

**City of Burnie Brass Band  
Annual General Meeting – 20 September 2022**

**President's Report**

It is with a great honour that I present this report, to outline the achievements of the Band and the Committee over the last twelve (12) months.

I must commence with a confession that I have not called and chaired regular committee meetings throughout the year, but that is not to say that the committee members, and particularly the Executive have not been committed to progressing the business and administration of the City of Burnie Brass Band.

Behind the scenes, our Treasurer, Jenni Watts, has continued to manage our finances, but our budget is an issue that we must continually consider, to ensure that we remain as a strong viable organisation. We can have all the dedicated members, players, followers and support base, but without an income that matches or exceeds our expenses, our long-term existence and survival is at risk. Behind the Burnie Athletic Club, we are the longest serving volunteer organisation, with over 130 years of service to our community, but we need everyone's commitment to fundraising to guarantee our survival.

I pay tribute to our Secretary, Rebecca Wells, who has worked tirelessly, and often in isolation, to ensure that the business of our Band is progressed, and opportunities for performances, fundraising and recruitment are pursued at every opportunity. This has been a major contribution, while undertaken in tandem with furthering the 'Get Brassy' program, which has become a fantastic venture, not only providing music tuition to numerous junior members in our community, but has been a great initiative to showcase and promote the service of the City of Burnie Brass Band.

In referencing the 'Get Brassy' program, I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Del Polden, Jo Dunn, Natasha Bakker, Gaylene Dunn and Andrew Webb for their dedication with regular support and tuition. A highlight for us all was a three (3) day music camp late last year, gratefully hosted at Leighlands Christian School. What a brilliant effort and outcome to showcase the achievements of our next generation of musicians !!!

The Band has been through the wringer in recent years, with the manipulation by the University of Tasmania and Burnie City Council, to acquire our long term Bandroom, and actively work against our interests in providing a new fit for purpose facility to accommodate our needs. It breaks my heart to see the anguish and negative toll it has created for many of our members who have battled through the ordeal to get a fair hearing and negotiate on behalf of our Band.

Fortunately through the tireless brokering of our Patron, Councillor Alwyn Boyd, later joined by Councillors Pease, Bulle and Brumby, we are now in a situation where the Band is currently being offered some hope for a positive future, with support to find a new facility. While I publicly thank all our previous members that have fought for our cause, it is important that we acknowledge the huge community following we gained when our struggles were placed in the public domain. In more recent times, Senior Vice-President Kathleen Matthews has played a huge role in attending meetings, drafting plans and negotiating a better outcome for our future facilities.