



# BALLARAT MEMORIAL CONCERT BAND

---

*A century of music*

---

Georgina Williams

To view the ebook version of this resource, visit  
<https://ballaratconcertband.org.au/bmcb-a-century-of-music>

The Ballarat Memorial Concert Band acknowledges the Waddawarrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land on which we play. We recognise that music has been played in ceremony for countless generations on this land and we acknowledge and pay tribute to the Waddawarrung ancestors, past, present and emerging leaders.

**Ballarat Memorial Concert Band: A century of music**  
Written by Georgina Williams

Edited by Charlotte Roseby  
Book design and layout by Aja Bongiorno

Copyright © Georgina Williams 2020

This work is copyright. No part may be reproduced without permission from Georgina Williams and the Ballarat Memorial Concert Band. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be emailed to [secretary@ballaratconcertband.org.au](mailto:secretary@ballaratconcertband.org.au) or writing to us at P.O. Box 2620, Ballarat, Victoria 3354.

We have made all possible effort to seek permission for all material in this publication. We welcome the chance to correct any omissions. Let us know by emailing us at [secretary@ballaratconcertband.org.au](mailto:secretary@ballaratconcertband.org.au) or writing to us at P.O. Box 2620, Ballarat, Victoria 3354.

Cover photo: 1959, Soldiers' Band, South Street Quickstep Competitions, City Oval, Ballarat. Source: Norm Newey Archive.

Ballarat Memorial Concert Band gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government and Public Record Office Victoria for making this project possible.





# **BALLARAT MEMORIAL CONCERT BAND**

---

*A century of music*

---

Georgina Williams



# Acknowledgements

Ballarat Memorial Concert Band gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government and Public Record Office Victoria for making this project possible.

This history was brought together by the kind contributions of band members past and present from their private collections and archives and with public records and collections. The band history is a collection of personal histories.

By their nature, personal memories can sometimes lead to inaccuracies. Every effort has been made to correlate personal accounts with factual evidence; however, there may be some inconsistencies. We welcome any corrections.

## Special thanks and acknowledgements from the author

**Jeremy de Korte**, Librarian at VBL and author of blog, Band Blasts from the Past. Writer on Australian band history and tireless responder to a multitude of questions relating to the Soldiers' Band and Memorial Concert Band history – a tremendous support. **Gavin Holman**, independent vintage brass band researcher for background information on quickstep, internationally, and returned soldiers' bands in Australia. Gavin created the banding history resource: [www.ibew.co.uk](http://www.ibew.co.uk). **Theresa Cronk**, Senior Curator Published and Digitised Collections at the Australian War Memorial for insight and expertise in World War I music history. **Robyn Coates** for research into the life and times of Alfred Rowell and permissions to use extended quotes to tell the story. **Amanda Bentley**, whose research, writing and support of this project, gives us a better understanding of the background to two of the earliest band members, Rutherford and Rowell, and later Bandmaster Frank Rollard. **Tony Rowlands** for research and data compilation and Royal South Street Society for public database and timeline resources. **Neil Leckie**, Museum Manager, Ballarat Ranger Military Museum. Thank you for answering my varied questions relating to Ballarat, music, war and Herbert Rasmussen (<http://www.ballaratmilitarymuseum.org.au>). **Cathi Smith** for countless text messages and conversations with people and the loan of precious Smith family archives. **Pam Clark** for the stories and memorabilia spanning fifty years. **Dennis Hawkes** for stories, photos and for driving around Ballarat with the author looking for the old bandroom, providing contacts and gaining access to the real bandroom.

**Norm Newey, Kevin Howell, Margaret Howell, Fred Fargher, Tanya Hale, Nerida Greenbank, Cheryl Russell, Margaret McWilliam, Max Beeson, Karen George, Heather George, Zoom Beck, Brenda Beck, Wade Carman and Bec Paton** for invaluable time, stories and memorabilia.

**Zoom Beck** for the 1999 Yearbook, **Laura Thompson** for the 2000–2005 Yearbook. **Tim Paton, Zoom Beck and Doug Irvin** for their treasure trove of photography. And everybody else whose photos appear in this book. **Bryan Crebbin** for background on Ballarat history including specifics about the band hall move and change to concert band in the 80s. **Ros Smalley** Librarian for Ye Olde Brass RSL Memorial Band, Redcliffe, for hours of work researching 1920s–1970s Soldiers' Band repertoire. **Megan Talan** and **Dennis Hawkes** for converting archive vinyl to mp3. **Karen George** for converting CD to mp3.



---

**Bob Pattie** for the decades of work in bringing the history of Ballarat City Band together in *The History of the City of Ballarat Municipal Brass Band 1900–2010* and for spending time in support of this project, including the donation of archive materials. For people interested in banding history in Ballarat this book can be ordered through the Ballarat City Band's website: <http://ballaratbrassband.com.au>

**Federation University Historical Collection**, the **Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute, Max Harris Collection**, **Ballarat Historical Society Collection** at the **Gold Museum, Australiana Research Collections**, **Central Highlands Libraries**, **The Australian War Memorial**, **The Department of Defence**, and **Victoria Collections** for access to and use of their extensive image collections.

**The Courier** for permissions to use past articles, images and quotes, this has gone a long way to helping to relive and share the documented history.

**Charlotte Roseby** for editing, **Aja Bongiorno** for book design and **Jill Clarke** for tech and web support. **Wade Carman** for having the idea for this book and **Bec Paton** for making it a reality.

This book would not have been possible without the generous support from **Public Records Office of Victoria**, and from my family who support me in so many more ways than could ever be explained.

The author is indebted to all the bands people, too many to be named here, who generously shared their stories, archive photos and news clippings, including those members passed, such as **Bill Wilkinson**, whose written histories were invaluable in tracing the last 100 years. I hope I have done justice to your history.