



HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

MORAWA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL BRASS BAND - NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Not since 1979 has Perth hosted the National Band Championships, but Easter weekend saw Bands from all over Australia fine tuning their skills in this prestigious event at the University of WA.

Morawa District High School Brass Band, the only Public School Brass Band in Western Australia, has a long and proud history spanning fifty years, and the performances at this competition was a culmination of months of practise, dedication and years of tradition. Competing, and winning at the Yamaha National Band Championship was a fitting reward for the students, parents, Senior Band Master, Mr Dean Carslake and Instrumental Music Teacher, Mrs Helen Walter.

“To compete at a National level has been a great opportunity for the students”, said Bandmaster, Dean Carslake.

“We have 70 students in our instrumental program at the Morawa District High School, and when you consider that we have a relatively small school population of 233 pupils, the percentage of students participating is amazing, and a testament to our devoted music department, staff, community supporters and parents.”

After many years successfully competing in the State Band Championships and School Bands Festival, twenty four students, representing Morawa District High School, took the next step into the National Championships, playing four separate pieces; a hymn, a test piece, a march and a crowd favourite from ABBA.

“To learn a test piece of music in eight weeks is a testimony to the positive and focused approach the students have taken. This was a once in a life time occasion and everyone involved has risen to the challenge”, continued Mr Carslake.

Morawa’s dedication was recognised when they were named National Junior C Grade Champions, with Adjudicator Mark Ford, commenting on the passion and enthusiasm that he could hear coming from the band through their music, declaring their performance was comparable to the adult community bands that had preformed.

“It was a sensational result, the band peaked at the right moment and really nailed their performances. They conducted themselves professionally and winning the division was a reward for all their hard work and commitment.”

“We couldn’t be happier, competing and winning was exciting, but all the positive feedback from the adjudicator and members of the audience was greatly appreciated by the students and made all the hard work worthwhile,” said Mr Carslake.