

July 12, 2005

Musical Director's Report

The countdown for this year's State Championships has begun. Our program will be:

A Little Prayer
Lydian Pictures
Strike up the band
Army of the Nile

We will have intensive Sunday morning rehearsals over the next three weekends, leading to a public concert at Catholic College on Wednesday night, August 3rd.

July 17	11:00 am to 1:00 pm with a 15 minute break
July 24	11:00 am to 1:00 pm with a 15 minute break
July 31	11:30 am to 2:30 pm with a 30 minute lunch break.

As with all important band events most of the hard work should be happening in your own home. Are you set up for serious music study? Are you playing **every** day? Do you have:

1. A permanent place to practise in private with good lighting and a stable music stand.
2. A metronome. Developing a strong internal pulse is vital. You must rehearse each piece without unscheduled tempo changes.
3. A *ssshhh*Mute. This will assist greatly with your tone and confidence. Available for cornets, flugel, horn and trombone from Chris Earl. Phone 03 5447-0873. Read details about this important item at: <http://www.bremnermusic.com/>
4. A plan! Don't just start everything from the beginning every time, that's a dopey way to approach difficult music. Work on difficult sections first at a tempo slow enough to guarantee 100% accuracy. Check tricky rhythms often with the metronome. Include all dynamics and articulations as you learn the music, as adding these elements later never works well.

We will only play contest music on Sundays and a mixture of music on Wednesdays. We need to have a balanced program for the August 3rd concert. I will include some of the new numbers we played in the park at Yackandandah plus *Pasadena*.

For the 31st year the *Border Music Camp* has been held at the Scots School. This year 4 band members participated in a week of intensive tuition and rehearsals.

Sue Karaffa	Violin
David Jenkinson	Trumpet
Toby Lewis	Viola, trumpet
Elliot Lewis	Trombone (tenor & bass), euphonium

Please ask these members what they thought of their time at camp. Next year you might join the 200+ other musicians of all standards who all improve so dramatically during this single week. All brass band instruments are welcome, although special parts would need to be written for Bb Tubas. The final concerts by the symphony orchestra and the advanced concert band were at a solid B grade standard and were achieved by musicians with an average age of around 15.

Gregory Lewis