

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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**BAND  
ASSOCIATION  
OF NSW INC**

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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2024 saw the BANSW continue to grow both membership of the organisation, our products and services and participation rates.

We launched our new Music Reading Day which occurred in February. This was a fantastic way to start the year off with an opportunity to play through new music, see our friends and colleagues from across the movement, to renew our contacts with our music retailers, and to celebrate our wonderful NSW and Australian composers.

We have continued to meet our aims and objectives, providing support to our bands as they work to deliver the best possible performances in their local communities, supporting our local NSW composers, encouraging them to write more, continuing to grow our important relationships with other organisations and working with the NSW State Government.

We continue to receive sponsorship of our events and activities from both Besson/Buffer Crampon Group and Penrith City Council. We hope to increase sponsors in 2025.

Our events continue to be well supported by our bands with the State Solo and Ensemble Championships entry numbers continuing to build from the Covid restart and the State Band Championships hitting highs not seen in many years.

Support for the BANSW services is strong and these continue to be an important aspect to membership for many bands across the State.

Two external events happened in 2024 which created a significant increase in the administrative workload for the Association – changes in the Create NSW Grants Funding programs and changes to the regulatory environment for all community bands with a Youth Band program.

Both of these have had a significant impact on the administration of the BANSW, particularly in the last quarter of the year and will continue to do so in to 2025. Further information on these is contained in the reports below.

The BANSW is in a healthy position overall, however, we are acutely aware of the challenges which we may encounter from 2026, which may impact the operations of the Association in the years to come.

I thank the members of the Management Committee for your support. Your hard work and commitment have contributed to the success of our NSW banding movement and the continued growth of the BANSW and our events.

I also thank our volunteers for their tireless work making our events happen. Without all of our volunteers, we would not have an Association, we would not have our events or the important services which the BANSW provides.

It has been an honour and a privilege to continue to occupy the position of President of our Association and I thank you all for the trust which you have placed in me to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the role for the good of our movement.

This year has been full of challenges as we work to improve technology, update policies, and stay on top of daily operations with limited time available. I continue to try to manage the role alongside my full-time job, and I appreciate the assistance that other committee members and helpers have provided when they can.

The combined roles that I have taken on continue to require at least 25 hours per week to maintain satisfactory coverage, and we were very pleased when Jean Hampstead joined the committee to take over the role of Treasurer.

## **Policy Updates**

Over the past 2 years, we have been working through a project to create a comprehensive set of policies, codes of behaviour, and information documents for the Association and our bands to adopt.

Following the disturbances which occurred in the lead-up to and over the NSW State Band Championships, we contacted the Officer of the Children's Guardian in regard to our current policy settings to confirm that these were still current.

In this contact we were advised that for our bands with youth bands or youth programs, the legislative environment under which we operate had changed significantly.

Since September 2024, there has been significant work done to incorporate the new Child Safe Standards and create the necessary new policies to bring the Association and our bands into compliance with the law.

This work was completed in March 2025 and, as at the date of this report, our comprehensive suite of information documents, codes of behaviour and policies has been adopted by the BANSW and have also been published in a format which bands can easily adopt.

These policies have been reviewed by the OCG to ensure that they cover all necessary aspects to ensure that, after BANSW and our bands adopt them, our movement is compliant with the relevant NSW Child Safe legislations.

## **NBCA Update**

Following Western Australia's vote in September to leave the NBCA, The BANSW has made several attempts to contact the NBCA to open discussions and map out a way forward for NSW and WA to potentially return to that organisation.

We also contacted the TBL to make arrangements for those bands who were planning to travel to the National Band Championships to be able to be registered as a part of the TBL to facilitate them being able to compete. We thank the TBL for their support and for working with us in this.

We have also constructed a draft new Constitution and NBCA Contest Regulations which would simplify the NBCA structure, remove administrative barriers, remove the current unnecessary wasteful expenditure, increase transparency, and fills the gaps which exist in the current set of documents which the NBCA operates under.

# SECRETARY...CONT

Following Western Australia's vote in September to leave the NBCA, BANSW has made several attempts to contact the NBCA to open discussions and map out a way forward for NSW and WA to potentially return to that organisation.

Key people within the movement nationally have been consulted for their input in the creation of these documents to ensure that the concepts they introduce, and the amendments made, achieves their aims and objectives.

We have advised the NBCA that these are ready to be presented to them and we are open and ready to discuss. We are waiting on the NBCA to come back to us with a response which acknowledges the issues between us and a willingness to work to change for the better, rather than a response that says, "All NSW needs to do to return is pay their membership fee".

As at the writing of this report, the past NBCA does not have a President. The past President – Brian Dodds resigned from his position on the NBCA at the beginning of this year and they are yet to appoint a replacement.

We have since attempted to contact the NBCA Vice President with no success.

We are open to negotiations to rejoin the NBCA provided the NBCA are open to wholesale change which addresses the significant issues which exist within that organisation.

## Workshops

Only 1 held - Percussion. Due to lack of time and resources.

## Social Media & Website

I still continue to run the social media and website. This is a laborious task in which I have been unable to spend a lot of time on and as a result, we have only gained a small amount of growth. We do require a person to take over the social media pages that has the ability to source content and re-strategise.

Estimated Volunteer Hours by BANSW Secretary, President, and Committee Members – 3320

Estimated value of Management Committee volunteer hours - \$190,000.00

## Management Committee Attendance Total Meetings Held – 10

Jeff Markham – 10

Kristen Moodie – 10

Fiona Day – 9

James Moule – 10 (resigned Jan 2025)

Katrina King (resigned Feb 2024) – 0

Bev Newitt – 7

Joan Thorp – 7

David Raciti – 10

Jean Hampstead – 2 (joined Nov 2024)

## Kristen Moodie

# TREASURER'S REPORT

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## Operating Result

The net financial result for the Association for 2024 recorded a minor loss of \$857.

Overall, the year ended 31 December 2024 saw top line revenues decrease to \$146,379 from \$299,151 in 2023. The decrease brings the accounts back into line with previous years, outside of Nationals income/expenses. Fixed costs remained relatively stable in comparison with previous years. The Association also continued to administer Create NSW's community band development grants under its devolved funding scheme.

The Association ended the financial year with total assets of \$238,246, a slight increase from \$234,708 (2023). Total Liabilities were at \$72,342, giving a net assets position of \$165,904, a marginal decrease.

## Outlook for 2025

With its strong current asset holdings and continued funding, the Association fully expects to be able to cover all operating costs while continuing to deliver support for its member bands.

We have reached the end of our CreateNSW funding cycle, and we wait for the outcome of the latest grant application. Outside of this, there is nothing currently that could materially prejudice the ability of the Association to continue as a going concern or significantly affect the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years beyond 2024.

## Concluding remarks

Most challenges that we experienced with closing off the accounts for 2023 were resolved during 2024, and we have maintained our goal of keeping the Association in a positive position and moving forward. The debtors ledger is looking much cleaner compared with previous years, and we expect the outstanding balance for Besson to be paid during 2025.

**Kristen Moodie**

[Link to Draft Financial Statements](#)

# CONTESTS

## **NSW State Band Championships - Penrith August 24-25**

We continue to see growth with the Band Championships with a total of 62 entries from 44 band organisations, meaning that we are almost at capacity for the time allowed over the weekend. Continued growth of this event will require a rethink of the schedule.

Our adjudicators for the weekend were Alan Lourens (WA) and David Gallaher (NZ) who were well-received. We appreciated the thoughtful and positive feedback provided to all bands from both adjudicators.

We continue to grow our audience on the live-streaming side.

An undertaking of the gradings for bands were completed following the event with a movement of two bands.

## **NSW Solos & Party Championships - Barker College June 29-30**

We continue to work on technology for this event. Numbers of entrants are increasing each year again, and we are almost back to pre-covid levels.

Our adjudicators for the weekend were:

- Cathy Moran
- James Brice
- Allan Watson
- Brendan Collins
- Phil Rees
- Fiona Lucas
- Tim Ferrier

Some other changes that were incorporated into this year's event:

- Results are announced directly after the event by the adjudicator/room supervisor
- Presenting the medals/trophies/plaques with results and certificate collection outside of the Contest office

The changes above made the running of the contest much smoother as there was no waiting on the contest office to complete the results. The changes made were also as a result of a smaller number of volunteers available for this year.

- Full results for both Championship events are in Appendix B & C
- Test Selections for the Band Championships are in Appendix D, the Solos & Party Championships were own choice
- Livestreaming Data from the Band Championships is Appendix E

Once again we appreciate the efforts of staff at both venues, Barker College and The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, for their assistance with these events.

**Kristen Moodie**

# MUSIC SELECTION

The Music Selection Committee Comprised:

- James Brice - Chairman of Music Advisory Board and Chairman of Concert Band Subcommittee
- Michael Forsyth - Chair of Brass Band Sub Committee
- Garry Clark
- Mark Ford
- David Kimpton
- Brian McGuinness
- Andrew McWade
- Brenden Millard
- Joan Thorp
- Teena Wallace
- Jeff Markham - President of the Band Association of NSW
- Kristen Moodie - Secretary of the Band Association of NSW

Once again, I am immensely proud to present this report on behalf of, and in representing the contribution of our 2024 Music Advisory Board Committee. I express my thanks my esteemed Music Advisory Board colleagues for their invaluable contribution throughout 2024. In particular, I express my sincere thanks to Michael Forsyth for his invaluable role and contribution as Chair of the Brass Band Sub Committee. Thank you, Michael.

All Solos and Ensemble Championships were Own Choice Music.

**James Brice OAM**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## MUSIC TEST SELECTIONS

# 2024 NEW MUSIC READING DAY

On February 4, The Band Association of NSW, supported by ABODA NSW, hosted a New Band Repertoire Reading Day for Concert Bands and Brass Bands.

It was held at Petersham Town Hall accompanied by trade displays from Brass Music Specialists (Qld), Engadine Music, Fine Music (Vic), Hosenbugler Music, Rod Herbert Big Sound Music, Thorp Music and Tim Ferrier Music.

We had over 70 playing participants representing many community bands and educational institutions. Our guest conductors, Garry Clark, Eddie Claxton, Megan Lipworth and Andrew McWade, expertly led the bands through 66 new publications.

The music selection panel was overwhelmed with over 350 excellent and very worthy submissions and had a tough job narrowing the playing list down to 43 Concert Band works and 23 Brass Band works.

The final music lists featured a great diversity of grades, styles, composers and publishers. The Concert Band list contained 53% Australian content, and the Brass Band list was 87% Australian content.

The day ran smoothly due to the willing and helpful team of BANSW volunteers looking after catering, registrations, music sorting, equipment setup, etc.

One of our organising committee members plus our event emcee was Murray Bishop, whose experience at running reading days was pivotal to the success of this inaugural event for BANSW.

The event was a positive way to launch into the New Year of teaching and community banding - sight reading new band charts plus catching up with old colleagues and making new musical connections.

**Joan Thorp**

**[View the highlights reel](#)**



# REGISTRAR/RECORDER/TECH

There have been no changes to the registration process in 2024 / 2025 as the process has been running reasonably smoothly.

Bands need to inform the registrar if there are no changes in the status of the player voucher, or player renewal on the website for more than a few days.

It is possible that the occasional player status on this semi-automated process will not be picked up. The Associations new cloud based membership registration system will likely be more robust.

The list of registered bands for 2024 along with services is Appendix F.

## Technology

6 of the BANSW recording laptops have been converted to SSD's "Solid State Drives" which make them much faster and easier to use.

Thanks to Chris Downes for his knowledge and invaluable assistance with this process.

We have replaced a few of the microphones as the Condensor models have a limited life span, i.e. They are fragile.

## Ian Madden

# ONEMUSIC AUSTRALIA LICENCE

The BANSW OneMusic Associations Licence continues to prove an essential product for our member bands with 33 licences being issued to bands in 2024.

We encourage all bands who have ticketed concerts, use photocopies in rehearsals and performances or who use, copy and circulate other bands recordings as a learning tool to take out this licence as it covers all the aspects of a community bands performing and rehearsing needs at a 10% discount to the OneMusic Community Music Licence.

The list of bands appears in the Registered Bands and Services Table.

# PUBLIC LIABILITY SCHEME

The Public Liability Insurance scheme continues to be popular with bands with 37 bands being a part of this scheme.

This has become an important product offering of the Association, being a key reason for a with a number of bands continuing to retain their membership.

The list of bands appears in the Registered Bands and Services Table.

## BAND ACTIVITY STATEMENT

The 2024 Band Activity Statement saw a total of 40 responses from community bands. This represents a 39% response rate providing statistically robust data.

Observations from the survey show that the total number of performances by our Association member bands across the State is up by 24% on 2023 data and almost returned to pre-covid levels.

The number of parades in which our member bands have reported to have performed at remains static at an average of only 1.5 per band throughout the year. This is well down on the rates seen before Covid.

Audience numbers have not made that return. Concert audiences have increased by a pressing 47% on 2023 numbers, however with the static number of parades and subsequent minimal increase in audience numbers there, our total audience has seen only a more modest 8% increase on 2023 numbers.

The reported data shows that our audience numbers are growing but have they still have a long way to go before we reach pre-covid levels.

The reporting shows that our movement is diverse, with 65% of bands reporting having members from CALD community members, 62% of bands with members with a disability and 25% of bands with members of indigenous heritage.

Only 37% of bands report receiving support from their local councils and 30% of bands report having a relationship with a local business.

Pleasingly 65% of bands report having a functioning Youth program but there is clearly work to do for bands in the area of policy implementation.

In assessing the results, the movement is continuing to recover well from the Covid period with almost all bands seeing a good recovery rate, however there is still significant progress to be made to reach pre-covid audience reach.

The summary results from the survey appears as Appendix H.

# AWARDS AND LIFE MEMBERS

The Award of Merit is the second highest award that the BANSW can bestow and it was a great honour and privilege to present Awards of Merit in recognition of service to the BANSW and our member bands to Chris Downes who has worked tirelessly for many years assisting Ian Madden with on the tech front, particularly with our recording technology and ensuring that your adjudications at the State Solos and Bands are working as they should be. Chris's contributions behind the scenes have been crucial to the success of these events and we thank you for your service.

We would also like to congratulate and welcome Christine Wallbaum as a Life Member in 2024.

Christine has been a member of the Band Association of NSW for her entire life, playing in community bands across the Wollongong, South Coast, and Southern Highlands regions, entertaining thousands and bringing joy and happiness to many. She has created opportunities for people of all ages from all corners of the community to listen, watch, learn to play, and make great music, enriching their lives and those around them.

She has also been heavily involved in the management and growth of her home band - The City of Wollongong Brass Band, playing a vital administrative role in making the organization a part of the South Coast community's fabric. She continues to be an active member of the City of Wollongong Bands and several other bands in the region.

Christine has given over 50 years of volunteer service to the Band Association of NSW in various capacities, including as a member of the BANSW Management Committee and as a volunteer working year after year behind the scenes at the State Solo and Ensemble Championships, State Band Championships, Australian National Band Championships, concerts, workshops, and many other events.

## **15 Year Award**

Brent Newbery - Canberra Brass

## **30 Year Award**

Sue Wilmington - Canberra Brass

Peter Robertson - Canberra Brass

Leigh Wilmington - Canberra Brass

Matthew Radisich - Canberra Brass

Sydney Stewart - Canberra Brass



## **10 Year Award**

Nicole Andrews - Hills Music Academy

Amie Davison - Hills Music Academy

Sandra Tavener - Hills Music Academy

Steve Lucas-Smith - Canberra Brass

Colin Fischer - Canberra Brass

Andrea Schmuck - Canberra Brass

Aaron Madden - Canberra Brass

Robert Burnes - Canberra Brass

Ian Brown - Canberra Brass

## **20 Year Award**

Neralie Want - Hills Music Academy

John Howard - Canberra Brass

Mike Lee - Canberra Brass

Rachael Pryor - Canberra Brass

Dean Savage - Canberra Brass

Chris Thompson - Canberra Brass

Suzie Collins - Canberra Brass

Andrew Heath - Canberra Brass

Maree Wilson - Canberra Brass

# VOLUNTEERS

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Over the two Championships weekends, we had a total 67 volunteers who gave 1257 hours. This equates to a volunteers value of \$72,000.

We welcomed our usual regulars and a couple of new faces.

List of Volunteers - Appendix I

# TRADE STANDS AND ADVERTISING

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2024 State Bands we welcomed 4 trade stands in total including Sax and Woodwind/Besson, Techtone Mutes, Australian Navy Band and Brass Music Specialists,

The trade stand area was probably at capacity, unless we can be creative about the space we use. The end of the foyer area that the majority were located were not as busy as the main entry, and given the weather was good, many band members were outside.

# MUSIC LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

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A significant proportion of the 36 crates of brass band sets from Parramatta City Band were distributed to bands, or accessioned into the Library, and donated to bands in Tonga via Howard Taylor.

The Librarian wrote a report for each issue of The Music Stand.

**James Moule**

# THE MUSIC STAND

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The Music Stand continues to be produced electronically with only 2 printed copies each edition. Moving forward, in 2025, we have reduced the publication from 5 to 4 times a year. We receive an average of 6 articles from bands. It would be great to receive news from some more bands, even if it were snippets on interest. I would like to look at a way to re engage readers in the coming year.

## [VIEW PAST EDITIONS OF THE MUSIC STAND](#)

**Fiona Day**

# YOUNG BANDPERSON OF THE YEAR

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We acknowledge and apologise that the revised program for the Young Band Person of the Year award was not administered this year and hold ourselves accountable for this.

Nominations from the HRBA were called for, and we congratulate the winner, Benjamin Rowney from the Hunter School of Performing Arts. The SMBB did not go ahead with calling for nominations.

BANSW did not proceed with calling for nominations from the rest of State due to time constraints of the Secretary.

With 3 vacancies on the Management Committee and competing priorities, some activities/tasks were unable to be completed.

The 2024 Community Band Development Grants program received 34 applications seeking a total of \$64,620 in funding.

All applications were assessed and approved by a panel of three people - Bev Newitt, James Moule and Jeff Markham. The approved funding came to the total of \$27,000.

32 applications were approved for funding. The full list of recipients, a brief project description and the amounts paid appears as Appendix G.

No acquittals are outstanding as at the date of writing this report.

### **Changes to the CreateNSW grants program from 2026 onwards**

In June 2024 we were advised that the current funding arrangements had been extended for an additional year for 2025 and that this would be changing from 2026 onwards.

Create NSW were making significant changes to their funding programs and the current Negotiated Funding program under which we were funded was being terminated and rolled back into competitive programs.

The new program would be made up of 4 funding streams: 4 + 4-year (\$400k to \$6mil - Invited organisations only), 4-year (\$200k to \$600k per year), 2-year (\$60k to \$200k) and 1-year.

Devolved funding programs (the CBDG program) are only available to be funded in the 4+4-year, 4 year and 2-year streams.

We were advised to apply under the 4-year stream which closed on 1 December. As a part of the requirements for this program, we undertook the creation of a 5-year Strategic Plan (Appendix L). An application for \$250k per year was submitted. As at the date of writing this report, the 4-year application was unsuccessful, and we have submitted a fully revised application for \$200k under the 2-year stream. We are awaiting assessment and the advice of a decision.

Subject to the outcome of the above-mentioned grant application, the strategic plan will need to be comprehensively reviewed and additional income streams may need to be created.

Some observations from a review of the recipients of funding under both the 4+4 and 4-year streams: \$9.1mil (per year) was allocated to the 4+4-year stream and \$17.5 mil (per year) to the 4-year stream. Under the 4+4-year stream there were 9 organisations approved for funding. Under the 4-year stream there were 84 organisations funded.

# GRANTS...CONT

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From both streams, only 3 music organisations were funded, receiving a total of only \$775k. No organisations that received funding under either program were volunteer organisations or community based State-wide representative organisations. No Arts service organisations have received funding under either stream. All organisations funded thus far are professional arts companies with a number of permanent full time paid employees.

Based on the above observations, it appears that Create NSW have moved away from supporting Music organisations in general. It also strongly suggests that they have moved away from supporting Arts Service organisations and community volunteer-based organisations.

Although we are hopeful of a favourable outcome from our 2-year application, we are very mindful that this may not be approved which would mean the loss of the CBDG program and the loss of \$25k income from the BANSW budget.

**Jeff Markham**

# BRANCH REPORTS

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## **Sydney Metropolitan Band Branch**

For the full solos & party competition results - see [here](#)

## **Hunter Regional Band Association**

For more information about events in the Hunter region - see [here](#)

# APPENDICES

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Appendix	Title
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A	<a href="#">Fees and Charges Schedule</a>
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B	<a href="#">State Solo and Party Championships Results</a>
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C	<a href="#">State Band Championships Results</a>
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D	<a href="#">Test Music List</a>
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E	<a href="#">State Band Championships Live Streaming Data</a>
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F	<a href="#">Registered Bands and Services Table</a>
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G	<a href="#">Approved CreateNSW Band Development Grants List</a>
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H	<a href="#">Band Activity Statement Results</a>
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I	<a href="#">Volunteers List</a>
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J	<a href="#">5 -Year Strategic Report</a>
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