

December 2014



The Saints

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Warm greetings from all the players and administrators of St Kilda Brass! We wish you a very merry holiday period filled with sunshine and smiles! Saints has been busy in planning, over the last couple of months, looking forward to the New Year and beyond. There is much to share in the way of news so lets get started!

Chair Notes

First and foremost, thank you if you are a person who has got along to one or more of our events performances. It might have been the concerts or coincidentally one of the many small group performances which have been largely coordinated by John McAdam. If you add them up, St Kilda has undertaken around 20 performances this year across the spectrum from concerts and contests to a flash mob wedding and opening the 2015 University of Otago Summer School enrolment, both of which featured briefly on TV news. These go alongside successful concerts and contest 2014 performances conducted by Peter Adams, Steve Miles and Errol Moore.

Hardly exciting territory for a newsletter but I think it important to acknowledge a robust new committee began work in October after the AGM. The committee has been organised into artistic, education personnel, engagement logistics, finance, and resources sub groups. Our focus is finding ways to rebuild interest in brass through good performance, high profile, and education. We can offer wonderful music making!

Looking forward, seeking to perform via a diversity of ensemble types and nature of engagements seems a more attractive pathway than reliance on whole band engagements. This reflects a smaller

playing membership and an apparent wish for different levels of playing intensity i.e. not everybody wishes to be involved in contesting. Of course, the flip side is that careful planning is needed for us to sustain our reputation as an A Section band. In that regard, it is likely that Saints will be represented by soloists and ensembles in the Otago and Southland Provincials and the National Contests in 2015, and not by the full band.

Finally, I want to acknowledge your goodwill and interest, and let you know that this is ever more important to us in times when it is easier to flick the switch for entertainment than head out the front door. We look forward to special collaborative and unique St Kilda performances next year (read on in the newsletter) and hope you will be part of those and get others along too.

In the meantime, our warm wishes go to you for as relaxing a summer period as possible and over indulgence of family and festive sharing.

Errol Moore
Chair Person



Little fish, big ponds...

As a community musician and returning to play with St Kilda 2008, I was keenly aware of the students graduating into Dunedin bands as a result of the Dunedin Brass Academy programme. From your St Kilda Brass, Les Green, Peter McHenry and Trevor Kempton were absolutely critical to the establishment of the academy directed by Steve Miles. However, in 2014 the situation requires a fresh look as St Kilda finds itself once again pretty dependent on the work of programmes and students from other brass education initiatives. Work in Invercargill, Nelson and Whakatane spring to mind as places where the passion for learning is sufficiently cohesive to produce players who tend to spread across the university towns, such as Dunedin. To

address the diminishing Dunedin young player base, we are currently negotiating with several primary schools with a view to establishing a small teaching programme in each in 2015, as well as, a community wide adult programme to be based out of the bandroom. The initiative is being led by Errol Moore, Trevor Kempton and Erin Lee (our education sub-group), and will involve a range of tutors. We hope for a positive response in terms of young and not so young potential brass musicians.

Errol Moore



National Youth Brass Band of New Zealand 2015

Yet again, St Kilda Brass has managed a strong turn out in the National Youth Brass Band (NYBB). Amongst the line up of fine, talented young people in the band, we have our members: Meagan Gooding (principal cornet – congratulations!), Sariah Ratford (2nd cornet), Kimberley Dainty (3rd cornet), Jess Schweizer (Flugel horn), Harry Smith (euphonium) and Max Wilkinson (bass trombone). To add to this success, Peter Adams M.Mus, Mus.B (Hons) – who was recently promoted to Associate Professor – was invited back as musical director for his 4th consecutive year. It has been announced that the NYBB course will be based in Blenheim during the last week of January. To conclude the course, the band will present “Summon The Heroes”, a concert series that will travel to Westport, Nelson and Blenheim. The band will have the great privilege of presenting the premiere performance of Professor Stephen Roberts’ work, “The Snaring of the Sun” – based on the Maori legend of Maui. This celebration of youth, along with poignant tributes in wake of the 100th anniversary of WWI, will make for a fine showcase of talent, emotion and skill. St Kilda Brass is incredibly proud of our youth and we congratulate our members and Peter Adams on this achievement.



ANZARME Young Researchers Competition Winner

In October, one of our members, Sariah Ratford, was announced as a winner of the inaugural ANZARME Young Researchers Competition. This is a national competition where high school and undergraduate university students were asked to submit a research report on any music related topic. Sariah chose to research the “National Youth Brass Band of New Zealand – Past, Present and Future”. “I created a survey which I distributed to past and present members, managers and tutors of the Youth Band, in order to obtain their perspectives of the band and its development over the years; as well as compiling historical facts.” The competition was reviewed by a panel of international judges, Associate Professor Jane Southcott and Dr Lucy Bainger. Well done to Sariah for this achievement!



Saints commits to composition!

In 2015, St Kilda Brass plans on doing something a bit different. We will be commissioning a piece, written by local composer, Corwin Newall, to be performed in one of our concerts. This will allow us to show what a brass band can do in a non-traditional style. It will also allow us to showcase some of our upcoming talent with grace and flair.

In other news...

Kimberley Johnston and her partner, Riordon, are expecting a new band member in June! A huge congratulations from Saints and supporters! ☺ ☺ ☺

Dot Brieseman – Patron of OSBBA

Most readers will be familiar with the enormous legacy of commitment and support for the benefit of St Kilda that Dot Brieseman has sustained. Talking to her about a month ago, her passion for St Kilda's well-being is as strong as ever. We congratulate Dot, that her administrative career including national and provincial roles is to be continued through her appointment as Patron of the Otago and Southland Brass Band Association. Her long experience of planning and organisation will surely be an asset to the association.

Thank you here, there and everywhere!

The Saints would like to extend their thanks to all those people who helped out throughout the year. There are so many people to list we have probably forgotten someone – our apologies!

- Dana Reeve
- Margaret Wight
- Dianne Smeehuyzen
- Anne Williams
- Janine Pheloung
- Stuart McLachlan
- Alex and Sarah McAdam
- Karen Thomson
- Tahuna Intermediate

Hitting the town!

The year again provided the opportunity for several small group performances. From serious to light, Miley to Jenkins, 'Classy Brass' took it to the citizens of Dunedin.



Head to

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqWNNh9_ZeY to see John McAdam playing the toilet as brass education as part of the *International Scifest 2014* on 3-6th July.

Amongst all this, Kimberley Dainty made her debut on post-horn when a small ensemble played for the 'South Dunedin Seniors' on the 7th August.

People around the university were ahh.. pleasantly.. reminded of the opening of Summer School enrolments on the 8th of September with Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball", wrecking any chance of peace on campus.



Saints' small ensemble proved versatile when asked to play in Allen Hall, on the 27th Oct, for "The University Remembers – WW100". Sariah Ratford consequently set herself up as Saints' 'go to' person for Last Post after that night.

The next day, to further WW100 commemorations, a small number of Saints joined Mosgiel, marching in the WW100 Embarkation Parade.

On the 9th November, Jenkins' Mass for the Armed Man was performed in Knox Church with the Saints contributing to a "profound religious experience many people in the audience will not soon forget". Old favourites, *Joy, Peace... and Something Stupid*, a trombone trio, and glass post-horn duet entertained a good crowd at the Mayfair Fundraiser on the 15th November, with St Kilda Brass' 'Classy Brass' opening the show on a light-hearted note.

7 brave souls faced a fine, but chilly, Octagon to help Abbey Knudson-Hollebon and Knox junior choristers fill an hour and a half during the Christmas Tree Lighting on the 5th Dec. This featured the international premiere performance of "Wrecking Ball" on 2 road cones. "My personal highlight was when the microphone fell in the toilet, a moment sadly not captured by the hordes of international media present" – John McAdam.

Thanks to bandits: Ralph Miller, Kimberley Dainty, Sariah Ratford, Matthew Smart, Georgia Scherf, Megan Gooding, Solomon Baldock, Patrick Lepine, Phil Craigie, Joanna Craigie, Pete McHenry, Nick Somerville, John McAdam, Kimberley Johnston, Max Wilkinson, Oliver Coleman, Ted Pheloung, Ian McCabe, Harry Smith, Erin Lee, Tony van Alphen, Alex Burchell, Catherine Clarke, Aaron Hendry, Maddy Parkins-Craig, Alex McAdam.



What, no contests?

Many will already be aware that The Saints are taking a break from contesting in 2015. We have, over recent years become very reliant on our annual student invasion to maintain full ranks; particularly in our cornet section. The number of new arrivals in 2015 will not equate with the number of young people we have farewelled over recent months. This puts the demands of traditional contesting beyond us for the next year. In banding terms, therefore, 2015 will be a 'gap year'.

Gap years provide a great opportunity to reflect on what has been, experience new things and lay the foundations for an exciting future. This is exactly what the Committee is aiming to do in 2015.

Players will be encouraged to compete in solo and party events at both Regional and National Contests and to take up opportunities to contest with other Bands if invited. The Committee is aware that the long term future of the Band will be best served by building its playing and administration strength and its patronage from within the Dunedin community so that it has more resilience and turns our students; bless 'em, into the cream on the cake.

2015 will see the unveiling of a new teaching programme thanks to some hard work by Chairman Errol Moore. At least 4 local schools are keen to be involved and the teaching programme will be professionally structured. Our first consignment of plastic trombones and trumpets have arrived and things are coming together nicely for a start in the first School term.

Collaboration and re-connecting with other local groups is seen as an important part of our gap year. We start the year with performances as part of Dunedin's early music festival in late February, will be performing with the Dunedin City Choir mid-year and will be promoting a chamber brass concert.

24 May sees the Band working with Simon O'Neill. Simon played Eb Bass in the early 90s and in the Champion Band of 1992. He went on to a stellar Opera career gracing all of the world's great stages and building his reputation as the world's top Wagnerian tenor. Not bad for a kid from Ashburton and the University of Otago, eh! Peter Adams managed to convince Simon that it was time for a reunion performance sandwiched in between work with the Seoul Philharmonic and a tour with the NZSO. This is a big event and we are working with Nicholas McBride to ensure we do it justice.

We are currently looking to round the year off with a revival of the 'Rat Pack', an audience favourite. Planning is at an early stage and if this proceeds it will confirm 2015 as one of the busiest, varied and most fulfilling in the band's history and will see us well on the road to ensure that our return to the contest stage raises a few eyebrows!

Trevor Kempton

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you in 2015! Enjoy your festive season!

Cheers,

