



The newsletter of St Kilda Brass

May 2009

## Welcome to 2009



Welcome to the first St Kilda newsletter for 2009, put together with funds from Bendigo Valley Sports & Charity Foundation. The band has had a good start to the year, having already attended a national contest, and is now preparing its next concert. A few changes are underway, with various members coming and going, and a new-look (and younger) committee working hard to ensure a busy and exciting programme for the rest of the year. Check inside for a preview of the first of the 2009 Concert Series, *Beyond the Tamar*.

## 2009 National Contest, Napier

St Kilda recently attended the national brass band contest, Deco Bay Brass, held in Napier during April. While the band didn't quite achieve the success it had hoped for on stage, a wonderful time was had by all, including a troupe of helpful supporters. Additionally, several individuals excelled, with the following results:

Ian McCabe (Open Bass Trombone) – 1<sup>st</sup>

Matthew Toomata (Open Eb Bass) – 1<sup>st</sup>, Pat Cole Medal for youngest winner of an open event

John Lewis (Open Championship Cornet) – 2<sup>nd</sup>

John McAdam (Open Baritone) – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Ralph Miller (Open Soprano Cornet) – 3<sup>rd</sup>

St Kilda Brass cornet section – best section



Left: New Zealand's best section, featuring Stephen Wilkinson. Right: A polished St Kilda after only a few marching practices.

St Kilda was fortunate enough to have Stephen Wilkinson, principal cornet of the Brighthouse and Rastrick Band, and Mick Donohue, Bb bass from Willoughby Band, filling the two professional spots. Both had a thoroughly good time in New Zealand and can't wait to return. The band also thanks Philip Craigie, conductor of Mosgiel Brass, for playing cornet, as well as several former members – Rob Craigie, Ian O'Malley, Tim Walsh, Amy Walsh and Terrianne Cripps – for returning. St Kilda is grateful to have continued support from its dedicated old members.

## **2009 National Youth Brass Band trip to Japan**

The 2009 National Youth Brass Band of New Zealand has a great year in store, and many Saints have been lucky enough to be selected to take part. Ian O'Malley and Bridget Walker, formerly of St Kilda, and Katie Blair, Matthew Toomata and Stacey Ward, currently of the band, passed auditions halfway through 2008 and planning for the trip has been progressing rapidly since then.

The band of 2009 will record a CD at the end of May and give a concert in Wellington. The main portion of the band shenanigans then begins with a tour of New Zealand on the 16th of July to celebrate the Youth Band's 50th anniversary, and concerts will be given in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland with Riki McDonnell as guest soloist. The Band then travels to Japan to represent New Zealand at the Japan International Youth Musicale in Shizuoka City. The Musicale involves seven concerts as well as school tours, parades, conferences and cultural interchanges, and will finish up with the band performing in Osaka with Breeze Brass Band, a professional band of renown in the Orient. The band will return to New Zealand on the 29th of July.

This is the first time the band has been overseas since the UK tour in 2003 and the trip promises to be an amazing one that will be fondly remembered at many Nationals after-parties for years to come.

Stacey Ward

### **Preview – *Beyond the Tamar***

The title of the first concert in this year's series is taken from Philip Harper's original work for Brass Band written in 2005 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Cornwall Youth Band. The work takes us on a tour of the globe, starting in Cornwall before venturing across the River Tamar and into the world beyond, beginning with a short hop over to the snowy Alps, before venturing further East to a stormy Leningrad at night. When the dawn arrives we find ourselves in India and the band play with Indian techniques such as a drone and improvisation. The next movement takes us to Africa, with its tradition of drumming and vocal music, before we arrive in Cuba for a hot Salsa. The odyssey ends with a triumphant return to the British Isles.

Surrounding the Philip Harper work, which will receive its New Zealand Premiere performance, will be a host of repertoire exploring different musical styles and cultures from the characters of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No.2 to the Fire Dances of Armenia and the 'Cool' of the Ted Heath Big Band set.

Another New Zealand premiere will come in the form of Paul Lovatt-Cooper's 2007 original work 'Walking with Heroes'. Paul's music has been performed in the bands previous subscriptions series of concerts and has been particularly well received. During this whistle stop tour around the world the band will also display a number of its soloists including Ralph Miller on Soprano Cornet, John Lewis on Cornet, Marty Kibble on Flugelhorn and Errol Moore on Euphonium.

There are a number of new faces within the band's ranks and I am pleased to welcome in our new student members together with some faces from the past. I am also very pleased and very proud to introduce our new members which have come through the Southern Brass Academy. The Brass Academy is now in its fourth year of operations in Dunedin and to have delivered 4 players to one of New Zealand's finest Brass Bands within this period is a huge success for the organisation and a true testament to the hard working nature of its pupils. It is these young people that should be in our newspapers and the media limelight on a weekly basis, celebrating the shining example that they leave for their peers to follow.

Steve Miles

**Don't miss *Beyond the Tamar* – Saturday 6 June, Mayfair Theatre**

## New members



### **Rose Evans – cornet**

Rose is 15, and goes to Bayfield High School, where she enjoys Music and Drama. She also learns flugelhorn through the Southern Brass Academy.

### **Greg Thomson – cornet**

Greg is also 15 and is in the 4<sup>th</sup> form at John McGlashan College, and joins us via the Southern Brass Academy. He also plays the drums, and enjoys cycling.

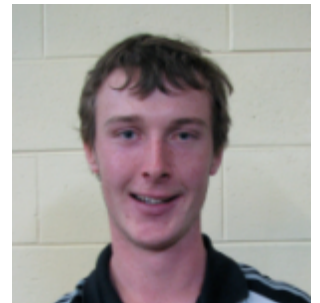


### **Erynne Scherf – tenor horn**

Erynne comes from Blenheim, and is currently in her second year of a BSc in Anatomy and Structural Biology.

### **Griegan Panckhurst – trombone**

Griegan comes from Timaru, and in his second year of Physics at university. He also enjoys sports.



### **Rene Spoors – Bb bass**

Rene is from Christchurch, and started university this year, studying French, German and Music. He also enjoys many pursuits such as sport, hunting and cars.

### **Jonno Penno – Bb bass**

Jonno also joins us via the Southern Brass Academy. He is 17 and in the 7<sup>th</sup> form at Kavanagh College, where he is into “a whole lot of music”.



## Farewells

St Kilda has sadly lost two of its members to Wellington: Ian O'Malley and Tim Walsh. Ian is currently doing a year of postgraduate primary teaching at Victoria University, and finishing off his first teaching placement at his old primary school. Ian misses Dunedin and hopes to return next year to begin his teaching career.

Tim is studying trombone with David Bremner at the New Zealand School of Music. As part of the intensive brass programme, he plays with the university orchestra, chamber music, and big band, and occasionally plays with local orchestras. Tim is also playing in the Central Band of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, a part-time military concert band.