

History of Brass Bands and QSHBA in Wynnum / Manly

James (Jim) Groutsch

21 August 2025



Acknowledgement and Thanks

This presentation is largely based on a brief history written by Rex Jones, given to the Wynnum Historical Society, in 2001

Special thanks to Jill and Myrtle of the Wynnum Historical Society for this opportunity and for all they do.



Rex Jones in the uniform of the Wynnum District Band 1940

Aim of this Presentation

To inform and celebrate the very significant contribution to our community made over a long period of time so far by brass bands in the Wynnum / Manly area.

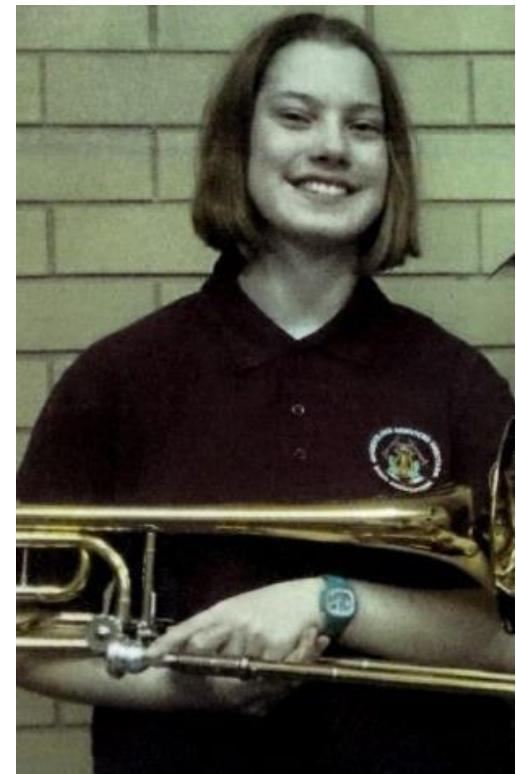
To emphasise that History is for our remembering, and for us to make.



1977 Stanthorpe Apple and Grape Festival.
This is only the Bass section of the massed bands!

Period Considered

- From approximately 1860
- To the present
- With some navel gazing about the future



But first... what is QSHBA?

- Queensland
- Services
- Heritage
- Band
- Association

Teaching / community performances / events



QSHBA Values

- Be Responsible
- Be Safe
- Be Caring
- Be Respectful



- Youngest student 4 yrs old
- Oldest student (me) 63 years old

The Beginning...

- Music is timeless
- Citizens Brass bands started forming in this area in about 1890 (Hughenden Band)



Wynnum / Manly Bands

1890 through to 1954

- Wynnum Town Band formed about 1890
- Queensland Band Association formed in 1906
- In 1924 the Naval Brigade Band changed its name to the Wynnum District Band
- Manly Concert Band came 3rd at a contest held in Maryborough in 1932
- In 1935, the Wynnum District Band, after a recess, changed its name to the Moreton Bay Band



Moreton Bay Band, 1937

Wynnum-Manly Citizen's Band

In 1954 the
Wynnum District
Band changed its
name to the
Wynnum-Manly
Citizen's Band

In 1988, the name
was changed to
Wynnum Manly
Citizen's Band
Incorporated



Regent Studio, Brisbane. 1946

Back Row—W.Osborne, C.H.Overson, W.M.Freese,(Hon.Sec.), R.Nickolls, J.B.Jones

3rd Row—C.Soloman, J.W.Sciffer, F.O.Sciffer, A.Webb, W.Bennion, D.Steel.

2nd Row—S.Townsend, R.Bryant, R.F.Cushing, W.Sole, J.Hamlet, Mrs. E.Piper, G.Wren, Miss I.Simonsen.

Front Row—F.Rabnott, D.C.Overson, F.Dodd, A.Bryant, W.Lockwood, (Man./Tres.), A.E.Edwards,(Bandmaster), J.Geraghty,(President).

W.Tindal, W.E.Cooper, A.Watson, A.Piper.

Sitting---R.T.Cox, A.Sciffer.

The Jones Family Connections

- 1924 Tom Jones
- 1940 Rex Jones
- 1944 Trevor Jones
- 1975 Paul Jones
- 1981 Greg Jones / Gayle Jones

Paul Jones was transferred to Darwin in 1977



Paul Jones playing Bass Drum

Resignations, Sackings, Cash Flow Crises, and Mutiny

Bands and Band Associations are made
up of people!

There are many stories of intrigue.....

Some should be forgotten, some should
be told of only while sharing a beer.



Band Rooms and Venues

- Circa 1910, a double storey structure was built on the Wynnum foreshore at the end of Florence Street. The Wynnum Band played there.
- 1968 negotiations started with council for the building of the Bandshell.
 - Opened in 1971, smaller, facing wrong direction



Formation of the QSHBA

The QSHBA was formed by Paul Jones in 2005

It is now the 20th anniversary!

It was setup as an organisation to develop bands

It currently develops five bands

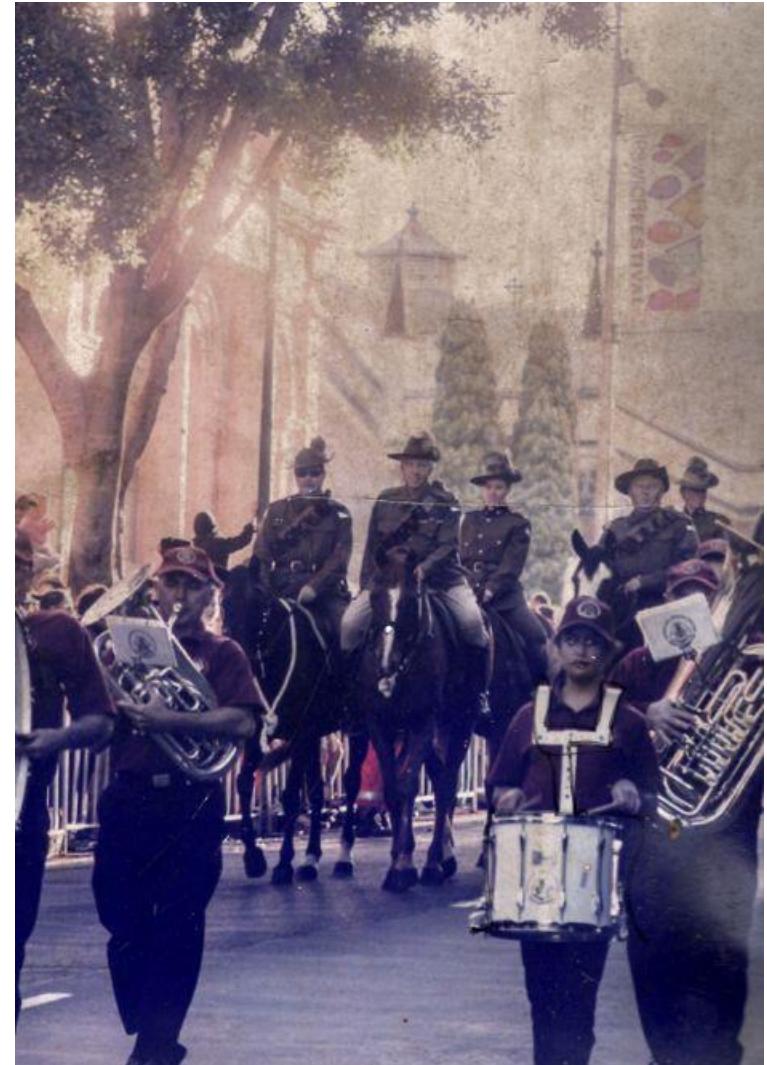
It initially used the Bandshell as its base



QSHBA and the Military Services Connection

The association honours the sacrifices made by our armed forces

It has a strong heritage, especially through the Jones family, with military service and military band training



Now lets back up on the timeline a bit...

Tom Jones served, with the Lighthorse, in 1917 in the Palestine-Israel conflict at Beersheba.

On returning to Australia, he was given instructions for “safe keeping” of an Eb Tuba (which he played) and a Euphonium, and to “await further instructions”.

These instruments are in the safe keeping of QSHBA, and have recently been restored and played at the ANZAC march this year (2025)



Trooper Thomas Jones, Paul Jones's grandfather, seen playing one of the restored instruments.(under the X).

QSHBA Heritage dates back to late 1800s

- First of the Queensland Mounted Infantry (Light Horse) bands formed.
- Direct line to the Wynnum – Manly Citizen's Band, QSHBA, Bayside Brass (and others?)

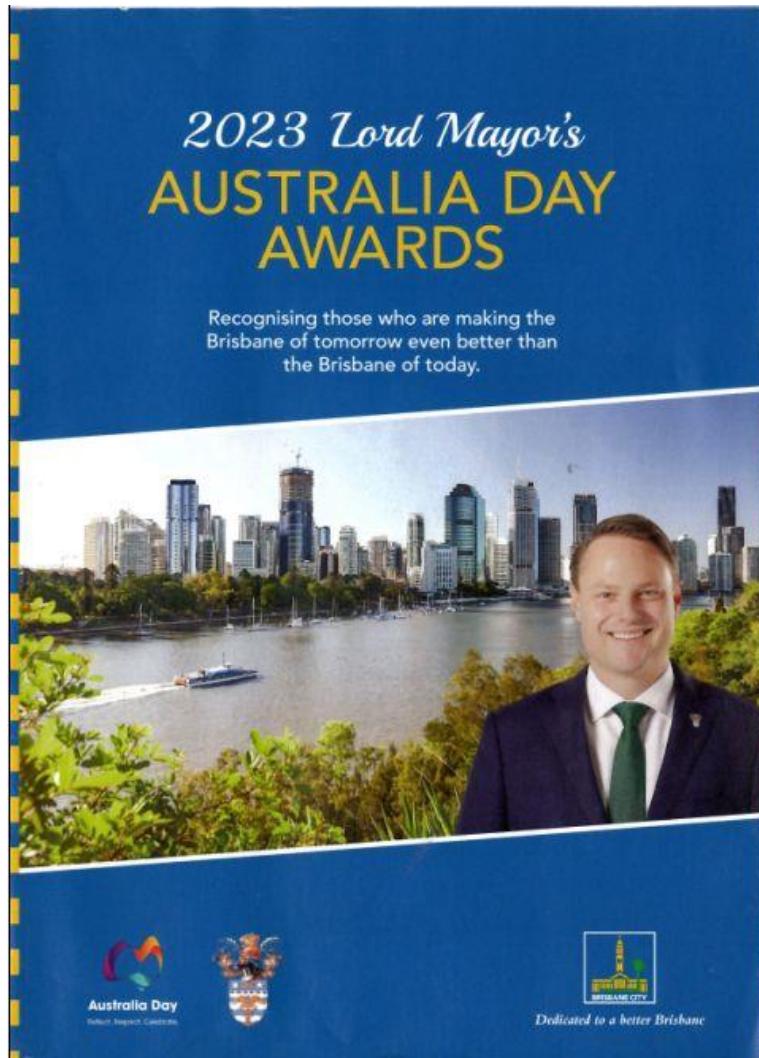


QSHBA at the Wynnum Community Centre

- QSHBA has been based at the WCC since 2015
- Approximately 230 members and volunteers have benefitted from and assisted Paul in his unique musical training program and the playing of his original arrangements of many popular pieces across many genres.
- QSHBA has performed approximately 200 community events and has been a key or main organiser for large events (such as the Bayside Carols).



Recognition Of Contribution to the Community



2023 Lord Mayor's
AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Recognising those who are making the Brisbane of tomorrow even better than the Brisbane of today.

Australia Day
Brisbane City Council

Dedicated to a better Brisbane



Australia Day Cultural/Arts Award
Paul Jones

Paul is the heart and soul of the Queensland Service Heritage Band Association (QSHBA), managing six bands and more than 80 students of all ages.

Paul tirelessly teaches, trains, recruits and organises a variety of performances, including The Ekka, Toowoomba Flower Festival and the Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade. Paul also organises shows for the local retirement homes. As a dedicated and self-sacrificing volunteer, Paul spends most days in the band room, assisting members with their music studies.

With COVID-19 restrictions, Paul led performances in Queensland via national online competitions, where the band won a gold and silver medal to add to the trophy cabinet. Paul is a model of sacrifice and devotion to QSHBA.

"Paul is selfless and all about spreading the joy of music and making the band a family." – Nominator

8

Recognition and Thanks to Volunteers over the years!

What Does the Future Hold?

It's up to the community to value and support bands and organisations such as QSHBA

In the modern tech driven world with AI producing so much content, hopefully live music will become more valued and appreciated



Thankyou!

