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Garrison Gazette

Welcome

Welcome to the 6th 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.

We have had a busy three months since the last Gazette, not only with the local contest at Roxburgh but with ILT Awards, Anzac Parade and importantly the unveiling of the Alex Lithgow Statue at the Invercargill Civic Theatre.

Upcoming Events

Musical Jingo—Eastern Tavern (Glengarry)—7.30 pm—\$20 19 June 2019
BBANZ Nationals (Hamilton) 10-14 July 2019

What's Been Happening

On 30 March the IGB Society held their 151st AGM at the band rooms followed by a pot luck tea.

The Management Committee office bearers are Shaun Chalmers (President), Simon Ward (Treasurer), Secretary (to be sorted via committee), Committee Members Trish Gooding, Megan Gooding, Aaron Herman, Julie Loan and Dawn James. Dawn is also the Auxiliary Band Manager.

Congratulations to Jenny Sinclair and Kevin Dell on their election to the position of Band Patrons and Mayor Tim Shadbolt on his re-election as Patron.

ILT Awards

On Friday 12 April the band headed off to yet once again play at the Annual ILT Awards in the Civic Theatre. We played Skyfall (an Adele song) sung by Cheryl Anderson. An audience packed with countless musicians of all ages were kept in suspense as they waited to hear the results of the 2019 overall winner announced at the end of a great evening.

The Ascot Park Hotel Brass Band Awards went to:



Bands Person of the Year Award—Trish Gooding
(see players' profile)



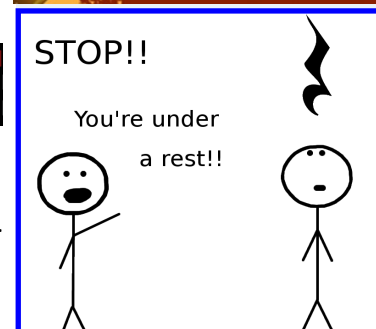
Most Outstanding Player Award—Josiah Brown

Over the last 12 months Josiah has made remarkable improvements to his playing, taking over the principal euphonium seat and have to play some horrendously difficult music. He is a versatile musician who is dedicated to make sure he performs at his best.

Not only is Josiah a dedicated euphonium player, he also dabbles with playing the trombone. Congratulations Josiah—well deserved.

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Alex Lithgow Unveiling—Saturday 13 April

Lloyd Esler and his team, after a few years in the making, achieved an amazing task and putting Invercargill on the map yet once again with the unveiling of the Alex Lithgow bronze statue. Opening with the Southlanders, the Senior and Auxiliary bands combined, the unveiling went ahead with the Sir Tim Shadbolt, the Mayor of Invercargill unveiling the bronze statue witnessed by Alex Lithgow's granddaughter Pat Ward, Great Granddaughters Diana and Helen and his Great Great Granddaughter Kaylee. Lloyd Esler spoke on how the unveiling came about followed by a moving speech from Pat. Matthew ended the unveiling with the one and only March 'Invercargill'.

Allie Reid, a local, purchased in Dunedin one of the original Edison Blue Amberol No. 1810 cylinder recording of the March 'Invercargill'. She gifted this to the IGB Society at the unveiling. Allie wanted it to be where it belonged and knew how important it would be to our Society. Speaking to Rodney, he thought it would be one of only a few left in the world and likely the only one to have made it back home to New Zealand, more importantly to Invercargill. The date of this recording is around 1910. Rodney has sourced an old relic machine which can play the recording to see if it is still in working order. I will keep you updated with the outcome.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MARCH 'INVERCARGILL' HAD NO NAME UNTIL SIX YEARS LATER WHEN IT WAS DEDICATED TO INVERCARGILL FOR THE MASSED BANDS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE QUICKSTEP AT THE 1909 NATIONAL CONTEST HELD AT RUGBY PARK IN INVERCARGILL?

The test piece was Webber's work.

Pat's Speech for those who could not make the unveiling.

Thank you for letting me share it with the Society.

"Later this year 'Invercargill' March will celebrate 110 years since it was first heard at Rugby Park on 3 November 1909. The quickstep was not an instant success, but, familiarity, publication in the United States and the 1st World War brought worldwide recognition.

'Invercargill' set all sorts of records in the early 1900s. The Edison Blue Amberol cylinder No. 1810 to name one. You could say the tune had the 'wow' factor.

To Invercargill, the Southernmost City in New Zealand (end of the world) and its citizens, I dedicate this March as a memento of many pleasant years spent there in my boyhood.

With these words inscribed on a sheet of music, Alex Lithgow brought fame to this city.

Brother Tom Lithgow, also a talented bands master, should perhaps receive some credit for the march as it was he who requested of his brother, suitable music for the 1909 National Band Contest at Invercargill.

In May 1913 'Invercargill' was among 17 Lithgow titles sold to W H Paling, music publishers. The total amount the composer received £100! It doesn't sound much compared with today's currency.

During the 1st World War 'Invercargill' accompanied ANZAC troops and was at Gallipoli, France and Germany when the battle-weary soldiers requested 'in for a gargle. Invercargill.' It was a bandsman favourite due to its playableness and being so familiar, they could render it in the dark. At an ANZAC victory parade in London, the quickstep was a hit.

During WW2 music helped lift spirits in Changi Prison. New Zealand veteran Herbert Hamilton wrote the 'Invercargill' from memory for the ill-assorted orchestra. The March was No. 1 for starting camp concerts and Mr Hamilton is on record as saying 'the birds were whistling it.'

On 5 November 1896 NZ Post Office produced a four stamp 'Music in New Zealand' series. The predominantly blue sixty cent denomination reproduced bars from Lithgow's celebrated composition.

This then, is a little about your namesake. Alex Lithgow was a prolific writer, not only of marches; his composition included waltzes, songs, caprices and suites. The exact number is unknown, possibly into the hundreds.

As a cornetist he was without peer, he was an able orchestral conductor, a bands master and a fine gentleman.

'Invercargill' March has stood the test of time. It is still popular throughout the world and its composer, Alexander Frame Lithgow, has now returned to the city of his youth. Thank you to everyone who made this possible."

A MESSAGE FROM ABROAD—Congratulations to the Ascot Park Hotel Brass Band for their splendid accompaniment to the unveiling of the Lithgow statue. It was a magic time for me and family members who visited Invercargill. What a surprise that Allie Reid kindly donated the 1910 piano roll. Could I urge others to look at the back of their bottom drawers to add items to the band cabinet. I shall do the same.



OSBBA Contest Roxburgh

On 6/7 April the Senior and Auxiliary Bands headed up to Roxburgh to attend the Provincial Contest. The weekend was fantastic and Roxburgh Pioneer Brass, along with the OSBBA, put on a fantastic contest yet again. Thank you to all concerned.

The Ascot Park Hotel Brass conducted by Matthew won the hymn and test and even though the Auxiliary Band didn't get 1st they did themselves proud, not only in the hymn and test but receiving the Besson Shield for the most points gained in the solos. Well done. Congratulations to all those who competed in the solo events, whether slow melodies, air varies, duets or quartets. You all did a great job and showed a lot of talent. Results can be seen on the OSBBA website or BBANZ Mouthpiece.

Players' Profiles



Trish Gooding—This year we presented the ILT Bands Person of the Year Award to someone who has a huge involvement within the band but who is not a player. In any organisation there are always people who work behind the scenes but don't necessarily get the rewards.

Trish Gooding has been the Band Manager for well over 10 years. This role requires countless hours organising us for contests and the likes, scoping out the best deals for travel and accommodation, making travel arrangements for out of town players and generally making sure we are all in the same place at the same time.

Her cooking is world class, as she will often prepare meals for the band when we are away at a contest.

It is a real family affair for Trish with husband Steve, daughters Megan and Nina and son Rueben all playing in the band.

Our band would not be who we are today without Trish in the background working her magic. Thanks Trish, we really do appreciate everything that you are doing for the Society.

Megan Ashton—Megan started in the Auxiliary Band when Kath invited her to come along and give it a go. She decided to learn cornet at first because her older sister's friend Trinity was doing it and it looked cool. She later moved on to the horn and is enjoying it.

As well as playing the horn, Megan enjoys dancing, singing and songwriting. At this stage Megan is wanting to become a dancer or dance teacher when she is older.



On A Sad Note

We sadly said our goodbyes to **Hazel Christie** in March. Most of you will know Hazel who was an exceptional piano accompanist in the IGB Society from the 1980s while playing your solos. Hazel had a heart of gold, always went out of her way to fit you in and always made you feel special and had the patience of a saint. When she resigned her post of band pianist as time went by she still played when she was able, doing the odd solo helping Jenny. Hazel's sendoff was beautiful.

We also sadly said goodbye to **Di Lenihan** in April. Di wasn't part of the IGB Society but was involved with the band either with her choirs or concerts. Di had so much passion and enthusiasm. I will certainly miss that coffee catch up.

Our hearts go out to the families of Hazel and Di. They both were very special to our Society in different ways and will be missed.

Vision's Reunion

Invercargill was very lucky at Easter as it held the music group Vision's reunion. Many of you might have heard Vision at the White House on a Saturday night or it might have been at the Muso's Club, starting out with just vocals then as time went by the brass was added catering for that musical period and changed the tonal colour. I was lucky to attend the concert they held at the Invercargill Working Men's Club which was packed out with over 600 Vision fans as they reminisced the music of the Vision Group from when it was first founded until the present day.



Two of the three original IGB Society brass players gathered up their trumpets to once again get dragged back in time and play the golden oldie music of their era. Kevin Dell and Trevor Tattersfield's playing was amazing. Practice certainly was the key!! Unfortunately the third original player David Naylor on trombone could not make the reunion, so they brought in the next best mini-me—YES the one and only Jim Turrell. You certainly were enjoying it Jim, along with everyone else. It really was a great night.

Musical Jingo Fundraiser—19 June

Grab your friends and family and come along to the IGB Society "Musical Jingo" fundraiser on Wednesday 19 June at the Eastern Suburbs Tavern (The Glengarry) on Glengarry Crescent. Start time is 7.30pm. \$20 per head receiving 4 Jingo cards. Similar to Bingo but with a musical twist. There is free WiFi and you are welcome to use your phone/Shazam to help. A great night of entertaining. Phone Trish (021 708739) or Aaron (027 7421 238) for tickets.



WANTED

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.

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

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b6c7a7_7672eac6c61b426fb58bd2be5952be0a.pdf

IGB Website—www.ascotbrass.org.nz

Alex Lithgow Unveiling Saturday 13th April 2019 (The Southland Times Video)

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/112029835/alex-lithgow-statue-unveiling-unearths-treasures-connected-to-the-invercargill-march-composer>



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.

Blowers' Yarn

Shortly after a British Airways flight had reached its cruising altitude, the captain announced: "Ladies and Gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight 293, non-stop from London Heathrow to New York. The weather ahead is good, so we should have an uneventful flight. So, sit back, relax and OH.....MY GOD"! Complete silence followed. Moments later the captain came back on the intercom. "Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm sorry if I scared you. While I was talking to you, a flight attendant accidentally spilled coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants"! From the back of the plane, an Irish passenger yelled "For the luvva Jaysus, you should see the back of mine"!



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.