

VICTORIAN BANDS LEAGUE INCORPORATED
REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
26th October 2008

The following report is to advise the Delegates of matters dealt with, or arising, since the last Delegates' Meeting held on Sunday 6th July 2008.

Executive Council General

The Executive has met on three occasions: 12th August, 9th September, 15th October.

The last hard copy of the VBL News was issued in September. Any future editions of VBL News will be available on our website.

A call for nominations has been sent to all bands for the VBL Annual Awards. Awards are for Musician of the Year, Young Musician of the Year, Drum Major of the Year and Musical Director of the Year. The closing date has been extended to Friday 14th November 2008 due to the lack of received nominations. If you feel that someone in your band is worthy of nomination, please submit this by 14th November.

VBL Showcase 2008 is to be held on Sunday 30th November 2008, with special guest soloist and conductor, Russell Gray from the UK. Russell will be performing with the Footscray-Yarraville City Band. The Champion of Champion winners from the State Solo & Ensemble Championships will also be performing. The other bands are the Victorian State Youth Brass Band, Eltham Concert Band and Mordialloc Jazz Orchestra (MoJO). We anticipate it will be a roaring success. Please spread the word: Sunday 30th November at Melba Hall, University of Melbourne, commencing at 2pm.

Competition and Function Rules

There hasn't been any further progress on the rules review, predominantly because of lack of available time of the review team members. The registrations section has been reviewed, however this has not yet been discussed in detail at the Executive.

Contests

The Victorian State Solo & Ensemble Championships were held at Firbank Grammar School on 2nd & 3rd August 2008. This venue proved to be outstanding, with only a minor acoustic matter which can be remedied by swapping sections between rooms. I would like to acknowledge the huge effort of Robyn Solum, and also to Michael Walker, Irene Magoulas and Helen Gray, in bringing this event together. In addition, I would like to thank Phillipa Edwards and Jamie Lawson for making this venue available to the VBL. Thank you to Firbank Grammar for providing the venue to the VBL for no charge – it is very much appreciated.

The Victorian State Brass and Concert Band Championships were held in Ballarat again this year. The organisational and financial support of the Royal South Street Society was superb. Thank you to Brian McInnis and the RSSS team, and a special acknowledgement to the Hugh Williamson Foundation which provided the prize money. Robyn Solum did an excellent job running this event. Thank you to Robyn as well as Michael Walker, Irene Magoulas, Helen Gray and John Kelly who ably assisted on the weekend. Not having sign-on was a real success, with the event running smoothly and no registration infringements. If entries are similar or greater in 2009, we will need to change one brass section from Sunday to Saturday, as 17 bands on one day was too long, and we were very mindful of people driving from Ballarat late on a Sunday evening.

The Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod at Traralgon also went smoothly. It is always a friendly, well run contest by the Eisteddfod. Thank you and congratulations to Marie Moulton and the members of the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod committee.

NBCA

There has only been one item of business from the NBCA since the last meeting. That being an inconsistency between the minimum number of players required in the on-stage components of the contest and the minimum number on the parade. This has been overcome by reducing the minimum on parade to sixteen (16) plus Drum Major.