



## **WPS BAND Report - P&C Meeting Term 1: March 4, 2020**

**The Band Committee is pleased to present this term's report to the P&C:**

### **OVERVIEW**

The WPS band program has three bands for 2020 with a total of 210 band members. The numbers per band are as follows:

Performing Band (PB): 77 Year 5 & 6 children (up from 69 in 2019)

Intermediate Band (IB): 59 mainly Year 4 children (down from 65 in 2019)

Training Band (TB): 77 mainly Year 3 children (down from 81 in 2019)

**Registration day** was held on Sunday, February 2. Only new band members and those collecting instruments were required to attend on the day. Thanks to the band secretaries and instrument team for their efforts organizing this event. Thanks also to the P&C for securing the Library as the location for Registration Day this year.

**Rehearsals:** As the School Hall has not been available for band use while School building works continue, morning rehearsals have been held at Laurelbank House since the start of term. Thanks to Jenni Brown for connecting us with Laurelbank and to Daniel Musumeci at Laurelbank for accommodating us every morning. The rehearsal schedule has changed slightly from 2019, the current rehearsal days are as follows:

Training Band (TB): Wednesday

Intermediate Band (IB): Tuesday & Friday

Performing Band (PB): Monday & Thursday

WPS Band Practice booklets will be checked once per term and recognition given to students who demonstrate home-practice excellence. We appealed to parents at our band general meeting on February 17 to support their childrens' musical learning with regular reference to the booklets.

**Executive:** All band executive committee positions have been filled. We thank the executive for their efforts and commitment to band this year. Executive meetings are held each term, with general parent meetings held in Terms 1 and 4 and email-only updates sent out to parents in Terms 2 and 3. We continue to encourage all those who benefit from the band program to consider how they might help the executive in years to come.

### **CONDUCTING TEAM 2020**

Our conducting team has changed this year after our previous Band Director and Performing Band Conductor Kirsty Tickle left us after 3 great years. Anthony Marsden has stepped up to the role of WPS Band Director and has chosen to continue conducting Training Band and Intermediate Band. We have been lucky to secure a new Performing Band Conductor, William Birkbeck who has been a welcome addition to the conducting team this year. David Brinsmead continues to be our Assistant Conductor at each band rehearsal and Conductor for IB on Fridays. The three talented conductors are working well together and have been very helpful while we are temporarily rehearsing offsite.

## INSTRUMENTS

Since the beginning of 2019 a number of instruments and accessories were purchased for a total spend of \$11,428; see below for details. The purchase of 6 glockenspiels is a one-off investment as the Conductors have changed the approach to training up new Percussionists to start first on the Glockenspiel to learn notation before progressing to Drums. The Band Executive is considering reviewing the instrument inventory to retire some of the older instruments and refresh the inventory as a number of the instruments are 30 - 40 years old.

- 1 new Alto Saxophone: \$1,300 (Feb 2019)
- 1 new Trumpet: \$635 (Feb 2019)
- 2 used Clarinets: \$450 in total (Jun 2019)
- 1 used Flute: \$250 (Jun 2019)
- 1 new Alto Saxophone: \$1,295 (Oct 2019)
- 6 new Glockenspiel-Percussion kits: yet to be invoiced, approx \$3,600 (Feb 2020)
- 2 new Trumpets: yet to be invoiced, approx \$1,270 in total (Feb 2020)
- 1 new Cymbal Cradle: \$135 (Feb 2020)
- 1 new Baritone: \$2,493 (Feb 2020)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Registration Day:** Sunday, February 2

**Sydney Symphony Orchestra Excursion – The Concept of Place:** IB & PB only. Friday, April 3

**Arts Unit Audition** (formerly Primary Proms): PB recording by end of Term 1

**Easter Band Welcome:** Postponed

*This event provides the first opportunity to hear all bands play, especially Training Band. It is usually held in the school hall in early April with an Easter egg raffle and hot cross bun drive, however as hall access is still uncertain, a Band Welcome will likely be held at the end of term or at the beginning of Term 2 to celebrate being in the New Hall, once our band equipment is installed and the Conductors and band members are familiar with the new space.*

**ANZAC Day Special memorial service:** Thursday, April 9 (To Be Confirmed)

*PB will play at a special school service to commemorate ANZAC Day, with one of our PB trumpeters playing The Last Post.*

**TB Workshop:** TBC

**Band Camp:** IB & PB only. Sunday to Tuesday, August 2 - 4 at Galston Gorge Conference Centre

**Australian School Band and Orchestral Festival (ASBOF):** TB, IB and PB: Sunday, August 9 (TBC)

**Band Spectacular:** Tuesday, November 17 at the Chatswood Concourse

## FINANCE

Band balance stands at \$175,557 as at February 29, 2020, with key expenses still to be paid including instrument servicing, outstanding purchase invoices and fit out of the new band storage space. The majority of band members have paid their Semester 1 fees. The band may apply for additional grants going forward (for instrument purchases and to subsidise our use of the Chatswood Concourse for Band Spectacular) and will aim to run one fundraiser per term starting from next term. We will keep revisiting our fee structure to ensure we are not running at a loss.

## TUTORIALS

Tutorials started in Week 2 (February 3). We have around 200 students in after-school lessons. Thank you to Joanna Limbert, Lee Dellit from Music Partnership, our tutorial coordinators for their efforts arranging tutorials for Term 1. Thanks to the many teachers who make their class rooms available for our band student tutorials. Your generosity is much appreciated.

**OTHER**

The Band Spectacular has been held at the Concourse, Chatswood for the last 2 years. Feedback on the new venue has been very positive, given the ease of parking, access to food options, excellent back stage facilities, and wonderful acoustics. The Concourse is however an expensive venue. A grant was awarded to the Band last year to help subsidise ticket cost, however winning a grant this year is not guaranteed. We have nevertheless secured a booking for this years Band Spectacular for Tuesday November 17, 2020 and will do our best to apply for a grant/ minimise event costs. We look forward to another wonderful event this year.

**Meredith Robson, Jason Jones and Kate Nieland**  
**Band Co-Convenors 2020**

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