

# Party with Brassfeast!

## Introduction

Have you ever come home from a competition feeling like you spent the whole time rushing around? You never had a chance to meet up with friends from other bands, or make new contacts?

There is now a Melbourne based couple who are providing a solution to this problem!

Jason and Sarah Mears regularly attend National and Regional competitions around Australia and overseas, both as players and in Jas's case, a conductor as well. They experience first hand just how busy competitions can be, particularly if you are involved with more than one band! Competitions are so hectic, especially in the higher grades, plus the players are there to compete which does make it difficult to relax and socialise as there is a job to be done!

On the return trip from a particularly busy competition, Sarah came up with the idea of having organised social events where players have the opportunity to meet in a friendly, non competitive atmosphere. This led to the development of a business called Brassfeast!

## About Brassfeast

Brassfeast will not be affiliated with any one band or organisation, and will be self-funded and governed. It is a legitimate registered business that will provide a service to the brass band community. It is not aimed at replacing the governing brass band body, however will seek to work along side the State Band associations and the NBCA as required.

The objectives for Brassfeast will be the following:

- To organise various social events to cater for the brass band community
- To facilitate positive and friendly interaction between players and bands.
- To be an independent business, that is not influenced nor governed by any other organisation, but will work under the guidance of a team of advisers.
- To have constant communication with bands and players in terms of what sort of functions etc are wanted.

This concept has not been tried before in Australia and will be very much reliant on people wanting to be a part of Brassfeast events. Brassfeast will aim to organize events which will suit as many people as possible!

Brassfeast also has another aim – to sponsor and support junior events at National and state level. In 2007, Brassfeast sponsored the Australian Junior Champion of Champions at the Nationals in Melbourne, and the Junior section at the Moreland Slow Melody Competition.

### **Brassfeast Events**

Since the inception of this new venture in early 2007, there has been two events with another planned for October.

The first ever Brassfeast event was held in April, after the hectic weekend that is the Australian Nationals!, A small but enthusiastic group ventured out to the AMF Northcote Bowl for an afternoon of fun and competition! A few were a little worse for wear, due to some heavy partying the night before, but were eager to take part. Participants included members of Hawthorn, Boorondarra, Kew, Preston, Northern Brass and Box Hill Brass Bands.



The second event was held in June before a number of bands headed over the New Zealand Nationals and was a sell out! A large group of people took part in a Murder Mystery evening held at the Box Hill Bandroom, with members from about 8 or so bands! It was an absolutely fantastic night, with everyone putting a lot of effort into finding out “whodunit”!



During 2007, Brassfeast also held a AFL footy tipping competition, with some reasonable cash prizes. Ten people took part in the inaugural competition, with the top three places being hotly contested right till the last game!

### **The Brassfeast Fun Challenge Event**

So are you interested in coming along to a Brassfeast function....?

The next Brassfeast event will be a night of fun filled adrenaline. Put Saturday 20 October in your diaries for an all action experience that will blow you away.

Challenge yourself with the ultimate thrill of battle with other brass band members, and then party the night away at Crown or head into the city.

On Saturday 20th October 6pm at the Crown Entertainment Complex Southbank in Melbourne you can have two games of M9 Laser Skirmish (including a themed game), plus one hour unlimited game play in Galatic Circus all for the low price of \$35. Platters of food will also be served. Drinks from the licensed bar will be available for purchase.

Awards will be presented for the best and worst scores.

The Function should finish around 9.30pm - so you can continue the night at Crown or go into the city.

Brassfeast hopes to see some country and interstate visitors as well. There is plenty of accommodation in the city and Crown is located within walking distance of the CBD.

Places are limited so book ASAP. For bookings, ring Sarah on 0419 316 904.

### **The Future of Brassfeast**

Stay tuned as a number of Brassfeast functions are planned for 2008, plus Brassfeast will continue to sponsor a number of competitions, including the Nationals in Brisbane. There will also be a 2008 AFL Footy Tipping Competition!

Sarah is also hoping to hold events interstate in 2008, to make Brassfeast go Nationals!

In the pipeline is an entertainment style contest which will be based on the UK "Brass in Concert" format.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for functions, please let Sarah know.

### **To Find Out More**

To find out more, please email [info@brassfeast.com](mailto:info@brassfeast.com) or visit [www.brassfeast.com](http://www.brassfeast.com)

There is also a section devoted to Brassfeast on Australia's Brass Band Forum - [www.spitvalve.com.au](http://www.spitvalve.com.au)