



MORAWA DHS BRASS BAND SUCCESS

The Morawa District High School Brass Band have done it again! After winning the Junior C Grade Division at the Yamaha National Brand Championships held in Perth in 2013, the band went on to successfully defend their title at the 2014 Championships in Brisbane over the Easter long weekend and returned champions yet again!

Morawa District High School Tour leaders were Katie Brooks, David Parkinson, Helen Walter (the Band's musical director), and parent helpers Dave and Caddy Hebiton and Karen Teakle, and along with 24 students, made the long trip to Brisbane to compete.

"Preparations for the event had students rehearsing competition pieces for ten weeks prior, with twice weekly rehearsals in the final four weeks", said Helen Walter.

"The Morawa Band students were wonderful ambassadors for their community and for the brass music youth of WA."

The performance venue was St. Laurence's College in South Brisbane, but it was not all work and no play – fun activities included an Australia Zoo visit, Dreamworld, a dinner river cruise on the Brisbane River, Queensland museum visits, the Gallery of Modern Art, movies and a ride on the Wheel of Brisbane.



The Morawa Brass Band is the only government school based brass band in WA, and just two WA bands went to Brisbane to compete in the 2014 Championship.

Much fundraising was undertaken by the DHS band committee, plus sponsorship and donations from various

groups and individuals during the year leading up to the tour. About \$25 000.00 was raised to help with the cost of sending the students, staff and helpers.

Having only recently assumed the leadership of the young musicians after the retirement of long standing bandmaster Dean Carslake, Helen Walter, with 14 years' experience teaching brass and instrumental, was very pleased with the success the band achieved.

In the competition, the pieces played by the Morawa band were Hyfrydol (hymn), Four Old Dances (test piece), Our Director (march) and The Eagles in Concert (own choice).

"The competition was close, with Morawa winning the test piece and the march, and the Sunshine Coast Youth Band winning the hymn and own choice.

There were only one or two points of difference in all these pieces and the scores were tied up at the end, so a count back was done and the band that scored most points for the test piece was declared overall winner – luckily for us it was the Morawa District High School Brass Band.