

Minster for the Arts article:

The November Stand - 125 years The Band Association of NSW

For 125 years the Band Association of NSW (BANSW) has brought life to our community, fostering generations of musicians; developing local talent, and entertaining audiences across NSW.

This amazing milestone makes BANSW one of the oldest continuing organisations in our state. It boosts community spirit and brings us together – a terrific achievement for this wonderful volunteer organisation.

Community arts and cultural milestones are a celebrated and essential part of our everyday lives. With the challenges the past year has delivered, the people of NSW welcome every opportunity to lift their spirits.

The NSW Government, through Create NSW, has a strong relationship with BANSW funding the programs of countless NSW bands over 27 years. It is a relationship we champion and hold dear. We are very proud of BANSW's many achievements – increasing banding activity within NSW communities, developing performance standards, and growing audience participation in live music across the length and breadth of NSW.

For 125 years, BANSW has been growing our community bands throughout metropolitan Sydney, Western Sydney and regional NSW. The tradition of building excellence continues with 27 bands supported this year through the NSW Government's funding programs. From Blue Mountains Youth Band to Wee Waa Community Band, stretching from Forbes Town & District Band to Tottenham Town Band, the tradition of banding embraces all aspects of society.

With bands now able to perform and rehearse outdoors again in greater numbers, there is much to celebrate.

The NSW Government is proud to support BANSW. Local bands are a wonderful part of our communities, and now, more than ever, we are aware of the power of music to connect and enrich the community. With BANSW showcasing the diversity of music expression, we anticipate that there is much live music to look forward to for many more years to come.

Let the band play on!

-

The Hon. Don Harwin MLC

NSW Minister for the Arts