

# The Performer

## Newsletter of the Australian National Eisteddfod Society



PO Box 94 Civic Square ACT 2608

Phone/Fax 6249 7421 Website [www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au](http://www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au)

Newsletter editor: Doris Rowland: [doris.rowland@netspeed.com.au](mailto:doris.rowland@netspeed.com.au)

June 2010

### **RESUMPTION OF ANES AGM**

**Tuesday 29 June 2010**

**7.30pm**

**Ainslie Arts Centre**

**Braddon**

At the Annual General Meeting in March, all the business on the agenda was completed except for the election of office bearers. The members decided that we needed a new structure to govern the Eisteddfod and that a subcommittee should be appointed to draw up a plan. This task was completed and the results brought before the continuing committee of 2009, which approved the suggestions. At the moment the necessary constitutional amendments are being written and will have to be approved by the committee before they are formalised in the constitution and put into practice by means of elections.

In the meantime it is necessary to finalise the business of the AGM and elect a new committee under the old constitution. This committee will oversee the transition to the new order.

It is very important that this committee has enough members to make decisions even though one or two members might be away. All the offices are voluntary and the committee members are busy people who have many responsibilities. They have work pressures which mean that from time to time people resign or take a break from committee work. A continual flow-through of members is needed.

And at this stage the work to be done is necessary but not great in volume. The committee will be in caretaker mode pending new arrangements, and the important decisions of accepting the changes to the constitution and calling a Special General Meeting to approve them will not take a great deal of time. Please consider whether you can help.

**We are especially in need of a Treasurer (preferably an accountant) as our treasurer has had to resign owing to pressure of work in her regular job.**

The term of membership has been extended to allow members to vote at the AGM, but renewals will fall due after that, and the next renewal date will be as before, the 31<sup>st</sup> March

### **Calendar for 2010**

Division	Entries close	Division dates
Bands and Orchestras	<b>Completed: see report</b>	
Choirs	24 July	13-14 August
Piano	2 July	31 Aug – 4 Sept
Singing	4 June	6 – 11 Sept
Speech and Drama	6 August	20 – 23 Sept

### **Eisteddfod Office**

The Eisteddfod Office is staffed part-time by Mary-Helen Davidson. Leave messages on the answering machine if she is not in the office. Phone 62497421.

The office email address is:  
[eisteddfod@grapevine.net.au](mailto:eisteddfod@grapevine.net.au)

The postal address is:  
PO Box 94, Civic Square, ACT 2608

### **Eisteddfod off to strong start with Bands and Orchestras**

The Bands & Orchestras sections of the Australian National Eisteddfod, held from May 27-30 in three venues around Canberra, were a great success. Over 3,000 individuals and 106 school and community groups from Canberra, Sydney, Wollongong, Hunter Valley and Yass participated in the event.

**The Adjudicators**, Martin Hardy and Brendan Magee, were extremely well received by

participants, and consistently highlighted the high standard of performances.

**Most sections were conducted on a non-competitive basis**, with assessment based on attainment levels of Gold, Silver or Bronze. A total of 26 Gold trophies, 35 Silver and 6 Bronze reflects the high standard of performance.

Canberra City Band won the Open A Grade Concert Bands, with Ginninderra Wind Orchestra Highly Commended. Other winners included Twilight Jazz Band (Open A Grade Jazz Bands), Hail Lucy Nation (Rock Bands), Willoughby City Band (Open A Grade Brass Bands), Wollongong Conservatorium of Music (Open Orchestras) and Radford College (Open String Orchestras)

**Interstate groups** to participate included Hunter School of Performing Arts, Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, St John's College (from Dubbo) Northern Youth Symphonic Wind Band (from Sydney) and Young Public School.

All sections over the weekend produced a high level of musicianship, and much enjoyment for both players and audience.

Here are some (unedited) comments from interstate groups

**David Snell, Wollongong Conservatorium of Music:** "Many thanks once again for all your help last weekend at the Eisteddfod. The kids had a great time and were really pleased to come away with a couple of awards. It was a great experience for them to play in such a good venue and to hear (and meet) the other ensembles. It's so important that musical kids get to meet others, they can often feel a bit 'unusual' for playing an instrument, so it's really good that they got to talk to a number of the players in the other bands and orchestras". And David Rooney, Wollongong Conservatorium of Music: "Thank you for putting on such a well organised event. Our students really had a wonderful experience. It was worth the trip just to play in Llewellyn hall, but also great to hear all the other ensembles. The adjudicator's remarks were very useful feedback for us."

Photo below: **Wollongong Conservatorium Concert Band. T8 Photography**



**Matthew Walmsley, Northern Youth Symphonic Band:** "I was very impressed with the organisation of the band competition on Saturday.

My band thoroughly enjoyed performing in a good hall and the parent committee were very complimentary of the way the day was run. Of course receiving a gold award and winning a section made the trip worthwhile but none the less it was an enjoyable experience."

Below: **Lyneham High School Beginner Concert Band. Photo T8 Photography**



Below: **Gold Creek School Concert Band**



Photos taken by Tate Needham of T8 Photography

Used with permission. Photos can be ordered from the following website:

<http://t8photography.photomerchant.net/galleries/eisteddfod-2010>

## **Choirs Division 2010**

The Choirs Eisteddfod will be held on 13-14 August at Llewellyn Hall ANU. The Syllabus is available on the Eisteddfod website.

[www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au](http://www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au)

There are several changes to the format as follows:

**13 August : Friday DAY Program:**

**9.30am-2.30pm**

These sections now refer to ages rather than to School Years

\*10 years and under Section

\*12 years and under Section: This will incorporate the former Welsh Section and each choir will be required to include one Welsh piece in their repertoire. If it is sung in Welsh then the choir will have an opportunity to win a further \$250 courtesy of the ACT Welsh Society. Suggestions for pieces can be obtained from either the Convenor, music

stores, on Google or by listening to CD's of Welsh music.

\*12 years and under Sacred Section

**13 August : Friday NIGHT Program : from 6pm**

\*12 years and under Championship

\*19 years and under Championship

**14 August : Saturday Program** (starting time dependent on the total number of entries)

\*Open Sacred Choral

\*Open Contemporary

\*Australia-Britain Section

**14 August : Saturday NIGHT Program: from 6pm**

\*Open Popular Choirs Championship

\*Open Australian Choirs Championship

The closing date for entries is 24 July, however the committee would appreciate entries being sent in well before this date.

**Interstate choirs are advised to book their accommodation early.**

The Committee is delighted that Anne Williams, the Director of the stunning Eltham East Primary School Choir in Victoria, is able to again adjudicate the Primary Sections. Anne will be joined for all the Open and Championship Sections by Dr Deborah Shearer-Dirie, Musical Director of the Brisbane Concert Choir, Vox Pacifica Chamber Choir, and a newly formed semi-professional group of singers called Fusion. She maintains an active career as a choral conductor, music educator, clinician and scholar. These fine choral musicians will also be running a Choral Workshop for Choir Directors after the Choirs Eisteddfod on Sunday morning 15 August. More details will be given later.

The Choirs Committee would like to hear from anyone who would like to support this Division, either by sponsoring a Prize or a Section at the event or by volunteering to help for all or part of the weekend. If you are able to support this Division, please contact the Choirs Convenor Dianne Anderson by email at [dianne\\_anderson@yahoo.com](mailto:dianne_anderson@yahoo.com) or on 6295 1213 or 0414 628 007.

## **Piano 2010**

The Austral Asian Church, Ringrose Crescent, Isaacs, and the Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest, will be the venues for the 2010 Australian National Eisteddfod, Piano Division. to be held from Tuesday 31 August to Saturday 4 September. The Austral Asian Church will be used for the General sections and the all the

Open sections apart from the Open Piano Recital. This will be held at the Wesley Music Centre on Saturday 4 September.

The syllabus for the 2010 competition is available on the Eisteddfod's website:

<http://www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au/> and hard copies have been mailed to teachers who have participated in the past. If you require a hard copy, please contact the Eisteddfod office on (02)6249 7421.

The adjudicator for the Piano Division will be Kathryn Lambert from Sydney.

## **Speech and Drama 2010**

Blaxland High School Drama and the Hunter Region Drama School have shown interest in coming to Canberra to participate this year, while the Canberra Academy of Dramatic Arts (CADA) directed by James and Elizabeth Scott is joining the list of sponsors for Speech & Drama. (The Academy is growing in popularity, having classes throughout Canberra.

## **Singing 2010**

The singing syllabus is now on the website and printed copies have been sent to Conservatoriums, Universities and private teachers locally and interstate

There will be four adjudicators

**Junior/Intermediate:** Christina Wilson

**Musical Theatre and Popular Song:** Stephen Pike

**Senior and National Aria Competition:** Margaret Schindler

**National Aria Competition.** Geoffrey Chard

The venues are: Austral Asian Christian Church in Isaacs for Monday to Friday 6-10 September and the Llewellyn Hall for the final of the National Aria.

The venues, adjudicators and accompanists have been organized. The volunteer roster is being drawn up. (All help is welcome)

Ticket prices for the aria are Adult \$27.50, Concession \$20.00.

With the assistance of staff at Tulloch Management a flyer has been prepared and printed ready for distribution.

**The next newsletter will be a short memo after the AGM on 29 June**