

bands + ensembles

★ ★ ★ THE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

The School Orchestra was formed half way through 1963 with only nine members, but now we have twenty. We have been guided through the year by the helping hand of our music teachers, Mr Saunders and Mrs Lawrence. Most of the instruments of the orchestra were given to the School by the Education Department.

The members of the orchestra are:—

Violins: Allan Whitehouse 5A
David Mason 2B
Geoffrey Coggins 1C
John Allison 1C
Reean Sneddon 1C

'Cellos: Martin Tuck 3A
Norman Nicholson 1B

Trumpets: Phillip Byrnes 4B
Greg Ryman 1B

Trombone: Michael Seadon 1B

Violas: Andrew Deakin 3D
Colin Blackman 2E

Flutes: Greg Street 2A
Paul Fairfax 4C

Clarinets: John Street 3A
Greg Nathan 3G
David Morgan 4D
Bill Dangerfield 3G
Andrew Hardwick 3G
John Argent 3C

We have lost Michael Pyne, a 'cello player, who joined the Music Branch of the Army. He is now learning the clarinet but is continuing with his 'cello playing.

One of the members of the Orchestra Andrew Deakin (*Viola*) was selected to play in the Combined Secondary Schools Orchestra which gave a concert in the Sydney Town Hall on the second of July. The Orchestra was conducted by the Director of Instrumental Music in Secondary Schools, Mr Lindsay Aked.

We are all grateful to Mr Saunders for the instruction he has given to the trombone and trumpet players and to Mrs Lawrence who has helped our string section. We are looking forward to another successful year when we hope to have a bigger and better orchestra.

MUSIC The year 2000 has been a busy one for the school band. The band got underway with a performance at Sega World, Darling Harbour in Term 1. Shortly afterwards Mrs Coomber took leave to have a baby. During this time Mr Matthew Dempsey conducted the band.

In May, the band played for the Fortieth Anniversary celebrations of the school, where they were joined by Ross Judd and Stephen Bartlett. It was also a great honour for the band to be conducted by the State MP for Hornsby, Mr Stephen O'Doherty.

Members of the Asquith Boys' School Band attended the Asquith Girls' Band Camp held at Naameroo in June, and then combined with them in a performance at their Performance Arts Night. At the start of Term Four, Mrs Coomber resumed conducting the band.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate and thank Chris Hutchinson of Year 12 for his commitment to and support of the school band during his time here. His musicianship inspired many of the younger players and he will be greatly missed. We look forward to an exciting year in 2001.

On Monday 22nd February, the Year 12 music class attended **Encore**, a concert showcasing the best of the HSC music performances and compositions from 2015. Out of 6000 music candidates, only 22 are granted the honour of being selected for Encore. This concert was a valuable experience for the ABHS boys, as they were able to see the high standard of candidates from all over the state. I would like to commend the boys on their conduct at the concert; they were excellent representatives of the school.

The Band Program is off to an excellent start this year, with a large number of new members, many from Year 7. It is wonderful to see the commitment the boys have to this program, and we are looking forward to a musical year ahead. Later in the year the Stage and Concert Bands will travel to Port Macquarie to participate in the "Big Band Blast", which is an enjoyable experience for all involved. The ABHS bands also enter many band competitions throughout the year. Any students interested in joining either the Concert or the Stage Band are welcome to come and see me for more information.

Ms K Salisbury, Music Teacher
March 2016 Backchat

Top left: 1964 School Magazine p25

Left: 2000 Northerly p34

Below left photo: 2006 Opera House Choir

Below photo: 1969 School Orchestra, photo by Vic Grieve

Photos right page from top: 2004 Philip Ruddock with ABHS + AGHS Band in Parliament, 2005 Student ensemble (Bart Johnson Chris Imrie) at Sports award Assembly, 2005 part of Stage Band at Hornsby Westfield during Education week.

Band Tour to Canberra

The tour two weeks ago of 11 of our boys and 9 girls from AGHS was a great success. Accompanied by Ms Cooke (the tour leader), Mr Williamson, Mr Powis and Ms Beeson (music teacher from the girls' school), the boys played at several venues, including the Great Hall at Parliament House. Despite the calling of a Federal election just before the tour, Hon Philip Ruddock still agreed to meet with the boys at Parliament House. Thanks to the teachers who organised this event; it is particularly good to see the boys and girls working together again. We look forward to future ventures by the Band, and hope that the connection with the girls' school can be further developed.

Left: September 2004 Backchat

Below: 1967 School Magazine p53

Bottom: 1966 School Magazine p42



"When is the next orchestral concert, Sir?" -- a usual question after a visit to the Sydney Town Hall for a performance by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and one which is most encouraging. This year fifty boys were selected to attend the series of four orchestral concerts arranged for school children by the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The programmes included abridged versions of Symphonies, "Corroboree" Ballet Suite by John Antill, and lectures on the instrumental families, illustrated by short works played by the relevant instruments. The guest conductors for this year's series were Joseph Post, Director of the State Conservatorium, and Sir Bernard Heinze.

The School Choir and Instrumental Ensemble prepared works to be included in the production of "Macbeth -- An Experiment in Drama, Design and Music". It is difficult to assess the results of the "experiment", but if the aim was to give pleasure to an audience then it was undoubtedly a success.

The evening began with an item by the Wind Ensemble, "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik" (Mozart), which led into the opening scene of the play. The recorder group, and Choir, provided interludes in Elizabethan style, e.g.: *Greensleeves*, *Golden Slumbers* and *Bring Us In Good Ale*.

These groups are now rehearsing Musical items for the Seventh Annual Speech Day in December and it is hoped that their efforts will add more colour to the afternoon.

MUSIC REPORT, 1966

"If Music be the food of love, play on".
--Twelfth Night.

There has been a great deal of musical activity in the School this year, and since Block G was opened, the new Music rooms have been filled with the sounds of the Junior and School Choirs, the Glee Singers, the Recorder Group, and the Brass and Woodwind Quartets. These groups all attained a commendable standard, and the boys are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and proficiency. Mrs M. Thompson, and Messrs. J. Saunders, R. Morphey and A. Strong must be thanked for the effort and time they have donated to the training of these groups.

At the School's Music and Drama Evening, considerable emphasis was placed on Music, and items were presented by all groups, instrumental and choral; all were received well by the audience. Four of these groups-- the Junior Choir, the Glee Singers, the Brass Trio and the Woodwind Quartet--also performed at the Pennant Hills Community Centre during the Hornsby Shire Arts Festival in August. This was the first time that any of our groups has represented the School in public, and it was very gratifying to be invited to do so.

The Music Department is deeply indebted to the Parents and Citizens Association for the provision of a new piano to be used in the second Music room. This is proving an important asset in the musical education of the boys at the School.

There is a great untapped reservoir of musical talent in the School, and it is hoped to make use of this talent as activities become more extensive. It should be stressed that a boy need not study Special Music to join one of these groups -- all boys are welcome to take part. So why not come along -- learn an orchestral instrument, join one of the choirs, or join the boys with the guitars.

