

KEREPEHI BRASS BAND NEWSLETTER

A NEW BEAT BEGINS: MEET THE KEREPEHI DRUM CORPS!

What started as a casual conversation in Mitre 10 Waihi has quickly grown into one of the most exciting developments in recent Kerepehi Brass Band history. Thanks to the passion and initiative of a few inspired individuals, we're proud to officially launch the Kerepehi Drum Corps—an energetic, disciplined, and proudly local addition to our musical family.

At the heart of this new group is none other than Neville Corson, a legendary figure in the world of New Zealand drum corps. Neville's boundless energy, generosity, and passion for percussion have been truly inspiring. When asked about starting a drum corps, he didn't miss a beat — his answer was simple: "Let's do it." And do it we did.



Building the Beat

In just a few short months, Neville and a passionate team—including Janine Parrish and our own Alistair McMillan—have helped lay the foundation for what's shaping up to be something very special. With the help of Neville's incredible network of contacts and a shared vision of musical excellence, the band has already received generous donations of instruments and equipment. It's clear: this isn't just an idea anymore. It's a movement.

Learn, Play, Perform

Currently, we're thrilled to have over 10 students enrolled and learning the art of drum corps drumming each week. Under Neville's expert guidance (and with Janine's support), students are gaining skills that go far beyond rhythm—they're learning discipline, teamwork, and musical literacy. We're teaching formal snare drumming, just like you'd see in elite groups such as the Royal Marines Band. *(Continued...)*

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Classes & Costs

Term-time lessons run every Thursday from 6:30pm to 8pm at the Kerepehi Brass Band Hall (14 Matai Street, Kerepehi). Classes are open to anyone eager to learn. Extra tutoring is also available by arrangement.

Costs are minimal, just enough to cover expenses and materials:

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

Students will need their own sticks and pad, but we're happy to lend gear for the first session. If affordability is a concern, please talk to us—we're committed to making the Drum Corps accessible to all. *(Continued...)*



Neville Corson & Janine Parrish

What's Next?

Our vision is to create a team of snare drummers capable of performing dynamic routines at sports events, community parades (Christmas and ANZAC), and joint concerts with the brass band. There's no limit to what this group could become, and with Neville's guidance and the support of our band family, the sky's the limit.

We extend our sincere thanks to Neville, Janine, and Alistair for turning this vision into reality. Your dedication has laid the foundation for something truly special.

So, if your child—or you!—have ever dreamed of being part of something rhythmic, exciting, and full of energy... this is it.

To enrol or ask questions, get in touch today! Contact: 021 039 6183 or kerepehibrass@gmail.com



SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget we are on many different social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Also, check out our YouTube channel for some of our recent performances. Give us a follow and a like! We love to see our followers enjoying our content!

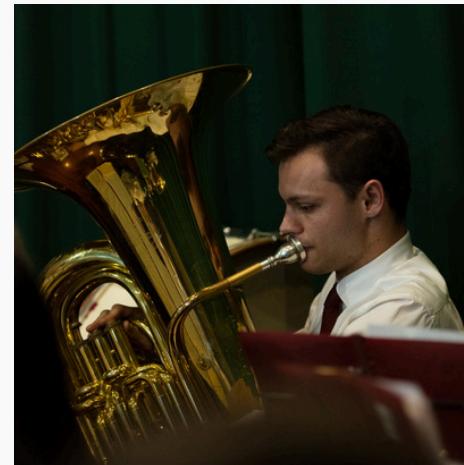
EMAIL LIST

If you would like to join our emailing list, please email **friendsofkerepehibrassband@gmail.com** with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject box. We will send out occasional emails informing you of any upcoming events or exciting news.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been an action packed start to the 2025 year with the band keeping extremely busy. Touring of the band rotundas and supporting local events around the district has kept the band calendar filled.

ANZAC day was once again a major event for the band. Members were once again called upon to all ends of the district to bugle and take part in services. It's been rewarding to see so many of the younger players taking up the job on the bugle.



After ANZAC Day, the band turned its attention to putting together a concert that would extend the band musically, and provide the opportunity to feature soloists. We were very proud to show this to a good crowd in Ngatea a week ago. Focus for the band now starts to look forward to preparing for the Regional Contest in Hamilton, and Battle of Britain Commemorations in Thames.

The start of the year has also seen the forming of a Drum Corps group for the Kerepehi Brass Band Inc. This new group is off to a fantastic start, thanks to the dedicated team behind its setup and operation. The Drum Corps welcomes new players, with training available from the ground up – no prior experience necessary!

At our recent AGM, it was promising to see continued growth in both the Senior Social Band, and Learner's Lessons/Junior Band. Thanks needs to be given to the enthusiastic team behind the scenes. The AGM also has seen the majority of committee members continuing in their roles as well as a few new members coming on board. I'd like to make special mention to the band's new Drum Major, Tony Hunter.

Thank you once again to all our supporters, sponsors, and community. It's been a fantastic start to the year, and your encouragement is what makes it all worthwhile. We can't wait to see what the rest of 2025 has in store for us.

Many thanks,
Luke van Vliet
Kerepehi Brass Band President

NGATEA WINTER CONCERT – SUNDAY 15 JUNE

Thank you to everyone that came along to our winter concert! It was a great afternoon of music. A special thanks to our soloists – Fleur Weaver and Elizabeth Pope, and our guest musicians for their fantastic contributions. We are also very proud of the Kerepehi Junior Band that performed two pieces! We really appreciate everyone's support!



Elizabeth Pope



Fleur Weaver



Kerepehi Brass Junior Band



Kerepehi Brass Band



KEREPEHI BRASS BAND CONCERT

SUNDAY 15 JUNE 2025 - 2 PM

MUSICAL DIRECTOR - ANDREW CHRISTIE

- **THE DAM BUSTERS MARCH** - Eric Coates, arr. Dawson
- **FLOWERDALE** from Hymn of the Highlands - Philip Sparke
 - * Featuring Hiro Kobayashi on Soprano Cornet
- **ASCALON** - Ralph Pearce
- **WELLINGTON MARCH** - Wilhelm Zehle
- **EVENTIDE** - arr. William Rimmer
- **MID ALL THE TRAFFIC** - Leonard Ballantine
- **ACES HIGH** - Ron Goodwin, arr. Frank Bryce

INTERVAL

- **ODE TO JOY** - Ludwig van Beethoven
- **A GROOVY KING OF LOVE** - Toni Wine and Carole Bayer Sager
- **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF SELECTION** - Jerry Bock, arr. Alan Street
- **OVER THE RAINBOW** from The Wizard of Oz - Harold Arlen & Yip Harburg, arr. Goff Richards
 - * Featuring Elizabeth Pope on Tenor Horn
- **YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE** from Carousel - Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II, arr. Darrol Barry
- **YOU RAISE ME UP** - Rolf Lovland, arr. Alan Fernie
 - * Featuring Fleur Weaver on Bass Trombone
- **THE SOUND OF MUSIC SELECTION** - Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II, arr. Dennis Wright

ANZAC DAY – A DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

ANZAC Day is the most significant and busiest day of the year for the Kerepehi Brass Band. The day began early, with most of the band heading to Paeroa for the dawn service, while a smaller group represented us at the Kerepehi dawn service. We also had buglers playing at several other commemorations throughout the Hauraki and Thames districts.

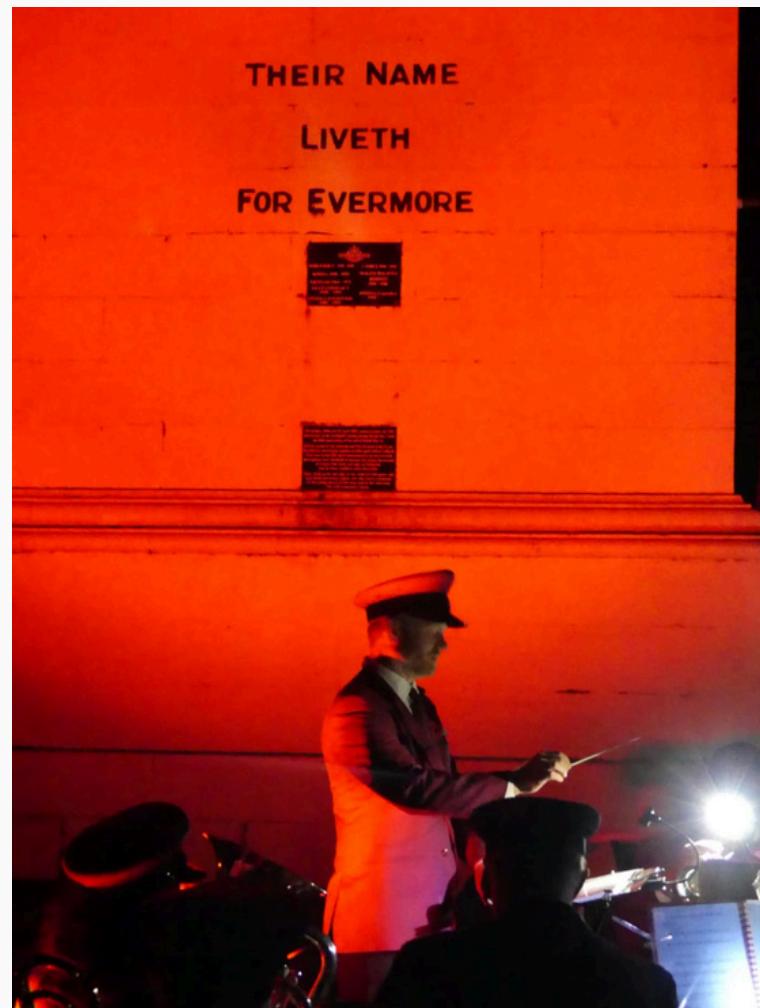
Following the Paeroa dawn service, we were honoured to be invited to the Paeroa RSA for a well-earned breakfast. Then it was time to set up for the Paeroa Civic Service at the War Memorial Hall. While there was no street parade in Paeroa this year, the service itself remained a moving tribute.

As soon as the Paeroa Civic Service concluded, it was all hands on deck to quickly pack down and head straight to Ngatea. There, we needed to set up again in time for the Ngatea parade and service.

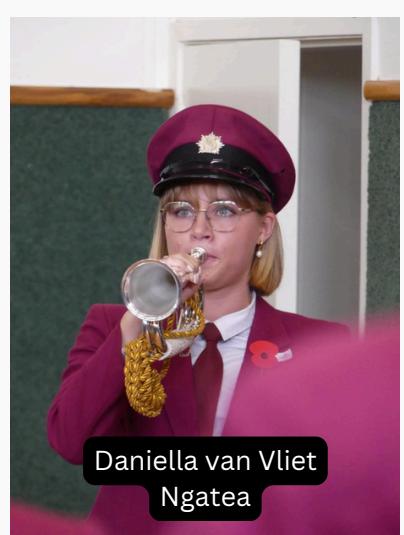
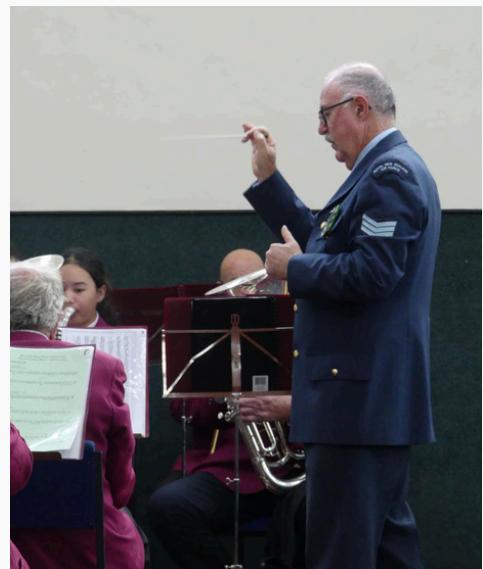
We are always incredibly proud to support our local communities through music on such an important day. It's a privilege to serve at these commemorations and contribute to the remembrance of those who served.

- Lest we forget.

(Thank you to Sam Bettany for the photos).



ANZAC DAY CONT...



REAL LIFE SUPER HEROES DAY – PAEROA DOMAIN

On Sunday, 2 March 2025, Kerepehi Brass Band played at the inaugural Real Life Superheroes Day at Paeroa Domain – a free community event celebrating the essential workers and volunteers who keep our region safe. Organised by Hauraki District Council in partnership with Civil Defence Waikato, Thames-Coromandel, and Matamata-Piako District Councils, the event featured emergency services, support agencies, and community groups, all offering demonstrations, displays, and safety advice.

We were thrilled to be part of it – not just to entertain, but to support a great cause and help celebrate the people who make a difference every day. A big thank you to the organisers for inviting us along. We look forward to the next one!



KAUAEERANGA VALLEY FAIR



On Saturday, 5 April, Kerepehi Brass Band was pleased to be part of the lively atmosphere at the Kauaeeranga Valley Fair.

We enjoyed contributing to the day's festivities with music that added to the relaxed, family-friendly vibe of the event.

With stalls, food, local crafts, and a great community turnout, it was a wonderful opportunity to share what we do and connect with audiences beyond the band hall.

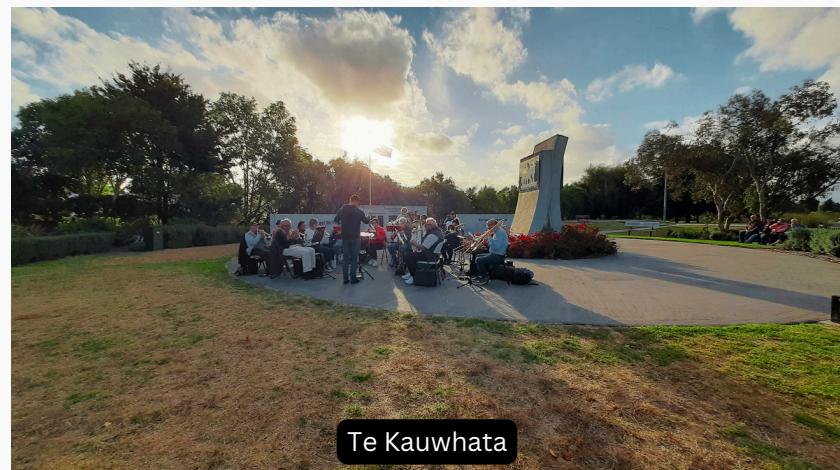
BAND ROTUNDA REHEARSALS

Earlier this year, Kerepehi Brass Band took a break from the band hall and brought our Wednesday night rehearsals out into the community, making the most of some of the beautiful band rotundas across our region.

On 12 February, we kicked things off at the Paeroa Domain Band Rotunda, enjoying the opportunity to rehearse in a space filled with local history. A week later, on 19 February, we set up in Thames, on the corner of Pollen & Campbell streets, for another outdoor rehearsal. Despite a light shower, the evening ended with a stunning rainbow overhead — a fitting backdrop for an evening of music.

On 5 March, we headed to the Te Aroha Domain, where the band rotunda provided a picturesque setting for a relaxed and productive rehearsal. We wrapped up our outdoor rehearsals on 12 March with a final session at the Village Green in Te Kauwhata.

It was a fantastic few weeks of music-making in new and scenic locations. We truly appreciated everyone who stopped by to listen and support us along the way — thank you!



SENIOR SOCIAL BAND

The Senior Social Band is continuing to flourish with regular weekly attendance now sitting at around 16 players. The group recently gave a very well-received performance at the Ohinemuri Rest Home, and everyone was thrilled with how well it went. Rowan Garrett was there to join in and enjoyed the experience. More playouts are already on the horizon, with performances being planned in Waihi, Kaiaua, Thames, and Ngatea!

The Senior Social Band serves an important role in our organisation. It provides a welcoming space for more senior musicians or those who prefer a relaxed playing environment to continue making music and enjoying the social side of banding. The camaraderie, connection, and music shared within this group are truly special. In addition to their own concerts, the group contributes meaningfully to major events like ANZAC Day, and their support for Rowan during a challenging time showed just how caring and close-knit they are.

Our thanks to Sietske de Jong as she continues to do an excellent job conducting the band. While Sietske is happy to lead, we're still keeping an ear out for someone interested in assisting or potentially stepping into the conductor's role in the future. If you or someone you know might be keen, we'd love to hear from you. The Senior Social Band meets on Mondays at 1.30pm at the Kerepehi Brass Band Hall.



SENIOR SOCIAL BAND CONT...



LES BAKER

Les Baker first joined the Kerepehi Brass Band in 1962, beginning what would become a long-standing connection with the group. He stepped away from banding to focus on work and married life, and after 60 years away, Les returned to join the Senior Social Band, where he continues to play today.

Les regularly joins the wider band for events such as ANZAC Day services and Christmas performances, and his ongoing involvement is appreciated by players across the organisation.

In a curious bit of band history, Les was born on 2 July 1946 – the same day the Kerepehi Brass Band held its first official committee meeting. It's a unique link between one of our members and the band's very beginnings.

Most recently, Les is the latest member to be featured in an interview on our YouTube channel, where he reflects on his time with the band and shares a few stories from across the years. We're proud to recognise Les's contributions and are grateful to have him still involved with the band today.

LEARNER'S GROUP/KEREPEHI JUNIOR BAND

2025 has kicked off with fantastic momentum for our Learners Group, with 18 players – both young and not-so-young – now attending sessions each week. It's a great sign for the future of Kerepehi Brass and a reflection of the strong musical community we're building together.

Under the guidance of Clive Burnell once again, our learners are making impressive progress. Clive's commitment and passion for teaching have been instrumental in the development of this group.

Many of our learners recently reached a new milestone, taking part in their first public performance as part of Kerepehi Brass' latest concert. Their set included Beethoven's 'Ode To Joy' and Phil Collins' 'A Groovy Kind of Love', both of which were performed with enthusiasm and confidence.

It's exciting to see several of these players already beginning to transition into the main band, and we're proud of the supportive environment that makes this possible. Whether you're picking up an instrument for the first time or returning after a break, the Learners Group is a great place to start.

Interested in joining? We welcome new learners throughout the year – get in touch to find out more!



AGM 2025

Thank you to those who attended our Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday, 18 June. The evening provided a chance to reflect on the year's achievements, discuss goals for the future, and acknowledge the contributions of those who help keep the band running behind the scenes.

A warm congratulations goes out to both our returning and newly elected committee members. We're looking forward to another productive year under your guidance and support.

The 2025/26 Kerepehi Brass Band Committee is as follows:

President - Luke van Vliet

Vice-President - Fleur Weaver

Secretary - Fiona McGregor-Tate

Treasurer - Nicki Leventer

Band Master - Andrew Christie

Deputy Band Master - Alistair McMillan

Band Sergeant - Fleur Weaver

Drum Major - Tony Hunter

Librarian - Nicki Leventer

Tutors - Sietske de Jong & Clive Burnell

Uniform Custodians - Elizabeth Pope & Heather O'Hagan

Junior Band Rep - Kerstie Zandvoort

Patrons - John Tregidga & Toby Adams

Vice Patron - Alex Quinn

Luke was also recently re-elected onto the executive committee of our regional association (Waikato Bay of Plenty Brass Band Association) at their AGM. Congrats Luke!



WAIKATO BAY OF PLENTY
BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION

Est. 1965

THANK YOU

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Akarana Community Trust, the Lions Club of Ngatea, We Care Community Trust, NZCT, and Paeroa Rotary for their generous grants and support in 2025. 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.



OUR VERY OWN “REAL-LIFE COLLECTIBLES”!

In a fun take on the popular “Human Toy Box” trend, we recently had a bit of creative fun by turning three of our key band members into “collectible figures” — complete with accessories!

Our featured “limited editions” were:

- Fiona McGregor-Tate – Secretary, and aspiring cornet player,
- Fleur Weaver – Vice President, Band Sergeant, and bass trombonist,
- Luke van Vliet – President, and anchor of the bass section on BB♭ bass.

Thanks, Fiona, Fleur, and Luke — you’re not just essential... you’re limited editions!



UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 BBANZ NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

WEDNESDAY 2 – SUNDAY 6 JULY 2025

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN HALL



BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATIONS

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

SIR KEITH PARK MEMORIAL AIRFIELD, THAMES

We will be playing at the 85th Battle of Britain commemorations in Thames.



WAIKATO BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL CONTEST 2025

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2025

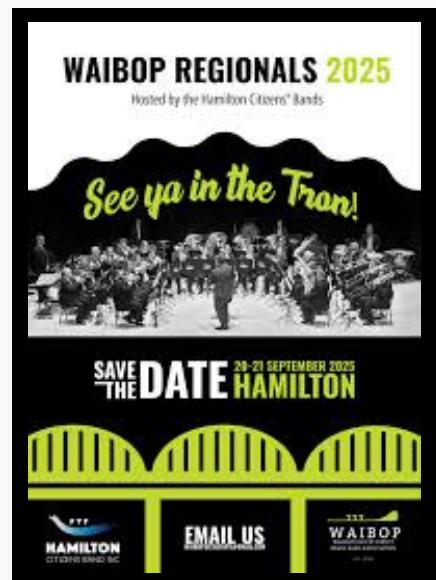
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, HILLCREST, HAMILTON

- The solo and party events, where players show off their skills for the judges in solos, duets and small groups.

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

SOUTHWELL SCHOOL, CLAUDELANDS, HAMILTON

- The full band events take place, where the bands display their musical skills.



BAVARIAN OKTOBERFEST NIGHTS

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

WAIHI RSA

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 2025

PAEROA RSA

The FrothBlowers are back again this year! More dates to be announced soon!



Please note all days, times and events are subject to change. Please check our website or social media platforms for the latest information.



NEW ZEALAND BRASS BAND NATIONAL **CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025**



2025 Festival of Brass: Nationals Head to Christchurch

From Wednesday 2 July to Sunday 6 July, Christchurch will come alive with the sound of brass as the 2025 New Zealand National Brass Band Championships – also known as the Festival of Brass – return to the city where the very first contest was held in 1880. This year, the event is shaping up to be one of the biggest yet, with 37 bands and more than 1,500 musicians taking part. Adding to the excitement, five bands will travel from Australia to join 32 from across New Zealand, making this year's contest a true Australasian event.

Soloists and Ensembles Take Centre Stage

The contest opens on Wednesday 2 July with a full day of solo and ensemble events. Highlights include:

- Junior Champion of Champions – 5:00 pm
- Invitation Slow Melody – 8:00 pm

On Thursday 3 July, the Open Solo and Junior Ensemble competitions continue, with the evening wrapping up with the Open Champion of Champions event at 7:30 pm. Entry to these events is free, and all are welcome to attend.

Band Competitions: A, B, C, D and Youth Grades

Friday and Saturday will see the main band contests across all grades:

A Grade

Wellington Brass will be aiming for their seventh consecutive national title, competing against nine strong bands including two from Australia. Audiences can expect impressive performances of challenging works such as Sand and Stars, Myth Forest, Brussels Requiem, and original compositions by New Zealand composers Todd Smith and Jack Bewley.

B Grade

With the absence of last year's winners Tupou College and the promotion of two bands to A Grade, the B Grade contest is wide open. Bands will perform exciting works including Legacy, Fight for Liberty, and Quaternity by Australian composer Benjamin Tubb-Hearne.

C Grade

A large field of 12 bands makes the C Grade contest one to watch. Matamata Brass and Rolleston Brass – separated by just 0.25 points last year – return alongside newly promoted Maamaloa Brass and a strong Australian contingent. The Own Choice repertoire spans traditional and contemporary works. (Continued...)

Although Kerepehi Brass will not be competing this year, we are proud to support three of our members who will be performing with Matamata Brass: Luke van Vliet, Andrew Christie, and Phil Bettany. We wish them all the best for the competition!

D Grade

Seven bands will compete in the D Grade contest on Saturday, including four local Christchurch bands. None of the bands in this section have won a national title since 1998, making this year a great opportunity to claim the trophy.

Youth Grade

On Friday, the Youth Grade contest brings together the next generation of brass players, including a talented group from Box Hill Academy Brass in Victoria, Australia.

Don't Miss the Street March

The traditional Parade of Bands will take place on Sunday 6 July, stepping off at 10:30 am outside the Christchurch Town Hall. The marching awards will be presented at 11:45 am inside the venue, bringing the festival to a close.

Meet the Adjudicators

This year's contest welcomes two outstanding adjudicators:

- Frédéric Théodoloz – Chief Adjudicator and Musical Director of Brass Band Treize-Etoiles, the current European, British Open, and Swiss National Champions.
- SSGT Nick Johnson – Assistant Chief Adjudicator and Bandmaster of the New Zealand Army Band.

Event Details at a Glance

- Dates: Wednesday 2 – Sunday 6 July 2025
- Venue: Christchurch Town Hall Complex, Kilmore Street
- Admission: Free to all band events on Friday and Saturday
- **Livestream: Events will be streamed live via brassbanned.com**

We wish the best of luck to all competitors – especially our own Kerepehi Brass members joining Matamata Brass on stage. Bring on Christchurch 2025!

*2025 Festival
of Brass*

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**



St. Paul's Opportunity Shop
Paeroa
Serving the Community

**Rotary
Paeroa**



Townshend Thomas
Charitable Community
Trust



**Lions Club
of Paeroa**



G'nature
PREMIUM ICE CREAM



HJM HAURAKI PLAINS MOTORS LTD



**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

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❖ 14 Matai Street, Kerepehi

❖ www.kerepehibrass.co.nz

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