



## Blue Lake Brass Band Festival 2006

The Blue Lake Brass Band Festival held on November 18th was a great success despite the smaller number of bands participating.

The day commenced with the street march contest where Salisbury City Band convincingly won out ahead of the other three bands involved.

Drum Major Adriene Meikle had the band in top form and also won the award for highest drill points.

After the Mayor's official reception/morning tea all the bands assembled for the massed event where they marched to the assembly point for the Christmas Parade.

The Mildura Band won the award for best band in the parade with their cartoon characters – led by Bart Simpson – wowing the 20,000 plus crowd gathered to watch the event.

The afternoon music began in the Helpmann Theatre with Tanunda Town presenting their program which was commented on by the adjudicator for information purposes.

Then followed the 5 bands in the 'D' Grade section. . .

Points awarded being Hymn, Major Work, Entertainment item, March

Warriparinga Brass 40 80 41 40 (201)

Tarrington Brass 42 85 42 42 (211)

Mount Gambier 42 86 42 43 (213)

Hamilton Brass 42 86 42 44 (214)

Mildura & Dist. 43 87 44 46 (220)

The 2 'C' Grade bands then followed with the results being

Marion City 45 89 42 44 (220)

Sunshine Community 47 94 47 47 (235)

Salisbury Band then presented their items for comment by the adjudicator before presenting several short items while the presentations were prepared.

Adjudicator, Major Graham Lloyd, commented on the fact that all the bands played well within their grades and deserved commendation for presenting excellent programs.

A special award trophy was presented in memory of Geoff McDonald, a band stalwart in the district, for the hymn that the adjudicator believed reflected best on the spirit of the piece. This was awarded to Mildura by the Mount Gambier Band President Carol Megaw.

The President of the Lions Club of Mount Gambier, Mr Graham Carter, presented a commemoration certificate and an attendance payment cheque to each of the participating bands in appreciation of their contribution to the festival. In his remarks he stated that the music festival is an event that is largely under rated by the general public and the Lions Club will be doing everything it can to change this situation. "We will be working hard to add to this event in a quality way and make it more enjoyable for both the bands and the community," he stated.

Tanunda Town Band and Salisbury City Band were presented with 'awards for excellence' trophies before the awards in each section of the contest were made.

In their acceptance speeches some band representatives made reference to the fact that the Mount Gambier event is a great fun event to attend and they enjoyed the camaraderie and relaxed atmosphere where there is less formality and strict rules to consider. The situation where people can play with several bands enhances and adds to the fun of the event.