



December 2019

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# Garrison Gazette

## Welcome

Welcome to the 8th edition of the IGB newsletter. Hopefully you are enjoying your quarterly editions of the Garrison Gazette on all the upcoming and past events with the Ascot Park Hotel Brass Bands (Senior and Junior) of the IGB Society.

Well December certainly has come quickly and once again the Senior and Auxiliary bands are getting back into that Christmas spirit, practicing all the well-known Christmas medleys.

## Upcoming Events (Dates may vary closer to events)

Christmas Carol Service (Aux)—St Stephens	13 December
Auxiliary Band sausage sizzle—Harvey Norman	14 December
YMCA Carols in the Park	18 December
	Postponement Date 19 December
OSBBA Provincials (Mosgiel)	4—5 April
ILT Entertainment Awards	April (date to be confirmed)
Ascot Park Hotel Brass Band Concert	16 May (Civic Theatre)
	Link— <a href="http://www.aliharper.co.nz/upcoming-events/the-look-of-love/">http://www.aliharper.co.nz/upcoming-events/the-look-of-love/</a>
National Contest (Christchurch)	8—12 July
Girls' Fishing Trip	Date still to be advised.

## What's Been Happening



### Boys Fishing Trip

4th of October once again saw the annual band fishing trip get under way. This year was the 22nd year of male bonding with a bit of fishing as well. First stop the Moose Hotel to meet up, wet the whistle and talk about last minute fishing tactics for the next few days before we headed for the Downs and launched the boats. Tight crew this year with 12 people which meant we all had a bed in the North Arm Glasnook hut. Weather was kind with average wind and just a slight chop on the water and little rain.

Fishing was great with all boats and every angler catching fish. Total tally was probably the best for many years. Trophy for the biggest fish went to the most experienced (oldest) fisherman this year. Once again a fantastic weekend with awesome company. Can't wait for next year, only 10 months to go.

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### St Andrews Church and Rhododendron Festival, Gore—Sunday 20 October

After missing last year due to a scheduling conflict, Ascot Park Hotel Brass Band returned to Gore for its annual visit, to play for St Andrews church service then across the road to the park to entertain at the Rhododendron Festival.

The church service began with the band playing a selection of numbers to greet the congregation prior to the service. During the service the band played several hymns, one being the always popular 'Shine, Jesus Shine'. The lovely 'The Lost Chord' was played as the band's offering during the collection, and once the service was completed a lively and unexpected rendition of Elton John's 'Crocodile Rock' accompanied the congregation out of the church for morning tea. Once again, a big thank you for the cuppa, sandwiches and homemade biscuits.

Once again the weather gods were kind to us which was lucky as several members of the band were unable to 'fit' under the tented roof! We played a selection of music ranging from 'This is the Moment', a march commissioned for the 1990 Commonwealth Games, through to Glenn Miller's 'In the Mood' and 'Crocodile Rock'. Both Steve Gooding and I couldn't believe most of the band didn't remember (or even worse had never heard of) 'The A Team'.

The playout saw the first time Steve Gooding took the baton. Steve has taken the role of **ACTING** Musical Director while the band continues to look for a permanent MD. It was also the first performance for five new players to the band, (Kyrell Gerrard, Aidan Dudfield, Darcy Herrick, Jack O'Connell and John Chesney) who have recently joined us from the Auxiliary Band. It is wonderful having these young musicians coming through the ranks and we hope you are all enjoying the experience.

### Santa Parade

Invercargill put on a beaut day for the Santa Parade which was held on 30 November. The Auxiliary band members once again played their hearts out to the large crowd, Christmas carolling on the truck as they followed the floats along the main street of Invercargill. This is the only chance the players get to play on the back of the truck. Because of all the Health and Safety regulations it was decided to pull the pin carolling along the streets of Invercargill leading up to Christmas.

### Riverton Twilight Christmas Market

This has been a yearly tradition for a few years now for an Auxiliary band ensemble. The Riverton crowd certainly do enjoy the group playing as they get in the Christmas spirit enjoying Christmas carols whilst doing their Christmas shopping.

### Christmas Street Party

At 10 am on 7 December the Ascot Park Hotel Brass Band opened up the Invercargill Christmas Street Party held on the grassy knoll in Esk Street. The overcast morning was pleasant as the Band serenaded the morning shoppers with a mix of Christmas music and a few well known musical pieces.

### Auxiliary Band End of Year Concert

Conducted by Kath, the Auxiliary Band had their end of year concert on 8 December with light nibbles at Knox Church. The concert consisted of 4 beautiful Christmas pieces, Christmas Joy, All in the April Evening, In the Bleak Mid Winter and The Last Rose of Summer with traditional carols and other known pieces Il Est Né Le Divin Enfant, Pastime With Good Company and Essential Abba. Trinity's percussion group added variety, performing 3 items, an ensemble and 2 solos and finally wrapping up the afternoon with none other than the Invercargill March.

A special thank you went out to Nancy Joll, Jocelyn Donaldson and Dawn James, followed with thanking all the parents, committee and public for supporting the players and to all the players themselves for the hard work they had put in throughout the year and to the extra players who helped out at the concert.

This year the Auxiliary band trophies went to—

<b>Section of the Year</b>	Percussion
<b>Most Improved Player</b>	Lauren Bailey
<b>Bandsperson of the Year</b>	Marleen Adams.

Well done.

### Girls' Fishing Trip

With Nathan Gooding (Steve and Trish's eldest) engagement and party the ladies decided to postpone their fishing weekend scheduled for November to early next year. I will keep you posted.







## Player Profiles

**Grant Chalmers**—Well, born into a family of string players (mum and dad both 'cello players, aunty violin, sister 'cello) who would have expected me to go to the dark side?

As a 2 year old, my parents had a boarder who played trumpet and I pestered them from that time to play a trumpet. After doing the requisite 3 years learning piano, I finally got my wish at 10 years old to get cornet lessons with the late Bill Campbell at Mosgiel Brass Band.

My first national contest was at Christchurch in 1976 with Mosgiel, and I remember being so short that I almost had to run to keep up with the marching that year!

After a move to Kaikorai Band, my first A grade contest was 1979 at Hamilton (and this time I wasn't allowed to march—I'm still too short).

I spent many years playing soprano cornet with both the Kaiks and again following my shift to Invercargill.

Over the years I have played Bb cornet, tenor horn, baritone, euphonium and back to sop. Did you know that there is a big difference in the size of mouthpieces between eupho and soprano? I found that out the hard way!

Following the retirement of David (Tank) Hughes I have enjoyed the challenges of laying flugel horn.

While brass bands have been a large part of my social life I also really enjoy playing the trumpet and this means some conflict in the playing calendar from time to time.

I want to take this chance to thank all my tutors over the years.

A number of them are no longer with us.

Also a great thanks to all the members of Mosgiel, Kaikorai and Invercargill banding communities for your friendship. There is a good reason that us old fellas keep coming back! You are like family.



Stacey on the right with sister Bridget.

**Stacey Adams**—Stacey Adams is 15 years old from Riverton. Daughter of Marleen, whose profile was in September's issue, Stacey decided to follow in her Mum's footsteps and started to play music when she was 7. She started on the cornet, then horn and now is playing the baritone. A year 10 student at Southland Girls High School, Stacey has just finished NCEA level 1. She very much enjoys playing in the Auxiliary Band.



Probably the first photo of me in my Mosgiel uniform.

## Remember When

### Fundraising—Children's Doll Houses

Lynne Kennington and I called in to see Dot McDowell in Clyde a while back while we were passing and she happened to pull out the old photos. We took a copy of this, I am sure you older bandmen will remember these times.

Bob McDowell's truck with one of the first Hiab hoists in Southland unloading a playhouse at Dot & Ted McDowell's parents' house in Herbert Street which several bandmen, along with Dot, built in Bill Lindsay's yard.

All the materials were donated. The band made £2,000 (over \$4,000 in today's money) and tickets were sold for one shilling (10 cents) each. Dot thinks this was taken around the late 1960s.



From Left: Ted, McDowell, Charlie McDowell and Bob McDowell working the Hiab controls.

## Wanted

### BAND MUSICAL DIRECTOR

We are still looking for a Musical Director. We may be at the bottom of the South Island but Invercargill has so much to offer. Great friendly hospitality, lots of job opportunities, great beaches, never dries out—but most of all a great friendly family brass band society with 151 years of history. If you are interested please email the [secretary@ascotbrass.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ascotbrass.org.nz).





### DEPUTY CONDUCTOR

We are still looking for a person who would like to be our Deputy Conductor when our Musical Director is unable to be at band practices or take the band at certain events. If you are interested please email me at [secretary@ascotbrass.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ascotbrass.org.nz).

### IGB SECRETARY

Due to starting a new job I have stepped down as IGB Secretary as I could no longer give it my all. If anybody is interested in this satisfying roll please email the secretary or contact any member of the Management Committee. I will still be writing the Gazette's Quarterly Newsletter so please if there is anything you would like to share, stories whether past or present, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for all your support.

### IGB Society—Links

The December issue of **Mouthpiece** can be accessed via the link below:

Mouthpiece December 2019\_Online.pdf

IGB Website—[www.ascotbrass.org.nz](http://www.ascotbrass.org.nz)



We are always looking for supporters to help out now and again whether it is for working bees, concerts, or fundraising etc.

If you feel that you have a spare hour here or there or could help please contact Kerri on 021 151 0527 or email the secretary on [secretary@ascotbrass.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ascotbrass.org.nz).

### Blowers' Yarn

A man walks into a bar and orders a drink. After a while he notices there are pieces of meat nailed to the ceiling of the bar so he asks the barman what they are for. The barman replies, "If you can jump up and pull one of them down you get free beer all night. If you fail, you have to pay the bar \$100. Do you want to have a go?" the barman enquired. The man thinks about it for a minutes before saying, "Nah, the steaks are too high!"



### Thank You

I would like to finish this Christmas edition by saying a big thank you to Pat Service. For those that don't know, Pat is my rock and puts the Gazette together. A challenging job, especially with what I throw at her. Seriously, thanks Pat, you really are an amazing lady.

Also thanks to everyone for all the information you are sending in that I am needing. Okay—until next year



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR CONTACT INFORMATION  
PLEASE LET KERRI KNOW SO SHE CAN KEEP THE IGB DATABASE UP TO DATE.**

**The Invercargill Garrison Band Inc gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance afforded by the Invercargill Licensing Trust and the ILT Foundation.**

