

December 9, 2003

### **Musical Director's Report**

Thank you to the large number of members who attended the recital at Oakmont Court and then moved to the rehearsal afterwards. This was a new idea for the band to maximise our playing time together and it worked well. We were able to present a full hour of music to the public in pleasant surroundings and still get an hour and a half of valuable practice. We will repeat this pattern again at Victory Primary School.

A small group recital last weekend at Centro Wodonga was also successful. Fourteen players created a great sound in the shopping centre. December is our busiest time of the month and we have more shopping centre jobs to come in Wodonga and Albury. Thank you in advance to all those keen band members who work so hard to raise the profile of the band at this time of the year.

Our annual trip to Howlong almost ended before it had begun with Lindsay Hanchett experiencing problems with the trailer. However, after some hastily organised logistics involving several cars we were able to begin at 7:15 pm. We played a selection of carols before the singing and at intervals during the evening, making a very good sound.

Sadly our work was spoiled by the support band and invited vocalists. These people came with good intentions but were seriously under-rehearsed. I will ask that we be the only musicians in attendance next year, and request that only experienced singers be allowed to lead the audience participation. Perhaps we could supply our own. Any volunteers?

Also on the calendar this month is a night recital at the Albury Harness Racing Club. This will be a great chance for families and friends to relax before our major event, and we will benefit from a little extra practice time as a bonus.

Please check your schedule carefully for the next few weeks. While job commitments may make it difficult for everyone to attend every outing we certainly need all players on Monday night December 15 at 7:00 pm at Catholic College for the full rehearsal. No uniform required. Please remember not to park inside the school grounds.

After a warm up and some serious tuning we will run every item in the show beginning at 7:30 pm. We have almost exactly one hour of music to play ourselves, plus there are some additional items from the choirs.

### **Junior band**

Five keen students came to their final lesson for the year on Sunday morning. They can all play *When the Saints Come Marching In* and a simple hymn tune arrangement in three parts. I look forward to working with these children again in 2004.

### **Bendigo Contest**

On the reverse side of this sheet is the schedule for the 2004 Bendigo *Solo and Ensemble Competition*. Please give some serious thought to this event. It is a golden opportunity to show your stuff with music of your own choice. Categories exist for all combinations. It would be wonderful if we could enter fabulous family groups, dynamic duos, scintillating soloists and perhaps even the occasional veteran! This is not a high pressure event for heroes, but a chance for band members of all standards to perform in public to an audience of their peers.

Best Regards  
Gregory Lewis