

November 9, 2004

Musical Director's Report

We have had a particularly busy month, with several important engagements.

A performance at the Albury Football Ground as part of the *Relay for Life* day began well, but unfortunately was cut short by the officials. Next year this job will need a commitment from the organisers that we can play for at least an hour. Fading light was also a problem – perhaps an earlier start is needed as well.

The band returned to the *Chiltern Ironbark Festival* this year. It is a wonderful country event in a lovely setting. Other entertainment attractions around the border district reduced our audience numbers, but we were very well received.

The final weekend in October involved four quite different events, all based at Bright. We began at the Bright Chalet with a tutorial on warm up routines and basic technical work. Any members who did not receive a technical sheet of lip slurs, fanfares and scales should collect one from me. Everyone should be able to play this set of exercises as a bare minimum. Your tone, intonation and sight reading will certainly improve if you can play this sheet fluently.

A march in Myrtleford followed on the Saturday afternoon. We played *March of the Cobblers* to an appreciative audience. Some photographs taken on the day show a very smart band indeed, with everyone in step and in perfect lines. Well done to all concerned!

The main event of the weekend was the *Springtime in Bright* festival at the football ground. We opened the proceedings with a recital of our favourite items, then were able to take part in the festivities with a large crowd of locals. We returned to play excerpts from the *Royal Fireworks Suite* during the fireworks display, surely a first for the town of Bright and for us!

Many members were able to stay the night in Bright and perform in the beautiful gardens of the Bright Chalet the next day, complete with an excellent Devonshire tea. This was a lovely finale to a very full weekend of playing.

The famous Wodonga Brass twilight concerts will be held on November 24 at Oakmont court and December 1 at Sumsion Gardens. These are designed to be no-stress events: no uniform; silver music stands; and a minimum of fuss. We begin at 6:30 pm and play for about an hour. We then return to the band hall for a rehearsal from 8:00 pm til 9:30 pm.

Christmas recitals begin on December 5 at the Howlong carols, with the dress rehearsal for our final concert at the Adventist Hall, David Street Albury, on Monday night December 13. This year we will have choirs from Catholic College, Xavier College, St Matthew's Church, and the Sing Australia Choir who regularly sing with us. We will also have seven soloists. Please put in the time required to learn your parts, especially the new arrangements we have this year.

All members should read this month's edition of *Bandworld*, which contains a report with pictures of our Tasmanian trip. Our own Toby Lewis is featured on the cover!

Best regards

Gregory Lewis