



Croydon Citizens' Bands (Inc.)

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Croydon Citizens' Bands Treble Champions in 2017

The **Croydon Citizens' Bands** (www.ccb.org.au) have pulled off a tremendous feat – winning a national championship and two state championships in the one year.

This Easter, members of the **Croydon Brass Band** travelled to Launceston to compete in the 2017 Australian National Band Championships. Following months of rehearsal the band, under the musical direction of Melina Benger, was rewarded, winning the Australian National Band Championship in D Grade for the first time for the organisation.

Then, on Saturday 19 August, forty plus members of the **Croydon Wind Symphony** travelled to Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat to compete in the 2017 Victorian State Band Championships. Under the musical direction of David Billimoria, the band won both B and C grade competitions. The band previously won B grade titles in 2000 and 2002.

The Croydon Brass Band also attended the Victorian State Band Championships and against stiff competition placed third in the D Grade Brass Band section, further capitalising on their National success. The band previously won the D Grade State title in 2014.

“This is the second competition for the Brass Band this year. Having already brought home our first ever prize in the D Grade National competition, it was a very big ask for our band members to compete again. They did an amazing job and I'm very proud of them all!” said Melina Benger, Musical Director, Croydon Brass Band. The busy band is now preparing for a special National Champions concert in November, followed by further preparations for more events and competition work over the next year. “We will take about four weeks over Christmas to refresh”, said Melina.

Pieces ranging from quiet ballads, fast moving tales of the sea and marches were chosen for the competition performances. Competing across several different sections gave all members a chance to enjoy playing their favourite type of music, honing skills in different ways.

“We don't play in contests very often so we decided to make a real go of it enter into two grades. It was a great way to improve our skills and gets us some great feedback so that we can improve further” said David Billimoria, Musical Director, Croydon Wind Symphony

“Every band member brings something different to the band – we are a community band with no barriers. We don't hold auditions, everyone is invited to come along and be part of a great ensemble” said Kathy Elston, Band Manager, Croydon Wind Symphony

“This was my first competition. I really enjoyed the experience; the venue was great and the volunteers running the competition were fantastic. Performing fun and challenging music after rehearsing for months was fantastic!” said Paula Mackenzie, Croydon Wind Symphony member.

THANKS

Thanks to both musical directors David Billimoria and Melina Benger for their tireless enthusiasm and great direction.

ABOUT THE CROYDON CITIZENS' BANDS

The Croydon Citizens' Bands comprises over 80 musicians across three bands (Croydon Brass Band, Croydon Wind Symphony and Croydon Concert Band) and performs regularly for the local community.

We don't audition and members attend weekly band rehearsals to join in the fun. We perform at concerts, community events like the Maroondah Festival and organise our own events including band camps.

For more information about the bands, see www.ccb.org.au. To discuss media enquiries, joining or concert opportunities contact Peter Heath, President on 0403 533 372.