A Great Tribute

Woolston Brass was bestowed with the great honour of presenting a tribute concert for the last remaining members of the 1953 and 1962 National Bands of New Zealand. Sixteen of the 25 surviving members of the bands along with their wives and family met in Christchurch during the last weekend of October for one last reunion. The reunion culminated in a concert at which music from the National Bands’ repertoire was played.

The concert programme was selected by Kevin Jarrett MBE, the Associate Principal Cornet of the 1962 National Band. With only six weeks for Woolston to prepare the programme following the Provincial Contest, some band members longed for the luxury of six weeks of daily practice on a steamer bound for England, which the National Band members had enjoyed. Nevertheless under the baton of Graham Hickman the programme came together much to the delight of the very appreciative audience.

For many, the highlights of the concert came from the National Band members themselves. Trevor Bremner, who was a skinny 18-year-old 3rd cornet player in the ’62 band, wowed the audience with his sensitive rendition of To a Wild Rose. This item was dedicated to the principal cornet and leader of both the ’53 and ’62 bands, Dave Christensen, who was in the audience. Trevor wore his ’62 band jacket but admitted to the band on stage that it was a little tight.

Tom Williams, a percussionist in the 1962 band, gave a speedy performance of The Circus Gallop as a tribute to two very fine National Band xylophonists Brian Barrett and Walter Sinton. But the true highlight was the compering of Kevin Jarrett. Known throughout banding circles as a wonderful storyteller, Kevin tied the evening together with his tales of the highs and lows of the now legendary tours of the 1953 and 1962 National Bands. From the fly in the steak story, to the brilliance of their conductor K G L Smith MBE, to the infamy of the Bass sections; these stories gave a history lesson that explained why, even today, the two bands are known as the Champions and the Pioneers.
In front of a good-sized audience including the surviving National Band members, Woolston Brass did themselves proud with detailed and musical performances of the likes of *The Impresario, Slavonic Rhapsody No 1* and *The Three Musketeers*, which was the test selection played by the 1953 band when they won the British Open. The band’s reading of Dean Goffin’s *Rhapsody in Brass* with some fantastic work by principal players Kyle Lawson, Davey Boyes, Callum Hewson and Kevin Hickman (on soprano cornet) showed that, while B and C grades may now “have a go” at this piece on the contest stage, it takes a champion band to bring out all its musical nuances. The concert concluded with a moving rendition of *Abide With Me*, which included two verses sung rather tunefully by the band.

It was indeed a pleasure to be part of this tribute concert and we would like to thank Tom Williams, the organizer of the National Bands’ reunion, for inviting us to perform such a memorable concert programme and for arranging the wonderful supper that allowed the National Band members and Woolston players to meet together. We would also like to thank Kevin McMorran for helping out in the solo cornet row. But finally we thank the National Band members for setting the standard by which all New Zealand bands are judged and for your critique of our performance. (You are a tough crowd to perform to and a tough act to follow.)

A DVD of the concert has been produced by Brian Hodges of AVM Productions. This can be purchased for $30 through Tom Williams phone 03 942 0843 or email tombarwilliams@paradise.net.nz

Footnote:
**Dianne Smechuyzen**, president of the Brass Bands Association of New Zealand, was invited to speak near the conclusion of the reunion concert. She paid tribute to the members of the ‘53 and ’62 National Bands and expressed her passion for the institution of the National Band. She then took time to acknowledge the achievement of Woolston Brass this year in our fourth consecutive win in the New Zealand Brass Band Championship. Dianne then presented a commemorative plaque to Graham Hickman to be displayed in pride of place in the bandroom.

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### Events Calendar

**Sunday 10 February**
Woolston Brass will perform on the Daffodil Lawn (near the Band Rotunda) in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens from 12.00 to 1.30 pm. Bring a picnic and a chair.

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**And Sunday 10 March**
Woolston Concert Brass and Woolston Junior Band will perform at Scarborough Reserve in Sumner from 12.00 to 1.30 pm. Enjoy another picnic!

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**Sunday 24 February** Flaxwood Festival
A full day of musical entertainment held at Flaxton, a magnificent country property situated on Flaxton Road north of Christchurch en route to Rangiora. Tickets are $30 and available through Woolston Brass or www.flaxton.org. All funds raised go to charity.

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**Saturday 16 March 7.00 pm**
“Whistle-stop Tour” Woolston Brass and Pelorus Wellington Brass with David Morris the world champion whistler. Middleton Grange Performing Arts Centre, Arthur Street, Upper Riccarton.

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**Thursday 25 April 2.00 pm**
Anzac Remembered. Air Force Museum of New Zealand, 45 Harvard Drive, Wigram.

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Members of the 1962 and 1953 National Bands of New Zealand attending the reunion concert
A very pleasant event was held on 14 October at Newbery Lodge in Opawa to formally recognize the band’s history-making four-in-a-row win at this year’s National Championships. Our Patron Adrienne, Lady Stewart attended, as did a number of our Life Members and Seat Patrons.

The band performed a short concert during which the 19-year tenure of outgoing Principal Cornet Kevin Hickman was acknowledged, while the new man in the hot seat, Kyle Lawson, made a stunning debut with an emphatic performance of James Curnow’s “Concert Piece for Cornet”.

Band President A G (Tony) Lewis then addressed the gathering. After acknowledging the band’s success, and the role of Musical Director Graham Hickman in particular, Tony expressed the band’s gratitude to its supporters and invited them to join the band in its celebrations. After an hour or so of drinks and nibbles, Lady Stewart was invited to cut the celebratory cake and gave an impromptu speech acknowledging the work done in fostering younger players through our Concert and Junior bands. Lady Stewart also commended the band as a whole and urged that the sponsorship net be cast wider still to ensure its future.

Later in the afternoon presentations were made to those band members who had performed above and beyond the call of duty. Graham Hickman went from MD to MC as he gave a detailed explanation of the abilities and achievements of all the band sections before inviting Vince Pheloung to present the Pheloung Cup to trombone player Akira Hirasawa as 2012’s Most Improved Player. Colleen Hoy then presented the Hoy Memorial Shield to the trombone section as 2012’s Section of the Year. The Woolstonian Cup (donated by the Gallaher Family) went to all round good fella Dave Johnstone, and the much-coveted Band Person of the Year trophy (hand-crafted by Ken Smith) went to a very deserving Callum Hewson. This was a very popular choice and Graham’s account of Callum’s impeccable playing, mastery of “fiendishly difficult contest music”, sterling attitude and first class leadership of the horn section were fully endorsed by the rest of the band. On receiving the award Callum made an inspiring, motivational speech that demonstrated his passion for the band and his desire to lead by example.

It was a significant Sunday afternoon in many ways, not the least of which was the presence of three-week-old Sophia Hickman, her proud dad holding the carry cot up to the audience and declaring that this was Sophia’s first gig!

\[\text{Callum Hewson} \]

Much to Celebrate!

**A Banding Road Trip**

In mid November Woolston Brass spent a very pleasant weekend in Timaru at the invitation of Alpine Energy Timaru Brass. The bands combined to present an ANZAC Remembered concert at the Theatre Royal on Remembrance Day. In the week leading up to the concert several major stories along with photographs were printed in The Timaru Herald, including a profile of Dwayne Bloomfield, Timaru’s musical director and composer. Nice to see a brass band being well supported by the local media.

The bands met up on Saturday evening for a combined rehearsal in the Timaru Bandroom followed by supper. After a technical rehearsal on Sunday morning the concert opened with Alpine Energy Timaru Brass featuring traditional favourites The Great Escape, Where Eagles Dare and Dwayne’s composition Fernleaf Headstones. A rousing rendition of Colonel Bogey started by Timaru and finished by Woolston allowed the bands to change over seamlessly.

Woolston began its programme with compère Eugene Puohotaua in full singing voice as he encouraged the audience to sing along to We Are the Boys and the Maori Battalion. This was followed by movements 1 and 3 of Rhapsody in Brass written during World War II by Dean Goffin.

Caroline Blackmore came from the solo cornet row to join Eugene in the Keep Smiling Through medley. Her moving version of The White Cliffs of Dover brought a hush to the audience. Woolston’s segment concluded with Dwayne Bloomfield’s 7.1. Written after the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes, the piece’s theme of devastation, disbelief and hope for the future fitted well into the Remembrance Day programme.

Both bands then filled the stage to play another of Dwayne’s compositions, Lone Pine. Commissioned by Adrienne, Lady Stewart for the National Band of her native Australia, the piece depicts the battle of Lone Pine fought in August 1915 between the Australian and Turkish forces. How Davey Boyes managed to get his euphonium to sound like a traditional Turkish instrument in the opening section of the piece is beyond belief. But full credit must go to all the cornets who managed to make their mutes with mouthpieces inserted sound like relentless buzzing flies. Needless to say the piece is very descriptive.

The afternoon’s programme concluded with the traditional Retreat Ceremony followed by another rousing march, Invercargill. And so it was time to return to our respective cities and bandrooms having enjoyed an excellent weekend of music making. Our thanks to the band and committee members of the Alpine Energy Timaru Brass, their musical director Dwayne Bloomfield and band chairman Kent Smith. Also to percussionist Jess Hix and euphonium player Taryn Dufour for joining our band for the weekend.

Section of the Year: The trombones, namely Andrew Yorkstone, Richard Hogarth and Akira Hirasawa

Band Person of the Year: Callum Hewson
Quarterly Photo Gallery

Band members and their families gather to celebrate the end of the banding year at Chairman Gary’s place.

Byron Newton (centre) is welcomed back to Christchurch by Sarah Hickman and Davey Boyes.

Gen Y at the band barbecue – The older members of the band are attending to the catering...

Grace Seaton in a whisper session with Santa

Katie Pinker’s Santa moment

A high 5 for Santa from Sam Hickman
Horn, Euphonium and Baritone Sections.

Three Jolly Sailormen

Unfazed, Jake Hickman issues clear instructions to Santa

Back and front row cornets at the National Band Reunion Concert. Rookie Principal Cornet Kyle Lawson took it all in his stride, as did our new soprano player, a very versatile Kevin Hickman!
The AGM

The 121st Annual General Meeting of Woolston Brass was held in our Dampier Street hall on 26th September following the band’s regular rehearsal. Those elected to office were:

Patron - Adrienne, Lady Stewart
Vice Patrons - Colin Tregurtha, Derek Anderson and Graeme Coomer
President - Tony Lewis
Vice President - John Thorne
Chairman - Gary Pinker
Secretary - Colleen Hoy
Treasurer - Graeme Coomer
Management Committee - Todd Turner, Catherine Hickman, Vince Pheloug, Eugene Puohotaua, John Thorne and Tim Anderson (the Brass Academy representative.)
Band Sergeant - Mark Vander Klei

A highlight of the Annual General Meeting was the election of Kevin R Joughin as a Life Member of Woolston Brass. Kevin was nominated by Life Members Chris Reside and Dave Johnstone, who said in an address to the meeting, “At first glance this nomination may seem a little implausible, given that Kevin has not lived permanently in Christchurch since 1984. A closer look will reveal just how appropriate it is...”

The grandson of Cleave Joughin, a cornet player who had been a member of The Woolston Band in the earliest days of existence, Kevin joined the Woolston “Auxiliary Band” (as it was then known) in 1966. Three years later he attended his first National Championships (Rotorua 1969), gaining third place in the Under 19 Cornet Solo. His days as a novice were then numbered and the following year he was swiftly drafted off into the Senior Band under the watchful eye of musical director Mervyn Waters. Kevin’s passion for and commitment to the band has been unwavering since that time.

Kevin has borne Woolston’s colours perennially and proudly as a soloist and duettist, and as a highly successful ensemble and band leader, both on the marching paddock and on the stage. He has represented Woolston as a member of the 1974, 1976 and 1978 National Bands and he was a member of the landmark Skellerup Woolston Band that took banding in a new direction with its performance of Vinter’s “Spectrum” in 1971. He played flugel horn for Woolston’s assault on the 1975 British Open. In 1976 Kevin was appointed Principal Cornet and for the next eight years led the band through one of the most successful periods in its history.

The Nelson National Contest in 1984 marked Kevin’s departure for Australia. Though an Australian resident since then, he has maintained close contact with the town he still calls “home” and he has returned to play with us at contests on no less than nine occasions, including our Millennium Tour to the British Open.

Kevin was not at the A.G.M. for the presentation but was delighted to receive notification of this honour. We congratulate him and thank him for his contribution to Woolston Brass.

Obituary

CATTERMOLE, Ronald Capill (Ron)

A minute’s silence was observed at the AGM to mark the passing of Ron Cattermole on 26 September 2012, at Christchurch Hospital, aged 83 years.

Ron and his wife of 59 years, Hope, were generous supporters of our band. The couple’s son, Victor, was a percussionist with us in the 1980s. The band played at the funeral service celebrating Ron’s life. Here are extracts from the eulogy delivered at the service by Eugene Puohotaua.

“People have remarked that Ron was amongst Woolston’s staunchest supporters but he was more than that. He was one of our most esteemed members. He was as much a band member as those of us who wear the uniform and hold official titles. Banding was special to Ron. It was an interest he shared with brothers Malcolm and Don, and of course with his beloved son Victor. Ron and Victor became Woolstonians together.

Woolston’s success has revolved around a strong infrastructure, the loyal dedication and selfless work of those who have, and who continue to administer it. This was the world of Ron Cattermole whose service to Woolston over such a long period is legendary. Many of the current band were not born when Ron first came to Dampier Street, but they knew of him and the regard in which he is held.

Ron was unrelenting in his practical support. He knew how strong the guys liked their tea, so there was always that extra teaspoon of tea-leaves in the pot. Visitors, no matter how distinguished, had to make do with a tea-bag. The team came first. The zip was always timed to perfection so the coffee and tea would be fresh and hot for the team. There were also those cold drinks after marching practice. In between, he met the needs of the band’s clothing and equipment issues. He did this with dignity, diligence and good humour. For concert engagements, he collected the Skellerup truck from the factory, loaded the gear, unloaded it at the gig, loaded it after the gig and unloaded it again at the bandroom. Then he would return the truck and finally, usually a couple of hours after the rest of us had finished, Ron went home for his tea. And when Mr. Fix-it was required, again Ron was always there, from measuring up and arranging the manufacture of Timpani covers to repairing stands and painting drums. But the true extent of his thoughtfulness was in meeting the needs of our conductors. Emptying Merv’s (Waters) ashtray was always the first order of the day because he knew by the end of rehearsal it would be full to overflowing again. Taking Merv’s coffee, black and strong, at half time. And later, under musical director Ken Smith did Ron go home at 8.45 pm after rehearsal? No way. Ron waited so that Ken could enjoy a cold drink after rehearsal. You see, Ron wanted Ken to have his drink cold, not just the glass, and he thought the ice might irritate Ken’s lips. That is the extent of Ron’s caring and thoughtfulness.

If Woolston was Ron’s passion, his family was his life: he was so proud of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Like most post-war young men, he learned his trade, married, started a family and got out of bed rain, hail or snow every working morning of his life so he and Hope could provide for them. And what a granddad he was. I remember little Marjorie, then five years old, hanging on to his arm as though her life depended on it. I saw it again in the hospital recently. And Lewis and Vincent, both with a passion for roast potatoes when they were young, who always managed to get their granddad to get nana to put it on the menu. And Daniel, the first grandchild, to whom Ron entrusted the guardianship of his bike, a treasured family possession.

And so dear friend, Woolston, your band, salutes you, our loyal trooper. May our music be a source of comfort and strength for those you loved. Your family.”
Round the Bandstand

All three Woolston Bands competed at the annual Canterbury Provincial Band Contest held on 15 September at Middleton Grange Performing Arts Centre. Woolston Brass won all three events in the A Grade section, Woolston Concert Brass took home all the trophies in the C Grade section and the Woolston Junior Band beat bands from all the grades to be awarded with the Best Compère prize in the Entertainment competition. The adjudicator for the event was Mason Elliot from Hamilton.

Our congratulations go to the following Woolston players who have been selected to represent New Zealand in the 2013 National Youth Band. Kyle Lawson, Chris Broadbent and Miles Bennett on cornet, Andrew Yorkstone – trombone, bass players Jordan Seaton and Joel Williams and percussionist Cameron Lee.

The Youth Band will assemble on 25 January at Camp Columbus, Pukerua in Southland. Peter Adams from Dunedin is the band’s musical director with special guest tutor Dr Robert Childs visiting for two days. Performing with the band as guest soloist is former Woolston player Byron Newton, recently returned from the UK where he studied euphonium under Dr Childs at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

The band will perform concerts in Roxburgh, Invercargill and Dunedin and disband on the 1st of February. Please visit the BBANZ website for concert venues. www.brassnz.co.nz

Having recently returned home from his studies Byron Newton popped into the bandroom to join in a few rehearsals. It is always a pleasure to have former members return to Dampier Street.

We welcome back Ross Yorkstone and Anthony Bracegirdle who both returned to the band in November after leave of absence. Ross rejoins the cornet section and Ant, the trombones.

We would like to say farewell and thanks to Dale Houseome-Vail. Dale began playing in the Woolston Junior Band and Concert Brass and although he now plays trombone for Leonard Coachlines Canterbury Brass he has remained a tutor of those learning brass at the Woolston Brass Academy on Tuesday nights. Dale is moving to Wellington to study Music at Victoria University.

A bit further afield from the bandstand former member Barrett Hocking was spotted on television several times this year, first as part of the international youth orchestra which played at the opening ceremony of the London Olympic Games and more recently as part of the band The Black Seeds as they performed at the New Zealand Music awards.

Life member Merton Tapp has retired from his teaching career. Mert has been a teacher of Mathematics at Papamui High for over 30 years. He plans to return to school occasionally when needed as a relieving teacher but for now will have more time to practice his Tenor Horn.

Steve Chapman has resigned as the musical director of Woolston Concert Brass due to his appointment as the Head of Music at Christchurch Boys High School. We thank Steve for his enthusiastic approach to the role of MD and wish him the best for his career. Fortunately we have quickly found a replacement in Nick Johnson. Originally from the UK, Nick is a former primary school teacher who now works at the School of Music at the Amy Band.

Player Profile

Miles Bennett

Seventeen-year-old cornet player Miles Bennett joined Woolston Brass at the end of 2011 after moving up from Woolston Concert Brass. He has fitted in well to the back row cornet section.

When did you start playing cornet and why? Do you play any other instruments?

I started off playing the trumpet when I was nine and then changed to the cornet a couple of years later, simply because I changed schools and they didn’t have any trumpets. So I got a cornet instead! I have played the piano from a young age and also enjoy having a wee strum of the guitar every now and then.

Have you always been playing in brass bands? What sort of musical groups have you been involved in?

I joined the Woolston Junior Band in 2007 and worked my way up the Woolston Academy. In that time I have been involved in various school groups including the Jazz Band, Orchestra and groups accompanying major school productions.

Why do you like being a part of Woolston Brass? What does it mean to you to be a Woolstonian?

It is just great to be amongst such talented and friendly musicians, every rehearsal is an inspiration to work harder and do my bit to stay part of the band.

Favourite piece of music and why?

My favourite piece of music at the moment would have to be 7.1 by Dwayne Bloomfield after hearing it played at The Band of the Year in Timaru [performed by Alpine Energy Timaru Brass]. It was amazing to be able to play the piece four months later with Woolston and it is a very moving piece to perform.

What is the highlight of your musical career so far?

The highlights would have to be going to National Secondary Schools Band as well as the National Contest in Timaru with Woolston Concert Brass. [Miles played for Woolston Concert Brass at national contest this year]

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy playing hockey and Ultimate Frisbee and going sailing in our family yacht. Between that and band there’s not much time left in the day for anything else.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years time with life/brass bands?

I hope to be studying Computer Science at university, wherever that may be. I hope to still be involved in brass banding in some way.

Any advice for the next generation of brass players?

Start playing in a group whatever your ability, it makes it fun and enjoyable as well as helping you improve.
Merry Christmas!

We would like to thank all those who have supported us throughout the year. We greatly appreciated your interest in our three bands and our Brass Academy.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2013. Have a Champion New Year!

If any players are travelling through, or holiday in, Christchurch near the end of January feel free to call into the bandroom on Monday or Wednesday evening.

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to these individuals and organizations for their continued support:

Seat Sponsors
- Principal Cornet: Adrienne, Lady Stewart
- Solo Cornet 1: Henshaw Developments Trust
- Solo Cornet 2: Lane Neave Lawyers
- Solo Cornet 3: Gilbert and Patricia Glausiuss
- Solo Cornet 4: Derek and Lynn Anderson
- Repiano Cornet: Carolyn Schuitman
- Second Cornet 1: The Ron Ball Charitable Trust
- Second Cornet 2: Judith and Graeme Coomer
- Second Cornet 3: Jenny and Lindsay Moir
- Third Cornet 1: J Ballantyne & Co
- Third Cornet 2: J Ballantyne & Co
- Solo Trombone: Robert and Valerie Blackmore
- Bass Trombone: Michael and Lesley Pettersen
- Principal Euphonium: Anonymous
- Second Euphonium: Triple Forte
- First Baritone: Alan Reay Consultants
- Second Baritone: Coupland’s Bakeries Ltd
- Flugel Horn: Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
- Solo Tenor Horn: Murray and Bernice Ireland
- First Tenor Horn: David and Hilary Stock
- Tenor Horn 2: Keith Laugeson Charitable Trust
- Tenor Horn 3: Christchurch Casino
- Principal E flat Bass: Archibald Motors
- Second E flat Bass: Available
- Principal B flat Bass: Prof. John Ritchie
- Second B flat Bass: Ron and Audrey Harris
- Percussion 1: The Ron Ball Charitable Trust
- Percussion 2: David and Robyn Marriott
- Percussion 3: Bell, Lamb and Trotter Funeral Directors

Next issue information

The next Woolstonian will be released in March 2013. To receive your copy via email or if you would like to join our email database for concert alerts please contact Helen Hoy 03 960 8829 helen@woolstonbrass.org

Written contributions were received for this issue from: Eugene Puohotaua, Catherine Hickman, Jane Myhill, Helen Hoy and Dave Johnstone with photographs from Brian Hodges, Georgia Hoy and Glenda Johnstone.

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Download Your Support!

MP3 tracks from our CDs, Millennium, ANZAC, Sacred, and Rhythm n’ Brass are available on-line from the world’s leading music distributors, CD Baby, Amazon.com and iTunes. You can download single tracks for about 90 cents or full albums for $10! Best of all, the money comes straight back to the band, so every on-line purchase you make helps us get by! This is such a great way to show your support for the band, efficient, fun, and you get to collect lots of great music!

Project Supporters:

Christchurch City Council, The Trusts Charitable Foundation, The Canterbury Community Trust, New Zealand Community Trust, Air Rescue Trust, The Southern Trust, Mainland Foundation

Woolston Brass and Concert Brass Christmas combination!