

A Sound Tradition

Introduction

This is a brief chronicle of the origins and progression of **The City of Perth Band**, with notes from or on some of its personalities.

Tradition: “the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs etc., from generation to generation. (Macquarie Dictionary)

What traditions, if any, have been handed on and have they been preserved for transfer to the next generation?

The answers are likely to be none to the first question and therefore no to the second.

The reasons for this are plain.

There is no written record of the Band's beginnings or its journey to the present time and with an ever increasing rate of turnover of personnel there is presently little chance of preserving any former traditions or establishing new ones.

After reading this brief outline, perhaps you may take the time to ponder on what traditions, if any were established, and which ones should be revived or nurtured.

This record is just a collection of known facts, some suppositions, incomplete jottings on some of the characters that have shaped our organisation and some personal observations.

Because a lot of the content of this story comes from a mixture of extracts from ordinary Committee meetings and Annual General Meetings the chronological order of events in some cases may not be in correct order, as items recorded over a calendar year often overlap events recorded in the band's reporting year.

There is just as much so called history in the personal accounts at the end of this publication as there is in the main text so do not despair.

Over the 25 years I have been actively involved with our band I have bored the pants off the members of successive committees by the number of letters, suggestions and ideas that I have bombarded them with, most of which, I have to admit, I would have been incapable of bringing to fruition myself.

I therefore hope that this document does not also bore you.

Although I have taken a long time to bring this document together, I trust that those interested in our bands, both brass and concert, and in banding generally will get as much enjoyment reading and reminiscing as I have.

J Bentley December 2010

Background

Brass Bands – In the Beginning

The history of Brass Banding is a fascinating story, but the reasons for its development in the way that it did, is the subject of much speculation.

Arthur R Taylor in his well researched book “Brass Bands” gives a clear insight into several aspects of life in those times which would have contributed, and his book is recommended.

In the early 1800's most instrumental groups were either string or mixed instrumental ensembles. A gradual transfer to all brass instrumentation progressed throughout the millennium as improvements in design; particularly those by Adolph Sax allowed more flexibility in a band's playing structure.

Bands proliferated as industrialisation expanded, and for many well publicised reasons, management found it mutually convenient to sponsor “works” bands.

From the 1850's onwards, competition between bands began to take off. The instrumental mix of brass bands at that time varied greatly in numbers and type.

John Gladney is generally credited with introducing the standard line up almost as we now know it now, in 1873, when he took over as the Musical Director of the Meltham Mills (West Yorkshire) band. It is presumed that his contesting success with this chosen instrumentation led to the adoption of it as a contesting rule to provide a level playing field for all competing bands, and assist with adjudication.

Mr Taylor does not have the last word on the origins of the brass bands.

Similar but slightly differing views come from Geoffrey and Violet Brand set out in their book Brass Bands in the 20th Century.

“The origin of brass bands is not very clear.

What is clear is that small groups of musicians formed themselves into bands playing a motley collection of reed and brass instruments prior to the 1850's.

These groups came from the working class mines and factories of the English midlands. The groups were often single industry based with the members being close working as well as social associates. Rivalries thus developed between the groups and contesting was born.

Because of the difficult industrial conditions in which they worked; prior to the development of the trade union movement, many of the Collieries and Industrial Concerns supported the bands with instruments and Uniforms etc and took pride in seeing "their" band perform well against their rivals in contest. There has been a suggestion that it was cheaper to support them that way to keep the men happy than to have the men clamouring for a decent wage. Be that as it may, many of the early band names live on, some (but declining) still being sponsored by the same firms or their descendants, but with very few if any now being single employer based bands.

The Great Industrial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1851 was the catalyst to adopt the brass band instrument as the common base for the groups.

Working men from the mines and factories were offered special train excursions to view the exhibition.

This had a profound effect.

Adolphe Sax of Paris had an exhibition and demonstration of brass instruments featuring his recently perfected valve system and the demonstration of these instruments won the imagination of many of the "bandsmen" visiting the exhibition. No doubt the maintenance of brass band instruments in the climate of the English Midlands was easier than that of woodwind instruments. This one event is now credited with the adoption of brass in its many forms as the sole instrumental line up - although the adoption of uniformity came about as the desire to contest against each other increased, requiring uniformity on which to base informed judgement.

Because brass bands developed from among the working class their music tended to be treated as second class and it has taken over 100 years for the worth of the music and the skill of the musicians to become fully recognised - if indeed it has”.

Developments in Western Australia

The following background to Western Australia's development during those times may give some insight into how and why brass bands suddenly appeared on the scene here.

“1840's were a time generally of economic depression with few buildings being erected, the '30s and later, mainly devoted to re-cycling and refurbishing existing buildings for changed uses as the economy could not afford to import materials. From the 1850's with the influx of convicts and some assisted migrants the economy picked up. The local market for produce expanded, labour became available and a great deal of public building had to be done to house the convicts and their minders.

This initial boost was short lived as convict transportation ceased in 1868.

However, great political changes soon opened up new opportunities.

Representative Government was granted in 1870 followed by the passing of the Municipal Institutions Act of 1871 by which the City of Perth was given municipal powers, followed soon after by Fremantle and the other major provincial towns.

The benefit of the decentralisation of power to local government saw the growth of the levying of rates with subsequent spending on local amenities including municipal buildings, town halls and other public buildings.

The achievement of self-government coincided with the discovery of gold in 1890, and the eventual establishment of the Kalgoorlie/Boulder/Coolgardie goldfields and cities.

The population of the fledgling colony quadrupled in the hectic period.

The increased economy saw a rapid rise in building requirements and during this period an almost complete rebuilding of the centres of Perth & Fremantle took place, Fremantle having rapidly increased trade with the building of the new harbour during 1892-97”.

So, one can see that in Australia, the Gold Rush, firstly in Victoria around Ballarat and Bendigo and later at Kalgoorlie & Boulder, rapid industrialisation, and the demand for coal, saw a massive increase in migration, particularly from the mining and industrial areas of the United Kingdom. It was only natural therefore that many of these migrants had banding experience and soon started bands in the mining and industrial areas of their adopted country.

To further the understanding of the history of banding in Australia and Western Australia in particular the following notes appeared in the official program for the 1979 Australian National Championships held in Perth from 13th to 16th April 1979 under the following heading.

“State Musical Notes of History”

“The archives of the State indicate the transposition of the English Brass Band movement to Perth in the early 1800’s as a natural progression from the influence of thousands of Brass bands that were thriving throughout the English provinces especially in the northern industrial areas where almost every factory, colliery or community group had its own competing Brass Band; the military units of course had their bands and it was so with our earliest colonial development and penal protectors that they brought their bands to the Swan River Colony, as it was probably in every British colonial settlement where the Brass or Military Band was one of the first forms of organised public entertainment; also being viewed mainly for the functional necessity for ceremonial occasions they were as much a source of popular entertainment and early cultural murmurings.

It is reported in the early 1850’s that the Fremantle residents were regaled with music at least three nights a week on the Gaol Hill, overlooking town and sea; similar roles were played by musical units from the Royal Engineers Band which provided ceremonial music for the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Government House in March 1859.

About the same time a subscription was launched in Perth to purchase instruments for the Town Band and this appeal must have been successful as an 1861 report tells of a June 1861 regatta being held to celebrate the founding of the Colony and that the Town Band played on the town jetty and sports ground. The volunteer rifle groups which were prevalent in both Fremantle and Perth also had Band units which eventually amalgamated to form a long-lasting Band known as the Metropolitan Rifles Band. This group had a contemporary rival from another body known as the Perth Musical Union with a celebrated Bandmaster Sergeant T. Bryan; the programmes of the day reveal that these bands in addition to classical and ceremonial favourites of the period also indulged in marches, quadrilles, galops, schottisches and waltzes to the delight of huge crowds in the “Public Garden”.

1862 also saw the birth in Perth of the Working Man’s Association (“to raise the moral and intellectual tone of the Working Classes by combining instructions with amusement”) which had its choir and band as did some Mechanics Institutes which emerged a little later.

The opening of Perth’s New Town Hall in June 1870 added yet another venue for those hard-working bands of the volunteers and the resident military units.

In 1875 the new Governor of the State was an Irishman, Sir William C.F. Robinson, who emerged as one of the State’s earliest recorded composers and his compositions were soon programmed by the Metropolitan Rifles Volunteers Band and included a “hit” of the day - a patriotic song - “Unfurl the Flag”. Sir William wrote and published quite a number of songs, but “Unfurl the Flag” almost became a State anthem as it took pride of place many times with choirs and bands on civic occasions immediately following the National Anthem. This musical Governor may also have produced the State’s two first “home-grown” operas as the archives show that his “Handsome Ransom - or the Brigand’s Bride” an operetta, had a world premier at Perth’s Government House on 12th January, 1894, while in November of the same year his comic Opera “Predatoros” was played in the Melbourne Princess Theatre.

1886 carries a report of Perth’s first “Messiah” at Christmas and a Band from the Perth Musical Union gave support, with further oratorio concerts for almost a score of years.

Just towards the turn of the century the emergence of Industry in the State with coal and gold mines to the fore, saw a repetition of the English working-man’s scene as Brass Bands abounded on the Coal and Gold Fields; at one time it was alleged that every hotel in Kalgoorlie and Boulder as well as each mine, supported a Brass Band.

However, right throughout the State developed the W.A. Brass Band movement as we know it today and it is well within the memory of many senior bandsmen, the early recollections of Brass Bands during and between two World Wars in common with the same development in all other States. The English style of contesting soon added zest and competition to the movement and the early records and trophies that are proudly shown by the City of Perth Band pay tribute to the pioneers of the movement.

The history of the past two generations of Brass Banding in Western Australia would demand a special space of its own and hopefully one day it should be written.

The W.A. Band Association is enjoying a very full life of band activities with over thirty bands on its registers of both Brass and Concert (formerly Military) styles; and in the Government and Independent schools a healthy groundswell of young musicians is producing many more performing bands.

It is a comment worthy of historical note that the Premier of Western Australia, Sir Charles Court, has spent a lifetime with Brass Bands, as a player and conductor as well as winning a national soloist title in his early youth. In addition the W.A. Band Association’s Patron, the Governor Sir Wallace Kyle, expresses his early youthful fondness for Brass Band events (especially at Bunbury) and the W.A. Band Association is responding to His Excellencies interest in a repetition of the old-time Band Weekends at Bunbury by doing just that in October of this year (1979) as part of Bunbury’s 150th celebrations.

In conclusion for the minor historians, this 1979 National Band Contest appears to be only the third to be held in this State - 1929, 1959 and our 150th Anniversary year.

Richard Johns, Perth – 1979.”

“End of quote.”

Brass Bands in Western Australia

To reinforce the view that the brass band movement in Australia followed the gold rush the following article is reprinted.

Two names stand out. Hugh McMahon and the Partingtons, both of which had profound influences on our own organisation.

BOULDER BANDS WIN AT BALLARAT, 1904-1905

by
JEAN FARRANT

(Source document not known)

Following the discovery of gold at Coolgardie (1892) and Kalgoorlie (1893) the population in this remote region of the Eastern goldfields rapidly increased. Despite the harsh living conditions in an alien desert environment a thriving bustling metropolis was soon established at Kalgoorlie and Boulder. Well made roads, impressive stone buildings and up-to-date shopping emporiums replaced the makeshift collection of tents, humpies, and assorted dwellings of the original gold diggers. When the railway link between Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie was completed, Kalgoorlie/Boulder residents had access to all the luxuries of modern city life. This included a steady stream of visiting theatrical companies, vaudeville troupes, circuses and small groups of professional musicians. Music making flourished in the home, the many church choirs and in Liedertafel, Philharmonic orchestral and operatic societies. Brass band music was particularly popular with the general public. Between the years 1902 and 1906 the local community raised sufficient funds to purchase the best instruments available, as well as suitable uniforms, to enable six highly trained bands to compete at the 'Mecca' of brass band contests in Australia, the South Street Competition at Ballarat, in Victoria. Participation in these competitions involved long journeys by train. ship and train again (there was as yet no trans-continental railway) and it was indicative of the bandsmen's indomitable spirit, enthusiasm and dedication to their cause that all the logistical problems of preparation and their being away from home for up to five or six weeks each year were dealt with without undue comment. Their attitude reflected a general air of optimism and self assurance common on the 'fields' during these years. The unswerving support of the loyal band supporters was quite vindicated. The musicians won numerous prizes in all the sections in which they competed.

Many of the men who had flocked to the goldfields of Victoria, New South Wales or Queensland, or had chosen to start a new life in the mining towns of such places as Moonta and Broken Hill, came from regions of the British Isles where the Brass Band Movement had reached the peak of its popularity in the years 1860-1900. They brought their instruments with them to their new homeland. Brass bands were soon established and brass band competitions became popular. In 1900 it was decided to include a brass band contest in the fast expanding South Street Competition which had had very modest origins as part of a small literary and debating society for a group of Welsh immigrants.

With the collapse in land prices and subsequent depression of the 1890s, the latest gold discoveries 'in the West' provided a welcome source of employment for those who had lost their means of livelihood. As conditions in these new isolated communities were so inhospitable, men from the same area in the eastern colonies tended to congregate and live together in groups. Music was an important leisure time activity. In 1895 several men from the Eagle Hawk and Iron Bark camps found that there were seven to nine brass instruments in their midst. They formed the nucleus of the first brass band in Kalgoorlie, its first engagement being to play on the balcony of the Grand Hotel for which each instrumentalist was paid 12/6d. By 1896 there were two brass bands in Kalgoorlie and their members decided to amalgamate to form the Hannan's Pioneer Band (later called the Kalgoorlie Brass Band). There was also a strong interest in band music in the twin municipality of Boulder and by 1899 it could boast of having two brass bands. The local bands had regular engagements to provide entertainment in the streets at night (one band lover recalled hearing up to three bands in one evening in each of the towns in the 1900s) and took an active role in the important events of the day. Bandsmen could be counted on to offer their services for the many 'benefit' entertainments for those in need, and over the years they helped to raise large sums of money for a variety of worthy causes. The weekly Sunday evening concerts at the Boulder Reserve, Victoria Park, the Carrington's Grounds and the Electric Tramways Car Barn were extremely popular and attracted large audiences.

In 1899 the first local brass band contest was held. A spate of letters written to the Editor of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* provides an insight into the passion, intense interest and informed knowledge of band enthusiasts for their music, as the validity of the adjudicators' decisions was vigorously debated. Standards of performance could now be compared. At the conclusion of the Caledonian Sports Carnival on New Year's Day 1900 in which three bands competed, the *Kalgoorlie Miner* could express the opinion that:

It must be said at this opportunity that competitions such as yesterdays have led to a remarkable improvement in the work of brass bands in the district. It is questionable whether there are better bands anywhere in the colony. Besides providing pleasure in their competition numbers the bands afterwards joined forces and under Mr Beech's conductorship the fifty two bandsmen gave a really first class combined performance.

Jack McMahon had come to Boulder in 1899, and early in 1900 he sent for his five brothers, all interested in music, to come and join him. Hugh McMahon took over the duties of conductor of the Boulder City Brass Band (later renamed the McMahon Boulder City AMA Brass Band). Apparently self-taught, he enjoyed an enviable reputation as one of the best cornetists in Australia, as well as being a gifted conductor. At the inaugural Saturday night concert in which the McMahon family took part, 'the difference in the standard of the music was quickly noticed and after Mr McMahon had played the cornet solo parts a couple of times the large crowd which had collected soon guessed his identity and after each piece he was greeted with a round of applause'. There was keen rivalry between bands by now and the Boulder Mines Band (later disbanded) not to be outdone, set out to secure the services of a Victorian conductor

and in June they proudly announced their luck in recruiting five of the 'cracks' from Northcote's Bendigo City Band. The imported talent gave a new sense of purpose to brass band rehearsals and interested listeners noted with pleasure the steady improvement in the performances.

In 1901 Hugh McMahon and his band members travelled to Perth to take part in the royal visit celebrations for the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and Kent. The standard of their playing was praised in the *West Australian* on 22nd July:

‘A feature of yesterday and this morning was the playing of the Boulder City Brass Band. Musicians give the band a very high place of honour saying they have not heard its equal in the state.’

In 1902 the Boulder City Band was re-formed and it was decided that it should go to Ballarat to participate in the championships there. In October the band members were given a rousing farewell by the other bands of the district and a large body of well-wishers. The hopes of their admirers were not disappointed for out of eight entries they received four first prizes, one second prize and two third prizes. However, in the overall championship for 'full band contest' - the blue ribbon event of the competition and regarded as the true measure of a band's worth - they were placed second. The organisers of the South Street competitions that year had managed a 'coup' in securing the services of the famous English/Scottish bandmaster, composer, critic and adjudicator, Lieutenant James Ord Hume. He was full of praise for the South Street Competition which he declared 'to be one of the world's greatest musical festivals'. Later, on his return from adjudicating duties in New Zealand he unhesitatingly named Wanganui Band in New Zealand as the best band he had heard since leaving, England. 'However', he said, 'I would place Boulder City on the same level as Wanganui and although they only took second prize in the competition, as all round bands I place them above Newcastle (the Australian winners) and Wellington Garrison.'

The Australian Workers' Association Brass Band had been formed in Boulder in August 1900. At the beginning of 1903 they decided to compete in Ballarat. To this end they invited Mr William Partington, 'a champion euphonium player with six consecutive wins to his credit, besides winning in Chicago, practically against the world', to become their bandmaster. Mr Partington and his brothers Percy, winner of the solo tenor horn section at Ballarat in 1902 with a score of 100 points, Harold and James, arrived from Tasmania in March. The *Kalgoorlie Miner* could report on the twenty third of that month under the heading 'Boulder Bands':

‘A big crowd stayed in Boulder on Saturday night, attracted by the excellent music discoursed by the two local bands. The Boulder City Band as usual performed in Burt Street and the A.W.A. Band in Piesse Street and as soon as one band finished a selection, a large proportion of the crowd hurried round to hear the other and make comparisons.’

Many fund-raising activities were organised to send both bands to Ballarat in 1903.

Again the Boulder City Band carried off most of the prizes in the bulk of the individual items. In the cornet solo section, which he had also won in 1902, Mr Hugh McMahon created a sensation. When awarding him first place the adjudicator, Mr Bentley, declared that he had listened to a 'veritable battle of giants' and that the prize had been won by an 'emperor'. George Harrop, a euphonium player, also did well as he was the winner in two solos, came second in the valve trombone section and was a member of the winning quartet. In the championship Boulder City and the AWA Band tied for second place behind the Newcastle Band.

The A.W.A. Band was the only Boulder band present at the Ballarat competition the following year. They entered in only two sections, the elusive championship and the septet, and this time their efforts were rewarded on both counts. Huge crowds of between 25,000 and 30,000 saw them take out first-prize honours and the £200 cash prize. The win was a popular one and they were the recipients of hearty congratulations and unbounded hospitality. The Kalgoorlie and Boulder City Bands welcomed their fellow musicians in a manner suited to conquering heroes. As in previous years, there was a civic reception.

In 1905 the name of the South Street Competition was altered to the Grand National Eisteddfod of Australia, a title more befitting a competition which had grown so rapidly that it was only second in importance to the famous Bellevue Competition in England. There were now over one thousand interstate entries. The judge of the Brass Band contest was Mr Albert Wade, sub-conductor of the world-renowned Besses o' th' Barn Band of Lancashire. Two 'own choice' selections were allowed that year and the Boulder City Brass Band (the sole entrant from Boulder as the A.W.A. band had been broken up earlier in the year) presented as one of their test pieces selections from Verdi's 'Otello' - arranged by their conductor Mr Hugh McMahon. In awarding the band first prize the adjudicator praised the selection pronouncing it to be 'splendid'. "The band", he said, "was a credit to the conductor and themselves". A vociferous welcome awaited the jubilant victors who returned with the cash prize, the Sutton Shield (held for one year) for the highest aggregate in both the selections and the quickstep competition, the Boosey Cup (also held for one year) for their own choice selection, and the Sutton Cup, presented annually to the winning band which scored the highest aggregate in the selections and quickstep competition. The trophies were placed in a shop window in Boulder for all to admire. Throughout the day of the heroes return thousands of local residents and many visitors gathered in the streets waiting to catch a glimpse of the band and listen to them perform as usual in the evening. By nightfall the streets were tightly packed and "the size of the crowd", wrote one reporter "was quite unprecedented in the history of Boulder Kalgoorlie". 'November 25, 1905', he said, 'will surely be remembered as a red letter day in the annals of Boulder City'. It was typical of the camaraderie among the bandsmen that Hugh McMahon in a public speech pledged the support of his band for the Kalgoorlie Band to 'go east' the next year. Although the oldest band in the district, the Kalgoorlie Band had suffered changing fortunes over the years. They entered the 'B' grade competition in Ballarat in 1906 but upon their arrival found that they had to compete at the 'A' grade level.

During these golden years of brass band playing in the eastern goldfields many fine players and eminent bandmasters were attracted to this centre of brass band excellence. In the tradition of mining communities with frequently changing populations, some stayed for indefinite periods while others moved away to carry their interest in music to many centres in Western Australia and beyond. In succeeding years there would be many conductors or instrumentalists who could claim an association with the brass bands of Kalgoorlie or Boulder. A future Ballarat champion, later destined to become the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Sir Charles Court, counted it "a privilege to have known Hugh McMahon personally and well. He was by the time I knew him, past his prime, but was still a player of outstanding brilliance. He had an amazing capacity to attract the loyalty of bandsmen and was a fine musician in a number of ways."

The future history of music in Western Australia was made much richer as a result of the high standards of performance set in the roaring days.

The McMahons and Partingtons were not the only goldfields players to grace our band room. The Tolls and Nylanders were others that spent time on the goldfields.

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- Kalgoorlie Miner. Many editions.
- Western Argus. Several editions
- (There is a good photo of Hugh McMahon and the Boulder City AMA Brass Band in the foyer of the Boulder Town Hall)

So much for the background to Brass Bands in general.

Our Story

Where does our band fit into this?

If the origin of brass bands is not clear, then it is no wonder that the origin of the City of Perth Band in particular is also unclear.

The City of Perth band is said to have been formed in 1898 although a letterhead exists indicating it was a year later. John Firth in his book 'Blow Bugle Blow' the story of the original 12 members of the Latrobe Federal Band from Devonport, Tasmania tells us that one of the founding members of that band was also a founding member of ours.

Stephen Piper and family migrated to Tasmania in October 1857 on a ship plagued with typhus fever and dysentery. They were lucky to survive as 14 died and many others were struck down with the disease.

A son, Harry who was only 14 at the time was hospitalised but recovered, grew up to be a carpenter and builder, eventually marrying and sired four sons, Harry Jnr, Robert, Stephen and Eddie.

Harry Senior was one of the 12 founding members of the Latrobe Federal Band, established in 1872.

In 1895 or 1896 the family (Harry Piper Snr and his 4 playing sons) moved to Western Australia. The economy in the East is believed to have been suffering whilst in the West the factors mentioned earlier about the history of Western Australia plus the Gold Rush and consequent rapid industrialisation requiring builders promised a better and more secure future.

Harry Junior had already built the Wesleyan Church in Greenbank, Tasmania so it was natural that he continued his association with that church in Perth.

Harry Junior is said to have formed a band based at Wesley at about that time.

In about 1896 interested parties from the church band are said to have decided to form a town band and this became known as the Perth Federal Band under Harry Junior's direction. That it became the Federal Band is consistent with the story, adopting a name similar to that from whence he came. Talk of Australia's Federation was also in the air. It is probable that the other brothers and Harry Senior were also members of our original band as Stephen's name appears in our records and John Firth states that Robert was president of our band from 1904 to 1919.

So you see we actually date from anywhere between 1896 and the 1899 shown on the old letterhead, but probably not as a formally recognised group, as shall be seen later.

Harry Junior is also said to have had a hand in the formation of the Fremantle Brass Band, and an H. Piper, either Snr. or Jnr. Was thanked in 1902 for his assistance in forming the Police band.

Little is known of the Band's activities before 1905, but the following snippets may help.

The West Australian on 15th December 1899 reported that The Perth Wesley Federal Band would entertain Perth Hospital patients on the afternoon of Christmas day.

The same paper reported on 5th January 1900 that the Perth Federal Band would play on the Esplanade and take up a collection in aid of the "Absent Minded Beggar" fund – In explanation, that was more particularly named "A Shilling War Fund for Absent Minded Beggar". The name bears little resemblance to the purpose, which was a fund to enable even the poorest to give support to the wives and children of sorely wounded and poverty stricken soldiers, widows and orphans of those who had sacrificed their lives for Queen and Country.

An earlier assumption that the band was called "Perth Federal Band" carried over from the Piper's former band in Tasmania, and as a result of Australia's impending change from a collection of colonies to a federation of states, is confirmed by the following article in the West Australian on Thursday January 3rd 1901, following Federation, which read in part;

"The heavy pressure on the space of this journal on Wednesday occasioned by the large attention devoted to reporting the celebrations in Perth and elsewhere prevented notice being taken in that issue of a compliment paid to it by the Perth Federal Band on Commonwealth Night. Close upon the hour of midnight the Federal Band, which had materially contributed towards the celebrations throughout the day and night, paid a visit to this office and played an excellent arrangement of the National Anthem, in honour of the occasion, following it up with cheers for the "West Australian", in which bystanders joined as heartily as the bandsmen. The attention, it was explained, was intended as recognition of the services of this journal in the Federal cause, and, it is needless to say, was accepted in the spirit in which it was offered."

The West Australian on Monday 7th May 1900 reported that The Perth Federal Band who had won what was called the A.O.F. band contest had been accused of using what is termed "palm oil" to gain the decision from the adjudicator a Mr J.P.Shaw. The adjudicator's competency was also called into question but dispelled at length in the article.

The West Australian reported on 24th November 1900 that the Perth Federal Band had held its first Annual General Meeting on 26th October. This would indicate that the band as a properly constituted body started in 1899, so it is not inconceivable that it actually formed in 1898, the year we have always been led to believe. At this meeting it was mentioned that a contract had been let for a set of "smart and soldierly" uniforms at a cost of £84. The band had grown from an initial 14 members to 22 and it was their ambition to be recognised as the City Band. Mr W.H.Piper was elected bandmaster with Mr L.E.Williams as Secretary.

On 4th January 1901 the conductor of the Perth Federal Band is given as W.H.Piper – presumably Harry Junior.

There was also a report in the Swan Express of Saturday 24th August 1901 (Battye Library) covering the Band's arrival at Midland by train the previous Sunday, and marching to Stirling Square playing a rousing tune. The conductor was Harry Piper Junior and Robert Piper played the Euphonium Solo 'Air Varie.' A collection was taken which was given to the Swan Orphanage.

A week later the same paper had a reference to the Federal Band which "though nominally a private one is practically the public band of the City".

Saturday the 14th September reported on a committee meeting with reference to a concert to be given in Queen's Gardens the following day in aid of the 'Sisters of the People Poor Fund'. A proposal to visit Northam at an early date was also reported.

The following little snippet taken from the West Australian Sunday Times of 19th January 1902 may amuse.

Under the Title "Fremantle Flotsam" written by someone calling himself "The Fisherman" it reads as follows; "The Sunday Band Concerts, the establishment of which was advocated in this column a few weeks ago, has borne fruit, and people are now decided that it is not fair to allow Parson Wheatley to have all the fun to himself. Last Sunday the Perth Federal Band held a concert on the wharf which gave keen enjoyment to thousands. Why they had to go to Perth for a band seems very strange in view of the fact that there is supposed to be a military band in Fremantle as well as the Loco Band. Six nights of the week these bands make the evening air hideous practising, yet we never have the pleasure of hearing them perform. They cannot be inefficient after blasting away at it for years, and why they don't give us a taste of their talent is hard to find out. Some people say they can only play marches, which pass muster when people are not critical – that operatic and classic music is beyond them. This is scarcely believed, but if it be so the sooner their instruments are taken from them the better. If a band, after five years' practice like the Loco., can't give a concert of operatic music, they are only keeping better men with something like an ear for music from supplying Fremantle with instrumental harmony."

In 1902 the Adelaide Advertiser reported that a Mr J Dixon of Boosey & Co London, on his way to join J Ord Hume in Ballarat where Ord Hume was to be the adjudicator, had passed through Western Australia where he had heard the celebrated Boulder City and the Perth Federal bands. The Perth Federal band in his opinion was the better – with the Boulder band's reputation being greater than it's playing.

The Swan Express newspaper reported the Band playing at the York Show on 15th and 16th October 1903 and leading the Labour Carnival Procession at Midland on 26th October 1903.

They were also reported as being listed to play in aid of the 'Geer-Lyons' Memorial Fund on September 4th 1904. So it seems they were quite active from the start.

It was reported in the Morning Herald (Perth) on 29th November 1904 that last night The General Purposes Committee of the Perth City Council had arranged with the Federal Band (hereinafter to be known as the City Band) to give 15 performances in City reserves for a total of £100. Pending completion of the change of name, expected within two months, performances would commence at £6 each under the Perth Federal Band name..

It was also reported in the paper that on Christmas Day under engagement with the City Council, the band discoursed a program of musical items in Hyde Park in the presence of a large number of people.

The final performance of the Perth Federal Band took place on 15th January 1905 before the change of name.

On 24th January 1905 the Perth Federal Band held it's AGM at the Bohemia Hall and changed its name to Perth City Band and W (Bill) Partington, late of AWA Boulder band was appointed bandmaster. Several noted soloists also joined the band at that time.

The Commissioner of Police was also considering whether to seek his (Partington's) services as an instructor to the Police band.

In that year the Band also decided they were good enough to contest the Commonwealth Band Championships at South Street, Ballarat, Victoria and possibly the name change had something to do with the desire to be seen to be representing Perth at that event or possibly to more closely align themselves with their militia activities outlined in a separate chapter later in this document.

A photograph taken in Ballarat at the time lists them as the Perth City 11th A.I.R. Band and they are all in what looks like military uniform. It is quite probable that the army uniform was the only uniform they possessed at the time, as it was still early in their existence, or perhaps it was the "army style" uniforms they had purchased earlier.

To help pay for the trip they played 30 concerts between 28th May and the end of December, sometimes two in one day. Mr Thomas G Molloy who had recently opened His Majesty's Theatre provided his theatre for a series of concerts on Sunday nights after church services had finished.

Sunday night concerts required that the proposed program receive approval from the Colonial Secretary. To this end the Band secretary Percy Williams had to submit a request in writing detailing the program for approval. One wonders what the band could have played that would upset the ears of God. In return, the Colonial Secretary had to write two letters, one to the Band approving the program and one to the Police for their information and possible oversight. Other venues used were Earl's Court, Fremantle Oval, Government Gardens (Stirling Gardens) and Midland Junction. It is interesting to note that many of the pieces played at those concerts are still in our library, and a few are still trotted out for the occasional airing. From the various programs I counted 56 different items and that would be in addition to the pieces they would have been rehearsing for the contest.

It would be difficult to get today's band to commit to such a regime.

As well as this they had to take about six weeks off work without pay to travel by sea and train to attend the competition, a strain on finances as well.

In any event our band under Bill Partington was beaten into second place by Boulder City Band under their conductor Hugh McMahon, with Newcastle City Band in third spot.

An interesting incident occurred one Sunday evening at His Majesty's when the Police became involved.

The story went like this –

Perth City Band
23/5/1905

Hon. Geo Taylor
Colonial Secretary
Perth
Dear Sir,

As you are already aware, the above Band have formed themselves into a good combination, and are desirous of competing for the Championship of Australia at the band contest to be held in Ballarat next October. The expenses of the trip will be heavy, and to meet them it will be necessary to give indoor concerts during the winter months.

Mr Molloy has very kindly allowed the band the use of his theatre for next Sunday evening, May 28th inst. I shall be glad if you will kindly give your consent to a sacred concert on the evening referred to, also for a silver coin collection to be taken up on that occasion.

The concert will be timed so as not to interfere with the Churches, and the items on the programme will be of a nature to which no exception can be taken. Copy of programme enclosed.

Trusting to receive a favourable reply,

I am
Yours faithfully
Percy Williams. Hon.Sec.

It is presumed there was no objection.
However it is assumed that by the end of September, funds were short for the trip as the next correspondence reads.

Perth City Band
September 29th 1905

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary
Perth

Sir,
In furtherance to your conversation with Mr Raynor this morning, we would ask your permission to make a charge for admission to the concerts given at His Majesty's Theatre on Sundays 1st and 8th prox., as follows:

Orchestral Stalls and Dress Circle, One shilling

Stalls, Six pence

Gallery, which will accommodate about 1200 people, voluntary collection only.

Thanking you in anticipation.

I am
Yours faithfully
Percy Williams. Honorary Secretary

P.S. These are the final concerts prior to departure for Ballarat, and will close the series.

(By the way the enclosed proposed program was

- Gloria from Mozart's Twelfth Mass – arr. Round
- Grand Selection from Verdi's Works – arr. Round
- Cornet Solo "The Lost Chord" – Sullivan (Mr Chas Smith)
- Grand Selection – Pot Pourri – arr. J Ord Hume
- March "The Red Cross – arr. J Ord Hume)

From here the story gets a little confused but the next part of the saga starts with

Police Dpt.
Metropolitan District, Central Station
October 1st 1905.

Report of D.A.Allison P.C. Reg. No 712.
Relative to doing duty at His Majesty's Theatre, re the Perth City Band Concert.

I respectfully report having done duty at His Majesty's Theatre from 7.30pm to 9.00pm on the 1st inst.
During my term of duty I noticed that there is a placard stuck up at the entrance stating Patrons are requested to contribute to Dress Circle one shilling, Stalls sixpence.

While standing at the entrance to the Stalls I saw a man who had put three pence on the tray stopped by one of the collectors, who told him if he did not pay sixpence he would have to go up to the Gallery. I asked one of the Bandsmen, who was at the door if he had any right to block people who only payed (sic) threepence, and he said that they had the

right to reserve that part of the Theatre for patrons who payed sixpence and also the right to reserve the Dress Circle to those who payed one shilling.

He also told me that if I thought I could dispute it that I had better do so.

I asked the Bandsman his name who told me this, and he said his name was Mr Pike, he then said that we Bandsmen have no right officially but we must use a bit of bluff to get any money out of some of them.

I then went up to the Gallery entrance, and I saw the Collector block a man who had not given anything, and told him if he did not give three pence he would have to go down and wait until later on.

I informed the Collectors at both entrances, that they had no right to make any charge whatever for admission to the Band Concert on Sunday night.

D.A.Allison P.C.712

Corporal P.Halloran confirmed the above in a covering note to Sub Inspector Duncan.

Sub Inspector Duncan forwarded it on to Inspector Sellinger.

Inspector Sellinger forwarded it on to Superintendent Lawrence

Superintendent Lawrence forwarded it on to the Commissioner of Police

The Commissioner of Police forwarded it on to the Under Secretary.

The result of this serious breach of the peace is not known but it is assumed that all this serious police work resulted in a slap on the wrist because other correspondence which seems to overlap this event probably relates to dealing with the original application to charge and covers our secretary of the time, furnishing the information that on the previous Sunday (which by this time may have been the offending Sunday or the week before), about 2000 persons attended the concert, £28/10/- was collected clearing about £12. The average profit was said to be about £8.

The final result of the application to charge – The Band bandits were defeated - Declined – Voluntary Collection Only.

Where the band rehearsed in its formative years is uncertain, but very soon they could be found in the chaff and produce store of Jacoby and Wright which was situated in Beaufort Street near where the Court Hotel stands. Later research has it at 96 Beaufort Street which is a bit further on. The building is still there, the exterior having been slightly modernised which does little to enhance it, but the interior is still recognizable for what it was. In 2010 it is occupied by an Arts supply firm.

Also in 1905 a contest in Albany saw the band take out the WA Championship with a first prize of £100 plus trophies. They also were successful in winning the quartet and septet ensemble contest and the street march.

The West Australian on 31st March 1906 reported on a social evening the band had held to celebrate the end of a successful season. The President said to be Sydney Stubbs could not be present so former President Harry Brown officiated.

During the evening presentations were made to the former secretary Percy Williams, treasurer W C Cuthbert and the vice president R Raynor. L E Williams was the then Secretary.

During 1906 the band commenced another series of concerts to raise funds to take another crack at the South Street competition in Ballarat. There is no confirming record that they actually made the trip that year. The interesting thing is that in the West Australian of Monday 4th May 1906 they are still referred to as the Perth City A.I.R Band.

In July a farewell was given to Mr H Piper, one of our founding members, who had just been appointed to the position of conductor of the military band in Geraldton.

The band again contested in Albany and again came out on top with a prize of £120 plus trophies.

They also won the quickstep, septet and street march.

Whilst in Albany they were encamped near the fort and the garrison there arranged a rifle shooting match between themselves and a team from the band. The garrison team won – but there is no mention of them having to reciprocate and play brass instruments.

On 24th January 1907 the West Australian quoted the Vice President Mr R J Raynor as having negotiated a 6 month lease of His Majesty's Theatre to conduct regular Sunday night concerts to raise funds to attend the contest in Ballarat later that year.

In mid October the West Australian Band Association held its annual general meeting at the Bohemia Hotel in Perth and a toast was proposed to the Perth City Band expressing best wishes for the coming trip to Ballarat. One interesting thing about this meeting is that it is held in Perth. On Melbourne Cup day 1928 the administration of the West Australian Band Association transferred from Kalgoorlie to Perth. One has to ask where and when did that organisation commence.

This year saw the band return to Ballarat for the Commonwealth Championship, listed elsewhere as the Champion

Interstate Band Contest.

Again they were placed second this time to Newtown N.S.W., but won the septet section, came second in the quartets and came first in the aggregate assessment, taking out the Boosey cup valued at 80 guineas from Newtown.

Prior to the contest an article in the West Australian on 27th September indicated that prior successes of the Perth City Band included 3 entries, two firsts and one second. This would seem incorrect, unless they included solos and ensembles.

A large crowd attended their farewell concert at which they played the Test piece "Faust", "Poet and Peasant", a march called "Colossus" composed by someone unknown within the band, and the cornet duet "Ida and Dot".

Sometime in early 1908 it would seem that the West Australian Premier had floated a proposal that a composite band made up of members of the Perth City and Boulder bands should be subsidised to go to London to play in the Australian Court at the Franco-British Exhibition. An article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 19th March indicates that support must have been sought for financial assistance from all states. In the New South Wales Parliament it seems they were to decline to assist and instead representations were to be made to select the Newton Band which was the current Australian Champions. It is doubtful if anything came of either proposal as no further mention was found.

Their good showing at Ballarat must have gone to their heads as in June 1908 they issued a challenge to the Boulder and Kalgoorlie bands to play off to prove once and for all which was the best band in Western Australia. However the terms were not accepted by Boulder, and subsequently the following article appeared in the Kalgoorlie Western Argus on 14th July.

Brass Band Challenge

Perth July 8. The following is a copy of a letter despatched yesterday by Mr Baile, secretary of the Perth City Band to the Boulder City Band.

"Dear Sir, On the 12th ult. 26 days ago, when writing you in connection with our challenge, I asked of you a definite reply as to whether your band intend accepting and playing as requested. The failure to reply, after every reasonable opportunity having been afforded you of demonstrating whatever claim you may consider yourselves to be regarded as the champion band of the State, is taken here as acknowledging yourselves morally defeated, and I am consequently directed to advise you to consider all negotiations closed."

In September 1908 the band travelled to Albany to take part in the welcome to the American Naval fleet of 15 warships plus coal carrying freight vessels. It was apparently quite an event and it is guessed a demonstration of the American might. Albany was just one stop on their way to Manila.

Our band gets very little mention apart from playing Stars and Stripes at one of the official functions.

From the Western Mail 19th September 1908. ".....but when the men of the Gibraltar, with the Perth City Band at their head, came out to march back to the pier, the enthusiasm of the populace approximated the frantic. Girls screamed and waved their handkerchiefs, sober old gentlemen threw their hats in the air,etc"

Of course one has to presume that the cheering was for our band, not the American sailors.

In January 1909 the band competed against Boulder City and Kalgoorlie in Albany, where one imagines tension was high, it not being long after the challenge to settle which band was best had been issued and then withdrawn.

The result of this contest was that Boulder City under Hugh McMahon came out on top with Perth City under William Partington second and Kalgoorlie conducted by Harry McMahon, third.

Controversy then ensued with a protest against Perth City for playing two unregistered players. The protest was upheld at a local level but then Perth City lodged an appeal to the Band Association.

No definitive statement has been located as to the result of that appeal, but it would seem that the appeal was dismissed and therefore we remained disqualified.

The penalty was a 12 months suspension of all the band members from contesting, and of course this also would have been appealed, but the writer has not followed up that issue.

Once again there was criticism of the adjudicator a Mr E.T.Code with correspondence in the West Australian both in support and against his marking.

It had been mentioned in the West Australian on 23rd February 1909 that William Partington was leaving to conduct Ballarat and it appears likely that his brother Harold assumed the position. In any case it was Harold Partington who suggested to Hugh McMahon that he make the move to Perth.

An article in the Australian Bandsman dated Feb 4 1910 indicates that for some time the Perth City Band had been at odds with the West Australian Band Association and had not been a participant in any events organised by them. The band therefore came under criticism for not entering a contest that had been arranged to take place during a two week carnival over the Christmas period. The criticism was not warranted as it was well known, or should have been, that the band had a four day commitment to the Racing and Trotting Associations over the Christmas period as well as other commitments. The Christmas Carnival Committee had been relying on the Band Contest to be a major drawcard but with no bands entering for either the "A" or "B" grades they faced large losses. The article went on to report that a few members of the band participated in the solo events and also that the band played on a Sunday afternoon on the Esplanade, where a collection was taken up in aid of the Carnival funds, which indirectly assisted the Carnival to pay the Perth Concert and Railway bands who had provided the necessary music during the Carnival.

Many concerts were conducted in parks throughout 1910 with Harold Partington conducting. In November that year he stood down as conductor and Hugh McMahon assumed the position. Later in November 1910 a promenade concert was held at the WA Association Cricket Ground to welcome Hugh to Perth. Several bands played. One notable band was the YAL boy's band giving their first public appearance under the baton of Mr George Reid, later a conductor of our band. The YAL band also became a fruitful recruiting ground in later years.

Hugh conducted our band playing *Cavalleria Rusticana* and it was said that there was already a noticeable improvement in interpretation and style.

On Sunday March 26th 1911 a massed band concert was held at the W.A.C.A. ground.

The concert was held to raise funds for the projected world tour of the Y.A.L Boys Overseas Band.

As well as the boy's band, Perth City Band, Perth Concert Band and the Police Band took part.

Proceedings commenced with a Street Parade from Wellington Street Station, with the first number being *El Capitan*. It was estimated that 100 performers would take part. Admission was set at six pence for entrance to the ground and one shilling for the Pavilion.

The massed bands would be under the baton of Mr Hugh McMahon.

Some of the items on the program were, "Songs we Love" arranged by Hugh McMahon, for the Perth City Band, the Police Band rendered "Faust", the Concert Band program was not mentioned, but the Y.A.L. Band was to play "Gems of Columbia", "Idalia", "Dryblower's Five Starred Flag" arranged by their Conductor Mr Geo Reid.

Other massed band items were played.

This was just one of several concerts held to raise funds for this cause.

In April 1912 the band played a prominent part in a memorial concert for the survivors of the ship "Koombana" which was lost on our North West coast. Hugh McMahon opened the concert conducting Chopin's *Marche Funebre* and the concert concluded with the playing of Handel's "Dead March". Obviously it was a very sombre occasion.

The band played a bracket of numbers and competition marches at the Fremantle Oval at the end of September as part of a Trouping the Colours ceremony. This was a rehearsal for their imminent departure for Ballarat.

On Saturday evening the 5th October an enjoyable time was spent in the band room which was then at the Bohemia Hotel. This conflicts with the earlier reference to Jacoby & Wright's Produce Store, but when one considers that Mr H Jacoby was the Licensee of the Bohemia Hotel in Murray Street, it matters little which location came first.

The premier J Scaddan presided, with other notables present included the President W.J.Farley, J.E.Ledger and A.E.Baile Vice Presidents.

The occasion was to wish the band well before they departed on the 'Marmora' to once again compete in Ballarat.

During the evening a musical program was presented by Messrs Newman, Gladstone, Boyd, Hugh McMahon and A.H.Baile. Large framed photographs of the band were presented by the Premier Mr Scaddan to the band's President Mr W J Farley and Secretary Mr O Watson.

Prior to departure the band was to march through the City.

It is interesting that these trips to compete in Ballarat in 1905, 1907 and 1912 were all before the Trans Australia Railway was built. This meant that the band had to travel by sea to the East. Whether they went to Melbourne and then by train to Ballarat or whether they disembarked at Adelaide and proceeded by rail is not known, but it is known that on this occasion they played three concerts in Adelaide in transit, to try and defray costs. The costs to the bandsmen must also have been considerable as one expects they would not have been paid by their employers for the time they were absent.

Following news that these concerts in Adelaide were a success an indignant letter to the editor appeared in the West Australian on 29th October bitterly complaining that he and others who had contributed to the funds for the trip were suddenly advised they had been omitted from the touring party because of a lack of funds.

Then the first contingent of players arrived home on the mail ship "Orvieto" complaining bitterly of the treatment they had received at the hands of the adjudicator. They were quite satisfied at coming second in the Test piece to Geelong Harbour but were incensed at receiving only a fifth placing in their own choice "Otello", claiming that the placing must have been rigged as other observers agreed they had played particularly well and should have been placed at least second. Overall it appears that they came 4th on aggregated points.

Also on board the same boat was the adjudicator a Mr Alfred Gray who was called upon to explain his reasoning by the West Australian reporter. He gave quite a lengthy interview covering his impression of the competition itself and the standard of the bands in general. Specifically in regards to the playing of our band he was of the opinion that although it was a very good band and the own choice piece was excellent, the players showed some nervousness and excitability which detracted from their performance. He also expressed the view that had they had the opportunity to play it a second time they may have done better. He also thought that the piece was a little bit beyond them. On the other hand he praised the solo cornet player who displayed some of the most remarkable playing that he had had the pleasure of listening to.

One concert presented by the band that year took place at 8.30pm on Sunday 20th October.

Hugh McMahon was the conductor and the concert was partly in aid of the survivors of the Mt. Lyell disaster in Tasmania where an underground mine fire cost the lives of 42 miners.

They must have lost no time getting back from Ballarat.

On a lighter note (though serious to the contributor) a letter to the editor of the West Australian on Monday 22nd September 1913 read as follows.

“ Sir, with regard to the letter under the above heading (A Union’s Complaint) in today’s West Australian, I wish to state in defence of my husband J.Noyce, who is absent at the present time, that he was not the man who was found asleep in the deck chair and dismissed by the City Gardener. My husband was in the employ of the City Council for fourteen years and nine months, and was far too conscientious a workman to waste the Council’s time in such a manner, even if he did not have such an exemplary supervisor over him as the City Gardener. It remained for my husband to commit a more serious offence of permitting the Perth City Band to practice in the Perth Oval two or three times without permission, for which he was dismissed, or so it was stated in the week’s written notice which he received from Mr Braithwaite, the City Gardener. I wish to state very clearly to the ratepayers of Perth that my husband was not dismissed by the City Gardener for being a work shirker.

Yours etc. Marie Noyce.

In correspondence in the West Australian on Thursday 28th March 1918 a Mr Leslie J Sharp from Queens Park referring to a contest shortly to take place in connection with the Metropolitan Charities Appeal, suggested it was about time two grades were allowed. Perth City Band had entered and other bands particularly newer bands were likely to refrain from entering as they would have no hope against Perth which had recently won a contest in Bunbury.

The earliest band meeting minutes date from this time, from which much of this saga has been constructed.

A club was formed on 2/9/1918 - Perhaps a social adjunct to recognise the contribution of non playing members, or perhaps it was the first formal band committee.

A.H.(Bert) Baile was appointed secretary.

Press club rules were used as a basis of a constitution.

The Committee was to consist of 4 elected members of Perth City Band and 3 from the remainder of members to ensure that control always remained with the band.

This requirement of a bias in favour of playing member control continues, and rightly so, although with the latest definitions of membership and voting rights it no longer has to be spelled out.

The salary of A.H.Baile (conductor) was set at £4 per week, which is most likely more than our conductors are getting today.

The band contested at Bunbury at Christmas time that year and took out first prize in the A grade. Their own choice test was Alexander Owen’s arrangement of “Heroic”. They were also 1st and 2nd in the septets and 1st and 2nd in the quartets. They also took out the A grade aggregate but were second in the street march quickstep to Bunbury.

Percy Code played professional cornet for us and later was made an honorary life member.

In 1919 Bert Baile was granted 12 months leave of absence to tour the Far East with Sydney James (or Jamis) on condition that the position of conductor is his on his return.

On his recommendation C Osborne was elected to the position of Secretary at the same meeting.

R Piper was also elected acting bandmaster until Mr G Mellor returned, (from where is not recorded) when he would be given his old position.

Mrs Fox was elected a Life Member at the AGM that year.

Her contribution to the band is not recorded, but it is interesting to note that a female was the second life member of the band but females were not admitted officially to playing membership until 1984.

The band decided to enter South Street Ballarat for the Australia Championships in 1920.

Conductor A H Baile offered to forego his £5 per week salary to help fund the trip. Instead, the band offered him a reduced salary of £7 per month.

The proposal to travel to Ballarat was discontinued when the Conductor accepted the position of bandmaster with the Newcastle Steelworks band. A complementary benefit concert was approved for 14/3/1920 for Mr Baile on his leaving.

Bert Baile was appointed an honorary life conductor.

Mrs Baile was given Life Membership.

Geo Mellor was offered the position of conductor at £2 per week.

At the AGM that year

New members Barney Flowers, I Walters and the Halvorsen brothers were accepted.

R.V.Piper retired as chairman after 16 years in that position.

An attempt was made to discontinue wearing the uniforms during the winter as they were showing signs of wear, so that they could be kept in better condition for the contest in Bunbury later in the year.

We received a wire from Baile (Newcastle) asking for a loan of the band score to Beethoven.
We agreed on proviso that Baile send over the parts of Valkyrie for use at the forthcoming contest.

The Librarian was instructed to commence a catalogue at this time.

We wrote to Kalgoorlie, Boulder & Subiaco bands to obtain their rules to try and draw up suitable rules for ourselves, an indication that the previous rules adapted from the Press Club were inadequate.

The Boulder Mines band asked for a loan of the march "20th Century". It was found to be missing from the library along with other music.

A H Baile was suspected of taking them to Newcastle. An explanation was demanded.

C. Osborne & J. Martin had applied for a clearance to Newcastle Steelworks band.

The W.A. Band Association advised that clearances would be granted when some financial matters in dispute had been settled which apparently required the two to lodge funds in trust with the New South Wales Band Association.

We attended a contest in Bunbury in December 1920 and were successful in being awarded the A Grade championship even though we tied with Kalgoorlie in the own choice test selection. The question then arose as to which band should be awarded the Besson Shield and the title of Champion. It is thought we won out on both issues.

It was decided to obtain a band photograph as soon as possible to commemorate the bands victory.

The adjudicator was a Mr Shugg

There was drama even before this contest got under way.

We took out an injunction against the WABA for refusing to allow Harold Partington to play with us.

We lost the battle and it cost us 50% of Partington's legal expenses.

We paid the account for Partingtons law costs provided he waived 2 guineas owing to him from the band for writing out the score of Punchinello (the score is still in use in the library).

The contest no sooner got under way than a railway strike was threatened which panicked the organisers into a meeting of the bands which went through to 4.45am.

The contest was due to run over 3 days but was cut short at the end of the second day at which stage the solo and ensemble competitions for all grades had been completed, all marching and waltz competitions had been completed, all test pieces had been played, but the "A" grade own choice had not commenced and there was a major band concert set for the Saturday night. These two events were expected to be the main revenue earners. With everyone going home on Friday evening (2 special trains) the contest ran at a loss of about £100.

The A grade bands decided to judge the result of the event on the Test piece only and accept only 50% of the offered prize money

Results were: Perth City 141, McMahon's Concert Band 140, and Kalgoorlie 138.

The Test Piece was Dinorah by Myerbeer

Our own choice was to be Rossini's Works (which is about a half hour long)

We were also going to play "Smithy in the Woods" with "full effects" what ever that means, at the concert.

In the solo competitions, we took out Eb Bass (J Richards), Baritone (E McCormack, W.B.Williams, H Halvorsen , 1,2 &3) Bb Cornet (Hector Baile 1 & W Halvorsen 3)

In the Street march Perth City scored 186 points. See the band room photo, kindly given to the band by Bevan Pearce from his late father's effects..

Kalgoorlie 185

McMahons 175

There is some confusion as to whether we won the contest or drew, but as the minute's state, we arranged to get a band photo to commemorate the victory, I guess the earlier comments are correct.

The adjudicator was a Mr Shugg from Victoria, and among his general comments on the contest as a whole his opinion was that because we had been isolated from the rest of Australia for so long we were not keeping pace with their improved standards.

An aside to the Bunbury contest was a George McClelland of Kalgoorlie who travelled with his son to Bunbury but was unable to contest himself because of illness. He was found with his throat cut near a railway crossing with a razor lying nearby. It was thought that illness combined with the disappointment of not being able to contest was too much for him. When found (still alive) he said, "I've made a mess of it". However he didn't really, as he died a few days later.

Bert Baile returned some music via NSW association in 1921 - Scores of Beethoven, Heroic, Valkyrie & parts of Tancredi & Poet & Peasant.
Some have since gone missing again.

A H Baile tendered £5 /15/- , C Osborne £2 /15/- and J Martin £1/2/4 for some reasons not disclosed but it most likely relates to the conditions of transfer set by the WABA.

The secretary was to interview the secretary of the Belmont Racing Club with a view to ascertaining what cheques had been made payable to the band since 1919 and who cashed them. One has to wonder if there was some suspicion of embezzlement, but there is no mention in the minutes of the reason for this enquiry.

The band rules were read and amended - looks like they were progressively approving new rules.

Notice was given to the band by Mr Wright of Jacoby & Wright for the band to find another place to practice. There was too much risk to his property (Produce merchant) with bandsmen smoking about the premises. Earlier references are a bit confusing as to the order they were housed at the Bohemia Hotel and Jacoby & Wright's Produce store.

Approval was given for bandsmen's fares by rail to attend band practices and meetings to be reimbursed monthly.

Mr McCormack's resignation as chairman was accepted with regret. He said he was fed up and did not feel content to go on any further. The reasons for his discontent are not recorded.
W Richards was elected until the next AGM

The band room at this stage was said to be in Murray Street, so it would seem that they successfully relocated. The whereabouts of this band room is not known but it is thought to have been upstairs at the Hibernian Society. The Society had completed the building of a new hall in Murray Street adjacent to the Fire Station in 1902.

Mr McCormack now resigns and asks for a clearance.

His resignation was accepted and clearance was granted but then action was taken to get him to re consider. Motions were later rescinded so it appears that he remained a member after all.

New band rules were finally adopted and the Secretary was to see about registering them with the Registrar of Friendly Societies before printing.

At the AGM that year it was suggested that the piano be brought up to the band room during winter and solo competitions be run between members to help dispel nerves at solo competitions. The piano at this stage was housed in a small shed in Government Gardens (Stirling Gardens) for convenience for use at the frequent Sunday evening summer concerts there.

It was also suggested that a ladies committee be formed and social evenings during the winter be organised. There is no record of this actually happening.

The band room changed again and was now at Perth Oval (Loton Park), in a large room under the grand stand so the earlier location (s) must have been only temporary.

Concern was expressed about the financial position, particularly the ability to finance the trip to the Bunbury contest. Support was guaranteed by Ugly Men's Committee and the East Perth Football Club but it was suggested that the members of the band should lend to the band to keep it "in house."

Present funds £35.

£65 pledged plus concerts still to play will see them through. Loans to be repaid firstly from any prize money.

Although the band did not win this contest refunds were made to those who had loaned money to the band. McMahon's band carried off all the major prizes.

The West Australian on 11th June 1921 advertised a concert in Government Gardens under the conductorship of Goldie Holmes who had recently been appointed. He came to us after stints as Deputy Conductor and Cornet Soloist with the Geelong Harbour Trust Band from Victoria and the Rozelle Champion Band from New South Wales. At the concert Goldie Holmes and Hector Baile were to render the cornet duet "Friendly Rivals".

At the 1922 AGM it was reported that the then Conductor Goldie Holmes was having difficulty finding permanent work, and so had taken on theatre work and advised the band that he was unavailable for mid week rehearsals and under the present circumstances there was no way he would take the band to Bunbury for the next contest.

The band advised him he was required to attend.

They increased his pay to £3 per week and all members were to look for work for him.

Holmes tendered his resignation and accepted the position as conductor of the City Orchestra which had only recently been formed as indicated in the West Australian on 1st June 1922.

After a couple of weeks of negotiation Harold Partington was offered the position and accepted at £3 per week - until the contest.

His first practice was greeted with cheers.

He stressed the need to practice and attend rehearsals.

The band won the A grade section at the Bunbury contest.

A letter to the editor in the West Australian on Friday 22nd December complained at being asked to pay an entry fee to open air concerts by our band in the Government Gardens. Prior to this all concerts were open with a collection being taken up. The correspondent had taken the matter up with the person manning the ticket box and was informed that the band had been granted permission to make a charge so as to put a check on the "shirt button" brigade. The main thrust of the letter was an exhortation to the Council to provide funding to bands so that they could provide the music free to the public.

The band's uniforms were called in for renovations in 1923, so by this time they must have been showing signs of severe wear and tear.

William Hocking of Collie was elected a Life member of the band, but once again the services he provided to the band are not known.

40 performances for the year were undertaken, of which, some were:

24 at Govt Gardens (afternoon & night)

6 Hyde Park

4 Town Hall

On 19th July 1923 the Town Clerk interviewed representatives of Perth City Band, McMahon's Band, Y.A.L. Band, 28th Battalion Band and the I.O.R. Band in connection with the possibility of subsidising the bands to play in City Reserve in the "Season". A similar arrangement had been in place in 1913 with a total of £105/-/- being allocated at £5 per performance. All but the I.O.R. Band was interested, and in addition to the suggested subsidy the bands would be permitted to take up a collection. The performances would be on Sundays and they all would have preferred Queens Gardens as the venue. The interesting thing in the document this was taken from, was the disclosure that the bands normally charged a fee based on 12/6 (\$1.25) per head.

An apology from W A Halvorsen was received at the 1924 AGM. He was touring with the Australian Imperial Band (L. M Price was also away with that band)

Charles Toll was made a life member in that year.

The band lost the last State Championships but won: -

Septet, Quartet, Euphonium, Horn, Soprano, Eb Bass, Bb Bass solos and some seconds

Some activity during the year included:

26 concerts in Govt Gardens

26 evenings at Shaftsbury Theatre

4 other park jobs

4 members selected for A I Band

W Halvorsen, H Partington, L Price, H B Halvorsen

(Harrie said to have declined)

Rules came up again for revision, then left to the Secretary to re draft and submit to a General Meeting.

Band historian Jack Greaves from Sydney tells me that the Australian Imperial Band was formed in 1924 by Bill Partington a former conductor of our band, with the object of performing at Wembley and to compete at the Crystal Palace contest, London. It was a composite band of about 31 or 32 players hand picked, and represented all states with 6 persons from Western Australia. Due to delays in assembling and lack of funds the band was late in readiness to leave Australia. When the band arrived in Western Australia they were approximately £1000 short of funds. An approach to the Federal Government for £500 fell on deaf ears. The West Australian bands and the public with some small assistance from the West Australian Government managed to scrape together sufficient finance which would have allowed the venture to continue. Unfortunately while this was happening time passed and the opportunity they had for work at the Empire Exhibition at the Crystal Palace which had firstly been deferred, was subsequently cancelled. The loss of that guaranteed income destroyed the budget and unfortunately the band was disbanded in Perth.

The Australian Imperial Band offered us 29 uniforms together with a Tenor Horn, Bass Drum & 7 music stands.

The band offered them £100. The Balance sheet later shows that the uniforms were purchased for £111.

The old uniforms were later sold to the I O R Band in 1925/26 for £20. Nobody now remembers the I.O.R. Band.

Jas Farley had organised for Jas Brennan to purchase a Soprano Cornet for the A I Band for their English tour, the instrument to become the property of the PCB on their return. There was some confusion over this as L Price thought it was his personal property and was reluctant to return it. However it must have been amicably resolved as both Price and Bill Halvorsen returned to the band after touring Australia with the A I Band, both later being appointed conductor of the band.

This was the same year that the Newcastle Steelworks Band under conductor Bert Baile also a former conductor of our band successfully competed at Belle Vue and the Crystal Palace.

Conductor H P Partington's resignation was accepted after expressions of no confidence were expressed by some bandsmen.

Geo Reid was then appointed as the conductor, which it is assumed was in addition to his work with the Perth Professional Symphony Orchestra which he conducted after resigning from the Y.A.L. Band in 1923.

W A Halvorsen was appointed bandmaster, a position which seems to equate with deputy conductor/band sergeant.

The contest that year was held in Fremantle with Lieut. J Ord Hume as the adjudicator.

Once again McMahon's band took the honours but both H B Halvorsen on baritone and R V Piper on Euphonium were awarded full marks for their solos, something that Ord Hume had not done in 40 years adjudicating experience.

In January 1925 it was reported that a massed band concert was to be held in Government Gardens on the bandstand erected for the Newcastle Steel Works band. One presumes they gave a concert in Perth on their triumphant return from winning the Belle Vue contest in Manchester and other notable successes in the UK in 1924.

The bands playing on this occasion were McMahon's Concert Band, conducted by Hugh McMahon and our band conducted by Lieut. J Ord Hume the prolific writer of marches and other arrangements. He presented four new works at this concert.

At the 1925 AGM it was noted that the time honoured custom of presenting clocks to members on the occasion of their marriage had fallen into arrears but would have to wait until finances improved.

During the year the band played 62 jobs which included 23 in Govt gardens, 17 at Shaftsbury Theatre & 4 broadcasts.

H.B Halvorsen's (the Secretary at this time) report at this meeting reads in part:-

"The attendances at performances and rehearsals have been for the most part very satisfactory, but there are a number of members who only appear to use the Band as a convenience and who only attend at times suitable to themselves. We have a membership of approximately 40 men who should be in a position to be active members, but on a number of occasions, and especially for the last two months the Band has been carried along by those enthusiastic members who may be looked upon as the "willing horses". Unless material improvement is shown it may be advisable for the new committee to consider the question of advertising for new members as by this means it may be possible to obtain enthusiastic bandsmen, who at the present time may hold the opinion that there is no room for them or that their standard of playing is insufficiently high.

The annual contest for the State Championship was this year held at Fremantle. Although we were not successful in obtaining the Championship, the record of the Band and its members leave little else to be desired. There is no doubt that we fielded the best combination in the history of the Perth City Band and that we were far superior to any Band contesting at Fremantle. So far as the State Championship is concerned we appear to have been very unfortunate in our selection of the "own choice", and any other adjudicator would no doubt have appreciated the task we set ourselves in the performance of such a difficult and modern piece as "Life Divine", and awarded points accordingly. Apart from this the results of the contest far and away exceeded our most sanguine expectations and the following list constitutes a record that will be indeed hard to beat:-

A Grade Test Selection 1st

A Grade Own Choice 2nd

Quickstep 1st

Street March 1st

2nd in State Championships after conceding 5 & 10 points to B & C Grade bands respectively in the march categories.

Comic Opera Selection 1st

Septet 1st & 2nd

Quartet 1st & 2nd

Trombone Trio 2nd

Duet 3rd

Soprano Solo 1st

Bb Cornet Solo 2nd

Flugel Horn Solo 3rd

Eb Tenor Horn 1st & 3rd

Bb Baritone 1st

Bb Euphonium 1st & 2nd

G Trombone	2nd
E♭ Bass	1st
B♭♭ Bass	1st

The following bands competed. McMahons Concert, Collie, Subiaco, Kalgoorlie, Fremantle Naval, Bunbury and Perth City.

The prize money won was £67 whilst expenses ran to £118 .

The conduct of the bandsmen was exemplary in every way, this conforming to the usual high standard of the Perth City Band and the utmost willingness and enthusiasm was displayed by all throughout the whole contest.

General

In conclusion I would appeal to members to give the Band their utmost attention from this time out, as the recent contest has proved that we have the necessary talent to place and keep the Band in a leading position in this State. If each and every member would realise that the Band is his own affair just as much as that of any Executive officer or member of the Committee, there is no doubt but that we will be able to demonstrate our superiority at the next contest in no unconvincing manner.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H.B.Halvorsen

Secretary"

End of Quote.

Even back then bands found it difficult to accept an adjudicator's decision, and attendances also needed mentioning.

The Australian Commonwealth Band that also included some of our members and was raised under the baton of Bert Baile in 1926 was successful in touring overseas, having some success in England where they came fourth at the Belle Vue contest and later returning via Canada and New Zealand where it was reformed and toured again to Canada and parts of USA where they met resistance from the Musicians Union, returned home, toured Australia and disbanded in 1928.) No doubt someone will write the full story of both the Australian Imperial and the Australian Commonwealth bands.

The photo on our band room wall is misnamed Australian Commonwealth Band when it is The Australian Imperial Band.

Among the jobs undertaken in 1926 was a visit arranged by Mr M G Lavan and Mr J R Campbell for the band to perform at New Norcia on their annual sports day in October of that year.

The band travelled by cars and truck, staying overnight, returning late the next day.

They played two concerts in the courtyard which were very well received

The full program is contained in the relevant pages of St. Ildephonsus' College Magazine filed with other newspaper clippings in our own archives.

In August 1927 the R.S.L. Band had lost their conductor and Mr W.A. (Bill) Halvorsen conductor of Perth City Band was appointed. Mr Les Price replaced Bill and the band was reported to be active and doing well with a lot of broadcasting and other engagements.

In October John (Paddy) Richards one of our best cornet players and also a railway employee suffered a fatal injury when knocked down by a car in Beaufort Street. Years later his daughter and grand daughter became patrons of the band.

During this period 1924 – 1930 and beyond the band had regular concerts on 6WF (formerly Westralian Farmers). An article in the West Australian on Tuesday 5th May 1936 covering 12 years progress of broadcasting in Western Australia claims that 6WF's first outside broadcast occurred in September 1924 when they broadcast the Perth City Band from Government Gardens.

Main work undertaken at this time was Government Garden concerts, Speedway and Trotting Association. From the books it looks like the band members were paid for the speedway and trotting jobs as reimbursements followed receipts, but to whom is not stated. It looks very likely that the band was paid a fee per player rather than a set fee for those jobs. They also seemed to be paying a pianist quite a bit so whether this was for accompanying soloists or providing music for dancing is not clear.

In 1928 the band decided to forego what had become unprofitable Government Garden concerts until November.

We were getting 3 guineas to play every 2nd Sunday on 6WF plus the usual mid weekly performance.

We decided to give up the Sunday 6WF job in favour of playing at Hoyts theatre for 1 guinea (how often not stated) to be paid for by the Central Methodist Mission (Rev J W Grove proposed).

At the AGM that year it was stated that there had been 72 engagements for year –

26 Govt gardens
6 other including Duke & Duchess' visit
1 Anzac Day
38 Broadcasting
1 charity

Attendance - again there was a plea for better attendance
This matter was raised at almost every annual report.

Our delegate to WABA was instructed to vote against any subsidy to Eastern States bands that may enter for the proposed R.S.L. Centenary contest - prize money to be the sole inducement to enter.

Our delegate Mr R Hughes of Kalgoorlie was instructed to support the move to transfer the headquarters of the W.A.B.A. from Kalgoorlie to Perth.

It was decided to purchase a Baritone through Nicholsons for £26/ 4/- - terms to be arranged.

In August Mr W J Farley died following hospitalisation where a foot had been amputated. As was common practice in those days, prominent persons were often given positions in clubs much as patrons are today. Mr Farley became a Vice President in 1905 and remained so for many years. He may even have been the band's so called "President" at the time of his death as mention was made in later minutes of the need for a replacement. This position seems to have been in name only and their only duties seemed to consist of chairing annual meetings. He was Secretary of the West Australian Cricket Association at the time of his death after having previously been its President and had been instrumental in that organisation gaining the freehold of the WACA. He was a patron of the West Perth Football Club and a Life Member of the WA Football League

Arrangements to finalise a journey to Northam by charabanc (open bus) on Sat 17th Nov were completed and to possibly play at York on the Sunday afternoon and return Sunday night or early Monday morning.
It was a social success but a financial disaster, incurring a loss of £38.

The R.S.L promoted Interstate Centenary contest was held in September 1929.
Altogether 14 bands eventually competed, which included Collingwood, the then Australian Champions, from Victoria, Holden's Motor Body Builders Band from South Australia, the Ballarat City Band from Victoria, all A Grade Bands. In the B Grade section the Port Adelaide Municipal Band from South Australia was listed to compete against our local bands but do not appear in the results, so perhaps they were one of the 3 entered bands that could not attend., and Maitland Municipal band which one assumes came from New South Wales was entered in C Grade. The local bands were R.S.L, Bunbury and Perth City, with both R.S.L and Perth City contesting both A Grade and B Grade.
The final result showed Collingwood taking out the A Grade title with us coming last.
In the B Grade we came second to R.S.L.

Some time in 1929 member Pratt's conduct was called into question. Perhaps his name was an indication of his behaviour, which was never stated.
He was asked to tender his resignation immediately and told to return all gear.

The delegate was instructed to table a notice of motion to the effect of reverting to the previous contest rule requiring two test selections for A grade championship contests. The attempt to re-introduce two test pieces was lost.

We agreed to purchase a 2nd hand BBb bass from Salvation Army for £30 and also bought a baritone for £24.

A number of new (presume prospective) members were asked to give their decisions on joining the band.
Mr C Court wanted another fortnight to think the matter over but in the meantime was prepared to do his best. It is presumed this was Sir Charles and that he eventually joined the band, although he is more usually associated with the R.S.L. Band. This seems to have been confirmed by Sir Charles as he has said he played with us between stints at the R.S.L. Band.

The AGM records the following engagements during that year -

Govt Gardens	17
Concerts C of P	4
Broadcasts	44
Engagements	24
Charity appeal	1
Cent fireworks	1
Anzac Day	1
Northam/York	2

Govt Gardens	
(Kal band)	1
Total	95

New members admitted during year included W Johnson, B Conlon, A Dalziel, L Bourne, H R Blunt, R Stircke, H Smith, R Reason, C Court, L Hogg, J Annesley

R Hughes resigned as the band's delegate on the transfer of WABA headquarters to Perth after over 20 years in that position, based in Kalgoorlie.

The presentation of Gold life member badges to Hughes & Molloy had to be cancelled as badges could not be obtained. It was left to the Secretary and Richards to attend to a suitable presentation.

It has now been ascertained that small shields were presented to them, as the family of Mr Molloy has since given the shield to the band together with notes on his life and sad demise. See his story later.

It was resolved to join the "Brass Band Club" with Allen & Co of Melbourne to receive a continuing supply of all the latest song hits for concert programs.

The conductor L.M.Price resigned and W.A.(Bill) Halvorsen was elected as his replacement, from a strong field of applicants consisting of Halvorsen, Val Smith, H Partington, W Bradshaw and A Mardon.

The salary offered was one guinea per performance. It is believed that Val Smith went on to achieve success in Victoria.

At the AGM in 1930 Ted Jewell suggested that the band should approach the band association with a view to organising a massed band concert to raise funds for the lord mayor's fund for the unemployed.

A sign of those hard times during the depression.

During the year a change in ownership of 6WF saw the band required for less performances - 61 broadcasts in previous year, 31 in the year under review.

At the beginning of October 1929 the WABA hosted the R.S.L.Centenary Band Contest. Collingwood Citizens band took out the A Grade Title with our band coming in 5th which was probably last in that grade.

We also entered in B Grade and came second to the RSL Band.

Other results coming our way were.

2nd	Solo boys under 18 - L Toll
3rd	Amateur Cornet solo - W A Halvorsen
3rd	Euphonium solo H B Halvorsen
3rd	Trombone R Edwards
3rd	Trom trio
2nd	Soprano L Toll (Len)

Against the champions of Australia

We played 75 paid performances during the year plus 3 gratis.

Trotting Association engagements ceased after 10 performances. This was said to be unfortunate as a deduction of 2/- per player had just been commenced towards an instrument and uniform fund and the fund only held £4. It is known that some engagements were being charged out at union rates. However the wording of the minute indicates that the players were actually being paid as the note went on to ask if players wished the deduction to continue for future paid engagements.

The Trustees were called in to check on the instrument inventory during the year as all could not be accounted for. Two tenor horns were written off - whereabouts unknown at £3 each and a broken flugel horn was found in a cupboard - beyond repair valued at £5. (Perhaps this was the current replacement value as it must have been worthless).

Clearances were granted to F G Sims & J Cassom to the RSL band.

6ML Broadcasting – The band wrote to Boans, Foy & Gibsons, Charles Moore's, Economic Stores, Ahern's, Bon Marche, Brennans & Woolworths at 3 day intervals suggesting an advertising program whereby the band would supply 2 hours music for £7/10/-.

It is assumed that this initiative came to nothing, as there is no further mention.

In 1930 and again in 1931 the band hired the "Emerald" a Swan River ferry for what was said to be their annual picnic. The first year it cost £5 and the second year double that, so maybe the boat in the first year was smaller.

The books also indicate that the Secretary was being paid a small honorarium.

The 1931 AGM records that during the year the band took part in the 2nd Perth Interstate band contest under the

auspices of the RSL. Owing to players not being available and the inability to attract a "professional" the band withdrew from A grade and competed in B grade which they won.

This was the first W.A. 'A' grade competition in which Perth City did not compete. The band took exception to some criticism made on their withdrawal from A grade.

The criticism seems justly directed as it would appear that they were not prepared to take the risk of losing.

The adjudicator at this contest was Dr Cyril Jenkins and he was quite scathing in his remarks regarding the solo competition, although we had some minor success.

L Toll was placed 3rd in the Soprano section and

H Richards won the Tenor Horn solo with A Edwards coming in 3rd.

C Hall came 3rd in the Trombone section

The band's septet combination was second.

From the Secretary's report at the AGM "A review of statement of receipts and expenditure reveals a decided contraction of the band's activities, in a large measure due to the forms of pleasure most popular at the present time, and the depression, the effects of which none have been able to escape. Our accustomed sources of earnings or revenue have practically dried up and serious consideration must be given to ways and means of carrying on.....The summer season of concerts in Government gardens have been very disappointing, and in spite of excellent programs and modest advertising the whole series of 13 concerts returned a gross of £47 /17/- and after meeting expenses of £40/10/6 showed a total profit of £7/6/6.....the support we received from 6WF when under the management of Westralian Farmers Ltd has diminished to almost vanishing point since the advent of the National Broadcasting Company - 1928 £195/16/6, 1929 £197/8/-, 1930 £138/12/- 1931 £26/5/- for 5 performances."...

As a result the band was looking for support and an article appeared in the West Australian on Wednesday 9th July 1930 when they were seeking the use of the Municipal Hall in Midland at minimum rates, pleading that if support was not forthcoming from the public they may have to go into recess.

A combination of factors such as the availability of more and better "talkie" films, the widespread use of gramophones, the take up of radios as they became cheaper, and the better programs then being developed together with the effects of the depression all contributed to the decrease in interest in the brass band concerts.

In all not a dissimilar situation to what is evident in 2010.

Unfortunately the minutes for the next 24 years are missing, presumed destroyed and any comments from now to 1955 will be from the memories of those few able to fill in the gaps and from what can be gleaned from articles in the West Australian, other newspapers, and other records.

The band Secretary W J Hutchings wrote a letter to the editor of the West Australian which was published on Wednesday 20th January 1932.

He was complaining that the Perth City Council had discontinued paying an annual subsidy between the major bands to provide concerts in the parks, making it, he said, the only major city in Australia that did not support its bands.

The argument was supported by the fact that they had played 12 concerts for a gross return of £33/15/- whilst expenses amounted to £41/17/6.

The argument was supported a few days later by another letter expressing surprise at the situation, and then a flurry of further comments suggesting changes in band instrumentation and then a final rebuttal from our Secretary

Hugh McMahon was the adjudicator at the annual contest, this time situated at Subiaco Oval.

He awarded first place in the A Grade section to the RSL Memorial band with Perth City coming in at a close second.

Later that year a drill and quick-step competition was held during the Royal Show which Perth City won narrowly from Northam.

The state championships were conducted at Subiaco in February 1933.

Mr George Reid was the adjudicator.

Perth City was awarded first place under conductor Bill Halvorsen, a few points ahead of RSL memorial band under G Mellor.

According to one of the photos on our band room wall this was the start of a run of successes which went through to 1938 inclusive.

30 Cap badges were purchased during the year from Sheridans for £1/11/9. I guess they would be more than that much each now (2010)

On May 4th 1934 about 250 members and friends gathered to celebrate Hugh McMahon's 64th birthday.

Why they picked on that year is uncertain, but the article in the West Australian on Saturday 12th May covering the event also provides much background to Hugh and his career.

There is a complete story elsewhere.

On 23rd July an advertisement was placed in the West Australian by our conductor Mr Geo Reid seeking candidates from age 14 upwards to join our Junior Band.
This is the only mention seen of a junior band pre second world war, so whether one was in existence or established is a matter of conjecture.

In December a carnival contest incorporating a band contest was held on Cottesloe Beach.

There are no indications of the bands themselves playing but the State Solo and Ensemble championship results were recorded, so maybe it only involved solos and ensembles.

From our band:

George Franklin won the amateur cornet solo and the junior cornet solo championships, with J Francis equal third in the latter class.

B Conlon was successful in the Trombone solo section

H B Halvorsen Euphonium

L Hogg Baritone

A Edwards and H Purcell 1st & 2nd respectively in the Tenor Horn.

H B Halvorsen and B Conlon took out the Duet title.

The quartet title also went our way whilst we had 2nd and 3rd placing in the septet.

Overarching our civic presence were several stints as an army service band, so the following section is included here covering much of that involvement both before and subsequent to 1934.

The City of Perth Band in the Army

Harrie Halvorsen, in his address at the opening of the band room in Robertson Park stated that the band had been the regimental band of the 11th Battalion City of Perth (CMF) regiment from 1933 to 1945, which would include after the Militia Battalion became a regular army AIF Battalion in 1933.

Writers note: Although Harrie mentions 1945 as being the end of the association, it effectively ceased on mobilisation in 1941.

Between 1927 and 1932 our accounts show we were paying rental of £1 per month for a band room, which was possibly Loton Park. The fact that it ceased at the end of 1932 probably coincides with a move to Swan Barracks to cover our commitment to the 11/16th Battalion as income starts to flow from them at this point.

This is all a bit vague as Charlie Brown who joined the band in 1938 says they rehearsed at Loton Park on Sunday mornings but upstairs at the Francis Street Drill Hall on Thursdays to fulfil their services commitment. Maybe we only paid rent for Loton Park for Sunday rehearsals.

In any event there was an even earlier association.

In between formation in 1898 and 1905 when they contested in Ballarat in military uniform it seems they had not only been a private band developing into a community band, but had also become the band of the 11th Australian Infantry Regiment, a militia unit based in Perth.

In a newspaper article from the "West Australian" dated 17th February 1911 describing the proposed presentation of Colours to 1st Battalion, 11th Australian Infantry Regiment and 1st Battalion, Western Australian Infantry Regiment, the following reference is made relating to the band. "The bands of the regiments will be massed, and will be under Bandmaster Partington." One presumes this was Harold Partington as Bill Partington had joined Ballarat in or by 1910, so whilst other records indicate Hugh McMahon was conductor of Perth City band by this time, perhaps Partington handled the military side of affairs.

When this first association with the military ceased is not known, but possibly in about 1908 as there was a dispute in the Perth City Council in January of that year when the Perth City Band was overlooked for the Mayoral Garden Party in favour of the 11th A.I.R. band. (In the Western Mail they are called the Headquarters Band so maybe they were one and the same). In 1905 the 11th A.I.R. Band appeared to be the Perth City Band as it was the band that went to Ballarat. Further to the above it has been noticed in various articles and advertisements in the West Australian in the period 1905 to 1907 that quite often our band was advertised as "Perth City and 11th A.I.R. Band" under the conductorship of Sergeant Partington (Bill Partington)". Then an advertisement appeared on 8th June 1907 under the heading "Eleventh A.I.R. Band (late Subiaco Military Town Band" under the conductorship of a T.G. Williams.

Band naming during this period is a bit confusing.

Prior to our formation as the Perth Federal Band in 1898 there had been a Perth City Band under conductor T G Williams.

What happened to them when we became Perth City Band?

One can only speculate that they became the Subiaco Military Town Band as T G Williams was the conductor and perhaps took over the 11th A.I.R. duties with us not re-entering the army scene until 1933 as Harrie Halvorsen has stated.

If we had surrendered our position as the band of the 11th A.I.R. it cannot have been long before we were back with the 11th/16th Battalion.

The history of the Army Regiments and their bands would rate a story in itself.

Peter Shaw, from the WA Branch of the Military Historical Society of Australia advised that "the 11th Australian Infantry Regiment (Perth Regiment) was formed in July 1903 from the former 1st and 2nd Battalions, and the Guildford element of 3rd Battalion, Western Australian Infantry Brigade. These former units of the WA Volunteer Forces were absorbed into the newly formed Commonwealth Military Forces in 1901. Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions WA Infantry Brigade had bands located with their headquarters in Perth and Fremantle respectively. It is assumed that with the formation of 11 AIR in 1903 these would have been combined into the regimental band for the new regiment.

The Regiment was redesignated 1st Battalion, 11th Australian Infantry Regiment (Perth Regiment) in 1908."

In the early 1930's with few volunteers and little being spent on defence the 11th and 16th Infantry Battalions merged to form the 11th/16th Infantry Battalion, and one of our photos shows us representing that grouping. In 1936 those units separated again so maybe it is safe to say we again went with the 11th Battalion City of Perth Regiment

In 1939 under war mobilisation orders the band was one of the first to occupy the Melville Camp complex and also attended 3 month camps in 1940 and early 1941 until the band as a unit was called up on 15th December 1941 and marched into camp as semi trained recruits, only to be disbanded, with some being manpowered out to serve their country in essential support areas whilst others joined other branches of the services. After the Second World War and despite the formation of regular army bands, we always led the veterans of the City of Perth Regiment on the Anzac Day march. Sadly this tradition has now been overruled by the R.S.L., whose executive probably do not know the historical connection.

Stories from Les Hogg:

Story about Frank Rand doing a military job. A Bass player.

Royal family job. Duke of Gloucester he thinks. Blessing of the drums at Loton Park. Wet day - an absolute downpour and being army no coats worn. At the conclusion of the ceremony the band prepared to march around the oval to finish with a salute in front of the grandstand. Frank picked up his bass and when he tipped it up about half a gallon of water ran out which broke up the whole affair into torrents of laughter.

Getting to practice - story of the black & white pen picture on the band room wall.

Ernie Philpot a leading artist in Perth and a euphonium player drew it depicting bandsmen grown old waiting for reimbursement of train fares from the army to attend practices.

About 1930 the band was offered the job as 11th Battalion band as well as continuing as a civilian band. The band had dual uniforms and used to perform any required military duties as the armed forces did not have a resident band.

Not very profitable but kept the band before the public.

The band went on annual camps down South Street in Melville and some of the band room photos were taken on those camps.

11th, 28th & 44th bands all used to have their camps in the same area and sometimes all at the same time.

11th Battalion

When the authorities started calling up people for army service in 1941 they called up the whole band because they maintained they were semi trained men although most had never seen a rifle and were more likely to be called on for first aid work. In fact the annual camps were to gain knowledge in this area but apart from the occasional lecture they had received very little instruction.

An article in the West Australian on 16th April 1947 states that the band had served for nine years in this capacity and that after mobilisation and subsequent discharge of over age members and release of some for essential service work, fourteen went on and served with the Second A.I.F in the Middle East and later, in the Pacific Theatre.

Story.

There was a big parade in Perth while they were in camp. It involved leaving South Street, marching all the way to the railway in South Fremantle, going by train to the East Perth station then a march to the Esplanade to carry out several ceremonial items, then march back to East Perth, train to Fremantle and March back to camp.

The band was the only band to stick to their battalion the whole way. In fact when going back up the South street hills towards the camp when they had all about had it they continued to play in rotation, sing and whistle to keep things going and when they reached the gates they did a right wheel and counter march and played the battalion through the gates to a rousing cheer from the whole company as the other two bands had deserted their troops and had gone to and from the station at Fremantle and from the Esplanade to station in Perth by truck.

Another army story:

Another special job had to be performed and they were told to pack the band to make it a more impressive show.

They built the band up to 36 or so but of course did not have enough music to go round

Without photo copiers Les was taking music home nights and writing out copies in every spare minute including lunch breaks etc. They picked a program of about 6 marches.

A couple of nights before the show they still had a few to go but managed to get some other bandsmen to help on the last few copies. On the big day he had parts available for all the bandsmen.

At the appointed hour all was ready, it rained, they cancelled the performance, marched into Swan Barracks and played 6 bars of God Save the King. Les was not amused.

Band camp story

They used to have quite a good time.

The camp was theoretically used for training. Very little training was undertaken, just a few lectures a bit of red cross first aid etc but not very intensive.

Day would start at 6.30 with reveille, a couple of marches, breakfast, get their gear squared away, collect their instruments and march out of the camp, up and down South street playing like mad, counter marches and other fancy stuff, up and down until they got to a little side street down the hill a bit, into the side street and then into the bush where they had a few forms set up and in the mornings set about playing a few games of cards and a bit of a natter, a tune or two a few more card games and the morning was finished. Gallantly march back to camp playing as they entered the gates. Others would comment on how hard they seemed to be working having appeared to have been marching and playing all morning.

Sometimes in the afternoons they would do the same or if the weather was nice they would have a few cars parked down the side street and they would stow the instruments in one or two and take the others down to South Beach and go for a swim. Harry used to get a bit of stick about how hard he worked the band but it was all a bit of hooley.

Another Melville Camp story – this time from Jack Wadeisha.

We used to turn left and march to the tram in South Street, hop on the tram, get off at the pub and stay a while. Back on the tram to the last stop and then march back to camp.

Other days we turned right and marched to the local wine cellar and marched back in time for lunch.

Every now and again an item appears in the band's financial records that takes one's fancy, like the purchase of 15 gallons of beer in 1934 for the princely sum of £3/15/- (\$7.50 in today's money). No doubt a good party was coming up.

In 1936 George Franklin won a Solo competition and received 1 guinea as prize money.

The West Australian on 20th May 1936 reported that Ernie Philpot and his brother had shared first prize in the State Charities Lottery. Ernie had been debating whether to pursue music or art as a career. He was a self taught artist and had recently had an exhibition of his work in the art gallery at Newspaper House. The win enabled him to enrol in an art school in Melbourne and eventually he went to London to further his career. There it is said he came under the influence of a modern school of art and subsequently his work was said to have never been as good. There are still two pieces of music in our library attributable to him, a march called "City of Perth Regiment", and a more descriptive piece called "Talu". One day someone may judge whether he chose the right path.

According to a 1937 article in the Australasian Dance and Brass Band News, the Perth City band had been in the doldrums for some time. Although financially sound owing to the capitation allowance they received as the band of the City of Perth Regiment, they were unable to attract audiences to the long running seasons of concerts they had conducted over the years both outdoors in the summer and indoors in the winter, and when these became unprofitable they were discontinued.

In July 1937 after this indifferent period of performance the band organised a concert at the Ambassadors Theatre as a tribute to Hugh McMahon on completing 50 years as a bandmaster. At the time Hugh was no longer associated with our band but was conductor of the Trades Hall Band, then the most recently formed band in Perth. Eddie Callow the theatre manager and a former solo cornetist with the City Band arranged the venue rent free. The theatre could accommodate about 2000 people and it was well filled, with many of the audience being members of band's Hugh had been associated with both on the Goldfields and in the City.

Mr George Reid, the conductor at the time had the band back to its best both musically and in appearance. Hugh then in his 68th year was in fine form, giving fine renditions of solos apparently as well as he ever had done. His final solo, Schubert's "Serenade" equalled any rendition heard in Perth.

The outstanding band item was 'Slavonic Rhapsody No.2'. Special mention was made in the article of a divine young 15 year old cornet player in the band and the year of this concert and other evidence would just about identify this player as George Franklin. Like Hugh he has lost nothing over the years either.

The concert was such a success that they were persuaded to organise a series; with what success is not known.

In January 1938 there was a band contest centred on Fremantle Oval as part of Fremantle Week.

The adjudicator of the contest was Charles Court.

Perth City was successful in the test piece section from Cottesloe and Fremantle Naval bands in spite of a points handicap placed on them.

They were also successful in taking out the Nicholson Cup for marching and won a new category for deportment.

A random article seen in the West Australian on 2nd April 1938 covered a Golden Wedding celebration of a Mr & Mrs Langsford. Mrs Langsford had apparently been a music teacher in earlier years and one of her pupils was said to have been a Mr Tom Bryan at one time conductor of Perth City Band.

As Mrs Langsford had been organist for the Wesley Church Sunday School at the age of 12, there may have been a connection but not having heard of Mr Bryan before, this aspect may need further research. It's amazing how a little snippet like this develops. It all becomes clear when I later discovered an article in the Western Mail dated 8th June

1901 covering a very large military funeral for the late Lieutenant Tom Bryan who died suddenly whilst on parade. It transpires that he was the band master of the Perth Volunteer Band, not us. However it would seem that every band in Perth at the time, including our own, took part in the funeral parade.

In January 1939 a band contest was held as part of "Fremantle Week". While we were successful in winning sections for Marching and Hymn playing, we were beaten into second place by one point to the Returned Soldiers League Band in the A Grade Test piece. The Test piece was Kenilworth.

Another contest was held as part of the Perth Labour Day celebrations at the beginning of May 1939. Once again the R.S.L Memorial Band came out on top in the own choice test selection by one point, but we took out the honours in the Diagram and Quickstep March competition.

At the same competition one year later, we took out the A Grade title playing "Oliver Cromwell", from the R.S.L. Memorial Band. We were also successful in the Quickstep competition.

The band went into recess during the war with most of the assets stored with Harry Rayner.

In 1947 the band re-formed following the war and as they were no longer with the CMF they had to find another venue. The Perth City Council offered them the use of a building in Robertson Park, originally a theatrette.

This consisted of a stage and store room at the rear of a residence in the corner of Robertson Park. During the war years this property had been used by a Mrs Joiner to cater for a children's play group.

The theatrette was built by the voluntary efforts of the Little Citizens League in 1940 at an approximate cost of \$200.

The doors were later added in 1947 at a cost of \$150 and this unlined and leaky building became home from April 1947 until 1970, when, after our new band room was completed the old house and the stage buildings were demolished.

Sid Shaw is full of stories regarding this old band room. It had a small social room adjacent but this had a lot of athletic equipment stored in it. Sid and Merv Nix decided to do something about it and moved all the equipment out and stored it under the back of the stage area. They cleaned the place out, painted the floor, and added a curtain and Keith O'Neil constructed a bar for them to lean on. At that time they had no refrigerator so the men used to bring a bottle or two of beer wrapped in a wet cloth to keep it cold to enjoy after the rehearsal. It was still a bit cramped and full of smoke but Sid says it had atmosphere, something that went missing when they moved to the new brick band room which in every other respect was far superior. It was dry and the acoustics were far better but with more room the men tended to gather in cliques when it came time to socialise after a rehearsal.

The West Australian on Saturday 18th October 1947 advertised the first public performance of the band following re-forming, which was to take place at the Trafalgar Fair in the Supreme Court Gardens under the baton of H B Halvorsen.

In June 1949 the death of Mr Val Smith was reported. At the time of his death at the age of 57 he was deputy conductor of our band. He had an interesting history having come from South Australia as a child, he was variously a member of the York Town Band, the Hugh McMahon Concert Band, the Albany Town Band, the Blackboy Hill Military Band, the R.S.L. Band and he became bandmaster of the Y.A.L. Band, the Naval Band and the Police Boys Band, all before joining us.

The West Australian on July 18th 1949 reported that the Perth City Band completed the first of a series of nine Sunday afternoon concerts at the Town Hall to be presented by different bands as a prelude to the Silver Chain Contest to be held at the beginning of October. An article a week later quoted Mr Charles Court as saying the coming contest was the first for several years as bands got back to full strength following the war.

The Contest was duly held in October, split between the Fremantle Town Hall and Perth Oval. Perth City Band was Victorious from Subiaco and R.S.L. Bands. Mr J Bramwell, a Victorian bandmaster was the Adjudicator.

At this contest there was a visiting band, The City of Adelaide Municipal Band under their conductor, Mr J.D.Lawson that performed a street march in Fremantle and joined in a massed band finale to the contest.

The Lord Mayor of Perth Mr J Totterdell who presented the trophies, congratulated the Silver Chain Organisation on renewing the Band contests, and after hearing the Adelaide band stated that he would do all in his power to induce the Perth City Council to adopt the Perth City Band and give them the right to include "Municipal" in their name.

It would appear that he was unsuccessful at that time as no change of name came about for another 20 years or so.

Similar to 1949 a series of Concerts were held at the Town Hall in July through to September 1950 by the bands as a prelude to the next Contest.

The books show that we paid £3 for the hire of the hall.

A few days prior to the State contest to be run by the Silver Chain organisation in October 1950, Mr Arthur Mardon, a former President of the band and presently on the Committee of the Western Australian Band Association, died suddenly of a heart attack.. The adjudicator for the coming contest was Mr J Bramwell again, who had brought his band East Kew from Melbourne as a guest band at the contest. The Perth City and Kew bands combined into a band of about 80 at the funeral to give Arthur a fine send off.

Arthur was a highly respected member of the band and a fine bass trombone player.

Perth City was again victorious at the contest and are said to have remained Western Australia's champion band right

through to 1970 inclusive.

In September 1950 the band made one of its many trips to Geraldton, this time to take part in that town's centenary celebrations.

The "Jubilee" State Band Championship Contest in 1951, promoted by the Northam Council of Sporting Bodies was held in Northam in March. Perth City was the winner from R.S.L and Subiaco Municipal – by a very small margin. In May Perth held its biggest pageant to that time as part of the Jubilee celebrations. 180,000 people are said to have lined the route and it is said that it took over 2 hours for the 142 floats to cover the route. Our band together with the mounted police led the parade.

On August 12th a civic church service was held at the Trinity Congregational Church attended by the Lord Mayor Mr J Totterdell M.L.A., and other dignitaries to celebrate the 122nd anniversary of the founding of Perth. Our band marched through the streets prior to the service and later played on the steps and at the social hour afterwards. It shows just one of the many occasions that the band was called on to serve the community and surely indicates the esteem in which it was held at that time.

Later, in September we played at the second "Blessing of the Fleet" ceremony and procession held in Fremantle to bless the fishing fleet. The previous year was the first time this ceremony had been held in Australia and it is assumed we may also have participated in that.

The ceremony has a long tradition in the Italian fishing industry and our participation seems to have been the start of the long and fruitful association with the many Italian Catholic communities throughout Perth.

In 1952 a State Band Contest was held at Loton Park. Perth City took out the title from the R.S.L. Band. Verdi McMahon was the adjudicator, another member of the McMahon family, well regarded in the Eastern States.

Income from the Italian Catholic Community starts to flow in this year, peaking in the late 1960's or '70's with somewhere between eight and ten processions. Following the marches the communities usually showed their appreciation by supplying some liquid refreshments. This sometimes encouraged members to stay on and socialise. A lot of the early arrangements were hand written giving rise to the belief that our band may have been the first to provide this service. Later on, printed versions were purchased direct from Milan. Gradually, other bands secured work and it is known that some and probably most, obtained their arrangements from us.

In May 1953 a march made up of members of the three military services paraded through Perth. The occasion was the 11th anniversary of the battle of the Coral Sea. The Western Command band led the parade but our band was stationed at the saluting base at Trinity Church. H B Halvorsen our conductor was also the Secretary of the Australian American Association and the march was said to be an expression of friendship and good will.

In June another march through Perth comprising 5800 servicemen was held to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen's Colours were paraded past the saluting base, once again on the steps of Trinity Church. The State Governor Sir Charles Gairdner took the salute and our band alternating with the Headquarters Western Command Band played the troops past. 90,000 people were said to have witnessed the occasion.

The band contested in Ballarat in 1953 entering both B Grade and A Grade.

Prior to their departure a farewell function was held at Anzac House at which the conductor H B Halvorsen presented the drum major Gordon McLean with his staff of office.

They apparently were successful in B Grade by quite a margin but finished stone motherless last in A Grade. Sid Shaw says it was silly to enter both grades and expect success against the top bands in the East. He also commented that, "I think it was for about two years we played at the races and trots every week to pay for the trip. We won "B" grade and ran last in "A" grade. The judge was Henry Geehl and he was invited to a party we held after the contest. He wrote in the "British Bandsman" "After the contest I was invited to a party with one of the lower placed bands, great sports these Ausies."

The band did however come 3rd in the A Grade Quick Step competition and picked up 5 other places in solo and ensemble events.

Browsing newspapers I came up with a short piece in the Melbourne Argus dated 27th October 1953 recording the arrival of the Perth City Band and the Barrier Industrial Union Band from Broken Hill at Ballarat for the contest. The last time these bands had competed at Ballarat was 1909 and 1912 and 1909 and 1913 respectively. The interest in this piece was that George Reid travelled with our band, who had been deputy conductor when the band competed in 1909. It also stated that he was a Life Member of our band. This is not recorded elsewhere so one has to wonder how many other Life Members have never been acknowledged in our records.

In May 1954 Jack Anderson, who would at that time been our delegate to the West Australian Band Association, and also Chairman of that organisation reported in the West Australian that a series of "friendly" band contests would be commencing the following day in our band room.

This was a first step to reviving the State Band Contests after what was said to be an absence of 3 years.

He went on to deplore the lack of support to the bands who tirelessly supplied the required music for all occasions with frequently no financial reward.

The 1955 AGM records that there had been 29 engagements for the year - half the previous year

15 trotting

3 turf club

4 Catholic Church

Summer uniforms were suggested.

The Conductor Harrie Halvorsen in his report stated that the present band would have done far better than the band that was taken to Ballarat (in 1953) and perhaps given one or two of the bands something to think about. He felt sure with a little more support all round we could win the coming contest. Knowing what Mr Shugg required and to receive praise from him would be a fitting result. A Harry Shugg had been an adjudicator at Bunbury in 1920 and it is presumed this is the same one. He visited Perth on holidays in 1953/4 and assisted coaching our band towards its proposed State title attempt and was paid £42 for his trouble.

Attendances at practice were once again a major issue.

The Drum major, who is presumed to be Major G Chell, was looking for support at marching practices prior to the contest.

The 1956 AGM covers such items as the Drum Major being Major G Chell who had apparently replaced Gordon McLean who had died during the year.

Previous regular Trotting association jobs were lost during the year by some underhand method not explained. The Conductor Mr H B Halvorsen was not in the least bit worried as it solved what he saw as another problem. In his view practice attendances had fallen away because of the need to practice light music which was of little interest to serious musicians. Rehearsals were now more interesting (in his view) by introduction of music of an A grade standard which brought several old members out of semi retirement "in their search for greater knowledge derived from the practice of music worthy of a band which has been state champions for many years".

Broadcast performances increased again to offset the monetary loss of the trots. Some members must have been sitting in at other bands as he continued "although it was a good thing for a top class band to assist weaker bands he frowned on the idea of 1st class bandsmen abandoning their own band to try and build them up. This was not a good thing because, one must always have one top notch band in any society and by members depleting the ranks of their own band to go and sit in with these third rate "spit and dribble" combinations, it was something to be alarmed at and not encouraged."

Mr Osborne in thanking the band for appointment as V.P. remarked that "the time was fast approaching when money making concerns on Sundays would be a thing of the past and the true artist would take over the education and culture of the public, in the way of performances in gardens and public places of the dramatic arts, such as band music, choral and solo performances by amateur organisations." Sadly, Mr Osborne was living in the past.

39 engagements were undertaken for the year against 29 the previous year.

The 1955 contest saw the band take out 1st in the Test Selection, 1st Own choice, 1st Street March & 2nd in diagram march.

Attendances were only fair during the year - average 20 overall for the year.

New members introduced during the year were M Woods, H Jacobs, B Johnson, T Meyers, G Roeloff & G Chell. Ernie Hobbs left to take up the position of deputy conductor of Vic Park band after 7 years, originally coming from RSL band.

Thanks were expressed to the late drum major Gordon McLean who had got the band up to interstate standard at Ballarat in 1953 and subsequently in state competitions in '54 & '55. "A man of true value and much worth to the Perth City Band."

The possibility of going to Tanunda to enter the contest there in 1957 was discussed at a meeting. This was not followed through as a decision in favour of Ballarat in Oct '58 was accepted instead.

Summer Uniforms – It was agreed to purchase black cummerbunds to be worn in lieu of jackets to be worn with belts - no braces.

A suggestion was made to get WABA to amend the Royal Show program which at that time was a regular combined

band job organised by them , to split up the monies earned on a pro rata basis of actual numbers in the various bands attending rehearsals and show night. It is thought that this move also failed.

A social evening with wives & friends in the Leederville lesser hall was suggested by Charlie Brown with a view to forming a ladies committee.

This resulted in a Social Committee being formed with Doug Buswell & Charlie Brown as joint secretaries.

Charlie had invited his friend Doug to assist in devising some social activity.

This was the start of the Cabaret Dances, perhaps the longest running series of social events ever undertaken by a band in Australia. A much fuller account appears later.

At the AGM that year (1957) the Conductor stressed the need for better attendance, and the need for another soprano player, something WA did not seem to be able to produce compared with Eastern States bands. He also saw the need to form a drum corps at an early date having added another side drum to our other idle drums.

The Secretary detailed the result of the 1956 Bunbury contest.

1st in Test, 2nd Own Choice & Hymn, 1st Quickstep. Prize money £171/10/- eaten up by expenses £208/16/-.

13 paid engagements for year compared to 39 the year before - difference being the loss of the trots job.

Sid Shaw was one of the best attendees that year. Jack Hallett returned to the band.

Gordon O'Neil probably stood in during the year as Treasurer to assist the Secretary.

In 1958 some players were in doubt about obtaining leave to attend the Ballarat contest. Employers were asked to grant one weeks leave in advance against the next years leave entitlement or give a week leave without pay to attend.

We agreed to pay £18 flat rate to members financially embarrassed, presumed to assist those having to take leave without pay.

Drum major G Chell resigned after pressure to curtail outside activities with the CMF and marching girls. Jack Ashton replaced him.

The AGM that year records that there were 19 paid engagements for the year.

Merv Nix was lost to Bunbury and Royce Clarke was gained from Bunbury & J Ashton from Vic Park. Jack Wadeisha also returned from police duties in the country.

The State championships in January were a triumph with the band winning every available event.

These contests seemed to have a moveable date, depending on who was sponsoring them. From about 1957 to 1960 inclusive they formed part of the events held during the Festival of Perth.

The Conductor Harrie Halvorsen commented on the band's improvement and he expected it to do well at Ballarat. Attendances actually improved during the year.

In June the Western Command Band under their conductor WO1 C.P.James, presented a Complimentary Concert to aid the Perth City Band fund raising to attend the Ballarat contest in October.

The Ballarat trip proved successful musically as they came 4th, but financially it was disastrous. It would have been far worse but Doug Buswell organised an impromptu band recital on the platform at the Port Augusta railway station between trains on the way to Ballarat and raised £40 to £50 towards expenses.

The band did very well in the Solo and Ensemble competition, but the shield for that competition, under the rules of the Victorian Band's League can only be won by Victorian bands.

The various functions held earlier had seen an informal Ladies Committee formed among the various wives. These were pressed into service in Ballarat to spruce up the band and their instruments for the band inspection which formed part of the contest proceedings

Finances were a problem in 1959. Bandsmen owing money to the band were written to.

It is assumed that some had to borrow from the band to attend the 1958 Ballarat contest.

There were still problems with the Royal Show. An alternate motion was put to WABA that only bands participating in previous contests be allowed to take part. This also fell on deaf ears. Subsequently a decision was made not to participate unless a more amicable agreement could be reached.

Jack Anderson was to approach N Pearson with a view to encouraging his learners to join the band.

Harrie Halvorsen was to advertise in the West once a month for 6 months for players.

Jack Anderson and executive officers explored sources of finance for a new set of low pitch instruments.

Existing instruments were to be repaired to good order in anticipation of sale.

At the AGM that year Will Hutchings former President and Secretary was elected to Life Membership

There were 14 paid engagements for the year.

One such engagement was a Massed Band and Choral Concert presented by the Adult Education Board at Winthrop Hall in July. Perth City and B.P.Bands were joined by the C.T.A. and Medina Choirs in an interesting program. The success or otherwise is not recorded.

Attendances were down a bit on the previous year and the Secretary gave a pep talk on this subject - before he sought extended leave of absence.

At the 1960 AGM the Secretary read a letter to the band from the town clerk relative to the present band room and spoke of the interest now being taken by the city councillors in the band. The Secretary suggested members consider changing the name of the band to City of Perth and seek permission from the council to use the name and wear the City Coat of Arms on Uniforms. Councillor O'Brien came late to the meeting and made the same suggestions. It would seem that the name change was partly at the suggestion of the council. In effect this was just following what the council had already done in changing their name from Perth City Council to City of Perth. In any event the suggested name change was adopted.

Harrie Halvorsen was named WABA bandsman of the year.

HB (Harrie) and WA (Bill) Halvorsen, Harry Rayner, AJ (Arthur) Purslowe, Jack Anderson and Arthur Holland were considered for life membership by the general committee and this was duly approved.

Secretary Charlie O'Neil reported that he had made it his ambition to acquire a new set of instruments when he took office.

25 new A1 class Besson S.P. low pitch instruments were purchased. The cost was said to be £2600 which even in 1960 seems too low.

The purchase was partly achieved by selling 24 instruments to Geraldton Municipal Council for £1250 (on terms). An approach to the City of Perth obtained a donation of £500. Councillor Stan O'Brien helped. The full price and where the balance came from are not known, but Charlie O'Neil did a fantastic job in appeals around the Perth business district.

The 1960 State Championships were once again a triumph for the band as they won every event. (It may have been the 1959 championships, depending on when they were held, as they were usually late in the year).

A weekly levy of 2/- was suggested to assist purchase the instruments and this was referred to the general Committee.

At the 1961 AGM the poor state of the Roman Catholic Church music was commented on and a decision was made to make arrangements to re write. This was probably done as some old handwritten parts exist and most likely date before the purchase of the printed titles.

The following notes come from Eric Cowan.

Church processions for the Italian Catholic Communities became a major commitment and source of income.

The first one may have been San Nicola in Fitzgerald Street just down the road from the band room. Then there was the Blessing of the Fleet in Fremantle, the Blessing of the Onions down in Spearwood, St Mary's in Leederville for some reason not remembered, St Keenan's in Osborne Park to Bless working tools, somewhere in Marangaroo, St Anthony's in Wanneroo Road, Wanneroo, also Pickering Brook, Kalamunda and St Rocco's in Leederville.

Most of the churches "shouted" the band to a few drinks after the march. After St Anthony's the band and families often ended up at Jack Wadeisha's place in Gngarara Road for a BBQ where Jack would clean out his shed and the band would carry on for the rest of the evening. Enid usually made a big pot of soup for starters. Jack says he can't remember what time of the year it was but the Navel Orange tree carried nice ripe fruit which the children and some adults enjoyed picking and eating. Many of the wives and families would go along, with the kids running wild in the bush as Jack had about 5 acres there. Good noisy times enjoyed by all - no neighbours.

Initially I think Harrie wrote out quite a few of the pieces and arranged a couple of the others. Written in biro the dots ran down the page if the weather turned a bit wet. Royce Clark also wrote out some before the band purchased a set of originals from Italy.

The Band accepted a photo from Viv Nylander of his late 10 year old son Peter who had been the band's very popular drum major mascot. The Nylander family lived near the old Ford Motor Co premises at Leighton beach and Peter was struck by a car crossing the road to the beach, a very sad time for the family and the band.

Elmore Nylander & Cam Holmes joined the band.

Donors were thanked for contributions towards new instruments - particularly from patroness Mrs Thela Courtney.

The best ever contest results was the comment - but not specified.

However a small comment in the West Australian on June 5th 1961 reported that British Brass Band authority Dr Denis Wright, the adjudicator at that contest had said "the playing of The City of Perth Band, winner of every section of the

“A” Grade championship, had enthralled him.”

The 1962 AGM that year records the passing of Bert Post, Gordon O'Neil, Frank Vanderelst and the patroness Mrs Courtney. Her daughter Veecee Courtney assumed the patroness role from her late mother. Her late mother was the daughter of the late Paddy Richards whose tragic death was reported earlier. Veecee continued as one of our patrons through to 1970.

The Empire Games were due in a few weeks.

We approached the City Council for £700 for new uniforms but were turned down - Councillor O'Brien a great supporter of the band had been defeated in the council elections so was not there to support the cause.

At the AGM in 1963 it was reported that Charles Osborne former Vice President and one of the best known bandmen in Australia had died during the year.

The Empire games had come and gone. The controlling body were reported to have made a huge profit. A complaint was made that it was quite noticeable that no bands received any thanks. (And by the look of our balance sheet, no financial reward either) A comment was made that bands would not rush in to assist at any future event such as this.

We held a successful band dinner during the year at Hawthorn Lodge. It was suggested that it be an annual event.

A review of the year at the 1964 AGM discloses the following information.

Over the past few years members of the WYOLA club came to AGM's.

Eric Cowan says that every Anzac Eve about 10 or 12 members would go to the Wyola Club in Fremantle which appears to have been a Social Club of the RSL, and play.

All drinks were supplied – a bit dangerous, being the night before the big Anzac Day march in Perth. He has no idea how the band came to be invited in the first place or how they came to be represented on our committee, but Viv Nylander is believed to have been a member so it is logical to assume that he was the connection.

The band was still unhappy about WABA's decision on the arrangements for the Royal Show and decided they would only participate if Rule 19 was fully observed. It is presumed this was a WABA rule.

The band was in the process of taking WABA to court to obtain £81/12/- because of the distribution of dividends which we apparently thought were not in terms of rule 19.

The Band lost the case against WABA with costs £118.70 and the Secretary called it a travesty of justice.

Our band was a tiger for punishment. On two and possibly three occasions they took the West Australian Band Association to Court and never won once. They must have received poor legal advice, or never sought it.

Former President Arthur Purslowe had died during the year.

Stan Castlehow returned to the band.

The Secretary had been in touch with the Town Clerk Green in respect to proposed new band rooms.

During 1965 A proposed tour of Singapore was discussed as was the matter of new uniforms. These uniforms were for the trip and consisted of light weight trousers and white shirts with epaulettes.

New band room facilities were discussed with some councillors. There was no idea when or if anything would be done.

George Franklin commenced a junior section during the year assisted by Royce Clark and others - some boys were already ready for promotion to senior ranks. This project gradually gained strength until formally established as a junior band in 1968.

The annual financial statement at the 1966 AGM indicates that both a "Ladies" night and a re-union dinner had been held during the year.

On 5th April 1967 the band left for Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in Malaya on the passenger/freight carrier 'Centaur', on the first of their major overseas trips.

A full report follows:

The Singapore Saga 1967

“The City of Perth Band last month enjoyed the very great pleasure of a round trip to Singapore and Port Swettenham on the M.V. “Centaur”.

Accompanying the band were some wives and supporters making up a total party of 47. Much appreciated members of the party were Mr & Mrs Jim Riley, Mr & Mrs Eddie Klemm and Mr Ron Jenkins. Music and happiness were the key

notes of the 16 day tour triggered off at the Fremantle wharf where the Western Command Band supplied a musical send off. The City Band responded by playing two numbers including the tune made famous by Gracie Fields "Wish me Luck as you Wave me Goodbye"

The Band rehearsed each morning on the way to Singapore, there were 'jam' sessions every afternoon in the music room and of course there was dancing at night to music provided by a line up comprising, in addition to Jim, Eddie and Ron, band members John Stirling and Stan Castlehow (saxophones), Viv and Elmore Nylander, Ray Reason and Laurie O'Keefe (trumpets), Campbell Holmes (trombone), Tom Bennett (String bass), and Bob Devenish, Bob Innes and Yeoman Smith (percussion). There were 140 other passengers on the ship and any initial reserve was promptly dispelled by the music and all quickly became a big and happy family.

As the Centaur drew up to the wharf at Singapore we were greeted with music from a smartly uniformed brass band of some 60 school children – all girls!

The City Band returned the compliment by going ashore and playing for the welcomers, most of whom we met next day at a musical workshop arranged by the Education Department at the Conference Hall, a first class functional building complete with air-conditioning and restaurant. All arrangements in Singapore were made by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, and two air-conditioned buses were made available to take from and return to the ship on each assignment, not only the band, but all members of the party. The first function was to lay wreaths at the Kranji War Cemetery and Memorial about 14 miles from Singapore city.

From there the party went to the Sri Tamasek back in Singapore for a civic reception by the Minister of Education, Mr. Ong Pang Boon, on behalf of the Government of Singapore. After exchanges of felicitations and presentation of goodwill messages from the W.A. Government, City of Perth, Director of Education and. Lions Club, a sumptuous Chinese meal was served and the Band rendered several items. The sincerity of the welcome by leading officials of the two Ministries and of the National Theatre Trust and their obvious friendliness set the pattern for the whole visit which was to be repeated wherever we went

At the reception the Minister described the band as "sound" ambassadors and said their visit was opportune as it came at a time when Singapore was embarking on a wider range of extramural activities in the schools to produce a complete citizen! He said it was Singapore's policy to further enlarge the areas of co-operation with Australia be it social, economic, educational or cultural. One practical example of this noted by the visiting band was the formation of brass bands in the schools over the past few years and it is understood that the Government has supplied each secondary school with a set of brass band instruments. The school teachers have an adult band of about 65 with military band instrumentation. At the end of the workshop session, attended by over 200 children representative of those interested in brass bands at their respective schools, the brass section of the teacher's band combined with the City band to rehearse several items for the concert that night at the National Theatre. This concert was arranged by the National Theatre Trust and attracted an appreciative audience of well over 3000. The program included a bracket of items for trumpets and rhythm arranged and conducted by Jim Riley.

After returning from Kuala Lumpur the band created history by giving the first ever lunch hour concert at Raffles Place Gardens and the same evening it gave a recital at Hong Lim Green, playing to over 3000 people at each place.

These appearances, together with pre-visit publicity sponsored by the Singapore Government, daily references in both English and Chinese press, radio and Television, undoubtedly had an impact on the whole community thus fully achieving the band's purpose of reaching the minds of our northern neighbours with a musical message of friendship and goodwill. The publicity was further augmented by some thousands of brochures containing a photograph and history of the band and a message of goodwill addressed to the people of Singapore by the Hon. C.W.M. Court, Minister of Industrial Development and the North West, on behalf of the Government and peoples of Western Australia.

An example of the interest created by the band's presence in Singapore which will be appreciated by musicians was the public presentation at the Raffles Place Gardens lunch hour concert of a march specially composed and dedicated to the City of Perth Band entitled "Welcome Australia". The composer was Mr. G.A. Soliano, President of the Musicians Union of Singapore and Director of Music of the Singapore Defence Forces which corresponds to our C.M.F. Mr Soliano expressed himself as delighted with the musical standard of the band and enjoyed all its programs.

The one day visit to Kuala Lumpur was all too short. Here again the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education of Malaya were our hosts. They supplied buses to take from and return the whole party to the Centaur at Port Swettenham. A very interesting drive through rubber plantations led us to a most beautiful and impressive war memorial where the band carried out a wreath laying ceremony which was televised. From there they went to Kuala Lumpur Town Hall, where the party was formally received by the Commissioner of the Federal Capital. The reception was followed by an hour's recital by the band, which was recorded for broadcast by Radio Malaysia. Among the audience were most of the 100 members of the Royal Malaysian Police Force Band, a group photo of which was presented to us by Captain Alias Archad, their Musical Director. The visiting party was then entertained at a special luncheon of local foods at one of the leading hotels by the Secretary to the Ministry of Culture and other public officials.

The afternoon was spent sight-seeing and the return journey to Port Swettenham. Here again, in Malaya, the visitors were treated with the utmost courtesy and friendliness and made to feel most welcome. Indeed everyone seemed keen that we should come again and stay longer.

The return voyage of the Centaur from Singapore to Fremantle was again made to music and an interesting episode was when the ship hove to close to Christmas Island to deliver mail. A message had earlier been sent to the Island with greetings from the band and saying the band would play some items on the ship in the hope that they may be heard by those on the Island. A radio message was afterwards received expressing the appreciation of the Islanders and extending

their good wishes to all on board.

The culmination of the voyage was a fancy dress ball which put the seal on the opinion that it was the most enjoyable round trip the Centaur had ever had. The whole of the passengers signed a testimonial thanking the band, and the Captain and Officers signed and presented a chart of the voyage and a photograph of the ship as their mark of appreciation.

What originally started off as a holiday finished up as a major goodwill gesture to our northern neighbours which succeeded beyond our wildest expectations. The band went at its own expense and on a completely altruistic basis and this was highly appreciated. This is evidenced by the fact that our hosts want us to come again and are talking about sending some of their cultural groups to Australia on exchange visits.

Finally, the members of the band would like to say how much they enjoyed the company and services of their friends of the Musicians Union and wish to thank them also for the generous help of so many Union members at various functions leading up to and making possible this unique and historical venture."

Return and reciprocal visits were planned.

One small story comes from Eric Cowan on that trip. "The ship called at Christmas Island to drop off mail. It was an opportunity for Captain Williams to instruct the crew to do lifeboat drill. Ray Reason "Leather Lips" had permission to be in one of the lifeboats as they did laps around the ship. Ray never stopped playing tunes; the last one as the lifeboat was being raised back on board was "He Played his Ukulele as the Ship Went Down". I don't know that the Captain was all that pleased".

At the AGM agitation for new band room facilities was gathering momentum. It was decided that a written approach be made to Perth City Council to clarify their intentions.

Possibly as a result of that approach three persons were named as a deputation to meet them.

About this time the band wrote to many other bands throughout Australia regarding our plans - probably finding out if their band rooms had been financed by the councils.

Charlie Brown commented that Constitution amendments were made at this AGM to rationalise the situation where previously the Chairman was a player but the President was someone from outside, often a person of note, more like a Patron who rarely attended except to chair the AGM. From then on the player Chairman became the President. These provisions were eventually included in a re draft when the band became an incorporated body in 1976.

Doug Buswell was made an ex officio member of the committee because of his involvement in social matters..

An old timer's day was set for the 3rd December, and for a while these successful events became a regular feature.

Some time during 1968 a Sub committee comprising Harrie Halvorsen, Eric Cowan C Holmes & Bob Devenish was appointed to receive and discuss suggestions for plans of the proposed new band room.

Eric drew up sketch plans but eventually the Council provided plans of their own. The band room as built was a bit too small but the acoustics were said to be good. The biggest drawback to the new premises was the inclusion of shared public toilets.

Charlie Brown commented that with Arthur Purslowe as a player and Band Chairman and later a City Councillor with his association with the Lord Mayor and other councillors – particularly Stan O'Brien from the Court Hotel and Harrie Halvorsen's standing in the business community the Council eventually came on side after years of lobbying.

Junior band activities were set to commence on 18/11/1968, and instruments were sent for repair to be ready. A sub committee was to be formed at the next meeting.

Junior band requirements were agreed on and additional junior band rules were devised to be added to the existing band rules.

An approach was made to the education dept to find out which schools conducted bands.

It was decided that so called Ladies nights would be discontinued whilst cabarets were being run.

There were 11 paid engagements for the year.

A Trombone was bought in 1969 from Western Command band for \$160. Funds which must have been pretty tight were to be raised separately to cover.

At the AGM that year it was reported that attendance had been better than for some time.

The junior band had been in operation for 10 months and had a membership of approximately 14. (No committee set up as yet.) Jack Anderson, Bob Johnson and Ray Reason seemed to be the prime movers.

The long awaited second Singapore trip was set to leave on 23/4/1970.

A letter from the Education Dept in November set out details of a proposed day trip to Harvey Agricultural High School

and Bunbury High Schools to participate in sessions at student music camps being held there. There is no further information as to whether the trip actually took place. It is assumed this move was to be seen as actively supporting youth bands with a view to strengthening our own.

Second Singapore Trip

April 23rd 1970 saw the City of Perth Band on their second trip to Singapore, the previous trip being in 1967.

A total party of 96 people, including bandmen, sailed by M.V. "Centaur," after celebrations were held to mark the ship's 100th voyage. A prize of a free trip to Singapore and \$100 spending money for the 25000th passenger went the way of Mrs. Eldred Klemm, wife of well known pianist Eddie Klemm.

The "scene" for the 18 day trip was naturally music.

Every morning the band under the baton of Harrie Halvorsen provided a varied selection of music which was well received. In the afternoon "jam" sessions took place, along with Jim Riley's Big Brass, which has a great sound. Music for dancing at night was provided by the well known Ron Jenkin's group (Ron, Jim Riley and Nutty Cook), also Eddie Klemm (piano), Elmore Nylander, Ray Reason, Norm McMahon, Laurie O'Keefe, Greg Johnson (trumpets), John Stirling, Don Steel (Saxophones), Campbell Holmes, Gary Roelofs (Trombone), Bob Devenish (Percussion). The organisation of the ship's entertainment was left in the very capable hands of Doug Buswell, who is well known to many Perth people as a compere – master of ceremonies.

Several public performances in Singapore were given by the Band, including a recital at Jurong Town. This fast growing town is approximately 16 miles from Singapore and is the ship's first call before berthing at Singapore proper. The Government is successfully encouraging light industries workings and also building thousands of flats to accommodate the employees and their families. The progress is amazing.

Another memorable occasion was a music workshop conducted by the band in conjunction with the Education Department. Seventy School bandmen and women, each one representing a school band attended. The fundamentals of music were explained to them by Mr Halvorsen and then each segment of the band gave a "teach in", followed by a massed band performance.

Other concerts were given at Botanical Gardens, in a beautiful setting, and also at the famed Raffles Place, right in the heart of the city.

During the period on board the ship Doug Buswell organised a "Perth New Faces" and on another night a Talent Quest. The variety and talent produced those nights was a credit to the participants. The adjudicators were ABC and Union man Peter Harrison and Nutty Cook who both gave excellent advice and criticism. There, of the outstanding acts were Campbell Holmes as Peggy Lee, Laurie O'Keefe as the stripper and Ken Walker's tap dance act.

The band called in at Broome on 6th May and at night a Grand Ball was held at the Road's Board Hall. 300 people attended and it proved a terrific success in spite of continuous rain. No doubt exists that this would be the finest music and floor shows ever heard or seen in this remote spot.

A fancy dress ball held two nights out of Fremantle provided many laughs and our thanks go to all participants and the "Centaur" for donating wonderful prizes.

The members of the band would once again like to say thank you to their many friends from the Musicians Union who have helped out at many of our social functions and our special thanks to Ron, Jim, Nutty and Eddie for their efforts on our trip.

This article was written by Bob Devenish.

An aside to the Singapore trip contributed by Sid Shaw compares the first and second trips.

On the first trip he and another attempted to walk back to their hotel or ship from an engagement they had just played. After about 40 metres they gave up and took a taxi as the stench from garbage and human waste in the water ways was too much. On the second trip Sid says you could have eaten off the pavements, they were so clean. Such was the effect of Lee Kuan Yew's government in those few short years.

In this enlightened year it would seem that a move had again been made to allow a female to join the band.

At a meeting when the matter was discussed it was moved by John Stirling and seconded by Laurie O'Keefe that no female be allowed to become a member of the band and they could only rehearse with the band by invitation. This motion was carried.

Well girls, what do you think of that?

Don't think too badly of those who were not in favour. Up to that time nearly all Brass bands were considered a male preserve.

Many people in the band were adamant against women joining. However, the claim later in this record that Beth Brown was the first female admitted appears to be incorrect. Eric Cowan says that an Englishman named Mike James migrated to Australia. A carpenter and joiner by trade he was a good trombone player. He was only quite young and his wife Pamela had also played in a band in England, but of course was barred here. Eventually she was allowed in and the band supplied her with a skirt and she played with the band. She was a very good cornet player. For some reason or other they could not hack it here and returned to the UK. Don't know why really as Mike loved it here.

This was also the year that Eric Cowan and Viv Nylander won the state Duet championship.

Laurie O'Keefe and Elmore Nylander steered a motion that the new band room be called City of Perth Band - Halvorsen Hall. By this time approaches to the council had been successful and the new band room in Robertson Park was under

construction.

The council agreed to the band room name in June 1970.

The question of a future conductor arose owing to recent ill health of Harrie Halvorsen.

At the AGM Harrie suggested appointment of a locum conductor in view of his poor health. He obviously never thought of giving it away and understandably would wish to remain in charge until the new band room in his family name had been commissioned.

Campbell Holmes spoke about the junior band where only 4 juniors were presently interested. He hoped for more interest when the new band room was finished.

Attendances once again required comment.

Don Steel, Ken Walker & Greg Johnson all joined the band this year.

Cabarets were still going strong.

Terry Francis was to be approached to take over the position of Librarian as he had more time than the previous appointees.

The old band room had very little capacity for storing music just two smallish cupboards and a few boxes. A lot of work was done trying to sort it out before the move to new premises, but it was still a massive job at the other end if you read Les Hogg's story.

The new band room was opened on 28th November 1970 and a report from that event follows.

The Architects for the building were Moyle and Barrett, the Builder was F H Ferguson and the contract price was \$25705.

President A.J.E.(Arthur) Holland

Mr Holland gave a run down on the history of the band and its conductors over the years

He estimated the cost to outfit a band in 1970 was \$25000

The major project for the band was now to form a Junior Band

Harrie Halvorsen the then conductor nearing retirement took the stage.

"Between my father, self and brother Bill we have given a combined 80 years service to music in WA in brass, orchestral and other music.

The Band has played at many functions including a welcome to the American fleet in Albany in 1905 (actually 1908) and assisted at all Royal visits.

It played at the opening of the Italian Club.

It has also been largely responsible for the successful commencement of the Marching Girls movement in WA.

It has played at almost every notable event in WA at different times.

It has undertaken trips in 1967 & 1970 to Singapore & Kuala Lumpur

It has been a regular contributor to the ABC both state and National

From 1933 - 1945 it was the Regimental Band of 11th Battalion City of Perth CMF regiment.

Harrie concluded with these words of wisdom:-

"What sort of individual makes a good bandsman -

In the first place he must have a good love of music and be dedicated to home practice and regular attendance at rehearsals every Thursday night and Sunday morning throughout the year. From this you will see he has to have a sympathetic wife and family. By constant application he gains experience, discipline and loyalty, and at the same time building up personal friendships with the other bandsmen which last a lifetime.

The band has always strived to, and in fact has maintained a high standard of quality and there is of course no end to this job.

It has always been a good heavy toned band with a wealth of tradition behind it, and this has been a large factor in its success in winning every A grade state championship contest for very many years including this year (1970) and I cannot give more emphasis to the value of tradition. Don't let anybody tell you that there is nothing in tradition. Traditions are the most important, most valuable, most vital things for any organisation to build up, possess and maintain."

Bill Halvorsen then had a few words.

He produced a watch presented to his father also W Halvorsen, by the West Australian Infantry Regimental Band in April 1905 in appreciation of his services. The watch was still working in 1970.

The following are Bill's words of wisdom on having the Band room named in honour of their family.

"I know that this family (Halvorsen's) has the heart to appreciate what has been done but I hope this family (City of Perth Band) will have the grace not to forget it."

(It is now quite a few years since Harrie and Bill made those comments but it will be a terrible shame if their legacy to the band is ever forgotten.)

The band then played "The President", and "B.B. & C.F".

The Mayor of Perth Sir Thomas Wardle then officially opened the new band room and thanked councillors Jim DelPiano, Michaels and Reid, and also J.A.(Mick) Lee the works committee head.
(Bob Devenish also advises that the Town Clerk Mr G.O. (Ossie) Edwards had also been heavily involved.)

It had been built specifically as a headquarters for the Band on the unanimous vote of the council.

The band then played a short concert which included the following items:

Bobby Shafto

Othello

An An

Rosary

Queens Own

An interesting aside to the completion of the band room was the terms of the lease.

The initial term was for 21 years at an annual rental of \$1.00 plus water, electricity and any other charges – all payable on demand. No demand was ever made, a significant additional contribution by the City. Bob Devenish advised that he thought \$1.00 changed hands to cement the lease and that the band played a number of Sunday Concerts at various venues at no charge.

The band room was not to be let or loaned, as per lease. Over the years many people within the band complained about the lack of council assistance, but with the provision of the band room and the meeting of almost all overheads, the band received more than adequate sponsorship during that period.

In 1971 Alf Innes was appointed Senior Administration Vice President whatever that means, and as a trustee.

The band advertised for a new conductor.

At the AGM held on 15/8/1971

Thanks were extended to Eric Cowan for making furniture and fittings for the new band room in Robertson Park at no labour cost.

The major items being display cabinets for holding the band trophies and also included the music library shelving. He also arranged for the hanging of all the old band photographs, honour boards and shields, spending many hours mostly on his own.

The acting conductor Royce Clark said the standard of music was very poor when he took over. He remarked that "The days of mediocre music and sloppiness of bandsmen were over," however it is noted that he wrote to the band on 19th May withdrawing from the position on the grounds that his own playing ability had deteriorated, however our records indicate he remained until 1973.

A move was made to purchase two new orchestral drums. Harry Rayner and Bob Devenish were to conduct research. The result was that we obtained a pair of timpani from H Wilkes of Sydney.

A vote of thanks was extended to John & Mrs Stirling and others that had a hand in setting up the new band room.

Les Hogg also was complemented on the progress made in setting up the new library. He had only rejoined the band in 1970 after retirement from his normal day job, having previously served as librarian pre war.

Syd Court & Fred Gfeller joined the band that year.

Harrie Halvorsen passed away in July and was duly sent off in true banding fashion which was much appreciated by his widow. It was a sad occasion but it must have been satisfying to him to have seen the new premises come to fruition.

The draft of another new constitution was presented and accepted unanimously.

The band did not compete in the State championships in 1971 as they would have been the only "A" Grade band entered.

ABC broadcasts were resumed in November after a review of “artists” had been undertaken in May. The format consisted of a rehearsal and recording session on a Sunday morning with the broadcast taking place at about mid – day the following Saturday. The fee for these sessions was set at \$60.

A note from Eric Cowan follows.

The band used to go down to the old ABC studios, a big weatherboard building where Council House now stands, and record programs for later broadcast on a band program of a Sunday afternoon, along with other recorded bands from around Australia. This continued every 6 to 8 or 10 weeks – even after the ABC moved to their new premises in Adelaide Terrace. Harrie Halvorsen being an ABC commissioner most likely accounted for why our band got the job. I don’t know if the band got paid for them but we did lots and lots of them. The program used to go to air 5 or 6 weeks later so we got advised when we were coming on so would gather to listen to them.

After some questions had been raised over the band consuming alcohol in the new premises, which may have been against some clause in the lease, the band allayed the concerns of the Council and at last, a letter was received from council allowing consumption of alcohol at normal practices.

Under the Baton of Norm McMahon, a section of the band participated with distinction at the “Jazz Jamboree” sponsored by the R & I Bank as part of the 1972 Festival of Perth attractions. The program organised by Harry Bluck was a huge success.

In April Mr Ted McMahon wrote to the band suggesting less reliance on parade type entertainment and a bias towards concerts. The rationale was sparked by his experience in the Army band, their impending change from a Brass to a Military band format and the changes taking place in the Education Dept. He also suggested the introduction of French Horns and Saxophones – which suggests he thought our band should follow suit.

A new treasurer was required and Jack Anderson, that stalwart of the band was appointed.

AGM comments that year indicate that attendances had fallen away again. The Drum major still wanted to do more marching practice & jobs.

"George Franklin addressed the meeting and spoke of the age of the members. To combat this he suggested we should foster junior members to every degree. To hold interest the band should be prepared to play all varieties of music and also do more charity shows. Campbell Holmes spoke of the almost impossibility of getting names and addresses of school leavers. The President added that it would be a good idea to offer our services for school fetes and thus advertise in that manner."

Merv. Rowston suggested a competition for school bandsmen and an approach to P & C Association for names etc. It was left to the General Committee to follow up.

Mrs Holmes was thanked for typing assistance to the librarian. Campbell Holmes was thanked for help and devotion in training the small band of juniors.

Campbell Holmes was also thanked for setting up a visitor’s book and T Bardsley for varnishing the stand. This comment relates to the wooden conductor’s stand.

This item is believed to have been made by Frank Vanderelst, some time before 1961. Tom Bardsley is thought to have added the shelf to hold the visitors book and varnished the refurbished item. The visitor’s book never gets used as it never resides on the shelf made for it.

There are some older members who believe the shelf was added to hold Harrie Halvorsen’s ‘bible’, a copy of Rupert Hughes Music Lovers’ Encyclopaedia’ which he was in the habit of producing to explain music terms to the band, so it is quite probable it was placed on the shelf, displacing the visitors’ book for which it was made.

Sid Tidey joined band during the year and George Franklin had returned.

A typewriter was purchased for the librarian for \$49.

This was a small portable one on which the librarian Les Hogg completely typed out the full library catalogue several times over the following years prior to computerisation.

The band also purchased 2 second hand Ludwig tympani for about \$650 from a Harry Wicks in Sydney. They had previously been assembled locally from imported parts by Jack Purdon, J.C. Williamson’s No.1 man.

In 1973 a youth contest that had been proposed for March was cancelled.

As a means of trying to get young recruits the band had tried via several means to host a youth contest. It was advertised via P & C Association journal and other means. There were no entrants.

Sir Charles Court was written to, setting out the problems they were having getting through to young potential bandsmen and a copy was sent to the WABA.

AGM comments that year included the statement that more home practice was required.

A concert at the new concert hall was the best the conductor had heard the band play. The luxury of having three Western Command bandsmen on the books was commented on.

The Drum major still wanted regular marching practice.

The delegate spoke of WABA problems. Also about the Junior Band Council which was set up to deal with money donated by TE Wardle, of "Tom the Cheap" grocer fame.

New members during the year included Greg Kelly,

Cabarets were still running successfully.

A further trip to Singapore proposed for Sept '74 was commented on.

The band was asked to admit associate members.

The first application for Associate membership was received from Ron Thickbroom.

Treasurer and custodian of "the back room", Jack Anderson sent a letter of resignation from those positions. He stated that he was not prepared to support the present administration, particularly when senior executives rarely attended, and rehearsals were at times so poor that the conductor was also tempted to throw in the towel. After about 50 years of involvement in the band he was not prepared to continue to contribute when others were not.

This resulted in a vote of confidence in the existing administration being carried.

Charlie Brown became the replacement treasurer.

Fred Gfeller was put in charge of the back room with Bob Devenish to assist, but it was not long before Fred had to give up the position for other pressing duties, and Jack was back in control.

The band undertook its 3rd tour to Singapore via the M.V. "Centaur" in 1974.

There does not appear to be any written or verbal report of this trip.

The only thing that is known is that Charlie and Flo Brown were married on that day and only just managed to make it to the boat to join the band party before the ship sailed.

No doubt the trip was as good as the earlier ones.

The band heard that WABA was then being supplied with school leaver's names. This was followed up for our own recruiting purposes. The band received a letter from WABA indicating that Sam Maher was the person to contact re school leavers.

Sam Maher advised that the Education Dept does not supply names.

Rightly or wrongly it seemed fairly obvious to outsiders that he was the only one with inside knowledge and was keeping it to himself to enable him to recruit the best pupils for his own band. Maybe confidentiality rules were in place back then but this was doubted by many as the reason for non disclosure.

Long service medals were suggested for bandsmen with 20 years service. This must be where the awarding of life membership to those with 20 years continual service dates from.

An Honour board was suggested and Norm Barton was approached to make it.

Les Hogg was given the job of cleaning the band room at \$10 per month.

At the AGM it was reported that new members during the year included Don Barnes and Reg McDonald

Royce Clark resigned as conductor in February and George Franklin took over.

Retiring President Arthur Holland was thanked for his leadership over the previous 5 or 6 years.

Vice Patrons in future to be called Patrons. Up to and even following this time, several patrons had been named each year, with a distinction between one Patron and the remainder named as Vice Patrons. Presently we seek one.

New instruments and a proposal to extend the band room were discussed, and this only four years after taking up occupancy. The Council was approached to determine best approach for financial assistance.

As a result the City engineer was to survey the band room with a view to enclosing the entrance porch. Financial assistance may not be forthcoming.

The possibility of introducing reed and woodwind instruments to the band was discussed and deferred to the next meeting.

Geo Franklin expressed pleasure with the youth in the band and mentioned publicity received by the band through the 6PR radio appeal.

Norm McMahon was thanked for the making and presentation of the conductors stand. This item is uncertain. It appears

it is neither the large, or small wooden music stand or the folding box for the conductor to stand on. Perhaps it is the larger carpet covered stand for the conductor to stand on.

Fred Gfeller requested that the back room close no later than 1.00am Friday mornings and 2.00pm Sunday afternoons. (Ah - those were the days)

Band bannerettes were purchased for presentation to visitors and also sale. 100 were purchased at \$1.50 each and were to be sold to members for \$3 each. The practice of presentation to visitors seems to have ceased of late, or perhaps we no longer get visitors.

Life membership badges were now in hand. Discussions were held on a date and place and who would present. There is no mention of who was to receive the honour but it is assumed it related to the mass presentation to those with 20 years service not mentioned elsewhere in the minutes.

Eric Cowan says he was one, but Cam Holmes claimed he was too young to get one. (Aged 40 and already with the best part of 24 years service to the band?)

A new baritone was purchased for \$290 in 1975 and the draft of a new constitution was accepted by the band subject to approval by the Companies Registration Office

This was followed by a letter from the Companies Registration Office to the effect that the suggested name of the band (City of Perth Band Inc.) was undesirable. They would reconsider the position after they received permission in writing from the Perth City Council.

PCC lawyers studied the band's constitution.

A letter was received from City of Perth requiring an amendment to Clause 17. (This related to any proposed constitution amendments)

Add

"provided that prior to convening a Special General Meeting the Secretary shall submit for approval by the Council of the City of Perth, the proposed amendment to the rules and, should the approval of the City of Perth be not given, the amendment shall be deemed to have lapsed."

(This requirement remained until the constitution was re drafted in 1999, when it was left out of the new draft without any comment being received from the department handling the new registration. Attempts had been made to have the new draft approved by the City of Perth without any response, so the amended rules were lodged and registered without any questions being asked.)

A letter from Perth City Council was received at a meeting on 28th June 1975 granting permission to rename the Band "City of Perth Band Incorporated", recognition a long time coming. Incorporation was finally completed in early 1976.

Two young men joined band - Lindsay Timms and Colin Joyce.

Eldred Klemm organised a demonstration of "The Alberts" at a Cabaret.

A little old fashioned, even for 1975 but apparently it was a well produced 'floor show' in period costume and well received by the audience.

The conductor's honorarium to Geo Franklin was set at \$500

The O'Neil family were thanked for the donation of a stop watch in memory of their parents.

Charlie O'Neil a former Secretary and father of Gordon, Keith and Wally had passed away in February at the age of 87.

The purchase of a small plaque for attachment to the honour board acknowledging its donation by the O'Neil family was authorised.

(The board was made by Norm Barton as mentioned earlier and somewhere or other Jack Anderson was involved.)

At the AGM that year the delegates report included information that an approach had been made to the Education Dept to relax their restrictions on dual membership of students with school bands and community bands. Apparently no restriction applied apart from that applying to equipment used for other than school work. They would not interfere with any local restrictions which in some cases may have been imposed because of students in class interrupting with statements such as "our bandmaster says that is wrong" or "our bandmaster does it differently to that" etc. After this meeting a small "but not complete" leavers list was published on an annual basis. This was apparently short lived.

A Yamaha Tenor Horn was purchased for \$240.

The possible introduction of women to band was raised again - John Stirling (again) and A Innes were the prime movers against, and again the move was defeated.

Accurate records of membership were to be kept.

These are very valuable records historically. When paper based it would be relatively easy to trace a members banding history. Now with computerisation, I wonder if it is as easy, but new laws to be enacted sometime in 2011 or shortly after will make it mandatory to hold this information.

In his first annual report, the President Laurie O'Keefe commented that each committee person had been allocated a specific responsibility and that they had responded with detailed reports at each meeting. Another aspect was the inviting of certain ordinary members to a meeting when it was thought they could add to the clarification of certain matters. This was particularly constructive in the case of the library and the Cabaret's, when Les Hogg and Doug Buswell respectively were invited to attend.

During the year the band slogan "A Sound Tradition since 1898" was adopted, bannerettes were obtained for presentation to visitors, the band anthem was composed, and a newsletter called "The Mouthpiece" was published, and the first "Ladies Night" social evening was held, although there may have been earlier social evenings but perhaps not quite so formal.

In 1976 thanks were extended to Dennis Wragg for making the shelving in the library, which is thought to have been that used for storing the drums and other major equipment, as Eric Cowan had constructed much of the furnishings in the new band room.

A new fridge (still being used) was purchased. Jack Anderson who had spent a lot of his time in control of the "back room" donated \$100 towards its purchase..

Geo. Franklin commented that the band had the services of two new bandsmen - one of whom was Brian Underwood.

Laurie O'Keefe was commended for work done in organising what became known as the Rottnest Convention.

For the first convention the band booked the Lodge for accommodation and meals.

The program started off each morning like a military exercise with P.T. parades at Reveille.

Workshop items during the day included lectures by Captain Colin Harper of 5MD band, music quizzes and rehearsals. The band also gave free concerts in the hotel courtyard to popular acclaim.

This first so called convention was probably not the first time the band had visited Rottnest. There is a tent peg mallet in the trophy room indicating an earlier visit was accommodated in tents, possibly when the band also doubled as an infantry regiment band.

Kirwan Ward infamous for his back page column in the now defunct Daily News, alongside Paul Rigby's cartoon, wrote the following article.

"Practically everything has happened over on Rottnest these last few years when the winds of change have whistled round the old settlement with all the subtlety of cyclone Tracy, but, come April, even the most sophisticated of the modern breed of quokkas is in for a shock.

The City of Perth band will be staging its first ever convention over there, and if you don't fancy the oompohpah beat, my advice to you is to nick out to Narrow Neck until the all-clear is sounded. Personally I am a sucker for band music, and no amount of the canned stuff over amplifiers at sports meetings will ever be an acceptable substitute for the sight and sound of a good band.

However, this won't be by any means the first time that the brassy echoes have gone bouncing about on old Henry Vincent's buttresses and put the astonished Rottnest crows to flight. In December 1936 an army band, all scarlet tunics and white helmets, marched invincibly all the way up to the summit of View Hill, belting out Sousa selections. Luckily there was no pub in those days, because the assembled Netherlands government representatives wore top hats, and any bloke coming home from the pub and encountering top hats on Rottnest might well have imagined himself to be coming down with a severe attack of the Joe Morgans.

The object of this curious 1936 exercise was the unveiling, by the late Jimmy Mitchell, of the Vlamingh lookout. There may well have been other occasions of great musical significance on Rottnest but all I can remember is my own cultural contribution which was a solo rendition with ukulele accompaniment, of that great classic "Frankie and Johnny" that's still talked about whenever good judges of discord get together".

The birthday orchestra is worth commenting on here as it probably originated at one of these camps.

Birthdays were always celebrated with the usual birthday song and toast.

Stan Castlehow on Baritone was always the sole musician but had trouble playing by ear so Norm McMahon stepped up behind and did the fingering while Stan blew. It became the regular Birthday Orchestra. In later years Stan sometimes forgot which tune he was supposed to be blowing so the fingering did not match the blowing, resulting in much hilarity. At a later date they were farewelling some departing band members and attempted to play the 'Maori's Farewell' in what was said to be keys not yet invented.

A new BBb Bass was purchased for \$1000 that year.

Members were reminded by the librarian to keep music folders off the floor.
(Nothing has changed)

Merit and long service certificates were introduced, which by the time the band had moved to Queens Gardens, this

practice seemed to be another tradition lost along the way.

New members during the year included Jim Jackson, Ben Titheridge, Neil Gilchrist, Steve Shaw, Harold Cope and Keith Smith.

For the first time in the history of the band a new member in Neil Gilchrist was formally inducted into the band, which is another practice that has been discontinued.

Some items that were discussed included:

Changing to a concert band

A junior band

Becoming blood donors

(Their blood has always been worth bottling)

The Cabaret venue changed from Anzac House to Subiaco Civic Centre during the year.

Laurie O'Keefe in his band publication "the President's Mouthpiece" commented as follows.

"After many years, the Cabarets have become so popular that accommodation at Anzac House has become uncomfortable. Additionally, the burden of carrying chairs and tables from the basement and inadequate parking facilities in Perth prompted the Committee to examine other venues – and Subiaco Civic Centre was the unanimous choice.

The expanse of the Civic Centre will accommodate at least an extra 150 persons in a much superior setting and parking presents no problems.

The cost of the Centre is \$100 more than Anzac House, but this should be more than offset by increased attendance."

Laurie goes on to exhort the band persons to publicise and sell tickets – a not unfamiliar request.

An electronic tuner was purchased for \$60, a Glockenspiel for \$210 and Congo Drums for \$340

The Presidents report also commented on 15 year service certificates being presented to Campbell Holmes, Elmore Nylander and Yeoman Smith, with merit certificates for service going to dance band musicians Jean Fitch, Watson Cruikshank, Eddie Klemm, Terry Francis, Peter Josephsen, Tom Pimblett, "Rusty" Hammer, Merv Rowston and Ray Wilkins.

Campbell Holmes, Colin Joyce and Sid Tidey won the Trombone trio section of the state solo and ensemble competition, while the trombone quartet of Campbell Holmes, Les Underwood, Norm Barton and Jack Frost was also successful.

In the quintet section, Kim McClure, Don Barnes, Sid Shaw, Ray Fraser and Greg Kelly won out and so did the Sextet of Kim McClure, Lindsay Timms, Sid Shaw, Ray Fraser, Campbell Holmes, Les Underwood and Jack Wadeisha.

Junior and Juvenile Soloist, Colin Joyce also added to the trophy list.

Doug Buswell was awarded the President's trophy for his outstanding contribution over 25 years.

President Laurie O'Keefe's concluding remarks are worth repeating as they apply equally in most respects to the band today.

"When compiling an Annual Report it becomes difficult to refrain from being repetitive. This is because, on analysis, banding IS repetitive. Rehearsals and engagements follow much the same format year after year, and the continuing need for money to provide new instruments, uniforms and music etc., can tend to become monotonous.

Here then lies the challenge. A challenge to all, particularly the Committee, to see that banding does not become monotonous, hum-drum and boring.

I sincerely feel that we have accepted and won the challenge. The year has not been hum-drum, in fact in some cases it could be described as electrifying.

Excellent music, under the baton of George Franklin, good fellowship amongst the bandsmen, warm participation from the ladies, has confirmed the prediction from last year and set the standard for the future.

And the future IS secure, when the calibre of the young musicians in our midst is taken into account".

Signed: Laurie O'Keefe

In the intervening years has the band maintained that standard and optimism?

Alf Toll was cleared to Canning band in 1977.

The Phillips 3 in 1 radiogram was purchased and it remained in use until 2009.

The Conductor was to organise the detailed perusal of all records to ensure unimportant data was disposed of and the remainder correctly filed.

Perhaps this is when the old minutes from 1924 to 1955 were lost, but unlikely. Most likely they went missing during

the period of the 2nd World War when the band was in recession and it is assumed there was not a band room to house the library and other records. Charlie Brown thought differently as those records would have been required to provide the details on the Honour Boards which were not made until after 1970.

It is still surprising that this job was not given to the Secretary who by law would be responsible at least for the preservation of minutes and correspondence.

Perry Lakes Stadium as a band room was looked at and deemed unsatisfactory.

This less than 7 years after occupying the new band room it would seem that the band was looking for larger premises. The President was again to consult with friends on the council re extensions.

The band was to look into the possibilities of advertising in respect to the formation of a military style band and for new members.

Notices were to be sent to schools regarding students leaving who may wish to join our band.

At the AGM in 1977 mention was made of a second convention at Rottneest.

New faces included Warren and Glen Wells but lost the services of Harold Moody, Jim Jackson, Harold Cope, Greg Kelly and Colin Joyce.

The band had a rest from contesting that year.

Chimes were purchased from the Drum Shop for \$800

The Secretary for 9 years, Bob Devenish received the "Bandsman of the Year" award for his services and was later transferred to Bridgetown in his employment with the Commonwealth Bank.

Don Steel took over the position.

In 1978 the Council declined to assist with the proposed band room extensions which would have cost \$4500. The extension project was shelved.

The sad thing about this is that the band eventually received permission to extend the rooms almost 20 years later at their own cost, did the work and within a year or so the council split and they were served with an eviction notice. Sense however prevailed, and the band remained in occupation until alternative arrangements were completed.

J Frost asked the Conductor if a junior band was going to be formed.

A clarinet was purchased for \$110 and the large step ladder was purchased for \$66

The Conductor G Franklin in his report to the members at the AGM said that thought should be given to liaising with Churchlands High School for players if the band wished to change to a concert band - however they would have to accept female members. A shudder of horror would have gone through the old stagers with that.

A junior band was mentioned but there was no intention at that stage of starting from scratch but they were seeking junior players for inclusion in the senior band.

At the same meeting it was passed that it be put to the band that after the 1979 contest the band starts a recruiting drive to form a concert band whilst retaining the brass band for contesting purposes.

There is nothing in the minutes of the next meeting but a little later an entry records that the transitional period with reeds was going satisfactorily, so the band must have agreed to one or other of the proposals.

The third Rottneest Convention was held - 36 went and had a good time.

(Correction - Convention cancelled but trip still went ahead)

This is believed to have been the last Rottneest trip.

Viv Nylander passed away during this year.

A recording date 10/8/1978 was set aside for recording at the ABC for Bill Belchers Band Bazaar.

A vibraphone was purchased 2nd hand for \$350

32 jobs were played during the year.

They won the A grade contest after a years absence from competition.

A comment was made that changing to a concert band was proceeding satisfactorily with planning to have 3 altos 2 tenors and baritone sax doubling on clarinets.

Whilst the minutes seem to indicate that the band was working towards a change to concert band format, George

Franklin states that it was more the intention to use concert band instruments on suitable engagements such as cabarets or to commence a concert band, similar to what has since been achieved.

It was later noted that the addition of reeds was commenced at the cabarets with no immediate intention to switch fully to a concert band but to approach it on a gradual basis so there seems to have been a difference of opinion as to where the band was headed at this time.

The delegate commented that a significant breakthrough had occurred in "foothold gained in the registration of school leavers."

Ken Treen was thanked for organising a visit to the band room of the James Shephard Versatile Brass.

Possible band room extensions were to be looked at again.

All members were to be issued with a music stand suitably identified.

Previous to this, bandsmen owned their own stands but generally left them at the band room, unless taking them to a job. Perhaps the band decided to purchase a matched set and issue them. If this was the case it soon changed to the stands being left in a box for transport to the job. There is at least one person in the band who would not be sorry to see the old system return, although the brass band in 2009 seems to have again gone that way.

Jack Anderson with assistance from Norm Barton and Bill Post produced a podium for the conductor. There have been several mentions of podiums and conductor's stands over the years but which one this is cannot be ascertained.

Norm McMahon received the President's award for "The Bandsman of the Year".

Greg Kelly and the Narrogin Junior band were to visit band room on 19/11/1978.

Bob Martin and Danny Wilson joined the band in 1979 as did Simon & David Etherington.

Composer Kevin Fenner gave "Fantasy for Brass Band" to the band depicting 150 years European settlement of WA.

Life membership was awarded to Elmore Nylander.

Ray Nation made the cabinet for the radiogram at cost \$80.

This once fine cabinet was sadly abused by unthinking use as a stand for instrument cases during rehearsals. Both the cabinet and radiogram have now been sold.

The Librarian was again complaining about music folders on the floor.
Librarians are like that.

Bunbury was upset that we decided not to contest as they felt that our presence was essential for ensuring success. Our conductor was away and several of our members were committed to a trip with the AFA band.

The Mellor family gave a 1924 photo of the RSL band to WABA, who asked us if we were prepared to exhibit it on our band room wall owing to the number of players in the photo who had an association with the City band. It was a nice gesture on their part, and welcomed by us.

At the AGM it was mentioned that transition to a concert band format was said to be delayed owing to work leading up to the contest.

The Delegate mentioned that WABA had 15 brass and 10 concert bands registered on its books. There would be considerably less now.

We came 3rd in Nationals held in Perth against the likes of Hawthorn that took out the title from Footscray-Yarraville. We came 1st in the street march.

The President in his annual report commented on the teamwork evident in the band which saw them match it with some of the best bands in Australia and saw an average attendance of 32 bandsmen at the 123 commitments undertaken in the previous year.

Warren Wells won the band's most improved player award.

A convention was successfully held in Geraldton with the Geraldton band.

The Conductor advised that his friend Barry Goddard had good reed and wind players leaving school and available if we convert to concert. Other contacts at other schools would ensure success. Both sexes would be involved. The

Committee was to advise the band on 21st October of their strong recommendation in favour.

The Delegate commented on the State Titles held at Bunbury in October and the pronounced improvement of the winners of A grade, 6KY under Eddie Martin.

This was the start of their ascendancy to the top band in Western Australia.

The Conductor confirmed the start of the concert band with Barry Goddard and many others. Colin Harper from Western Command Band offered assistance.

In 1980 the Conductor stated he was satisfied with the progress of the concert band - at that stage had flute, oboe, 5 clarinets, alto saxophone, French horn, 4 trumpets, euphonium, trombone & percussionist.

Vice President Jack Anderson passed away earlier in the year.

Mark Priest joined the brass and concert bands.

Ben Titheridge was placed on the non marching list, which is presumed to be when he suffered some heart problems.

Alex Cassam was appointed as assist Secretary.

Don Weaver joined the band.

Yeo Smith was thought eligible for life membership.

However it was said that he could not be considered for Life membership because he had not applied for it. This seems a little strange but perhaps records were not as good as they could have been and therefore it may have been up to players themselves to apply for life membership and produce their own evidence of 20 years unbroken service.

Yeo subsequently successfully proved his eligibility and received life membership.

We played at the re-opening of His Majesty's Theatre with a band of 36, and there is circumstantial evidence that they played outside the theatre at its original opening in 1905

The Delegate advised that Sir Charles Court had donated a perpetual shield to WABA in A grade.

The President advised that City of Perth band had donated a perpetual trophy for C grade known as the Harrie Halvorsen Perpetual Trophy.

The concert band was still progressing well thanks to the Frost family - particularly J Frost senior.

The Delegate advised that there had been a major breakthrough with the department of education. The Dept was concerned with the numbers of students who "dropped out" of musical participation after graduation. Every endeavour was to be made to ensure they joined a suitable group to further their musical education.

The same situation seems to apply perpetually.

Perhaps the Education Department and the Bands never consulted each other to seek a solution.

In January 2004 the writer referred this comment to the then current Minister for Education, the Hon. Alan Carpenter, along with some suggested solutions, which received no support.

The Band travelled to Narrogin for a concert and cabaret with former member Greg Kelly's school band.

At the AGM Life Membership was conferred on Campbell Holmes

15 schools had been contacted re school leavers for next year.

A letter was sent to Colin Harper thanking him for his assistance in formation of the Concert band.

The Delegate commented on the improvement in the 6KY band. Also on the increase in numbers of concert bands and that a woodwind and reeds section was to be included in solo and ensemble contests for the first time.

The City band did not compete that year.

The reason was not given, but it is thought that the Conductor had leave of absence. It may also have been the year when 8 of our key players travelled with the AFA band to Penang, but Charlie Brown thought that trip was in 1981.

37 engagements were undertaken for the year.

The treasurer Ken Harvey died and Merv Nix took over the position.

The junior concert band was now down to 8 in number.

Despite the junior concert band numbers being low and the Frost family giving prior notice that it may be hard to be regular attendees the next year, a survey and completion of membership information cards at Modern, Churchlands, Mt Lawley, Tuart Hill, John Forrest & Scarborough High Schools had obtained about 50 potential names for follow up at the end of the year.

The junior concert band then ceased practices until after Christmas and members were invited to sit in with the senior band.

66 letters were sent out to possible recruits for the next year.

The junior concert band commenced the 1981 year with 3 flutes, 1 oboe, 6 clarinets, 2 French horns, 4 trumpets, 2 trombones, 1 alto sax, 1 euphonium plus M Priest, S & J Etherington & F Gfeller from the Brass band. 68 membership cards were sent out, 26 came back, 21 accepted & 5 with other commitments. Additional instruments were now required.

The Youth (Junior?) concert band was entered in the junior contest section for later that year and the result was pleasing - 4th out of 6.

Shortly after this they had an average attendance of 12 as some were studying for exams

There were rumblings in the brass band about the conductor going on leave. The President wondered if the band is dissatisfied with him but dismissed the matter, as no formal complaints had been received. But still a lot of bandsmen were unhappy about the conductors leave, and the general standard of the band.

A successful trip was undertaken to Kalgoorlie but was marred by some lack of organisation by Rotary. 64 persons made the trip via the "Prospector" train, entertained by the piano accordion virtuosos Eddie Klemm and John Di Massi. It was a very busy weekend culminating with a tour of the City and the golden mile before returning.

The Delegate advised that B.B.L (British???) now allow French horns and trumpets in contesting. This will be trialled in senior Victorian bands and if successful extended throughout Australia. It is presumed that the move was not successful as neither French horns nor Trumpets are used in senior contesting brass bands anywhere, and French horns are perhaps used in some places in junior bands only. The matter of brass band instrumentation regularly arises, but so far, thankfully, all moves to effect a change have met strong resistance. After all, what are concert bands for?

At the AGM the Conductor advised that we came second to 6KY at the contest and voiced his displeasure at the adjudicator - but in his mind knows we could have done better.

30 engagements were undertaken during the year but there was concern that there was only an average of 23 attendees at Church jobs.

Much later it was decided that if the band could not field 16, they would not accept the job.

Since then the band has done some Church jobs with as few as 12.

Little wonder that few jobs come our way now, and through one reason or another practice has virtually ceased.

The Concert band at that time was said to have 14 members plus 10 brass band members.

Kim McClure was presented with a silver tray on the occasion of his marriage.

Norm Barton presented a display of memorabilia from the late Jack Anderson which is now held on our display shelves.

The Conductor George Franklin raised the matter of the brass band's attitude to the Youth Concert band, and discussion followed. John Stirling suggested that efforts be directed towards brass players only. The band cannot afford both he said. Norm McMahon said that he understood that players were to be brought straight into the senior band where youth was required and where accelerated development would occur.

Campbell Holmes said it was the responsibility of existing bands to provide a home for youths leaving school.

Bob Martin said that if continued, the youth band must be provided with a uniform of sorts.

Stan Castlehow said that it was an important thing for the band to stick together and resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

Fred Gfeller said that the band could not have it two ways and moved that the band accept the youth concert band, as embodied, in the senior band, and any necessary assistance be provided where needed.

After further discussion the conductor concluded by saying that things have changed in the band scene. The schools are only teaching concert bands and the brass players in a concert band do not get as proficient as in a brass band as solos are usually taken by the reeds. That is why formation of the Youth band was the only way he could see to attract youth towards the City band.

The motion was put and carried on a show of hands.

George apologised for stirring up a hornets nest, however he appreciated all the comments and confirmed that

continuation of the City of Perth Brass band was always his main aim.

This meeting was probably a turning point in the band's history. Although the motion supported continuance, with several influential members of the brass band not supporting the motion, the future of the junior concert band was still uncertain. Up until then the concert band had been got off the ground by George Franklin with a lot of help from Colin Harper, Bob Carruthers, Fred Gfeller, Campbell Holmes and the Frost family with the support of a few others. Without the full support of the band, the junior concert band withered and died and it took another 15 lost years before the idea was revived.

The headline in the Presidents report that year; "Where have all the young men gone?" Obviously it was not into the senior brass band.

The delegate reported that the school band festival was successful with 20 bands represented. Concert bands it seems were on the increase in the schools.

Past president Arthur Holland died 4/9/1981.

An engraved tray was given to Ray and Maria Jones on the occasion of their marriage.

The Youth band went into recess towards the end of the year for exams. The Conductor was disappointed with some of player's attitude which was no better than the senior band. At that time he didn't feel like persevering the next year. All young players were invited to attend the senior band rehearsals but only one turned up. What a shame there was a lack of support.

New players Bevan Pearce and Jack Wesson joined the band in 1982.

The new Lord Mayor Mick Michael was asked to become a Patron and agreed.

The Drum Major Dennis Wragg advised that a back injury would force him to discontinue duties for some time. The Band withdrew from contest marching as a consequence.

Geo Franklin resigned as conductor after 8 years and the baton was handed to Deputy Fred Gfeller. The band advertised nationally for a new conductor.

After numerous applications it was narrowed down to:
D.P.Blakeson - Leicester, England
N Anderton – who had arrived in Perth from England 21/6/1982
H R Jenkin - Former Army Conductor
A G Kyrwood
D Field - Toronto, Canada
T Farrar - Sultanate of Oman
G Catherall - England
The short list was reduced to Anderton, Jenkin and Kyrwood, if still interested
Nigel Anderton was appointed as the new Conductor.

Fred Gfeller indicated he would not be continuing as the deputy conductor and the other contenders were taken to dinner in appreciation of their interest.

At a Ladies night, a photo of the band was given to the Lord Mayor for display in council house. One wonders where it is now.

Dennis Wragg resigned as the drum major, property steward & trustee, after 16 years of service. He was presented with an inscribed tray for his 16 years as drum major. He had also received the BEM for services to brass banding and the Drum major section was added to the honour board. B Titheridge stepped in and deputised as the drum major

At the AGM that year it was mentioned that Danny Wilson (euphonium) had been named Champion of Champions at the state solo and ensemble competition earlier in the year.

Fred Gfeller was presented with an inscribed tray for his efforts as deputy conductor.

A sad mention was also made of the passing of former Soprano player and conductor Royce Clark that had occurred during the year.

27 paid engagements were undertaken during the year.

The admittance of females to the band was to be discussed again with bandsmen and it was said that despite the possibility of problems it must be considered.

Norm Snow donated \$1000 worth of German Music and started practice with the band with a view to joining. Somehow this music must have been retrieved by Norm from us as sometime after his death Eve Blaxell gave it to us with the express instruction from Norm that it was for the use of the City of Perth Band only and never to be allowed to be copied by any other band. Eve also advised that Norm had combed German and Austrian sources for suitable Oktoberfest music and had done all the arrangements in his last years. During a general cull of the library in 2008 these along with approximately 600 other titles were sold to the Goldfields Brass Band.

As a matter of historical interest the proposed contest band for the contest that year comprised

Soprano :	A Kyrwood
Solo :	K Mclure, E Nylander, N McMahon
Repiano :	L O'Keefe
2nd :	M Cowie, B Martin
3rd :	E Cowan, R Nation
Flugel :	W Wells
Solo Hn :	F Gfeller
1st :	G Franklin (some doubt)
2nd :	M Wilson
1st Bari:	J Hynd
2nd :	S Castlehow
Eupho :	D Wilson, S Etherington
1st Trom:	J Wesson
2nd :	C Holmes
Bass :	R Jones
Eb Bass :	J Stirling, M Priest
BBb :	B Pearce, D Steel
Perc :	P Hanson, D Weaver, B Titheridge

In 2010 only two remained in the brass band, Danny Wilson and Don Weaver.

The junior concert band had died by this time.

But by November that year it came again in the following format:

Junior band (Now presumably brass band oriented) - Norm Snow is willing to commence rehearsals as soon as possible.

In 1983 Eddie Martin from 6KY/Channel 9 Band was concerned that City had been trying to poach players. Nigel Anderton the new conductor refuted the charge.

Nigel was accepted into the arts orchestra and he advised that it may impact on our rehearsals.

Norm Snow reported that the Junior Band Council a division of WABA had applied to the Lotteries Commission for a grant of \$25000. It was important that we start a junior band as soon as possible to ensure our participation. The Committee was in full agreement - permission was granted for the use of the band room on Wednesdays. It would seem that when our junior brass band commenced we were able to make use of some of this grant money towards the required instruments. The later mention of a \$9500 Arts Council Grant may relate to the same source, but is thought to be in response to our own application which resulted in an approval for a \$10000 grant.

The Honour Board for Drum Majors was completed and was to be inscribed "Donated by Norm Barton".

The band decided not to contest that year owing to an impending trip on the Oriana, with only Danny Wilson speaking out against. It is assumed that the two events did not coincide but that it was felt that there would be insufficient time to prepare for a contest.

In May 1983 the Pacific cruise on the "Oriana" took place comprising a party of 96. The band played on board and also at various ports of call, which included Noumea, Vila, Santo, Savu Suva, Suva and Lautoka, The Suva Military band met the ship and they and the City of Perth Band took turns playing to each other. It was a very warm and friendly reception.

The Cabarets again received mention, this time in the September edition of the "Music Maker" under the heading
"Life On The Ocean Wave"

“What happens to veteran Perth musos when they pass the age of 65? Do they hang up their horns and dream fondly of days gone by? No fear. Every month a bunch of them can be found jamming at Subiaco City Hall – and it’s a mighty popular event, as Ron Morley discovered.

It seems music is a profession from which few players voluntarily retire.

If you’ve ever wondered what happened to some of the well known names from Perth’s music scene of yesteryear, the odds are most of them are still playing at a cabaret held once a month in Subiaco City Hall. If you didn’t know that, it’s not surprising because the event is never advertised. But then, it doesn’t need to be because it’s so popular.

It all started about 30 years ago with simple jamming after practice in a rehearsal room of the City of Perth Brass Band. From there it progressed to its present venue about seven years ago under the direction of the band’s president cornetist/trumpeter Laurie O’Keefe.

Over the years the affair has snowballed, gathering non-brass musicians, friends, fans, and a whole swag of that once thought to be vanishing species, ballroom dancers.

An average of 300 of these devotees of Terpsichore eagerly looks forward to the monthly shindigs, paying a modest \$3 each for admission. For this they can listen and dance to half a dozen combos, a big band and a mini recital by the brass band itself.

Needless to say, it is among the various dance combinations that one can find the elder statesmen of music – like reedmen Ron Jenkins and Vick Arnold (72 and still blowing with power of a man half his age), and indestructible pianist Roy Delamere (who hasn’t changed in the 30 years I’ve known him!). Relative youngsters like sax and clari man Bruce Wroth also come to sit in occasionally.

Of course, the brass bandsmen are younger too, and they include several musicians who double in the dance bands. One of these is an old jazzier, trombonist Campbell Holmes, once a member of the West Coast Jazz Band.

This doubling of roles also applies to instruments. I was struck by the apparent paradox of a brass band cornetist playing baritone sax in the big band, while a brass bass player likewise played alto sax. One would have thought the roles would have been reversed, perhaps.

The Perth City Band is a tightly disciplined ensemble, reacting vigorously to the demands of their director, Nigel Anderton. This deceptively young looking Englishman, in his early forties, conducts with great verve and incisiveness – a heritage, perhaps, from his past association with British army bands.

I was particularly taken with the excellent soprano cornet playing of Alan Kyrwood. He not only shone on this difficult instrument, but played solid lead trumpet with the big band too.

The City of Perth Band has recently returned from a three week cruise of the South Pacific on board the Oriana. Travel is no novelty to them however, as they have been to Singapore three times and played in the Eastern States twice.

But it’s the memory of the still vital music played by the elderly dance musos that lingers on. Congratulations are due to Laurie O’Keefe and the City of Perth Band for providing a platform where these worthies can still enjoy playing and be appreciated.”

Note: The origin of the Cabarets can be found later in this narrative where Doug Buswell pays tribute to his late friends Charlie Brown and Eddie Klemm.

City of Perth Junior Band was the name adopted by Norm Snow's group of junior brass players.

Norm Snow had earlier through connections with the Army Band, formed The National Youth Brass Band of WA which through various changes became the Channel 9 Band. It is thought that he had a falling out with that band and possibly came to us at the invitation of his friend C.P. (Jimmy) James. But that is just speculation.

What is clear is his input and energy, although in failing health, to pick up the reins of the previously failed junior group that was centred on a mainly Concert Band structure, and form a junior brass band in the City of Perth Band.

Formation of the Perth Junior Band April 1984

An informal inaugural meeting of parents and players was held at the “City of Perth” Band room on Wednesday January 11th, 1984 attended by nine parents and thirteen of Norm Snow’s pupils under the baton of Mr. Jimmy James and assisted by Senior City of Perth players Alec Cassam (bass) Campbell Holmes (Trombone) Syd Tidey (all sorts) and Ken Treen (Tenor Horn) and commenced work on “Northumbrian suite by Stuart Johnson. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of these Senior Players.

A general discussion was held regarding the reasons for forming a band. Members are all pupils of Norm Snow and with one exception aged less than nineteen years. The Band will provide an opening for many youngsters who, once leaving primary or high school have been lost to the Brass Band movement and it is hoped that it will form the core of a future West Australian (Under nineteen years) Youth Brass Band. The Band, in time as the children reach a suitable standard and age will provide future members for the City of Perth Senior Band. A questionnaire was circulated amongst parents and the first official meeting was held at the City of Perth Band Room on February 22nd 1984.

Mr. Norman Snow B.E.M. was appointed as The Musical Director and Mr Alan Lourens at that time aged only 19 was appointed Conductor.

Lance Hammond was the initial President and Treasurer, Beth Brown Secretary, and the Committee was to comprise any parents that turned up to the first meeting.

The junior band had its first concert at the Italian Club on 30th May 1984 before the Lady Mayoress and an appreciative audience. Later they contested the state titles in a Juvenile Section and acquitted themselves well.

At the AGM that year Norm Snow advised there were 16 in the junior band - one had won two gold medals in a recent contest, and that would have been Wayne Duncan.

At the same meeting the Drum major Ben Titheridge said he was disappointed that the march had been dropped from the coming contest.

Don Weaver introduced a plan to control the backroom on a strict roster basis. It was said to be the best plan put up for a long time. Don soon found it never quite worked out as planned.

Eric Cowan's retirement was accepted with regret. The reasons are more particularly explained in his own notes.

A suggestion was made to try and amalgamate the juniors with the Northern District junior band but nothing came of that.

The "women in the band question" was raised again with mixed reaction - mostly negative.

Also in 1984 the Cabaret venue was changed to South Perth after the City of Subiaco council relinquished control over the City Hall.

It was noted with regret that Jack Watson, a former secretary had died during the year.

At a junior band meeting Norm Snow lamented the lack of support by the senior band to the juniors. The full report on the junior Band was read at a senior band rehearsal perhaps to try and make them feel a bit guilty.

Shortly after this Nigel Anderton resigned as the conductor to accept a position somewhere in the Eastern States and Alan Kyrwood who is thought to have been his deputy at the time continued, with assistance from Jimmy James. This was to continue until a new conductor could be appointed.

Without a permanent conductor a recommendation was put to the band that they do not contest.

The junior band however decided to contest in June.

Later C.P (Jimmy) James was appointed conductor with A Kyrwood as deputy.

At Jimmy James first committee meeting after being appointed he advised that he wanted to take the band for major contesting and concert work only and leave the day to day work to the deputy.

He was also willing to step down at any stage that a better person came along.

The Committee was not particularly happy but Deputy Alan was prepared to go along with that arrangement.

The Delegate reported on the recent Contest –

Champion of Champions - Danny Wilson

Solo Cornet - Mark Salmon

Juvenile Cornet - Wayne Duncan

Junior Duet – Wayne Duncan & Peter Chiang

Junior band very successful with 5 wins.

Wayne won a Sovereign Cornet and donated his previous one to the band.

A notice of motion by Danny Wilson to accept female players was received early in this year.

The matter was raised in general business but there is no indication of any action. It can only be presumed that any decision was deferred.

Then later some action happened on the notice of motion.

A secret ballot was held.

It was a pretty hot issue in 1984 and it may have been thought that a show of hands would influence some to follow the influential diehards.

Danny Wilson supported by J Hynd at last got his motion to admit females before the band.

Norm McMahon and Stan Castlehow spoke against, but the motion was carried.

Well done Danny.

As previously mentioned an Arts council grant of \$9500 was approved on a \$ for \$ basis. Doug Buswell offered to underwrite if needed, to ensure the grant was not lost, as the band did not hold the required balance at that time. Norm Snow never took no for an answer. How he achieved it we were encouraged not to ask, but somehow instruments were obtained to outfit a complete junior brass band, and this grant was the cornerstone.

Instruments recently purchased included a Euphonium, bass, 4 tenor horns, 3 Bb cornets, Soprano cornet & 2 baritones. These could have been for the senior band.

The constitution was amended to cater for the establishment of the junior band.

An article in the West Australian on 21st December 1984 headed "First Brass Band to be formed in WA for 20 years" read as follows.

'Brass Bands are on the decline, according to the youngest brass band conductor in Australia, Alan Lourens.

Alan (18) is the conductor of the first new brass band in Perth for more than 20 years, the City of Perth Junior Brass Band. The most recent brass band before that was the Channel 9 Brass Band, now W.A's premier band.

The 26 young players, aged between 8 and 17 had their first public performance yesterday in front of a small crowd in the foyer of the Rural & Industries Bank in Barrack Street.

The band was formed this year under the guidance of musical director Norm Snow, who also formed the Channel 9 band. It is sponsored by the R & I Bank and received an Instant Lottery grant of \$10,000.

The band won the state championship in the junior section of the WA band competition in June. It also won the Multiplex shield in the Perth Concert Hall Band Spectacular.

It is the first band that Alan has conducted in six years as a musician, though he wanted to conduct for three years.

“Norm has been teaching me for six years” he said. “When he said that he was forming this band I casually suggested that I would like to be the conductor”.

Alan said that he applied to join the army to continue his musical career. Otherwise he would not be able to conduct an orchestra with his limited experience.’

At the 1984 AGM a special presentation was made to Doug Buswell on completing 30 years as the band’s compere. Jack Wadeisha also completed 50 years service to the band.

Bob Johnson former bass trombone player had died on 24/7/1984

The junior band was invited to the Christmas break-up, which enlivened the proceedings somewhat as it progressed to an impromptu backyard cricket match involving juniors and seniors alike.

The old brass flugel which had been used by Viv Nylander was presented to his brother Elmore.

In January 1985 the Junior Band through what I can only imagine was some creative accounting received an Instant Lottery Grant of \$10000 to purchase instruments. (This would be the same grant mentioned earlier as \$9500)

They purchased 2 x trombones, 3 x cornets, 2 x Tubas, 4 x tenor horns, 1 x bass drum and 24 music stands for a total of \$20,048. The payment receipt only shows \$15420 so if the difference was a discount it was very generous.

It is known that Norm Snow donated \$1000 towards the purchase and generous parents loaned substantial amounts for a period to enable the purchases to be effected.

The junior brass band, then operating as a separate entity was requested to accept a representative of the senior band on their committee.

The junior band in reply suggested a reciprocal arrangement and as a result Norm Snow was invited to represent the junior band on the senior committee.

At about this time the President expressed concern that the cabaret big band was accepting other engagements. “We are a brass band and should project as such” he said

The big band was instructed not to accept engagements unless the brass band was also involved.

This may have been another lost opportunity to generate income and advertise the versatility of the band members.

Norm Snow indicated that the junior band might enter the junior and D grades that year and invited any musicians not selected in the senior band to play with the D grade group.

A trombone was purchased in HK for \$746

Deputy conductor A Kyrwood resigned. No reason was recorded in the minutes but work commitments in his position as an Auditor in the ANZ Bank is suspected.

Rex Innes- Mills was approached to assist at the coming contest. He offered to move from Bunbury to Perth if he could get a job.

Lorna Clark donated her late husband Royce Clark’s arrangements of “The Westerners” and “Trumpets Wild” to the band.

Somewhere in this time slot Ken Treen started attending the senior band meetings. At the previous AGM Lance Hammond attended as president of the juniors, but Ken Treen became junior president at the Junior Band’s AGM in April after Lance indicated he would have to stand down in July. Ken then possibly replaced Norm Snow as the representative at the senior committee meetings.

It was decided by the general committee that juniors could be invited into the senior band on an individual basis after consultation between both conductors.

This was as a result of an invitation already having been issued to one junior, Peter Chiang, without consultation, causing some unsettlement as it had weakened the strength of the still developing junior band, plus he was not the strongest junior player.

We were successful with both senior and junior champion of champions in Danny Wilson and Wayne Duncan, but the senior band came second to Channel 9 in A Grade. How the junior band fared in the state titles is not known.

Jimmy James had won over the band as conductor and had put in an enormous amount of work prior to the contest. An accident related to a coil of barbed wire almost robbed him of sight in one eye, but he soldiered on saying "I may be one eyed at the moment but there is nothing wrong with my ears."

The junior band started talking about going to Adelaide for the 1986 Nationals as they had acquitted themselves well at state level.

The junior conductor Alan Lourens wanted to see the senior librarian about suitable light music. It may seem ludicrous but the junior band was given no access to the library and had to beg borrow and steal music from other sources to survive, much of it from the Channel 9 band. As far as I know the senior librarian at that time was never available or authorised to assist the junior band.

At the AGM special thanks were extended to to S Tidey, B Titheridge and A Cassam for assistance with the junior band.

Life memberships were conferred on Les Hogg, Bob Carruthers and George Franklin.

At about this time the senior band librarian Les Hogg complained that some music had been interfered with in the library and Don Weaver was to come up with some ideas to control access. Perhaps the junior band was taking matters into their own hands, but it was more likely the senior conductors not liaising with the librarian.

Rex Innes-Mills officially became deputy conductor.

Norm Barton installed a new cupboard for junior band storage, to hold both their separate library and any spare instruments.

This became necessary because as stated earlier, the senior band denied the junior band access to their library and store. The senior band paid for the junior band cupboard - and made sure it was listed as their property.

The Salvation Army had a new 4 valve euphonium available which was too good an opportunity to miss. It Cost \$2350 but with the balance of an arts grant cost the band about \$1200.

Confidence in conductor "Jimmy" James had begun to slip.

After the President had spoken to him to avoid hurting his feelings, he offered to step down when a suitable replacement had been found.

"Jimmy" in contemplating resigning his position wrote to the President as follows:

"It has not been a smooth year. You chose me as your conductor some twelve months ago but it wasn't until last January that I was able to settle to the task. The first major horizon was the Annual Contest. We didn't win!!

But, we didn't slip back, either.

Somehow or other, some spirit was generated among most of the members, with the odd few providing some problems. I would have liked, and did try, to pick the team early, some three months at least before. As it happened this was not possible. I was not sure of anything until about the middle of May and did not achieve 100% attendance until we went on the stage to compete!! I trust the committee will study this factor in depth?

Cabaret playing

The most common complaint I've heard of this very necessary function is: "Too loud!!!" I agree.

This is partly due to the band's complete inability to play softly and the fact that it seems to be "Open Season".

Everyone attends, including those who have not been to rehearsals!! A 20 minute programme should not tax any Soloist or other player, so, why not a smaller more manageable band? I honestly feel the "overweight" team in a confined space does not help our image in any way.

Junior band

It is an established fact that the Band that runs a junior section succeeds. We don't run a junior band; we merely allow it to operate from our base!! I advocate closer co-operation and possible integration so that we can get the benefit of the junior members who show a deal of promise.

Library

I've had every co-operation from our librarian Les Hogg but am a little dismayed at the freedom of access to the music. It is not possible to segregate the area because it serves as a storeroom and general locking away area, but I believe we should in some way or another restrict the general traffic. (Music is the life-blood of the band).

Contesting

I support a positive approach to the 1986 competition. Although I won't be here, I'll give my support until the middle of April. I suggest Rex be formally invited to conduct and that we bring in a professional to play soprano.

Subject to approval I suggest "Journey into Freedom" by Eric Ball should be the own choice.

Finally, I thank each and every member for the support I have received, in particular from the executive members of the committee.

Yours sincerely
C.P.James”

Rex Innes-Mills was subsequently appointed.

Ken Treen advised in 1986 that Norm Snow had stepped down as musical director of the junior band. Apart from Norm’s increasing poor health this probably came about as a result of a stormy meeting at which Norm and Ken traded accusations and at which meeting some junior band committee members almost walked out forever. Norm Snow was a gifted musician and teacher but was a difficult person to work with. He insisted on having a committee but then did not accept any decisions that he did not agree with. Alan Lourens who was at the time assisting Norm assumed the position in addition to his conducting duties.

The proposed junior band trip to the Nationals in Adelaide at Easter was undertaken successfully.

The band consisted of 27 members and for interest sake they were:

Cory, Kirrily and Ryan Banks, Nicholas Bell, Stewart Bentley, Jason Brown, Alexia Clough, Jason Douglas, Wayne Duncan, Enoch Emery, Andreas Ernst, Nola Formentin, Megan, Rochelle and Todd Hammond, Justin Hill, Paul and Tony Marinelli, Melissa Maher, Sueanne McDonald, Garry Nutt, Alan Osborne, David and Mark Saunders, Grant Treen, Anthony VanderWiel and Julia Zielke.

Nick Marinelli another band member, too old to compete also travelled as did Alan Lourens, Rex Innes-Mills and 14 parents. Two other members in Peter Chiang and Brendan Croot could not go for study reasons. Norm Snow made his own way there to support his former young charges.

The Adelaide trip was a great success both musically and socially, but had drama from start to finish.

Firstly there was the struggle to raise the necessary funds and to raise the band to a satisfactory level.

Then the bus company engaged for the trip disappeared with our deposit. Doug Buswell again came to the rescue with financial support, an alternative bus company was engaged and we were away. On the run down to Adelaide from Port Augusta the bus began to overheat and this remained a puzzling problem all the time we were in Adelaide. We stayed in a scout camp in the Adelaide Hills, which proved a good choice. There was plenty of space to practice and room to run loose. The rough track past the camp was not the ideal surface to practice marching on though.

One of the more amusing sights at this camp was watching our conductor Alan Lourens unpacking his ‘case’, which took the form of extracting all the clothes he needed for the trip out of the bell of his Euphonium.

The band had acquired light blue windcheater style tops to be worn with black trousers and white shirts, as a uniform.

This proved to be too hot for the Adelaide weather but we were stuck with them.

The band was pitted against Busselton conducted by former City of Perth band member Greg Kelly and managed to just out point them in aggregate. However we were totally intimidated by the Willoughby, Sydney Juniors who had not been beaten for years and were resplendent in their flash uniforms covered with competition medals and “flashes” – and they looked down their noses at both the “upstart” bands from W.A.. Of course they took the title once again.

However, in the ensemble competition, whilst our juniors were not successful, they acquitted themselves well and the quartet of Wayne Duncan, Stewart Bentley, Todd Hammond and Corey Banks at least received commendation from the adjudicator for their selection of a completely different style in “Pops for Four”, a good selection by the conductor Alan Lourens.

Following the completion of the contest we set off for home but the bus broke down between Port Augusta and Iron Knob and we spent the night at the side of the road being regaled with stories by Rex Innes-Mills until rescued by a bus from Whyalla. We were given accommodation the following night at a nunnery and left the next day in a borrowed bus. In the mean time one of our young charges Alan Osborne had to be flown home to attend a family funeral.

All in all it was an eventful but rewarding trip.

To while away the long trip a limerick competition was run.

A couple of examples are.

Jason Douglas was a very young snare drummer and loved getting into the dirt whenever we stopped. Thus:

Jason ‘Scrubber’ Douglas
“My God”! Said Mrs Douglas
“What have you done to my son?
He’s covered in dust
And beginning to rust –
And it’s only the end of day one.”

And the morning after the bus broke down when Ray one of the drivers brought us something to eat.

A Night to Remember
At Ray’s “Rocky Roadside Hilton”
I dreamed I had caviar and stilton.
Alas I awoke –
‘Gor what a joke –
Couldn’t even get cornflakes with milk on.

And Nick Marinelli, who was eternally hungry.

Me names Nick Marinelli
Gimme something to fill up me belly –
A tinny or two
Or an Irish stew –
Or at least a quick trip to a Deli.

Not to be deterred the juniors were now keen to go to Tasmania the following year if the senior band was also interested.

On return preparations were being made for the state contest in Bunbury – The two conductors were discussing the composition of the two bands.

At about this time it was discussed by the General Committee and agreed that the senior band was at crisis point, to which they would seem to have been heading for years.

The main problem seemed to be that they had been ageing without any success in recruiting younger members and in a few cases almost discouraging junior recruitment and had almost become a closed club for seniors, or that is how it appeared to the members of the junior group.

Even as a non playing person, the writer felt intimidated at his first few visits to the senior band rehearsal. Imagine how the young band members felt when first invited and placed next to a senior player, some of whom were less than welcoming.

English comedian and brass player Jimmy Edwards, who had been in Perth for a while, donated a copy of Jim's March to the band.

When Jim came to Australia he brought with him multiple copies of Jack Peberdy arrangements and a few of his own. The intention was to sell them off. When Jim returned to the U.K. and subsequently died he had left with us quite a few copies of this music. The writer attempted to contact the publisher for directions and when this failed incorporated any pieces not already held into our library and gave the surplus items away to other bands. We possibly gained about 10 additional titles for the library at no cost.

Following earlier comments the Junior Committee agreed to meet the Senior Committee at any time to discuss amalgamation as suggested by both Jimmy James and Rex Innes-Mills.

Ken Treen suggested an early move so that the matter could be dealt with by the AGM

The majority were in favour of amalgamating both band committees.

Sometime during this year Ben Titheridge must have had to give up the Drum Major position and Bevan Pearce replaced him. Bevan's presence was felt almost immediately as by 1987 he was moving ahead in trying to get the band uniform updated, and commenced the formation of a drum corps, which at one stage comprised 12 persons fronting the band on the march. It was a spectacular sight and a credit to Bevan and the participants.

At the AGM that year there does not appear to be any specific motion on amalgamation. I guess that the senior band accepted the principle and the junior band just put on their books that they were handing everything over - the outcome being a new committee which saw approximately 8 persons with some association with the juniors being elected to the various positions in the amalgamated entity.

Laurie O'Keefe stepped down as president after 12 years and Don Weaver assumed the position.

In leaving he commented on some of the innovations in his time such as:-

The Presentation bannerettes

The Band song

The Band slogan

The Bandsman of the Year Trophy

Other things that happened but not necessarily with Laurie's blessing were –

- The formation, flourishing and decline of the first junior band and admission of females – (without which the band by now would probably be extinct)
- The social “Ladies Nights” later becoming an annual dinner after the admittance of women to the band.
- The introduction of formal applications and subsequent induction of prospective members.

The Drum major Bevan Pearce outlined his plans for development of a drum corps.

An extensive list of items was prepared for prioritisation.

The junior band minutes were to be incorporated into the band records.

John Bentley became assistant librarian to Les Hogg after being librarian to the junior band in its last year or two, so at last the junior band gained access to the senior band library, but with conditions attached.

The Drum Major Bevan recommended a mini tattoo at the April Cabaret to feature the drum corps and pipes with the band. Enthusiasm was lukewarm at the time but the end result was excellent and a credit to Bevan's planning and expertise.

Conductor Rex outlined his blue print for band organisation following the amalgamation, and indicated he would be announcing band arrangements to the band over the next couple of weeks.

Rex announced his proposed restructure to accommodate the amalgamation of the senior and junior bands into one organisation.

Both bands were then keen on contesting but it was obvious to all that with the playing restrictions placed on competing bands, not everyone would get a place to play in either contesting band.

Rex therefore drew up a list of those he needed to play in the senior band for the next contest and placed the remainder into a second band category, which would have seen them compete with the juniors in a wide aged lower grade.

Understandably some were terribly upset as not only would they be playing in a grade they thought beneath them, it meant that during the run up to a competition they would no longer enjoy the company of friends they had probably been sitting next to at practice for up to 30 or more years.

Rex had been placed in a difficult position. On the one hand he was asked to take the band into a competition with the best combination that he could muster and on the other no matter what he did, some would be disappointed when the numbers indicated some had to be left out of the team.

He did what he thought was right, which offered competition to all and would have given great support to the juniors if the surplus seniors were prepared to accept the situation.

No doubt in hindsight if the band members had been consulted before the decision had been announced, the problem could have been communicated better, and a better outcome may have resulted. As it was the whole band suffered because of the chill in the air, and several resigned over the issue and the Drum major Bevan Pearce announced that as he is no longer a playing member of the band (A grade) he will only be available for marching engagements in the future.

Preliminary discussions were held on introducing a membership fee which was another hot issue at the time.

John Bentley commenced computerisation of the library catalogue and also became assistant property master (instruments) with Helen Banks handling uniforms and other items.

The President raised concern that problems could arise with the second band conductor Alan Lourens not being a member of our band. (He was a playing member of Channel 9 band).

The problem surfaced when the band had to call on Rex at short notice to stand in for him.

It was not Alan's fault - he had been barred from meetings as he was not a member, and therefore had not been informed of an impending engagement.

It was resolved to ask him to attend the next meeting.

Rex advised that he was willing to take over if Alan decides not to continue but he would prefer it if Alan remained.

Beth Brown was inducted as what was then thought to be the first woman member of the Brass Band. Beth played tenor horn and as well as being secretary to the Junior Band, her husband Brian was already a member of the senior band and son Jason was being promoted from the Juniors as a promising flugel player.

In 1987 Alan Lourens indicated he was available for another 2 years and wanted to continue which was accepted by all. No more players were likely to be ready for elevation to the senior band for some time.

Norm McMahon was offered life membership but declined, most likely as a result of the contesting bands makeup fiasco.

Numbers started dropping from the junior band and it became a concern.

Advertising in local papers was unsuccessful in gaining any new recruits.

A trip to Esperance was organised and it was a huge success. The band stayed in hostel style accommodation and played a street march and concert. It was a good social occasion where both seniors and juniors were involved. The involvement of the local band was a little disappointing, but it was Easter time when many people had family commitments.

It had been decided earlier to introduce a mess style jacket for concert use, and retain the old navy style uniform for marching.

An attempt was made to rescind the decision to buy lined mess jackets in favour of a cheaper jacket but the move was not successful and the new cutaway jackets were purchased. These subsequently were proved less than satisfactory.

A membership sub committee presented a very comprehensive report and recommendations for the introduction of

membership fees, definition of all levels of membership and the preparation of new member packs, which were to include - Short history, copy of constitution, list of member's phone numbers, current calendar of events and any other pertinent details.

While some attempts have been made since to prepare new members packs, it has never been properly instituted or maintained in an up to date state and with the establishment of our WEB site in 2009/10, much of this should no longer be required.

The introduction of membership fees was subsequently adopted that year.

Computerisation of the library catalogue was also completed, a massive retyping exercise.

By this time twelve juniors were playing in the senior ranks.

By 2009 none remained and of the 27 who contested in Adelaide, none now have remained with the City of Perth Band and only a handful are known to be still involved in any musical endeavour. This was a very big investment with no obvious long term reward for those that fought so hard for its establishment and survival.

The second band comprised of the remaining juniors, some adult learners plus a few volunteers from the senior band ranks was still trying to get more players.

First indications of decline as the better players had all moved to the senior band.

The first Draft of another new constitution was distributed for comment and return to Lance Hammond to collate findings and suggestions.

At the AGM that year further amendments to the constitution were provisionally accepted.

So called "Ladies nights" were replaced with the first of what was expected to become annual band dinners.

Ladies nights were not considered the correct term now that females had been admitted to the band.

It was held at Wembley Lodge and was a great success.

Life memberships to Eddie Klemm and Kim McLure were awarded at the dinner.

Bob Carruthers another long standing former member died during the year.

Both bands were said to be progressing well and both conductors were happy with progress. Rex more so now that joint rehearsals discontinued to allow him better contest preparation.

Les Hogg completed the mounting of additional band photos and their hanging on the walls.

A Copy of the Greig piano concerto arranged by Royce Clark was obtained from Lorna Clark by Les Hogg and is now held in the library.

The Conductor Rex thanked everyone for their efforts at the state championship but stressed he didn't want to see two years hard work go down the tube because of poor adjudication. Once again, dissatisfaction surfaces over adjudication and Rex himself was an accredited adjudicator.

The second band was happy with their performance at the contest which saw them take out the D grade title.

It would have been this year or 1988 that Kim McClure decided to liven up proceedings by recruiting a basketball team. They played for one or perhaps two short seasons in some minor mercantile competition with little or no success – but with a lot of vigour and fun.

From memory the major players at various times were: Kim McClure, Robert Kearsley, Ken Treen, Wayne Duncan, Stewart Bentley, Jason Brown, and Todd Hammond, with occasional ring ins.

The only casualty from memory was Wayne Duncan who badly sprained an ankle and who later wrote a piece for the band which he named "Astragalus" which apparently is the name of a bone in the foot or ankle. Such is the humour of some of our former members.

It was decided to continue with the second band in 1988 even though numbers were falling.

It was also decided that both bands should be under the control of conductor Rex Innes-Mills so that a closer liaison could be established, and that the band should then appoint a deputy conductor without delay.

Alan Lourens was asked to come to the band for a presentation for his services. Not surprisingly he declined as he was very hurt firstly because it came out of the blue as far as he was concerned and particularly after all the hard work he had put in. He also felt it may affect his chances of taking up a similar position elsewhere - having been virtually dismissed.

The events leading up to this sorry pass need to be better explained.

Firstly there had always been some discontent with the fact that our second band was headed by a member of our major opposition band and there was a lack of communication between the conductors whose practice nights were different. I

don't think any of the original senior committee had any real idea how committed Alan was to the job. Both President Don & Conductor Rex felt it would be better to have both bands under one control. Many of the original juniors had either been snaffled up by the senior band which was desperate for new blood, or had dropped out. Those attending senior practice found it less exciting attending the junior band where they were to an extent being held back by rank beginners, and so deserted the junior band. Extensive efforts by Lance Hammond, Helen Banks and John Bentley failed miserably in efforts to find replacements to build up the junior band again. In hindsight there should have been more pressure put on the juniors to respect their junior conductor. In the event it became an embarrassment to watch Alan Lourens struggle vainly with a depleted group with little prospect of building it up, as we no longer had a Norm Snow to teach and recruit replacements. Norm, until his health failed, had numerous pupils scattered around the metropolitan area, and when they were ready, he had brought them to the band.

The second band at this time was said to be 18 in strength with 2 new juniors. This would have been completely wrong as that would be counting all the juniors, most of who were now fully committed to the senior band.

Another former respected member, Trustee and Secretary Harry Rayner had died during the year.

We played a very poor job at R.A.F.A. and felt obliged to refund them \$200 as a consequence, after they had lodged a complaint. This was a very sorry state of affairs and we have never been asked to play for them again.

A full and comprehensive report was made on the second band. They needed to know what the future held in store or they would give it away. Rex was unable to attend many practices and Wayne Duncan (at that time a rank novice and still a junior himself) stepped in to try and keep the band alive.

Rex Innes-Mills was granted 6 months leave of absence as he was under a lot of pressure with outside playing commitments, and then had a bout of indifferent and worrying health problems. Brian Underwood showed some interest in looking after the senior band and he and Rex discussed the second band. Brian then took over the senior band for 6 months in the absence of Rex. On Brian's recommendation David Farrell a member of 5MD band took over as conductor a little later. The band minutes are devoid of any discussion as to what happened to the 6 months leave of absence granted to Rex. He had been unwell and must have indicated he would be unable to return. It is thought that Rex was decidedly put out with the decision to stand him aside. The committee could not have been functioning very well in those difficult times. There were too many wrong things happening at once, but that is the nature of life in general.

The second band virtually ceased after the contest in June in Rockingham in which they competed in D Grade and although they were the only band to compete in that grade they performed very well and secured the Norm Snow Perpetual D Grade Aggregate Shield. Laura Beahan also secured the best solo performance on the day. The bands were fully integrated into the one unit - minus a few rank beginners soon after. In September, Richard McBride also of 5MD band took over what was hoped would be a learners group, but this did not survive for long.

At the second annual dinner, 50 year certificates were presented to Charlie Brown and Stan Castlehow, who then joined Jack Wadeisha in the exclusive 50 year service club.

At the AGM that year another amended constitution was adopted by members subject to ratification by the City of Perth and Corporate Affairs.

It was reported that another stalwart of the band in Keith O'Neil had died during the year.

Wayne Duncan was appointed deputy conductor to the senior band.

President Don Weaver commented at the AGM that in hindsight mistakes had been made during what had been a difficult year and which if we had the time over again we would not have made. However decisions had been made in what were considered at the time, the best interests of the band. "He who has never made a mistake has never tried."

Bob Kendall was appointed Drum Major but this proved short-lived as he resigned shortly after and was replaced by Ben Titheridge, returning to the job for the third time.

The librarians had a difference of opinion. John Bentley set out a submission to Les to try and convince him that the band should change the library to a numeric rather than alphabetic filing system - fully set out in writing so that there could be no misunderstanding. Les then made a Committee issue of it by addressing a letter to the Committee on why the old antiquated alphabetic system should remain.

Thankfully the President agreed to mediate between the librarians and in consultation with the Conductor. The Conductor must have backed the change, as it had to happen, and even Les probably thought it a better system - but would never admit it.

A letter was received from Ken Treen setting out some problems he saw in the amended constitution and the fact that members did not have sufficient notice to adequately examine the proposed changes before voting - and the fact that some changes to the draft were made on the morning that the vote was undertaken.

The President accepted the letter but agreed it was too late to change anything in the current amendments.

This is quite true - there were errors in the draft - which should not and would not have been there if all the committee had been fully informed and consulted in the later stages of the draft preparation, but that is the nature of things.

Sometimes one has to push on or nothing is ever achieved.

The band centenary year 1998 was due 10 years hence.

The Band members were challenged to submit ideas for goals to be achieved by or in our centenary year and these were set out in the bands news letters with a request to reply by a certain date - There was not one response which perhaps indicates the malaise affecting the organisation at that time.

Eddie Klemm suggested mounting some old instruments on the wall and several were.

When the move was made to the new facility in Queens's gardens in 1999 there was no place to hang them. The old flugel was sold in Melbourne and the funds used to purchase a piccolo which was later lost or stolen from the band room. The old baritone sits in the fireplace and the old G Trombone was sold and the funds were available to replace the lost piccolo.

The death of another former member, Vice President and Trustee Alf Innes was reported.

David Farrell resigned as conductor in November.

The reasons stated were family illness - but perhaps the state of the band at that time had something to do with it. Let's face it; it wouldn't have been a holiday taking over the band at that time, still trying to assimilate young members into an older band.

Wayne Duncan took over in a temporary capacity, and despite his youth ably performed the duties required.

Brian Underwood indicated he could be interested when he was due to retire at the end of 1989.

Events are a little unclear at this point but Brian Underwood must have assumed control of the band in 1989 at the resumption of rehearsals following the summer break.

Wayne Duncan received a mention as his deputy.

The first major event was a weekend camp at the 4Square camp at Dunsborough as the band had been invited to play at the Busselton Festival over the Australia Day long week end in January.

The band received very good reports with particular mention of Ben Titheridge leading the long street march.

Wayne Duncan was successful in winning both the junior and open trumpet sections at the National Solo Championships that year.

We held a week end camp at Fairbridge Farm in May as a concentrated rehearsal and sectional practice session just prior to the State Contest. Once again, work commitments prevented full participation but both socially and musically it was a very successful week end. Les and Eva Hogg celebrated either birthdays or wedding anniversary - or both. Les would be 84 that year and they would have been married 54 years.

The band competed unsuccessfully in B Grade that year but the Conductor Brian Underwood was satisfied with the progress achieved but warned against disappointment affecting their morale.

Wayne Duncan the then deputy conductor suggested that the band make a recording using the contest band. Brian suggested that it would be better to use all so that there would be no question of elitism.

The recording was duly made which whilst not of particularly good quality serves as a good reminder of how the band was performing at that time.

The WABA was also suffering problems so we nominated for about half the positions to try and get that organisation functioning more efficiently.

The move was not successful and no wonders as we were not too crash hot ourselves.

Brian Underwood eventually took on the presidency of WABA and probably regretted doing so.

During the year the band ceased Sunday morning rehearsals and changed the week day rehearsal from Thursday to Wednesday nights. There was a mixed reception to this, but Sunday rehearsals were becoming poorly attended and attendance on Wednesday evenings immediately improved. The biggest downside to the change was the social aspect with the loss of the relaxed hour or so after Sunday morning rehearsal to chat and share the odd drink and joke.

Judy Bentley offered to commence collecting material for a band history that year. It was estimated that it could take up to two years.

This was a slight miscalculation. Twenty one years later and it was still not completed. Little did anyone know what it involved.

John Bentley asked the delegate how his suggestion for a state youth brass band was progressing. The idea came after witnessing the Victorian State Youth Brass Band in action.

This was another wasted opportunity by all bands.

A State Youth Brass Band was formed with Eddie Martin as Musical Director. For a start the day for rehearsals was set without consultation, with some people unable to attend because of work commitments. Irrespective of this the band was first class and had the potential to eat all the other brass bands in the state. However Eddie was the wrong man for the job as his other commitments prevented him giving the youth band the attention it deserved. It was arranged that the band would play some numbers preceding the contest program at Bunbury. Brian Underwood had to stand in as the conductor, and had only one practice - on the stage at Bunbury immediately before the band was due to perform. Eddie Martin and his Midland Brick band commandeered the stage and used up nearly all the rehearsal time allotted to the youth band, to rehearse his band and their numbers for the contest and concert which included a duet between Eddie and the Adjudicator. Needless to say the Youth Band went on underdone and never met again. Another major initiative which would have been beneficial to the whole brass banding movement in WA was irretrievably down the tube. John wished to hell he had the musical background to back up the idea.

The Conductor commented at the AGM that the band was on a high after winning a fun test but this must be sustained to see any advancement of the band. He paid tribute to young Wayne whose development was proceeding very well. He also commented that at the time we would have been one of the youngest bands in the state.

Don Weaver commented on notable events during the past year which included the successful trip to Busselton on the long week end in January where the band stayed in Church Camp accommodation at Dunsborough and joined the Busselton band for a street march, concert, and played on the river bank for the Busselton Australia Day carnival. The Fairbridge camp prior to the contest was also successful.

Don Steel was presented with his Life Membership medallion.

Ron Jenkins, big band leader and great friend of the band died during the year as did former player and conductor Bill Halvorsen, after whom, along with his brother, Halvorsen Hall had been named.

The learner's classes were now combined on Monday nights and said to number 18 to 21 players.

Those figures were very suspect.

The Corporate affairs Department had promised approval of our amended constitution by Christmas, after it had been going backwards and forwards to them for more that a year requiring cosmetic changes.

We bought Warren Wells cornet for \$200. Warren had moved permanently to Bridgetown and had no further use for the instrument.

A suggestion was made to cease cabarets in 1990 with a view to re vamping the format and then re starting in the following year. Dave Way had some ideas on this also.

The reason stated was that the format was becoming old hat, with the numbers of patrons attending falling away rapidly as the regulars aged and were unable to attend. At this stage many of the youngsters had commenced playing in the big band. The idea was to re vamp the big band into a more modern group which could attract a younger audience, go back into the business in 1991 with an up dated format which could hopefully attract a whole new audience and start a whole new run of successful cabarets. Unfortunately there were too many people who could only see backwards so not only did they let the cabarets go they let the big band die and with it any chance of teaching the younger members to take over. Another wasted opportunity.

The band needed the presence of another "Doug Buswell/Eddie Klemm/Charlie Brown" partnership to make it happen. But there was no one to take up the challenge.

Keith O'Neil had left the band \$3940 in his will which was eventually used - with council assistance - to purchase a BBb Bass which has been suitably engraved in his name.

The Conductor Brian Underwood was very pleased with band's effort at Albany where the band had spent a week end and was looking forward to an Easter event at Mandurah.

In Albany the band was accommodated over three venues. The Albany trip included a street march, concert and workshop with the Albany band. The Drum major was also proud of the band's turnout at Albany.

It was another good social and musical event.

A 2nd hand photo copier was purchased for \$1500 in 1990, and the old one sold for \$750

The first major discussion on a proposed trip to New Zealand was also held.

The learners group which in the previous year had numbered 19 was now down to 9 and shortly thereafter reduced to 7 and likely to fold.

Lance Hammond suggested the possibility of commencing a junior concert band which was considered a last resort by the Committee.

Richard McBride then had to go away until July which virtually sealed the fate of the learners group.

We tendered for telephone book deliveries as a fund raising effort. The idea came from Judy Bentley.

With funds drying up owing to a reduction and later cessation of the Cabaret dances it was obvious another source of income had to be found. The telephone book deliveries helped here.

Unfortunately it was not long before the funds started to be earmarked for the band's trips instead of general running expenses, and members soon got tired of the small annual commitments they had to make to carry out the deliveries. Soon enough, the contract was lost and nothing has been devised to replace it as an adequate alternate source of funds.

Don and Sabrina Weaver hosted a social "games" night at their home which was another great social event to weld together the old members with the emerging youth.

The annual dinner was again a great success, and as usual, compered by the incomparable Doug Buswell with his fine sessions for misdemeanours during the year.

Later, others ran the fine sessions which took various forms.

The following examples relate to later dinners, as an alternative to a Doug Buswell fine session, which usually included long convoluted humorous stories that would take up more space than the whole of this book.

This fine concerns Bill Farrell when he was conducting the brass band

(Couldn't get the rhythm right so we had to give up on it)

You should see him do the tango,
Fox-trot, jive or mambo
But one step you'll never see him chance –
It's that famous Irish Riverdance.

This concerns Ken Kearsley delivering phone books to raise money for the band and having a little law trouble (Picked up on delivery day for having people on the tray of the ute when seat belts were unused in the cab – He was also living on a hobby farm at the time)

Farmer Ken from East Bullsbrook
has come to town to deliver phone books.
"Pull over son", the fuzz does say
"Yer can't carry passengers on yer ute tray"
"Passengers?" Sez Ken – "Yer off yer logs,
they're only me bloody kelpie sheep dogs".

This one concerns Don Weaver at a Christmas Pageant when the band nearly got left behind.

The Pageant moves off with the band half asleep,
By the time it's ready they're behind half a street.
Some at a trot, the rest at a canter,
No one can blow for the puffin' and panter'.
Weaver however leads the charge by disguisin',
"Drum patterns" not heard since the Zulu uprisin'.

These may serve to illustrate some of the harmless fun had at the dinners.

These events were becoming the best social event on the calendar, comprising a formal dinner, short toasts and speeches, relevant presentations and then a dance to round out the night.
Hopefully they will be revived in some form or other in the future.

At the AGM it was reported that Stan "Stooner" Castlehow, one half of the previously mentioned "birthday orchestra, and a great character, as well as Tinny Walker, an old band friend, had passed away during the year.

The Conductor Brian Underwood was happy with winning the B grade state championships and a good showing at a concert held in conjunction with PLC where Brian was teaching at the time. Brian was successful whilst at PLC in recruiting several talented students to the band.

The Constitution re written in 1987, was now formally accepted by corporate affairs and adopted.

Fred Gfeller and Ken Walker received Life Memberships

The band had lost 12 players for various reasons over the past few months including life member and long standing stalwart Elmore Nylander who retired. A concerted effort to recruit replacements was required.

Former Vice President and long time supporter of the band, Merv Rowston passed away in September.

Also in September the band made a trip to Merredin for a Lions convention and met up with several former members of the long since defunct Merredin Brass Band. Accommodation was provided at the Agricultural College there. On the way back the band called in to play at the York Jazz festival playing several jazz oriented pieces at a street location. This was another enjoyable and successful trip.

A review of this very busy year saw the band having won the B Grade championship and 2 fun tests, and spent an enormous amount of time and effort in running a major car raffle to fund the coming New Zealand tour.

A very successful trip to New Zealand was completed in 1991.

The run up to this trip was hectic. Every avenue of fundraising that could be thought of was adopted, culminating in a major car raffle. Tickets were sold in several shopping centres, the Murray Street Mall and the Railway Markets in Gosnells among other venues. A big effort was undertaken by very few people.

The trip itself was magnificent and commenced with two days in Auckland where we enjoyed the company of the local brass band, followed by a few days based in Rotorua where again we were the guests of the Rotorua Band. Playouts were interspersed with sightseeing trips. The major concert was held at Whakatane which was well received, the Mayor presenting the band with a plaque. We were to use the local band's percussion equipment and shortly before the performance the timpani arrived – beautifully hand made and hand tuned instruments. A very young Stewart Bentley had about fifteen minutes to learn how to handle them, but both he, and more importantly the maker, was thrilled with the result.

The librarian was overjoyed that the music folders were to be carried by individual members to New Zealand.

What a load of bollocks. The librarian spent the entire trip lugging them around and re sorting them into order after the players stuffed them up at each engagement they played. Not to mention getting them wet at a street play out and trying to dry them out between jobs, with music spread all over the Motel room.

At about this time Les Hogg was honoured by naming the library after him after 22 years straight post war and 14 years pre war in the position.

Librarians are definitely masochistic.

The band decided to contest in "A" grade again.

Wayne Duncan our principal cornet player left the band on 17/4/1991 to seek fame and fortune in the U.K. He eventually secured the Repiano chair at CWS Glasgow Brass Band and toured Australia with them. Since then he has resumed University studies, obtaining a masters degree in composition and later a doctorate completed in about 2008.

Laura Beahan was appointed principal cornet. She was later lost to Scotland where she played with a band in Edinburgh before study, marriage and family commitments took over. 2010 sees her in Washington DC, but having just started out again with a local Brass Band she has given it away again owing to the strangeness of the conductor, but hopes to take it up again some time in the future.

Robert Kearsley replaced Wayne Duncan as deputy conductor.

The Lord Mayor (Reg Withers) accepted a Patrons position.

Todd Hammond the then Secretary received a transfer to the country in his employment and Kathy Salter became acting Secretary.

However this was short lived as she resigned following an altercation with the Conductor with Don Steel taking over to the following AGM.

The contest in Bunbury was deemed successful even though we did not win.

A very musically successful concert was held in St Andrews Church although the attendance was low and said to be because of a lack of sufficient advertising.

The Annual Dinner was once again well attended and a happy occasion.

After the Perth City Council had assisted us to purchase one instrument on our behalf using their tax exempt status they

then advised that this benefit was no longer available.

Conductor Brian was worried about the lack of new players joining, particularly cornets. A suggestion was made to adopt a school concert band with a view to nurturing the brass players for our use. Alan Kyrwood showed some interest in teaching beginners.

Early discussions were being held and bookings taken for another proposed cruise in 1993, this time on the Russian cruise ship "Belorussiya" out of Sydney.

A quiz night was held on Friday 13th March 1992, styled "Black Friday Quiz & Fancy Dress Night". This was held at the Masonic Hall in Mount Hawthorn. A good night but not as well attended as expected.

Coralie Weber who had taken over as Secretary at the AGM resigned and Harry Weston took on the job. Coralie a fine euphonium player left to concentrate on archery.

The Conductor Brian Underwood suggested no more contesting. There was too much effort for too little return. It was taking too much out of him and too many people were upset when left out of the contest band. The band was too let down when they put a lot of effort in, only to be disappointed when a single adjudicator said on the day that they were not good enough.

This was later put to the band members who agreed, with the proviso that the matter be reviewed in twelve months time. This signalled the end of contesting for the City of Perth Brass Band to this time.

At the AGM it was commented that Norm Snow who had done so much to teach young players throughout Perth and had been instrumental in the formation of our junior brass band had died during the past year. This was a sad loss to the whole brass band movement in this state.

Don Weaver reported that the band was still performing at a high level in spite of large changes in membership and contest disappointments.

This was also the year that the Halvorsen Hall band room was extended by relocating a glass wall section about four feet further out. Although not a major increase in size it did ease the pressure a little and made rehearsals a little more comfortable. The Perth City Council made a small contribution towards the cost.

At the suggestion of Robert Kearsley a copy was taken of all the band historical photos in case the originals were lost or vandalised. A close examination of the prints and negatives indicates that it may be preferable to have them digitally scanned and stored to obtain clearer copies than the photographic procedure was able to achieve.

Ken & Dee Treen organised a car rally social event in September which ended in the Swan Valley. It was a good social event but not particularly well attended.

With the discontinuance of the regular Cabaret Dances, other ventures were considered. One such was a Variety Concert and Cabaret at Balcatta High School on Sunday 8th November. This also was not particularly well attended. Once again we showed an inability to sell tickets.

The City of Perth ran a series of seminars on improving the performance of "Not for Profit" organisations. The President asked various band members to attend and report back.

The 4 seminars covered:

- Incorporation and Insurance.
- Fundraising
- Public Relations and Promotions
- Grants and Funding

It was a very rewarding series but unfortunately not kept in mind by ourselves. The exercise could be beneficial if repeated again now.

Committeeman Bill Bell presented a resume of a proposed series of "Season" concerts the band could commit to in the following year. An ambitious but exciting prospect to look forward to, and with Bill's driving force behind it, ultimately successful.

The 1993 planned Pacific cruise became a Bali Cruise when the original cruise vessel the Russian ship 'Bellorussiya' was holed in dry dock.

Numbers on the trip were reduced because of the change, but it was still considered a successful social trip although there was no real opportunity for the band to play.

The opinion of the writer, for what it is worth, is that no band trip should be undertaken unless a representative band from the current membership is prepared to go, and unless some outlets for playing on the trip are previously negotiated. One compelling reason is that by law no funds of a not for profit organisation can be distributed to or used

by members unless for purposes covered by the objects of the organisation, and I doubt that a holiday would pass.

Following copyright breaches becoming a concern an attempt was made to issue band music folders to individuals containing original music, with the proviso that if they could not attend they must arrange for their folder to be at practice.

At the very first practice following issue, no Bass players turned up, no folders turned up and a visitor who could have sat in and played the parts was unable to do so because there was no music.

Within weeks the band had a concert and a complete folder went missing.

The experiment lasted about 6 weeks before it had to be terminated before the librarian lost his sanity.

It was found that we were in breach of copyright laws in some areas and a decision was taken to correct the situation by ordering new parts for numbers where we appeared to only hold photo copies and removing anything that looked wrong.

The result was that approximately 400 titles had to be removed from the library and either destroyed or repurchased.

The first of the "Four Seasons" concerts organised by Bill Bell had been held in Perth Modern School compered by Tina Altieri. It was very successful musically.

The second "Winter Concert" was held at the Salvation Army Fortress in June. It included Festive Brass, The Perth Girls Choir and featured Vocal Soloist Mark Underwood. David Hawkes of ABC fame compered the concert. It was an excellent concert from all reports and was the second concert in the series, working to develop an audience that could be relied on to support the band.

Sir Charles Court our patron at the time attended and was a guest conductor for one number.

He took the trouble to write to Brian Underwood:

"Dear Brian,

It would be appreciated if you would convey to the President and other Office Bearers and members of the City of Perth Band my appreciation of their invitation to participate in their winter concert at the Salvation Army Citadel on Saturday night.

As you know I do not do much conducting these days although my love of music still persists as strong as ever and I attend as many musical occasions as I can.

You and your colleagues must be very pleased with the concert on Saturday night.

It was a very well balanced one from the public point of view. I thought the two bands, your son, the vocalist, the City of Perth Ladies Choir all performed admirably and David Hawkes was his usual professional self.

I enjoyed the rehearsals as well as the performance and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the bandsmen who were very patient in rehearsals and responded even better at the concert.

The City of Perth Band has a great history not only as a musical combination but as a great institution; this explains why it has survived so long when some other bands which rose to considerable heights during their day did not survive.

This speaks well for those who are responsible for the administration; you certainly have a great variety of activities which keep families and friends together.

Kindest regards and again many thanks for your part in helping me put the march segment together.

Yours sincerely

Charles Court"

The Spring Concert was held in Nagle Hall at Iona Presentation College in September and was supported by the female A Capella group "Sweet Adelines" and the Iona Presentation College Music Dept.

The Summer Concert at Hadley Hall, Methodist Ladies College was held at the end of November and featured the Kalamunda Swing Band, Alan Karasavas the Magician together with other guest artists. The compere on this occasion was Anne Conti.

These proposed 4 concerts per year were intended to make up for the fact that we were no longer contesting and to keep the band striving for higher standards. The idea was correct but the results did not live up to expectations, partly as a result of the band being unable to sell the necessary tickets.

Langley Smith took on the job of editing the band's newsletter which he named "The Drum." .

Alf Toll was given life membership which was long overdue.

Concern was expressed over the impending splitting of the Perth City council and our lease which had been allowed to expire, as we were to end up in the Town of Vincent.

Don Weaver reported that the council advised we should not be concerned. It is understood that earlier when our lease was coming due for renewal that the council advised that there was no need to seek renewal as everything would run on as before. This was before the split, leaving us with no tenure rights when later events took over.

An article in an edition of the Drum in 1994 challenged the band for ideas on how to improve recruiting and re vitalise the band.

Once again - absolutely no response

A trip to Tasmania that had been in the planning stages for about 12 months was abandoned owing to a lack of player interest, although it is thought that some members took a private tour.

Bevan Pearce the drum major made the first approach for a change in the band's marching uniform. It was considered at the time that the heavy old navy style uniforms that had been virtually unchanged for 60 odd years were now out of date and a new style should be adopted. After much discussion our present tunics modelled on the style of the Salvation Army was selected. Much argument then ensued over the colour and eventually blue won out, which complemented the existing concert styled jackets which had been introduced in 1988. It was planned originally that the trousers would retain the gold seam stripe which looks so effective on the march, but the cost of braid was becoming prohibitive and when left plain black, members could supply their own. The next problem was skirts versus trousers for the ladies. This is probably still being debated. The full band accepted the proposal at a special meeting on 1st July.

The adoption of the new style tunics soon made the band realize they did not need the concert mess jackets, so they were first relegated for emergency use and eventually to the concert band when that was formed and are now (2010) nearly phased out completely. All in all it was a very expensive exercise.

An official approach was made to City of Perth to clarify the band's tenure at Halvorsen Hall prior to the split in council becoming effective. At the AGM the President warned that the band's sole occupancy status was likely to come to an end.

A full meeting at Lance Hammond's place was scheduled to discuss ideas for ensuring the band's future and it duly took place in May. The matter that was discussed was the need to recruit. It was fully realized that because all Schools apart from two in the country had switched their music programs to the Concert Band format it was becoming almost impossible to recruit from that source, firstly because they were receiving no tuition in the brass band idiom and secondly because as they were receiving band tuition at school there was little incentive or time to undertake additional training with established bands.

Various solutions were discussed which included liaising with a school band, but research already undertaken indicated indifference; possibly starting a junior band again, but with a concert band orientation. More modern arrangements attractive to a young group were also suggested.

At the same meeting Brian Kearsley undertook to train a group of beginners, subject to assistance. This offer was agreed to.

This arrangement was formalised at a meeting on 3rd July 1994 with planning commenced.

A special meeting was held at Don Weavers place on 26th June to discuss some required and other suggested changes to the band's constitution and the proposed changes were to be put before the AGM in August.

At the AGM Don Weaver stepped down as President after 8 years and Frank Pinner took over the reins.

The proposed Constitutional changes were adopted which included provision for some positions such as the librarian to be appointed and not elected, and also minor changes to the committee makeup.

Shortly after the AGM a proposal was submitted by John Bentley in regard to future recruiting.

The main suggestion was to look for an existing Concert Band that would be prepared to share our rehearsal premises. The idea being that after a time it may become appropriate to share some administrative work and eventually amalgamate the organisations under one entity. The distinct advantages being a fully equipped band with a complete library, and lines of recruitment already established. Therefore no initial cost to either party or distinct economies of scale.

No research appears to have taken place in respect to this suggestion.

In October the band travelled to Geraldton to participate in the Sunshine Festival. It was a most enjoyable trip both musically and socially with the Geraldton Town band.

Former members Syd Tidey and Jack Hallett passed away during the year.

In February 1995 the band room tenure was still uncertain. The City of Perth advised that the status quo would remain. To try and settle our nerves the Vincent Council was requested to give us a formal lease.

What happened next is not certain but it is understood they would only consider our position if we changed our name to Vincent, and even then we were unlikely to be given sole use as the new council was already under pressure to provide venues for various organisations.

What had been called the Junior Training Band under Brian Kearsley received a name change by dropping the “junior” part as the group had quite a few adults enrolled.

It was also stated that the provision of a senior concert band was inevitable. To this end a motion was passed to implement measures to commence a concert band in February 1996.

Bevan Pearce became President at the AGM, taking over from Frank Pinner after he had one year in the position. In his address to the band, Bevan outlined some of his thinking for the future. Firstly it was expected that the band would remain at Robertson Park for up to another 5 years while alternative arrangements were made, and that may have included expanding our existing premises if that could be negotiated or building a new home. His vision also saw the need to commence a school of music and concert band (which was already on the books.)

The Concert Band became a reality (almost) in October when Alan Kyrwood was appointed on a trial basis to head it. Advertising commenced and a first rehearsal was called for in March 1996 – without one single piece of concert band music in the library, a situation that would not have arisen if the original concept had been fully explored. The librarian was able to find pieces in the brass band library that had originally been arranged for military band and American school marching bands, but it was a poor way to start the Concert band

In November a cocktail evening was held to entertain as many of the City of Perth Councillors as possible so that they could obtain a better understanding of our predicament and our future needs, and to generally get them on side. It was also an opportunity to talk of our history with a view to getting support for our Centenary year coming up in 1998.

Following the Christmas Pageant Alan Kyrwood presented a review of all the bands that participated. In his view our musical performance was up to standard as was our marching compared to the other bands but our appearance was abysmal as the summer uniform used, which consisted of open necked blue shirts with dark trousers made us look very inferior to the other bands, particularly at a time when we had been instructed to lift our game if we wanted the Perth City Council to show us some respect. Apparently we were invisible as the 1996 AGM indicated we were back on the Council’s “use whenever possible” list after previously being on their “do not use under any circumstances” list. Bill Bell had found out that the Council had virtually blacklisted us and set about redeeming the situation. The previously mentioned cocktail evening was one way of mending the fences, so much so that the Council granted the band \$4000 to remedy the mixed uniform situation, which was sorely needed.

The band undertook a job entertaining the crowd at the lunch interval in the cricket test between Australia and England. This comprised a fairly simple marching display and a few tunes at the halt.

A report in the British Bandsman magazine read:

“So amid the glamorous Baywatch Australian way of life depicted on our Television screens, the brass band lives on. Even while Shane Warne and his mates were humiliating the Poms in front of those 21st century electronic scoreboards at Perth last month, (February) the intervals were illuminated by the Perth City Brass Band striding manfully, or rather personfully, across the turf to the strains of what sounded like an Alex Lithgow march. Unlike the cricket, it was a joy to behold.”

In January 1996 the band rejected a proposal that we enter the state contest in 1998 as part of our Centenary events.

In February Fred Gfeller reluctantly retired from playing owing to throat cancer,

The band travelled to Busselton at Easter but the numbers that were available to go left a doubt as to the success of future trips.

At the AGM the first indications that a new purpose built band room was on the cards was revealed when Bevan advised that the Perth City Council had approved the appointment of an architect. It transpired that over a period of time Bill Bell our marketing specialist, through his involvement in other commercial pursuits had become quite friendly with Councillor Jim Leahy. Bevan, Bill and various councillors had spent quite a bit of time searching for suitable alternative premises within the new City boundaries. Rooms at the Town Hall were even considered and rejected. According to Bill, returning from an evening at the Trots with Jim Leahy they looked at Queens gardens and pondered on the possibility of that as a site. From then on their imagination was ignited. Appropriately the history of the site coincides with our own as it was proclaimed a park at about the same time that our band came into being, and after being the site of the clay pits for the bricks that built much of the old Perth buildings including the town hall.

Bill Bell presented proposals for a major concert at the Town Hall to be held in November. It was to be styled The Lord Mayor’s Christmas Family Concert.

It was a big financial risk for the band to take but with the backing of the Lord Mayor Dr Peter Natrass (but with no Council sponsorship), making it a family concert and close to Christmas, it was thought that the risk was worth taking. Headline acts included Johnny Young and the Young Talent Team, the StGeorges and Perth Oratorio Choirs, Andrew Foote, Allan Karasavas the magician and others. Johnny Young acted as host.

The show was put together by Bill Bell, Gloria and Brian Underwood, ably supported by Lola Schleicher and many others.

A post concert review revealed the band had a net loss of a little in excess of \$2000 and based on the number of young people in attendance it was thought that styling it a family concert was perhaps a mistake. Nevertheless it was felt that the exercise was worth repeating as musically the show was very good and it had done a lot to lift the profile of the band in the right quarters.

Plans were commenced almost immediately for a repeat performance, this time to be styled "Lord Mayor's Variety Concert" and to be held in August.

On 22nd March 1997 the recently formed Concert Band held a 1st anniversary Concert on the lawn at Halvorsen Hall, Robertson Park. It was also an opportunity for a few retired players to get together and for some to join in for a 'blow', which was appreciated by all concerned.

In early August the brass band was contracted to play from the balcony of the Town Hall at a reception for the Lord Mayor of London. A rehearsal for the event went very poorly. Without notice the deputy conductor had to conduct the rehearsal, a mix up occurred with respect to the availability of our lead cornet player and a professional replacement substituted. The band sounded too loud in the empty hall and shouted instructions from the President from the Hall floor to the balcony and subsequent disparaging remarks to the band and in fact to everyone else within earshot did not help the band to improve the standard of the rehearsal which was already below par. At the actual reception the band responded well and all would have been OK had not the President abused the parent of one of our young student players for looking over the balcony to watch the reception unfolding below. Admittedly the President was under pressure to put on a good show but the actions taken then and earlier did not improve the situation.

At the AGM Bevan reported that the Concert Band under Alan Kyrwood was not progressing as quickly as required and they would have to do so to finance their existence. They needed more support from their players. The training group also needed members.

These veiled criticisms came so soon after establishment.

However the conductor of the Concert Band also said that progress had been slow, but helped by the number of brass band players that added stability and depth. The band performed credibly at the few concerts held.

Brian Kearsley said that the training group, first brought together in July 1994 was still viable although as expected, membership was constantly changing and he needed more support.

Just prior to the major Lord Mayor's Variety Concert on 16th August, at the Town Hall the Conductor Brian Underwood had to address some personal issues and for a while the Concert itself was in doubt. However it went on as planned hosted by Tina Altieri and with a host of variety acts which included solo vocal items by Tania Martin and Mark Underwood, choirs, and even an Alaskan Mukluks Sled Dog Team, the concert was a great success

The band was shortly to lose both the Conductor and also the services of Bill Bell who had done so much to promote the series of concerts in the Town Hall which were just starting to reap dividends.

In August or early September the band had to surrender its sole use occupation of the Robertson Park premises in favour of the Veterans Tennis Association. Even though we were under notice to re locate we had expected our sole occupancy rights to continue. This change of events meant that all non essential equipment was removed and stored in a room provided by the Perth City Council in Hay Street, with essential equipment having to be stored in the library between rehearsals at great inconvenience.

At the AGM that year some positional announcements were made.

For instance Brian Underwood was re-appointed as Conductor of the Brass Band in his absence and Bevan Pearce as Drum Major.

Neither Alan Kyrwood's position as Conductor of the Concert Band nor Brian Kearsleys position with the training band received a mention.

Other positions the minutes say would be confirmed at the next meeting.

In all fairness Conductors required approval by their band before appointment by the committee and other appointments could have been handled as per the minutes by the Committee.

At the next meeting in September Langley Smith was appointed as deputy to the conductor of the concert band on the approval of Alan Kyrwood, and as Brian Underwood had not been at the AGM his position was held over, notwithstanding his earlier appointment.

The numbers attending the Training band was causing concern and questions were being asked about its continuance.

An extraordinary General Meeting was called on 22nd October to discuss two questions.

- 1. How we, as a band can show Brian Underwood our appreciation for being our Bandmaster and how we can encourage and persuade him to return after his well earned period of "rest and recreation."
- 2. How we can best "survive" this short period without him.

The first item was dealt with and a card was circulated indicating the band's desire for Brian to return.

Before the second item could be raised a question on the legality of the meeting surfaced as although the meeting was held at the request of sufficient signatories and within the correct time limits, notices of the meeting had not been circulated to all members. The meeting was therefore terminated and general discussions followed. No minutes were taken of the players discussions except to say that matters raised would be dealt with by the committee.

A special committee meeting on 6th November was held to discuss Brian Underwood's resignation that had by then been received, with every indication that he had no intention of resuming his position. Advertisements were to be prepared immediately for a replacement. Robert and Ken Kearsley were appointed joint deputy conductors of the Brass band.

November saw the band join with The Royal Logistic Corp Band and other major attractions in the Perth International Tattoo under the sponsorship of the R.S.L

With the loss of our Conductor Brian Underwood who had been appointed as the Musical Director of the Western Australian band contingent, the band was fortunate to obtain the services of Major Ian Milne (Rtd) who with a wealth of former army service ably guided our band in this event which it was hoped would become a bi-annual fixture as part of the Perth International Festival.

While the event itself presented a very professional spectacle and our band performed particularly well, thanks to the hard work and planning undertaken by Bevan Pearce and Ian Milne, a loss was incurred by the promoters and so it has not been repeated. Friendships were forged with members of the RLC band and a couple of our girls had extra excitement when invited to assist the troupe of Italian Flag Throwers, and handled their roles with distinction.

At a meeting on 17th December it was disclosed that the Perth City Council was having trouble with the Heritage Council with respect to building the proposed new band room in Queens Gardens. There were ongoing problems with securing the site. An existing tenant in the caretaker's cottage had to be relocated and when all seemed set to go, it was discovered that a 100 year old heritage listed pecan tree was growing in the area where the new building was to go. This proved a major hurdle but with the assistance of the band's patron Sir Charles Court, pressure was brought to bear to have the tree transplanted, even though it was said to be unlikely to succeed at that time of year. Construction was then due to commence mid August in 1998.

At about this time a lotteries grant had been obtained and then a decision had to be made whether to allocate the funds towards a new band trailer or new sound equipment. Sound equipment won the day but the decision was rescinded at the very next meeting.

This meeting also discussed the appointment of a new musical director for the Brass Band. Four applications had been received, one of which was from Alan Kyrwood, present at the meeting in his capacity as WABA delegate. Of course he left the meeting but the outcome was that each of the applicants was to or already had been interviewed, then each was to take a rehearsal and a decision would then be made.

The death of Eddie Klemm was announced. Eddie had been a staunch member of the band, a former vice president and for many years responsible for organising the various dance bands for the long running cabaret dances. With Doug Buswell the band's compere for about 30 years they provided much entertainment with piano duets and Eddie at times on piano accordion.

Charlie Brown who did so much to involve Eddie Klemm and Doug Buswell in the social life of the band and indirectly secured the band's financial position for the next 30 years also passed away within weeks of Eddie Klemm.

Following the deaths of Charlie Brown and Eddie Klemm, Doug Buswell, the originator of the Cabarets idea ran the following tribute in our newsletter.

Vale

Eddie Klemm & Charlie Brown

The P.C.B. Cabarets 1957 -1987

Before the Cabarets started, the late Charlie Brown was a long standing family friend of mine. At a P.C.B. committee meeting, they were discussing the need for some source of finance and Charlie suggested I might be able to help.

So I went to the next meeting and it was there I first met the late Eddie Klemm who was vice chairman. Eddie didn't play in the band, but was a good organizer, a fine pianist and had his own dance band.

My suggestion for a bright – happy dance, ending with a one hour stage show (which I could produce), at the Leederville Town Hall, was accepted.

It was a wonderful night and started the Cabarets which ran for approximately the next 30 years.

The Cabarets were so popular that very soon many outside musicians and professional entertainers came along and a lot wanted to do a performance, so that soon I had a large range of entertainers for free. The P.C.B. used to give a mini

concert during the night and of course all band members could be used to supply Four to Ten piece dance bands and all types of accompaniment on any occasion.

As compere, the arranging of the instant program got as much as I could handle so I asked Eddie Klemm would he handle the complete control of musical requirements – both for dances and spot entertainment of all types. He agreed and did a wonderful job, arranging dance bands and any type of accompaniment for any act, with five minutes notice. That was the start of a wonderful friendship between Eddie and me that lasted until he passed away. I was convinced that the success of our Cabarets was due to variety and I would try anything to prevent the Cabarets degenerating into a plain dance. To prove my point, in one of our late shows, against a lot of opposition, I talked Royce Clark into playing “Life Divine.” The P.C.B. played it beautifully and the end was received with thunderous applause and a standing ovation. One thing that really impressed me was the wonderful co-operation and help of the whole P.C.Band. One of my proudest moments was when the band made me a Life Member.

From the first Cabaret, the Band’s cash problem was solved.

To conclude, in the space of only three weeks I lost my two life long friends, both of whom were competent, friendly and in all respects, two real gentlemen.

So long Eddie Klemm and Charlie Brown, two wonderful friends.

Doug Buswell (at that time 81.5 years old)

Late that year he Concert Band conducted a very successful Carol program at the old Fremantle Gaol attended by about 2000 people conducted by Alan Kyrwood and was looking forward to this being an annual engagement.

1998

The Band’s centenary year.

At the meeting on 19th February the position of Music Director had to be resolved as all the preliminaries for the four candidates it is assumed had been completed.

It was eventually decided that none of the applicants met all the requirements so none of the four applicants were appointed to the vacant position.

Authority was given to Bevan Pearce to approach Bill Farrell who had stepped in and conducted the band on Australia Day, to see if he was available, and if so make the appointment, which was confirmed at the next meeting.

Both Craig Ferguson and Don Weaver resigned from the Committee, with a comment made that they found it impossible to work with that administration.

The meeting on 5th March dealt with comments made by two Concert Band members in their letter of resignation. Reading between the lines in the absence of the letters it would appear that they were unhappy, and, along with others, many of the Concert Band members were not getting any enjoyment from their participation. The setting up of a proper sub committee to direct their progress was required. The President raised the point of the cost of the Concert Band which far outweighed its contribution.

A suggestion by John Bentley that the Band should look at a close liaison with a school with a strong music program with a view to developing an ongoing recruiting link was discussed and favourably received. It was envisaged that we could possibly adopt one school or two if they happened to be Mercedes College and Trinity Grammar that worked together on music camps and other ventures. However the President took it upon himself to approach other schools, which would have been impossible for us to have made a valuable contribution, although several indicated some support. As a result the whole idea fell flat on its face before it got off the ground. In any event it would have been nigh on impossible to get our band available at any time to fit in with a school. The closest we got was an indication from Mercedes College that it may have worked for them if we joined them for a workshop at New Norcia, but I doubt that this was seriously considered by us.

Alan Kyrwood had already made some recruiting approaches at the Conservatorium without success.

A program for the Centenary year was discussed.

Only 3 items stood out as special

- A Centenary Celebration Concert in July.
- A Centenary Dinner set for September.
- Opening of the New Band room was expected in October.

At a meeting on 18th April a proposal to merge the operations of the City of Perth Band with the Perth Concert band came up for discussion. It is thought that the Perth Concert Band were looking for a new music director and rehearsal venue and a merger would have fitted nicely with our then struggling Concert Band. It would also have been in line with the earlier suggestion to seek out a Concert Band to share facilities rather than start from scratch.

However Perth Concert Band were frightened off by the terms set out in the agreement to form a steering committee as it called for an immediate disbanding of their organisation, immediate transfer of all assets and an immediate change of uniform. The sensible thing would have been to accept co tenancy with amalgamation discussed when both parties were comfortable with the arrangement.

In any event the Perth Concert Band rejected the proposal and another promising opportunity was lost.

The Patron’s Centennial Concert was held in the town hall on 19th July before the patron, Sir Charles Court, The

Governor Major General Michael Jeffery, the Lord Mayor and many other dignitaries.
Former bandsman Wayne Duncan composed a march "City Centenary" especially for the occasion which was very well received by all.

In September the Committee started dealing with the remaining appointments for the year, and it seems that there were two contenders for the Concert Band conductor position, the incumbent Alan Kyrwood and Ken Kearsley.
A rather complicated method of selection was adopted whereby each applicant would take part of a rehearsal each week over a three week period, and then the Musical Director, Bill Farrell would make a recommendation after consultation with the band.

The minutes of the next meeting indicate that Alan Kyrwood was appointed on a six month trial basis to be then reviewed for signs of significant improvement. Remarks made at the AGM indicate that the performance and progress of the Concert Band left a lot to be desired.

In October the fate of the Training Band was discussed. It would appear that an earlier decision had been made that each entity within the group had to be self sustaining and not only was the Training Band draining the funds but its chief benefactor the Concert Band had not reached self sufficiency. The main problems seemed to be that players were leaving the training group too early, moving up to the Concert Band and thereby holding back the progress of the Concert Band. It was agreed to continue subsidising the Training Band for the time being, even though the trainer of that group was becoming frustrated with a lack of support from the Committee and members.

Also discussed at that meeting was the re appointment of A.Kyrwood as conductor of the Concert Band.
It was agreed to defer re-appointment for 6 months to then review for significant improvement in the band's performance. According to the minutes this decision was put in writing to Alan.

At a committee meeting held on 2nd November the subject of a players meeting was discussed in which the President Mr Bevan Pearce had been heavily criticised, not for the enormous amount of work and ideas he was contributing to the band, but his manner of addressing members of the bands, sometimes in derogatory terms, and sometimes in front of others. This had sometimes extended to other than the playing group.

The upshot was a statement of confidence issued by the Committee in the following terms –

"The Committee supports Bevan Pearce as President of the City of Perth Band and in all his undertakings on behalf of the organisation. The Committee further recommends that all members familiarise themselves with the conditions set out in the City of Perth Band Constitution, with particular reference to item 8.1."

For information clause 8.1 in the Constitution current at that time read –

"The Committee of Management shall have the power to reprimand or expel any member who shall fail in the observance of, or commit any breach of this Constitution and rules, or commit any unseemly act likely to damage the reputation of the band or bring disharmony within the membership."

Was this a warning to the playing members or the President?

At the February 1999 meeting of the Committee the President put forward his suggestions for the future management of the band, which basically would put the majority of control under a Managing Secretary and Assistant Secretary on an honorarium initially at the level equal to the Musical Director.

The Committee were in agreement and Bevan was to firm up his proposals.

For some time it had been believed that the Band's Constitution needed revising again to cover the new situation of two bands and a training group within the organisation so it was appropriate to review the whole structure at this time so Bevan commenced to devise a new Management plan.

February also saw the Grimethorpe Colliery RJB Band tour Australia and was hosted by us at a BBQ.

They were a very friendly and thirsty bunch.

Their concerts as expected were a sell out and did not disappoint. Having one of the world's best bands in Perth is a rare treat.

In April the re appointment of the Conductor of the Concert Band Alan Kyrwood was discussed, which had been deferred from October.

A progress report (who prepared it is unknown) was read by all members of the Committee.

Several letters from various members of the Concert Band were also read which indicated unrest, mostly to do with time wasted, choice of music, concentration on soloists and general unrest.

The decision was taken to find a new conductor, and the Musical Director of the Brass Band, Bill Farrell, was asked to take on the position until a new appointment could be made.

This understandably was not well received by Alan who had given the concert band the benefit of his considerable experience and ability.

The result was that not only did the Concert Band lose its founding conductor, the brass band lost its Soprano Cornet player, and ultimately the Concert Band also lost the job in Fremantle that it had hoped would be a valuable ongoing one.

The first serious mention was made of the possible establishment of a School of Music. Over time this received discussion but employing a teacher, centralising tuition, lack of rehearsal space and other logistical problems prevented it from progressing beyond the wish list stage.

The July Newsletter reported that work had commenced on building our new Band room in Queens Gardens. This was about the first time that the members were brought fully into the picture, as previously the members were told very little and warned not to speak of what they knew.

The long awaited new draft Constitution document was prepared and submitted to a General Meeting in October, immediately prior to the AGM which was being held much later than usual. Traditionalists and others with prior knowledge of the band's history resisted the move to the proposed new management structure on the basis that it would take the management of the band away from the members. It had always been the case that the Committee of Management must have a majority of playing members and the proposed change would see this control eroded.

The President Bevan Pearce had advised at the July meeting that he would not stand again as President if the Constitution remained with its structure basically unchanged.

The motion to change the constitution along the draft lines was defeated, so consequently he did not stand for re election and Dr Charles Watson succeeded him.

Bevan was appointed Secretary, but resigned the position before the year was out.

The term that Bevan had as President was not an easy one, but it is a shame that someone with so many good ideas could not communicate to the band in a way that would enthuse and carry them with him. Rightly or wrongly it always appeared that other people's ideas were discounted unless they matched his own, and any objections were put down in no uncertain way.

Round about this time the band took up the grant originally earmarked for the purchase of a new sound system. This was inexplicably changed to the purchase of a dual axle large trailer to replace the small trailer already held. The rationale was to have the new trailer fully set up so that when the band had an outside job, everything required would be at hand and it could be used as a sounding board for the band which often is required for sound projection and wind protection, and it was supposed to be fitted with extendable canvas or similar wings for that purpose.

In any event the trailer was never set up that way, it was just a large hollow container, too big for anyone but the owner of a 4WD vehicle to tow, too wide to enable safe rear vision, and too heavy for manhandling by one individual.

Within two years it was sold along with the original old small trailer and a more convenient single axle trailer was purchased without too much loss on the deal.

The Band moved from Halvorsen Hall, Robertson Park in Northbridge to the new Sir Charles Court Music Centre in Queens Gardens, East Perth on Sunday November 28th 1999.

Bill Farrell advised he would step down from the position of Conductor of the Brass Band and concentrate on the Concert Band as soon as a major concert had been completed in March 2000.

Harry Jenkin had shown interest in applying for the Brass band position but it was decided to advertise.

In December it was disclosed that the applicants were Harry Jenkin and Brian Underwood, with Brian Underwood being successful and to resume his former position when Bill was due to step down in March.

In January 2000 the proposed Lease for the new band room was received. The President said that the terms were very favourable to the band and therefore the meeting agreed to its acceptance.

The Official opening of the new band room in February by Sir Charles Court, accompanied by the Lord Mayor Peter Nattrass and Councillor Jim Leahy who supported the Band's move to Queen's Gardens. Former President Bevan Pearce and Bill Bell who together had worked extremely hard to get the new rooms built were also in attendance.

Bill Farrell surrendered control of the Brass Band in March 2000 in favour of the return of Brian Underwood, but remained in control of the Concert Band.

During the months following the rejection of the first draft of a new set of Rules and Regulations to supersede the former Constitution, much work was done to come up with a document to suit the new circumstances of two bands, and to incorporate as many of the better ideas of the many contributors to both the former draft and subsequent drafts as possible.

A special general meeting on 11th June at last approved the wording of the new Rules and Regulations, superseding what had always been known as the Constitution.

The Training band faded out during this year owing to a lack of attendance.

At the AGM the President Charles Watson commented that the attempt to establish close relationships with Mercedes and Trinity Colleges for recruiting purposes had obviously failed and the band should look elsewhere.

As part of the gradual up dating of the band uniforms, several years previously the band summer uniform was changed

from the previous long sleeved white shirts and black tie to an open necked blue shirt. These blue shirts seemed ill fitting and overall cheapened the look of the band.

In 2002 a decision was made to re-introduce the white shirts and achieve a more professional look.

In May the band played host to the Grimethorpe UK Coal Band at a social function in the band room prior to the commencing their Australia tour. This was another very successful event.

The Brass band observed Anzac day in Albany in 2003 where Kelly Thomas played the Last Post at a very moving dawn service at the Anzac Memorial on the top of Mount Clarence. Later the Band led the Anzac Day parade through the Albany main street to their service, an event much appreciated by the residents. A successful concert was also staged at the Stirling Club.

Meanwhile the Concert Band marched at the Perth Anzac Day service after performing the same duty at Subiaco. At the AGM Dr Charles Watson stood aside as President after 4 years to become Secretary, and Craig Ferguson assumed the position of President.

In October the Perth City Council supplied a signed copy of the Lease Agreement, nearly four years after we occupied the premises. This it seems was for us to sign off.

Later meetings raised questions of its legality, but nothing is apparent on when it was finally agreed by both parties.

However later meetings continue to raise questions on which party is responsible for various items. In 2005 it was established that they were responsible for plate glass, in response to a breakage, and also for the maintenance of the air conditioning system, later claiming it was not their responsibility. There were ongoing discussions about maintenance, and external maintenance of the surrounds. Following the completion of the new store room in 2009 and a change of CEO at the City of Perth a full review of the lease was to be undertaken to finally determine the responsibilities of both parties. In 2010 this still seems to be ongoing.

By September 2004 concern was being expressed that events funding by the City of Perth was being totally used elsewhere and the promised 6 jobs a year which formed part of the lease agreement looked unlikely.

In 2005 both bands were said to be performing creditably.

The Brass band had played a Carol program at Burswood which was very successful and the Concert Band had played at Council House for the Australia Day ceremony and again gave a high standard performance at the Australian Navy naming of HMAS Armidale

The Brass Band travelled to Albany to join with the Albany and other bands to celebrate their 125th anniversary. Comments were made on the outstanding organisation by the Albany band.

Negotiations were under way again with the City of Perth, this time over engagement payments. They had increased the lease payments but not adjusted the allowance for jobs undertaken which would put us at a disadvantage.

This looks like it will be an ongoing problem as it is apparent that different departments must review the two components, i.e. what we pay as against what they allow.

In May 2006 the sad death of the rather eccentric brass band member Tim Markes from Motor Neurone disease was reported. Tim will always be remembered for turning up for a marching practice complete with sandals and bicycle clips.

The usual engagements were undertaken with one highlight being asked to play for former Patron Sir Charles Court's 95th birthday at the Convention Centre. Sir Charles was still able to conduct one item.

He commented that his sons had little faith in that they had arranged birthday functions for his 70th, 80th and 90th birthdays so why one at 95. They were proved right as he did not make it to 100.

The band played host to the UK. YBS (Yorkshire Building Society) band at a small social function in our band rooms. It is always good to hear the standard of this type of touring band, as it brings home how much dedication and practice they must undertake to reach that standard. The President's remarks at the AGM that we must all endeavour to support our own Conductor in this area could be heeded – not his follow up remark that YBS were so good it almost made him feel like throwing his own instrument in the river.

Craig Ferguson stepped down as President in 2007 to be replaced by Margaret Thomas.

The AGM was held on a band rehearsal night this year, followed by a short concert by both bands. The event was well received and it is expected this will alternate between each band's rehearsal nights in future.

The Brass Band Library was culled of about 600 titles that the Brass Band Conductor believed would never ever be played again by our band. These were eventually sold to the Goldfields Brass Band apart from Solos with piano accompaniments which were sold to members.

Phone book deliveries were again undertaken to provide funds essentially for a proposed brass band cruise in 2009. The work was not well supported by either band.

Promotional brochure preparation was commenced to circulate to businesses, local authorities and other organisations to endeavour to secure more work. Separate brochures were suggested for each band, but to date (2010) do not appear to

have been prepared for the concert band.

In 2008 red T shirt style tops were obtained through the Perth City Council for casual summer functions such as the Christmas Pageant and Park engagements. To some, these are not much better than the blue shirts discarded previously as looking unprofessional.

Towards the end of 2007 the Concert Band numbers were dropping alarmingly and it seemed to some that if an influx of new members did not occur there was a distinct possibility that the band would wither and die.

Discussions were undertaken again with the Perth Concert Band in respect to a possible sharing of rehearsal venue and eventual amalgamation if that proved advantageous. Perth Concert Band at the time had recently recovered from a similar situation so were only lukewarm to the suggestion, even though they were experiencing some rehearsal venue problems.

Our members on the other hand, thinking they may not be up to the same level of performance as the Perth Concert Band members, and therefore get sidelined, decided to embark on an aggressive membership drive.

This proved remarkably successful.

Unfortunately membership almost immediately started to fall away again. The Conductor Cdr Bill Farrell had experienced some health issues in the preceding year which forced him to shorten some rehearsals as well as miss the occasional one. To further disturb the membership he was undertaking an overseas trip mid year, to which of course he was quite entitled to do, but it could possibly have further disrupted an already unsteady playing group.

Deputy conductor Harry Jenkin ably filled the void and also one or more other conductors were invited to take the band for a rehearsal.

During Bill's absence a decision had to be made at or around the time of the AGM on re appointment which is necessary in terms of our Rules, with Bill due to return shortly before that event.

Reluctantly a decision was made not to re-appoint, and also in accordance with our Rules, applications were called for. In a vote that tested everyone's loyalty to Bill and their genuine respect for him, as he had done much for both the Brass and the Concert Bands, and weighing that against their concern for the long term future of the Concert Band, particularly if Bill's health was still suspect, the vote went in favour of one of the other applicants, Paul DeCinque.

This year also saw the bands at long last trying to operate autonomously under the sub committees that should have been in operation since the new Rules were adopted in 2000, and which were supposed to see each band handle its own day to day affairs under the umbrella of an Administration Committee designed to control finance, legalities and policy issues. The Concert Band had made a concerted effort to comply, but the Brass Band, because it also had more persons on the Administration Committee seemed not to differentiate between the two.

With a forced review of the Rules coming due in 2010 or thereabouts to meet new legislative requirement, perhaps any fine tuning required can be carried out at that time.

New promotional brochures were obtained and circulated to many prospective target organisations seeking work for the brass band. A few enquiries resulting in work was achieved out of 200 brochures posted. The brochure needed some work to meet the Concert Band's requirements, it was claimed.

The Concert Band entered the contesting field for the first time in "C" Grade in 2009 and acquitted themselves well. Former Drum Major Ben Titheridge passed away during the year.

Early in 2010, Elmore Nylander, one of the finest cornet players the band had been fortunate to have in its ranks passed away in his 96th year after giving over 80 years of service to many brass bands and dance orchestras in Western Australia.

To wind up this record in 2010

Things that I miss most at the present time are the social events that once punctuated our year.

Events such as

- The Anzac Day lunch.
- The old Cabaret evenings complete with red tablecloths.
- Band dinners, even with the formal aspects.
- End of year break up party. Etc.

But to continue,

The Brass Band is still performing quite well under the baton of Brian Underwood, but membership is weak in some areas.

There have been the inevitable changes in personnel over the years and in fact since the commencement of this historical exercise in 1989, although we have quite a number of persons now long standing in the band, only about 6 were in the band when this exercise commenced, and two are non players.

The band is fortunate to have a number of younger members and this trend needs to continue to safeguard this band's strength into the future as the older experienced players gradually retire.

This will become harder and harder as players with a brass band upbringing diminish thereby also diminishing the number of potential brass band trainers and conductors.

Already the ability to provide a full marching band is doubtful.

The Concert Band at this stage has gone from strength to strength under Paul DeCinque, who, as well as being talented is also younger and in tune with what is currently happening in the various education streams and has been able to attract and hold talented young players to the band.

They contested again in 2010, up a grade to "B" Grade, indicating their new found confidence, and achieved a solid second placing plus some other awards.

Given strong leadership and vision, one hopes that the way forward will see both bands survive and thrive into the foreseeable if uncertain future.

The compiling of this document has not been made easy for many reasons, some of which are

- Missing minutes of meetings over many years which could have pointed to major events, successes and failures, personnel, and the general wellbeing of the band over the years.
- Meeting Minutes that say little about the matters under discussion.
- Annual reports that do not contain written reports from the Executive.
- Lack of response by members, some current, some since departed this life that could have given more information on earlier executive persons and events.

However acknowledgement must be given to the following:

- The late John Firth from the Latrobe Federal Band (Tasmania) for providing information on the Piper family, the founders of our band, and for permission to use excerpts from his history of that band "Blow Bugle Blow". No thanks to him for starting this whole exercise in the first place, as the suggestion initially came from him when he visited our band room, promoting his own book.
- Jack Greaves, from Sydney, who provided a wealth of information on Hugh McMahon and our early years. He would have more information on most long standing bands in Australia than any of the bands themselves. He has had a passionate interest in the history of the band movement for a considerable number of years, having joined his first band in 1937. He has spent a great amount of time researching the subject via old newspaper files and band journals, consequently accumulating much historical data. As a member of the Sound Heritage Association, he compiled the booklet 'Great Bands of Australia' which accompanied the CD set of the same title. More recently, he was co-author of other publications 'Legends in Brass' and 'A Musical Mission of Empire'. His personal collection of band memorabilia gathered over a period of more than sixty years includes books, journals, photographs, musical manuscripts and a substantial collection of vintage band recordings. He has been Historical Research Officer for the Band Association of New South Wales since 1985.
- Geoffrey and Violet Brand and Arthur R Taylor for their respective insights into the origins of the brass band movement.
- And of course, the members of our own band who have provided glimpses of their own personal lives as well as fleshing out some of the incidents and stories contained herein, and particularly the likes of the O'Neil family, Sid Shaw, the late Charlie Brown and Doug Buswell, Jack Wadeisha, Eric Cowan, Laurie O'Keefe, Fred Gfeller, Robert Kearsley, the late Les Hogg, Campbell Holmes, Danny Wilson, and others that came to the party when requested
- Acknowledgement also is given to the West Australian, through the State Library and other unknown publications that I have used for some of the background and examples.
- Also the State Library of Western Australia, the Battye Library, and the Benedictine Community of New Norcia for the use of some photographs and other material.
- Any omissions are regretted.

One final comment.

In the past the band was held in the highest regard by many sectors of the community. If we truly wish to represent the City of Perth, then surely there is a responsibility to work towards attaining the highest possible standard and that should be the goal of both the players and administrators.

The final section of this production embodies personal stories both by those persons themselves or researched from other sources.

I hope you enjoy it.

SOME BAND PERSONNEL OVER THE YEARS

Anderson, J.F. (Jack) B.E.M.

(From his obituary)

A Baritone player.

Jack Anderson died on 7th March 1980 after a lifetime of service to Brass Bands in Western Australia.

In 1916 at the age of 17 Jack saw active service in France with the 44th Battalion.

When the Prince of Wales toured Western Australia, the State wanted a band for the occasion, so Jack became a foundation member of the 11/44th band. After the visit it was decided to keep the band going; this saw the beginning of the R.S.L. band. He was associated with this band until 1926 when he joined the Perth City Band.

He organised the 1959 Australian National Championships in conjunction with Sir Charles Court; was State Secretary of the Western Australian Band Association for 8 years, City of Perth Band delegate for 9 years; has organised State Championships; and has been Western Australia's delegate to the Australian Band Council.

He was the inaugural recipient of our Band's "Bandsman of the Year" award; was a Life Member and Vice President of the band and a Life Member of the Western Australian Band Association. At one time or another had held most positions with our band.

At the age of 80 years he was an active and valuable musician, devoting 100% to the banding movement. Even marching with the band gave him immeasurable pleasure.

His dedication to brass bands, his fine example to junior musicians and the pleasure he gave was tantamount to a lifetime of entertainment provided gratis to the lovers of good brass band music.

Recognition in the form of the British Empire Medal was conferred on Australia Day 1979 for his services to music. A just reward for his services to brass bands.

Bandsmen's comments

Jack Anderson – A typical old time bandsman who considered the Band his, and he worked accordingly to keep it going. He had a gruff, abrupt way of communication and I don't think he recognised any one until they had been in the Band for 2 or 3 years. You had to prove yourself.

At one time he was Secretary of the Band and also of a Freemason's Lodge. All the records were full of holes and burn marks from his incessant smoking habit.

A little story from Sid Shaw.

Late one night Jack Anderson drove me home from rehearsal after a solid stint in the back room.

As we drove along I said to Jack "better get back on the correct side of the road".

"What do you mean" says Jack, "There's the white line and I'm left of it"

"Sorry to correct you" says I, but that's the kerb on the wrong side of the road.

There was much less traffic in those days, particularly at that time of night.

On another occasion after Jack had moved from Claremont where he had been in a relationship, to a bachelor pad somewhere in Guildford, Sid had occasion to visit him. The floor was covered in music and newspapers and Sid said to him "Jack, don't you ever clean up this mess." To which Jack responded "No, I haven't got the time". With Jack's well known smoking habit it is a wonder he did not burn the place down.

Anderton, Nigel. LLCM, A(Mus)LCM

As a student Nigel was appointed leader of his school orchestra in 1953. He became deputy leader of his local youth orchestra in 1954. He auditioned for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and gained a place. He also passed the audition for the National Schools Festival Orchestra and was appointed deputy leader.

Nigel took up playing brass instruments in 1951 with the Salvation Army. He joined the local brass band in 1953 and was playing solo euphonium by 1956.

He joined the Royal Artillery (Portsmouth) Band in 1957 rising through the ranks to become a bandmaster by 1969. He retired from the services in 1979.

Came out from England as conductor and lasted a couple of years. He was mainly an orchestra man.

Ashton, Jack

Drum major 1958.

Thought to have been a program manager of radio 6KY.

Baile, Albert

August, 10 1882 - March 14 1961

Albert Baile was, during the course of his career as a bandmaster, one of the best known and respected in Australian brass band circles. Even today, several decades after his death, former bandsmen who played under his baton, speak of him with an obvious degree of reverence.

Albert Henry Baile was born in Battersea, London, and according to his certificate of birth the date of the event was 10th August 1882 and not 1888 as usually quoted in previous biographical sketches. His father was Albert Arthur Baile, who's stated occupation was "house decorator".

Exactly when Baile senior brought his family to Australia is not known but it appears that they were residents of Boulder City on the West Australian goldfields before settling in Perth.

When aged nine years Albert Baile was fortunate to receive musical instruction from a Mr. George Campbell, said to have been a graduate of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, the training establishment for all British army bandmasters. From Campbell, the young Bert Baile learned to play flute, piccolo and clarinet, becoming accomplished performer on each instrument. In later years he took up the cornet and was a member of the. A.W.A.

Boulder City Band when that group, under Bill Partington, won the championship at South Street, Ballarat, Victoria, in 1904.

At a meeting in Perth on January 24, 1905, the Perth Federal Band was renamed the Perth City Band and Bill Partington was elected bandmaster. Upon his appointment as conductor Bill Partington immediately strengthened the band with a number of key players from his champion AWA Boulder City Band. It is quite likely that Bert Baile was one of those players, for by 1908 he was not only the band's principal cornet player but also band secretary.

In October 1913, Baile took over the conductor's baton from Mr. Hugh McMahon, who had been in charge of Perth City since his appointment in November, 1910.

Hughie McMahon was the celebrated cornet soloist who had been dubbed The Emperor of the Cornet and Bert Baile often joined with him to perform duets at the band's regular Sunday afternoon and evening recitals held at several different outdoor locations in Perth. As a cornet soloist, Baile was held in high esteem in local musical circles. A Perth Sunday newspaper once said of his rendition of Tosti's *My Dreams* that his "soulfully sympathetic rendering would cause Tosti to be proud he composed it."

At a concert by the Perth City Band soon after Hugh McMahon took over the conductorship from Harold Partington (Bill's brother) the band included an arrangement by McMahon of a selection from the opera *Cavalleria Rusticana* by Mascagni. After reporting favourably on the general playing of the band, The Daily News (Perth November 28, 1910) in referring to the band's rendition of that selection said: "It was a particular triumph". The report went on to say "the cornet of Mr Baile in the intermezzo captivated the crowd with its exquisite sweetness. If Mr Baile had a little more nerve in attack, a little more forcefulness to vary his delicate expression, he could be a player of international fame".

In January 1919, under Bert Baile's leadership, Perth City won the West Australian Championship at Bunbury and repeated that success at the same venue the following year.

In March 1920, Albert Baile left Perth to take up a new appointment as bandmaster of the Newcastle Steelworks Band in New South Wales. At the time of his appointment the Steelworks Band was graded B by the Band Association of NSW and in December 1920 they competed in both B and A grade sections at a contest in Newcastle gaining first prize in each division. Playing at that contest with the Steelworks Band it must be said were five former members of Perth City who had gone east to join up with Baile's new band. The following month, January 1921, at Sydney, when competing for the NSW A Grade Championship, the Steelworks Band was placed third. They succeeded in winning the Queensland Championship at Easter 1922 and were runners-up to the crack Victorian band Malvern Tramways at Ballarat in 1921 and 1922.

That rather busy period of contesting, with its attendant successes was no doubt deliberately undertaken in a bid to engender public interest in and support for the band, the management of which planned a rather ambitious visit to Britain in 1924. Officially the proposed visit was to represent Australia at the British Empire Trade Exhibition held at Wembley that year and where they ultimately completed a record engagement period of three months duration, playing two and sometimes three programs a day.

While in Britain, the Newcastle Steelworks Band competed in three major contests for brass bands that year and was the first Australian contesting combination to challenge the great British bands that, by reputation, were held in awe by most Australian bandsmen who seriously considered them to be invincible by one of our own combinations. Baile, however, shattered that illusion by securing first prize at Halifax, Yorkshire, in June against eleven first class bands, including Foden's Motor Works and Black Dyke Mills, thereby gaining the title of British Empire Champions. He followed that initial success with another win in early September at Belle Vue, Manchester, this time against 15 bands and later that same month was awarded third prize from a field of 17 at the Crystal Palace contest, London.

In achieving the success he did at the three most important contests held in Britain in 1924, Albert Baile secured for himself a deserved and honoured place in both British and Australian band history.

Two years later, Baile returned to England as conductor of the Australian Commonwealth Band and again competed at the September Belle Vue Championship, gaining fourth position from a record entry of 24 bands. As a concert group the Commonwealth Band toured extensively under Baile's direction, visiting Canada on two occasions, parts of America and throughout New Zealand and Australia before disbanding in Sydney in September, 1928.

Following the resignation of James Compton as conductor of Sydney's Bondi Beach Concert Band early in 1931, Bert Baile was appointed to fill the position. Bondi Beach was one of Sydney's premier contesting bands and numbered within its ranks a number of former members of the Commonwealth Band. Under Baile, the band competed consistently at the Sydney competitions with regular placing in the A grade events. In October 1938, Bondi Beach Band became the band of the St John Ambulance Brigade with Baile as bandmaster.

Apart from a period of army service (November 1941 -April, 1946), Albert Baile was conductor of the St John Band until his rather sudden death in March 1961. Beginning in 1948 with a win in the National Championship at Sydney, the St John Ambulance Brigade Band, under Baile's direction, dominated the brass band contesting scene throughout the fifties and created a record of State and National Championship wins. This period with the St John Band was, with little doubt, his most successful as a bandmaster. The band was undefeated in any contest between 1948 and 1959.

On joining the army in late 1941, Baile was given the rank of warrant officer and appointed to take charge of bands of the 7th Military Command, also to personally conduct the 7th Garrison Headquarters Band, Perth. Later in his army career he conducted the 1st Divisional Concert Band and in 1944 was bandmaster of the 1st Australian Armoured Brigade Band. He was appointed lieutenant in November 1945 and took his discharge in April 1946.

In October 1945, Warrant Officer A.H. Baile presented two farewell recitals at the Sydney Town Hall by Massed Regimental Bands of the Second Australian Army, A.I.F. In all, the aggregation of military bandmen on stage numbered in excess of 160 performers. Associate artists at those concerts were two wonderful Australian vocalists; Peter Dawson and Strella Wilson, soprano.

As an adjudicator his services were in regular demand and he officiated at competitions throughout Australia as well as New Zealand.

Apart from his interest and involvement with the brass band movement, Albert Baile displayed an interest in theatre orchestras and stage productions. During the period he held the conductorship of Perth City Band, Baile was also conductor of a small orchestra that performed at the Majestic Picture Theatre, Perth, and when the Perth Operatic and Choral Society performed Wallace's opera "Maritana" in March 1919, Baile was conductor of the 24 piece string and brass orchestra that formed part of the production. In March 1924, just prior to the Steelworks Band's departure for their overseas tour, Baile was presented with a testimonial from the chairman of the Newcastle Operatic Society who, on behalf of the Society's sixty members, expressed thanks and paid tribute to the wonderful contribution he made as Musical Director of that Society.

At the time of Baile's death he was in his 79th year and it could be truly said of him that almost his entire life had been devoted to music making in one form or another. But as far as the brass band movement in Australia is concerned, he will always be remembered as the man who, by medium of the Newcastle Steelworks and the Commonwealth Bands during their overseas tours, proved conclusively that Australian brass bands, when either on the contest platform or the concert stage, were equal to the world's best.

1. 1924 British Open -Test: selections from the Works of Liszt, arr. T. Keighley (Came 1st)
2. 1924 British National Championships - Test: On the Cornish Coast, Henry Gehl (Came 3rd)

Barnes, Don

Came from Victoria where he played trumpet in one of the top bands either at the StKilda Palaise de Dance or other major dance venue. He was another musician with leather lips and possibly leather lungs to match. Was not long before he was moved on to flugel horn to try and modify the volume. He still almost blew the tubing straight.

Bentley, John

I am the middle child of five, born into a struggling dairy farming family in the late depression years, and educated at Donnybrook primary and Bunbury High Schools.

Dropped out of school at the completion of 4th year H.S. and was lucky to find a position in the Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd. Completed over 41 years with that bank and its successor, Westpac.

In spite of being a failed musician (violin), I have always been interested in music.

My involvement with the City of Perth Band came about when my son Stewart started learning trumpet at school and later commenced private lessons with Norm Snow who commenced a Junior Brass Band at the City of Perth Band rooms, and Rex Innes-Mills who subsequently became conductor of the senior band for a time.

This would have been in 1984 and about a year after the junior band commenced rehearsals.

I commenced helping out with the Junior Band Library in about 1984/5 and then somehow undertook the job of amalgamating its library with the Senior Band's Library in 1986 when the bands joined forces in that year. I undertook a revision of the library filing system and computerised the catalogue, much to the indignation of my old friend Les Hogg the then senior librarian, who had been librarian since 1970 in his most recent stint at the job.

Les and I had our odd skirmishes but I believe we held each other in high esteem and both took an interest in the history of the band.

Since then I have in retirement from work, become interested in reviving some of the old obscure and hand written pieces scattered through our 100 year old library, by re writing them via the computer on that amazing "Sibelius" score writing software. It is a time consuming job, particularly as I cannot read music, but rewarding when brought back to life. One rewarding development out of that was a friendship that developed between myself and Sir Charles Court as he sought to gather the hand written arrangements by Hugh McMahon into one collection at the University of Western Australia, and I was able to assist in discovering some, and was also able to re copy them. I have also tried my hand at converting pieces from several genres for use by the Concert Band, with varying degrees of success, as their library until recently was very sparse. I take great pride in continuing the example set by Les Hogg when he set up the library, and hope that all who follow will continue the good example set by him.

I share the concern of many who see Brass Bands in Australia as a dying art now that there are no Brass Bands in any school to give early tuition, but plenty of Concert Bands which do. This means there is virtually no one with any grounding in brass banding looking for a musical outlet after school hours.

A growing interest in the history of our band and brass bands generally convinced me that they should survive so I started producing a directory of bands for distribution to school music teachers to hopefully get them to interest and introduce their pupils to community brass and concert bands. The results have not been worth the effort.

I was also a prime mover in the establishment of our concert band, although it did not come about in the way I imagined. Starting from scratch without one piece of music in the Concert Band Library was to my mind the hard way of doing things. However it was achieved and survives. The reasons for its establishment seem to have been overlooked, which were, apart from providing an outlet for the increasing number of school graduates from school concert bands, to over recruit and introduce some to the brass band to ensure its continued survival.

I am very proud to have been awarded at various times, bandsman of the year, life membership of our band and life membership of the West Australian Band Association.

This Band story for what it is worth is, hopefully, my major contribution to the organisation.

Brackenreg, Roy Lindsay

Roy was a bass player with the band and appears in the 1922 photograph taken in Bunbury, (with name spelled incorrectly). His daughter, Mrs G A Scarterfield of Mount Pleasant advised that she has little knowledge of his band involvement as he left the band at about that time to go farming.

Brown, Charlie

Born 14th October 1920

Employed by G.E.C Aust Ltd and worked for them for 47 years, retiring in March 1983.

I progressed from Junior to senior ranks with the Leederville Salvation Army Band between 1930/36.

Joined City of Perth Band in 1938 and in 1938/39 was with that Band and its military equivalent the 11th Bn City of Perth Regiment Band.

1939/42 served with 11th Bn CMF Band.

1942/46 Served in R.A.N. Some part playing with the Navy Band at Leeuwin Depot, Fremantle, and in 1945 playing with Darwin Red Shield Band made up of combined services personnel.

Resumed with the City of Perth Band in 1946 and stayed with them for the remainder of his life.

Positions held with the Band included:

Band Secretary/Treasurer 1948/50

(Caretaker/Cleaner of old band room

(Assistant Librarian

(Back Room Officer 1946/47 -1956

I was Social Secretary from 1950/60.

I joined the Silver Threads Band in 1983, which is a Brass Band made up of mostly retired bandsmen, and which performs up to 100 jobs annually around such institutions as Retirement Villages, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Pensioner Groups, Church Groups, Primary Schools and the like. Normally week day jobs which do not clash with the normal C of P Band jobs.

Memorable experiences include:

1953 Ballarat Contest trip

1958 Ballarat Contest trip

1967 Centaur trip to Singapore

1970 Centaur trip to Singapore

1974 Centaur trip to Singapore leaving on his wedding day with wife Flo.
1983 Oriana cruise to Pacific
1990 New Zealand trip

1967 Geraldton Centenary trip
1954 Gov't House garden party for Queen's visit
1954 WA Turf Club for Queen's visit
1954 WA Trotting Assn for Queen's visit
1962 Perry Lakes Stadium for Empire Games Ceremony
Numerous trips (Kalgoorlie & Geraldton) for voluntary fire brigade demos.
1973 Perth Concert Hall opening week end
1950 A full City Band parade together with the East Kew Band from Melbourne on the occasion of the sudden death of our President and Bandsman Arthur Mardon a few days before the contest. The feature was a slow march to the graveside service at Karrakatta Cemetery.
Charlie was a good bandy for more than 50 years. Over the years he tape recorded nearly every performance of the Band. Unfortunately a lot of these were lost after his demise but we still saved a good selection.

Buswell, Doug

Born in about 1916 Doug Buswell lived all his working life close to where the Wellington Street markets used to be and where he was employed as an auctioneer.

Although he was never a playing member of our band he became a life member through his services as an MC and organiser of the band's successful cabarets and other social functions.

He was band Compere for over 30 years. He compered all the Cabarets and any Concerts, Fun Tests, dinners or other events. He always attended Band practice although he never played a brass instrument.

Piano duets with Eddie Klemm were always a highlight and he loved to play on an organ.

Carruthers, Bob

Bob was born in about 1924 and joined the band in about 1936 from Y.A.L band when he was 12.

Mr George Reid was conductor at the time and Bob played cornet until 1942 when he joined the army and served overseas.

On his discharge in 1946 he rejoined the band, once again on cornet, until about 1953/54.
(Jack Wadeisha says it was tenor horn)

After an absence of some years he rejoined again in 1975, this time playing Baritone.

He was made a Life Member in 1985. Although Bob suffered ill health in his later years he remained a member until the time of his death in June 1987.

Another take on Bob:

Bob was in the Band for many years when he was younger, came back in later years & earned Life membership. Unfortunately left the Band in the mid 80's after a dispute about forming 2 Bands – one to contest & the other as backup.

Eric Cowan tells the story of riding his bike from Osborne Park to Bayswater/Bassendean with carpenter's tools balanced on the handlebars to join other bandsmen to work on the timber framed house Bob was building. A lot of self help work was undertaken by the bandsmen to help each other out in those days.

Castlehow, Stan

Stan or "Stooner" as he was affectionately known was born on 13th May 1909.

He joined Boulder Band at age 11 on Baritone. He went to the band room because he just loved music. Under Conductor Hugh McMahon won a competition at Bunbury when he was 13.

Joined the Railways at 19 and married in 1931. After being retrenched from the Railways worked in the mines for a while.

Moved to Midland somewhere between 1935 and 1938 and joined the City of Perth Band because he held Harrie Halvorsen in high esteem.

He became a bandmaster in 11th, 44th & 16th Battalion army regiments.

He won the Bass solo championship in Ballarat in 1958 with accompanist Colin Arthur which was a very enjoyable experience. Of course, he had to get there and back by train.

Remembers the cabaret dances at the old Anzac House when everyone went in full evening dress, and also when the women had to sit outside in the old band room after functions.

The women later catered for functions when they attended and eventually "Ladies Nights" were introduced as a means of thanking them for their help.

Another take on 'Stooner':

a real character, a dinki di Bandsman. He was famous for 2 sayings – "It must be time for a needle (drink) "& "I'm going to seek salvation" when he was going home. He was part of another tradition at that time – Every member had to buy drinks for the Band on their birthday. Stan made sure no one got away without buying his half dozen big bottles & formed a Band (which consisted of Stan blowing a baritone & another bandsman – usually Norm McMahon – pressing the valves)to play happy birthday whilst everyone sang and drank their health.

When Stan died, the Band funeral notice in the West ended with "Gone to seek salvation"

At one stage Stan was transferred to Salmon Gums in his Railways job. So far from home it is thought he only got home at Christmas and on his annual holidays.

Off the "rails" "Stooner" was a hopeless navigator and never ceased to get lost. True to form he got lost getting to a house warming party at Eric Cowan's, getting there about half an hour after everyone else. Eric had a nice new sliding glass door to his patio, with a fixed panel next to it. The door was wide open but "Stooner" proceeded to walk straight through the plate glass window and spent the day receiving stitches to the gash in his leg rather than partaking of the "needles" he expected.

Clark, Royce Dip.Mus.

Royce achieved a Diploma of Music at the Melbourne Conservatorium.

He served with the R.A.N. for 13 ½ years, retiring in 1948 with the rank of Bandmaster.

He won the Australian Band Council Australian Champion Soprano Cornet title in 1959 and was Western Australian Champion of Champions in 1960. He also teamed with Viv Nylander to win the duet title the same year.

He was Conductor of the City of Perth Band from 1971/73 and from all reports was one of the top Conductors of the day and well respected by the members.

Alf Toll said of Royce – "Best musician/conductor heard. Very emotional and would often have tears streaming down his face when conducting, but could really get a band to lift."

Royce Clark – a member for many years - on & off , when he was not away with the Navy– a fabulous Soprano Cornet player & took over as Conductor when Harry Halvorsen had to retire.

According to Sid Shaw Royce was one of the best Soprano Cornet players around with excellent technique but lacking a little in tone. Sid agrees that he was a very good conductor but whereas Harrie Halvorsen was diplomacy personified, Royce was not as patient and sometimes caused a bit of friction. One story has Harrie conducting the band when Royce was on Soprano cornet. Both Viv and Elmore Nylander were having difficulty in interpreting a passage which is almost unheard of for them. Royce just leaned over the top and transposed and played the part on the run. Such was his ability.

Court, Sir Charles. A.K., K.C.M.G., O.B.E

Sir Charles was born in about 1911 and although his life was dominated by his professional career as an accountant and later by politics he had a lifetime love affair with brass bands.

At the age of eight he played his first solo with the Leederville Salvation Army although he was not a member. Shortly after that he tried to join the Subiaco Band but was promptly advised that "They were a Brass Band not a ***** kindergarten."

Not long after that he discovered a Mr James who had formed what was known as the Rechabites Band which practised in a house in Rokeby Road. He played third cornet there for a few months and was still under the age of ten.

Subsequently he received lessons from the late Ron Rees (Reeves?) who was solo cornet with the R.S.L. Band. This led to a few appearances with that band and eventually to his joining them at the age of twelve.

The R.S.L. Band which had been for returned servicemen from the first world war, realized they would soon disappear so changed their name to R.S.L. Memorial Band to allow admittance of other young persons.

Sir Charles was promoted to solo cornet at age fourteen and had a long association with them both pre and post Second World War.

Whilst Sir Charles was always associated with the R.S.L. Band, his association with the City of Perth Band was almost as long, but in different capacities and he always held our band in high regard.

In December 1923 when he wished to enter the Cornet Solo competition at the Bunbury contest, the R.S.L. Band was too busy with other engagements to attend. George Mellor the conductor of the R.S.L. Band (and later of Perth City) placed young Charles in the care of Harrie and Bill Halvorsen who were both still bachelors at that time and he went to Bunbury with the Perth City Band. He was so impressed with the kindness shown that to this day he kept the original receipt covering the rail fare and accommodation for 7 ¼ days which totalled £4.8.1 (\$8.81).

Once there he found that there was only an open competition, with no sections for juniors, so had little success on that occasion. His appearance however forced the organisers to introduce junior sections in future contests.

When Charles was eighteen he was made conductor of the North Perth Citizens band but continued his association with R.S.L.

He went on to become the Australian Open Cornet Champion.

There were many times in the post war period that Sir Charles played with the Perth City Band, and in fact it would appear that at one stage he actually became a member.

Subsequently he was invited and accepted the position of Patron of our band in 1972 and filled this position, sometimes with others for 25 years.

One of his greatest services to our band occurred after retiring from this position, when he used his influence to help secure our present band room when negotiations seemed to be faltering.

In 2003 at the age of 92 he was as keen as ever. After finding out that some arrangements by the late Hugh McMahon were still in existence, he set about securing them from the family, which entailed travelling to Castlemaine in Victoria, and arranged for them to be lodged at the Sir Frank Callaway archives at the University of Western Australia where they are now available for study by any interested students.

The writer of this historical record has contributed both to the securing of that material and the re writing of some of it for our band and the University.

A little known episode in Sir Charles' life occurred when he joined the Army at the start of the Second World War. He intentionally joined a unit that did not have a band but before long he was commissioned to forming a band for the 1st Armoured Division. He had an agreement with the CO that once that was done he would be moved back to a regular unit. The outcome was that he not only pulled a top grade band together but enlisted the top Conductor available, Bert Baile to head them. That band was considered to be one of the best ever services bands, going on to be present at the signing of the peace treaty with Japan at the end of the war. The history of that band is written in the booklet entitled "Red Robbie's Rousers" which Sir Charles has donated to the band.

Cowan, Eric

I was born on 3rd April 1934.

I Joined the Y.A.L. Band in 1943 with George Reid as my teacher. It was not long before I graduated to the Junior and then to the Senior band. George Franklin then playing solo cornet with the Perth City Band took over as conductor shortly after that.

He was instrumental in taking Laurie O'Keefe, Wally and Keith O'Neil, Sid Shaw to Perth City. I followed about 12 months later in December 1950. I was then playing in both bands for some time. In December 1950 the Y.A.L. said I could not play in two bands. John Perry a very good player was about the only one not to go to C.O.P. He went to Subiaco under Viv Nylander, and eventually went to the RAAF Association band. Ray Taylor another exceptionally good player never went into the brass bands at all, preferred dance band work. In 2010 he was still blowing, presently with the Leeming Concert Band.

They also conducted competitions in the Y.A.L. Wally O'Neil was a very good euphonium player. One year they created a special "A" grade category just for Wally. I won the B Grade against the likes of Sid Shaw but then we had to also play in A Grade to give Wally some competition, without success. Laurie O'Keefe must have already moved on. With the Y.A.L I went on the first trip away after the war in 1947/8 as a bugler with 251 boys to Melbourne. On the way home we came back through Adelaide at the height of the Polio epidemic. Immediately on arriving home we were all confined to home quarantine for 3 weeks with someone from the Health Dept coming around every day to make sure we were at home.

Later on I received quite a bit of notoriety when Boss Simons the founder of the Y.A.L. took me away as a bugler with 226 girls which was great fun.

I played in the 1949-50 Silver Chain Brass Band contest at Loton Park (Perth Oval), 1951 Northam Contest with George Reid as adjudicator. The band performed a diagram march and own choice selection in the afternoon and the Test piece at night in the Town Hall.

After that we were invited to Arthur Purslowe's brother's house (he was also a funeral director). He supplied two cases of beer (5 dozen bottles in each) for the boys. The beer was left on the side verandah. It was that bitterly cold that it did not need to go into the fridge.

The next morning a street march contest was held. Most of the boys were very sluggish and I feel sure that Harrie Halvorsen instructed the bass drummer Jack Cooney to slow the tempo to 108. We won.

In 1953 the band entered the National contest in Ballarat and won the B Grade title, then ran last (11th) in A Grade. Many wives were on the trip, although Laurie O'Keefe's and Harry Rayner's were both pregnant and could not go. Laurie received a letter to tell him that his wife Betty was expecting twins.

Ray Reason was not in the band when I first joined it but must have come back shortly afterwards because it was Ray, Laurie O'Keefe and I who had the solo chairs at Ballarat. They did all the hard work and I just "bumped" up when required.

In 1955 I met Peggy, now my wife. She loved brass band music before we met.

In 1956 the band contested at Bunbury. Peggy came to see the bus depart from the Perth railway station. We were engaged at the time. We married in April 1957. Peggy organized with Jack Anderson for the band to record "Destiny Waltz" which he replayed at the wedding for the wedding waltz. Many of the bandsmen attended.

The band competed at Ballarat again in 1958 but Peggy could not go as we had a 6 week old baby.

Gee there were some really good bands at the contest.

Everything said about Harrie Halvorsen are very true. Harrie was a Commissioner on the A.B.C board and would have to fly East for meetings every month. He would fly back on Thursdays and come straight to the bandroom to take the rehearsal, even when bitterly cold in the middle of winter. Sometimes only 10 or 12 members would attend. Harrie would never think of cancelling a rehearsal. I used to ride my bike to practice, rain, hail or shine.

After rehearsal Harrie would have one or two drinks only. Prior to leaving Harrie would always say "**Don't be late**". This usually fell on deaf ears as Jack Wadeisha, a policeman, always said, "Don't go until after midnight", that's when all traffic patrols finish.

Jack Anderson. Perth City was his band. The hundreds of stories about "Ando" are true. Once I went in Jack's car. The band was playing at Leederville oval for marching girl competitions. It was only about 2 miles from the band room. Ando's driving was awful. I got a lift back with someone else. Ando's car had only minor dents and scratches but should have been a lot worse. When Jack was approaching his 80th birthday, Peggy enquired as to whether the band was doing anything special to mark the occasion. Nothing. Peggy couldn't let this special event go by so she organized his 80th to be held at our house in Karrinyup. Nearly all the members and wives attended. Jack was very humbled and happy and thanked Peggy very much.

At Easter for many years the band played at the Volunteer Fire Brigade Demonstrations. Charlie O'Neil as well as being the band secretary was also secretary of the Volunteer Fire Brigades. One year in Kalgoorlie after a Saturday morning competition the band boys had the rest of the day off. Several went to various hotels. The following morning the band had a street march. Sid Shaw fronted up without his band cap. Marching down Hannan Street a barmaid ran out of one of the hotels and placed the cap on Sid's head. He did not miss a beat or step.

Years earlier, Ernie Hobbs nicknamed Sid and Merv Nix the "Katz and Jammer Kids" after a cartoon in a weekend newspaper. They were always together. Merv was boarding with Sid's mother and they were always getting up to all sorts of antics.

In the early 1950's Charlie Brown who was then Secretary organized a social weekend to Collie. After arranging all the billets with various Collie band persons Charlie inadvertently left his flugel horn on the ground at the rear of the bus. The bus reversed and completely flattened the instrument to poor Charlie's dismay. (A different take on this story appears elsewhere).

Sid Shaw had met Joan Bond in Ballarat in 1953 and after returning home, went back a few weeks later to become engaged to her. Naturally Merv followed and we have it on record the two of them played with the City of Ballarat Municipal Brass Band in 1955 the last time that band had A grade success in the Victorian Championships.

In the 1950's the band often played at the Races at Christmas and New Year in the open where it was usually stinking hot and also the Trots at night.

On one occasion, playing at the trots, we stopped after about the 5th race and set off for the Fremantle Town Hall to play the "Test" and "Own Choice" in the state championships.

One of the several band trips was in 1967 on the Centaur. The ship called at Christmas Island to drop off mail. It was an opportunity for Captain Williams to instruct the crew to do lifeboat drill. Ray Reason "Leather Lips" had permission to be in one of the lifeboats as they did laps around the ship. Ray never stopped playing tunes; the last one as the lifeboat was being raised back on board was "He Played his Ukulele as the Ship Went Down". I don't know that the Captain was all that pleased.

The band used to go down to the old ABC studios, a big weatherboard building where Council House now stands, and record programs for later broadcast on a band program of a Sunday afternoon, along with other recorded bands from around Australia. This continued every 6 to 8 or 10 weeks – even after the ABC moved to their new premises in Adelaide Terrace. Harrie Halvorsen being an ABC commissioner most likely accounted for why our band got the job. I

don't know if the band got paid for them but we did lots and lots of them. The program used to go to air 5 or 6 weeks later so we got advised when we were coming on so would gather to listen to them.

When I was building the band room fittings I would sometimes get Denis Wragg to accompany me to help with the lifting. Denis lived close to me and had a lawn mowing round and that included mine. Denis also put up a shelf or two in the library to hold some of the percussion equipment.

It was not long after I finished making the furniture that Norm Barton, then Frank Vanderelst and then Tom Bardsley all cabinet makers, joined the band and here was me just a carpenter. They should have joined earlier.

Denis always left mowing my lawn until last on his round because I used to make a "home brew", and in fact have done since 1972. I have used the same recipe all through and have never had a failure. Denis talked me into giving him the recipe, but he could not leave it alone, always experimenting and of course often having failures or minor explosions. It was lucky he only lived around the corner.

In 1983 the band planned a Pacific Cruise. Things were tight in the building trade so I originally did not intend to go.

Then I changed my mind. An attendance book was being maintained with the percentage of attendance being used as a means of allocating band earnings on a pro rata basis to subsidise the cost. All of a sudden I found that my attendance had been low and therefore I had to put up an additional \$500 towards the cost. It was a bit of a puzzle. Before the trip I had been asked to do a bit of work on the Conductor Nigel Anderton's house in Thornlie. I duly purchased the required materials, plus added some from my own sources, completed the work and submitted an account for materials only.

Nigel was reluctant to pay, obviously expecting all the work to be done for nothing or at the band's expense. I pressed the issue and that was when I found out he did not even know my name and he had been marking the attendance register and marking another player down as attending when he rarely did. It was only then I was credited correctly with attendance.

I did not get paid until after the trip.

This incident was one of the main reasons I resigned from the band rather than retire. I requested an open clearance even though everyone knew I would not play anywhere else, and have not played since.

I thought right from the start that Nigel was only using us as a stepping stone to something else and I believe I was right in that, as he did not stay long before moving East.

I have never ceased to regret leaving the band, but I can be very stubborn when I'm right.

Church processions for the Italian Catholic Communities became a major commitment and source of income.

The first one may have been San Nicola in Fitzgerald Street just down the road from the band room. Then there was the Blessing of the Fleet in Fremantle, the Blessing of the Onions down in Spearwood, St Mary's in Leederville for some reason not remembered, St Keenan's in Osborne Park to Bless working tools, somewhere in Marangaroo, St Anthony's in Wanneroo Road, Wanneroo, also Pickering Brook, Kalamunda and St Rocco's in Leederville.

Most of the churches shouted the band to a few drinks after the march. After St Anthony's the band and families often ended up at Jack Wadeisha's place in Gngalara Road for a BBQ where Jack would clean out his shed and the band would carry on for the rest of the evening. Enid usually made a big pot of soup for starters. Jack says he can't remember what time of the year it was but the Navel Orange tree carried nice ripe fruit which the children and some adults enjoyed picking and eating. Many of the wives and families would go along, with the kids running wild in the bush as Jack had about 5 acres there. Good noisy times enjoyed by all – no neighbours.

Initially I think Harrie wrote out quite a few of the pieces and arranged a couple of the others. Written in biro the dots ran down the page if the weather turned a bit wet. Royce Clark also wrote out some before the band purchased a set of originals from Italy.

Ray Shilling (in photos) was George Reid's grandson.

Another take on the measuring of Arthur Purslowe:

Doug Buswell used to pull out a tape measure in the band room. Arthur used to bolt.

Jack Watson came from the Salvation Army as did Charlie Brown and a few others. Jack was a non drinker. Arthur Purslowe had a house warming party to which all the band was invited. Someone gave Jack a drink, and at the age of 46 he was apparently quite thirsty because from then on he made up for lost time.

I first met Campbell Holmes in Ballarat in 1953 when Campbell was playing with the Eaglehawk band. I remember that because my mother came from Eaglehawk. Norm McMahon was playing with the Broken Hill Barrier Industrial Band at the time. Norm and John Stirling were both originally with the Vic Park Band before Norm went East.

The standard of the bands at Ballarat was terrific. In the evening they had an open air session on the oval. It was bitterly cold and we were all sitting up in the grand stand with overcoats on. Anyway Norm's band started off with "Life Divine" which starts off with the solo cornets on top "C". Bitterly cold night, the hair on the back of my neck stood on end. I have never heard an opening of a piece ever like that and in such cold conditions, how they did it beats me.

We ended up playing it a few times after that but never to that standard even though we had a pretty good line up at the time. Doug Buswell mentioned in his story about playing it at a Cabaret floor show. Royce Clark conducted it. I think Royce was the best conductor we had in my time with the band and could get a lot more out of the band than Harrie. He was a very emotional person and when conducting Life Divine, by the time we finished there were tears rolling down his cheeks. He was a fine Soprano player also, as good as you could get. Harrie stuck to the old traditional stuff while Royce brought in more contemporary pieces and also did some good arrangements. He did the Greig piano Concerto for

Ken Harvey among other pieces. Ken went to Ballarat in 1958 and did all the piano accompaniments for the solo competition, A fine player.

Frank Vanderelst made the conductor's stand as has been mentioned elsewhere. Frank used to ride a motorbike everywhere. One day leaving a car park near the entertainment centre and travelling at low speed, he hit a kerb, fell off and was killed instantly. It was a sad end to a committed bandsman.

Yeo Smith was playing with the RSL band under Charlie Court and also in the Army Band that Harrie Halvorsen conducted. Our band had just lost its Bass Drum player through old age or something so Harrie poached Yeo from under Charlie Court's nose.

Players have always moved around a bit, either to join mates or perhaps take a more senior position.

Bernie Conlon left the band at one stage and played for several years with Ivan Nylander at Subiaco before coming back.

Charlie Court and George Franklin were fierce rivals in the State Solo competitions.

When Charlie Court was campaigning for parliament, Harrie Halvorsen took the band down to where Charlie was spruiking from the back of a truck and we played a few tunes in support. Charlie and Harrie both being accountants I guess they had a close business relationship to account for it. I guess the band got paid for their services.

My Dad was in both wars although too old to serve overseas in the second one. I was just a young lad but I was taken out to the Ordnance Factory in Midland to play a tune or two for the workers.

Jack Wadeisha spent some time out near the vineyards and loving a drop or three got on well with all the wineries, often getting sent home with a demijohn. He was so easy to get along with. He was eventually stationed at Government House. He was there for quite a long time, possibly until retirement. I suspect he was stationed there because he never pinched anyone.

Brass Bands get in your blood and that's it. I regret leaving the band and thought about it for years, but I dug my heels in and that was that.

DeGaris, C.J.

As was usual in those days, prominent businessmen were invited to be Vice Presidents and Mr DeGaris is shown as a Vice President in 1921.

Charlie Brown advised that he believed Mr DeGaris was a prominent West Australian businessman, possibly in real estate as a Mr DeGaris is known to have promoted a cooperative land settlement scheme at Kendenup near Mount Barker in about the 1920's.

The venture is said to have failed and DeGaris committed suicide.

The DeGaris story from what I have been able to glean would make interesting reading. He came from Mildura in Victoria and the first mention I can find is that he was the director of publicity for the Australian Dried Fruits Association.

He was obviously a man with vision, and at a time that Western Australia was desperate to develop its agricultural pursuits, he promoted a land settlement scheme called the Kendenup Development Company, said to be on lines that had been successful in the USA.

How the venture was financed is not known but at the end of the first year there were 350 families with the expectation that would increase to 500.

Like many of these grand schemes there were not only doubters but an obvious lack of capital as they were seeking a loan of £3000 from the Government at about that time. That application was declined but some monies were said to have been arranged from the USA. Another major flaw in the scheme was that DeGaris promised to purchase all the output at a guaranteed price for 10 years, a very big risk.

Very soon there was a Royal Commission into the business which resulted in DeGaris Assigning the assets presumably under the bankruptcy act.

On 7th January 1925 his car was found on Mentone Beach in Melbourne and as he had left several suicide notes it was presumed he had drowned.

However he was found in New Zealand and brought back to face the music.

Whether he subsequently committed suicide I have not bothered to find out, but he was referred to as the late Mr DeGaris in 1927.

Devenish, Bob

Bob Devenish born November 1935 – A member of the percussion section from the time he was 9 year old in 1944 until he was transferred to the bush by the Commonwealth Bank.

Bob was Secretary /Treasurer for many years, he ran the ticketing and financial side of the Cabarets virtually single handed during their heydays.

He travelled with the band to Contest the Australian titles in Ballarat where they won the B Grade championship, again in 1958 when they came 4th in A Grade. The band also played for the Fire Brigade Championships which fell on the Easter week end. These moved around to places such as Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie. He was made a Life Member of the band and passed away in 2009.

Farley, W.J.

Details are sketchy but a grand daughter Pauline Birch says that he came to Australia from England in about 1884 at about 20 years of age.

Apart from his involvement as President of our band he was very involved in the sporting world.

He was instrumental in getting the West Australian Cricket Association to buy the WACA ground and toured with Australian sides so it is possible he sat on the Australian board. He was a full time administrator of the WACA and the Farley stand is named after him. He also had terms as Treasurer and President of the West Perth Football Club although he never played.

Also variously sold records and gramophones from premises near the Railway Institute in Wellington Street and worked in Government House on the catering side, probably for private contractors.

He died in 1927 aged about 63.

Farrell, David

David was born at Manchester, England in 1956. He started playing cornet at age 12 in the Derby school band at Bury then graduated to the famous Besses O' the Barn Boys Brass band where he played until emigrating to Western Australia in 1970.

After joining the regular army as an apprentice musician in 1972 he spent 2 years at the army school in Balcombe Victoria and graduated into the Band of the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1974.

In 1976 after some dental problems he changed from cornet to euphonium and in 1976 was selected to play in a composite band which represented Australia at the Royal Tournament in Earls Court. David was posted to the band of 1st Recruit Training Regiment at Kapooka in 1980 and in 1981 once again changed instrument to tenor trombone. 1985 saw him posted to Canberra and a change to bass trombone. He did a bandmasters course at Watsonia and in 1988 was posted to Perth on euphonium, soon to be back on trombone. David held the rank of W.O. Class II and band sergeant major.

Farrell, LCdr W.W (Bill), A.M., LRAM., ARCM., RAN Rtd.

I was born in an era when LP's and CD's were not even thought of and when decadence and the Nazi party were hand in hand in Berlin. Education was entrusted to the teachers at Mitcham Primary School, South Australia, and included weekly air-raid practice in case the Japanese attacked us, particularly after their attacks on Darwin.

Music lessons on piano, including theory, were undertaken from my tenth year, although the fife and drum were learnt from an earlier age. The French horn became a major part of my life in 1949 whilst at Unley High School.

As Boy Musician No.19, I joined the Royal Australian Navy in January 1952 and immediately took my place in the Navy's military band. The word 'military' being used in those days to define what is now termed a concert band. At that time the Navy also maintained orchestras, which contained string players of high standard.

My first sea-time was onboard the aircraft carrier H.M.A.S. SYDNEY to the Coronation in 1953 on what proved to be a circumnavigation of the globe visiting such places as Tobruk, Malta, England, America and Jamaica including passages through both the Suez and Panama Canals.

Courses, promotion, band tours and more sea-time, including service in the Far East Strategic Reserve onboard H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE, occupied the next few years and in 1961 I married Maxine. An accompanied posting to England, where I undertook courses for officer rank, culminated in promotion to Sub Lieutenant and also gave me the opportunity to conduct the Staff Band of the Royal Marines, and the Regimental Bands of both the Irish and Coldstream Guards.

On return to Australia there were many more concert tours, plus administration and two young children. Unfortunately there was also more sea-time, during which I went through the tragedy of the sinking of U.S.S. EVANS by H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE with a large loss of life, and a concert tour of Vietnam, wars and all. On return to shore, the tours became more regular and an unaccompanied posting in charge of a Sydney based band gave me a different insight into living away from home. However, a posting back to the MELBOURNE for the Jubilee Cruise was extremely enjoyable. The highlights being some leave in England with Maxine and her mother, who both flew in for the occasion, and a performance for The Pope in Castel Gandolfo, his summer palace south of Rome.

My ambition was achieved in 1981 when I was appointed the Navy's Director of Music, with a 75th anniversary concert in the Sydney Opera House. An invitation to guest conduct at the Mid West Band Clinic in Chicago highlighted this period of my life prior to my retirement. I then assumed the position of Director of Music at Guildford Grammar School where I remained for 11 years.

In 1998 I was appointed conductor of the City of Perth Band (Brass) and then I relinquished that position a couple of years later to concentrate on the Concert Band. In addition to this I am actively involved with examining and adjudicating in various fields. I hope to continue with this for some years yet as well as my involvement with Rotary. This is my life in a nutshell. Any more would take up too much space!

Franklin, George

I was born in March 1922, attended Highgate and Perth Boys Schools.

I joined the Y.A.L. and started playing cornet in 1929, staying with them until 1934 and then joined Perth City.

My teacher, Mr George Reid was also conductor of Perth City and Perth Symphony Orchestra (run by the University Commission).

I was playing solo cornet with Eddie Callow and Laurie Richards with Perth City and 3rd trumpet in the Symphony Orchestra with George Mellor and Charles Court. It was a wonderful experience playing under Malcolm Sargent and Percy Grainger.

War years – 5 ½ years in the RAAF – didn't play much.

After the war I took over the Y.A.L. band for 3 years and also came back to Perth City. Y.A.L. was a good recruiting ground for Perth City in those days. Laurie O'Keefe, the O'Neils, Merv Nix, Sid Shaw, Eric Cowan and others all made their start there.

I spent three years in Sydney as a professional musician and conducted the Railway Institute Band (A Grade). I took over from Charlie Coughlan.

When I came home to Perth I rejoined the services in 1958 – (Army) Western Command Band. I played solo cornet and lead trumpet when they changed from Brass to Concert Band. I was retired from the services in 1977.

Royce Clark took over as conductor of Perth City after Harrie Halvorsen and I took over from Royce Clark in 1974 and stayed until 1982.

I was very interested in forming a concert band as well as the Brass band, much as you are doing now. Even had a string bass, clarinets and alto playing with the band at appropriate times and wrote and arranged parts accordingly.

The blue folders were started in my time and "Bally-Hoo" programs were developed for Bowling Club Concerts and the like.

At the moment (1998) I am running the Magic Dream Big Band and use the City of Perth Band room facilities. Perth City members playing with Magic Dream include Brian Underwood, Tim Markes, Kerry Williams, Glen Smith and Don Steel.

Fry, Alf

Alf Fry was born on 11th March 1892 at Ballarat, Victoria and attended State School there.

He came to the Coolgardie/Kalgoorlie area at a young age and initially worked there as a sharebroker with Humerston & Co. Later he took up a position with Dalgety and Co in Albany in charge of their shipping division, moving to Fremantle shortly after.

Alf developed a reputation of being a cornet player of outstanding ability, and with every justification. Whether he started his training in Ballarat or the Goldfields is not known but brass banding was certainly very strong in both areas. He played with the Perth City Band for 15 years and on a number of occasions participated in the State Championships. In 1926 he won the State Soprano solo championship and in the same year was part of the successful sextet final. In 1927 on Bb Cornet with E.J. McCormick on Euphonium they secured the State Duet title. His brother Stan, also a fine musician, went on to conduct the successful Malvern Tramways Band in Victoria.

Alf enlisted in the army in 1915 and was at the Anzac landing at the Dardanelles. He had a very narrow escape when a Turkish bullet entered the muzzle of his rifle and smothered his own bullet as he was preparing to shoot the other way in his capacity as a sniper.

During a well documented lull in the fighting where both sides retrieved their casualties from the battle field Alf met up with a Turkish Colonel who he recognised as having sold post cards to him whilst training in Egypt. They shook hands exchanged money for cigarettes before saying how sorry it was to be meeting like that.

Alf was later wounded and repatriated, where he graduated as a Lieutenant, Artillery, before switching to become a pilot in the Australian Flying Corp.

After the war, Alf married and later took up land at Quinninup in the Manjimup area.

He had a very active life, having played football for South Fremantle, President of the Manjimup Cricket Assn, President of the Manjimup R.S.L. President of the Quinninup Club and Bushfire Brigade Officer.

He remained a musician all his life bringing much pleasure to the Manjimup and district people.

A wonderful book on his life titled "Where there's Smoke, There's Fry" written by Chris Hales and published by Hesperian Press, is well worth a read. A truly remarkable man.

Alf passed away on 4th June 1979.

Gfeller, Fred

I was born on 16 Feb. 1927 in Thun, central Switzerland into a poor family situation.

Due to my father's early ill health and death, I was fostered out at the age of 4. My third and good foster parents treated me well for which I am grateful.

As I grew up I was inspired by my foster father who played a Bb Tenor horn in a small Band. He took me to the rehearsals and at the age of 10 was given an old flugelhorn to learn on. From here I progressed into that Band and later into the High School Band at 14 years of age. Next I was invited to play in the local big Band which was State Champions at the time. During all this time the 2nd World War was raging and a feeling of uncertainty was present.

At age 15 all able males were conscripted into the Home Guard and trained for defence. I was given the opportunity to enter an apprenticeship with a local Cabinetmaker. In 1947 as a 20 year old I was conscripted into National Service as a military musician.

As I was very interested in World News and World Geography at an early age I wanted to travel. A film documentary on Australia inspired me so much that I wanted to see this country. My foster mother had a friend living near Sydney who invited me to stay with them. So on the 1st of May 1948 I left for Australia on a Dutch Cargo Boat which took 8 Weeks.

Whilst working near Sydney I used to attend National Military Band concerts at the Sydney Town Hall on Sunday afternoon under the direction of Stephen York, the brother of Peter York. Feeling a bit homesick and unsettled a friend asked me to come to the West with the offer of employment as a wood machinist in Victoria Park and boarding with an English Family.

My Boss at work was the Drum Major of the Victoria Park Citizens Band at that time, he found out that I played a cornet and invited me to join the Band, the Bandmaster was Gus Steward.

I did not enjoy the low standard of playing in that Band and started to look for another Band.

A member of the RSL Band invited me to attend a rehearsal at the old ANZAC House one Sunday Morning where I met the Bandmaster Charles Court and members, and was duly impressed. They made me very welcome and placed me in the cornet section playing rep, I was very happy. The Band was kept busy with all sorts of engagements playing in Parks and Trots on Saturday nights, out in the middle of the ground where a lot of beer was drunk during the races. The rehearsal and preparation for ANZAC Day was a particular experience for me as I had never played in an Anzac Day Parade before. I was very much impressed by this special Parade.

I am not sure of the year, it was either 1951 or 52 when the band took part in the State Brass Band Contest held at Loton Park competing in A Grade against the Perth City Band, which they won, The adjudicator was "Verdi McMahon" who made special comments of Perth City Band playing.

It was at a rehearsal that Jimmy James deputized for Charles Court that I was given the opportunity to join the Western Command Band when a vacancy became available. In 1956 I was asked to enlist in the 11/44th Battalion Band under Norm Snow as Bandmaster.

In June 1957 I enlisted in the ARA Western Command Band as an Army Musician on Bb Bass. This was a big shock to me, but I later changed to Eb Bass which became my principal instrument.

It was during the following 12 years that I got to know several members of the Perth City Band who also were members of Western Command Band such as Ted McMahon, George Franklin and the Toll brothers Alf and Len, to name a few. They all spoke highly of the Perth City Band. They told me of the great social atmosphere and comradeship that existed among members. By invitation I attended several social functions and Cabarets at the old ANZAC Hall. At the break-up party in 1970 I was told that I would be very welcome to join the band at recommencement in 1971.

At the first rehearsal I was made very welcome and asked to take my place in the Bass section on Eb Bass which I enjoyed playing for several years until asked to move to the horn section playing solo horn until my forced retirement in 1996 when I lost my voice box due to throat cancer.

In 1972 I was asked by Jack Anderson to run the back room which in those days required many hours after practice, attending to the late stayers. On Thursday nights often until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning on Friday and after Sunday morning practice from 12 noon to 2pm during which a lot of beer was drunk. Most of us must have had a Guardian Angel to see us driving home safely.

In 1973 I was appointed deputy conductor to George Franklin, a job I very much appreciated as I loved conducting the band during George's regular trips to Darwin during our winter months. Also working with Doug Buswell was a great pleasure preparing programs for the Cabarets.

At the 1973 AGM I was elected to the Band Committee. Arthur Holland was President. At the 1974 AGM I was instrumental in having Laurie O'Keefe elected as President. Being a new member on the Committee was a great experience to me and working with Laurie was a real pleasure as he brought new enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the band.

The next few years kept me very busy with music as I was still in the Army band which was also very demanding as a player, acting Drum Major and in charge of the Band Orderly Room until 1978 when I took discharge after 21 years of service.

In the same year the City Band took part in the State Brass Band Contest which we won well under the direction of George Franklin. Our own choice was "Rhapsody in Brass".

I served a further two years on the Committee and three years as deputy conductor, a great experience.

During the next number of years whilst continuing as an active Band member I purchased a block of land out of Busselton and built what was to be our retirement home. All my holidays and long week ends were spent down there building and eventually we enjoyed my hard labour.

Whilst down there I was invited to join the Busselton Town Band and became their deputy conductor which was a big step back in playing standard to what I was used to.

A big shock was developing for me during 1989 when at a medical examination I was told I had developed throat cancer due to smoking. With Eileen's support and a positive approach to overcome this hurdle I continued playing when not undergoing treatment or operations, for the next number of years. Due to the constant redevelopment of the cancer and the need for treatment in Perth we were forced to sell our little dream home in Busselton, a big disappointment to us.

In January 1996 I was told by my throat specialist that my voice box had to be removed, which ended my Brass Band playing after 69 years.

It has been a great pleasure to be a member of this Band for many years and I shall always cherish the memories and great friendships from my association with the City of Perth Band.

Highlights: Being awarded Life Membership, conducting the Band, and my time on the Committee, and the many good friends I still have.

Grigg, G

In the 1920's he is shown as a Patron.

In 1929 he is shown as the Chairman of the Rockingham Road Board, at a time when a gravel road had just been completed between the Fremantle Boundary and Rockingham through Coogee.

Charlie Brown advised that just after WWII he was proprietor of the Rockingham Hotel. The band went on a couple of trips to Rockingham and used the hotel for the band's children's Christmas party. Old Mr Grigg used to come out for the afternoon Band concert and conduct an item.

How he came to be patron is not known. There was a G Grigg who owned a coach building business in Perth and who made his home in Lake Street available to supporters in a campaign by J.T. Franklin to win the seat of Perth in the Legislative Assembly. This would indicate a man of substance so maybe it is the same person.

Hallett, Ernest Jack

(Jack)

Not much is known about Jack's musical training or his general background.

Jack joined the army in 1939 as a musician & stretcher bearer, and first came to the City of Perth Band in 1946 whilst still in the army and apart from a couple of years in Darwin and another posting in Borneo was a fairly consistent member of the band.

His principal instrument was the 'G' Bass Trombone, but he played in most other lower sections. It was said that every time he took up the G trom, the section soon swelled to five or six so he was shifted out again. On some special occasions he was seconded into the ABC Symphony Orchestra to strengthen their trombone section.

He gained trade qualifications as Medical Attendant, Panel Beater, Projectionist, Clerk, Storeman and Fireman.

He served in Australia, Lybia, Greece, Crete, Syria, Sudan, New Guinea and Borneo and received the service medals of Africa Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Australian Service Medal and General Service Medal with clasp, Good conduct medal, Borneo Medal, Greek Service Medal.

Jack was one of those persons who come and go in a band, but in his last few years was a regular in the baritone section. When failing eyesight overtook him in his last years his old friend Jack Wadeisha commented that he hoped his eyes didn't get so bad that he'd knock over a full glass.

He is remembered with affection, particularly for his courtesy at the band's annual dinners, providing a corsage for all the girls.

Halvorsen Family

Halvorsen, Georg Vilhelm Marius

18.10.1864 – 2.2.1948

Born Aarhus, Denmark.

Champion Soprano Cornetist with Newcastle City Band during heyday years under W (Billy) Barkell. Probably learned his trade as a shipwright and coach builder there.

Moved to Geraldton in 1893. An outstanding exponent of the flute, piccolo and clarinet. Conductor of the Geraldton Temperance Band for 9 years to 1902.

Conductor of West Australian Infantry Regimental Band 1903/06.

Winners of Bunbury contest (Signor Lardelli adjudicator).

Conductor of Geraldton Orchestral and Musical Society 8 years to 1902.

Moved to Midland Junction in 1906. Conductor of Swan Orchestral Society for many years from 1907. Conductor of Western Australian Infantry Regiment Band under various names i.e. 86th Inf, 2/16th Bn etc. Conductor Blackboy Hill Camp Band 1915/19.

Whilst not directly connected with Perth City Band, he not only influenced his sons but would have conducted and influenced many of the Perth City personnel in his other bands and orchestras.

Halvorsen, William Alroe

20.12.1895 – 18.7.89

Born Geraldton .

Solo Cornet Western Australian Infantry Regiment Band and Swan Orchestral Society.

Enlisted in 1915 and served in Egypt and France in the 1st A.I.F. Commissioned in the field 9.8.1916. Wounded and prisoner of war from Sept 1916 to Dec 1918. Played in P.O.W. camp orchestras Crefeld, Strohen and Bad Colberg.

Conductor of Transport, T.S.S. Anchises Band on return to Australia March – April 1919.

Began Solo Cornet with Perth City Band 1919 under Conductor Geo Mellor.

Deputy Conductor under Goldie Holmes, Harold Partington and Geo Reid.

Conductor of R.S.L. Band several years to 1927.

Conductor Perth City Band 1930/34, during which the band enlisted en bloc in the City of Perth Regiment without losing civilian status. Winners of several State contests.

First trumpet Perth Orchestral Society many years under Alex Leckie, Harry Vowles etc.

Selected to represent W.A. in Commonwealth Band under W Partington. Band's itinerary was to include Wembley Empire Exhibition, London, Belle Vue, Manchester and Crystal Palace, London, contests. Solo cornet with Alf Paxton, Percy Partington, Harold Collins. After 6 months endeavour in the Eastern States the proposed tour was abandoned. (It would seem that the Newcastle Steelworks Band under A.H. Baile beat them to the punch – Also it is believed it was the Australian Imperial Band not the Australian Commonwealth Band)

Moved to Kalgoorlie in 1934, joined the Goldfields Musical Society and Goldfields Orchestral Society. Became Musical Director of both 1937/46.

Conductor of Boulder Mines Brass Band when that band enlisted en bloc as 28th Bn band in approximately 1936.

Moved to Bunbury in 1946.

Director of Post and Telegraphs Perth 1951 to retirement in 1958.

Alf Toll says – “Bill Halvorsen was better than Harrie who was considered too aloof and remote.”

Halvorsen, Harrie Blaxell (F.C.I.A.A., F.C.I.S., M.B.E.)

10.5.1898 – 10.7.1971

Born Geraldton.

Boy bandsman West Australian Regiment Band.

Champion player of Horn, Baritone, Euphonium, Trombone and Clarinet.

Played clarinet in Swan Orchestral Society.

Joined Perth City Band 1919 playing baritone. Awarded the possible (100 points) by Ord Hume 1924 Fremantle, playing “Gypsy’s Warning”. Later switched to euphonium.

Was a driving force during the revival of Brass Bands after World War 1939/45.

Played trombone and clarinet with C.T.A. Orchestra under Joe Otto.

With tremendous enthusiasm achieved enormous record of success for City of Perth Band. Conductor of City of Perth Band 1945/71 during which the band competed at Ballarat, Victoria twice.

Toured with the band to Singapore and Malaya 1967 and 1970.

His personality and integrity engendered an unforgettable spirit of harmony and goodwill.

He received no payment or remuneration for his services to the City band in particular or music generally.

A Commissioner of the A.B.C. 1956/67 and recipient of an M.B.E.

Present at the opening of the band room in Robertson Park, Northbridge, named “Halvorsen Hall” after the two brothers, in November 1970.

Charlie Brown commented on Harrie: “Harrie Halvorsen continued with the same enthusiasm to the end. I recall in the late 1950’s when on the winter nights in the old band room we had numbers as low as a dozen and he said ‘Don’t think of cancelling a practice – just keep going and they will come back.’”

Hammond, Lance

I came to the band through the formation of the Junior Brass Band by Norm Snow in 1983/84. My four children all commenced studies with Norm and progressed to the junior band. It was a natural progression to be involved in the junior band committee and assisted in raising about \$20,000 to purchase instruments and music. I also assisted in the major project of taking the junior band to Adelaide to compete at the National Championships, at which they performed with distinction.

Following the amalgamation of the junior and senior bands in late 1986 I was elected as Treasurer of the City of Perth Band at the 1987 AGM and have held that position to the present time (2010).

I also held the positions of Treasurer and Trophy Master/Property Officer on the Committee of the Western Australian Band Association for approximately 7 – 10 years.

Other positions and activities I have undertaken with our band have been to control the band's property including replacement, major fund raising by way of Grant applications and raffles, controlling the running of the "back room" and have organised and catered for numerous social activities over the years.

Some major highlights have been a trip to Tasmania in 1985 organised by Don Steel, the Adelaide Junior Band trip in 1986, the 1991 New Zealand band trip, the 1993 Fremantle/Bali cruise and the 2009 Singapore air and sea cruise.

Also weekend trips to Geraldton, Esperance, Wagin, Busselton, Albany, Bunbury, and Merredin/York Jazz Festival.

Background:

Born on 16 September 1942, at Bunbury, second child and only son

Preschool and Part of my Primary School years were spent on the family property located on the Preston River at Beelerup 4 miles south of Donnybrook.

My mum packed apples grown on the family estate "Hillview" for her father and then her brother, during this time I was also involved manufacturing wooden apple cases at 3 pence per case, good money for a young boy in the late 1940's.

Moved to Donnybrook townsite mid Primary school years and our house was located on the corner of Emerald Terrace and Allnut Street on the Upper Capel Road exit.

Worked for Mr Davis the milk vendor cleaning milk cans, still picked apples on the weekends for Coles Bros and others along the "Golden Mile Strip"

Attended Bunbury High School 1954 travelling from D'Brook to Bunbury by Humbleby and Barker Bus service, 1955 went to St Ildephonsus College at New Norcia and remained there until 1957 when I declared my interest in leaving school and finding employment.

Joined State Electricity Commission in late 1957 as a junior clerk and spent the next 40 years working for this State Government Department throughout major centres in WA including being the Governments representative in purchasing all the materials and services required for the Dampier to Perth Natural Gas Pipeline Project and retiring from a Stores Controllers position at Kwinana Power Station in 1997.

During these years I returned to school and qualified as an accountant which may well explain my position in the Band as Hon Treasurer for 23+ years.

After retiring in 1997 for a short time I returned to part time work with the Education Dept and for the next 10 years filled in as a Gardener/Handyman at primary schools.

In 1965 I met Jenny Weaver (on a blind date) and we were married in 1967 and over the years spent in country towns (Pt Hedland, Geraldton and Albany) we were blessed with three wonderful children Todd, Rochelle and Megan. All three were taught by Norm Snow and were part of the COP Junior Brass Band and Senior Band for a number of years.

Todd currently lives in Brisbane, is married to Wendy (Toowoomba girl) and they have 3 children two boys Joshua (9) and Caleb (7) and a girl Kate (6). Todd works for the Westpac Banking Corporation as a financial advisor and Wendy is a High School teacher.

Rochelle completed UWA with a Science degree (Materials) and worked for BHP at the Briquette Plant in Port Hedland. Met her current partner fundraising for charity and moved to Sydney. They currently live in northern NSW west of Byron Bay where they live on a small holding fattening up livestock. Rochelle returned to University and qualified as a high school teacher and has taught at colleges in northern NSW.

Megan our youngest lives south of the river in Atwell is married to Dene and have 2 boys, Jack (2 ½) and Lachlan (12wks). They are both qualified nurses and spent 4 yrs in Scotland and England on a working holiday with lots of time spent visiting Russia, Eastern Europe, Northern Africa and Europe.

Jenny and I both enjoy travelling not only to see the grandchildren on a regular basis but also we have travelled extensively throughout the world having visited most continents and enjoying immensely what we have been lucky to see. It has been time and money well spent.

We hope to continue our travels overseas once again in 2012.

Jenny and I have now been married 43 yrs and we are both involved in music and sport. Jenny has been a member of the Australian Barbershop Premiership Perth Harmony Chorus for about 10 years and it has won all Australian Championships during that time (5 in all). The Chorus also travels to the World championships on a regular basis and their last effort in Hawaii saw them reach a high 15th position in the world standings. Jen also plays tennis each week and has just taken up golf as a second sport.

I have now been in the Band since about 1984 and during that time we have seen the Band change considerably. From a contesting Band to one that now plays for fun and fellowship

We now find an influx of younger musicians, with the Concert Band, to some degree learning their trade and if they stay with the Bands will guarantee the future of the organization. It is extremely enjoyable to sit and listen to the more modern music they play which most people can relate to.

I still enjoy being part of the organization and for the near future I see myself being part of it.

Hardwick, Steven

Steve was born in Harrogate, England on 5th March 1962, and immigrated to Australia with his parents in 1970.

Steve is married to Lyn and together they have two children, Jenny and Christopher. He runs his own sewing machine retail and repair business from premises in Bibra Lake.

Having always had a great love of music, Steve was introduced to drums at 15 in High School. His parents encouraged Steve in all his music endeavours and bought him a drum kit when his interest continued.

Steve played drums in various cover bands around Perth until 1996 when family and business commitments did not allow the time needed for these bands, He has since decided to concentrate on his flute. In 1997 Steve's music teacher suggested he join the Training Band to broaden his knowledge and experience playing with other musicians. Steve also has a love affair with the Tenor Saxophone.

(With minor amendments the above was written in 1999)

Time has passed and Steve we find is competent in electronics, having built his own sound systems, mixing desks and lighting systems. He also has a flair for organisation and an entrepreneurial urge to see the band prosper.

2010 sees him as Vice President in charge of the Concert Band and a valuable contributor in the flute section.

Hobbs, Ernie

Another train driver, but unlike "Stooner" Castlehow, Ernie never owned a car.

Ernie donated a medal to be won by the best attender each year. Eric Cowan took it off in its first year but he reckons he does not know how as Jack Anderson and Harrie Halvorsen must have been ruled ineligible as they were always there.

Hogg, Les

Born London 1905 Hamwell Western Suburb

Lived variously Muswell Hill & Hammersmith later worked in Hammersmith.

Left school at 14 and firstly worked for a monumental mason. Only lasted 3 months as the job of polishing marble in mid winter affected his health and he had 3 months off sick.

Father then got him a job in the electrical dept of a painter and decorators until he came out to Australia in 1923.

Just before he left school he became interested in learning the piano.

Had a piano at home which his mother and sister used to play and sing.

Had a few lessons but teacher was unreliable so gave it up.

However after starting work decided to give it another go but soon after was moved to the country so gave it away again.

Father used to play the banjo a bit and he mucked around with that. Apart from a few piano lessons he had no formal musical training until after migration to Australia and living in Busselton.

A mate Arthur Guthrie who drove the bakers cart was a member of the Busselton band and Les used to go along and stand next to him and listened to the band. One day he didn't turn up so Les picked up the drum sticks and was lucky enough to hit the drums often enough at the right time in a drum solo spot to get by and suddenly found he was a bandsman. Commenced learning the Bb bass and graduated up to Euphonium with his only instruction coming from the conductor, so virtually self taught. Another bandsman sold him a saxophone and gave him one 5 minute lesson on that. Eventually I had 3 saxophones and a banjo.

Came straight out from England to Busselton and stayed there until 1928.

Left Busselton when he found insufficient work, wanted to buy something and found he had been averaging 10 shillings a week over the previous 3 months so a shift to Perth was the only option.

Came to Perth on a Monday, saw his two brothers on the Tuesday, answered an Advertisement for work in Fremantle on the Wednesday and started work on the Thursday and stayed there for 42.5 years.

Joined City of Perth band on the first Sunday he came to Perth at Loton Park and started on Eb bass.

Generally all bands were allowed one professional player in contests and C of P were fortunate to have Hugh McMahon on many occasions and in fact during Les' years with the band there was always a McMahon with it. Hugh, Alec & later Norm, until recent times.

For years C of P and RSL vied for top position. RSL over the years with a variety of sponsors eventually became Channel 9 band and later with change of sponsorship became Midland Brick Brass.

City of Perth on the other hand has never had any other sponsorship than the help given by the Perth City Council.

Band rooms - Loton Park. It was a huge wooden grandstand with the band practicing underneath and was quite reasonable.

Don't know why the band left Loton Park but were given a band room at Swan Barracks and probably did not need both venues. Les does not know the real reason as he was only a junior member of the band at the time - although he was librarian - not a very onerous position at that time.

Don't know how long they were at Swan Barracks but cannot remember playing anywhere else until called up in 1941. Band went into recess at that time.

Les was attached to a firm doing work under contract to the Navy all through the war and never went back to the band on cessation of hostilities.

The War job consisted of de-gaussing war ships to make them less vulnerable to magnetic mines, installing and repairing all electrical gear, generators, motors radar & radio gear and gunnery control gear.

At one time had 30 electricians & 30 labourers under his control.

Did not go back to the band until he retired in 1970.

Band had just got its new band room and Eva suggested he needed a hobby.

Was past taking up playing again after so many years away.

Walked into the band room and was welcomed with open arms and taken into the library where he was greeted by a pile of music in all stages of disarray, loose, tied up with string, mixed up etc and told to go to it, so it has been a full time job ever since.

Competitions

1933 - 38 good run

33 state champions

38 back to goldfields contest. Won Fremantle contest, May Labour day contest - 3 in the one year.

1933 - Jimmy Annersly playing 2nd tenor Les was solo Euphonium, Harry Halvorsen was conductor and Bill Halvorsen was solo cornet below Hugh McMahon the pro.

A few days before the contest, Jimmy split his lip chopping wood and had to withdraw.

Bill took over as conductor, Harry took the solo euphonium spot and Les had to drop down to 2nd tenor. They still won.

Trips

Singapore twice

Kalgoorlie

Pacific Islands - Oriana

Married in 1935 to Eva.

The band bought them a wedding present, a clock, for £2/10/- which still had pride of place on his mantle shelf at the time of his passing.

Boss did not want him to take any time off.

Wanted to go to Busselton on the Monday. Boss said "well you'll be back on Tuesday then".

Not on your life says Les. The wedding is not until Wednesday.

Boss then wanted him back on Thursday but Les argued with him with boss then saying "well ring me up on Saturday then".

Les eventually rang him the following Monday and after stalling him about no trains. Returned on the Thursday to set up house and started back on the following Monday after 2 weeks off.

Les says he nearly left the job over it all.

Band resisted admission of women for many years. The subject was raised many times after the war but a certain clique within the band made certain they were kept out.

Eventually the ice was broken in about 1984 and the band has not suffered as a consequence. Even Les was not particularly in favour, however now acknowledges that the change was inevitable and that some of the girls have real talent - as they have in all other bands and orchestras.

Another drum major they had was WO Campbell an army man who generally took them when they were on army duty.

Music

Some favourite pieces of Les' were Tristan & Isolde a beautiful but heavy piece. A bit sad the band no longer tackles that sort of music anymore.

Job of Librarian was less demanding then with a fairly stable band of barely contest size and no one taking music home as there were no copiers to enable copies to be taken easily. In fact Les cannot remember any contest where a full rehearsal of all members was able to be held before the event so nothing has really changed in that respect.

Holland, A.J.E (Arthur)

Arthur Holland was born in Wagin on 28th February 1914.

He joined the Traffic Branch of the Western Australian Government Railways in January 1930 and served all over the State before retiring as Senior Workshop Clerk in April 1974 after 40 years service. (The discrepancy was probably war

service).

Arthur was a keen sportsman and had played football and cricket in Wagin, Narrogin and Wiluna to name a few. Became Secretary of the Narrogin Railways Football Club for the years 1932/3. He was also a good darts player and in fact declared he would play everything from tennis to marbles.

Music also must have played a dominant role in his life as he became a very good BBb Bass Player.

Also is said to have conducted bands in Wagin, Narrogin, Albany, Collie and Perth.

He was President of the Perth City Band from 1968 to 1974 although he hardly ever attended, it has been said. He had Alf Innes who sat in as his proxy.

Some notable musical achievements included State Champion in 1955 and at Ballarat in 1955 and 1958, being Australian Champion in the latter year.

(Most of the above notes come from the West Australian Railways Institute Magazine, April 1974.)

Sid Shaw adds a note that Arthur loved a drop or two and inevitably after a Sunday rehearsal would head off down the road on the wrong side in his car before crossing to the correct side at the first corner. One day was found asleep at the wheel in the middle of Beaufort Street. A little more forgiving in those days.

Holmes, Campbell

My involvement with the City of Perth Band began in 1958 when they came to Ballarat for the Australian Championships. Several of their players entered the Solo sections and two of them won their section, namely Royce Clark the Soprano Cornet and Stan Castlehow the Eb Bass. I was in my Eaglehawk Citizens Band uniform and amongst my opposition were Charlie Osborne and Charles Thompson of the COP Band.

Now Charlie O had been a member of the Newcastle Steelworks Band that went to England and won the British Open. Charles T was a member of the WA Symphony Orchestra and we dozen or so fellow competitors waiting in the wings for our turn were made aware of this. To everyone's surprise I won the Trom Solo and the Ballarat Courier took photos of the winners in pairs and I appeared in the photo with Royce Clark.

Little did I know that I would get a transfer to Perth in employment just two years later.

Whilst flat hunting on Sunday morning I could hear a Band rehearsal so made my way there.

'Twas the COP in their old premises which could be opened up to become a stage and I sat down on the lawn as a spectator but I noticed that the Soprano player was engaging Harrie Halvorsen (the BM) in conversation.

Very soon thereafter, Harrie turned around and called out to me "did you win the Trom' Solo at Ballarat in 1958". When my response was yes I was invited to have a blow, but neither I nor the Band had a Trom' available.

I attended the next Sunday morning rehearsal with my own Trom and again met the two Charlies plus Ted McMahon from the 5MD Band. The latter never came to rehearsal again after having a "deputy" sat along side.

Later on, the two Charlies retired and Bob Johnson and Clem Watson from the Advent Band took their place.

From 1952 to 1956 I had been in England and played in several Bands from which I gained a lot of friends and among them was the legendary Willie Lang who was now the principal Trumpet player with London Symphony Orchestra. I contacted Willie when I learnt that the LSO was booked to play in our City. After a Thursday night rehearsal the entire Tpt & Trom section of the LSO came around to the COP "shack" where Jack Watson kept a good supply of long bottled Swan Lager which the LSO boys enjoyed and were soon eager to learn how to play "hookey". I don't think we had a darts board at the time.

Whilst I scratch my head to stir the memory I've a few names to add to your list.

Beside Ted McMahon, Charlie Thompson and Clem Watson there is Gordon O'Neil, A (Bert) Post, Gary Roelof, Jim Jackson, Jack Wesson, Michael James, the last 4 being Trom players. Vivian Nylander was our top cornet player for years; Tom Bennett Eb Bass was a WASO string Bass player.

Some highlights for me included 1960 my first rehearsal, and for many years after, the solo cornet bench had Viv & Elmore Nylander, Ray Reason, Norman McMahon, Laurie O'Keefe and Royce Clark all very regular attendees, whereas most Aust' bands that I played with were always struggling for good cornet players.

The 3 trips to Singapore were marvellous and another joy was when I retired to Esperance to become B.M, the COP band came down & conducted a first class Cabaret.

I have a 1972 photo showing 3 faces that are not on the list, the flugel player is Greg Johnson, Bass Trom an Englishman and Cleve Mumme on cornet.

A good Trom player, Andrew Ross, who went on to the WASO Orch'.

The Cabarets at Subiaco and later the South Perth Town Hall and earlier still at Anzac House were great events.

At Anzac House a beautiful buxom blonde used to sing with the Band and her name escapes me. When she and her partner sailed from Fremantle for Sydney, Laurie O'Keefe and I went down to the breakwater jetty and played a farewell song including -'Will ye no' come back again'. (Eric Cowan supplied the name Faye Warnock and says she was a real trouser as well as a looker often staying back after a rehearsal to serve drinks to the boys.)

My memory is failing somewhat but it is approximately what happened.

Two ex 5MD players who joined COP for a few years were Ray Jones (trom) and Mick Atkinson.

I vaguely remember a train journey to Kalgoorlie and Eddie Klemm with his piano accordion was the leader in lots of music and merry making. I think some of the booze is still sweating out of the pores. A couple of trips to Geraldton and convivial social contact with the Geraldton Band personnel were great days.

The Pacific Cruise on the Oriana was possibly the high point during my days with the COP Band and next would be the Banquets at the Wembley Lodge during Laurie O'Keefe's presidency. From Laurie's printing works came some wonderful menu cards and a newsletter with photos were collector's items.

For personalities I straight away think of the Halvorsen brothers, very astute businessmen who could handle men and situations with aplomb.

Jack Anderson BEM was a great worker for Bands particularly as our delegate and as Secretary of the W.A. Bands League.

My 25 years with the COP Band was full of happy times and rarely was there a hiccup.

There were heaps of funny things happened and some sad occurrences but my fading memory prevents me from recording them. Please forgive amateur typing and composition.

Regards to all at the Band room, and good luck with the Historical Record.

Cheers

Campbell

Campbell was also our delegate on the West Australian Band Association for a number of years.

Hutchings, (Will) W.J.

Born in Walthamstowe, Essex, England in about 1877 and died in Perth on 6th May 1968 aged 91 years.

Early banding experience unknown but as he married Alice Wood in Essex, England in 1903, it is reasonable to assume his early training commenced there. They migrated to Perth in 1911 or 1912.

His niece Doreen Casey remembers him as a lovely gentleman and she often spent time with the Hutchings family at 21 Gloucester Street, Victoria Park. Doreen was born Doreen Philpot, youngest sister of Ernest Philpot, former member.

Will was a brother of her mother. Will sponsored his sister Anne and her husband to emigrate as assisted migrants and they arrived in February 1913. Their children Ernest and Arthur Philpot both played in our band. Ernest as mentioned elsewhere became a noted artist whilst Arthur became an architect.

Alf Toll remembers - "Good trombone player but could not march in step. Charles Toll was always threatening to ban him. The solution was to make each column hold a long rod which made them all swing their arms together and therefore their feet at the same time."

He was our President in 1927 and Secretary in 1930.

His occupation away from the band was as a master painter and decorator.

Innes-Mills, Rex Dip.UA., FTCL., LTCL., PSM.

At the time of appointment as conductor, Rex had been teaching in Bunbury

His credentials were impeccable.

Bandmaster (psm). Royal Air Force London 1959.

Diploma of Teaching (Dip.U.A.) United States Force.

Licentiate Trinity College of Music (LTCL) performance trumpet 1984.

Open Soprano Cornet Champion. Sydney 1979.

Open Flugel Horn Champion of New Zealand 1978.

World Flugel Horn Champion, Toronto, Canada 1978.

Solo Cornet National Band of New Zealand 1976.

Principal Flugel, National Band of New Zealand 1976.

Deputy Conductor, National Band of New Zealand 1978.

Nominated most outstanding musician of 1978 National Band of New Zealand by Sir Harry Mortimer, Geoffrey Brand and Mervyn Waters, London 1978.

Appointed to National Adjudicating panel of the New Zealand Brass Band Association 1978.

Fellowship Trinity College of Music (FTCL) Composition, completing 1984.

Apart from all that he was a very good teacher of young musicians and a sound conductor, never short of a good idea a good story, or a good joke.

WO 1. James, Charles.P. (Jimmy)., MBE

Jimmy was born in England in about 1914.

In 1929 England was gripped in depression and there were few opportunities for a 15 year old lad so an "Army Boy" he became. There followed 19 years in the British Army including three at Kneller Hall, The Royal Military School of Music, the longest and hardest course in the Army, where he had to learn every instrument.

He migrated to post war Australia on a doctor's advice that his son needed a warmer climate, and thus began a new career in Western Australia.

Back in 1949 he applied for and became the founding Conductor of what became the Western Command Army Band. He was shown an empty room and told to get on with it. No instruments and no music and a proviso that all recruits must be West Australian.

He not only achieved it, he received an MBE in the 1960 Military Division list for doing it well.

He not only had to scrounge for music but also write and arrange a lot. The band's first public performance was in Albany in 1950 for which he wrote a fanfare which he called "Colosseum." Other sources suggest he was also responsible for the establishment of the Army School of Music in Victoria in 1954. On his retirement he played with the W.A. Symphony Orchestra (Tuba) for 14 years as well as various Brass Bands in Perth. He came to The City of Perth Band in the mid eighties and played Eb Bass for a couple of years. He took over as Conductor for a while but unfortunately he injured an eye in a farming accident and had to give it away. He made his retirement home in Albany.

Jenkin, Capt. Harry Rtd. OAM

Born Kalgoorlie 20th December 1933

Studied piano for two years as a youngster and had first taste of brass bands with the Salvation Army Junior Band under bandmaster Eric Banfield. Joined the Boulder Mines Band under Jack Wallis, on cornet and tenor horn.

Did a little dance band work on trumpet and played second trumpet with the Golden Mile Septet when this group performed at one of the early Jazz Jamborees in Perth. Interestingly some of the other members were Royce Clark later to conduct the City of Perth band, on first trumpet and trombone and life member Eddie Klemm on piano.

Enlisted in Western Command band in 1958 on cornet and tenor horn when the Bandmaster was C.P. (Jimmy) James who later also became a conductor of our band.

Served until 1980 in various postings and positions at Western Command, Perth; Royal Australian Armoured Corps, Puckapunyal, Victoria; Army School of Music, Balcombe, Victoria; 6th Bn Royal Australian Regiment Band, Townsville, Queensland; 4th Bn Royal Australian Regiment band, South Vietnam; Royal Australian Infantry Corps band, Townsville, Queensland; North Queensland Army Band, Townsville, Queensland; Royal Australian Signal Corps band, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales; 1st Military District Band, Brisbane, Queensland; 4th Military District band, Adelaide, South Australia; gradually rising through the ranks to Captain, Officer Commanding/Music Director.

Following discharge in 1980 took up positions as Bandmaster of Wanneroo City Concert Band, Channel 7 Youth Band, Northern Districts Brass Band and Vincent Brass and a playing member of Jam 'N' Jazz.

Joined City of Perth in April 1997.

Harry was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, General Division in 2009 for services to music in the Perth region through a range of community bands.

Jewell, Ted

Born 9th March 1867 in Ballarat Vic

Was married in Ballarat in 1885 and came to Western Australia to work in the Goldfields, like so many others just prior to the turn of the century.

He had obviously moved to Perth and joined our band early in the 20th century as he appears in the earliest photo of the band taken in 1905 when it travelled to Ballarat to compete in the South Street competitions.

Ted was a cornet player and also a bass drummer with the band, according to his grand daughter, but it could be he graduated to BBb Bass as that seems to be the instrument he has been photographed with

On 18th Feb 1949 at the age of 82 he was knocked off his bike and killed by a wheat truck near Canning Bridge on his way to band practice at Victoria Park where he was playing at that time.

A grand daughter still has his old Boosey Cornet which is still in good order.

Jack Wadeisha tells the story of a contest march at Loton Park. Ted was a corner man. We made a left turn but Ted went on about six paces on his own. Oops.

Johnson, Bob

Bob Johnson – Very good Trombonist, was playing Bass Trombone when Don Steel joined in 1969 – died not long after. Played the old G trombone with the extension handle and can be seen on an old ABC interlude. Is said to have been a reformed alcoholic but was the best bass trombone player Sid Shaw has heard. There were a couple of other people in the band at the same time from the same group that reformed him and they kept an eye on him in case of a relapse, which did not happen.

Jones, Angus

A little story from Jack Wadeisha.

Angus was accident prone. At one time he washed his cornet and put it in the oven to dry. He then forgot about it and all the solder melted from the joints. He took it in for repairs.

Angus rode an "Indian" motorbike and Jack a "Harley Davidson".

About a week or so after the first incident Angus placed his cornet on the rear carrier of his bike and tied it on with rope. They headed off together. Somehow the rope on Angus' cornet came loose at one end from the bike, but not the cornet so it fell off and bounced along the street behind the bike. Back in for more repairs.

The last Jack heard of Angus was that he had headed off to New Orleans to make his name in the Jazz World. Jack feels he would have about as much success there as with our band.

It is thought that this is the same person Laurie O'Keefe says used his band uniform as work clothes, and the work he was in was not all that clean.

Jones, Sapper Tom (Curley)

Was an early member of the band and father of Edna Nylander, playing baritone.

He appears along with his photo in a list of severely wounded soldiers in the Sunday Times of 20th August 1916.

Kearsley Family

The musical story of the KEARSLEY brothers can be traced back to the city of LEEDS in the United Kingdom. Brian, Robert, Kenneth and David were the sons of Robert and Hilda KEARSLEY who also had four daughters, Beryl, Muriel, Brenda and Joyce.

The family was involved members of the Salvation Army and attended the Citadel at New Wortley prior to migration to Australia in February 1953.

The family resided in Bunbury and attended the Salvation Army in that town until late in that year it was found necessary to move to the city of Perth to find employment for the older children.

Whilst in Bunbury Brian and Robert along with their father played with the Bunbury Citadel Band.

Upon their move to the city the family became members of the Leederville Citadel and the three elder males continued their banding at that place. Kenneth and later, David became members of the junior band.

Brian the eldest of the boys had played trombone since early childhood and continued to do so at Leederville. Robert who initially had played cornet in England and tenor horn at Bunbury played a variety of instruments at Leederville including Cornet, Flugelhorn, Baritone and Euphonium.

When Kenneth turned fifteen he applied to join the Royal Australian Navy as a junior musician and subsequently went to the Eastern states for his training and other appointments.

During the late 1950's the family moved residence to East Victoria Park and became members of the South Perth Citadel and continued their musical involvement on a smaller scale.

Other bands with which Brian has been associated with are the Second twenty-eighth whilst a National Serviceman, the Royal Australian Naval Reserve band Fremantle Division, and the Army Reserve band Karrakatta. For a number of years he had his own Dance band.

On a number of occasions Brian has helped other bands out which include a number of overseas trip with the Air Force Association Band

He has also been involved with teaching brass at Guildford Grammar school and Iona College, and when a Training Band became part of the City of Perth Band program he became its first appointed trainer and conductor

Since moving to Denmark on the south coast he has become involved with the City of Albany Band

When in his late teens Robert transferred back to Leederville from South Perth where he continued his banding at that Citadel. In December 1963 the Leederville Citadel was moved to Floreat Park where it was renamed The Floreat Citadel.

Late in the 1960's Robert and his young family moved to Morley and shortly after transferred to the Maylands Citadel; this eventually became the Morley Citadel.

In 1975 Robert was transferred to Wagin in his employment as a police officer for two years and then to Pemberton for a further twelve months prior to his promotion. He was transferred back to the city in December 1978. During this time he retained his membership with the Morley Citadel Band with which he played on his visits to the city. He also became associated with the Manjimup Town Band whilst at Pemberton and it was with this group that he played for the first time in the West Australian Band Contest Playing E flat Bass.

In May 1979 Robert was appointed Bandmaster of the Morley Citadel Band a position he held for about three years.

In 1986 he joined the Army Reserve as a bandsman, an unusual situation because at 46 years of age he was above the age of acceptance. He completed 10 years service having received approval from G.O.C. Fifth Military District to remain with the band for a further twelve months after reaching retirement age. It was during this time he was approached by Brian Underwood to become involved with the City of Perth Brass Band.

Kenneth remained in the navy for about five or six years and during this period of service he became an accomplished trombonist, tubist and string bass player particularly in the Jazz medium. He developed a reputation of no small repute particularly in the Jazz following in Sydney, and for some time played with the world renowned Graeme Bell Allstars. On his return to Perth he played with other Jazz groups in W.A., the Naval Reserve Band and the Army Reserve Band. For a period of about 12 months he was a permanent member of the Fifth Military District Band in his capacity as an Army Reservist. Kenneth also taught Brass at John Forrest Senior High School.

David was for a number of years with the Floreat Citadel Band and then became a member of the Naval Reserve Band and sometime later joined the Army Reserve band.

After he resigned from the Army Reserve Band David did not play for some time until he joined his brothers Brian and

Robert at City of Perth Band, they were later joined by Kenneth making it the first occasion these four brothers had become members of the same band at the same time.

For a number of years Robert held the position of Deputy Conductor of the Brass Band following the departure of Wayne Duncan to the British Isles. In 1996 he retired from the Police Service and went to live in Wagin a small rural town in the West Australian wheat belt, and for a while continued with his Deputy responsibilities in a dual capacity with his brother Kenneth.

Since that time Robert has maintained his involvement as a committed member of the band, regularly attending weekly rehearsals and band engagements even though the round trip from Wagin to Perth is in excess of 500 kilometres.

In 2003 at his instigation a male chorus was commenced under the auspices of the City of Perth Brass band and has performed at a number of concerts and programmes in support of the bands usual repertoire.

He has also been instrumental in the formation of the Great Southern Concert Band which is made up of musicians from Katanning and Wagin.

Kirk, Desmond

Dr Desmond Lyall Kirk

1945 – 2002

Desmond Kirk was born with a quest for knowledge and love for music.

From an early age he proved to be a gifted musician and as a cornet player joined the YAL Brass Band and later the National Youth Brass Band.

He had an impressive ability to go from instrument to instrument, brass to strings to woodwind to keyboard and within minutes to be able to play a tune.

His knowledge of the history and of origins of jazz and of jazz musicians was incredible.

After completing his leaving certificate in 1962 at Tuart Hill Senior High School, Dr Kirk went to work in the insurance industry.

In 1965, at the age of 20, he was called up for National Service. After recruit training he went to the Army School of Music in Balcombe, Victoria. From there he was posted to the Eastern Command Band, Paddington Barracks, Sydney. After his discharge from the army, Dr Kirk returned to study at the University of Western Australia.

In 1973 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree with first class honours.

He went on to further studies at the Australian National University, where he earned a PhD in physiology of vision in 1977.

He worked in research at several universities before changing careers in 1983 and became a baker.

During this time he also wrote a science fiction novel under a pseudonym.

He returned to Perth in 1990 and to academic work at UWA.

Dr Kirk's scientific interest had for a long time been into the basic processes in sensory systems and how they are processed by the brain.

It is believed his groundbreaking work on how the visual system divides different tasks could one day lead to the development of artificial vision devices.

In recent times, Dr Kirk played with the City of Perth Brass and City of Perth Concert Bands, The Oz Big Band, The Magic Dream Band and Tandarra Brass.

Dr Kirk is survived by his mother Elsie and his brother Milton.

It was a great shock when in his 50s Des suffered an aortic aneurism and passed away a few days later.

At the suggestion of our late member Tim Markes, Des' brother Milton purchased a Memorial seat in the auditorium at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

The seat number D14 is "Dedicated to the memory of Des Kirk by his family and friends, City of Perth, Magic Dream, Oz Big Bands. When you have a moment seek out this seat and quietly give thanks for his wonderful contribution to the musical life in WA.

Kyrwood, Alan

Born on 15th October 1931 at Subiaco and brought up in Wembley. Went to Perth Boys School.

Alan started playing cornet at age 6 with the Leederville Salvation Army, later transferring to the Junior Band at the Perth Fortress, and at age 15 progressed to the senior band..

Two years later he switched from Bb Cornet to Eb Soprano an instrument he grew to love.

This background saw him develop into an accomplished conductor and band leader.

Over the years he played with the Perth Fortress and Subiaco Citadel Salvation Army bands, the Royal Australian Naval Reserve Band, the 5th Military District Army Reserve Band, the City of Perth Brass and Concert Bands and the Silver Threads band, to name a few.

Became the founding conductor of the City of Perth Band Concert Band.

Alan worked for the E.S. & A Bank which was folded into the ANZ bank, for 38 years.

Alan died in November 2005.

Klemm, Eddie

Pianist and Band Accompanist for many years. Always a great help at the Cabarets & he was quite upset when we decided to discontinue them due to rising costs & drop in support. He was Vice President for many years & attended most rehearsals.

There is a more extensive tribute to Eddie elsewhere.

Lourens, Alan

(Written 1984 when Alan was about 19))

Alan started off with Norm Snow, as a youngster, and has a great deal of musical experience to offer combined with a splendid personality for the job in hand. He has established an immediate rapport with the members and the band is currently working hard towards competing in the D Grade section of the West Australian Brass Band Championships to be held in June, playing "Northumbrian Suite", "English Suite", March "The Director" and a hymn "Cwm Rhondda".

Alan was the 1982 Under 19 Australian Euphonium Champion.

Member of the Under 19 Australian Champion Quartet 1982, Runner up 1983 under 19 Western Australian Band Association (WABA) Euphonium Champion 1978, 1981, 1982, 1983.

Member WABA Champion Quintet (Open) 1982, 1983

Member under 19 Champion Quartet 1982

Member A Grade Champion Band 1979, 80, 81, 82, 83

Member Australian National ABC Brass Band of the Year 1982, (3rd 1981) 1983.

Member "Beethoven" grade (A Grade) Concert Band - Schools Festival 1981, 82 and 83

Conductor of Scarborough Senior High School Junior Band.

Presently Alan is a student W.A.C.A.D. (Nedlands Campus) doing his B A Education (Secondary) and has been offered Bachelor of Music University of Western Australia.

Since that time Alan has gained a PhD, taught for several years in the United States, established tertiary music schools in Singapore, is currently (2010) head of music at the Edith Cowan University, and conductor of the W.A. Agricultural Society Brass.

Mardon, Arthur

President 1934 and a member for 40 years.

Eb, & BBb Bass and Trombone player.

Was a sought after soloist and known to have played with top Brass Bands in Sydney and in 1923 travelled to the UK where he won several British championships as a bass trombone player.

He was one of the members of the composite Australian Commonwealth Band that toured England and South Africa in 1925/6.

McClure, Kim

Bb & for a time Eb Cornet player. Was principal cornet in the late 1980's when business commitments as an architect took him to Malaysia where he worked for a subsidiary building company of P & O.

Is believed to have been the instigator of the short lived City of Perth Band basketball team.

McLean, Gordon

Drum major 1953 or thereabouts.

Ex Collie band.

McMahon, Bernard "Ted"

Fred Gfeller's notes on Bernard "Ted" McMahon

I first met Ted McMahon when I joined Western Command Band in November 1957 - he was an excellent trombone player.

During the next few years Ted was promoted to Cpl and then to Band Sergeant, a very important position in the Army Band Corps. He was in charge of the band on many occasions during a period when several Bandmasters were posted in and out within a few years. His calm and unruffled character helped the Band through some difficult and uncertain times.

In 1972 during the change of Federal Government the band was disbanded and again Ted was the rock of Gibraltar whilst a determined delegation headed by Sir Charles Court and the then commander Western Command flew to Canberra to have the band reinstated, to everyone's relief.

It was during all these years that I got to know Ted well and was privileged to know his wife Kath and family, where we were always made welcome.

To me, Ted was a strict, straight but kind and understanding man whom I could trust and from whom I learned and benefited from his guidance.

On the many social occasions after band engagements he was good company and loved to tell yarns of days gone by.

So long Ted I will always remember you.

Additional comments:

Ted was a brother of band member and sometime deputy conductor Norm McMahon. Legend has it that the brothers,

who apparently never got on well, had an altercation in the band room one evening and Ted packed up, went home and never touched his trombone again.

Another take on that

Campbell Holmes says that when he joined the band he was placed next to Ted. Ted did not take kindly to having a deputy placed next to him and never came again.

McMahon, Hugh Gregory

October, 1933

From THE BRITISH EMPIRE BAND JOURNAL

(Sketched by an old Friend)

Mr. Hugh G. McMahon, Perth, West Australia, is 63 and still has that magnificent command of the cornet, can still produce those "tones like liquid gold" that 30 years ago induced a prominent English adjudicator to style him "Emperor of the cornet." Mr. McMahon takes the top E or F with ease and power, dwells on it, swells and diminishes, and without the slightest apparent effort. He was remarkable for this faculty 30 years ago, but it is extraordinary in a man who has reached his 64th year.

Mr. McMahon's ability and happy genial disposition have placed him on a pedestal amongst Perth music lovers, from which he cannot be disturbed. As a musician he is universally admired; as a man there is nobody more generally popular amongst the hundreds who claim his personal acquaintance.

Born at Araluen (N.S.W.) in May, 1870, Mr. Hugh McMahon was one of seven sons. His father was interested in tin mining, and at the conclusion of his school days Hugh also followed the occupation of a tin miner at Stanifer (N.S.W.). During his adolescent years he commenced to study the piano, with a copy of Hemy's Tutor and himself as teacher. Close study and natural aptitude enabled him to make rapid progress, despite the absence of a qualified teacher, and in a comparatively short time he was able to play from memory the whole of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. The McMahon family moved to Hillgrove (N.S.W.) when Hugh was 17 years old and shortly afterwards he "discovered" in himself an ambition to play the cornet. Again he had to rely upon his own efforts, minus a teacher, but he knew that he had found the instrument for which he was physically, temperamentally and artistically adapted. As he progressed, he also taught five of his brothers, and it was not a great while before McMahon's Hillgrove Band, eight strong, came into existence. Gradually the strength of the band increased to 16, but they received no public support. On the contrary, an opposition Hillgrove Town Band was formed, with Mr. Alf Lovell as bandmaster, and subsidised from public funds. This was the position in 1897, when a contest was held at Tamworth, for which McMahon's Band decided to enter. Other entrants included the Armadale and Hillgrove Town Bands.

Mr. Renshaw, of Sydney, was adjudicator, and he awarded first prize to McMahon's Band for their performance of Verdi's "Attila" (own choice). Not only this, Hugh McMahon gained first prize in the solo cornet contest with Hartmann's "Rule Britannia," and his brother Harry was placed second. In 1898 McMahon's Band (now 24 strong) journeyed to Launceston (Tas.) where, with Julius Siede as adjudicator, Code's Melbourne Band was placed first and McMahon's and the Launceston City Bands tied for second place. The bandmaster of the latter, Mr. Edwards, generously handed his band's share of the prize money to McMahon's Band as an appreciation of their pluck in travelling so far and pitting themselves against the bands they had met in the contest. In 1899 a contest was held at Bathurst for the Championship of Australia, and attracted a big entry. Lieut. Hird's Wellington Garrison (N.Z.), Code's Melbourne, Lewin's Bathurst, Mellor's Newtown, Charlesworth's Lithgow, Lovell's Armidale, and McMahon's were among the competing bands, the adjudicator being Mr. George O'Shea, a Sydney organist. McMahon's Band gained the verdict with "Tannhauser," Code's Melbourne being second and Mellor's Newtown third. In the Championship solo cornet contest, Hugh McMahon gained the possible points with Hartmann's "My Pretty Jane," defeating Harry Freeman, who was afterwards a soloist in Sousa's famous band.

Shortly after this, owing to the mines closing down and consequent lack of employment several of the members of McMahon's Hillgrove Band were compelled to seek fresh fields and the splendid combination was dissolved. Jack McMahon went to Western Australia and Hugh had practically decided to go to New Zealand when he was offered, and accepted, the control of the Boulder City Band (W.A.). He took charge of this band in March, 1900. In 1902 he took them to Ballarat, where, with Lieut. J. Ord-Hume as adjudicator, they gained second place to Barkell's Newcastle (N.S.W.) City Band. The test piece was "Mercadante" and for their own choice the Boulder City Band played Hugh McMahon's own arrangement of "Cavalleria Rusticana." In the solo and party competitions Hugh McMahon was first in the soprano solo and in the test B flat cornet solo "The Mermaid's Song" (Owen). The Boulder City Quartet and Septet were also awarded first prizes.

From Ballarat the Boulder City Band went on to the Bathurst Championship Contest (Ord-Hume again adjudicating) where they tied for first place with Newcastle City. In 1903 a second trip to Ballarat was made, the adjudicator on this occasion being Lieut. Bentley, of Kneller Hall, England. Newcastle City was again placed first, and Boulder City, playing "William Tell" tied for second with Adelaide Loco, (S.A.) and Boulder A.W.A., of which the late W. Partington was conductor. In the solo cornet contest, however, the test for which was Owen's "Goodbye, Sweetheart,

Goodbye," Hugh McMahon was awarded the possible 100 points, defeating W. Graham by one point. The adjudicator, on that occasion, acclaimed him as "Emperor of the Cornet."

The next contest venture was again at Ballarat in 1905, with Mr. Albert Wade adjudicating. Playing McMahon's arrangements of "Otello" and "William Tell" (Swift), the Boulder City Band won brilliantly by 15 points from W. Partington's Perth City Band, Barkell's Newcastle City Band being third. Mr. McMahon also received a ten guinea cup. This was the band's last visit to Ballarat.

A contest was held in Albany (W.A.) during the Christmas of 1908, at which Boulder City secured first from Perth City and Kalgoorlie in the A Grade, and the Boulder Boys' Band (under Hugh McMahon) won the B Grade. Boulder City Band also won the Quartet and Septet Contests, and tied with the Boulder Boys' Band for the Quickstep. Mr. E. T. Code adjudicated on this occasion. At the end of 1910, Hugh McMahon accepted an invitation to conduct the Perth City Band, (W (Bill) Partington was now conductor of the Ballarat Municipal Brass Band) but a few months later he took over and reconstructed the Perth Concert Band, which was renamed McMahon's Concert Band. (A 1912 photo shows Hugh, still apparently conductor of Perth City Band, so some details of movements at that time are uncertain.) In 1922, at Bunbury, under the adjudication of Mr. H. Shugg, they won the A and B Grade Championship, defeating Perth City in the former grade. In 1923 they again defeated Perth City at Bunbury, Mr. L. Hoffman adjudicating; and in 1925, at Fremantle, Lieut. J. Ord-Hume adjudicating, McMahon's Concert Band, playing Hugh McMahon's arrangement of "La Tosca," defeated Perth City for the third time in succession.

That was practically the close of Mr. Hugh McMahon's career as a band conductor-up to the present.

He has officiated as adjudicator at four championships Contests- Bunbury in 1918, and 1920, and the W.A. Band Association's Contest at Subiaco in 1932, while at the last W. A. Band Association Contest, in March, 1933, he played professional solo cornet for the Perth City Band, and that band secured first place by three points.

Bearing the foregoing particulars in mind, it must be admitted that Mr. Hugh McMahon has fully sustained the title given to him by Lieut. Bentley in 1903, and the most surprising fact is that today his playing is quite as brilliant and perfect, and appeals just as much to the public taste, as when, 30 years ago, his reputation as a master was recognised amongst all the bands of Australia.

He is now taking life easy. A little orchestra work with Williamson's Opera Companies when they visit Perth, or an occasional theatrical engagement, a small but select class of junior pupils, a fairly extensive clientele for piano tuning and repairs, a quiet comfortable home with his grown-up family in North Perth, and intimate friends and admirers by the score; all of whom are keen to meet and chat with "Hughie."

To again quote Mr. McAnally:

Are the soloists of yesterday superior to those of today? "Well! Imagine a man of 63 playing solo cornet in the winning band of an A grade championship contest, and that is what Hugh McMahon did in March last.

A little footnote to Hugh: Sid Shaw tells of Hugh in his later days playing at hotels. He had lost a tooth or two and used to jamb a cork in the gap to support his embouchure.

McMahon, Norm

Norm was a very good cornet player and deputy conductor for a while. He also played in New South Wales with the Barrier Industrial band from Broken Hill receiving high praise in Eric Cowan's notes.

On returning to WA he re joined our band and was quite happy to sit in the "bumper up" position which was a credit to someone of his obvious ability and testament to the quality of our band at that time.

McMahon, Ted

Ted was a big toned trombone player and one of the best around, who could fill a room quite easily.

He left the band suddenly but whether it was because of an altercation he had with one of the other trombone players who was considered a bit of a ratbag or whether it was an altercation he had with his brother is not known. However it is rumoured he went home and never played the trombone again.

The dispute with his brother Norm must have been quite severe as it seems that when Norm came back from the East he built a house on Ted's land up in the hills somewhere, and the dispute saw Ted kick him out and then declare that he did not have a brother. So much for brotherly love.

McMahon, Victor

One of Hugh's 6 brothers. Victor was a flautist and probably other instruments as well as he often adjudicated at brass band competitions. I have included his name here even though he never had any connection with our band other than adjudicating one or two contests we participated in. The reason for inclusion is just that in about 1937 he was instrumental in getting school bands going in New South Wales and one of the young pupils was that great Clarinet and Flute player Don Burrows. Don for ever afterwards arranged for him to attend his major concerts. One of Don's great moments was playing his old school flute to a standing ovation at Carnegie Hall in New York. Don is in semi retirement in Victoria and says he is playing baritone in a brass band.

It would appear that the McMahon family's musical influence covered a wide range both geographically and in genre.

Mellor, George

Was a very good cornet player and at one stage conducted the R.S.L. Band.
Conducted our band in 1921.

Molloy, Henry (DCM) 1874 – about 1929/30

Henry Molloy was born at Ayr, Scotland in 1874 and with his family migrated to the U.S of A, and then later to Sydney about 1891/2.

By this time Henry was an accomplished musician and very active in many bands, being a multi instrumentalist.

Henry, two brothers and their father left Sydney to join the Gold Rush to Coolgardie. The father was lost overboard on the way but the three brothers continued to the Goldfields.

Henry subsequently met and married Jane Killien and they had a daughter in 1899, born in a teamster's tent at a place called Fly Flat near Coolgardie.

After several years prospecting they moved to Greenmount near Midland.

Henry renewed his musical interests and was prominent with the City of Perth Band, the Oddfellows Band, and 86th Army Reserves Band.

When World War 1 was declared he was one of the first to enlist at Blackboy Hill, and being a bandsman he became a stretcher bearer and ambulance person.

He joined the 28th Battalion AIF on 11/5/1915 after serving three years with the 86th Infantry Volunteers.

Henry served at Gallipoli and France and on 2nd September 1916 was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.) by the King.

The citation read "For conspicuous gallantry during operations. He showed utter contempt of danger when rescuing the wounded and supplied them with water from the water bottles of the dead. He carried many wounded men back to the trenches."

The sad end to this tale is that after the war he resumed with the City of Perth band, and in fact was awarded a Life Membership. A shield commemorating this dated 1929 has been given to me by James and Ruby Ahearn, Ruby being Henry's oldest grandchild and to whom I am indebted for the story.

Henry was obviously extremely traumatised by his war experiences and became increasingly depressed, to the extent that he refused to admit that he took part in any war, refused any treatment or medication and eventually took his own life.

This was a sad end to one of our valiant former members.

Footnote:

Henry's wife Jane was an accomplished midwife in and around Greenmount and the daughter, Mary, trained as a nurse at the Perth Public Hospital and worked at Mullewa, Kalgoorlie and Woorooloo where she met her future husband in about 1922.

Murphy, ??

This person was another trombone player and a bus driver in his day job.

One Sunday he pulled up at the band room with a bus load of people on his way from A to B and casually left them there while he popped into the band room for a couple of beers before resuming the journey. What the passengers thought has not been reported.

Nix, Mervyn

Cornet and horn player and a former treasurer.

Great friend of Sid Shaw's with whom they got up to all sorts of mischief. The two of them also played with the Ballarat band the last time that band won the Victorian State Championships. Much of what is said in Sid Shaw's piece would also be said by Merv.

Nylander, Elmore

Elmore's father Richard emigrated from Sweden in 1898 to join the gold rush to Kalgoorlie, and stayed there for about 30 years during which time Elmore's brothers Ivan and Vivian and his sister Lillian were born.

Elmore was born on 5th April 1914 in East Fremantle and spent his earlier years in North Fremantle.

Richard Nylander was a noted cornet player in Sweden and Elmore was taught at an early age by his father and brother Viv, and won his first State championship when he was about 8 years old. He played cornet, trumpet and trombone in brass bands most likely in Fremantle in his earlier years.

He left school at the age of 14, common in those days, and firstly worked in a printing shop, then in his brother's garage in Fremantle, later getting a job as a mechanic in the Ford Motor Works in North Fremantle.

He was very mechanically minded, building his first car from a wreck and bits and pieces, a boat and trailer, and later on much repair work and renovations on various cars and houses of his and his family. He held his driving license for 78 years.

A friend suggested he change jobs to work for Wesfarmers as they provided annual holidays which Ford did not. The idea proved to be a sound choice as that is where he met his future wife Edna Jones who he married in 1941 shortly after he had enlisted in the army.

Not long after completing his basic training he was moved to Darwin where he received horrific burns when he copped the full force of an exploding fuel drum someone was welding. As he was only wearing shorts at the time the burns to his legs and upper body were 2nd and 3rd degree, and all they had on hand to put out his burning body was a bucket of water.

Darwin had inadequate hospital facilities so he was shipped off to Adelaide where the doctor said "66% burns. No one can survive that." Elmore retorted "No one told me that".

He was soon moved again to Melbourne for extensive plastic surgery and after many months was discharged from hospital and from the Army to return to Perth and his job at Wesfarmers. Owing to the fragility of his skin he was unable to resume as a mechanic and moved into Spare Parts and Inventory, which remained his profession.

He left Wesfarmers in the 1950's to work at West End Motors who had the Studebaker franchise and when they failed moved to a truck dealership until retirement.

In the 1970's Elmore visited Melbourne and met up again with the plastic surgeon who had worked on him all those years ago, now a leader in the field. He was delighted that his work had been so successful.

For his long association with the brass band movement he was awarded life memberships of both the City of Perth Band and the Airforce Association band and when Grimethorpe Band visited Perth a few years ago he was called to the stage and received a presentation for his 80 plus years service to brass banding.

Apart from his involvement with Brass Bands he was also a member of Harry Bluck's dance band for many years and at one stage had played 18 years straight on Saturday nights at the Pagoda Ballroom. He also played at the Embassy Ballroom, Canterbury Court Ballroom and many more venues.

With Harry Bluck's band, played on the same card as many celebrities including Pat Boon, Winnifred Attwell, Nat King Cole, Triny Lopez and Louis Armstrong. He was asked to perform with Louis' band, a great complement to a local bandsman,

When he was 89 he decided to give up playing with an old time dance band. A few weeks later he said he had been asked to go back as no one else could play the tunes. However he said "I'm damned if I am going to practice anymore" – having practiced daily for something a little over 80 years.

Elmore passed away in 2010 just short of his 96th birthday.

He was one of the most tasteful exponents of cornet and trumpet playing that anyone is likely to hear, and a sad loss to all who knew him.

Nylander, Viv

Ex Subiaco Band and W.A. Symphony Orchestra, where he played second to his brother Ivan. He was another fine Cornet and Trumpet player and a big influence on his brother Elmore when they were young.

He fell out with John Perry who was the conductor of the Subiaco band at the time, possibly over Perry's treatment of Keith O'Neil who he claimed was not good enough to play in that band. Anyway both Subiaco and Perth City were playing in Kalgoorlie at the Fire Brigade Demonstrations and Viv defected to us, and later on influenced Elmore to come to us as well.

Like most of our members at that time he loved a lager or two.

O'Keefe, A.S.(Arthur)

Secretary 1932.

Arthur O'Keefe was an uncle of Laurie O'Keefe.

Originally with the R.S.L. Band where he played bass, he went to the 2nd WW along with Jack Anderson as a stretcher bearer. After the war both he and Jack Anderson joined the Perth City Band. Arthur held the position of Secretary at one stage. He was also a bass fiddle player and played for many years in a dance band at the Embassy Ballroom.

O'Keefe, L.M.C. (Laurie)

Laurie grew up in Wembley. His father had a commercial printing business in Subiaco which Laurie later joined.

Laurie's father was a cornet player in the R.S.L. Band and he told Laurie how a young Charlie Court played alongside him but was so short he had to stand on a box.

Laurie received his schooling firstly at the Subiaco State School and joined the Y.A.L. Band when he was about 11 or 12 years old, receiving tuition as a cornet player under the guidance of George Reid, their conductor and band trainer. Secondary education was at Perth Boys College. On finishing school he started his apprenticeship in his fathers business.

Along with many others such as Wally O'Neil, Syd Shaw, Merv Nix and George Franklin, he joined the Perth City band as they became too old to play with Y.A.L.

This was a natural progression as George also had an association with Perth City Band, having served as conductor for a couple of years pre-war.

On completion of his printer apprenticeship he decided to gain a little experience elsewhere and for a time worked in Melbourne where he played with the Fitzroy Band, later travelling to New Zealand where he played with the Tramways Band. He still has contacts there.

Eventually returning and joining in business with his father he developed into a very good cornet player and eventually took on minor administrative duties, culminating with his election as President in 1975, a position he held for 12 years. He thought 13 didn't sound too good and as he was involved in Rotary in Subiaco, a local Trade Association and possibly still in Rostrum he had found that life was a constant merry go round of meetings interspersed with two brass band practices a week, and commitments in a dance band, all in addition to running his printing business. He had also just bought a boat and that lifestyle beckoned.

It would be fair to say that Laurie was one of the most progressive, innovative and organised Presidents that the band has been fortunate to have.

During his time at the top he

- Devised the band slogan "A sound tradition since 1898"
- Composed the words to the band anthem to the tune of Men of Harlech and which in its original form referred to some existing members, so it ran;

Men of City let us holler,
Set the tempo we will foller,
We will blow until tomorrer.
City all the way.

Men like Georgie, Fred and Sidney,
Campbell, Robert, Merv and Windy,
Set the style for youths like Lindsay,
City all the way.

We've a sound tradition,
Don't fear competition,
Our banners fly and cornets cry
That we will carry on the banding mission.

So come and join us in the chorus,
Let the band room ring with voices joyous,
Our future seems to be enormous
City all the way.

(The bandsmen mentioned were George Franklin, Fred Gfeller, Sid Shaw, Campbell Holmes, Bob Devenish, Merv Nix, Norm (Windy) McMahon.), and Lindsay Timms.

- Arranged re-writing the Band's Constitution and Incorporation.
- Organised several band camp/conventions on Rottnest Island
- Introduced an application procedure for new members whereby they had to apply and be formally inducted. It had been a little lax earlier, as has also been the case in more recent times until similar procedures re-introduced.
- Along with others, commenced an annual "ladies night" dinner/dance. This was before females were admitted to the band so it went some way towards acknowledging their support. After Laurie's time when women had been admitted, it became an annual band dinner. Sadly this event seems to have dropped off the calendar.
- Steered the awarding of Life Memberships to bandsmen with 20 years continuous service, and the awarding of merit certificates.
- The mounting of the Honour Boards
- The design and purchase of bannerettes for presentation to visitors.

- Was a driving force behind various band trips both in Western Australia and overseas.
- Ran the band as much like a business as is possible in a voluntary organisation.
- Supported the monthly band cabaret dances which were the main revenue raisers in that time.
- Organised other fund raisers such as a Wine & Cheese Night and a “Burgundy” bottling, and obtained much work for the band by dint of hard work and his other connections.
- Instigated the “President’s Trophy” which he now thinks was a bit of a mistake as some times some people felt their efforts had not been recognised and in other years perhaps recognition was given which may not have been warranted. This is now the “Bandsman of the Year” award, and I guess the same situation applies.

Laurie has many stories to tell of which these are only a few.

The O’Neil family had a long family connection with our band.

Laurie met Wally O’Neil at Subiaco State School, without knowing it they both ended up enrolled at Perth Boys School. Later, both joined the Y.A.L. Band and progressed to the Perth City Band. Much later they were best man at each others weddings. Sadly now in early 2010, at age 82, both have lost their wives and both are suffering various stages of Parkinson’s disease, which Wally jokingly claims he caught off Laurie. Quite an amazing parallel journey. The major difference being that Wally’s employment in banking took him away from the band.

- Before the Halvorsen Hall band room was built in Robertson Park, Northbridge, the band rehearsed in a building in the park which had been an open stage, since closed in. There were other buildings adjacent which were used as a social area etc. The band room leaked like a sieve and was as cold as charity in winter and blistering hot in summer. During a rehearsal break the members gathered in the social area for a few drinks and sometimes overdid it a bit. Harrie Halvorsen would vainly beat a drum to try and round up the troops to continue rehearsal.
- Players were just as temperamental in those days as now, with personality clashes causing unrest. One Sunday just before a Cabaret was due, the conductor could not attend what was probably the final rehearsal. Laurie was able to obtain the services of George Franklin to stand in. When Norm McMahon and John Stirling arrived at rehearsal and saw George preparing to take it they demanded to know what was going on. When told they just packed up and walked out. At the next meeting Laurie left them in no doubt as to what he thought of their actions.
- On one of the cruise trips the band took they were fortunate in that on board were a group of nurses from King Edward Memorial Hospital. At one of the dinners on board where I guess the band had played, Laurie quipped that although the percussion section were a bit shaky the “bra” section was magnificent.
- Prior to the first “Ladies Night” Jack Wadeisha complained that band members should not have to pay, and therefore he could be ruled out. It was pointed out to him that not many things in life are free and he was at that time receiving free tuition, free uniform, free instrument hire and free membership. Jack was the only one who did not attend what turned out to be a roaring success. To his great credit Jack later apologised and said he would never let that happen again.
- Laurie had been successful in having Sir Charles Court accept the position of Patron of the band. It was a tradition that bandsmen bought a dozen bottles of beer for the band on their birthdays. As Sir Charles birthday was approaching, Laurie sent him a note to remind him of that tradition. Sir Charles replied that he hadn’t forgotten his liability and duly paid his dues.
- Jack Anderson had a minor motor accident on his way home from band rehearsal and the police were summoned. Who should turn up to represent the plod but Jack Wadeisha. The Result – “Keep your mouth shut and get out of here.” No charges were laid, if any were indeed warranted, which could easily have been the case in those days following band practice.
- Laurie organised the bottling of some Burgundy under the band’s label, and on approaching Mick Atkinson, one of the top cornet players to buy a couple of bottles he refused saying they were too dear. Laurie tried to kid him into it by saying “come on Mick” the labels alone are worth \$2.” Mick replied “Well give me a couple of labels then”.
- When the band was in Ballarat attending one of the National Band Contests, the band gave a concert at their hotel, mostly for the hotel staff, which included various items. Laurie displayed one of his other talents by hypnotising one of the girls. He asked the usual silly questions, but when he asked her to show what she would do if a cat woke her up in the middle of the night squalling at her door she suddenly whipped off a shoe and hurled it at the opposite wall just missing a large framed photograph of the publican’s prize racehorse. Before he could stop her she whipped the other one off and hurled it in the same direction just missing the opposite side. Laurie breathed a sigh of relief. He also hypnotised Sid Shaw’s girlfriend and asked her silly questions about what she thought of Sid. Later they were married and Sid said to Laurie “If it doesn’t work out it’s your fault.” It’s now 50 or more years later and Laurie says it must have worked.
- Laurie tells the story of playing down on the esplanade one Sunday afternoon. He and Ray Reason were to play a duet called “A Night in Switzerland” with Laurie off stage up a tree to play the echo part. Normally quite a sedate piece with Laurie faithfully following the lead with the echo, as they had played it many times before, suddenly Ray launched into an up beat jazz improvisation which Laurie then had to try and replicate. Afterwards Laurie said “You rotten sod” and Harrie Halvorsen conducting, commented to the audience. “He tried to have a bit of fun with his echo, but he didn’t win, did he?”

- Another story. The band was rehearsing at the ABC for an evening broadcast. At a break they all retired to another room for a smoke. All at once the fire brigade burst in with axes at the ready. They had smoked so much they set off the centralised fire alarm. Needless to say that never happened again.
- At a rehearsal prior to leaving for the Ballarat contest, Sir Charles Court came in clutching a booklet of all the rules for player conduct which he had obtained when the RSL band had previously contested. He harangued the band at length on how they should behave. When he had gone Harrie Halvorsen threw the book away as he said if we don't know how to behave ourselves we should not be going.
- Laurie talked about the difference in traffic density over the years. One Sunday after a dance band rehearsal at the Embassy Ballroom he did something to Keith Whittle or Jimmy Pearson's cars and then sat in his little Austin opposite to watch the fun. It did not take them long to discover Laurie laughing his head off on the opposite side of the road. They set off in pursuit around the streets of the City, St Georges Terrace, Barrack Street, Wellington Street, William Street and eventually running him into the kerb. The two walked up like a couple of policemen "What have we here Jimmy" and proceeded to pull bits and pieces off the car and throw them away. It took half a day to put it all back together again. As Laurie says, you could not do that sort of thing today, playing chasey round the Perth streets on a Sunday morning.
- Laurie was also responsible for Jack Anderson receiving the O.B.E for services to banding, via representation to Sir Charles Court. Jack was an antagonistic old chap forever rolling cigarettes, but he never missed a band rehearsal and did much good work for the whole band movement in WA.
- Laurie was also prime mover in the so called Rottnest Conventions, which need reviving.

Being in the printing business, annual reports were always professionally prepared and printed. A quote from Laurie's second report gives an insight into his attitude to the band.

"When compiling an Annual Report for the second time in succession, it becomes difficult to refrain from being repetitive. This is because on analysis, banding is repetitive. Rehearsals on Thursdays and Sundays, engagements following much the same format year after year, and the continuing need for money to provide new instruments, uniforms and music etc., can tend to become monotonous. Here then lies the challenge. A challenge to all, particularly the committee, to see that banding does not become monotonous, hum-drum and boring."

I am sure it was never hum-drum or boring under Laurie's stewardship.

O'Neil Family

Charles O'Neil – Clerical (Father)

Gordon O'Neil – Practicing Accountant

Hedley O'Neil – Commonwealth Bank Manager

Keith O'Neil - Fishing Industry – from hands on to clerical.

Walter O'Neil – Commercial bank of Australia Senior Management

In 1949 George Reid, Musical Director of the Young Australia League, who over his long musical career taught the majority of brass musicians in Perth, relinquished his position with the League.

Many of his senior pupils, who were getting too old for the Y.A.L. band, took the opportunity to move on to an 'adults' band.

The Perth City Band was just reforming after the war so Keith and Wal O'Neil, Syd Shaw and Merv Nix began their association with Perth City. Keith on Bass, Wal on Euphonium, Syd on Tenor Horn and Merv on Cornet.

Charles and Linda O'Neil, parents of Keith and Wal, both had musical backgrounds. Charles played euphonium as a lad with the Geraldton Town band. Linda was an accomplished pianist and organist.

Some time in the 1950's, Gordon, the eldest of the O'Neil boys and who learned cornet with the Geraldton band, was enticed by his brothers to join 'City. (He served as a 'Hudson' pilot during the war.) He had a stint on Soprano cornet, but ultimately settled down on Repiano &/or Second Cornet.

The years that followed represented a golden era for the boys. They were all intensely keen and loyal, rarely missing practice or an engagement. They received medals for 'most improved player' and 'most regular attender'. Wal became Secretary/Treasurer and Keith Social Room Organiser. In the mid 1950's, Wal was appointed Deputy Bandmaster. Gordon later took up the position as treasurer.

In 1958 Wal was transferred to Victoria in his employment, drifting away from brass bands to devote time to building his career.

Sadly, Gordon died in November 1961 aged 43 – probably war related.

Charles and Linda had always been keen supporters. In 1959 Charles took up the position of Secretary/Treasurer, organising, in addition to day to day administration, Eastern States and Overseas trips. He continued in this position until 1966.

Hedley, a pianist, not a brass musician, was appointed honorary auditor and remained in that position for many years up to 1988.

Of the O'Neil sisters, Gwen was an active supporter, travelling on trips with the band. Peg was the only family member whose interest was at arms length.

Keith continued his active participation throughout his lifetime. He was honoured with life membership; and only gave up playing when his health started to deteriorate. He died in June 1988.

In his will he left 5% of the cash assets of his estate to the band which amounted to \$3944.36. This enabled the purchase of a BBb Bass which has been inscribed in his honour.

Osborne, Charles

Secretary 1919

Australian trombone champion at one stage. Member of the Australian Commonwealth Band under Bert Baile that toured Australia and overseas in about 1926.

Was a bricklayer by profession but a bit difficult. Left the band on at least two occasions but came back. He was still a great player in his 70's and in fact is thought to have taken out a trombone title in Ballarat in 1953. It was he that dubbed Sid Shaw and Merv Nix the "Katzenjammer Kids", but this has a different version elsewhere.

Partington Brothers

William Mathew Partington was born at Brighton, Tasmania, near Hobart in 1870. He was one of the earliest members of their brass band when it was formed and was later joined by his brothers Jim, Harold and Percival.

William started out on Tenor Horn but quickly graduated to Baritone and eventually found his instrument in the Euphonium on which he eventually became Australia's foremost exponent. His father was a builder for whom young William worked. They moved to Launceston where work was more plentiful. While playing with the Exhibition Orchestra at the Launceston Exhibition he met a Mr Arthur Day, a representative of the British Court. Mr Day offered him a position on his staff to attend the Chicago Exhibition and in America he was fortunate to meet many of the top conductors and musicians. After the close of that exhibition in 1893 he went to London with Mr Day where he was able to listen to all the top orchestras and Regimental bands. He went on to play at other exhibitions in Paris, France and Brussels, Belgium before returning home in 1895 following the death of his father.

In 1896 he paid his first visit to Sydney to compete with the Hobart Garrison band, which performed very well, William winning both the solo Baritone and Euphonium titles.

After his return he secured the position of conductor of the newly formed Queenstown band on the West coast of Tasmania. Brothers Jim, Harold and Percy joined him. Within 12 months he entered them in "B" Grade at the Sydney competition, but under the rules the entry was disallowed owing to the band being less than 12 months old. The only way they could compete was to enter "A" Grade. Against all odds they won, a most remarkable feat.

Shortly afterwards he was offered the position of conductor of the Boulder AWA band where again his brothers joined him.

Within 6 months he had the band at Ballarat and although 15 of the members had no competition experience they tied for 2nd place in "A" Grade with Mr Hugh McMahon's Boulder City Band.

The following year, 1904, he took out the title.

A specially good offer induced him to join the Perth City Band where he remained for 4 years, winning the State Championship twice in "A" Grade, and also taking out the "B" Grade Title with the Subiaco Fire Brigade band, including Quickstep titles on each occasion.

In 1904 he was appointed Instructor of the Police band – assumed in addition to his normal work.

Four trips to Ballarat in five years were taking its toll so when an offer came from the Ballarat band he accepted, and within seven months took out the Commonwealth Championship.

The depression and subsequent lack of employment saw many bands lose players, so once again William moved, this time to join the Rozelle band in Sydney where he achieved success unmatched in Australian band history.

His record as a soloist and conductor stands at 52 x 1st prizes, 21 x 2nd prizes, 2 x 3rd prizes, 2 x 4th prizes & 2 x 6th prizes.

William Partington was also selected as the conductor of the ill fated Australian Imperial Band which was formed in 1922 from the most experienced players in each state. It's purpose was to compete at the Crystal Palace, London competition in 1924. Three of the Partington brothers were selected, all being Tasmanian born, but only one resident Taswegian made the team. After an extensive Australian tour the band finally made it to Western Australia where reluctantly it was disbanded as the necessary funds could not be raised.

Western Australians who were selected in the band are mentioned elsewhere.

It is rather ironic that the Newcastle Steelworks band, under another former Perth City Band conductor in Bert Baile made the trip that year and was highly successful, winning the Belle Vue contest and being highly placed at the Crystal Palace contest.

William died in 1928.

Brother Harold Partington spent time as Musical Director at Hoyt's Picture Theatre in Perth and was also Conductor of Perth City Band for a time.

Brother Percival who also came to Western Australia and was also a top musician, eventually spent 10 years in Rockhampton in Queensland as the highly respected and successful conductor of their band, before returning to Tasmania.

Philpot, Ernest Sydney

11/6/06 – 25/4/85

Born in Walthamstow, Essex on the outskirts of London.

His father was a compositor with the Guardian Newspaper in Walthamstow and expected to find a similar position in Perth when the family migrated in 1912. This did not eventuate and the family found a position in Northam where young Ernest received most of his education.

Ernest was one of seven children in the family. He and his younger brother Arthur received their early musical education with the Salvation Army in Northam.

On leaving school Ernest was apprenticed to a painter cum decorator/sign writer in Northam and received his initial encouragement in art.

He married Edith Carter whose family had a florists shop in Northam.

At some stage moved to Perth and was introduced to our band by his uncle Will Hutchings. Both he and his brother Arthur were members, Ernest on Baritone and Arthur on Tenor Horn.

It would seem that during this time he was increasingly absorbed in his artistic endeavours, but is said by a surviving sister Doreen Casey who in 2006 was resident in Northam that his presence in the art world in Perth was resented, possibly because he had not been formerly trained at an established art school.

He was fortunate to win a half share in a lottery prize and used his portion to attend the Melbourne Conservatory of Art. A short stint followed back in Northam to revive and sell the florist business.

He became a prominent Art Critic and also a prolific painter who held many exhibitions both in Perth and, bravely for the time, took several to London where he received acclaim.

He spent the war years in a Survey Company and unfortunately hurt his back there which severely restricted him in later years.

Towards the end of his working life he spent 8 years as an Art teacher at Wesley College where he is still remembered with affection, and also lectured for Adult Education through the University of WA and the Perth Art Gallery as well as writing articles for the West Australian.

There are a number of his works exhibited at Wesley College, particularly religious pieces he completed for the chapel. There was also a large mural on the wall of a building in the radiology section of the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. This building is thought to have since been demolished but there are said to be photos of the artwork in existence.

He had a strong interest in unpublished music, choirs etc and wrote an extensive treatise on religious art, which according to Clive Hamer a former Head at Wesley, has been widely spoken about by others but as far as he knows has never been published, but should be.

Although he remains one of the best artists that WA has produced, in his later life he adopted a more modern style which was soundly criticised following a retrospective exhibition of his work in 1988.

The cartoon of the band members waiting on reimbursement of tram fares from the Army to attend rehearsals when the band was also a Battalion band is our only glimpse of his art.

There are also two compositions in our library by him.

A march entitled City of Perth Regiment which has a small snippet from Sussex by the Sea in it, and an interesting Waltz called Talu.

Some of the above information came from an inspiring telephone conversation with Ernest's youngest sister, Doreen Casey, in her 92nd year and as mentioned earlier, still living in Northam where the family grew up. In her words she still "has her bottle", loves music, and sings every day. She says when she gets up she opens the front door, lets the sun stream in and welcomes each day. She just wishes she could write to thank everyone in the world who has been so good to her over the years. Age obviously does not make everyone old.

The Piper Family

Information supplied by R Lloyd Piper, son of Robert.

Harry Piper Senior was a carpenter and undertaker.

Harry Piper Junior was a carpenter.

Robert Piper was born on 6th August 1878 and was a printer with the West Australian. He was a euphonium player who once played "Gypsy's Warning" solo in a contest at Fremantle and earned maximum possible points. His son Lloyd still holds the medal. He also played trombone with the J.C. Williamson Theatre Band and afternoons in Boans Tea Rooms, before going on to his printing job in the evening. He also played in the Lyceum Theatre Band (Now Astor) and at West Pictures (now Regal). Lloyd says it became unlawful to name things after the 'State' or 'Commonwealth', hence the re-naming of West Pictures and the Commonwealth Hotel (now Hyde Park)

Stephen Piper was Robert's twin and was an office worker with a tyre company.

Eddie Piper was a painter and a founding member of the Fremantle band.

It appears that there may have been 10 children in Harry Senior's family as a family photograph shows three sisters, Ethel, Elsie (John Rogers mother) and Ella, and Lloyd says that there had been three earlier sisters but they were tragically lost in a house fire.

In 1902 Harry Piper Snr was thanked for his services in connection with the formation of the Police band.

Pollard, H

Close friend of Harrie Halvorsen. Horn player

Post, Bill

Was librarian for many years, most likely from the start up after the war until Les Hogg took over in 1970. On his way to a job he had a car accident causing a roll over. All the folders and music sustained a blue metal rash. It is presumed Bill escaped reasonably unscathed.

Price, L.M.

Les Price was born at Islington, South Australia in about 1889, and came to Perth in 1896.

Joined the Western Australian Government Railways as a messenger boy and retired as Chief Clerk of the Mechanical Branch after 49 years service in 1954.

He was a very efficient shorthand writer and spent some time as a night school instructor at the Technical School.

Bands played an important part of his life and he progressed from Soprano Cornet player to Deputy Conductor and to Conductor of the Perth City Band.

He won several solo competitions and was also successful in duets and other ensembles.

In 1924 was selected with two others to represent Western Australia in the Australian Imperial Band.

He joined the 11th Battalion (CMF) whilst still very young (about 18) and later transferred to the Volunteer West Australian Infantry Regiment.

At the request of Colonels Collett and Glyde he formed and conducted the 28th Battalion (CMF) Band and Social Club in 1922.

He received his discharge in 1929 after 22 years continuous service with the rank of Brigade Bandmaster W.O.II.

(The above notes come from the West Australian Railways Institute Magazine – Dec 1954)

Purslowe, A.J. (Arthur)

President 1946/63.

Eb Bass player.

Born in 1901 in Northam and died on 30th May 1964.

Arthur originally trained as a carpenter then joined his father's funeral directory business in Northam.

He later moved to Perth and started his own funeral business in Guildford later expanding to North Perth and Maylands.

At various times he became a Perth City councillor, a member of the Masonic Order, Rotary and several sporting clubs.

As well as his involvement in our band as a player and long term President he stated that he also started the West Guildford Orchestra in about 1929.

This is a little story from Syd Shaw.

Arthur invited the band to a house warming at a new home he had just built. It was noticed that the fence palings were all off cuts from the coffins made at the family funeral parlour.

He is also said to have offered a discount on funerals to band members. Not too many were keen to take up the offer, but unfortunately many eventually did.

There is also the story written elsewhere by Eric Cowan and Sid Shaw of him taking fright when confronted with a tape measure, a sly dig at him sizing people up for a coffin.

Sid Shaw says he also owned a boat and on one occasion took many of the bandsmen out on it. Too much grog and tomfoolery saw Merv Nix fall overboard. Needless to say they were never invited out again.

Rayner, Harry

Secretary 1940 and held the band records while in recess during the war.

Percussionist. A man with a very dry wit. Came from a family that produced Rayner's jams, pickles & sauces etc. Harry took the business over from his father and it went on to a son. The famous saying of the business was "Eat Rayner's Fig Jam – You'll Never Get Better." Nature's gentleman.

Reason, T.R. (Ray)

He was a health inspector for many years with Stirling City council and an authority on tropical diseases.

Affectionately known as leather lips by his fellow musicians..

A top cornet player and dance band musician, mostly with the renowned Ron Jenkins outfit.

He was tee total but so exuberant at social events that you would be forgiven for thinking he had been on the turps.

Family notes

Born 21st March 1908. Died 7th July 1974

Ray's parents, Emma and Jack Reason migrated from England in about 1900 and settled in Albany.

Ray's father played the bassoon in the local Albany town band.

Ray learned to play the cornet in his teens and joined the Albany RSL band and became a close friend of Charles Court, who was also a member at that time.

Ray moved to Perth in about 1922 and became an apprentice boiler maker at the Midland Railway workshops.

He completed his apprenticeship and continued to work at the Midland Workshops while he studied at night school and qualified as a health inspector.

He subsequently left the workshop and obtained employment as a health inspector with the Perth Roads Board (now the City of Stirling).

Whilst boarding in Maylands he met Nellie Elizabeth Lamb, a relation of the couple with whom he lodged, and they married in 1934/5 and built a home in Maylands.

Ray joined the R.A.A.F on 15th April 1944 as a Hygiene Inspector and served in the islands north of Australia.

After the war Ray and Nellie built a new home in Dianella, but sadly they did not have any children. Much of their time was spent travelling overseas and they visited almost every part of the world.

It is not known exactly when Ray joined the Perth City Band, (Band records show 1928 or 1929) however we have a canteen of cutlery which is inscribed as follows:

'Festival of Perth'
W.A.B.A. Solo and Party
State Championships
17th February 1957
Champion of Champions
Ray Reason
"B" Flat Cornet
Perth City Band"

Before and after the Second World War, Ray played in dance bands at the Embassy Ballroom, Government House Ballroom and various other venues including the Lido Cabaret at Cottesloe. He played in bands with Sammy Sharpe, Merv Rowston, Nutty Cook and other well known musicians of the era, mostly in Ron Jenkins renowned outfit.

Uncle Ray loved his music and livened up our family parties – one of his special pieces being 'Begin the Beguine', accompanied by myself, Nellie, on the piano. He also enjoyed camping before the war and loved fossicking around for interesting stones and rocks.

At age 65 he retired from work and looking forward to enjoying his favourite hobbies, music and making home movies. Sadly he did not enjoy good health and after a long battle with cancer died at the age of 67.

One of his corny sayings was "Listen to Reason".

These are some of the many happy memories of my dear Uncle Ray.

E.M. (Nellie) Goldie
17th April 2004

As a footnote to this thumbnail sketch Sid Shaw says that when everyone else was asking for a beer, Ray would ask for a “Fanta” Straight. Sid also sadly blames the band for his early demise saying that he died of lung cancer most likely caused by the cigarette smoke that permeated the old band room.

Reid, G.J.

Conducted our band in 1925 and again in 1935/37.

Life Member.

He was the founding conductor of the Y.A.L. Band with their first set of instruments being bought second hand from the Beverly Town Band. After leaving the Y.A.L he conducted the Perth Professional Symphony Orchestra as well as us. He was very influential in introducing young men to our band after they reached the top allowable age in that organisation. George Franklin, Laurie O’Keefe, Wal O’Neil, Sid Shaw, Merv Nix, Eric Cowan and many others came via that organisation.

He was born in Richmond Victoria and died in Perth on 9th August 1966 at the age of 90 years. Nothing is known of his background. He was said to be an immaculate dresser and an excellent conductor. When the band held “old timers” events he usually attended. He lived to 90 but sadly his mind went on him in his last years.

One story has him conducting an orchestra in the Eastern States including a concert in which Nellie Melba sang, but this is unconfirmed.

Richards family

Will Richards was born in New Zealand and came to Perth via Eaglehawk and Coolgardie.

Horrie, Laurie and Ron Richards were sons of Will and all played with the band.

John T (Paddy) Richards was a brother of Will. Paddy, a former committeeman, was employed by the railways and was tragically killed when knocked down by a car in October 1927 at the age of 49.

Rob Richards was a son of Horrie.

Horrie was a brilliant horn player. Ernie Hobbs knew him well and indicated to Sid Shaw that he was unlikely ever to be as good. However Horrie attended one or two of the “old timers” days and was kind enough to complement Sid on his playing, so Sid says he could not have been all that bad.

Mrs Thela Courtney was the daughter of Paddy Richards and was connected to the newspaper world through her husband Victor who was a partner of Jack (Bos) Simons the owner of the Sunday Times and the founder of the Y.A.L. Thela became a patron of the band in 1960, possibly at the invitation of Harrie Halvorsen, and following her passing, her daughter Veecee Courtney (later Woodward) became a patron and carried this through until 1970.

Veecee still has some broach like mementos that had been presented by the band to her grandfather.

Rowston, Mervyn

Mervyn was born in Collie in 1907 and was bitten by the music bug when he was about 22, becoming a percussionist. In 1932 he joined Fred Nice and his orchestra, the first band to be paid for a radio broadcast. Each player got ten shillings. In his younger days he got a job on a cargo ship as a purser and travelled to England where he studied music for two years. He travelled the world twice, playing in London, Egypt and Europe.

In 1937 he joined Musgroves in Perth where he met his wife Marie who was in charge of the sheet music section.

During his 37 years with the company he worked three days a week as a refrigeration mechanic and the rest demonstrating instruments.

He played in the band at Perth’s first nightclub, the Miami and joined the ABC Old Time Band in 1940.

For many years he played with the Perth City Brass Band in between gigs at the Embassy Ballroom and other venues.

He vividly remembers meeting visiting personalities such as Nat King Cole, Victor Borge and Pat Boone.

He started the WA Drummers Club and spent some time as Vice-President of the Musician’s Union and also of our band.

As Merv said – “I do one thing and do it well”

Merv passed away on 22nd September 1990.

Shaw, Sid

Merv Nix and I were both in the Y.A.L. band.

I remember one time during the war when a lot of the older people were away, George Reid the conductor decided to teach me a bit of theory on note values. Crotchets and Quavers and all that. I could not get the hang of it until a boarder at our house, a self taught musician and mechanic and anything else you could name told me to forget the names and just call them by their values – half note, quarter note etc., then it clicked and George said “that’s what I have been trying to teach you for months”.

Whilst I can play any piece and pick up the various key changes I could never tell you exactly what key any piece is in, even today.

Merv Nix and I joined the Perth City band in 1948.

I can remember walking into the band room, which consisted of an enclosed stage and we were welcomed by Harrie Halvorsen.

I sat down on 2nd horn and Merv on 2nd cornet.

The first contest I played in was at Northam (don't remember the date.) Subiaco was expected to win with Ivan Nylander as conductor, but one of the players played a wrong note and Ivan yelled out "you bastard", which unsettled the band and we won the contest.

We adjourned to Arthur Purslowe's Brothers funeral parlour where the beer was kept in cold storage and proceeded to get pretty full, even Harrie.

The next morning Arthur Purslowe was suffering a hangover and Stan Castlehow decided to measure him up. He said to Arthur "this is what you do to the poor bastards". Poor old Arthur nearly fainted.

I progressed to 1st horn after Reg Pollard died of cancer, and sat next to Ernie Hobbs, a great horn player and he took me under his wing. One rehearsal as we were playing "The Tchaikovsky Symphony", as we came to the horn solo in the 2nd movement, he placed his horn on his lap and said "It's all yours Philgarlic" his nickname for me. I managed to stagger through, not without a few blues.

By this time the band had progressed to the top "A" grade band in the state.

More and more top players joined the band and I felt very proud to belong to such a great band.

On one occasion we travelled to Collie. We stopped at Pinjarra to play a few numbers and of course we all adjourned to the pub. Charles Brown was Sec. at the time and he was trying to get us all back in the bus. Of course the last two were Shaw and Nix. Unfortunately as the bus moved off Charlie had left his cornet under the back wheels of the bus and it was crushed. Charlie nearly cried. (A different take on this story appears elsewhere.)

When we arrived at Collie we marched down the main street. I was behind Stooner Castlehow and had to sway as Stooner was doing the same.

The (COP band) bar room or Ante Room as we named it was a shed next to the band room and each drinker would take his own beer. There was no fridge so the beer was never too cold.

One Sunday Merv and I decided to brighten the place up so we took all the junk out and placed it under the stage. We ended up with a bar fridge and a dart board and had many happy hours there.

Harrie decided the band should go to Ballarat for the South Street contest.

I think it was for about two years we played at the races and trots every week to pay for the trip. We won "B" grade and ran last in "A" grade. The judge was Henry Geehl and he was invited to a party we held after the contest. He wrote in the "British Bandsman" "After the contest I was invited to a party with one of the lower placed bands, great sports these Ausies."

On that occasion I met my wife and four days later we were engaged getting married in December 1955.

I was fortunate to be invited by Harry Shugg to play Solo Horn with the City of Ballarat band in the South Street competition, which we duly won by about 2 points.

Unfortunately Ernie Hobbs left the band to be conductor of Victoria Park. Not only did he teach me so much, but he, Merv and I had such fun together. Nobody drank more beer than us. Merv by now had joined the horn section and we both played solo for quite a few years. Merv played the hard parts and I played the pretty parts.

The band travelled to Singapore in '67 and '70. It did one more trip but I did not go.

I quite often think back to the old days and remember the men who made City so great. Besides Harrie one name stands out. Jack Anderson. He loved the band and worked tirelessly. He was responsible for so many band engagements, too many to mention,

I meant to mention earlier that in the original band room the water used to leak on to the bass players when it rained, but no one complained.

Merv and I were inseparable when we were young, what a great friend he was to me.

I am grateful for the guidance of the older players during my teens and who kept me under control.

I was lucky to grow up in a period when brass bands were still very popular. TV's were non existent and even radios were scarce. I recall living in Mt Magnet in 1940 when a lot of people used to come around to the boarding house my parents ran just to hear the news on our radio. Those days are long gone.

(Away from the band Eric Cowan says that Sid was a meat inspector which sometimes took him away up north when the beef killing season was in full swing.)

Smith, Yeoman

Yeoman Henry (Harry) Smith was born on 1st November 1915 in Geraldton. His father was the Postmaster. His father was killed in the First World War, and his mother remarried after the war and they moved to Leederville.

Yeo worked hard for his step father who for years he thought was his natural father, making wooden vegetable crates, and knitting pot scrubbers from string to sell door to door. Later he drove a bread van and delivered ice and green groceries.

Although he became head prefect at Junior Technical School he had to leave in grade 8 when his mother died at a young age.

He did not get along with his step father and was living on the streets before being taken in by his best friend Harry Taylor's family. They remained lifelong friends.

In 1939 Yeo joined the army and served in Palestine, and later in Queensland. It was in the army that his talent for organising concerts for the troops was discovered.

After the war Yeo joined the newly established Commonwealth Repatriation Dept. and stayed with that organisation and its successors until retirement.

Harry always had a strong interest in music and as a young man had a vaudeville song and dance act on stage.

He played drums and played in dance and brass bands and with the Y.A.L, R.S.L and City of Perth Bands, travelling interstate on several occasions when the brass bands competed there.

Harry and his wife Rosa discovered cruising when he joined the City of Perth Band on their trips to Singapore in 1967, 1970 and 1974

Yeo passed away in 2006.

Snow, Norm C. (B.E.M.)

Norm, a former member of the famous British Black Dyke Mills Band and Champion of Champions of East Anglia, Migrated to Western Australia in 1953 and became a member of the R.S.L. Band. In 1957, while Bandmaster of the Perth Regiment, 11/44th Battalion, he formed a junior Band which was attached to that Regiment.

When the army was reorganised in 1960, the 24 junior players formed a band to be known as the National Youth Brass Band of Western Australia Inc.

The senior section of the N.Y.B.B. became the official band for the City of Stirling in 1970 and became known as the "City of Stirling Band".

In 1973 it also became the official band of the Rhein Donau Club, Perth being known as the Rhein Donau Club Brass Band when on official engagements for the club. In 1977 under the baton of Mr Robert Turner the band fulfilled Mr Snow's long ambition and won the West Australia "A" Grade Championship. This Band today (1984) is the Channel 9 Band. (2010 - W.A. Agricultural Society Brass)

Over the years Mr Snow has been responsible for teaching scores of young musicians and currently at his own expense visits approximately 30 pupils weekly to pass on his love of music, giving freely of his time and expertise All he asks is that his pupils practise, do their best and aim to succeed. Several outstanding players have emerged over the years amongst Norm's pupils.

Kevin Johnston: Today the principal trumpet player with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra

Robert Lafferty: Bb Bass player who gained a position with the R.A.A.F. Band in Melbourne and later transferred to Sydney.

Robert Turner: Conductor of the City of Stirling Band after Norm retired in 1977 and currently with the 5th Military District Band.

Ken Lee: Who went on to teach at the school of Music, Balcombe, Victoria.

Ian Milne: Who went on to Kneller Hall School of Music, in the United Kingdom and returned to teach in Victoria.

(Now with Combined Districts Concert Band)

Over the years Norm has produced amongst his pupils many State Champion solo players. We are indeed privileged and most grateful to have Norm as our Musical Director.

(Written some years ago)

Steel, Don

Don was born on 26th February 1933 in Kalgoorlie.

His schooling consisted of Boulder Central, Eastern Goldfields High School, and Eastern Goldfields Technical School.

On completion he worked for one year as a junior storeman at the Lake View and Star Mine before joining the Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd in December 1950.

Don Says:

"1950 also saw me teaming up with a couple of mates that included Harry Jenkin, and after a few lessons from the top dance musician in town – Phil Fryer, we formed our own dance band. This lasted a few years until Harry joined the army and I was transferred to Northam in my employment.

My first Brass band experience, (apart from learning cornet from Teddy McMahon in Boulder for 2 years when I was about 9 and then a couple of years playing euphonium in the Boulder Salvation Army Junior Band) was in 1966.

I was playing in a dance band in Bunbury & Don Weaver was the drummer. He kept telling me what a great time they were having & finally I decided to join playing the Bb Bass.

In 1969, after a couple of years with the Bunbury Band, I was transferred back to Perth by the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited.

I almost immediately obtained a semi-permanent dance band job at Chesterton Lodge in South Perth.

At that time they had 2 halls adjoining each other, so every time we played we met the band playing in the other hall.

I mentioned to the drummer Wally Humphries, that I had been playing in a Brass Band & he said quite a few of the musicians who played next door were in the City of Perth Band.

One of the 1st I met was Ray Reason, & he suggested I come along to the old Band room in Robertson Park, which I did in 1969 & I've been a member ever since.

The old Band room was a very old structure comprising a ramshackle rehearsal room, one side of which could be opened so the room could be used as a shell for performances. It was never used this way since I joined.

Next to it were 2 one room shacks that were joined together & used as the Band Bar.

A most important part of the Band in those days.

My first rehearsal was a Sunday morning, the Band rehearsed from 10am to noon. At 11am Harrie Halvorsen –the Conductor – put down the baton & every one got up & went outside. I followed & found them all in the Bar for about

15 minutes break. When we finished rehearsal we all ended up in the Bar again – I think I got home about 4pm. In those days the members were very accomplished players, both musically & socially.

Early the next year I found out that the Band was going on their 2nd trip to Singapore on the “Centaur”. Bob Devenish – Secretary/Treasurer – told me a berth was available for the princely sum of \$50. Naturally I went & I was lucky enough to be in the cabin with Ron Jenkins, Nutty Cook & Jim Riley. It was a fabulous trip; I’d never laughed so much in all my life.

The main income earners for the Band then were the Church marches & our monthly Cabarets. These Cabarets ran for over 30 years & at that time were very popular with both dancers & musicians. They were run on a Sunday night & there were that many dance musos that sometimes you couldn’t get a blow. They were a great success.

The Xmas Cabaret was always a big affair usually held at the Embassy Ballroom and we would get over 600 attending. The Band was like a club for most members, as music was their main interest. The Band always had a close association with the Army Band & many of their members played with us.

There was a great camaraderie in the Band in those days and Band loyalty was very high.

As with most Bands, our history has had its ups & downs and attracting new members is as difficult as ever, perhaps more so since the forming of the Concert Band however we still have a strong structure & hardworking Committee so we have a lot to be thankful for.

Stirling, John

A very good Euphonium player but a difficult personality.

Shortly after joining our band he had some sort of a difference of opinion with Ted Hunter who was then the top euphonium player in the band and a very good one.

This precipitated Ted walking out. This would not be the only time similar incidents occurred.

John came to us from Victoria Park at the same time as his friend Norm McMahon. They would have both been too good for that band at that time.

Thomas, Margaret

I was born Margaret Fenn – well let’s say prior to the Beatles phenomenon and leave it at that.

I received early tuition on trumpet and cornet with performance experience as a soloist, and band experience with the Salvation Army.

In 1968 I was the winner of the National Award of Australian Music Examinations Board for the highest mark in the 7th grade performance exam.

From 1969 to 1989 I held the Principal Trumpet position with the WA Arts Orchestra working with Australian and International conductors and performers.

During most of this time I was also a casual performer with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra

In 1971 I won a scholarship to the International Musicians Seminar in the United States, and was the seminar winner of the Principal Trumpet Award. I subsequently performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Singapore and travelled extensively through Europe and Asia as part of the scholarship.

In 1972 and 1973 I won the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition, performing as soloist with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

I toured as Principal Trumpet of the Australian Youth Orchestra on their Australian Tour in 1974, their Asian Tour (Philippines, Japan, Korea and Hong Kong) in 1975 and to the Sydney Opera House in 1976.

During the period from 1980 to 1992 I accepted various contract works - Michael Edgely Promotions, Greatest Show on Earth, Leningrad, Kirov and Bolshoi Ballet Companies, Disney on Parade, Visiting artists - Matt Monro, Bob Hope, John Denver etc. London and Scottish Ballet Companies, Dame Joan Sutherland, Americas Cup Promotions etc.

Overlapping these contracts from 1980 to 1989 were brass instrument tutoring commitments with the WA Conservatorium of Music, the WA College of Advanced Education the WA Youth Orchestra, Aquinas College and Methodist Ladies College

During a period in 1984/5 I held the position of Principal Trumpet for the Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra during their tours of Australia.

From 1992 to 1997 I was a part time teacher and performer for the Education Department.

Since 1992 I have also been a Casual Performer - weddings, parties, restaurants, Raymond Long Band, Vienna Pops Orchestra, session work etc.

Shows include 42nd Street, My Fair Lady, Hello Dolly, Moscow Circus, The Sound of Music, La Boheme, and Anything Goes etc.

Also since 1992 I have been Principal Cornet - City of Perth Band and President since 2007.

Amongst all these musical activities I have found time to complete an accountancy degree and be a member of the Australian Institute of Management and presently (2010) hold the position of CEO and CFO of Retirees WA Inc. Politics has also taken a prominent position in my life which has seen me holding the position of President of the Mandurah Branch and the Brand Division of the Liberal Party.

It has not all been music and work as I have 3 adult children of which Kelly is a member of the Brass Band, so family is also very important to me.

For relaxation I enjoy Scuba Diving, Sailing, Netball, Horse riding (Endurance), letting my hair down on my Harley Davidson Motor Bike and anything to do with outdoor and outback adventures which Frank Pinner my husband and I enjoy immensely – except for the occasional accident.

Tidy, Syd

Syd was very helpful to Norm Snow, Alan Lourens and the Junior Brass Band when that was formed.

The following comes from notes in the Junior Band files.

Syd commenced his banding as a lad in the Perth Fortress Salvation Army Junior Band, then did war service in the 3rd Corps H.Q. and 2/11 Aust Infantry Battalion. After the war he joined Western Command Band, now 5MD, playing mainly trombone and horn. After 6 years he returned to Civvy Street and was employed by the Perth City Council for 23 years until retirement. During that time he did a spell as bandmaster of the 28th Battalion CMF and was also a playing member of the Senior Band for approximately 10 years until, for health reasons, he retired as a player. He gave other bands around the town assistance as conductor or band trainer when called upon, and has also been on the Drill Judging panel at State and Australian Championships. We were extremely fortunate to have him on board at that time.

Titheridge, Ben

I was born 8.8.1920, 1st son of Jack Geo Ralph & Mabel Titheridge at Southsea, England.

Father served in the Royal Navy 1910 – 1945.

Kindergarten and Primary education was catered for at the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich, then at a new school at Holbrook until 1935.

Pupils were encouraged to join the Royal Navy and prepared accordingly.

I was one of 24 boys who travelled from Holbrook in the laundry van for a medical examination prior to going to Chatham to start a four and a half year apprenticeship in the Royal Navy.

Joined Royal Navy on 1.1.1936 as an Artifice Apprentice.

Completed apprenticeship in December 1939 and drafted to Chatham Barracks as an ERA 5th Class for fleet duties, still under training. The apprenticeship had been reduced to four years because of the war which in effect gave 90 odd boys 6 months advancement (if you did not get shot at).

Served at sea in various ships for the remainder of WWII except for the usual shore leave periods and to change ships.

Part of that wartime duty included service on fleets in the North Sea between Scotland and Russia, which was extremely dangerous work.

I well remember having yarns with the late Jack Hallett about World War 2. He was serving in the Middle East and evacuated from Crete and was crammed aboard a R.N. destroyer 'Hotspur' with lots of other Australian troops bound for Alexandria and home. I had served aboard HMS Hotspur, joining her at Chatham, Kent, in early 1940 and having rammed an Italian U boat off Gibraltar was sent to Malta for repairs to bow and propellers. On completion of docking and repairs Hotspur spent the next two years in the Eastern Mediterranean doing sterling work with the RN fleet in that area. She was part of the escort for the battleship Barham when that ship blew up after a torpedo hit.

I was still technically under training so I was drafted to HMS Sheffield which was part of Force H along with HMS Renown and Ark Royal. I spent 2 ½ years in HMS Sheffield and whilst back in Chatham for a 'rest' saw the Hotspur in the dockyard and 2 ½ days later I was drafted back to her for the second tour of duty (me and my big mouth). We were then put on the Atlantic convoy escort work based at Londonderry and leader of C4 group (RCN) back and forth to StJohns, Newfoundland, before taking part in D day operations based in Plymouth, Devon. As soon as D day was stabilised, Hotspur was sent to Vickers at Barrow in Furness for a large refit and I was drafted back to barracks for leave and the Far East for distribution to the R.N. Pacific fleet.

In December 1944 was drafted to HMS Maidstone at Fremantle via troopships to Colombo then passage via HMS Newcastle.

After 2 weeks at Fremantle, Maidstone was ordered to Subic Bay (Philippines) via Sydney and the Admiralty Islands for the remainder of WWII.

The Hotspur was eventually sold to the Dominican Navy. A good ship in every sense.

Returned to Fremantle and transferred to HMS Adamant.

Married a WA girl in 1947 and returned to the UK to finish naval engagement (12 yrs) from age 18 and immigrated with my wife back to Australia in December 1950 working in maintenance and repair of diesel injection equipment until retirement in 1983.

Musical Involvement:

Became interested in Military Bands and music when in 1926 my father took me on Sunday mornings to the Royal Marine Barracks at Eastney (walking distance) where the R.M. Band would accompany the troops to the parade ground on return from compulsory Church parade.

I was forbidden (by my father) to join the Band at Greenwich and Holbrook schools as “it would distract from my education and preparations for the entry exam for the Royal Navy”. However as a Naval apprentice and being required to march each day from the barracks to dockyard troopships (1 mile each way and back for lunch), I joined the drum and fife band, later military band, comprising those App’s with musical talents and abilities.

This was my introduction to “banding” and I learned a lot in those 4 years.

However I realised that engineering was my bread and butter and musical interests a sideline or hobby and although I served in a cruiser for 2.5 years with a 25 piece Royal Marine band I never made contact with them.

Music in Australia:

The first years found me raising a family and the cementing of a fair income and establishing a place in the local work force, until one day I found myself listening to a CMF band which was engaged in the opening of a primary school at Doubleview. I made contact and the result was 17 ½ years with the Army Reserve from Private to WO2 Drum Major. The tax free remuneration was an added drawcard I must admit, and I enjoyed the annual camps and week ends and friendships that ensued.

On leaving the CMF in 1975 I was invited to “come along to practice” with ‘City’, where I was given a rather dubious acceptance from one or two of the hard-core, more professionals, but I found new friendships and was able to pursue my interests in music and improve my ability. When the vacancy for a Drum Major occurred I accepted and had two periods totalling about 9 years which I enjoyed immensely.

One memorable incident occurred one Sunday at Mundaring.

A certain Drum Major took a “short-cut” one street too soon.

The following parade just waited until the band counter marched and picked them up on the right wheel.

Conductor George Franklin was not amused.

One cannot halt the passage of time, and 1995 found me completing 20 years with the Band and the award of life membership, so I decided to resign, and slow down a little.

I did not give music away however as I moved on to playing with the Silver Threads in company with the “Olds and Bolds”, giving a little pleasure to those who are confined in movement and young persons in primary schools etc. Congratulations, City Band. May you continue to thrive for the next century.

Ben sadly passed away in 2009

Toll Family

I met Alf Toll in about 1993 when I went looking for background information on C.C. (Charles) Toll who had been drum major of our band from 1898 to 1938.

By this time Alf was 84, in failing health, having lost the ability to put his thoughts into writing, and extremely deaf.

However when welcomed into his house and the opening remarks were “You have come to the right place. This is the centre of the brass band world in Perth” I knew I was in for an interesting interview.

The following is the result.

Charles Toll came to Perth from Ballarat in the 1890’s, possibly via Albany and Kalgoorlie/Boulder, as many other bandsmen came to Western Australia in the gold rush years from mining centres in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

It is possible he is the unidentified drum major on the 1905 photograph taken in Ballarat.

Charles worked in a joinery owned by Millars Timber Company and lost his “trigger” finger in a joinery shop accident which prevented him from joining the regular army.

Alf did not know how he learned to be a drum major or acquired his musical knowledge, but he was General Hobbs bugler for many years and this is probably where he picked up on the drill.

He taught many buglers over the years.

Charles marked out a 100 yard strip beside his house in Wembley and used to practice drill every night after coming home from work.

The two boys Alf and Len were paraded for inspection at home before going to do the same at the band.

He was a very firm drum major.

He also cut an imposing figure in his regalia.

Sir Charles Court well remembers a photograph published after a contest in Bunbury in 1924 captioned “Solomon in all his glory was never arrayed like this.” This would be similar to the photo of the band marching in Bunbury in 1920 which was given to the band by Bevan Pearce, and coming from his late father.

Les Hogg tells this story:

Charlie Toll - Photo of band taken in front of the grandstand at Loton Park.

On the day that the photo was taken Charlie was standing aside in street clothes.

When asked why he was not lining up for the photo he said he couldn't as his uniform had not yet been finished by the tailors.

Someone then went and retrieved it but it was all in pieces so they stuck his hat on his head and took the photo with the rest of the uniform pinned on the front of his street clothes and no one would know the difference. No one knows what eventually became of the Busby or uniform.

Of the two Toll boys;

Len was a Soprano cornet player who had a nick name of "Sleepy" or "Dozy" or something similar. It was later found that he had a medical condition that caused him to fall asleep if ever he was unoccupied for any length of time, and this happened many times whilst he sat in the band.

Alf was born in 1909.

He joined the band at the same time as Les Hogg in 1927 or thereabouts.

He learned the carpentry trade in Plunket's joinery shop but left and joined the army and stayed with them for 32 years.

He was the bugler for the heavy ack ack unit which probably accounted for his hearing loss.

Says he attended every contest with the band from 1927 to 1965.

He was quite bitter with Arthur Holland who he claimed prevented him from receiving Life Membership recognition over a technicality in the rules then applying.

This happily was addressed before Alf's death a couple of years after this interview.

After retiring from The City of Perth Band, Alf was invited to join Canning Band and spent 5 happy years there.

Alf said "Brass Banding – it gets in your blood and you can't get it out. When I walk down the street I sometimes find I am marching – and whistling a tune. I keep a cassette tape in the car of the last contest I participated in, and sometimes just sit in the car in the garage and play it, the car having a better sound system than the house."

Alf reckons that the Second cornet chair is the best in the band having all the accompaniment bits.

Treen, Ken

Ex R.S.L & possibly Y.A.L. bands.

Horn player. Was President of the 1984 – 1988 Junior band formed by Norm Snow and conducted by Alan Lourens.

For many years he was a driver for the Metropolitan Transport Trust, for a time had a Courier business and latterly a limousine business.

Underwood, Capt. Brian., LTCL.,MIMT Rtd.

Brian was born in Derbyshire, England in May 1939. His father served in the British Army during the 2nd World War so his early childhood until 1945, was the sole responsibility of his mother, Bella who was an accomplished pianist.

After the 2nd World War, his father returned home to England and took up where he left off as a euphonium player and later Bandmaster of the local Salvation Army Band. Brian learned to play a brass instrument at 7 years of age and played tenor horn in the junior band until migrating to Bunbury with the family in March 1952. He played tenor horn in the Salvation Army Band there for a few years before playing baritone until 1961. Returning to England in September of 1961 he played with several bands in England, Europe and Canada before returning to Australia in November 1963. Still involved with the Salvation Army, he played Euphonium with the Perth Fortress Band for some years and also trombone. He was the choir leader for nearly 10 years from 1966, taking the choir on several very successful interstate tours. In March 1965 Brian joined the then Western Command Band as a euphonium player, where he stayed until the end of 1977, playing both euphonium and trombone and reaching the rank of sergeant.

In 1978 he was posted to Sydney as a staff sergeant for one year before going to Melbourne in 1979 as an instructor in low brass at the Army school of music.

1980 saw Brian and his family of Lorraine, Mark and Lee go to Townsville as Band Sergeant Major for 2 years.

The family coped quite well with the constant movement around Australia at this time, because 1982 saw Brian commissioned as lieutenant and posted to Adelaide as the bands 2ndIC for five years. It was then on to Melbourne with promotion to Captain for two years. Then in what turned out to be his final move, as music director and Officer Commanding 5 MD Band in Perth where he spent four happy years before retiring in 1990.

During his time as music director of 5MD Band he also became the conductor of the City of Perth Band in 1986. He has been in that position most of that time except for a couple of years in the late 90's.

After leaving the Army, Brian taught brass and conducted the bands at Presbyterian Ladies College for 12.5 years. These were very happy years where there were lots of musical satisfaction and the privilege of working with some dedicated students who still are enjoying their music.

Brian has also played trombone with the Magic Dream Band for the past 16 years, which is conducted by a former bandmaster of the City of Perth Band, Mr George Franklin, and after retiring last July he is now playing Bb tuba with the Silver Threads Band.

He still retains the desire to be part of the music world and freely admits that brass performance and conducting is in his blood and hopes to continue for some time yet.
None of the service would have been possible without the support and dedication of family members and musicians with whom he has come in contact over the years.
Thank you all.

Wadeisha, Jack

In about 1931 a skinny kid aged 12 by the name of John Wadeisha (Jack) went down to the Collie Band and asked Mr Fred Nisbet if he could join the band.

I was given a Euphonium, shown how to blow the thing and told to go home and practice certain scales.
During the year of 1932 the Perth City band came to Collie for a weekend, and the soprano cornet player Mr Barney Flower was billeted at my home. He heard we were coming to Perth so informed me to come and see him and he would endeavour to get me into the City of Perth Band.

In 1933 this occurred and I was accepted into the band under the baton of Mr Bill Halvorsen.

Initially I was seated next to Mr Harrie Halvorsen. Being the only junior in the band he called me "boy". I saw him shortly before he died in 1971 and he greeted me with "Hello Boy". Harrie was a true gentleman but never called me anything but "Boy".

For about 2 years I tried to play a Flugel Horn, but eventually was given a Baritone and seated next to Mr Jack Anderson (Now deceased). Mr Jack Anderson was not fussy about kids in the band, so for years all he said to me was good-day and good-bye.

I can't quite remember, but I think it was about the time our esteemed member Les Hogg (former librarian now deceased) gave up playing the Euphonium (about 1941) that I had a crack at it.

In those days at the age of 14 I must admit I was in awe of our conductor Mr Bill Halvorsen and our drum Major Mr Charlie Toll. With his busby on his head he looked to me to be about 7 foot tall.

We used to be associated with the 11th Battalion Regiment and our practice was in the Francis Street drill Hall.

To raise money we would play at Delhi Square (now Boas Park), Queens Gardens and Russell Square.

Rotundas were situated in nearly all gardens and parks for the bands to play in. Of course there was very little radio (wireless we used to call them) and the idiot box had not been invented, so we would quite often have a good crowd to listen to us.

Our fee for this entertainment was 4 quid now 8 dollars.

Radio programs were also given, with 6WN which was above the bank on the corner of Milligan and Hay Streets, and with the A.B.C. in an asbestos shack in St Georges Terrace where Council House now stands.

My time with the band has been naturally intermittent because I was unfortunate enough to have to earn a living, so of necessity I was away for quite a lot of programs and practices - like 4 ½ years of War Service.

I say now (1991), this is my band and I can only think of about 3 other persons still alive when I joined.

I still try hard to do a reasonable job. I have been with this band as a member now for over 54 years and look forward to seeing the band once again the best band in W.A., under the baton of Captain Brian Underwood.

(Printed in the Drum in July 1991)

Jack has always been the source of much humour around the band.

Following a trip to Geraldton in 1993 where he was noticed drinking wine from a carafe he had the following explanation.

"Do you remember the barmaid with the short shorts, the blouse with the top button undone? Well, if she was going to come up and serve me every five minutes with a glass of wine, it would have been a disaster.

I would probably have tried to climb over the bar and if that could have been accomplished without breaking something, then I would still have to catch her. Even if she let me catch her it wouldn't have done either of us much good at my age. Plus the band might have been banned from the Queens Hotel forever.

Now you can understand why I was drinking from a carafe; for the good name of the City of Perth Band."

Walker, Ken

Cornet player for many years. Also plays piano and for many years this activity accompanying callisthenics often took him away from the band. A life member.

Watson, Charles (A.M.)

Former President Charles Watson was born in Sydney in 1943.

After studying medicine, he taught anatomy for 14 years. Charles then moved to Perth and joined the Health Department of Western Australia, where he worked in public health.

He then worked for Curtin University. While his job was mainly management, he maintained his scientific interests in brain mapping and in the control of infectious diseases. His most notable academes achievement is the production of an atlas of the rat brain that is used throughout the world. He continued teaching when time permitted.

Charles played the clarinet when he was in high school, but did not play much music until 1998 when he joined the Concert Band on third clarinet.

This was his first serious experience and he loved both rehearsals and concerts – even the much maligned Church marches.

Charles' musical interests range from Mozart and Beethoven to Neil Young and Brian Eno. He is a self confessed obsessive with the music of Frank Zappa, and his most exciting musical experience was meeting the Zappa family in Los Angeles. Charles' music collection includes over 60 CDs of Zappa's music.

Charles has two daughters who live in Sydney, and his partner Anwen has three daughters in Perth.

Charles was elevated to a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours list in 2004 for services to public health and education as an administrator and educator, to neuroscience as a contributor to work on brain mapping, and to the community.

Watson, E.J.

Secretary 1954. Baritone/Euphonium player.

Weaver, Don

I was eleven years old and nervous when Dad led me down the stairs to the basement of the YAL building in Murray Street, clutching my new second-hand cornet in its well worn old-fashioned case, which opened at the top, unlike the modern ones which lay flat like a mini suit-case.

The basement is the lesser hall and off it in a small office waited Mr. George Franklin.

George, a first class cornet/trumpet player himself started me on the rudiments of blowing the cornet and also the theory of reading music.

I can't recall how many lessons I had down there and my next recollection was Dad taking me to the old Anzac House in St. Georges Terrace where I was introduced to the RSL brass band under the baton of C W Court and deputy conductor Len Cooper.

Len had the three middle fingers missing from his right hand and held the baton between his thumb and small finger. He also played tuba and had two sons in the band; Neil, who played Euphonium, and Clive on first Trombone. Both Len and Neil have since passed away but Clive is still alive and lives in Esperance.

In Anzac House we usually practiced on the main stage, but there were times when it was in use by others and we would practice downstairs in the lesser hall. Our small library and music store-room was on a level halfway down those stairs. We practiced Thursday nights and Sunday mornings. Sometimes in the summer, on Sundays, we would carry our chairs outside to the car-park at the side and practice there. I remember squinting into the sun as Charlie Court towered over us with his baton as I struggled to keep up with the 3rd. cornet part after-beats of "largo al Factotum".

I was 12 years old then and most of those old band members have since joined that big brass band up in the sky.

From those early days I recall an in-house contest and I still have the medal I won for sight-reading when I played "Abide with me".

There must have been times when we couldn't use Anzac House as I remember when we practiced in "Vetters Garage" on a greasy floor in among vehicles under repair. It was in Wellington Street near the Barrack Street Bridge. We also practiced for some time in the Esplanade Kiosk/Tea –rooms among the tables & chairs set for teas. That old building is still there at the bottom of Barrack Street and is now a Chinese Restaurant.

We ended up back at Anzac House and it was about that time that an outstanding cornet player arrived from England and joined the band. His name was Norman Snow. His wife, Peggy, was very attractive and they had a son, Richard, who suffered hell from Norm when he was learning to play the Euphonium.

In those days, contesting was an Annual event and I was introduced to band marching under the strict instruction of Dennis Wragg who would drill us mercilessly for an hour on Sundays at Langley Park after normal practice.

There were about a dozen young 18-20 year-old men in the band then who had a great influence on my social skills, and when we went on country engagements, necessitating the hiring of a bus, they always sat at the back with a good supply of "King-Browns." It became my job to throw the empties out of the bus window. I always made sure that they were completely empty and that is where I got my taste for the amber fluid.

When I was about 16 years old, Norm Snow was offered the job of resurrecting the 11/44th Infantry CMF Band. They made him a Warrant Officer and he was given a lot of license in recruiting new playing members into the part-time army. It was therefore conveniently overlooked when I put my age up to 17, which was the legal minimum for joining.

The army band years provided a wealth of experience. I played in the solo tenor-horn chair and began to take a keen interest in the percussion section. We practiced Tuesday nights in the army drill-hall in Nicholson Road Subiaco. All practices and engagements were paid parades and once a year we did 2 weeks away at the army camp in Northam. We would practice daily then and the standard of the band really lifted. We had great fun and fellowship too.

Each morning at 0600hrs we were rudely awakened by the Drum Major, Sergeant Geoffrey Luff, a big guy appointed by the army to train us in marching and drill. We would hurriedly fall out of our shaky camp-stretchers, don our spit-polished boots and with great-coats over our pyjamas, form up and march around the camp playing the regimental march, "Sussex by the Sea." We hated that drum-major and one day it took at least half of the band to hold him down whilst I gave his penis & balls a liberal coating of black nugget. He was furious and would have killed me had I not spent the night in a tree outside of our hut. I could easily fill another couple of pages with antics and memories of Northam.

I left the army band at age 19 to seek my fame and fortune in Melbourne. I got a job truck-driving with Mercury Transport and later became foreman. I didn't make that fame & fortune but found me a wife. I returned to Perth aged 21 in 1960 where I took the marital plunge for the first time.

The army band had been disbanded and Norm Snow had started the "National Youth Brass Band". I joined the band and played with Norm once again. We practiced at the Maylands Town Hall on Thursday nights and it was there that I met Ray & Ken Treen. Ray Treen plays with us now at City of Perth. It was during this time that I bought my first drum-kit and made the change from a blower to a beater.

When I was transferred to Bunbury as Branch Manager for the Singer Sewing Machine Company I joined the Bunbury City Band percussion section under the baton of Len Nesbitt and highly respected drum-major Powell Tweedie. I have very happy memories of my years in that band and later became Drum-Major, when Powell Tweedie retired, and I led the band to victory at several marching contests. We took our marching very seriously in those days.

The publican of the Rose Hotel, Lionel Sangster, became President of the band and organised a goodwill tour to South Australia in 1965. We did a march through the CBD of Adelaide to the Town Hall where we were greeted by the Lord Mayor and given a civic reception.

Other highlights of the trip included a bus tour through the Barossa Valley where we were entertained royally at the Glenview Winery with a traditional "Glee Wein" served hot, spicy and very potent. We also did a street-march through the town of Clare before being entertained by Clarry Soebels at the Quettaller vineyards with a magnificent Bar-b-que among the vines and complemented with generous serves of their top quality wines. It was here I acquired a taste for fine wines. The Quelltaller Riesling was fantastic and I will always remember the "pickled grapes", spicy and potent which I have never experienced again.

Around 1969 I sold up in Bunbury, bought a caravan and travelled north to Darwin. There was no Brass band there but I played kit in the night-club scene for a couple of years. My marriage dissolved here and I joined a cruising yacht (the 49 ft. long trimaran Dhyana) and sailed thru south-east Asia to Singapore. I got a job with a helicopter company and worked in Indonesia for the next 5 years.

Although the time overseas is memorable, I eventually had a yen to return to Australia, where the tomatoes are red and the beer is cold and yummy.

Back in Perth in 1980 I was welcomed into the City of Perth Band after helping out on the march, on side-drum, at a couple of church processions. We did heaps of those processions back then. They were long, slow, hot and boring but they brought much needed revenue into the band.

The City band practiced on Thursday nights and Sunday mornings in an old wooden band room in Robinson Park, North Perth. It was built like a stage and could be opened up on one side for public performances.

In 1970 The City of Perth built a nice new brick band room in the park and demolished the old wooden one. The new building was officially named "Halvorsen Hall" in honour of the conductor Bill Halvorsen. There is an audio cassette in existence of the opening ceremony and performance by the band.

The all male band was mainly senior in age and experience. It was ranked "A Grade" and the trophy cabinet was overflowing as an attestation to its ability and standard.

There were no breathalysers in those days and there was a good deal of heavy/social drinking done after each practice. It was not uncommon to drive home after a lively darts and booze session at 2 am on a Friday morning. I still have the original dart-board and cabinet as a souvenir on my alfresco wall at home. On Sunday we downed a "King-brown" each before hurrying home for the Sunday roast.

The details are a little dim in my memory now but the remnants of the national Youth Band initially with Norm Snow became through several transformations what is now the Royal Agricultural Brass. Norm Snow later joined our band and started the junior band of the City of Perth and with it Lance Hammond, Helen Banks and John Bentley as parents and committee. These people were eventually encouraged into the senior band committee. After Merv Nix resigned as treasurer, Lance Hammond stepped into that role and still holds that position today, 2010. John Bentley began to assist Les Hogg in the Library and carried on as Librarian after Les retired in 1990. Helen followed Don Steel as Secretary and when the President of many years, Laurie O'Keefe, stepped down I was duly elected into that position and sat in that chair for the next six years.

During my term as President we had a run on conductors. Nigel Anderton resigned; Rex Innes-Mills did a stint and then left us suddenly due to personal problems. Alan Kyrwood filled in at times also and Captain Brian Underwood, who was conductor of the 5MD army band helped out temporarily. David Farrell came in from the 5MD on Brian's recommendation. Langley Smith also showed some enthusiasm but gave it away due to some internal conflict which escapes me now. I have always considered that the best thing I ever did for the band was to convince Brian Underwood to take on the job after he left the army.

Probably the worst thing was to replace Alan Lourens as conductor of the junior band due mainly to his refusal to become a member of City. It seemed right and reasonable at the time.

My memories of events during my time as President have been ably mirrored by the continuing marvellous and sincere efforts of John Bentley and I am content to refer you interested readers to his reflections and recollections of the happenings which occurred within the City of Perth Band both before and after my time.

After 30 years membership I continue to enjoy my association and involvement with the City of Perth Band in this my 71st. year on this planet. I believe I just beat Danny Wilson by 2 months as being the longest serving, playing member in the brass band today.

Donald K Weaver
22nd. May 2010

Wilson, Danny

30/01/03

Born in Wollongong, NSW in 1940. Started learning to play tenor horn with Wollongong Steelworks Band at age 9 to get out of going to Sunday school. Stayed with that band (playing euphonium from 1950) until 1959 when they stopped contesting. Was secretary at the time. Joined Wollongong City which was contesting & stayed with them until our family left Wollongong for Savage River, Tasmania in 1969. Joined Hobart City for my time in Tasmania. For practice played a 3 valve eupho with 1903 stamped on the bell. It was from the town of Waratah, in its day the largest tin mine in the world. It had an opera house that Nellie Melba sang at but is now a ghost town. Moved to Gove in Northern Territory for two years in 1971. There was no band there & my musical activities were suspended until I took a job with a sand mining firm on the north coast of NSW, joined the Taree Municipal Band & stayed with them until our family moved to Perth Xmas, 1978. Joined C.O.P. early 1979 & have been with them ever since. My wife Therese has been a great supporter of my banding career & my son Mark, now a geriatrician at Fremantle hospital played tenor horn with the band until joining the Navy Reserve Band to provide income during Uni. Daughter Vanessa did Law at WA Uni & is now involved in marketing industry training packages in Aust & NZ from a Sydney base.

Solo career.

Solo contesting was very popular in the east in the 50s & it was possible to play in competitions every two months or so. I contested from age 10 until I moved to Tasmania, winning over 100 junior & senior events. Highlights were NSW State Junior eupho champion 1954, 1957 inclusive & junior Champion of Champions 1955, 6 & 7. Open NSW Eupho Champion 1957, Ballarat Victorian eupho champion 1959 & Australian Eupho Champion 1963 at Rockhampton Qld. Runner up in Aust Champion of Champions & winner of duet there. Played in numerous W.A. Solo & Party Events in the 80s, winning Champion of Champions three times & representing W.A. in the Australasian solo championships four times during that period. Coached numerous C.O.P. juniors to success in local competitions. I still compete when work doesn't interfere. One of the people I used to compete against in NSW in party competitions was Norm McMahon, a brilliant player who was playing solo comet with the BIU band from Broken Hill at that time. I was very pleased to renew our acquaintance when I joined C.O.P. Our rehearsals were a lot longer then, with many lasting till 2.00 AM.

Band Contesting.

Won Aust B Grade championship with Steelworks band in 1952 & have played A grade since then. Played with Hurstville in 1957 when they lost NSW A grade by one point to St Johns Ambulance, the most successful eastern states band post world war two to 1959. This band was conducted by A. H (Bert) Baille, a former conductor of C. O.P. I played as a visitor with this band on numerous occasions at Randwick racetrack. Won Aust. A grade with Wollongong City at Dubbo 1962. Won NSW A grade as permit player with Blacktown plus B & C grade as permit player for St Marys at the same contest in 1968. Won Aust B Grade with Hobart City in Sydney, 1970. No further contesting until joining COP. In one interesting contest I played with Channel 7 Concert Band because when they went to see why their eupho player hadn't been turning up for rehearsals two weeks before the contest he had vanished, complete with instrument & uniform! On another occasion as COP was preparing to play in the A Grade own choice in Perth Concert Hall an impatient bass player succeeded in knocking my instrument, still in its case, from one floor of the car park to another, rendering it unplayable. Caused some excitement at the time. Played with Willoughby City as a guest at the world brass band championships held in conjunction with EXPO 1988 at Brisbane.

Some of my best banding memories are playing La Belle Americaine at a combined concert with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in Sydney Town Hall in the 60s. Playing at COP cabarets in the early 80s. These were held at Subiaco Town Hall on a monthly basis & attracted audiences between 400 & 600. Band members (including George Franklin, Don Weaver, Don Steel, Laurie OKeefe, John Stirling, Campbell Holmes, Elmore Nylander, Norm McMahon & Eddie Klemm) used to provide dance music with the Brass band doing a 1/2 hour spot in the middle of the night. The Cabarets deteriorated when this venue closed & we had to move to other locations, finally becoming unprofitable.

Worst Memories

Being told 20 minutes before I was due to play in the Open Aust Eupho Championship in Bundaberg Qld in 1957 that my documentation had not arrived from NSW and that I wouldn't be able to play. I was V.P of the NSW Band Association at the time. I had some nasty words with the local officials. I played.

Sitting in the middle of East Perth Oval with COP to play a concert for that football clubs centenary to discover that the music was still at the Band Hall. My fault. We haven't done many concerts for East Perth since.

Wragg, Dennis Arthur., BEM

Drum Major 1966 - 1982

Received his BEM in the 1982 Commonwealth Imperial Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to Brass Bands.

There is more written about Dennis in Eric Cowan's notes, and others.

Footnote: Well folks, that's it. Hopefully someone else will take up the challenge and expand on some of the personal notes and even find more detail to add to the main text