



# ST. KILDA MUNICIPAL BAND



DIAMOND JUBILEE  
1901 — 1961

*September 1961*

*Celebrating Sixty Years of Music*

*1901*



*1961*

*St. Kilda Municipal  
Band*

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*Diamond Jubilee*

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*∴ 60 Years of Music ∴*

## Editorial Note

The Jubilee Committee, in making preparations to celebrate the Band's sixty years of music, decided to commemorate the occasion with the publication of a magazine recording the total period of the Band's existence. It was thought that it would give much pleasure to old members, associates and friends as well as serve future bandsmen of St. Kilda Municipal Band, if and when they decide to continue with the Band's history.

With the short time that has been at my disposal and the lack of records available considerable difficulties have been experienced. With these drawbacks there are bound to be omissions, especially in the section 1901-1912, and that covering World War I, and where this occurs I make full apologies to all of those people concerned.

Mr. R. S. Waterston compiled the "Register of Contest Records," a time-consuming and unenviable task, and to him my special thanks.

Finally, it is hoped that these pages will recapture memories for all who have been members or associated with the Band down the years, and provide much of interest for those present members and friends who are carrying on the fine tradition of the St. Kilda Municipal Band.

*I. E. Still.*

July, 1961.

## THE DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE



Back Row: S. H. BARNES (Publicity) R. T. MCCLINTOCK (Organising) F. STURGEON (Organising) L. M. GILLIONS (Finance)  
 Second Row: G. M. CRAIGIE (Magazine) L. J. MACKLE (Catering) R. SHANNON (Accommodation) A. F. BRIESEMANN (Bandmaster) J. R. PAUL (Organising)  
 Front Row: J. LEES (Magazine) I. E. STILL (Secretary) R. S. WATERSTON (Chairman) L. A. GREEN (Treasurer)  
 Absent: E. A. BEADLE (Publicity) J. MCKNIGHT (Finance) T. F. MCLEAN (Organising) A. L. PARRY (Halls)

## :: Programme ::

### SATURDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER, 1961

AFTERNOON.—Forbury Park Raceway, Member's Tea Rooms.

1.30 p.m.: Late Registrations and Enquiries.

2 p.m.-4.30 p.m.: Get together and Conversazione (afternoon tea and refreshments).

EVENING.—Forbury Park Raceway under Main stand.

6.30 p.m.: Jubilee Banquet.

Social and Dance will follow in Member's Tea Rooms.

### SUNDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER, 1961

MORNING.—Coronation Hall, St. Kilda.

10 a.m. to 10.50 a.m.: Church Parade. Service and Address by Rev. R. E. Patchett of St. Kilda Methodist Church. Music for selected Hymns by the St. Kilda Municipal Band.

AFTERNOON.—Coronation Hall, St. Kilda.

2.30 p.m.: Musical Entertainment. Afternoon Tea will conclude Official Celebrations.

# Message From the President



A whistle made from the toe of a reindeer is regarded as one of the earliest musical instruments fashioned by man. This existing relic which dates back from 10,000 to 15,000 years is the earliest known sign that man desired to manifest the essence of his soul in music.

Down through the ages man has expressed himself in sound. By varying the pitch of his sounds he conveyed his emotions and his understanding. Thus speech was born. Even so he did not rely upon the gift of tongues to reveal his immortality for he soon learned that by the aid of simple musical instruments he could exalt his spirit.

Within the covers of this Souvenir booklet is a brief history of the St. Kilda Municipal Band which, in this year 1961, celebrates its sixtieth anniversary as one of New Zealand's finest music combinations.

On this Diamond Jubilee occasion I salute with you, a Band with fine traditions. A Band which has largely contributed for many years to the high standing of Brass Band music in this country.

The St. Kilda Municipal Band has always endeavoured to imitate the behaviour of the winners when a loser at a contest. This spirit demonstrates the discipline which has made a long succession of individual players into a Brass Band with a prolonged history of justifiable pride of achievement.

In truth it may be said of this Band that its music expresses the Soul of a City.

Sincerely

FRANK L. HITCHENS, *President.*

## MORNINGTON BRASS BAND

IN RETROSPECT . . . 1901—1912

*"Meditation is Creative Work which Transforms Experience."*

Among the very few musical organisations boasted by Dunedin at the turn of the century was the North-East Valley Band, but due to circumstances its termination in early 1901 was inevitable. Some of its members, realising that their efforts to revitalise the organisation were of no avail, turned their attentions to the formation of a new combination. Following approaches to the Borough of Mornington, a rehearsal room was secured in the Town Hall, located within its boundary and from this a new band was created due to the efforts of the Smith brothers, Charles, Albert and Edward, the last-named being Band Sergeant of the North-East Valley Band.

A meeting of all interested was held in May 1901, and the Mornington Brass Band was actually inaugurated in June of that year, under the presidency of Mr. William Wills with Mr. Edward Smith, affectionately known as "Ned", being appointed conductor. Under his able guidance the members quickly developed skill and discipline so necessary to place them in the contest class.

The original playing members numbered 24 with 16 recruits as learners.

After some financial difficulties had been overcome, a set of instruments was purchased from Charles Begg and Company for £185. Later, from the proceeds of a grand bazaar, uniforms were purchased and the first public appearance of the Band in full uniform was on August 21, 1902. The attendance at rehearsals during the early part of its existence was really excellent by present-day standards, the average attendance for the two weekly rehearsals being 22.

For the purpose of stimulating members to further progress it was decided in 1902 to affiliate with the Otago and Southland Bands' Association.

Officers for the first eighteen months of the Band's existence were: President, Mr. William Wills; Conductor, Mr. E. Smith; Sergeant, Mr. J. Simpson; Corporal, Mr. H. Dickinson; Lance-Corporal, Mr. R. Grenn; Secretary, Mr. W. Pollock.

### FIRST CONTEST

The first Band Contest attended was under the auspices of the Otago and Southland Association, and held at Port Chalmers on October the 28th and 29th, 1903, and much to its credit, Mornington Band gained second place in the Test Selection with 70 points, Port Chalmers Band being successful with 71 points. In the Quickstep, however, Mornington was not quite so successful and finished in seventh place. The first Drum-Major was Mr. D. Smith, and the judge of the contest was Mr. G. A. Martin of Wanganui. Soloists gained three silver medals, two third and one fourth place in six events.

In 1904 at Gore the Band succeeded in winning the Test Selection and finishing in third place in the Quickstep with highest musical points. It obtained first place in the aggregate, thereby being entitled to hold for that year the Begg-Besson Shield and the Boosey Cup as the B Grade Champion Band. In recognition of this achievement the Conductor, Mr. E. Smith, received a silver-mounted baton. The judge of the contest was Mr. Thomas Herd, of Wellington.

Following this success members of the Band were unanimous that the Conductor should be paid for his services as such, and fixed a salary of 30/- per month.

The next contest attended was on October 19th, 1905 at Temuka under the control of the Canterbury Brass Bands' Association. The Band completed the double with first place in both the Selection and the Quickstep. The selection was "*Santarella*," the Quickstep march "*Goeze*," the judge again being Mr. T. Herd.

The ambition of Mr. Smith and the members was to compete in the A Grade class, and after these successes it was decided to enter in the next contest as an A Grade Band. This decision was not well received by neither the public nor the Band's supporters, who scoffed at such an idea.

In 1907, at the New Zealand International Exhibition Contest held in Christchurch from February 11th to 16th, Mornington Band tied for first-place in Own Choice Selection with Wanganui Garrison (Mr James Crichton), Wellington Garrison (Mr. Thos. Herd) and Kaikorai Brass (Mr. G. B. Laidlaw). Mornington was placed fourth in the aggregate out of a total of 29 bands which participated, but the result established it in the A Grade class, despite the opinions that had been expressed earlier. The judge of this contest was Mr. W. G. Bentley of Sydney.

On February 24th to 28th, 1908 the contest was held at New Plymouth (judge Mr. Thos. Herd), and the Band again proved its grading beyond all doubt by carrying off the A Grade Championship for that year. The first Test Selection was "*William Tell*," the second Test being "*Gems of Schumann*." To recognise this outstanding feat, silver medals were presented to each member of the contest Band by the controllers of the contest, the North Island Brass Band's Association.

A break then came in the list of early successes. In 1909 finance would not permit the Band attending the Hastings contest. With the contest allocated to a North Island town,

it was just not possible to make two successive visits to the far North.

In 1910 the Band participated in the Dunedin contest, but despite a steady performance, it was not so successful as in previous years. For the records, fifth in the first Test and third in the second Test Selection.

The Mornington Brass Band thus established a justifiable record and set a standard for the future.

Late in 1911 the Band applied to the Mornington Borough Council for a subsidy to assist the funds, principally for contest expenses. The application was duly considered and the Mayor, Mr. Saul Solomon, announced with pride that the Borough would subscribe the munificent sum of £2/2/-, conditional upon the Band providing a performance within the Borough once each month during the year. Needless to say, the Band rejected the Council's proposal.

It is of interest that Mr. Wm. Wills was the President from the Band's inception until the end of the year 1911.

In the past the Band may take pride. To the future it looked with hope.

## SNAP FROM THE PAST



CAN YOU PICK THEM?

SOME OLD TIMERS

## ST. KILDA MUNICIPAL BAND

### RECORDING THE YEARS 1912—1922

#### TO OLD MEMBERS

*"Then with old friends  
I talk of our youth—  
How 'twas gladsome, but often  
Foolish, foorsooth;  
But gladsome, gladsome."*

It is recorded that on August 1st, 1912, the Mornington Brass Band held its eleventh Annual Meeting and the first Annual Meeting of the St. Kilda Municipal Band.

When the Borough of Mornington would not give the Band the support it desired, the St. Kilda Borough Council extended an offer to take over or sponsor the Band. Conditions attached to this were that the name would have to be changed to carry that of the Borough and that the Band would be required to supply, each year, four concerts within the boundaries of the Borough. In return, a subsidy of £40 would be paid annually by the St. Kilda Council. How different from that of the Mornington Council.

The offer was accepted finally, and the organisation became the St. Kilda Municipal Band. The personnel remained the same including the Conductor.

Under the new name it competed in the Dunedin Contest from October 14th to 19th, 1912 under the jurisdiction of the South Island Brass Bands' Association, and gained first place in the first Test Selection "*Madam Butterfly*" and second in the second Test "*Mayerbeer*." With the highest points, it won the A Grade Championship and the Begg-Besson Shield (equal with Kaikorai) and the Boosey Cup. The Band refrained from attending the Invercargill Contest in 1913 because of its intention to compete at the Auckland Industrial Agricultural and Mining Exhibition Contest the following year. This decision did not prove to be a wise one, for it did not take the A Grade Championship, winning only one Test and finishing seventh in the other Selection and only fifth in the Championship and tenth in the Quickstep. The judge was Captain W. G. Bentley of Sydney, and the contest was held from February 9th to February 14th. Some consolation could be taken from the fact that in

the solos and party events the eight members competing in such gained two first places, three second and three third places. Not long after this contest Europe became involved in a general upheaval with the declaration of war. Like many other bands, St. Kilda lost many of its key players in their services overseas in the Armed Services. During the first World War no contests were held, but the Band continued its normal activities in the service of the City and its suburbs. This, although lacking the glamour of great contest victories, was success, measured from an equally important angle—adversity.

After the cessation of hostilities the Band remained out of the limelight as far as contests were concerned. During this time Mr. E. Smith resigned from the Conductorship. Many changes that followed had a serious effect on the Band but by dint of courage the members faced up to the situation and resolved to carry on under adversity. On Mr. Smith's resignation, Mr. George Patterson took over in a temporary capacity. In 1915, Mr. Arnold O. Kaye was installed as conductor, but remained for only a few months when Mr. G. Patterson again assumed the position as temporary Conductor.

This did not solve the problem and on September 16th, 1918 Mr. George B. Laidlaw was appointed Conductor. "G. B." as he was known was a splendid musician, but his services to the Band ended abruptly when he died suddenly on June 19th, 1919. He was greatly beloved by all who came in contact with him, and his passing created a further set back to the organisation.

However, Mr. Ned Smith returned to take over his former position, and again led the Band to success at the Nelson Contest held from March 14th to 19th, 1921, gaining second place in both Selections and a similar position in the aggregate, equal with Invercargill Hibernian.

The Timaru victory seemed as if it may be St. Kilda's swan song.

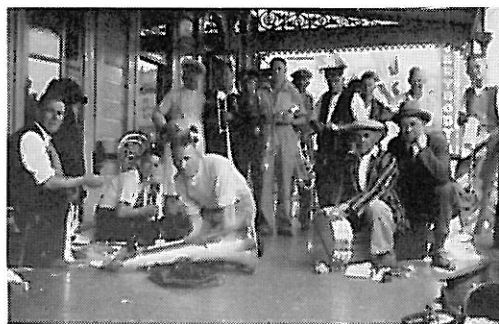
Referring to the 1929 contest, we quote from the Wanganui Chronicle:

"Few Band Conductors can lay claim to the popularity enjoyed by Mr. Jas. Dixon. When he mounted the platform at Saturday night's demonstration concert, he was greeted by a prolonged cheering and cries of 'Good Old Jimmie,' coming from every quarter of the ground, fittingly marked the feelings of esteem in which he is held by those associated with him in Band work.

"Bandsmen from St. Kilda paid a striking tribute to their leader. 'He's the most popular Conductor south of the line' was one statement made. 'What he doesn't know about music isn't worth knowing' and 'he's a sportsman all the way' were other comments. The genial personality of the southern Conductor was not lost upon the audience at the concert, and he was not allowed to leave the stage without a speech.

"He replied: 'You can quite imagine that my heart is too full for words tonight' he said, 'but naturally I am proud of the position, but prouder of the men who helped me to get there.'

"He also paid a tribute to the other competing Bands. 'They were all hard nuts to crack' he said, 'and everyone had been a true sport. There has not been a Band that has not come up and congratulated us, and there had been a fine spirit shown throughout the contest.'



DISPLAY OF ENERGIES (BY SOME)

"The last tune played at the conclusion of the contest at Cook's Gardens in Wanganui was the Cornet solo *"The End of a Perfect Day"* by George Christie of the St. Kilda Champion Band."

From the "Timaru Herald" after the 1935 contest:

"It was scarcely necessary for the President of the New Zealand Brass Bands' Association to plead with the bandsmen assembled last night to accept the judges decision in a sporting spirit, for the outstanding reception given to the St. Kilda Municipal Band on their success in winning the much-coveted honour of New Zealand Champion Band was the feature of the final concert in connection with the Band contest given last night in the Theatre Royal.

"The contest has been contested in the most sporting spirit and the losers were the first to congratulate the bandsmen from the Southern City on their signal success.

"Mr. Jas. Dixon attributed his success to the fine support he had received from the members of the Band. The standard of the competing Bands had been very high and he considered it a great honour to be placed above them."

As a result of these successes the popularity of the Band rapidly increased, and from information obtained, not a week passed without the Band receiving several requests for its services by many organisations. These numerous and varied requests were all honoured, thus keeping the members fully occupied over the year.

On June 3rd, 1935, Mr. A. W. E. Webb, of Wanganui, was appointed Conductor and continued until June 25th, 1936.

Thus the period 1923 to 1935 could rightly be called the Dixon era.

## A FURTHER RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT . . . 1936—1947

*"Quite green I came here years ago,  
To try and play with  
Friends and so—  
My tune was spent."*

Under the baton of Mr. Webb the Band competed at New Plymouth Contest from July 24th to 29th, 1936, gaining second place in the *"Works of Liszt"* Selection, fourth in *"Oliver Cromwell"* Selection and third in the aggregate. Second in the Quickstep, Drum-Major Donaldson won the gold medal for the highest points for drill. At this contest Cairns Citizens Band, from Queensland, Australia, competed and won the Gold Challenge Cup, thus becoming the Champion Band of the Dominion for 1936, but were not permitted under the rules to take the cup out of New Zealand.

On December 17th, 1936, Mr. W. L. Francis took over the conductorship of the Band from C. C. E. Miller, who, in conjunction with Mr. Dixon, had acted in a temporary capacity since June of that year. Mr. Francis had an excellent record as a band trainer in New Zealand, his previous Band being Greymouth Municipal, and he had gained with B Grade Bands three championships and one second place in four contests.

His first contest with an A Grade Band was in February, 1937, at Nelson. Having only assumed conductorship some two months previously, Mr. Francis had no opportunity to mould the Band into a combination under his own particular system, and was only moderately successful. The Band was unable to attend the 1938 contest at Palmerston North, thus breaking a long list of contest attendances.

It was now evident that Mr. Francis had to undertake the training of juniors to build the Band up to contest standard, and this he did with considerable success. Prominent bandsmen of today received their initial coaching under Mr. Francis and some names that come to mind are Dave Christensen, Ralph and Allan Francis and Roy Jackson. He continued to build up the Band and attended the 1939 contest at Christchurch with the youngest Band ever to compete and gained first place in the Own Choice Selection by 9 points and third place in the championship, and won the Quickstep with Drum-Major Donaldson.

Members of the Band in the solo and party events were highly successful with four gold medals, three silver medals and two third places.

In the section, boys under 17 years, Ralph Francis was first on the Tenor Horn and Dave Christensen second on the Bb Cornet, while both were successful in their respective open events.

The 1940 contest was held in Wellington from February 19 to 24th in conjunction with the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition.

The Band again won the New Zealand Championship and received the handsome gold cup, the second time within a space of five years.

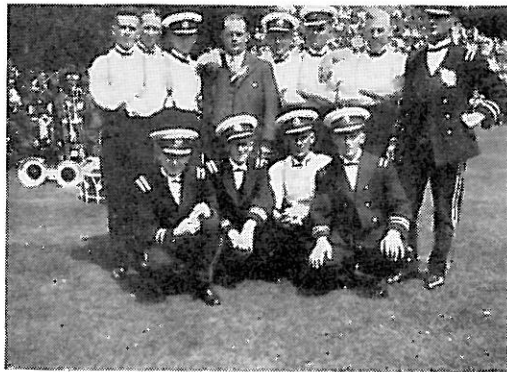
Drum-Major Donaldson added a further success to his already long list by leading the Band to victory in the Quickstep. Credit for this achievement must undoubtedly go to him without any reservation for the Band contained a number of junior members who had never before competed in such an event.

With this championship also went the Centennial Silver Cup as a memento of the Exhibition Contest.

The Band's achievement at this contest was reminiscent of the 1929 and 1935 contests, and the Band once again established itself as one of New Zealand's first-class Bands.

A long-cherished ambition to lead an A Grade Band to Dominion Championship honours was thus achieved by Mr. Les. Francis when St. Kilda won this contest. Commenting on the Band's victory Mr. Francis expressed appreciation of the way every member of the Band had played and he specially praised the work of the fourteen junior members, all of whom were 17 years of age or under.

On the Friday evening of the contest, in recognition of the success, the Band was invited to supply a selected programme at the Otago Court of the Centennial Exhibition.



During the performance the Band was publically congratulated by Sir Charles Norwood, chairman of the Exhibition Controllers, and Mr. Charles Todd, an Exhibition Director. It was rather significant that Mr. Todd should be associated with this reception, as he had long association with the St. Kilda Borough Council being its Mayor from 1923 to 1925 and President of the Band in 1924. The chief adjudicator for this contest was Mr. Frank Wright of England, who also judged in 1933 and in 1949 in Ballarat, Australia.

The 1940 contest was held under the cloud of another war, for on September 3rd, 1939, the world was plunged into the most devastating war in history. On Monday, September 11th, 1939 the Band unanimously decided, that in view of the position created by the outbreak of war, it would not attend the 1940 contest. However, following a Press Association statement regarding the Band's decision, pressure was brought to bear in an endeavour to gain its attendance at the contest. This only goes to prove the popularity of the Band, and the high regard for its contest standard, which was recognised as a draw card. At a meeting held on October 26th, 1939, it was agreed that the Band should reverse its decision and enter, even in view of the prevailing conditions. The Band ultimately attended the contest, and returned home with the honours above described.

During World War II, no contests were held from 1940, the next being the victory contest in Christchurch in February, 1946

Despite many difficulties experienced over this period, the Band continued to function in a normal manner, and in fact its services were eagerly sought after in many directions, and

it assisted to the full in the numerous appeals for patriotic causes and other purposes in support of the war efforts. Broadcasting was also carried out on an average of once each three weeks.

No fewer than 26 members served in the Armed Forces either in New Zealand or overseas. From information available the following are the names of those who answered the country's call in either of the three arms of the services. Several were members of the 5th Infantry Brigade Band in the Middle East, while others were in other Service Bands in various spheres of the war zones. I. Booth, A. H. Campbell, P. A. G. Wheeler, C. C. E. Miller (conductor 5th Brigade Band), G. M. Craigie, R. V. Miller, R. W. Miller, F. H. J. Pheloung, E. C. Pheloung, L. H. Brown, A. Boulton, R. L. Francis, L. M. Gillions, R. Kirk, D. E. Leggett, L. J. Mackle, J. E. Maker, R. T. McClintock, W. G. and A. G. Randall, T. D. Stalker, N. A. Thorn, W. Holmes, H. J. Mullen, G. E. Hope and W. L. Francis (Conductor Burnham Military Camp Band).

Ex-members also contributed their full share to the ranks on active service.

Without delving into detail of the various activities of the Band, the following briefly are the most important events over the next four or five years:—

1939

December 14th.—Hon. F. Jones elected as first Patron.

1940

June 27th, 1940.—New Rules registered.

August 1st.—Mr. J. J. Marlow elected President.

September 10th.—As a result of the Band's representation to Dunedin City Council, Sunday afternoon concerts at St. Clair beach rotunda were substituted by Friday evening performances in the Octagon.

September 22nd.—Collection at first summer concert at Botanic Gardens donated to Patriotic Funds.

November 23rd and 24th.—Visit to Ashburton—three concerts.

1941

February 16th.—Variety concert at Botanic Gardens. Proceeds donated to Dunedin Ladies' Brass Band uniform fund.

November 25th.—Band faced with difficulties in fulfilling engagements; decided to carry on despite adversity.

1942

Members of the Band enrolled with Transport Section of the Emergency Precautions Scheme.

In January the Conductor, Mr. Les Francis entered the Services and Mr. R. S. Waterston was appointed war time Conductor during the absence of Mr. Francis. First solo contest of the Band was held on November 7th to stimulate interest of members. Mr. Bob Waterston was the instigator of this contest which became an annual event.

Concerts were held at regular intervals at St. Kilda Coronation Hall for the purpose of entertaining men of the Services stationed in and near Dunedin.

1943

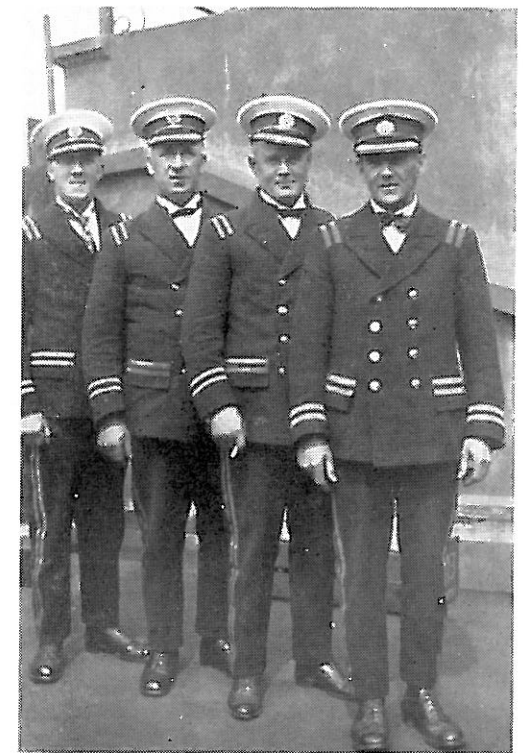
Every three months parcels were sent to all members serving with the overseas forces. The cost of these was provided by the bandsmen, subsidised by the Band funds.

Donation of a piano to the Band by Charles Begg & Co. Ltd.

July.—Return of Mr. Francis from service in the forces. Mr. Waterston returned to the ranks, after piloting the Band over the many rocky paths and deep chasms during the 18 months absence of Mr. Francis.

1944

The rotunda at St. Kilda Beach had to be demolished in January, following damage by strong winds.



Four of a kind.—Jack Morris, Andrew Douglas, Bill Smith, Joe Lees.

The Band made arrangements to stage the 1944-45 summer season concerts at the St. Kilda beach in the open air, after four years of black-out regulations when performances had to be in the Town Hall.

The Band and the St. Kilda Borough Council combined for the purpose of building a sound shell and bandroom attached to replace the demolished rotunda. Carnival was held which produced £547.

1945

Easter.—The Band visited Christchurch and staged entertainments in conjunction with Woolston Band. To obtain the necessary train tickets the Secretary and Assistant Secretary took their places in a queue, and remained all night from 6 p.m. until the opening of the ticket office at 8.30 a.m. next morning. This was necessary owing to limited travel restriction. Being first in the line the Band purchased one quarter of the available seating on the train, much to the annoyance of the large queue which had assembled.

Ken Smith junior also won the Cornet championship for the second year in succession, and obtained another crown in the duet which he won with G. R. Mowat.

Other members also competed with outstanding distinction in the solo and party events taking a further five first placings, four seconds and two third placings.

The Band more than maintained the fine tradition—it excelled itself and added to an already remarkable record built up over the years, with no fewer than 11 times champion and being placed first in the Quickstep on 12 occasions.

In this contest seven of the players were still classed as juniors, most of them under the age of 18. At the other end of the scale was the remarkable Bass player Tom Williams, who had played with the Band since 1908.

Credit for this year's success was due to the Conductor, Mr. K. G. L. Smith and Drum-Major, J. McKnight. Their distinctive successes won plaudits from friendly critics accomplished in all departments of Band work. Both had already built up a record of which it would be difficult to match. In spite of its established position New Zealand's premier combination had no satisfactory room of its own and indeed had been searching for one for some three years. In the meantime it had nowhere to display photographs or trophies and no amenities befitting an institution of its type. Nor had the Band, which must necessarily depend on the public for financial support, sufficient funds to buy new instruments.

However these problems were set aside for future attention when, in a message to the Mayor of Dunedin, Sir Donald Cameron, it was suggested from Auckland that in view of the Band's outstanding performance, it should be sent to the Edinburgh Music Festival in conjunction with a visit Sir Donald was making. The message states "after conferring with qualified authorities after hearing St. Kilda's magnificent playing that the time is opportune for the Band to represent Dunedin and New Zealand at the Scottish Festival of Music in Edinburgh."

The then Secretary, Mr. I. E. Still, when the subject was referred to him, stated that the idea was a really good one, but added that the difficulties regarding finance would be immense and the cost of sending the Band would be colossal, estimated at £20,000.

However the seed had been sown and from this a further idea emerged. On March 4th, after the return of the Band from Auckland, the proposal to journey overseas and try conclusions elsewhere was considered and on this date it was officially announced that the Band could not possibly entertain the visit to Edinburgh for several reasons, but if the necessary money, probably about £4,000, could be raised it would go to Ballarat, Australia, to compete in the Australian Contest held in conjunction with the National Australian Eisteddfod in October of that year.

So an entry form was duly applied for, the Band being eligible to compete in the A Grade Test Selection, Own Choice Selection, a Quickstep, the Hymn Test, Special Quickstep under flood lights and a Street March.

In the meantime however, the Band members faced a task of raising the estimated amount of approximately £100 per man. A great deal of organisation was necessary to put into operation the plans for raising this amount. The first shot in the campaign from a public point of view was a house-to-house appeal in the Band's home district of St. Kilda on June 18th, 1949. It was confidently expected all possible support from the residents of this district to give a lead to the rest of the city.

This confidence was not misplaced and over £350 was collected on that Saturday morning.

For the purposes of this canvass, and others which followed at regular intervals, the Band was divided into seven parties and the districts into a convenient number of blocks. Each member of each party was given a specially drawn map of the block he was allocated to cover. The fund had already been given a start by the Band's own members who had played with the touring Italian Opera Company in its presentation of the opera "*Aida*" and "*La Boheme*" when they unanimously decided to put the return from their effort, more than £100 in all, into the fund.

As a result of the individual efforts of Mr. J. J. Marlow, President of the Band, the sum of £1,000 was contributed by the New Zealand Government. This was promised only if the Band did, by its own initiative, raise at least an amount of £3,000 or sufficient to meet all expenses before departure.

On July 22nd, the Dunedin City Council granted the Band a special day for a street-day appeal in the city. This was granted following an approach by the Appeal Committee led by Mr. Marlow.

Later, special concerts and exhibitions were given in aid of the Ballarat Contest Fund, the Band playing before the public its contest selection and giving exhibitions to demonstrate the Australian Quickstep which was a more complicated and spectacular one than the New Zealand competition.

Contributions, large and small, were received from a multitude of organisations and well-wishers, but they all helped to lift the barometer higher on the scale to the target.

It was a heavy task required of the members, particularly when they were expected to attend all the functions held for their benefit and the rehearsals in preparation for the contest. The Band had only returned from the Auckland Contest and immediately entered into preparations for the Australian Contest, but the members to a man shouldered the responsibilities unhesitatingly. The Band was scheduled to depart from Dunedin on Wednesday October 19th, 1949 and on the Saturday before, the fund was still showing a deficit of some £450 and although the Appeal Committee showed a rather worried outlook, there was no turning back as tickets and all travel arrangements were complete. However, their fears were unwarranted. It so happened that the Band was scheduled to perform at the Botanic Gardens on the Sunday prior to departure, so after the rotunda preformance the Band adjourned to the adjacent Gardens cricket and football ground and gave a final public performance of the Quickstep before an unprecedented attendance of the public, supporters and friends. Not only was the number of spectators unprecedented but the collection was likewise, the takings being £174/3/8.

The Band gave a farewell concert in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall on the night prior to leaving for Australia, the net proceeds being £56. Even with this and Sunday's return, the fund was still about £220 short of the amount needed to meet expenses of the trip. To the relief of all concerned a private donor in the person of Miss Jimsie Fraser handed to the secretary a Cheque for £250 at the completion of the farewell concert in order that the Band would have no financial anxiety and could give full attention to its musical performances at the contest.

It is interesting to recall some facts about travel arrangements and those that were contemplated but did not eventuate.

In the early stages it was decided to travel by sea in the normal ships conducting the trans-Tasman routes, but due to unsatisfactory connections, the extended time involved of approximately three additional weeks, was found impracticable.

At one point in the arrangements and by courtesy of the New Zealand Government and the Band's Patron, the intention was for the Band to embark on the Royal New Zealand Navy Cruiser "Black Prince" at Dunedin and accompany it as working passengers to Sydney, which the cruiser was to visit on a goodwill mission. However, while this would have been an experience of a lifetime it was not to be as the Cruiser was sent to the Far East under special orders. This idea therefore, had to be abandoned, much to the disappointment of all concerned.

With no alternative, air transport was decided upon. The compliment of 38 bandsmen and six supporters left Dunedin and travelled surface by the recognised means of train and boat and arrived in Auckland at 7 a.m. on Friday, October 21st. On arrival they were taken to Whenuapai by bus where breakfast was provided. Wearing the silver fern emblem and the letters "N.Z." on the sleeves of their uniforms the Band members left Whenuapai at 10 a.m. for Sydney by Skymaster, a special charter from B.C.P.A. On the journey from Dunedin to Auckland, a Parliamentary reception was given in Wellington.

From Sydney the Band flew direct to Melbourne and after remaining there from Friday until Monday morning, travelled by train to Ballarat.

Accommodation throughout Australia was excellent and the Band had its way made easier by the action of the proprietor of Tattersalls hotel, at which the members stayed at Ballarat, in granting a considerable reduction in tariff.

Now to the actual contest. Rain was experienced every day since the Band left Sydney but the members soon became acclimatised. The Test Selection was played on the Friday afternoon, October 28th, but the following day, Saturday, was the busiest ever experienced at a Band Contest. The Own Choice Selection was timed for 9.30 a.m., the Quickstep for 2.45 p.m., the Street March at 7.15 p.m. and finally the special night Quickstep at 7.45 p.m.

# BOARDING THE PLANE FOR SYDNEY 21st OCTOBER, 1949



In front, civilian dress.—Mrs. H. R. Heazlewood and Mr. J. J. Marlow. Behind Mrs. Heazlewood is Mr. H. R. Heazlewood, all of whom accompanied the Band.

Of the Test Selection "*Themes from Tchaikowsky's Fifth Symphony*" the judge, Mr. Frank Wright of London, said "magnificent Band music—the finest heard in any contest." The performance thrilled the crowd at the City Oval and accorded the Band a special ovation when it was announced that it had won this Selection with 88 points, three more than its nearest competitor of the other seven Bands in the A Grade.

For the Own Choice Selection the Band played Percy Fletcher's "*Epic Symphony*." Here again the rendition was described as a brilliant performance, virile and most accurate. Again first place with 90 points, the next highest Band receiving 87 points. The Band in the afternoon, followed up the earlier successes with second place in the Quickstep with highest points in music by a margin of five, almost full marks in the inspection, and third in drill, ending the competition only two points behind the first Band.

In the Street March through the City of Ballarat to the Oval, St. Kilda was again

second, gaining 34 points again that of the winner's 36 points.

The special Quickstep held after the conclusion of the Street March was something of a novelty for the Band. This competition was held under flood lights and embodied entirely different evolutions from that of the afternoon. A further second place was the result, points awarded being 84, one behind the winning Band.

It is interesting to note that only one military judge is engaged for the Quicksteps and it is rather amusing to watch his movements in this connection, but more amusing was it to see bandmen at the halt shuffling into correct covering and dressing when the military judge was engaged measuring distances at the opposite flank of the Bands. Our members were warned by Drum-Major McKnight not to attempt to emulate the Australian bandmen. The signal triumph was the highest aggregate points and the Australian Championship.

A tribute was paid to the Band when all Bands attending the contest unanimously elected St. Kilda's Secretary, I. E. Still, to represent them all in the tent erected in the centre of the Oval, for the compilation of points in the aggregates of all grades.

The final results were announced from the special dias in front of the grandstand, but following the rule, all officials and the Bands' representative were not permitted to leave the tent until such time as these results were made known to the public.

For the record, the results were as follows:

TEST SELECTION	
St. Kilda .....	88
City of Ballarat .....	85
OWN CHOICE SELECTION	
St. Kilda .....	90
Brisbane Excelsior .....	87
QUICKSTEP	
City of Ballarat .....	171
St. Kilda .....	169
SPECIAL QUICKSTEP	
South Australian Police .....	85
St. Kilda .....	84
STREET MARCH	
A and B Grades	
Ballarat Soldiers' Memorial Band .....	36
St. Kilda .....	34

AGGREGATE	
St. Kilda .....	347
City of Ballarat .....	341

In the individual solo events members had their full share of major placings.

Ken Smith won the Australian Bb Cornet Championship by a margin of four points as well as the solo event. The judge, Mr. Frank Wright, himself a world-famous Cornet player, described Ken's performance as brilliant and must rank among the best cornetists in the world.

Ian Bassett won the Soprano Cornet solo by five points while A. H. Campbell and J. R. Paul (Eb Bass) and S. R. Hall (Baritone) also reached major placings. In the Duet, Ken Smith and G. R. Mowat won this section by four points.

How right was Mr. Wright when Ken Smith, as a result of his outstanding playing, received an offer from Fairey Aviation Works Band in England to join it as principal Cornet. His ability to memorise is regarded by many as a factor in his success.

After bidding farewell to Ballarat and the many friends made during the stay there covering 10 days, the full complement of bandmen visited Melbourne and then Sydney where radio broadcasts over Station 2BL, and concerts were given, one of which was in conjunction with the Kiwi Concert Party from New Zealand, which at that time were touring Australia and was appearing in Sydney. The members of the cast of the Party treated the members of the Band to a right royal time during its sojourn in that particular city.

The Band finally left Sydney for Auckland by air at 2 a.m. on November 5th on its return home and ended its victorious Australian visit on a bright note—so bright that it kept the Band members fully awake for the entire flight across the Tasman.

The members were preparing to settle down to some sleep when the Skymaster ran into an electrical storm and was hit on the nose by a bolt of lightning. There was a dazzling flash and an explosive bang which made all sit up and take notice. After that, sleep was definitely out of the question. Later the plane struck another storm complete with bumps and more lightning. It was a bright and wakeful trip. The date, Saturday, November 5th—Guy Fawkes must have been on the prowl again.

At Auckland a radio broadcast was given, interspersed with long periods of snoozing in an effort to catch up on lost sleep missed earlier in the morning. A round of entertainments by Bands and bandmen resident

in Auckland, some official and other unofficial, the party left for its home town direct on the Sunday evening Limited Express. All along the route, both in the North and South Island wellwishers offering congratulations were at the various stations to greet the St. Kilda boys. Wellington extended its warmest admiration, when in the Town Hall a lunch-hour recital was given by the Band.

The most enthusiastic welcome of all and that which will long be remembered by the Band was that reception in Dunedin on November 8th, when people from all parts of the city and its suburbs converged on the Dunedin Railway Station.

All the way up Stuart Street to the Town Hall, where a Civic welcome home was held, the public formed up leaving only a narrow lane through which the Band marched, led by representatives of all other city Bands, both brass and pipe.

So the Band was back home, but when in Australia, its members were told by Ballarat's Chief Citizen "You have all acquitted yourselves splendidly in every way and are ambassadors of goodwill, as well as good musicianship; your visit strengthens the bonds of Anzac."

By its 1949 successes St. Kilda proved conclusively that it had established its claim to the Australasian premiership.

This feat was a triumph and a hall mark of quality for Conductor K. G. L. Smith, and proved beyond doubt that he was a master musician and the leading Conductor in New Zealand and Australia.

For Drum Major J. McKnight it was during this year's contests that his star shone the brightest. Many tributes were paid to his work in training the Band for participation in different Quickstep contests which was described as rather like the experience of the All Blacks, who were playing against the Springboks in South Africa at the same time. In view of the different interpretation of the rules and that the Quickstep in Ballarat was performed for the most part on asphalt instead of on grass as the Band was accustomed to, did not prove an insuperable handicap to Mr. McKnight. The marks obtained by the Band were a credit to him when all circumstances were taken into consideration.

# NATIONAL CONTESTS

## SOLO WINNERS AND SECOND PLACINGS AS MEMBERS OF ST. KILDA BAND

### GOLD MEDALISTS

E. SMITH	J. SIMPSON	A. WINSLADE	C. S. WOODS	M. K. HEAZLEWOOD
JAMES DIXON	W. PENNYCUICK	G. J. CHRISTIE	C. UNWIN	D. B. DEWE
J. PARKER	W. SMITH	J. PATERSON	E. HATTON	J. F. MOWAT
J. CONGALTON	T. ROGERS	J. E. WILLS	L. SCRIVENER	I. S. BASSETT
R. GREEN	R. B. (Bud) WILLS	L. R. SIMPSON	W. R. FRANCIS	J. HARPER
T. F. McLEAN	A. W. E. WEBB	H. J. OSBORNE	D. S. CHRISTENSEN	N. G. DIXON
W. NELSON	R. COLVIN	J. LEES	R. RUDHALL	A. L. FRANCIS
T. WILLIAMS	J. SIMPSON (Jun.)	K. G. L. SMITH	R. L. JACKSON	T. J. S. SMITH
D. WHELAN	G. LOWRY	A. G. HOMER	R. S. WATERSTON	A. F. BRIESEMAM
A. H. NELSON	J. R. MARSHALL	R. MATHIESON	K. G. SMITH	A. R. GIBB
G. E. PATTERSON	W. WALLACE	E. C. PHELOUNG	N. A. THORN	B. WAUGH

### SILVER MEDALISTS

E. SMITH	H. J. OSBORNE	A. WINSLADE	D. S. CHRISTENSEN	J. F. MOWAT
W. YEOMAN	T. McLEAN	V. A. ALDRIDGE	E. PHELOUNG	N. G. DIXON
R. GREEN	JAMES DIXON	C. UNWIN	SNEDDON SMITH	A. L. FRANCIS
J. SIMPSON (Sen.)	R. B. (Bud) WILLS	A. HARROD	R. RUDHALL	A. F. BRIESEMAM
G. PATTERSON	J. E. WILLS	R. S. WATERSTON	R. L. JACKSON	F. M. FORBES
F. McLEAN	C. C. E. MILLER	R. COLVIN	A. H. CAMPBELL	D. H. SMITH
H. DICKINSON	L. R. SIMPSON	W. R. FRANCIS	K. G. SMITH	A. R. GIBB
J. CANTY	J. R. MARSHALL	R. V. MILLER	N. A. THORN	I. E. MALCOLM
W. NELSON	C. J. SMITH	R. HALL	M. FRANCIS	R. G. COX
W. SMITH	G. LOWRY	A. W. E. WEBB	M. K. HEAZLEWOOD	J. J. LEES
D. WHELAN	W. PENNYCUICK	E. HATTON	T. J. S. SMITH	
T. ROGERS	J. LEES	F. H. PHELOUNG	D. B. DEWE	
T. WILLIAMS	G. J. CHRISTIE	I. S. BASSETT	R. L. JACKSON	
W. PATERSON	T. ANDERSON	A. HOMER	G. N. MUSCHAMP	

R. B. (Bud) WILLS, G. J. CHRISTIE and K. G. SMITH won both Amateur and Championship Cornet solos in their respective years, whilst K. G. SMITH holds the additional honour of being the youngest competitor to win a New Zealand Championship Cornet solo, 1948-49-50; Australian Champion, 1949; and the youngest conductor to win an A Grade Championship, Auckland, 1955.

## WINNERS AND SECOND PLACINGS, PARTY EVENTS, AS MEMBERS OF ST. KILDA BAND

### GOLD MEDALISTS

D. WHELAN	W. SMITH	A. MUNRO	V. A. ALDRIDGE	W. J. FRASER
J. PARKER	C. J. S. SMITH	J. LOGAN	W. R. FRANCIS	A. L. FRANCIS
H. DICKINSON	W. L. WILLIAMS	C. C. E. MILLER	G. M. CRAIGIE	A. F. BRIESEMAM
G. PATTERSON	C. EADES	W. BARKE	R. L. JACKSON	D. T. COOPER
R. GREEN	R. B. (Bud) WILLS	V. McHERRON	R. S. WATERSTON	A. R. GIBB
J. SIMPSON	A. CHATTERTON	T. ANDERSON	P. A. WHEELER	F. M. FORBES
E. SMITH	D. ANDERSON	R. W. MILLER	K. G. SMITH	R. G. COX
JAMES DIXON	ROY OHLSON	R. COUGHLAN	G. R. MOWAT	K. G. L. SMITH
R. B. HALL	W. (Long) SMITH	R. MATHIESON	G. N. MUSCHAMP	
F. C. WILKES	J. R. MARSHALL	SNEDDON SMITH	T. J. S. SMITH	
G. J. CHRISTIE	T. STALKER	D. S. CHRISTENSEN	J. HARPER	

### SILVER MEDALISTS

A. P. STEWART	W. PATERSON	G. J. CHRISTIE	V. A. ALDRIDGE	A. F. BRIESEMAM
J. E. McLEAN	W. SMITH	C. J. SMITH	T. D. STALKER	B. J. BASSETT
F. DONALDSON	D. WHELAN	J. R. MARSHALL	R. W. MILLER	N. G. DIXON
G. PATTERSON	C. EADES	R. RAMOND	R. S. WATERSTON	W. R. FRANCIS
R. GREEN	W. PENNYCUICK	R. COUGHLAN	I. S. BASSETT	A. L. FRANCIS
J. SIMPSON (Sen.)	R. B. (Bud) WILLS	A. H. NEWALL	D. S. CHRISTENSEN	
H. DICKINSON	J. E. WILLS	J. PATERSON	N. A. THORN	

BALLARAT, 1949.

K. G. SMITH: Winner Cornet Championship and Champion of Champions.

I. S. BASSETT: Eb Soprano Champion.

K. G. SMITH and G. R. MOWAT: Duet winners.

T. J. S. SMITH: Second, Horn solo.

A. H. CAMPBELL: Second, Eb Bass solo.

From the financial aspect this was also highly successful for, with prize money and the share of the £950 appearance money, together with the exchange rate in favour of the Band, and a further £100 grant from the New Zealand Government, the final outcome was that all expenses of the trip were met with £123 of a credit still in hand. This was also after the £250 handed to the Band on the eve of departure had been repaid to the donor.

On December 18th, 1949, the Treasurer reported with an air of satisfaction that the Band's bank credit was £759/2/8, after payment of all expenses to the Ballarat Contest and all accounts to date.

The services of the Band were in great demand immediately it returned to normal, and not a week went past but that it had to give performances on a variety of occasions. In fact its popularity became an embarrassment, but not once did it reject a request, as it was considered that it had an obligation to the city which made it possible to reach the position it now held.



Two of the 1939 Juniors, both champions.—  
Ralph Francis and Dave Christensen.

And so to 1950 and another contest for which members had to prepare. This was the third in the one year and the second in four months but they settled down once again with stimulated interest and with a common objective. With a broadened knowledge and experience and encouragement at all times by the President, Conductor and Drum Major, the members faced the tasks with sober conviction. The contest was held in Christchurch from February 19th to 25th and by finishing second in the first Test Selection "*Fantasia*" and a similar position in the second Selection "*Morning Rhapsody*" the championship had eluded the Band by only one point from Woolston to which it was runner-up.

The story of the Quickstep was regrettable and most unfortunate, for the Band made its final counter-march approximately 20 yards short of the flag. This placed the Drum Major in a quandary as it became impossible to complete the course according to the remaining flags. The result was that the Band was brought to a halt on the incorrect side of the final halt flag. This was not due to human frailty or judgement, but simply because members of other Bands were permitted to congregate around the flank flags and thus totally obscure them from the sight of the Drum Major, on whom no blame whatsoever could possibly be levelled for this accident. Before this incident and even during the final evolutions following the premature turn the combination marched brilliantly.

Another feature of the contest was the Cornet Championship which was won in outstanding fashion by Ken Smith, this being the third time in succession that he had taken this title in such a convincing manner. This was a record for New Zealand contests and was a fitting climax to his prestige, as he was scheduled to leave shortly after this contest for England under engagement to the famous Fairey Aviation Band.

Individually the members were again to the fore in solo and party events.

As mentioned earlier, the campaign for the purchase of new instruments had been launched, and between contests in New Zealand and Australia, the Band's Executive had pursued a policy of allocating a proportion of receipts to this special fund. Gala days and other fund raising efforts were held from time to time and on March 30th, 1950, the committee proudly announced that the Band would accept delivery of the new set of instruments, price £1,250, which had been ordered some months before, on Wednesday, April 5th, in terms of the contract entered into between the Band and Charles Begg & Co. Ltd. According to the records only the sum of £290 was outstanding when the instruments were handed over by this firm at a special function held for that purpose. This amount was paid in full within a few months, and so a new set of instruments materialised after years of persuasion and planning.

On April 27th of the same year, the Band members bade farewell to Ken Smith at a special concert held in the Town Hall, Dunedin. On this occasion the Main Town Hall was filled to capacity, even the upper gallery,

and thus another record was constituted, for never before had band concerts been able to accomplish this feat.

During the evening a presentation was made to Ken by the President, Mr. Marlow, on behalf of the the Band members, who had actually contributed the required sum for a new Cornet engraved "Presented to K. G. Smith, from members of the St. Kilda Municipal Band." This was with the best wishes of all and in recognition of his ability, personality and wonderful character and the fine assistance he had rendered the Band over the years since becoming a member. In addition a cheque, being the proceeds of the concert, was handed to the guest.

At the Annual General Meeting held on July 27th, 1950, in recognition of his having completed 25 years service to the Band, Mr. Joe Lees was presented with a suitably inscribed fireside chair. He loves drums and has won a dozen or more New Zealand Championships. He still devotes his energies to the activities of the Band and has a record to be proud of. Joe has turned out for every Anzac Day parade up to and including the year 1960. He was most disappointed that he was not with the Band on April 25th, 1961. He is an enthusiastic member of the Diamond Jubilee Committee and much of the material for this history is taken from the enormous scrap book compiled by him.

On November 28th, 1950, it was agreed that the Band should attend the 1951 contest to be held in Wellington from March 31st to April 7th, the estimated cost being £1,200. To obtain this amount a house-to-house canvass was carried out in the St. Kilda Borough and a grand carnival was staged.

The first Test Selection was "*Festival Overture*" by Henry Gheel, the second being Dean Goffin's "*Rhapsody in Brass*" and in both of these Selections the Band was third finally completing with second in the championship to Hawera. The judge was Dr. Denis Wright of England.

In the Quickstep this was one of the few occasions when the Band was not among the top prize money, but nevertheless it performed with credit.

The urgent need for new uniforms was stressed at the Annual General Meeting held on August 9th, 1951, and thereupon the wheels were set in motion to establish a special fund and by the end of November the amount had grown appreciably, thanks to several schemes

which had been instituted, and the proceeds of £335 as a result of a fair conducted by the Band. A contract for the making of these uniforms was arranged early in December and the Band had its first appearance neatly attired in new style uniforms at the Dunedin Contest on February 10th, 1952. Despite many barriers, due to certain restrictions, the gold braid and even suitable material was difficult to secure, but due to the ingenuity of the Band's officers, sufficient was obtained to meet all requirements. These are the self same uniforms in which the present Band appears.

For the contest at Dunedin, 9th to 16th February, 1952, it was significant that the judge was Mr. Eric Ball, of England, and the two Test Selections were his own arrangements being the tone poem "*The Conquerors*" and "*Themes from Tchaikowsky's Fifth Symphony*."

St. Kilda won the first Test and was third in the second Test and again was the runner-up in the championship table, this time to our friends from Dunedin, Kaikorai Brass Band. In the Quickstep Kaikorai was successful, St. Kilda taking another third place. This was a great victory for Kaikorai particularly in the Quickstep and it should be mentioned that their Drum Major was Mr. A. L. Parry, now leader of St. Kilda, and the Conductor was Mr. N. A. Thorn, an ex-member of St. Kilda.

Soloists also performed exceedingly well, M. K. Heazlewood winning the Bass Drum solo by seven points, J. J. Lees, Side Drum, was third as was G. N. Muschamp on the Euphonium.

Ken Smith junior, who was on holiday from England, played with the Band at this contest.

This was the last contest attended under the Conductorship of Mr. K. G. L. Smith, but what an impressive record he established over those six years. His outstanding ability is reflected in the following results:—

- 1948.—N.Z. Championship.
- 1949.—N.Z. Championship.
- 1949.—Australian Championship.
- 1950.—Runner-up N.Z. Championship.
- 1951.—Runner-up N.Z. Championship.
- 1952.—Runner-up N.Z. Championship

Over the years the Band had established its headquarters in various part of the city. For a long period the Band room was situated at No. 4 Carroll Street until 1935, when the organisation shifted to Rattray Street following the owner's requirement for alteration purposes.

In Rattray Street the room was located just below Speight's Brewery. The Band remained there until 1939, returning on September 30th to its original headquarters at 4 Carroll Street and continued to occupy these rooms until November, 1947. The portion of the building housing the Band was required for manufacturing purposes and the Band was again obliged to seek other accommodation. It was exceedingly difficult to obtain something suitable to house the Band's possessions and provide a rehearsal room, but after inviting some influential gentlemen to take up the Band's cause, the top floor of the Garrison Hall, in Dowling Street, Dunedin, was made available to the Band, much to the relief of all.

Here the Band remained for almost five years and on the building being taken over for alteration to accommodate the New Zealand Broadcasting Service the Band was again under notice to quit. This it eventually did on July 2nd, 1952, to Moray Place, under the Y.M.C.A.—one room only, but at least a sanctuary in distress. The members did an enormous amount of work to recondition this room and from a shambles, it was converted into a cosy carpeted Band room. So thus by August, 1952, the Band had been re-equipped with new uniforms, new instruments and a comfortable Band room.

During the year under review the New Zealand Brass Bands' Association had made arrangements for a National Band to visit and tour Great Britain and compete in the Edinburgh Festival Invitation Contest and Belle Vue Contest, the English Championship event. It was anticipated that the Band would depart from the Dominion in 1952, but this departure was postponed until March 12th, 1953.

The St. Kilda Band had the largest number of members selected in the personnel of the National Band which was a tribute to the high standard it had attained. Those selected were K. G. L. Smith as musical director, J. R. Paul (Bass), G. R. Mowat and W. J. Fraser (Bb Cornets), N. G. Dixon (Bass Trombone) and S. T. J. Smith (Tenor Horn). St. Kilda not only supplied its key members to the Band but contributed a large portion of its music library to that of the National Band.

On November 25th, 1952, the Drum Major Mr. J. McKnight, tendered his resignation due to his impending departure for England in January, 1953 to attend the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. This, together with the fact that those members of the

National Band, including the Conductor, would be overseas for some eight months reduced the ranks of the Band to some degree.

However the Band's officials and committee members faced up to the inevitable and Mr. A. L. Parry took over the position of Drum Major and Mr. R. S. Waterston guided the musical activities as the Conductor in a temporary capacity during the absence of Mr. Smith.

In view of this situation it was found impossible for the Band to attend the 1953 contest held in Wanganui, but it continued to honour all of its engagements—Botanic Gardens, broadcasting, Jockey Club races, Anzac Day parades, Ladies' Marching Associations and private requests. This would not have been possible without the very fine assistance and true comradeship of a number of members of the Caversham Citizens Band and Port Chalmers Marine Band. In fact for the Anzac Day commemoration the Band paraded no less than 34 "members."

The junior class which had been instituted by Mr. K. G. L. Smith and ultimately carried on by several members, had now proved a real asset as the majority had to be promoted to the Band.

On November 11th, 1953, a welcome home was tendered to the members of the National Band of New Zealand in the Coronation Hall, St. Kilda. This was in recognition of the outstanding achievement of the combination in winning both the Belle Vue and Edinburgh Contests.

Following immediately upon this Mr. K. G. L. Smith resigned on November 18th, 1953, to take up an appointment in the North Island. The Band thereupon was again faced with the problem of securing another Conductor.

Mr. R. S. Waterston then took over and piloted the Band over a very difficult period with justifiable pride and with a contribution to the tradition and high standard. On November 15th, 1953, he relinquished this position in favour of Mr. J. R. Paul as temporary Conductor.

All of these recent happenings were a challenge to the controlling committee, members and officers but they faced the situation with tenacity of purpose, and one decision it made in January 1954, was not to attend that year's contest scheduled for Christchurch but to consolidate its general and financial position.

Following the calling of applications to fill the vacancy of Conductor, Mr. K. G. Smith junior, was appointed on December 14th, 1953. He was still in England and after suitable arrangements were made, sailed for New Zealand on April 16th, 1954 and eventually assumed the position of Musical Director on June 2nd at a welcome-home concert in the Town Hall, Dunedin, when the baton was handed to him by Mr. Paul.

Mrs. A. Muir, who had served as the official accompanist since April, 1944, advised on January 20th, 1954, that she was unable to continue in this capacity and Miss E. McKinley was appointed to the resultant vacancy. Mrs. Muir's assistance in this direction contributed to a large degree to the success achieved by the individual members in solo events over those 10 years.

Following some months of negotiations, caps of a new design similar to those as worn by the National Band, were ordered in April 1954. It was recommended by the members who were in that Band, upon their return from England, that the Band should give consideration to having these new caps made, as they were far superior and more comfortable and serviceable than those being used at that time. The committee was also influenced in its decision, as caps had not been replaced with the new uniforms in 1952. So in June 1954, the Band was issued with the new style caps and are those being used by the present Band.

Again the Band was forced to move its headquarters, not because on this occasion it was required for other purposes, but simply due to the fact the accommodation in Moray Place was too cramped and a more convenient venue became available. After the installation of new plumbing and lighting, the Band occupied their present premises in Maclaggan Street, Dunedin, on November 4th, 1954. Not long after, an innovation of a members canteen was introduced and is still in operation.

With resignations and transfers the ranks became depleted in some sections, but with a policy of re-building, the Band, within 10 months, had been restored to full strength. Very definite intentions were expressed that it would, after a lapse of two years, compete at the 1955 contest to be held in Auckland.

The estimated cost was £1,140 which included air travel to Auckland and return. This was a large sum but was considered that it would be worth the effort to raise this amount for it alleviated the arduous surface travel and

saved the members four days loss of wages. To obtain this formidable amount the officers, committee and members conducted a carnival, raffles, including a Christmas stocking, gala days, sales of work, a matinee trotting meeting and a mardi gras and intensified Christmas carolling. To further the schemes a special citizens finance committee was formed, the personnel being Messrs A. H. Finnie, J. V. Trezise, I. H. B. Dixon and D. J. Simpson.

The contest fund campaign was totally successful and the Band competed at Auckland. Ken Smith, junior, had two ambitions: one to direct the St. Kilda Band, and the other to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious father, K. G. L. Smith.

These he realised within nine months for the Band, under his Conductorship, won the New Zealand Championship with a margin of 3 points by gaining first place in both Test Selections. The runner-up on this occasion was Kaikorai. Mr. Smith received the Fred Mortimer Memorial Medal for the champion A Grade Conductor. This was a very significant honour as Ken had been closely associated, while in England, with Mr. Harry Mortimer, son of the late Fred Mortimer.



**THE DRUM TWINS**

BILL WALLACE (Bass) and JOE LEES (Side).  
Double winners, Wanganui Contest, 1929.

In the Quickstep the position was reversed. Drum Major A. L. Parry led the Band to second place, Kaikorai being the winners by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  points. Street March results—Kaikorai second, St. Kilda third. Individual members were again in evidence in the solo events.

It is a coincidence that on the last occasion the Band competed and won the championship under K. G. L. Smith, the adjudicator was Mr. Eric Ball and the Test Selections were again his own compositions. The Test Selections were "*Second Rhapsody on Negro Spirituals*" and "*Tournament for Brass*."

For the Quickstep the Band departed from the orthodox and appeared in white ankle spats and gold shoulder lanyards. The effect on the public was remarkable and favourable comments were made on the attractive appearance of the combination. These are still part of the present Band's uniform.

Mr. Marlow, who had been President since August 1st, 1940, retired from that position on July 30th, 1955, and become joint Patron with Mr. F. Jones.

In July 1955, Miss Margaret Berryman was appointed as official accompanist replacing Miss McKinley who was no longer available.

Again, as a result of the contest successes, many engagements followed, which kept the members fully occupied throughout the year.

And now to 1956. The first important event was the contest held at Invercargill from March 4th to 10th. This, incidentally, was the first national contest held in Southland since 1912.

The adjudicator was Dr. Denis Wright of England, and the Test Selections were "*Diadem of Gold*" and "*Sovereign Heritage*."

Although the Band gave an outstanding rendition of these most difficult selections it was unplaced in the first Test and third in the second; championship, fifth place; Hymn, third; Quickstep, second.

April 5th, 1956, saw the commencement of the Junior Band as a separate entity, although prior to this date a class of learners had received tuition for several years, some having graduated to the Senior Band. On May 3rd, Mr. Ian Bassett, who had previously indicated that we were retiring from active playing, was appointed the Conductor.

The existing rules governing the organisation were deemed to be outmoded and after 12 months of investigation and discussion a new constitution was adopted on July 25th, 1956.

These rules embodied many improvement to meet present-day requirements. The Conductor was now designated Musical Director and the chief Executive officer who was committee and Band chairman, was known as the Bandmaster. They also provided for the operations of the Junior Band and its Conductor.

A new piano was purchased on July 18th and was regarded as a distinct asset. Once again the Band was faced with the task of obtaining a Conductor or Musical Director as he was now known, following the resignation of Mr. Ken Smith on October 2nd, 1956. All avenues were explored but it was found impossible to obtain a replacement before the 1957 contest scheduled for February 22nd to 26th, in Napier. Consequently the deputy Conductor, Mr. Allan Brieseman, filled the role as temporary Musical Director of the Band until a permanent appointment was made.

The Napier Contest was his initiation to this sphere of Band work and his attitude and outlook in the face of many odds proved to be his perfection for in the Test Selection the Band, under his capable guidance, secured second place in the championship, only one point behind Auckland Fire Brigade Band.

Another second place to Drum Major Parry in the Quickstep; but all in all these results were really something of an achievement in the face of the difficulties encountered prior to the contest.

The adjudicator was Albert H. Baile of Australia, who passed away at the beginning of June, 1961. The Test Selection was "*Blackfriars*," a Symphonic Prelude arranged by Frank Wright of England.

Since the 1956 contest the New Zealand Brass Bands' Association had introduced a modified system of contesting where the time was reduced to a week-end only for full Band competitions with one Test Selection in each grade. The solo and party events commence on the Friday and continue on Monday and Tuesday when the entire contest concludes.

After the return of the Band from Napier applications were called for a Musical Director and eventually Mr. Elgar Clayton, who had returned to England some two years before after terminating his conductorship of Invercargill Civic Band, was appointed on March 18th.

August 3rd, apart from the contest, was one of the highlights of 1957 for the Band journeyed to Christchurch as the guests of

Woolston Band. The week-end proved an exhilarating departure and was instrumental in cementing a firm friendship with this renowned combination and its members. From this, an interchange of visits emanated and Woolston returned the visit on September 14th.

Not only the Senior Band could boast of fine performances. The Junior Band entered in the D Grade section of the Otago and Southland Provincial Contest staged in Alexandra, Otago Central, on September 29th, 1957 and after only a year of existence carried off the D Grade Championship by winning the Own Choice Selection by four points and the grand aggregate by a similar margin. It also finished second in the Hymn and the Quickstep.

For Mr. I. Bassett (Conductor) and Mr. A. L. Parry (Drum Major) their untiring efforts were well rewarded for it must be remembered that the majority of the boys did not know a note of music and had never lippled an instrument prior to the establishment

of the Band some fourteen months before. Nor had they ever marched in Band formation before commencing rehearsals. Surely a remarkable effort.

This could be considered as the coming out event of the Junior Band and from this time henceforth the combination took its share of the activities of the organisation and performed its duties throughout the city and its environs. Its services were eagerly sought for a variety of causes.

The year 1957 was a very successful one, and ended on a high note, for the new Musical Director, Mr. Elgar Clayton, arrived in Dunedin on the eve of Christmas, to be exact, December 23rd, when a social evening was held to welcome Mr. Clayton and his family.

This of course did not mean that the new Musical Director took over immediately, for the Band, from the date of his arrival, closed for the Christmas vacation and did not resume until January 18th, 1958.

## FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE . . . WORLD WAR II



E. C. PHELOUNG  
(R.N.Z.A.F.)

Killed in Action, April 3rd, 1943.

Owing to the fact that there were no records available, it is regretted that it was not possible to include a list of those members who served in the Armed Forces during World War I, (1914-1918).

## OF THE PRESENT . . . 1958—1961

1958 opened with only one thought in mind by all concerned—the Dunedin Contest on March 7th to 11th. Although the temporary Conductor, Mr. Brieseman, had been coaching the Band in the Test Selection "*Festival Music*" by Eric Ball, Mr. Clayton had just two months to cultivate his individuality upon the members, but with the harmony that invigorated their intellect, an amazing accomplishment was achieved and the championship was regained with a margin of seven points which appears to be the highest for the Band on record.

In the Hymn Test, the result was third place, two points behind the winner. In the Quickstep the members accepted their defeat as true bandmen, but they were entitled to take the fruits of victory with them in the acknowledgment of a magnificent performance in the Test Selection.

It is a strange coincidence that on each occasion that a new Conductor has taken over, the Band has won the championship in the first contest after each has assumed command.

The adjudicator, Mr. Ken Smith junior, in his remarks stated that it was the finest Band playing he had heard and probably would not be privileged to hear such a performance for a very long time. What a tribute to the interpretation by Mr. Clayton and the playing by the members.

Mr. Ken Smith, ex-member, was the youngest to have adjudicated at a New Zealand Championship Contest.

We must not forget the performance of the Junior Band under Mr. I. Bassett in the D Grade Championship at this contest. Their record was third in the Hymn Test, second in the Test Selection "*Sailors Songs Fantasia*" by Frank Wright and a similar position in the Quickstep. One outstanding feature was that the Junior Band composed of boys and competing against Bands with members of more mature years, gained the highest military points in the grade thus realising for Drum Major A. L. Parry one of his greatest ambitions—a gold medal.

Mr. Bassett's achievements were also worthy of full commendation for he was singularly responsible for the musical training of the boys.

The success of both Bands captured the imagination of many, so much so that Mr. Bassett was embarrassed by the number of parents desiring to have sons become members of the Junior section. This influx created a difficulty for the supply of instruments was exceedingly short and it was almost a case of borrow or steal to meet the demand. The growing pains were acute for some time, but those in command finally met the situation in a number of ways some not quite orthodox but at least satisfied the ambitions of these enthusiastic boys.

Naturally with the numbers now available, the composition become unweildy and the Junior Band remained in its former state with the newly-joined being formed into a learner's Band.

It was in this form that they competed in the 1959 Otago and Southland Provincial Contest held in Dunedin on October 4th, but more of this in the appropriate year.

September 20th, 1958, again saw the Senior Band visit friends in Christchurch and combine with Woolston in a series of events. The return visit took place on October 11th.

The personnel of the Band fluctuated somewhat throughout the year, members retiring or leaving to take up positions on transfer to other centres. Periodically vacancies in the ranks were filled by the promotion of members from the Junior Band.

Every year the story is much the same for as soon as one contest is over thoughts are directed to the next. For the floor members this is a pleasant thought, but for those in control it is a case of what can we do to find sufficient capital to meet contest expenses? 1958 was no exception but much energy was expended and the midnight oil was burnt on many occasions devising schemes to provide the necessary finance. Successful raffles in the form of Easter Egg, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day gift boxes and the Christmas stocking were conducted and a large portion of the contest expenses were accumulated from these sources. A monster fair and carnival was staged during Dunedin's Festival Week and commenced on Monday, January 26th, 1959 and extended over the week, concluding on

January 31st. It was moderately successful but provided sufficient to enable the Band to attend the contest held in Wellington from February 20th to 24th, 1959. The Test Selection was "*Sinfonietta for Brass Band*" by Erik Liedzen and the adjudicator Mr. W. L. Francis, Mus.B., an ex-Conductor of St. Kilda.

From a cultural point of view it was most gratifying but the points table did not show the Band's name higher than fifth in any event.

The next item of importance was the District Contest conducted by the Otago and Southland Brass Bands' Association at Dunedin.

With two Junior Bands now in existence, one the original and the other a Learner's Band, it was decided to enter both under the style of numbers one and two. The contest was conducted on a handicap basis all grades competing in the one section.

In the Hymn (own choice) number one Junior Band was first; March (own choice) on stage, number two Band second, number one Band third and in the Selection (own choice) number one was second and number two Band third.

Seven bands competed in each event, the aggregate results being Invercargill Garrison first, St. Kilda Junior number one second, and number two Junior Band third. These very satisfying results again were due entirely to Mr. I. Bassett who conducted both Bands.

On October 4th, 1959, the appearance of the Senior Band in uniform changed slightly. The gold lanyards which were previously worn only when on marching parade, now became part of the official uniform for all appearances.

And so to 1960 and 1961, the last years of this review and two years of a very modern era.

These were identical in character to those of the preceding five, numerous engagements broadcasting, recordings, financial worries, contest arrangements and their accompanying expenses and rehearsals, resignations and replacements, but they were all successfully negotiated.

The 1960 Contest adjudicators were Messrs K. G. Smith junior, and N. G. Goffin with R. J. Estall, M.B.E., as referee. This system of judging followed the pattern employed in the English contests.

The venue was Christchurch and the dates were March 4th to 8th, the Test Selection being "*Epic Symphony*."

The Band finished in third place in the championship and won the Hymn Test, but in the Quickstep was only in the middle placings.

On October 2nd, the Senior Band attended its second contest in the year. This was staged by the Otago and Southland Brass Bands' Association at Balclutha and was the first of its type. All eight bands present were required to give an entertainment of half an hours duration during which the items were own choice but had to include at least a March and Selection. There were no gradings or handicaps. The adjudicator was Mr. K. G. Smith junior.

The Junior Band, under Mr. Bassett, competed against the Senior Band which with Mr. Elgar Clayton as Musical Director won the contest by one point from Kaikorai Band and thus became the first winner of the Marlow Memorial Trophy. This handsome trophy was made by Mr. Ken Smith and presented to the Otago and Southland Association in memory of the Late Mr. J. J. Marlow who had passed away in March 1959. In view of his long association with the Band, it was very appropriate that the Band should be successful in being the first to have its name engraved thereon.

The 1961 contest was held in Auckland from March 10th to 14th, but although the Band (Senior) gave a very impressive performance in all sections no major placings were recorded.

April 11th, 1961, saw the inaugural meeting of the Jubilee Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. S. Waterston, which made the arrangement to celebrate the St. Kilda Municipal Band's sixty years of music.

### SHAPING DESTINIES

It has been suggested that Brass Bands as we know them are "played out," but they may still have a bright future in spite of competition from modern entertainment.

Losses and disappointments sustained together with a negative outlook only tends to create a gloom, but should we not beware of becoming so obsessed by gloom that we cannot see the good in the movement.

Be positive about your Band not only in thought but in action, but of course effort is necessary as well as optimism.

Let us turn away from the prophets of gloom and continue to make music in our own particular way to the best of our ability. There is too much negative thinking in the world in general.

Let the light in. "Rarely, rarely comest thou SPIRIT OF DELIGHT."

# SOME OF THE CONDUCTORS

Mr. EDWARD SMITH



First Conductor and one of the founders of the organisation. A very capable leader and under his guidance the Band quickly obtained the skill and discipline so necessary to put it in the A Grade contest class.

Mr. G. B. LAIDLAW



Born in Rothesay, Scotland, in December, 1863. He had considerable experience as a professional bandman before coming to Dunedin in 1901. Was for 14 years Conductor of the 1st Argyle and Bute Volunteer Artillery Band, and later Conductor of the Rothesay Corporation Military Band (a professional Band). Mr. Laidlaw also studied the Cornet and harmony in Glasgow. In 1899 and 1900 he was the Director of the Scottish and National Orchestra.

He assumed the Conductorship of the Kaikorai Brass Band in 1902, resigning from this post in 1917. During this period with Kaikorai Band he conducted them in 11 New Zealand Contests and one in Ballarat, Australia. In nine of these the Band was successful in gaining prizes. In 1918 Mr. Laidlaw came out of retirement to conduct St. Kilda but early in 1919 his health began to fail and he died on June 13th, 1919.

Mr. JAMES DIXON



the leading composers of Band music, J. Ord. Hume.

Thirty

Under his control St. Kilda won several New Zealand Championships. He also conducted the Dunedin Broadcasting Orchestra at Station 4YA and the Royal Dunedin Male Choir. Besides judging at many choir festivals and provincial Band Championships, Mr. Dixon also adjudicated at the New Zealand Brass Band Championships on several occasions.

He was responsible for the formation of the Port Chalmers Marine, Dunedin Ladies Brass and Owaka Brass Bands. Not only were his interests restricted to Brass Bands for he was also a very keen supporter of the pipes. Mr. Dixon was the first President of the National Brass Band Club (New Zealand Branch) and in recognition of his services to New Zealand Bands he received the honour of Life Membership in 1956 by the New Zealand Brass Bands' Association.

By his death on January 20th, 1960, Dunedin lost a prominent Brass Band personality.

His heart was in Bands, and never did self-aggrandisement enter his mind.

Mr. A. W. E. WEBB



Originally from Wanganui, Mr. Webb was a highly successful competitor in solo events at the New Zealand Championship Contests having gained distinction on the soprano Cornet. After leaving St. Kilda he took over the conductorship of the Southern Command Artillery Band, stationed in Dunedin, with the rank of lieutenant. On the outbreak of World War II he went overseas as Musical Director of the 4th Brigade Band stationed in Egypt and the Middle East.

On his return to New Zealand he went to live in Wanganui and assumed command of the Queen Alexandra Own Band.

Mr. W. L. FRANCIS, Mus.Bac.



Commenced his Band career with the Wanganui Garrison Band as a pupil of his Father, one of New Zealand's best known soprano players. In 1931 he became Conductor and in succession was Conductor of the Westport, Greymouth, St. Kilda, Palmerston North, Port Nicholson and Auckland

Fire Brigade Bands. In National Contests he gained five firsts, five seconds, three thirds, a fourth and two fifth places. In the Hymn section he was placed first three times and second six.

He has trained many of our leading soloists amongst whom his three sons gained places of distinction.

He obtained his degree of Music Bachelor at the Otago University in 1942 and was in charge of music at the Kings High School (Dunedin), the Palmerston North Boys' High School, and the Hutt Valley Memorial Technical College. He was also Conductor of the Burnham Camp Band from 1942-1943 and organised, trained and conducted the Secondary School's Band for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit in December, 1956.

A well-known composer and arranger of Brass Band music he came out of retirement and led the Mt. Roskill Band to victory in the C Grade at the contest held in Auckland on March 10th to 14th, 1961.

Mr. K. G. L. SMITH, M.B.E.



Began playing in 1920. Won the Baritone solo in 1927. Commenced conducting in 1935 with Wairoa Municipal Band. First contested as Conductor in 1946 with the Westport Municipal Band, and later the St. Kilda Municipal Band. Tied with Wellington Watersiders in 1948 for A Grade. Won A Grade, 1949. Won Ballarat, 1949. Second A Grade, 1950 and 1951. Has never been lower than second place with A Grade Bands. Won Edinburgh and Belle Vue with National Band. Won B Grade, Auckland, 1955, with Hamilton Citizens' Band, Dunedin, 1958, with Lower Hutt Civic. He has judged many Provincial Contests as well as Queensland, 1955.

Mr. Smith has taught and trained such players as K. G. Smith, Keith Caldwell, Colin Tregurtha, Wally Barton and Strauss Smith. Is Life Member Scottish Brass Band Association and Edinburgh Charities Band Association.

He has been appointed Director of the Junior School of the New Zealand Brass Bands' Association to be held in August, 1961.

Mr. K. G. SMITH, The Virtuoso



We New Zealanders have just cause to be proud of our sons and the great fame they have brought to us in the fields of science, education, medicine, engineering, and all the other innumerable faculties which help to provide the many answers to today's world problems.

Where in our greatest hours of study or trial can we turn with greater pleasure to the relaxation and enjoyment of music?

This art has made New Zealand famous in many avenues, both vocally and instrumental, but it can be fairly said that Ken Smith has attained a world place in his particular interest.

As a lad of 12 years in Westport, he showed great promise as a Cornetist—despite the demands of school requirements he still found the many extra hours for practice and also maintained a high place in school honours—all this of course under the "eagle" eye of his father, K. G. L. Smith.

After winning the New Zealand Amateur Solo at 16 years of age in Christchurch, he came to Dunedin in 1947 when his father had been appointed to the conductorship of St. Kilda Municipal, and from there on his success has been in complete keeping with effort.

At the New Zealand Contest in 1948, 1949 and 1950 he won the Cornet Championship with masterful performances, and also in 1949 when St. Kilda competed at Ballarat he became the Australasian Champion.

It was from here that his brilliant career took shape, and the judge at Ballarat, Mr. Frank Wright, reported his talents when he returned to London. As a result, an invitation was extended to him by Mr. Harry Mortimer, O.B.E., Director of Brass music to the B.B.C. and also professional Conductor of Fairey Aviation Works Band, to join their combination as one of their solo cornetists; and subsequently became the leading cornetists of the British Commonwealth.

Whilst it was somewhat sad to see this young "Gulliver" set out on his travels, no one could deny him the great opportunity which was his; but as we watched with pride the success of our other New Zealand sons, so we did him.

His talents were very early manifest in Great Britain, and it did not take long for the critical British audiences to realise his ability. Although he left New Zealand to primarily interest himself in Brass Band combinations, he found that there were many other fields in which his art could be effectively performed. His appearance in Radio on such family-known shows as "Variety Bandbox," Festival Parade and "In Town Tonight" were commonplace.

Despite the interesting and varied nature of these efforts, his deeper feelings prevailed, and he really loved serious concert work under the conductorship of Sir Malcolm Sargent and other eminent men in some of England's greatest musical efforts, both orchestral and choral.

Perhaps his most uplifting performance was in association with the Westminster Choral Society, where Elsie Morrison and Owen Brannigan were soloists, in company with George Thaban Ball as organist, and he provided the Trumpet music in their Handelian programme.

Having trod the hard road to success in Great Britain, he returned to New Zealand for a short visit in 1952, and said then that it was his intention to devote his humble efforts towards completely establishing "Brass" in its full and rightful place in all instrumental musical interests.

Thirty-one

This he had done, as it manifest in his group arrangements for brass in combinations for up to 12 instruments, which have been very successfully received in Concert Halls and by the B.B.C. in their full coverage throughout Great Britain. And to produce the maximum effect of his purpose it has been necessary for him to arrange most of these works to suit brass himself, which in turn adds colour to his ability.

Whilst we watch with great interest the successes of our New Zealanders in all points of the globe, it was pleasing to see one of them return and give the results of his learning to his own kinsmen for the benefit and pleasure of the great General Public to whom we owe so much.

## Mr. ELGAR CLAYTON



Mr. Clayton commenced playing the Cornet at an early age, studying under Lieutenant Atkins and Mr. Harold Moss. At the age of 14 he won the Alex. Owen Scholarship for competitors under the age of 21 years. In 1932 he joined Munn and Feltons Band as principal cornetist, transferring to

Wingates Temperance in 1934 which won the B Grade Championship in that year, and in the following year the A Grade, a feat never before or since accomplished.

During the year 1940 Mr. Clayton became principal Cornet for Fairey Aviation Works Band which in 10 consecutive contests, established a record of seven first places and three second places.

He was also keenly interest in orchestral work and played with such well-known orchestras at the Halle, Liverpool Philharmonic and the B.B.C. Northern Orchestra.

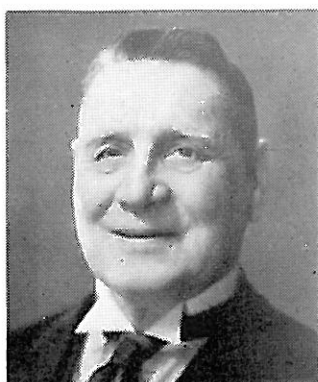
In 1946 Mr. Clayton was appointed Conductor of Faireys and continued in this capacity until he came to New Zealand in 1950 to take up the baton with Invercargill Civic. In his first contest at Wellington in 1951 with this Band, he won the B Grade Championship, Hymn test and the Quickstep. He remained in Invercargill until 1954 when he returned to England and again became Conductor of Faireys. Not long after this he took over the conductorship of Scottish C.W.S. with which he had several successes at Edinburgh Festival, Scottish Area and Scottish Championships.

Mr. Clayton remained with Scottish C.W.S. until he was appointed Musical Director of St. Kilda Municipal in 1957.

## PATRONS



HON. F. JONES  
1939—



J. J. MARLOW, O.B.E.  
President 1940—1955  
Patron 1955—1960



Sir. LEONARD WRIGHT  
1960—

Mr Jones was the first Patron of the Band, appointed in 1939

In 1955, when Mr. Marlow relinquished the Presidency, he was appointed joint Patron with Mr. Jones.

On the death of Mr. Marlow in 1960, Sir Leonard Wright was elected as joint Patron.

## HONOURS BOARD

*To those members who have brought distinction to themselves and the Band.*

EDWARD (Ned) SMITH.—A founder and first Conductor of the Band.

J. J. MARLOW.—Fifteen years President and award of O.B.E. for Civic Services.

A. G. HOMER.—Member of Management Committee of New Zealand Brass Bands' Association for some years.

K. G. L. SMITH.—Conductor Australasian Champion Band; Conductor National Band of New Zealand; Winner Edinburgh Festival Contest and Belle Vue Champion Contest of England.

R. S. WATERSTON.—Member of Management Committee and now Senior Vice-President, New Zealand Brass Bands' Association.

K. G. SMITH.—Three consecutive years winner New Zealand Cornet Championship and Australasian Champion of Champions; Leading cornetist of this century of the British Commonwealth; Youngest Contest Adjudicator in dominion.

G. R. MOWAT.—Secretary New Zealand Brass Bands' Association.

F. JONES.—First Patron of the Band, elected July 18th, 1940; Member of Parliament for many years and Minister of Defence during World War II.

ROBT. WALLS.—Member of Parliament for lengthy period.

W. H. DONALDSON.—Twenty three years as a successful Drum Major of the Band.

I. E. STILL.—Fifteen years Secretary; President Otago and Southland Brass Bands' Association seven years; Appointed Justice of the Peace; Founder National Brass Band Club (New Zealand Branch).

N. A. THORN.—Conductor of Kaikorai Brass Band since 1949, famous for highest number of consecutive Quickstep successes.

W. L. PATERSON.—Sixteen consecutive years as Band Treasurer.

A. L. PARRY.—In 1952, gained highest military points in Quickstep with Kaikorai Band—a notable achievement as he took over the Band just over a week before the contest.

IRA GRANT.—Otago Rugby Football Union, Administrator and selector.

J. LEES.—Thirty six years active member of St. Kilda Band.

## MEMBERS OF AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPION BAND

OFFICERS: J. J. Marlow, O.B.E., *President*; K. G. L. Smith, *Conductor*; J. McKnight, *Drum Major*; I. E. Still, *Secretary*; Mrs. A. Muir, F.T.C.L., *Official Accompaniste*.

SOPRANO CORNET: I. Bassett.

Bb CORNETS: *Solos*—K. G. Smith, V. A. McHerron, P. J. Deaker, D. Christensen; *Repiano*—G. R. Mowat; *Flugel Horn*—E. R. Collett; *2nd Cornets*—K. R. Pheloung, H. W. Dickinson, I. E. Still; *3rd Cornets*—W. J. Fraser, T. L. Brighting.

TENOR HORNS: *Solo*—W. G. Randall; *1st Horn*—L. J. Mackle; *2nd Horns*—G.H. Laurie, S. T. Smith.

BARITONES: *1st*—A. G. Randall; *2nd*—S. R. Hall, A. C. Williams, K. B. Glover.

EUPHONIUMS: G. N. Muschamp, P. A. Wheeler.

TROMBONES: *1st*—G. E. Hope; *2nd*—D. H. Knauf; *Bass*—R. S. Waterston.

BASSES: *Eb*—L. M. Gillions, A. H. Campbell, J. R. Paul; *BBb*—H. N. Muschamp, A. W. Saunders.

DRUMS: *Side*—J. Lees, J. J. Lees; *Bass*—M. K. Heazlewood.

# A GLIMPSE OF OFFICE-BEARERS DOWN THE YEARS

## PRESIDENTS

1901-1911.—Wm. WILLS.  
1911-1924.—H. R. LAW.  
1924-1925.—CHAS. TODD.  
1925-1927.—F. H. LAMPEN.  
1927-1934.—E. H. LOUGH.  
1934-1937.—J. L. GARDNER.  
1937-1938.—G. J. ERRINGTON.  
1938-1940.—A. H. NEWALL.  
1940-1955.—J. J. MARLOW, O.B.E.  
1955-1956.—D. J. SIMPSON.  
1956-1958.—A. L. FLEURY.  
1958-1959.—H. L. GIBSON.  
1959— F. L. HITCHENS.

## CONDUCTORS

1901-1914.—E. SMITH.  
1914-1915.—G. E. PATTERSON (Acting).  
—1915.—A. O. KAYE.  
1915-1918.—G. E. PATTERSON (Acting).  
1918-1919.—G. B. LAIDLAW.  
1919-1922.—E. SMITH.  
1922-23.—JAS. PATERSON (Acting).  
1923-1935.—JAS. DIXON.  
1935-1936.—A. W. E. WEBB.  
1936.—C. C. E. MILLER (Temporary).

1936.—JAS. DIXON (Temporary).  
1936-1947.—W. L. FRANCIS.  
1947-1953.—K. G. L. SMITH.  
1953-1954.—J. R. PAUL (Acting).  
1954-1956.—K. G. SMITH.  
1956-1957.—A. F. BRIESEMAN (Acting).  
1957— ELGAR CLAYTON

## JUNIOR BAND

1956-1961.—I. BASSETT  
1961— N. PEACOCK

## DRUM-MAJORS

1901-1913.—D. SMITH.  
1913-1918.—World War I. No appointment.  
1918-1920.—J. J. JARDINE.  
1920-23.—T. GILCHRIST.  
1923-1945.—W. H. DONALDSON.  
1945-1952.—J. McKNIGHT.  
1952— A. L. PARRY.

## SECRETARIES

1901-1907.—Wm. POLLOCK.  
1907-1908.—A. J. HALL.  
1908-1912.—Wm. POLLOCK.

1912-1915.—W. NELSON.  
1915-1917.—W. L. PATERSON (overseas from Oct. 4th, 1917).  
1917-1920.—T. W. WILSON.  
1920-1925.—W. J. MAY.  
1925-1927.—W. W. PENNY-CUICK.  
1927-1938.—A. G. HOMER.  
1938-1939.—R. W. MILLER.  
1939-1954.—I. E. STILL.  
1954-1957.—G. R. MOWAT.  
1957— T. DAVIE.

## TREASURERS

1901-1909.—F. G. HALL.  
1909-1910.—F. WILKINSON.  
1910-1913.—F. W. DONALDSON.  
1913-1915.—W. L. PATERSON.  
1915-1918.—H. DICKINSON.  
1918-1919.—W. SMITH.  
1919-1922.—H. DICKINSON.  
1922-1924.—E. LOGIE.  
1924-1940.—W. L. PATERSON.  
1940-1946.—A. VEITCH.  
1946-1952.—J. McKNIGHT.  
1952-1954.—S. R. HALL.  
1954-1956.—J. L. LAURIE.  
1956-1959.—I. E. STILL.  
1959— L. A. GREEN.

## TO HONOUR THEIR SERVICES . . . LIFE MEMBERS

\*ROBT. JACKSON.  
\*J. CONGALTON.  
\*H. DICKINSON.  
\*W. YEOMAN.  
W. L. PATERSON.  
\*G. E. PATTERSON.  
\*A. H. NELSON.  
\*Wm. SMITH.  
\*T. WILLIAMS.  
T. F. McLEAN.

\*R. COUGHLAN.  
\*JAS. DIXON.  
G. J. CHRISTIE.  
\*A. G. HOMER.  
\*W. J. MAY.  
\*T. D. ROGERS.  
\*C. OBEN.  
\*W. WALLACE.  
W. H. DONALDSON.  
T. D. STALKER.

R. W. MILLER.  
J. LEES.  
\*J. D. HUNTER.  
R. S. WATERSTON.  
I. E. STILL.  
\*J. J. MARLOW, O.B.E.  
G. R. MOWAT.  
I. BASSETT.

\* Deceased.

# SOME SIDELIGHTS

## DID YOU KNOW?

*That during the 60 years no fewer than 19 people with the surname "Smith" have been members of the Band. They are:*

Edward (Ned), Albert and Charles—all brothers, David B., C. J., two with Christian names William (no relation), I., John., A. E., Cyril T., D., Philip, Frank, A., K.G.L., K.G., S. T. J. and D. H.

*That there have been three generations of Berryman's in the Band:*

John Berryman, father of William Berryman, and Miss Margaret Berryman, daughter of William. Miss Berryman was the Band's official accompaniste for some years.

*That the Band boasted of a husband and wife as members:*

Bruce and Margaret Wright (nee Berryman).

*That from time to time there has been father and son or sons in the Band during the same period: (fathers names first)*

David and David (junior) Christensen; Norman and Gilbert Muschamp; Joe and Jack Lees; Charles, Ted, Frank and later Kevin Pheloung; Jack and Graham Laurie; Ian and Neil Dixon; Ken, Ken (junior), Strauss and David Smith; Les, Ralph, Allan and Max Francis; Les and Lionel Gillions; Harry and Keith Heazlewood; Elgar and Colin Clayton; Ian, Brian, Ian (junior) and Graham Bassett.

*That in addition to the above named the following brother combinations have been members:*

George and Jack Christie; Bud and Jack Wills; Roy and Ralph Miller; Ray and Jim Mowat;

Bill and Gordon Randall; Mervyn and John Burton; Charlie and Brian Begg; Les and Colin Green; Neil and Ross Peacock; Walter, Robert and Russell Gibb; Darrell and Terry Madigan.

*That 24 members are at present conducting or have conducted other Bands:*

V. A. G. Aldridge, now conducting Derry's Brass, Christchurch. Ian Bassett, was conductor of St. Kilda Junior. E. A. Beadle, was conductor of Waverley Boys' Band. D. Christensen, was conductor of Woolston. W. H. Cross, now conductor of Balclutha senior and junior. G. Christie, was conductor of Green Island Municipal. R. Francis, was conductor of Palmerston North City Silver and Caversham Citizens. A. Francis, now conductor of Caversham-Green Island Silver. W. Gibb, was conductor of several Bands including Dunedin Waterside Silver and Caversham-Green Island Silver. G. E. Hope, now conductor of Blenheim Regimental. A. D. MacKenzie, was conductor of Balclutha Brass. C. C. E. Miller, was conductor of Invercargill Garrison. H. J. Mullen, now conductor of Port Chalmers Marine. T. F. McLean, was conductor of Caversham Citizens. G. E. Patterson, was conductor West Coast Band (name unknown). J. R. Paul, was conductor of Caversham-Green Island Silver. N. Peacock, now conductor of St. Kilda Junior. R. Rudhall, was conductor of Roxburgh Silver. K. G. Smith (junior), was conductor of Kaikorai (temporary only for six months). A. Salter, was conductor of North Island Band (name unknown). S. T. J. Smith, now conductor of Alexandra Brass. W. Stewart, now conductor of Invercargill Garrison. N. A. Thorn, now conductor of Kaikorai Brass. R. S. Waterston, was conductor of Caversham Citizens.

*That the Band won the grand aggregate at three Exhibitions, namely Christchurch in 1907, Dunedin in 1926 and Wellington in 1940.*

# ABOUT SOLO CONTESTS

In 1942, solo contests for members of the Band were inaugurated. These were sponsored by Mr. R. S. Waterston, war-time Conductor during the absence of Mr. W. L. Francis, the purpose being to stimulate interest among the members in the absence of contests, which were abandoned at that time. They have become annual events since that date.

Over the years trophies in the form of cups have been donated to the Band. These are:—

## PHELOUNG MEMORIAL CUP.

Donated by Mr. and Mrs. C. Pheloung in memory of their son E. C. Pheloung, Killed in Action, 1943.

## J. J. MARLOW CHALLENGE CUP

(Band Championship). Donated by Officers of the Band to commemorate the late Mr. Marlow's 15 years as President.

## FRANCIS MEMORIAL CUP

Donated by Messrs W. L. and W. R. Francis in memory of a brother and uncle Killed in Action, World War II.

## FLAMANK MEMORIAL CUP

Donated by Mr and Mrs C. O. Flamank in memory of their son Keith, a member of the Band who was drowned at St. Kilda beach.

## T. D. ROGERS MEMORIAL CUP

Donated by Mrs. Rogers in memory of her husband, who was a member of the Band for many years.

## N. H. SHEPHERD MEMORIAL CUP

Donated by Mrs. Shepherd in memory of her husband, a Vice-President of the Band for a long period.

## H. L. GIBSON CUP

Donated by Mr. Gibson, a past President, for competition among the members of the Junior Band.

## W. J. MAY MEMORIAL CUP

Donated by Mrs. M. Lennox, in memory of her father, a past member and Secretary of the Band.

## SNIPS AND SNIPPETS

### BROTHERHOOD OF BANDSMEN

The action of the Soldiers Memorial Band of Ballarat, Australia, in allowing a visiting Band the use of its band room for pre-contest practices was commended by representatives of the St. Kilda Municipal Band from Dunedin, New Zealand, at a Social evening in the band room in their honour on Saturday last.

*From The Courier, Ballarat, October 29th, 1949.*

### BAND CONTEST IMPRESSIONS

Entrancing Kaleidoscopic colours, movement, music and rotating figures, machine-like precision of the competing Bands. Automaton in musical perspective.

Glittering instruments that reflected light, placed in serried rows like silver vervures. The Zebra-like adjudicator's little tent, standing in solace on a velvet cushion of green sward.

The agility of the marching judges who, like Nestor the wise, missed little and saw much.

The proud Drum-Majors, the doyens of the Bands ambassadors of deportment, leaders of a fraternity of musicians, strutting with dignity and decorum.

The exultant and inspiring whoops by members of the Bands after the announcement of their victories. And the inconsiderate announcer who bleats forth at a most inopportune time.

The cluster of amplifiers like some giant, fantastic "Grandmother's Bonnets" swinging on elongated stalks in the strong wind.

*From the pen of an observant reporter.*

### LIKE THE ALL BLACKS

A tribute to the performance of Drum-Major J. McKnight was paid by the Conductor Mr. K. G. L. Smith in an interview with the "Daily Times." Mr. Smith said that the participation of the Band in the Quickstep competition at Ballarat was rather like the experience of the All Blacks playing against the Springboks in South Africa. The interpretation of the rules in the book was different and to conform as nearly as possible to the version favoured by most Australian Bands it was necessary to change the style.

*From "Otago Daily Times," November 10th, 1949*

### PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

When the bandsmen who came from many parts of New Zealand had left Christchurch after the big contest, the city was allowed to resume its normal routine. No longer were hotel proprietors and guests worried by bedroom practice in the early hours of the morning and people living round the parks and open spaces were able to take their last 40 winks undisturbed by the blare of trombones or the thump of drums.

*From the "Free Lance," March 8th, 1939.*

Although not directly levelled at St. Kilda, there was a suspicion that it did in part refer to the Band as many objections were lodged regarding the enthusiasm of the members in and out of a particular hotel.

### ON THE JOB

St. Kilda, under Mr. Jas. Dixon, is always on the job. It seems to be having a lot of engagements one way and another. By-the-by, I hear it will have some new additions to its playing membership soon. I wonder what it is up to now. The members are pretty close, not allowing much information to leak out. I heard it playing at the Garden Party at Sir Lindo Ferguson's in aid of some Girl Guides, and the playing was good. I also heard it in the Gardens on the 17th and my word, it was not the same Band. Some mis-understanding, as I only saw 11 playing members and the drummer, and a white-haired old gentleman wagging the stick. However, those faithful 11 stuck to it and put up a fair programme. I suppose those who were absent thought it was raining.

*From the "New Zealand Bandsman," 1926*

### EQUALS NOTHING JUDGE HAS HEARD

Before the results were announced the judge, Mr. A. H. Baile, Sydney, conducted the massed Bands in a stirring march. For his benefit St. Kilda then went through the evolutions of the Quickstep, following which he congratulated the Conductor, Drum-Major and Band on an excellent performance. "The playing of this A Grade Band was equal to anything I have heard" Mr. Baile told a reporter of "The Timaru Post." "My opinion of its playing is shown in the fact that I gave them 149 out of a possible 150, although they were only the second Band to play.

*Timaru Contest, 1935.*

### COLOURFUL TOUCHES

It remained to St. Kilda to give the most spectacular display of the contest. With gold facings distinguishing their uniforms and white gloves flashing in regular arm movements, they stepped out with precision and confidence of trained soldiers. Their turns were in the "goose step" tradition and the crowd, with quick appreciation, clapped them enthusiastically. The Drummer was in difficulties when his strap came unhooked but he righted it later and the Band carried on to the halt in excellent marching order.

*From an early Northern paper.*

### REAL VETERANS

In 17 years, Mr. William H. Donaldson has led the Band in 15 contests, and seen it win at least eight times. Behind him this year marched Tommy Williams (Double Bass) who has played for St. Kilda since 1908, and Joe Lees (Side Drummer) since 1926, the only other real veteran. The great majority of players have been fed into the Senior Band from the St. Kilda Boy's Band during the last three years.

These 20 young players sparsely reinforced by the few older members played like veterans to win the championship and the Quickstep.

*From "The Listener," March, 1940.*

### POPULARITY

With contest work and engagements St. Kilda Municipal, under its popular young Conductor Mr. Jas. Dixon, is a much-sought-after Band in Dunedin. Sunday evening concerts on the St. Kilda Beach Rotunda are as popular as ever and the prospects for the future are bright.

*By Hawkeye in 1926 in a musical magazine of unknown name.*

### BY ANOTHER NAME

A capacity audience in the Wellington Town Hall was treated last night to some of the finest massed Band music ever heard in this country. Under the baton of Dr. Denis Wright, the massed championship grade Bands gave a recital that ranged from "Orpheus in the Underworld" to "Pop Goes the Weasel." Other numbers played were "Slavonic Rhapsody," "Old Comrades" march, "Sousa on Parade" and the hymn "Abide With Me."

The audience were somewhat startled when the Doctor announced the first number as "Orpheus in his Underpants."

*From a Wellington paper, 1951.*

### EARS MAY HAVE BEEN OPENED TO AESTHETIC POTENTIALITIES OF BANDS

Though there was, on the whole, little light-footedness about the ballet music from Rossini's "William Tell" required for the Brigade Test, the championship, through Gheel's colourful "Festival Overture" produced much thrilling music that undoubtedly opened the ears of some people to the aesthetic potentialities of brass playing.

*From the "Dominion," March, 1951.*

### NEW LAURELS FOR BANDING FAMILY

New Zealand's famous banding family, the Smiths now of Hamilton and Dunedin, made Brass Band history in the Town Hall last night. When St. Kilda, conducted by Mr. Ken Smith (junior) won the A Grade championship, he became, at 25, the youngest winning A Grade conductor. It was the first time a father and son had conducted the winning Bands in the A and B Grade championships.

It was a great victory over its old rivals—it is said their rivalry is on a par with the Otago-Southland rugby clashes.

*From the "New Zealand Herald," February 28th, 1955.*

### ONCE BITTEN

A number of bandsmen were treated for insect bites at the casualty department of the Auckland Public Hospital last night. Others had been treated during the week.

Most of the bitten said that mosquitoes—the voracious Auckland type—were responsible but a doctor suggested that a small sandfly could be responsible. They were treated with penicillin injections and anti-histamine cream. One Band was even forced to withdraw from the Quickstep.

*From "Auckland Star," at 1955 Contest.*

### SASSENACH SPEAKING?

Once again a Sunday afternoon has been ruined by those ghastly screeching noises from the Public Gardens. This time, they tell me, it was a most ludicrous combination but for cacophonous discord this group takes some beating.

I timidly suggest that in future, recital blowers retire to the top of Mount Cargill and blow to their hearts' content. The St. Kilda Band I can tolerate, especially when it plays away out in St. Kilda, but please, no more in the Gardens. I am, etc.—D. R. H.

*The text of a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper published in 1948*

### SIDE-DRUMMING

Dear Sir—In reply to "Sergeant Drummer" I quite agree with some of his views. Crossing sticks above the head is wrong and some drummers did have their Drums slung wrongly. I do not agree with his choice. Showmanship is nothing if a Drummer cannot produce the goods from a playing point. My choice was the St. Kilda Side Drummer, not a showman.

*From a letter to the Editor of a newspaper, 1929.*

### THE WEATHER WAS INFLUENCED

"Bad weather stopped us from having any marching rehearsals outdoors at Ballarat" said the Drum-Major, Mr. J. McKnight. "It did not stop raining all the time we were there, except while the actual competition was on."

*From "Otago Daily Times," November 10th, 1949.*

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Secretary of the Band, Mr. I. E. Still, spoke to his wife by telephone from Ballarat at the week-end and members of the public have since offered to make donations towards the cost of the call.

*From "Otago Daily Times," November 2nd, 1949.*

### WORDS AND MUSIC

Impatience with the speeches made at the Civic reception this afternoon to the champion St. Kilda Municipal Band was expressed by many of the hundreds of people who attended the Town Hall. There were frequent interruptions to the brief addresses of welcome. The audience applauded loudly when the members filed on to the stage, a boxing ring in the centre of the hall, and particularly after the Band, as a tribute to the city, played the march "Wellington."

After the official welcoming party arrived to make the speeches, there was a period of two or three minutes in which nothing was said or done. Portion of the addresses was drowned out by applause and cries of "We want to hear the Band, we've got to get back to work" and "We want music, not words."

*From the Wellington Evening Paper, November 7th, 1949.*

## SOME FOR OTHERS

Mr. J. J. Marlow, President of the Band, thanked the people and the Government for the generosity in making the trip possible and expressed his pleasure that the Band had justified their optimism. "The Band missed the Quickstep, but it had to leave something for the other Bands" he said. From "Otago Daily Times," November 9th, 1949.

## MAGNET—BUT !

A Ballarat man saw a much muffled elderly stranger in Lydiard Street on Thursday. The stranger told the businessman:

"I've come 1,000 miles to hear the Bands from Ipswich, Brisbane. I love the music of the Bands. I've been going the rounds of the Bands in Ballarat for the contest listening to them practice. It has and always will thrill me. I love Band music. But—your Ballarat weather."

From Ballarat "Courier," October 24th, 1949.

## COMMON INTEREST

Contests stretch far beyond the basic good points of competitive playing. It brings together a community of men with a common interest, a common objective and a common fraternity. It brings a large body of men, acting as unofficial ambassadors of the cities and towns from which they come. They return to their homes broadened in knowledge of the experience and there is much of reciprocal feeling of good fellowship between those who participate in the "invasion."

From a newspaper of 1925 vintage.

## NEWSPAPER COMMENTS AT AND AFTER CONTESTS — TAKEN AT RANDOM

Wellington, 1959 Contest.

The number of people who braved the uncertainty of the weather was encouraging. It doesn't matter what they wear. The men spectators were colourless in overcoats and hats, and the women were dressed for winter to view the Quickstep. A popular fashion was "blankets draped"; people who hung rugs over their heads, wrapped them round knees or over their shoulders gave varying demonstrations of "how blankets are being worn this year."

Dunedin, 1958 Contest.

There is no doubt Elgar Clayton has made a profound impression with St. Kilda's outstanding performance. His work shows the hall-mark of musicianship and experience.

Wellington, 1951 Contest.

The Street Parade yesterday was won by Kaikorai Band with 148½ points with St. Kilda in second place with 148. The event was not allowed to pass without much adverse comment from the Bands participating—28 of them. With Wellington's narrow streets in admittedly bad condition marching was not easy. From rails above the level of the road,

Thirty-eight

and holes alongside provided many traps to marching feet. The men had a good grouse, and as is the custom in the Band world, carried on and forgot it until the next time.

"Auf Weiderschen" to visiting bandmen. The Championship of New Zealand last night meant "coda" to this years Brass Band Champion Contest.

Perhaps the reports for this contest have been over critical. However, we hope they will be accepted "de Bonne grace."

From what I can see of the bandmen they are dependable and well behaved. They don't need any watching. Some have brought their wives and sweethearts to Wanganui with them. They are a decent lot of fellows and are quite capable of doing it.

I finished my notes about one o'clock this morning and did not like them. I went to sleep on them. I awoke with a cup of tea at my bedside. After partaking of New Zealand's national drink I tore up my notes. I had got the wrong angle. By a newspaper commentator well known to bandmen.

Adding to its long list of successes in the past, the St. Kilda Municipal Band easily won the A Grade Championship Quickstep at Carisbrook on Saturday afternoon. Giving a display of marching that could not be faulted and playing its music brilliantly, St. Kilda established a lead of 26½ points over the second place competitor.

It finished up in a meritable blaze of glory and was a great triumph for the bandmaster Mr. K. G. L. Smith, the Drum-Major Mr. J. McKnight and the talented bandmen. The announcement of the Band's success was greeted with salvoes of cheering

Sir Percy Buck truly wrote "The best critic is the person who can find beauty where others have missed it."

Band's disqualified in last Sunday's Hymn Test were permitted to play so that they could have the benefit of the judge's comments. Disqualified Bands were ridiculed in the eyes of the public by being told they had been disqualified.

"The axe has fallen again" said the adjudicator prefacing the announcement of his decision. "To-nights playing has been the best of the contest. St. Kilda seemed to revel in the music" he said. "Perhaps because it was really a working man's poem they were playing—the music deputing the downtrodden man who has hopes of a better day or a better life."

M. K. Heazlewood added further to St. Kilda's splendid record at the contest by scoring very easily in the Bass Drum solo, as he had 13 championship points, more than the competitor placed second.

Results Bb Cornet solo—Wellington, 1940 Contest

- D. Christensen (St. Kilda Municipal) 94 points 1
- E. C. Pheloung (St. Kilda Municipal) 92 points 2
- W. R. Francis (St. Kilda Municipal) 91 points 3
- Vic. Aldridge (Woolston [ex St. Kilda] 90 points 4

What makes a Band? The Conductor is the man who makes the Band. The Band itself takes on his character, his personality pervades everything the Band does. And unless a Conductor has the divine spark within himself he will never be able to impart it through the medium of his Band.

So writes a newspaper correspondent.

The St. Kilda Municipal Band again showed its supremacy by winning the military display and Quickstep championship at the Brass Bands' Contest before an attendance of 35,000 people.

When the Test Selections were played in the open air.

The first Test Selection in the Band's championship class which was to have been held at Blandford Park last evening was postponed owing to adverse wet weather, and will now be held tomorrow evening. Thursday night's programme—the second Test Selection—will now be given on Friday night.

Do you remember this?

# NATIONAL CONTEST RECORD

## MORNINGTON BRASS BAND

### B GRADE

OCTOBER 1905, Temuka.—Conductor: E. Smith, Drum-Major: D. Smith. First Championship. Fourth Quickstep.

1906, Hawera.—Did not attend contest.

### A GRADE

FEBRUARY 1907, Christchurch.—Conductor: E. Smith. Fourth Championship. Did not compete in Quickstep competition.

FEBRUARY 1908, New Plymouth.—Conductor: E. Smith. First Championship. No Quickstep competition.

JANUARY 1909, Hastings.—Did not attend contest.

NOVEMBER 1909, Invercargill.—Did not attend contest.

OCTOBER 1910, Dunedin.—Conductor: E. Smith, Drum-Major: D. Smith. Third Championship. Third Quickstep.

FEBRUARY 1911, Palmerston North.—Did not attend contest.

JANUARY 1912, Christchurch.—Conductor: E. Smith, Drum-Major: D. Smith. Third Championship. Third Quickstep.

## ST. KILDA MUNICIPAL BAND

OCTOBER 1912, Dunedin.—Conductor: E. Smith, Drum-Major: D. Smith. First Championship. Third Quickstep.

NOVEMBER 1913, Invercargill.—Did not attend contest.

FEBRUARY 1914, Auckland.—Conductor: E. Smith. Fifth Championship. Tenth Quickstep.

FEBRUARY 1915, Christchurch.—Did not attend contest owing to World War I.

MARCH 1920, Dunedin.—Conductor: E. Smith, Drum-Major: T. Gilchrist. Fourth Championship. Seventh Quickstep.

MARCH 1921, Nelson.—Conductor: E. Smith, Drum-Major: T. Gilchrist. Second equal Championship. Eighth Quickstep.

FEBRUARY 1922, Wellington.—Did not attend contest.

FEBRUARY 1923, Dunedin.—Conductor: J. Patterson, Drum-Major: W. H. Donaldson. Sixth Championship. Fifth Quickstep.

FEBRUARY 1924, Christchurch.—Conductor: James Dixon, Drum Major: W. H. Donaldson. Second Championship. Fourth Quickstep. Fifth Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1925, Auckland.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Fifth Championship. Fifth Quickstep. Fourth Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1926, Dunedin.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Third Championship. Second Quickstep. Winners of Exhibition Shield: Aggregation of musical points, two Tests, Own Choice and Quickstep.

FEBRUARY 1927, Wellington.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Fourth Championship. First Quickstep. Second equal Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1928, Christchurch.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Fifth Championship. Fourth Quickstep. First Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1929, Wanganui.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. First Championship. First Quickstep. Third Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1930, Dunedin.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Fourth Championship. First Quickstep. Third Hymn Test.

1931.—No contest on account of Napier earthquake.

FEBRUARY 1932, Wellington.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Fourth Championship. First Quickstep. Second Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1933, Dunedin.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Fourth Championship. Second Quickstep. Third Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1934, Wellington.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Fourth Championship. First Quickstep. Ninth Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1935, Timaru.—*Conductor:* James Dixon, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. First Championship. First Quickstep. Fifth Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1936, New Plymouth.—*Conductor:* A. W. E. Webb, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Third Championship. Second Quickstep. Fourth Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1937, Nelson.—*Conductor:* W. L. Francis, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Fourth Championship. Fourth Quickstep. Third Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1938, Palmerston North.—Did not attend contest.

FEBRUARY 1939, Christchurch.—*Conductor:* W. L. Francis, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. Third Championship. First Quickstep. Fifth Hymn Test. First Own Choice Selection.

FEBRUARY 1940, Wellington.—*Conductor:* W. L. Francis, *Drum-Major:* W. H. Donaldson. First Championship. First Quickstep. Sixth Hymn Test.

1941-1945.—No contests owing to World War II.

MARCH 1946, Christchurch.—*Conductor:* W. L. Francis, *Drum-Major:* J. McKnight. Second equal Championship. First Quickstep. Second Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1947, Wanganui.—*Conductor:* W. L. Francis, *Drum-Major:* J. McKnight. Second equal Championship. First Quickstep. Second Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1948, Dunedin.—*Conductor:* K. G. L. Smith, *Drum-Major:* J. McKnight. First equal Championship. First Quickstep. Fourth Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1949, Auckland.—*Conductor:* K. G. L. Smith, *Drum-Major:* J. McKnight. First Championship. First Quickstep. Second Hymn Test.

OCTOBER 1949, Ballarat, Australia.—*Conductor:* K. G. L. Smith, *Drum-Major:* J. McKnight. First Championship. Second Quickstep. Second Street March. Second Special Quickstep.

FEBRUARY 1950, Christchurch.—*Conductor:* K. G. L. Smith, *Drum-Major:* J. McKnight. Second Championship. Seventh Quickstep. Third Hymn Test.

MARCH 1951, Wellington.—*Conductor:* K. G. L. Smith, *Drum-Major:* J. McKnight. Second Championship. Fifth Quickstep. Fifth Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1952, Dunedin.—*Conductor:* K. G. L. Smith, *Drum-Major:* J. McKnight. Second Championship. Third Quickstep. Fifth Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1953, Wanganui.—Did not attend contest.

FEBRUARY 1954, Christchurch.—Did not attend contest.

FEBRUARY 1955, Auckland.—*Conductor:* K. G. Smith (jun), *Drum-Major:* A. L. Parry. First Championship. Second Quickstep. Fifth Hymn Test.

MARCH 1956, Invercargill.—*Conductor:* K. G. Smith (jun), *Drum-Major:* A. L. Parry. Fifth Championship. Second Quickstep. Third Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1957, Napier.—*Conductor:* A. F. Brieseman, *Drum-Major:* A. L. Parry. Second Championship. Second Quickstep. Fifth Hymn Test.

MARCH 1958, Dunedin.—*Conductor:* Elgar Clayton, *Drum-Major:* A. L. Parry. First Championship. Fourth Quickstep. Third Hymn Test.

FEBRUARY 1959, Wellington.—*Conductor:* Elgar Clayton, *Drum-Major:* A. L. Parry. Fifth Championship. Fourth Quickstep. Ninth Hymn Test.

MARCH 1960, Christchurch.—*Conductor:* Elgar Clayton, *Drum-Major:* A. L. Parry. Third Championship. Sixth Quickstep. First Hymn Test.

MARCH 1961, Auckland.—*Conductor:* Elgar Clayton, *Drum-Major:* A. L. Parry. Fifth Championship. Fifth Quickstep. Sixth Hymn Test.

## ∴ In Appreciation ∴

Due to the efflux of time, records of the Band's activities have either been lost or destroyed.

We extend thanks and appreciation to all who have so willingly supplied information which has made this magazine possible.

As Editor, I desire to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs James Dixon, who so kindly loaned a book of facts and records compiled by the late Mr. J. D. Hunter and presented to Mr. Dixon in 1935 to commemorate his successes as Conductor of the Band during the period 1923 to 1935.

This book is really a work of art, beautifully written in longhand, and is a treasured memory of a gentleman who never spared himself in the interests of St. Kilda Municipal Band and other Bands and musical organisations in the City of Dunedin.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to be honoured with the custody of such a valuable record.

To my good friend Joe Lees, I also express my very sincere appreciation for his interest and assistance in supplying volumes of press and other published cuttings, some dating as far back as 1920.

"This day be examined of the good deed done to men."

I. E. STILL, *Editor*.

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