



**Willoughby Public School Band
Annual General Meeting
Thursday October 29th, 2020
8 PM on Zoom (due to COVID restrictions)**

• **Term 4 Annual General Meeting commenced: 8:02 PM**

- a. Present:** Jason Jones, Anita Ackerman, Daniela Righi, Anthony Marsden, David Brinsmead, Amos Shapira, Andrew Blades, Andrew Griffiths, Claire Martyn, Kevin Wong, Daniel Shibata, Dusanka Padovan, Dylan Wong, Eddia Au, Elizabeth Salz, Emi Yawata, Emma McGoldrick, Frederick Hung, Heather Chopra, Helen Pobje, Hilary Byrne, Joanne Claus, Juliemma Moran, Kate Nieland, Katrin Klinger, Laurette Chao, Martha Plum, Matthew Wood, Meredith Robson, Paul Relf, Penelope Feros, Rebecca Rogers, May Lam, Sally Bond, Sara Payne, Soma Chanda, Tiffany Thomas, Tim Swan, Belinda Flintoft, Slavka Vagnerova, Mira James, Sarah Martin, Roger Marshman, Peter Urbanec, Rebecca Taumalolo, Simrita Virk, Theo Dorizac, Alex, Holly

Apologies: William Birkbeck, Jane and Nick McLellan, Kylie Mitchell and Matt Fogarty, Amanda Bock

b. Confirmation of Term 1, 2020 General Meeting Minutes and 2019 AGM Minutes

MOTION: That the Minutes of the Term 1 General Meeting held on 17th February 2020 and AGM held on 29th October 2019 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

MOVED: Meredith Robson **SECONDED:** Juliemma Moran **CARRIED**

c. Band Program 2020 and Vision for 2021 (Anthony Marsden)

- Challenging year with rehearsals stopping in Week 8, Term 1 due to COVID-19 – following that, Zoom sessions began for sectionals. Thank you to all parents for helping to make this alternative band practice arrangement work
- Some schools didn't do anything following the lockdown, reflecting the very supportive community and school at WPS
- Some students found the Zoom sessions hard; some did better as they did not have anyone to compare themselves with
- Week 2, Term 3 saw the return of rehearsals restarting, but then shut down again – glad to be back to face-to-face rehearsals in Term 4
- No performances were able to be held this year, but the students are working at their music again – a very commendable effort
- Vision 2021: WPS band program is big, but works well and smoothly. Activities will depend on external factors but will keep going

d. PB report (William Birkbeck)

- Apologies for being unable to attend the AGM
- "Obviously, there's no need to state that this year has been rather difficult to put it euphemistically; especially for PB, the difficulty of whose repertoire requires a level of ensemble

playing that can't be practiced at home. Nevertheless we've been making every attempt to keep both the children's motivation and their level of playing up as much as possible.

- In spite of less than ideal conditions, our numbers have kept up, and we had a really positive rehearsal this morning that proves that lots of the children have been able to stay motivated and practicing throughout this trying time.
- I'm very much looking forward to both our performance at the end of November and continuing to work with the band next year, when we will hopefully be able to offer lots more playing opportunities as things get better!"

e. TB and IB report (Anthony Marsden)

- TB: Despite only a few face-to-face rehearsals and the 'on-off' nature of the year, TB is sounding strong. Impressed with the maturity of their playing. TB has adapted well to the circumstances. The new strategies with percussionists (i.e. tuned and untuned; starting with glockenspiels and moving onto drums) have put them in a strong position as they move up through the bands
- IB: Started very well at beginning of year. The Zoom sessions have enabled several students to improve over the period. First year with a Tuba player, providing more balance of sound and instrumentation. Good second hand tubas, with one at school and one at home for use, means a good path for more tubas in the bands going forward

f. Band reflections (David Brinsmead)

- It has been an incredibly hard year, especially when face-to-face rehearsals were allowed and then shut down again before Term 4. Zoom sessions took place from that point onwards. The Conductors sought ways to engage the students to help them improve outside of band rehearsals (e.g. running backing tracks)
- Some students decided to leave the bands, which was difficult but not unexpected. Nonetheless, it has been impressive how the students have adapted
- PB: harder to do via Zoom sessions due to nature of their pieces. However, the last couple of weeks of rehearsals have seen PB slowly coming together and their sound improving. Looking forward to showing off their performance at the proposed end of year event

g. Term 3 Review and Term 4 Band Calendar (Jason Jones)

- Term 3 started promisingly with rehearsals back at school - COVID plan, cleaners, etc. were in place, but unfortunately rehearsals had to be shut down again due to Department of Education requirements. Strong effort by Conductors to move to Zoom sessions as a replacement
- Term 4 saw the return of face-to-face rehearsals which was very exciting. Thank you to the Band Executive members involved and Conductors; WPS has been happy with the band rehearsal plan
- Exploring a potential outdoor concert for year end – more information to come. The Band Executive is conscious that parents have not had a chance to watch band performances this year. Even if it were not possible for performances to take place for the remainder of the year, the Conductors are looking to undertake an online streaming performance by the bands towards the end of Term 4
- 2021 – still an uncertain outlook, but the Band program will be trying hard
- Thank you to parents for all your support and encouragement of students and the Band program through a very challenging period. The vast majority of students have stayed on and we still have three solidly sized bands. Thank you to Conductors for persevering, including holding the Zoom sessions. Thank you to all outgoing 2020 Executive and Non-Executive members; special mention to Kate Nieland (Convenor), Anita Ackerman (Secretary); Tim Swan (IB Coordinator – 7 years with Band); Tanu Chopra (Tutorial Coordinator – 4 years with Band)

h. Band Program 2021 and Return to Band online form (Meredith Robson)

- Recognition of the huge amount of resilience and effort across the Band Program, as well as very supportive WPS Executive (Shaun Michael, Jo Limbert) and WPS P&C (Jenni Brown and Tanya Taylor) who have worked hard to help get band rehearsals back onto school premises
- Observed that some bands on North Shore have not returned nor held Zoom sessions, reflecting the great effort by the Conductors
- Thank you to parents for all your patience and support
- Thank you to the Conductors – for Term 4 rehearsals, it was not possible to get the cleaners back, so that task has been taken up by the Conductors
- There are a number of vacancies across the Executive and Non-Executive teams, and volunteers are needed to join the team to continue the parent-run Band Program. If roles cannot be filled, other options will have to be looked at. One of these options is outsourcing, but would lose a significant degree of control and also see costs increase. Importantly, volunteers are needed for the Convenor positions, as a succession plan is required given Jason and Meredith intend to vacate their positions at the end of 2021
- Return to Band form will be sent out shortly

i. Instruments (Jason Jones)

- Instruments report attached
- Importance of instruments inventory for TB hiring to avoid significant upfront costs for parents in the first year of the Band Program
- Recognition of InTune for their role in looking after the instruments
- For parents - check with the Tutor in the first instance if an instrument sounds 'off'. Contact Instruments Team if the problem can't be solved by the Tutor
- Band instruments return day is Friday, 11 December (last week of Term 4) – 7.00-9.00 AM, venue to be confirmed

j. Treasurer Summary (Jason Jones)

- Treasurer report attached
- 2020 has been challenging with no opportunity for the usual band fund raising activities, which have historically been used to supplement fees (for replacing instruments, etc.)
- Semester 2, 2020 – for fairness, a 30% discount on band fees due to COVID-related circumstances was offered to band families
- Fortunately, the Band Program has some financial buffer and the 2020 year end position is reasonable
- 2021 fees – highly likely that they will remain the same as 2020

k. Election of Office Bearers for 2021 (Heather Chopra)

- **Convenor:** Jason Jones, Meredith Robson, [2 vacancies]
- **Assistant Convenor:** [vacant]
- **Secretary:** Kevin Wong and [vacant]
- **Assistant Secretary:** [vacant]
- **Treasurer:** Andrew Griffiths and Matthew Wood

- **Instrument Coordinators:** Kate Jones, Jackie Rowe, Helen Pobje and Amos Shapira
- **Tutorial Coordinators:** Carolyn Loughnan
- **Internal Events:** Juliemma Moran, Elizabeth Salz
- **External Events:** Penelope Feros and Daniela Righi
- **TB Coordinators:** [2 vacancies]
- **IB Coordinators:** Julie Monteban and Dusanka Padovan
- **PB Coordinators:** Belinda Flintoff and Simrita Virk

I. Other Business

- Reminder that band photos will be taken on Friday, 30 October, and noting different uniform and instrument requirements for the different bands
 - External band event being worked for the evening of Monday, 30 November – to be confirmed
 - Trash Percussion being done again this year; probably the largest ever with 27 participants
 - Reminder that band volunteers are still not allowed on school grounds. This arrangement continues to be acceptable for the Conductors. Note that a COVID Marshall position is available if needed
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- **AGM meeting close: 8:52 PM**