. The concert was possibly a little heavy for some of the audience, but most people seemed to enjoy the playing and were amazed at the quality and standard of repertoire performed. Running the concert in the afternoon seemed to go down well with the audience and is something we should consider for future concerts.

Catering

We have a number of catering functions coming up. Please keep your eye on the Notice Board for rosters. Catering has become our major fund raiser. If everyone is prepared to do their bit, it is not an onerous task for anyone.

Australasian Open (FABB)

As you may or may not be aware, the senior band was invited to the Australasian Open to be held over the last weekend in October 2008 - 25 & 26 October, 2008.

The Australasian Open is a Brass Band Contest for the best bands and bandsmen and women from Australia, New Zealand and throughout the Asia Pacific region.

The seniors were hoping to attend this contest, but due to player commitments we have had to decline our invitation on this occasion. We have expressed to the organisers of the event our disappointment in not being able to attend this year and have asked that we be considered again next year.

Thanks to Danny Alexander for all your work in attempting to get a band at this contest.

Gunnedah Eisteddfod 30/31 May

No 1 and No 2 Bands will be performing concert programs at this years Eisteddfod. Please be sure to set time aside. Many members are working hard on their solos. Remember to organize your piano accompanists now. Those who leave it too late will be disappointed.

State Solos 21/22 June

Entries for the State solos are due on 9 May. A lot of interest has been shown this year and we are expecting a large number of entries.

We are approaching Bankstown Grammar, about staying there again. This helps a lot in

making the trip more affordable. If there is sufficient interest we will look a hiring a small bus.

Members wishing to compete in this competition should contact Laurence now.

At this point people wishing to attend should be practicing their solos madly (at least 40 minutes per day) and making arrangements for rehearsals with piano accompaniment.

'Reflections' CD Launch Concerts 2/3 & 9/10 August

Jason intends returning in August to present two concerts over two weekends to launch the band's CD.

The current plan is for a weekend workshop in Sydney on 2/3 August with a concert in Warners Bay on the Sunday afternoon. The 9/10 August will be in Gunnedah with a concert on the Sunday afternoon as well.

This will be a great opportunity for us all to come together again and should hopefully be a good fundraiser for the band.

This proposal will be progressed over the next weeks, with more details in the next newsletter.

Hunter Solos 2/3 August

The Hunter solos are being held at Rathmines Music Centre on 2/3 August. Unfortunately the date for this years Hunter Solos clashes with the date for the weekend workshop in Sydney and the concert planned in Warners Bay. This will make things a little difficult, but if players competing are organised with adjudicator and piano parts, there should be no problem.

I am sure the Toronto Band will allow us to stay in their bandroom again. A bus will be booked, if required.

State Band Championships 6/7 September

The juniors will be participating at the State Band Championships being held at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith on 6/7 September. Bruce will be conducting the band. Unfortunately the seniors will not be entering this competition.

Accommodation has been arranged at the Don Boscoe Centre, St Marys. This is quite close to the competition venue and will keep costs down. Keatings have been approached for a quote for their coach.

Junior Band Workshops for State Band Championships

Jul 5	Sat	9.00—5.00
Jul 6	Sun	8.00—4.00
Aug 8	Fri	6.30—9.00
Aug 10	Sun	5.00—9.00
Aug 30	Sat	9.00—5.00
Aug 31	Sun	8.00—4.00

A Little Drum Major Aston

For those of you who aren't aware, Ian and Meredith are expecting their first baby. The demand for Gunnedah Shire Band crèche increases. Congratulations guys!

Welcome New Members

Prior to the Nationals the senior band had a few new members join the ranks.

Andre Newman has joined the senior band on 2nd Cornet. Andre is a famous member of the Fire Brigade Band.

Christina and Darren Jones have also joined on their move to Sydney. Christina and Darren previously were living in Manchester, UK. Christina is originally from Sydney but went overseas a few years ago to study at Salford University. Darren hails from North Wales. They met whilst Christina was over there, have married and since moved back to Australia. Welcome aboard guys

Adams Overseas

Our two Adams are off overseas. Adam Dickson departed for the UK a few days after the Nationals. He is over there for a few months at this stage living with Jason, Brendan Wheeler and Katrina Marzella and playing with Leyland and anyone that wants him! Best of luck while your over there mate, I'm sure you'll enjoy it greatly.

Adam Arnold is departing for France in July. His wife Cathy will be furthering her study their next year. Adam is planning to play with various ensembles throughout Europe whilst over there as well as learn French and eat fine food and wine.

Christmas Concert/Party

Early days I know, but we are hoping to have a combined junior and senior band Christmas party this year. In conjunction with this we thought it would be a good idea to do a Christmas concert as well.

We are confirming player availability at this stage. We will provide updates on the going ahead of this event in future newsletters.

Communication

It has been raised that the communication within the bands could be improved upon. There are a few areas where we are looking to improve this.

The senior band has always struggled with communication due to the geographical and logistical difficulties. We have developed some means of overcoming this with the website and forum, however, this still is not resolving all our communication problems. The senior band will be electing a band manager who will be responsible for overseeing all logistical and organisational issues regarding the senior band.

We will be placing more responsibility on section leaders. It will be the section leader's job to ensure all their players are informed and up to date. Section leaders are:

- Front Row: Marcus Salone
- Back Row: Laurence Rowe
- Horns: Bruce Myers
- Euphs / Baris: Danny Alexander
- Trombones: Robert Thompson
- Basses: Jude Myers
- Percussion: Adam Dickson

A contact list will be circulated to all section leaders to assist with this. Please assist your section leader by being proactive and making an effort to find out what's happening.

Another thought for overcoming our communication issues is to update the newsletter. We would include a lot more information regarding the senior band and what they are up to in the newsletter, possibly have it professionally designed and have some feature articles to spice it up a bit and make it a little more interesting.

Our aim is to bring the junior and senior bands closer together. It has always been our aim that the current juniors will feed into the senior band. The current gap between the junior and senior band is slightly too big. By bridging this gap we can work towards a very sustainable band.

Any further ideas for improving communication would be more than welcome.

Anzac Day - 25th April

- 8.00 Bus departs band hall for Curlewis.
- 9.00 Curlewis march and service.
- 10.30 Assemble in Marquis Street (opposite Co-Op) for Gunnedah March.
- 10.45 Gunnedah March.
- 11.00 Gunnedah Service.
- 11.30 Band dismissed. Coach back to band hall.
- 12.30 BBQ Lunch.
BYO Drinks.

Full uniform and clean instruments are required for this important ceremony.

Gunnedah Shire Band Contact Details:

- President: Sue Winsor
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- Secretary: Di Grosser
6742 2453
- Band Master: Laurence Rowe
6740 2107

All correspondence to be addressed to:

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