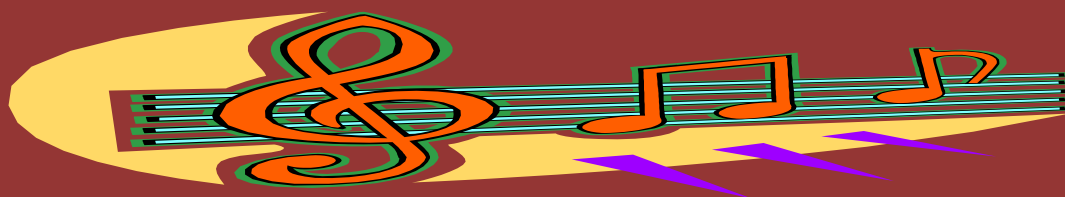


NEWSLETTER
August 2012



REDLAND CITY BANDS

PRESIDENT' S REPORT

George McDonald

Hi everyone.

Whenever I've read a report such as this that starts with ".....Its July already – where has the year gone...." I have cringed thinking it's a lazy way to start, however I just looked at our printable calendar of events that Wendy maintains on the web site and my first thought has been Its July already – where has the year gone!!!!. We are starting to confirm bookings for Christmas Carols!!!

The first six months of the year has been full. Sharon's first newsletter caught us up to date with our first couple of events. Since then the Wind Ensemble played for the Redlands Cancer Council 24 hour relay at the Show Grounds and came back glowing with pride about how they helped a great cause (and had a great time). A letter of appreciation will be framed and appears on the wall.

Our Marching Band looked and sounded extremely professional during the annual ANZAC Day service, well and truly winning the band completion (if there was one) and our music added dignity and resonance to the cenotaph service. Our playing has become an integral part of the event. Well done all players who participated and particularly to our John Allen who was able to maintain focus even though he stepped on a plane for an extended European holiday soon afterwards.

Despite Joy's and all the helpers best efforts – our Bunning's BBQ was not as successful as we had budgeted for – we didn't realize we had been allocated a BBQ on Mother's Day, so attendance at the store was down – which is a shock to us blokes – where better to spend Mother's Day, than with your Mum or the mother of your children than at a hardware store – I am somewhat perplexed by this..... Luckily Joy has been able to wangle a second BBQ which will more that make up for the Mother's Day disappointment.

Still, my disappointment was short lived because of our next couple of events. In John Allen's absence, Allen Clark who was standing in for John led our Concert Band to an outstanding performance at the annual Buderim exchange concert. Both bands performed extremely well and the combined performance at the end was a wonderful finale. The Buderim players are a great group of people who were extremely envious of our set up – the great support we get from Council with the Edgar Harley Hall and how it is situated next door to two venues.

Our Beginners Band held an intimate concert in the Band Hall and highlights what an



enthusiastic group they are and how Reece is able to generate some great music from an eclectic range of skills. The band was also able to throw together a cool trio of clarinet, key board and drums at the last moment to fill in for a booked choir that pulled out at the last minute – they played some smooth toons.

Finally, after several years of lobbying from Rod Bridges of Big Band, we took a big breath and have held the first two of a series of four swing dances in the Memorial Hall. They featured the Stage and Big Bands plus another band (of helpers). It was a gamble. We saw it as a great opportunity for our bands to play live to a dancing audience, a way of promoting our organisation

and bringing an opportunity for enjoyment to the Redlands and finally, a way to supplement our budget. I believe we have achieved this but we have learnt a few things. The first dance only attracted a small audience – we just broke even, but we learnt about the positioning of the bands to help the acoustics of the hall (down on the floor) and our promotional plan wasn't sufficient. The second dance was totally different. We nearly filled the hall, the word was out to the "dance set" – when I spoke to people lining up to pay their entrance holding a bag of dance shoes – two pairs – a fast and slow pair depending on what the floor was like, I knew we were on to something. Great music from both our bands and all our aims were achieved. Well done players but in particular Rod for his persistence.



Inaccord just keeps powering on, with a bulging booking calendar and an ever appreciative audience. They do a fantastic job at bringing enjoyment to many people in the Redlands and they are keen to take on new players - so if you are retired and a competent player, why not give Glenn a call – he will guarantee you an enjoyable experience.

Committee wise, we are looking at a couple of things; whether to replace the trailer or sell it and rent a truck – this has gone on for a while; funding for a new Barry Sax, we are keen to find some display cabinets to show off the bands' history of successes with all the trophies currently stored in a box – any lead would be appreciated, especially if it's easily accessible, and we have started investigating the possible purchase of some portable platforms (risers) that we can use to elevate the percussion and perhaps the brass section of the concert bands and similar for the Stage and Big Bands. We have also started the discussion about the size of our investment – how much is enough/too much for a 'not for profit' organisation...what is the rainy day event that we have tucked it away for?

The remainder of the calendar is just as full - don't forget to keep up to date with our web site.

Cheers till next time

George

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THE TRAVELLER RETURNS

John Allen

After nearly eight weeks overseas, it is great to be back home to start attending rehearsals again, having heard absolutely no band music in all that time away. A few words about the trip might interest you. Countries which Jill and I visited were Turkey, Greece and Croatia, where guided tours were undertaken. Also included in the itinerary were a Greek Island Hopping holiday (islands visited were Mykonos, Paros and Santarini) and a five-day stint in Paris to finish with. We enjoyed Turkey and Croatia the best of the three tours.

Highlight of the trip was probably the hot-air balloon ride one very early morning in Cappadocia in Turkey. The thrill of soaring in to the air in such a small basket was matched by the sight of the peaks and canyons in the strange landscape constantly unfolding beneath us, and the dozen or so other balloons floating nearby.

There were numerous other memorable occasions and sights on the trip –

- the Dervishes' Concert in Istanbul;



- the ancient ruins in Olympia where the Olympic Torch starts its run for the Olympic Games;
- the incredibly rocky beaches in some highly advertised places (I thought beaches were made of sand!);
- the cities of Split and Dubrovnik and the stunningly beautiful coastline in Croatia;
- the somewhat emotional visit to Anzac Cove and Gallipoli, with its cemetery there;
- the donkey ride up an almost vertical track in Santorini; and
- Notre Dame cathedral in Paris and the Palace of Versailles.

John

INACCORD REPORT

Glen Vieritz

Inaccord is still continuing to provide music for seniors, and have successfully completed our six concerts booked for June, including one at Sandgate.

July's schedule has seven concerts, including one session of after-dinner music at Mt Gravatt, one at Sunnybank, two at Wynnum

and one at Annerley.

We are preparing our Seniors' Week schedule, from 20 to 24 August, in shopping centres. Following comments from people who heard us in shopping centres last year we have been included on the program for the Seniors' Week Finale Concert on 26 August.

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concert & wind ensemble conductors

There is no doubt that the RCB is blessed to have conductors of the quality of John Allen & Allen Clark. Recently, the Concert Band conductor – John Allen – went on a well-deserved holiday, and in his place, the Wind Ensemble's Conductor Allen Clark, became our substitute conductor.

This change of style was unfamiliar to many of RCCB players, so used to John's thorough and exacting method. As a result of Allen's attention however, we received many accolades for our performance in the recent June concert. Thank you Allen and welcome back John!



Photo courtesy of the Buderim Concert Band

attendance at our concerts

We are always grateful to Friends of the Band and all members of our audience for their participation and support at our Concerts. As the newly committed Publicity Officers, Wendy Morley, Luke Kinman & Ayla Relf work to ensure information about our Band's functions reach as many people as possible.

All Band members and their family and friends are encouraged to help us 'spread the word' about these concerts as often as possible. For an entrance fee of \$12 (or less) and with the attraction of an afternoon tea that would satisfy any palate, our concerts are worth coming to hear. You will not be disappointed.



BRING BACK THE DOWN-BEAT!

Amongst many others in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Flotilla Pageant recently, was a barge holding members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Certainly it was a cold & wet day, but even so I did expect to understand the conductor's gesticulations! But where and when was the down-beat? I think it got drowned in the Thames!

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what i learned . . .

Allen Clark

Near the end of my time filling in as Conductor of the Concert Band, Ayla asked me to provide an article for the newsletter, with the subject of “What I Learned from the Experience”.

I took some time thinking about this and here are my thoughts/findings.

Firstly, some background.

It just so happens that at the time John was away and I was able to step in as conductor I also had a lot of other things on. Windsor Brass was preparing for the State Band Championships and were rehearsing four times a week, one of which was on Wednesdays, Windsor’s normal rehearsal night. I also had Wind Ensemble on Thursdays, plus my responsibilities at work had increased. As I didn’t want to pass up the opportunity to conduct Concert Band, I decided to take on the additional challenge of conducting this band. To successfully meet all these challenges, my biggest task was that I had to be well organised.

If a good performance by the Concert Band was a measure of success then feedback tells me this was met. However, I was also reminded that success is only achieved with *great support from those around you*.

This was forthcoming from a number of people, in particular my wife Lisa, who came to every Concert Band and Wind Ensemble rehearsal and supported me through my considerable amount of absenteeism from fatherly duties. My sincere thanks goes firstly to Lisa for her patience and tolerance, and secondly, to all the band members from all bands for their support at rehearsals and performances.



The second lesson I learned was with regard to *score study and rehearsal preparation*. I knew that I would need to spend more time studying additional scores however, with the limited time I had, I felt I didn’t do this task as much justice as I would have liked. I sometimes caught myself in rehearsals with my head stuck in the score instead of giving direction to the band. This was an excellent reminder for me of how important this function is, and I have since renewed my commitment in this area.

What did come as a bit of a surprise was that commitment to rehearsals for the Concert Band didn’t seem much different to that of the Wind Ensemble. There was not one rehearsal with a full attendance, and there were several rehearsals following the concert, where attendance was down by close to 30%. I went to my first rehearsal thinking that as the Concert Band is our premier band, rehearsal commitment would be stronger. I received a reminder that *the challenge of making rehearsals an education, as well as enjoyable, is constant*, and just like score study and rehearsal planning, time and a little bit of creativity is needed for improvement.

When preparing for this year over the summer break, I decided on using a slightly different approach to Wind Ensemble rehearsals, as I have been acutely aware there is a strong correlation between attendance, and what you can achieve at rehearsal with regard to balance, intonation and listening. Time will only tell if this approach is gaining ground. My Concert Band experience was a valuable reminder that this remains a challenge with all community bands, and their conductors, who will forever be in search of finding a formula to improve on this statistic.

In closing I thank John, and the band, for providing me with this opportunity, and allowing me to partake in this valuable conducting experience.

Buderim visits the redlands

Courtesy Buderim Concert Band's Newsletter

Buderim Concert Band's fourth combined concert with Redland



City Concert Band was just as lively as our combined concerts in previous years. "The concert was fun and the whole day a wonderful experience". Thank you as always to RCCB for great music and great hospitality.



beginner band concert

Photos courtesy of Lorraine Westbrook



city bands website

REDLAND BIG BAND NOTES

Rod Bridges

The current dance series undertaken by the Redlands Big Band and Stage Band has placed unique challenges in performance for each band. Traditionally both of these bands have found themselves in concert situations and whichever repertoire they were playing at a particular time comprised the program for a performance. However, with the dance series, each band has had to make an adjustment for the dancers. It was clear to me after the first dance, that many of the dancers came from so-called 'strict tempo' dancing in which all of the major forms of dancing from the waltz to the quickstep, including Latin American dances are represented. This places the need for strict discipline to be utilized on the bandstand. One must subject each band to the dancers' needs and desires. One must resist the urge to become self indulgent and adjust the band's repertoire to fit the task at hand i.e. keeping the dancers happy.



In the current climate of the past few years, musicians have had to witness a decline in conventional dancing with a severe loss of employment. Young musicians have not been able to gain the experience necessary to be able to successfully perform at these types of events. Hopefully, this current dance series will aid young musicians in this quest.

Rod Bridges

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It is unfortunate for the RCB, that Sharon van der Hurk is unable to continue in her role as the Publicity Officer for the Committee in 2012. In this article, Sharon shares her reasons for taking on the 'job' in the first place:

Why I chose to become Publicity Officer?

(Apart from having my arm twisted), I wanted to see the bands' profile to the public widen and increase member numbers.

I have been in Redland (Shire) City Bands for approx. 30 years. During this time I have been a player and committee member (off and on). Some of the faces from my early years (1985?) are still involved and I'm glad to say so are my children with varying degrees. One playing and all three working the bar for the dances.

The band that you play in has probably become like a 'family' of sorts for you. I know Wind Ensemble is a great place to be on Thursday evenings not only for the music but the people and the laughs.

It is still my goal to raise the Band profile and who we are and what makes our organisation so great. I feel the organisation has a lot to offer players and listeners alike, we just have to get 'us' out there somehow.

I resigned as Publicity Officer for family and business reasons however I promote Redland City Bands as much as possible to whomever will listen.

May we have many more playing opportunities and meet many new faces along the way.

Regards Sharon

An organisation's Constitution is a set of fundamental principles that explain not only what *an organisation 'is', but also provides guidelines (and perhaps limitations) to the powers of the organisation's governing body* – in our case, the Committee. As a fill-in for the Newsletter, I have taken a section from the Constitution for our awareness and perhaps revision. Here I am quoting the third section of the Constitution:

3 Statement of Purpose

The objects of the Association are:

- 3.1 To promote and further the appreciation of band music
- 3.2 To perform professionally as the Redland City Bands
- 3.3 To provide opportunities for the study of, tuition and training in band music
- 3.4 To encourage a spirit of cooperation and comradeship amongst the members of the band and the Association
- 3.5 To hold rehearsals, meetings and all other matters incidental to the preparation and arrangement of band programs
- 3.6 To promote public awareness, knowledge and the appreciation of music
- 3.7 To be available to the community for presentations, performances and demonstrations of band music
- 3.8 To cooperate with organisations and/or individuals with similar interests in music
- 3.9 To provide or obtain venues, facilities and resources for the activities of the Association

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Hello, I'm your Secretary, Charis BurrIDGE. Let me give you a quick guided tour of my life on four continents (Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia).

In my early years, I lived in West Africa where my father performed spectroscopic research on cocoa trees. In the photo, my parents and I are seated on curved Ashanti stools, a Ghanaian speciality.

When I was seven, we moved to Aberdeen in Scotland and I saw my first snow. At 18 I joined the Women's Royal Naval Service as a stenographer, as I was keen to travel (especially overseas!). I spent two years at a NATO base in Belgium, very international, a great springboard for European travel and my French and German improved.



I then went to university. Five years later, with my MSc in Biometry, I headed off for a year in Hyderabad, India, as a junior statistician at an international crop research institute. Here I sometimes donned a sari. While in India, I decided that studying for a PhD would make me a better statistician.



Eighteen years ago, this led to a job with CSIRO marine research in Cleveland. I am still exploring statistical issues in marine data, now as a semi-retiree since CSIRO moved to Boggo Road.

Growing up, I learned piano on an old grand (photo shows me playing duets with my American uncle). I took up the clarinet recently because ensemble playing appealed, and my lungs and brain will benefit.



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Concert Band Rep.:
Maddie Reilly 0430 914 165

Wind Ensemble Band Rep.:
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Beginner's Band Rep.:
Cynthia McCluskey 0417 192 311

Inaccord Rep.:
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Big Band
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Stage Band
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Inaccord
Glen Vieritz: 3829 0234

THANKS:

There really isn't enough room in a Newsletter to say **THANKS** to all those people who help out in many ways. From Sausage sizzles to Dances, Concerts, Committee, Roadies, Promotions, Conductors, Players, Parents (chauffers) and Listeners.

