

March 2020

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# Garrison Gazette

## Welcome

Welcome to the 9th 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. I can't believe another year has passed so quickly and again the IGB Society has got a busy start to the year ahead.

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

ILT Entertainment Awards	3 April
OSBBA (4/5 April, Mosgiel)	(Postponed due to Corona virus)
ANZAC Parade	25 April
IGB AGM	May (date to be advised)
APHB 'Look of Love' concert (Civic Theatre)	Saturday 16 May (with Ali Harper)
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 (Snr & Aux Bands)
Boys' Fishing Trip	October (date to be advised—usually 1st week)
Girls' Fishing Trip	20—22 November (Wanaka Resort)

## Auxiliary Band Playouts

The Auxiliary band will not be doing any playouts in the meantime due to the mix of age in the band and the risk involved with the Corona virus.

## What's Been Happening

**YMCA Carols in the Park**, organised for Wednesday 18 December (better night of the two weatherwise) was held once again at the Band Rotunda in Queens Park. The Senior Band, along with the choir led by Sarah Ray, braved the elements as they ventured out into the cold to perform Christmas carols to the general public, which I might add were also well wrapped up. The good old Southland weather never lets us down, even the rain held off until it was finished, mind you there was no mucking around this year.



Directed under Allan Spence the **New Zealand National Youth Brass Band**, along with guest artist Byron 'Buzz' Newton put on an amazing concert, held at Centrestage Theatre on 25 January. Our very own ex IGB members (pictured) along with many other young musicians showed so much talent and put on a fantastic performance. Well done ladies and gents and thanks.

L to R—Anna Redmond, Reuben Brown, Jack McKenzie.

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George doesn't let his asthma get in the way of his playing in the band.



## Patrons' Profiles

For this Gazette I have decided to profile our very own Patrons. With the passing of Hazel Christie it was decided unanimously at the last AGM to appoint Kevin Dell and Jennifer Sinclair as Patrons of the Society. Kevin and Jennifer are two amazing people who have put so much into the IGB Society and Band Movement over the years and still do today. This gives us four Patrons in total namely Sir Tim Shadbolt (KNZM, JP), Rodney Sutton (MBE, JP Rtd), Kevin Dell (ONZM) and Jennifer Sinclair.

Following are the profiles for Rodney, Kevin & Jennifer. Due to the daily challenges facing Sir Tim at the moment he was unable to submit his profile this quarter but will have it up and ready for June.

### Rodney Sutton (MBE, JP Rtd)



It's hardly surprising that with parents heavily involved in music that their children would be encouraged to pursue the same enjoyment. It was the case with me, at a time the country was still recovering from WW2 and well prior to the electronic age I was taught as a boy soprano eventually competing in national competitions from Invercargill to Christchurch. My mother was a competent pianist, accompanist, viola and cello player while my father played cornet for the old Dominion Band of Invercargill and in later life he became a very good clarinettist. My interest in brass began in 1947 as a bugle player and drummer in the Tweedsmuir School band and the Jellicoe Sea Scout Drum Fire and Bugle Band, and two years later the Southland Technical College Brass Band. This musical activity didn't meet the full approval of my parents however but it did lead to a more promising beginning into the world of a genuine brass band when Capt CCE Miller, conductor of the Invercargill Garrison Band, thrust an old brass baritone into my hands with instructions to blow it. Instant success came my way competing in a solo event for the first time when I won the contest by playing the solo 'The Broken Melody'. This was rewarded by being promoted to an equally old and leaky euphonium of doubtful origin in

1950 and my transfer from the Boys Battalion Band to its senior band in 1951. At least approval was shown by my parents and my mother especially showed a keen interest in piano accompaniments for many years.

Upon my 21st birthday my parents gave me a brand new 4 valve low and high pitch euphonium hand made by George Hatt, a well known employee of the suppliers Boosey & Co London. It was suitably embellished and instantly became my pride and joy. Over the years I have played professionally for many A grade bands as well as some in C and D grade but my joy was as a member of the 1962, 1965, 1967 and as conductor of the 1980 National Bands of New Zealand. On two further occasions I was invited into the brass section of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, one of those being the inaugural tour of Australia in 1974 which featured the world famous soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawha.



In 1970 I developed an interest in the life of Alex F Lithgow, a member of the Invercargill Garrison Band from 1880 to 1894 and composer of the march 'Invercargill'. This triggered communications with Mrs Jean Larkin, Lithgow's daughter of Perth Western Australia and more recently Mrs Pat Ward his granddaughter living in Armedale Western Australia, both of whom exchanged information and items of interest gathered over the years. In 2018 I was particularly pleased to be part of the Alex Lithgow Statue Trust to raise funds to erect a bronze statue to commemorate the work of this famous composer. Descendants of A F Lithgow from Australia were present for the statue opening and the photo included shows great, great, granddaughter Miss Kaylee Chin aged 11 years attempting to play the cornet presented to AFL in 1893 for winning the New Zealand Cornet Championship of that year. Finally I add that I have cherished my time both as a player and conductor of the Invercargill Garrison Band and the fond memories that linger.

### Kevin Dell (ONZM)

I started playing in 1956 in the Invercargill Civic Boys Band (girls didn't play brass instruments in those days). Louis Fox was the conductor. He was a well-known conductor and cornet player and I was lucky to get private lessons from him on Saturday mornings. I had some success as a junior player winning a National Solo Contest and being selected for the 1959 National Youth Band (well they called it a National Junior School).

My first National Contest was in 1962 (in those days the junior solos were separate) and I was 2nd in the Amateur Cornet. I was able to play in the Champion of Champions because the winning junior soloist was eligible. That was a good experience.



As time went on I went to University and played with St. Kilda then one of the top bands in the country. When I returned to Invercargill I joined the Invercargill Garrison Band because the Invercargill Civic Band had ceased to exist. Over time I managed to win the following National Titles: 3 Cornet Championships; 1 Champion of Champions; 3 Duets (all with David Hughes); and 5 Quartets (1 at St Kilda and 4 with IGB). I have been selected for 8 National Bands (3 as Principal Cornet) and managed 4 National Bands (one while playing in it). I also played with a band selected (mainly from UK players) for a memorial service for Harry Mortimer.

About 1970 I developed an interest in band administration and spent some time as secretary and then president of the Otago & Southland Association. In 1975 I was elected to the Management Committee of New Zealand Brass Band Association (now BBANZ) and I stayed there for over 30 years including 11 years as its President.

I am proud to say that I am a Life Member of the Invercargill Garrison Band Society; the Otago & Southland Brass Band Association and the Brass Band Association of NZ.

Brass Bands have given me a huge amount of pleasure largely because of the great friendships made.

### Jennifer Sinclair



I have been playing the piano since I started picking out nursery rhymes when I was three. Lessons started when I was eight and music has always been part of my life since then. I have always enjoyed accompaniment work particularly and have been lucky enough to play for our sons Grant and Blair from kindergarten events to university auditions with plenty of demanding work in between. Being a band accompanist was a new challenge altogether as many accompaniments were orchestral transcriptions made for people with more than 10 fingers!! It has been a privilege to play for so many soloists over the years and watch young soloists blossom into performing.

Jennifer with sons Grant (left) and Blair (right).

## 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.

## Stolen Flugel

Please be on the lookout for a Gold Flugel Yamaha Maestro Horn Serial Number #450608. It was stolen from a car in Christchurch.

If you have any leads please contact Chris Bull ([chrisb@jamesbull.co.nz](mailto:chrisb@jamesbull.co.nz)—phone 027 2246 591).



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

## IGB Society—Links

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

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mSmi28mmfreBbeS5TKxZo6PmRQOBYKF\\_/view?ts=5e5cadda](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mSmi28mmfreBbeS5TKxZo6PmRQOBYKF_/view?ts=5e5cadda)

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).

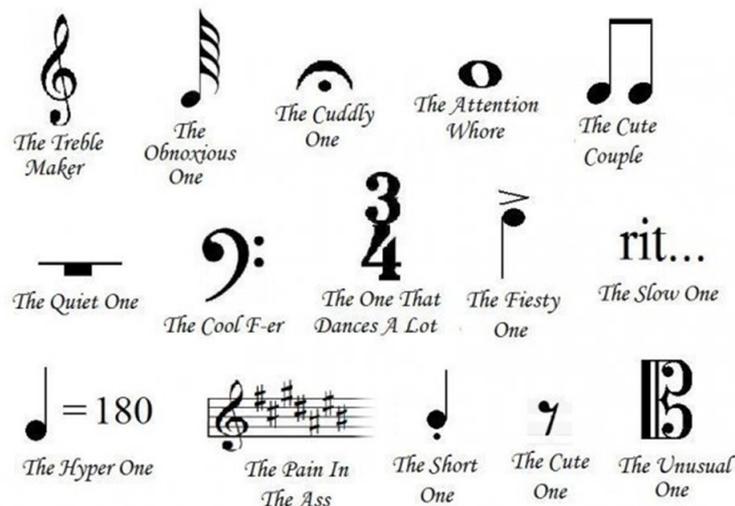
## Blowers' Yarn

A man walked into the local supermarket in London and asked to buy half a head of lettuce. The boy working in the product department said they only sold complete heads of lettuce. The man insisted so the boy went and said to his manager, "some old bugger wants to buy half a head of lettuce". As he finished his sentence, he turned around to find the customer standing behind him, so he quickly added, "and this gentleman kindly offered to buy the other half." The manager approved the deal.

Later he called the boy back into the office. "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of a tricky situation earlier", he said. "We like people who can think on their feet. Where are you from son?" "New Zealand, sir" the boy replied. "Why did you leave New Zealand?" the manager asked. "Sir, there is nothing but loose women and rugby players there." "Is that right" replied the manager a little frostily. "My wife is from Otaki New Zealand!" "Really" replied the boy, "What position does she play?"



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



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