BELLINGEN YOUTH ORCHESTRA

TERM 3 NEWS 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

Taranta Festival - Sinfonia only.

1st November

The Proms -all ensembles.

12 December

2 – 4pm

5.30 – 7.30pm



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR UPDATE: ANNIE PHELAN

Our September concert was inspiring, varied and full of surprises, with soloists from both Sinfonia and BYO leaving the audience struggling for breath.

I am always amazed at how these young musicians can consistently learn difficult works in such a short amount of time and present them with a depth of musicianship that leaves the audience feeling they have experienced one of the true wonders of the world.

The second half opened with a rousing *Dam Busters*, presented one of Mozart's most popular clarinet solos, and finished with the quirky *Ratatouille*, giving the audience a wonderful experience of what can be achieved through hard work and a strong connection with their tutors.

This was a special night where we were able to recognise the contribution of Barb Trist, a beautiful soul who gave so much to the orchestra over its 20 years of performances. *Satchmo* was one of her favourite pieces, and to be able to perform it in her honour was such a privilege.

Thank you, Barb, for your wonderful contribution and support. The BYO is greater because of your involvement.



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OPERATIONS UPDATE

As always, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the parents who continue to step forward as volunteers and support the ongoing work of the BYO organisation. As our organisation continues to grow, the contribution of our parent volunteers is increasingly important to ensuring our future sustainability. Whether it is assisting with the afternoon tea crew, helping in the canteen at events, welcoming audiences at the door, supporting staging, lighting or filming, or taking part in our cleaning and working parties, every contribution makes a significant difference. I would also like to extend a very special thank you to James and his team for the ongoing support they provide in helping us navigate the financial requirements of our organisation, and to James for his dedicated work in the role of Treasurer. Moving forward, we are pleased to welcome Hannah Carter to the BYO team as our new the Treasurer. Hannah will be supported and guided by James as we transition into this new arrangement. HQB will also continue to provide professional support as required, particularly in relation to our ACNC obligations and governance

BYOSS UPDATE- DIRECTOR: JACQUIE GILL and LIZZIE SCOTT

Students attending String School on Thursday afternoons have had a marvellous term. We have worked hard to prepare a variety of pieces for a concert held in August, where we performed individually and alongside the clever musicians from Wind School.

Both schools presented works of their own and then combined to form the Cygnet Orchestra for two further pieces.

It is wonderful to have performance opportunities to work towards, and the BYO Committee ensures that our concerts are presented in the most professional manner, with careful attention to ticketing and seating, lighting, sound and hall decoration.

Students certainly felt this atmosphere and gave their very best performances.

Confident readers from our first violin, viola and cello sections have transitioned into the second half of the BYO rehearsals this term, in readiness to join the Orchestra in 2027. This is an exciting experience, and students are accompanied by their String School tutors to help make this transition as smooth as possible.

I would like to congratulate the families who accompanied their children from String School to the BYO "An evening of two halves". It is so motivating for our students to hear the music of brilliant composers, observe our special conductors, see what their afternoon tea buddies play and, most importantly, picture themselves sitting in the string sections of the future orchestra!



BYOWS UPDATE – DIRECTOR: HAZEL BUCHANAN

The start of Term 3 was particularly busy for some of our Wind School players as they prepared for their AMEB exams in August. Congratulations to all those who practised so hard and achieved such great results.

Apart from the satisfaction and excitement of achieving a higher level of playing, the benefits of undertaking a music exam include having a goal to aim for and a clear set of targets to work towards. It also ensures that important aspects of musicianship, such as aural tests, sight-reading and general knowledge, are given attention.

It is very rewarding as a teacher to witness the personal growth of these young people as they bravely step outside their comfort zones and discover the boost in self-confidence that comes with it.

At the end of August, the Cygnet Orchestra presented their standalone *Spring Serenade* concert to a very appreciative audience of family and friends. Particular highlights were the *Harry Potter* arrangement performed by the Orchestra and directed by Elizabeth Scott, and the Wind School's rendition of *The Maelstrom*.



CONTACT US

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SINFONIA UPDATE- AMBER DAVIS

Vivaldi was the focus of Sinfonia in Term 3. This amazing set of four three-movement concertos provided a tremendous learning opportunity in both accompaniment and solo playing, both of which demand extreme concentration and a slow, patient trajectory of work over months of individual and ensemble preparation.

What followed was an outstanding concert, with so many individual and ensemble breakthroughs in learning and experience. Sinfonia pulled together and rose to the occasion with style, grace and fantastic teamwork.

The hits just keep rolling this term, with the Taranta Festival nearly upon us! We now have a completely different genre of modern world music to explore, so it is time to pivot. We are looking forward to opening these scores in the new term and embracing the new challenges they bring.

Brava tutti, Sinfonia!

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PRESIDENT UPDATE- DAVID NEVILLE

I wanted to start and finish this message with a simple THANK YOU! As we said our final farewell to the wonderful Barb Trist at the end of term, I found myself reflecting on the wonderful family that is BYO. Barb did so many things for the Orchestra, including, of course, baking more than 15,000 cupcakes for our afternoon teas! It feels like the perfect time to acknowledge the many people who generously give their time, energy and expertise each year to allow this Orchestra to do what it does best: create a safe and nurturing place for young people to develop a lifelong love of music and shine in their community. So, thank you to every one of you who is part of this family!

Like all families, we are an eclectic mix, and I think it is this very eccentricity that gives us so much of our strength. So, to the parents who encourage young people to practise; to the teachers who guide and inspire; to the volunteers who organise, provide food, clean up, wash shirts, sell tickets, point lights, move chairs, fix instruments, take photos, record music, manage financial accounts, supervise and carry things; to the directors who plan and programme; to the committee who keep us moving; to the community members who donate; and to all of you who join us in the audience to celebrate our young people being amazing in our community … THANK YOU! Bring on Term 4!

INSTRUMENT OFFICER UPDATE- KATHARINE SUTHERLAND

It has been wonderful hearing about the progress all the ensembles have been making. There is more to come as we move into Term 4! A quick reminder from the Instrument Desk: spring weather can bring unpredictable shifts in temperature and humidity, which can be tough on our instruments. Please take an extra moment this week to check your pegs, reeds and valves. Wooden instruments and string bridges are especially sensitive at this time of year, so keeping your instrument safely in its case when you're not playing will help prevent any sudden tuning surprises.

The school holidays are also a great opportunity to arrange servicing for your instrument. If you have any questions about instrument maintenance, please drop me a line or discuss it with your tutor.

Thank you all for your dedication to our orchestra, and let's make Term 4 our most harmonious one yet!

