

# KEREPEHI BRASS BAND NEWSLETTER

## ROWEN GARRETT QSM 1936–2025

It was with deep sadness that the Kerepehi Brass Band announced the passing of our beloved member, Rowan Garrett, on the morning of 26 August 2025. Born on 4 June 1936, Rowan dedicated an extraordinary 79 years to the band he loved—from its founding in 1946 right through to his final days.

Rowan was more than a musician; he was the beating heart of the Kerepehi Brass Band. Over the decades, he filled nearly every role imaginable—serving as President for 40 years, Librarian, Band Sergeant, mentor, and friend. His loyalty, leadership, and warmth shaped not only the music we played but the spirit of our band family.



His dedication extended beyond Kerepehi, earning him Life Membership in both our band and the Waikato Bay of Plenty Brass Band Association. In 2021, Rowan was awarded the Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for his services to brass bands—a fitting recognition of a life spent uplifting others through music. That same year, his story was shared nationally when Seven Sharp highlighted his incredible journey as a lifelong bandsman.

Rowan, you leave behind a legacy of music, friendship, and community spirit that will live on in every note we play. You will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing you.

With love and gratitude,  
The Kerepehi Brass Band

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- UPCOMING EVENTS
- 2025 WBOPBBA REGIONALS
- OKTOBERFEST
- BATTLE OF BRITAIN
- UPDATES ON THE JUNIOR BAND, SOCIAL BAND & DRUM CORPS



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### **2025 has turned into a huge year for the band.**

The passing of Rowan Garrett hit the band hard — he was the heart and soul of Kerepehi Brass for many decades. After our performance at the regional contest in Hamilton, I mentioned to the band, “Rowan would be so proud of how far the band has come over the last few years.” I stand by that statement.

Looking ahead to the ever-busy Christmas season, the band has a full line-up of performances and parades to keep us on our toes. On top of this, we'll once again be doing our carolling rounds to raise funds for 2026.



I'd like to thank you all for your heartfelt messages and continued support throughout the year. We're looking forward with a positive attitude, continuing the legacy of Rowan Grey Garrett QSM.

Many thanks,

**Luke van Vliet**

**Kerepehi Brass Band President**

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## EMAIL LIST

If you'd like to stay in the loop with everything happening at Kerepehi Brass, we'd love to have you on our email list. Simply send an email to **friendsofkerepehibrassband@gmail.com** with the word **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line. By joining our mailing list, you'll receive occasional updates about upcoming concerts, community events, parades, and other exciting news from the band.

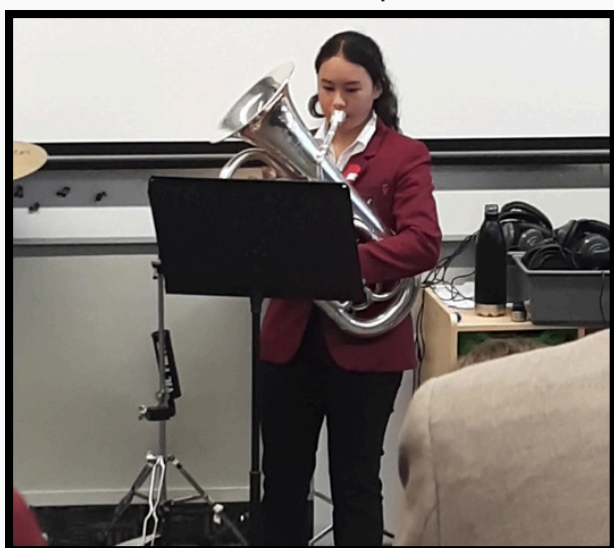
## SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget, you can also keep up with Kerepehi Brass on Facebook and Instagram, where we share photos, updates, and behind-the-scenes moments from rehearsals, performances, and community events. You can also visit our YouTube channel to watch some of our recent performances and see the band in action. We'd love for you to follow, like, and share our posts — it really helps us reach more people and grow our audience.

# 2025 WAIKATO BAY OF PLENTY BRASS BAND REGIONAL CONTEST HOSTED BY HAMILTON CITY BRASS

**DAY 1 – SOLO, DUET AND ENSEMBLES  
SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER – SOUTHWELL SCHOOL**

On the first day of competition, Kerepehi Brass was proudly represented by both our senior and junior players, who took to the stage across eight different solo and ensemble categories. From brass solos to small group performances, every musician brought their best to the stage – showcasing not only their talent, but also their hard work and dedication in the lead-up to the event. Their efforts paid off, with some fantastic results and personal bests achieved throughout the day. It was an inspiring start to the weekend and a wonderful celebration of our band's depth of talent!



**3rd – Slow Melody U16, & Variation U16**  
Kiara Curtis-Apeu – Kerepehi Brass



**4th – Slow Melody U16**  
Jessie Logan – Kerepehi Brass



**4th – Novice Class**  
Howard – Kerepehi Brass



**5th – Novice Class**  
Ryanne – Kerepehi Brass



## EVENT: ENSEMBLES PRIMARY SCHOOL

### 1st Place – Kerepehi Brass Primary School Ensemble





## EVENT: ENSEMBLES D GRADE

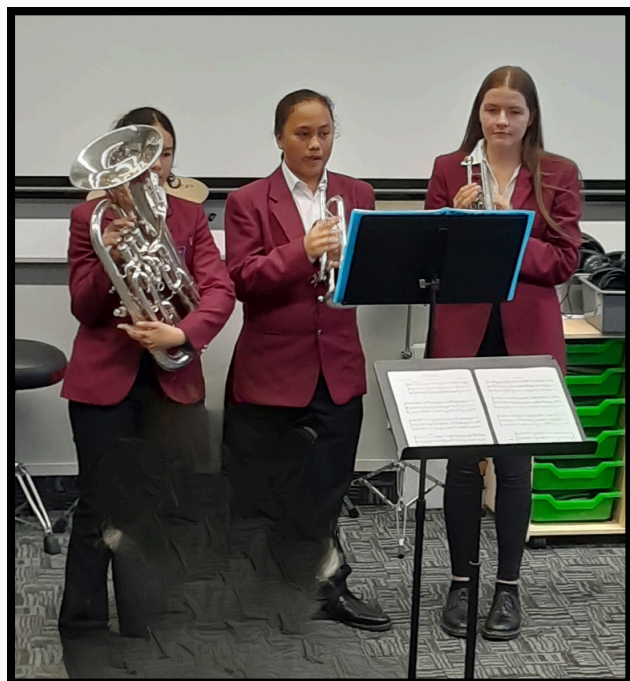
### 1st Place – Kerepehi Brass Junior Band





## EVENT: QUARTET (TRIO) U19

### 1st Place – Kerepehi Brass Junior Trio



Kiara Curtis-Apeu, Sergio Marshall  
(Adjudicator), Kui Curtis-Apeu &  
Jessie Logan





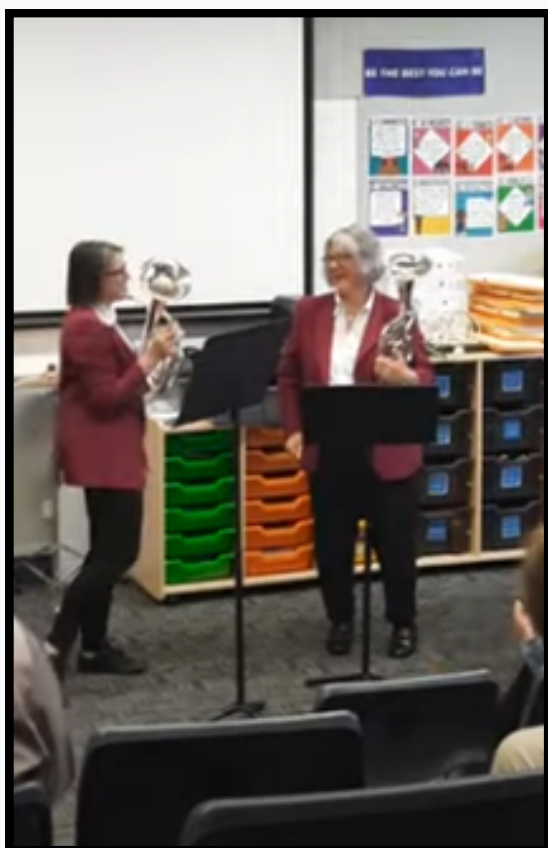
## EVENT: INTERMEDIATE SOCIAL CLASS

1st Place – Sue Williams, *Kerepehi Brass*



## EVENT: OPEN DUET

Elizabeth Pope & Sue Williams



## DAY 2 – BAND EVENTS

### SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER – SOUTHWELL SCHOOL

Sunday was the Band Events Day, where all six competing bands performed 45-minute showcases to see who would come out on top!

Kerepehi Brass had an absolutely fantastic time, and delivered strong performances across all sections, proudly earning 2nd place in both the Hymn and Own Choice categories. We were thrilled to take 1st place in the Soloist and Light Music sections, and even more excited to defend our Public Appeal title for the second year running!

Overall, Kerepehi Brass placed 2nd in our grade, a result we're incredibly proud of. A huge congratulations to Koru Brass Hamilton on their win, and heartfelt congratulations to our talented cornet player, Daniella van Vliet, whose stunning performance earned her the title of Best Soloist Performance – a truly outstanding achievement!



#### Our Contest Songs:

- AN ETERNAL SUNSET BY LAND & SEA  
– Martin Ellerby, arr. Andrew Christie
- 'MID ALL THE TRAFFIC (Hymn)  
– Leonard Ballantine
- OREGON (Test piece)  
– Jacob de Haan
- CARRICKFERGUS (Solo)  
– arr. Alan Fernie
- BREEZIN' DOWN BROADWAY  
– Goff Richards



Thank you to Richard Lummus for the amazing photos.





We had Rowan's tuba on stage throughout our performance.





# BEST SOLO PERFORMANCE

Daniella van Vliet



## MORE PHOTOS FROM REGIONALS





# SPECTACULAR CONCERT! – SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Kerepehi Brass Band's Spectacular Concert on Saturday 6 September at St James church in Thames! It was a fantastic evening as we rehearsed and performed the pieces we played at the Waikato Bay of Plenty Brass Band Regional Competition on 20th-21st September. The concert gave us the chance to fine-tune our competition pieces, and it was great to have you all there to experience the journey with us.

## Highlights of the Evening

- Daniella van Vliet: A special thanks to our soloist, Daniella van Vliet, for her fantastic performance. Her contribution was a highlight of the evening, and we're grateful for her dedication to the band.
- Kerepehi Brass Junior Band: It was a pleasure to see our Junior Band take the stage and perform two pieces of their own. Their progress continues to impress, and we're excited to see their development as musicians.
- New Drum Corps: A big thanks to our new Drum Corps, who performed publicly for the first time. We're looking forward to seeing them grow and become an even bigger part of the band in the future.

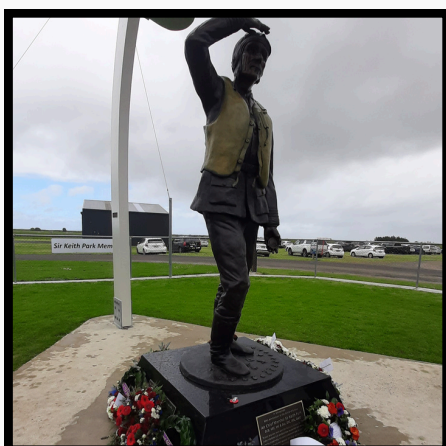




## BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATIONS

On Sunday 14 September, we were honoured to take part in the 85th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Britain at the Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield in Thames. The ceremony was attended by a number of distinguished dignitaries, including Chris Penk – Associate Minister of Defence (and Minister for Veterans), Darryn Webb – Chief of Air Force (Air Vice-Marshal, Royal New Zealand Air Force), Brett Clayton – Base Commander, RNZAF Base Auckland (Group Captain), and Lesley Park – Great-niece of Sir Keith Park, who gathered to pay tribute to the brave individuals who fought in the Battle of Britain. One of the most moving moments of the day was the long-awaited unveiling of the statue of Sir Keith Park, a tribute to his remarkable legacy and to the many New Zealanders who played vital roles during this historic battle.

Sir Keith Park, born in Thames, was a decorated WWI fighter pilot and went on to have a distinguished career in the Royal Air Force (RAF). His leadership and strategic brilliance were crucial in the defence of London and the south-east of England during the Battle of Britain, where his actions earned him widespread admiration.



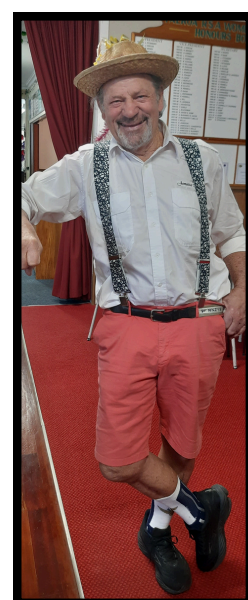


# FROTHBLOWERS 2025 OKTOBERFEST TOUR



**WAIHI** ✨ **KAIAUA** ✨ **PAEROA** ✨ **RANGIRIRI**

Kerepehi Brass' spirited Oktoberfest band, The Frothblowers, brought their unmistakable Bavarian energy to audiences across the Hauraki and Waikato regions this October, performing at the Waihi RSA, Kaiaua Bay View Hotel, Paeroa RSA, and the Rangiriri Hotel. Each event was packed with the true spirit of Oktoberfest — lively sing-alongs, infectious laughter, and plenty of good beer for the audience to enjoy. A special thank you goes to Alistair McMillan for organising and leading each event — your enthusiasm and dedication helped make this year's Oktoberfest performances such a success.





## LIONS CLUB OF NGATEA INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE ELDER PERSON

Kerepehi Brass' Oktoberfest band, The Frothblowers, were pleased to perform at the Lions Club of Ngatea's event celebrating the International Day of the Elder Person on 29 September 2025 at the Ngatea War Memorial Hall.

The group presented a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon of Bavarian-style music, featuring a mix of familiar tunes and sing-along favourites. The audience joined in with plenty of enthusiasm, creating a friendly and cheerful atmosphere.

The International Day of Older Persons is observed around the world each year on 1 October, following its establishment by the United Nations in 1990. The day aims to recognise the contributions that older people make to their families, communities, and society, and to promote respect, inclusion, and care for all generations.

This local celebration was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the older members of our community, while sharing music and laughter together.

The Frothblowers greatly appreciated the invitation and the warm welcome they received from everyone who attended.





## LEARNER'S GROUP/KEREPEHI BRASS JUNIOR BAND

The Learners/Junior Band has had an outstanding year in 2025, with 18 dedicated players attending weekly sessions. This strong turnout is a clear indicator of the bright future ahead for Kerepehi Brass and highlights the vibrant, growing musical community we're building together.

Under the expert guidance of Clive Burnell, our learners have made impressive strides. Clive's passion for teaching, along with his unwavering commitment to the group, has been instrumental in their progress. His leadership continues to inspire the players, helping them reach new heights in their musical journey.

Recently, many of our learners had the opportunity to perform at the Kerepehi Brass Spectacular Concert, where they showcased the hard work they've put in throughout the year. They also participated in the WBOPBB Regionals, where they came away with a well-deserved win! It's incredibly rewarding to see these young musicians not only growing in confidence but also excelling in public performances.

What's especially exciting is watching several of our learners begin to transition into the main band. This progression is a testament to the supportive, nurturing environment we've worked hard to create, where musicians can develop their skills at their own pace. Whether you're picking up an instrument for the first time or returning after some time away, the Learners Group is the perfect place to start your musical journey.





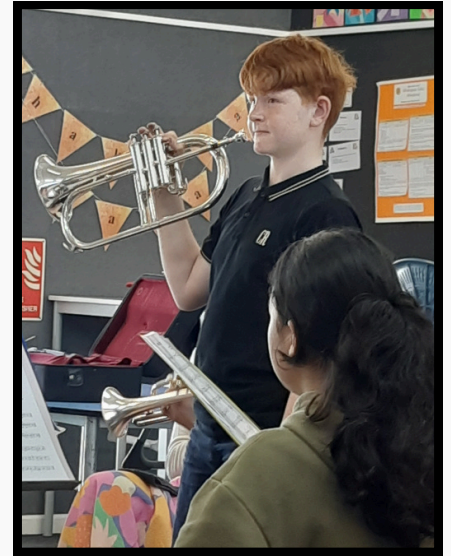
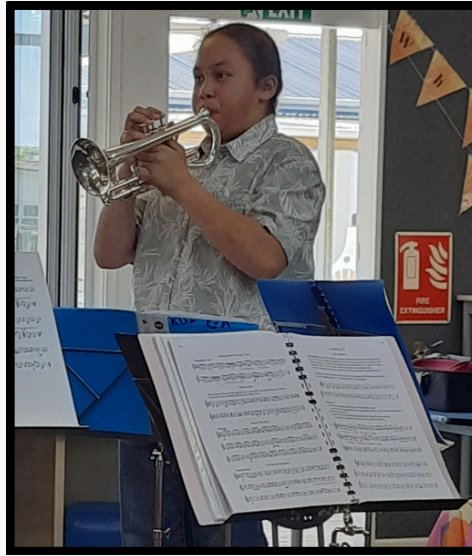
## KEREPEHI BRASS JUNIOR BAND TOUR

On Friday 7 November, our Junior Band visited four local primary schools – Ngatea, Kerepehi, Kaihere, and Turua. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to show off their instruments, perform some of the pieces they had been working on, and inspire others with their passion for music. It was a fun and exciting day for everyone involved!





# KEREPEHI BRASS JUNIOR BAND TOUR



## Open Day for Learners

We will be holding an Open Day for Learners on Tuesday 11th November, at 5:30pm. If you're curious about joining or just want to learn more, we'd love to have you come along! It's a great opportunity to meet the team, see what we're all about, and get a feel for the Learners Group.



## Looking Ahead

The last day of lessons for 2025 will be Tuesday 2nd December, but be sure to catch the Junior Band in action at our Christmas Concert on Saturday, 6th December! We'll be restarting lessons in February 2026, and we're already looking forward to the year ahead.

Interested in joining? We welcome new learners at any time throughout the year. If you'd like to find out more or sign up, get in touch with us today!



## KBB SOCIAL BAND

The Social Band is thriving and growing, with regular weekly attendance now averaging around 20 musicians. The group has been out and about, playing various small concerts throughout the local communities. Recently, they delivered a warm and well-received performance at Heatherington House and will wrap up their year with a performance at Ohinemuri Rest Home.

The Social Band plays a vital role within our community. It offers an inviting space for more experienced musicians or those who prefer a less formal and relaxed environment to keep playing, enjoying music, and connecting socially. The sense of camaraderie, friendship, and musical joy that fills each session is truly special. Along with their own performances, the group contributes to important events like ANZAC Day and provides vital support to fellow band members during difficult times, demonstrating their close-knit and caring nature.

A huge thank you to Sietske de Jong, who continues to do an outstanding job as the band's conductor. While Sietske is happy to lead, we are also keeping an open ear for anyone who may be interested in assisting or taking on the conductor's role in the future. If you or someone you know would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

The Social Band meets every Monday at 1:30pm at the Kerepehi Brass Band Hall. They've now wrapped up for 2025 but will be back in 2026 with even more music, fun, and friendship. If you're interested in joining or would like more information, feel free to drop in during one of their practices next year or contact us at [kerepehibrass@gmail.com](mailto:kerepehibrass@gmail.com).





## DRUM CORPS

Our Drum Corps continues to grow and evolve, thanks to the incredible enthusiasm and commitment of our dedicated team. A special thank you to Neville for his generosity in helping to get the Drum Corps off the ground. His enthusiasm and support in the early stages were invaluable. Although Neville stepped down from his active role last term, we are fortunate to have Janine continuing to guide the group with her leadership and expertise. We're excited for the journey ahead!

### Classes & Costs

Term-time lessons are Thursdays, 6:30–8 pm, at Kerepehi Brass Band Hall (14 Matai Street, Kerepehi). Classes are open to anyone interested in learning drumming, with additional personalized tutoring available upon request.

Fees:

- Weekly Lesson Fee: \$5/week (billed termly)
- Annual Stationery Fee: \$15
- Optional Equipment (discounted prices):
  - REMO 6" Practice Pad – \$34
  - VATER 2B Drumsticks – \$24

Students need their own sticks and practice pad, though we offer equipment for the first session. If cost is an issue, please reach out—we strive to make the Drum Corps accessible to all.

### Recent Performances

We're proud of the Drum Corps' public debut at the Kerepehi Brass Band's Spectacular Concert and their standout performance at the Waikato Bay of Plenty Brass Band Regionals. Their energy and precision impressed everyone!

### What's Next?

Our goal is to build a skilled team of snare drummers to perform at sports events, community parades, and alongside the brass band in joint concerts. We're grateful to Janine, Edwin, and Alistair for their contributions in bringing this vision to life.

If you or your child are interested in joining, contact us at 021 039 6183 or [kerepehibrass@gmail.com](mailto:kerepehibrass@gmail.com).







KEREPEHI BRASS BAND

*Christmas  
Concert*

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER  
7PM

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St George's Anglican Church,  
602 MacKay Street, Thames

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ADMISSION

Adults - \$15, School Children - \$5  
Under 5s Free

Tickets available at the door or [www.eventbrite.co.nz](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

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[WWW.KEREPEHIBRASS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.KEREPEHIBRASS.CO.NZ)





# CAROLS IN THE GORGE 2025

Attention all brass players! Registrations for Carols in the Gorge 2025 are now open! Brass musicians of all ages and abilities are warmly invited to take part in this incredible annual event.

Over the years, we've welcomed players from across New Zealand — and even a few from overseas — who have joined in the festive fun. To help us prepare music and organise groups, please make sure to complete the registration form (available via our Facebook page and website).


The event is a true highlight of the season. We divide into two bands — one travelling clockwise, the other anti-clockwise — and meet in the middle of the rail tunnel for a spectacular carol performance surrounded by hundreds of singers. It's an unforgettable experience and one of the most unique Christmas events in the country.

Last year, Seven Sharp joined us to capture the magic — you can watch their feature on our website. We can't wait to make this year's Carols in the Gorge even more memorable!

SUN 21 DEC 2025 6:30 PM

# CAROLS IN THE GORGE

— HOSTED BY KEREPEHI BRASS —



**KARANGAHAKE GORGE**  
The Karangahake Gorge is located on State Highway 2, just south of Paeroa. Meet at the main carpark.

**WHAT TO BRING**

- **Everyone:** Comfortable walking shoes and a headlamp/lightsource for the tunnel.
- **Players:** Lyre (carols books will be provided).
- **Spectators:** Christmas spirit and your singing voice!

**PARKING**  
Parking will be at a premium. The main carpark is likely to fill up quickly. **CARPPOOL IF YOU CAN.**  
Overflow parking is available at the Karangahake Hall carpark and further up Crown Hill Road. There will be a short walk along the track to the start point at the main carpark.

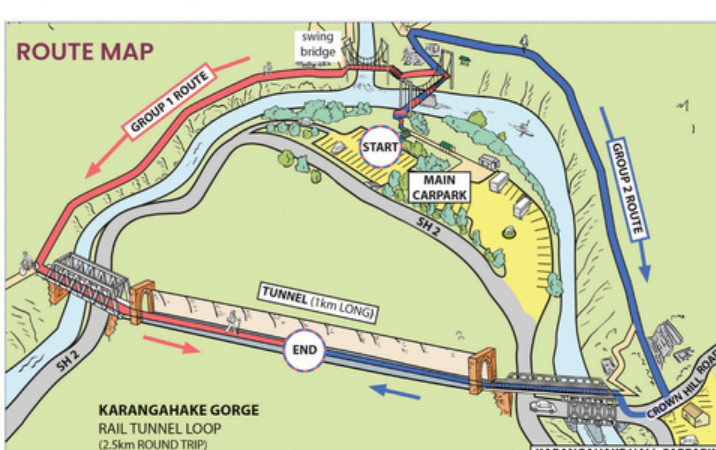
**ACCESSIBILITY**  
The Rail Loop Track is an easy walk but there are steps, and surfaces may be uneven. Spectators who do not wish to walk the track can wait at the Karangahake Hall – the band will come to you by 7:15pm.

**ROUTE**  
The event starts at 6:30pm from the main carpark. Players will be divided into two groups, walking the Rail Tunnel Loop track and stopping to play at intervals along the way.

**Group 1** walks the track in an anti-clockwise direction, towards the swing bridge.

**Group 2** walks the track in a clockwise direction, towards the Karangahake Hall. Both groups meet in the middle of the tunnel at around 7:30pm for a carol singalong. Donations to the Band are welcome.

**ROUTE MAP**



**KARANGAHAKE GORGE RAIL TUNNEL LOOP (2.5km ROUND TRIP)**





## UPCOMING EVENTS 2025 CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

### CAROLLING AROUND TOWN

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER – PAEROA 6.30PM

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER – THAMES 6.30PM

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER – NGATEA 6.30PM

WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER – THAMES 6.30PM

### PAEROA SANTA PARADE

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER – 6PM

### THAMES SANTA PARADE

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER – 11AM

### KEREPEHI BRASS BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER – ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, THAMES – 7PM

### WAIHI CHRISTMAS AT THE LAKE

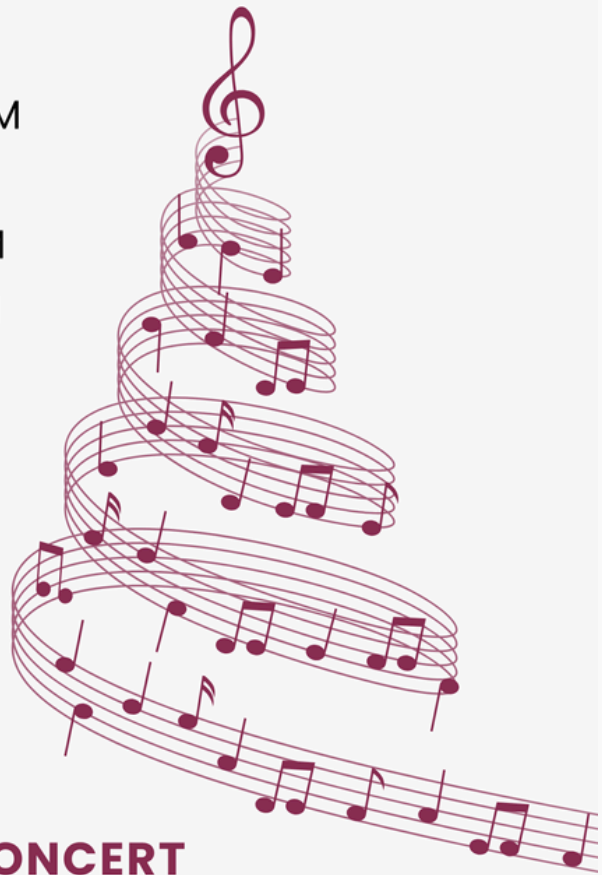
SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER – GILMORE LAKE RESERVE

### NGATEA SANTA PARADE

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER – 5.45PM

### CAROLS IN THE GORGE

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER – KARANGAHAKE GORGE – 6.30PM



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**PLEASE NOTE – ALL EVENTS, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.  
PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST DETAILS.**



## THANK YOU

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the organisations that supported us in 2025 – including Akarana Community Trust, United Lodge 340, Grassroots Trust, We Care Community Trust, NZCT, and Chris Tate Architecture – for their generous grants and continued support.

These contributions make a real difference – helping us maintain instruments, provide music and resources for our learners, and continue sharing music with our community.

Your support is deeply appreciated and plays a vital role in the ongoing success of Kerepehi Brass Band. Thank you for investing in the future of music in our region.





## TO DONATE

We would like to thank everyone in our community for their continued support! We are a registered charity (CC38086) and rely on donations to keep running. If you would like to make a donation to us, our bank account details are:

**Kerepehi Brass Band Inc**  
**03-1572-0020634-00**

THANK YOU!

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**thrifters**



**Lions Club  
of Ngatea**



**AOTEAROA  
GAMING  
TRUST**

**nzct**  
COMMUNITY TRUST

**Rotary  
Paeroa**



**HAURAKI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**grassroots**  
trust



**Lions Club  
of Paeroa**



**United Lodge  
340**

## KEREPEHI BRASS BAND

**Come and join us!**

**Senior Social Band**

Mondays - 1.30pm

**Learner's Lessons**

Tuesdays - 4.15pm

**Kerepehi Brass Band**

Wednesdays - 7pm

**Kerepehi Drum Corps (New!)**

Thursdays - 6.30pm

## Contact Details

✦ 021 039 6183

✦ kerepehibrass@gmail.com

✦ 14 Matai Street, Kerepehi

✦ [www.kerepehibrass.co.nz](http://www.kerepehibrass.co.nz)

**Serving the Hauraki District and surrounding areas since 1946!**

