



Marlborough District Brass Band Incorporated

P O Box 92, Blenheim 7240 | Web: www.marlboroughbrass.nz

20th April 2023

To whom it may concern:

Supporting information for MDC Annual Plan Submission:

Although records have been lost in the annals of time we believe the Band annual grant was last adjusted in about 2005. There was a concession granted around 2017 that allowed the band to obtain rental from car park leases near the bandrooms, and this has proven successful. However, rather than requesting large annual grant adjustments every few years to catch up, we request that an annual CPI adjustment be applied to the Band grant. This will keep the grant relevant and not impose major additional expense on the Council.

Who We Are: Marlborough District Brass is one of the oldest brass bands in NZ, recently celebrating our 160 year anniversary. We are strongly active and well respected in the local and wider brass banding communities.

The Band consists of the main brass band 'Marlborough District Brass', the learners band 'Marlborough First Class Brass', and students from both primary and secondary schools. In all, the organisation has 85 registered members as at 16th April 2023.

Since 1962 the Band has been attached to the local authority, first as Blenheim Municipal Band and after the local body changes in 1993 as the Marlborough District Brass Band to better reflect our principal sponsors name (Marlborough District Council) and the area we serve (Marlborough District).

The Band is a non-discriminatory gender diverse organisation that Marlburians of all races, creeds, and ethnicity are welcome to join. Youths and adults work together for the common goal of producing fine music.

Members commit in excess of 300 hours annually to band rehearsal and engagements, in addition to taking around two weeks leave from paid employment to attend contests. Non-playing fund raising activities require additional commitment from members.

What We Do: The Band provides music, atmosphere and a sense of occasion at many of Marlborough's official events, including ANZAC and Christmas Parades as well as one off engagements for the Council, such as the King's Coronation Tree Planting, and possibly the opening of the new library.

During the year the Band performs at least two major concerts in the ASB Theatre, and these usually attract 4/500 audience including locals and some from Nelson and other out of town areas.

Please support our sponsors:



The Band represents Marlborough annually at both Regional and National Championships, and has been involved with sister city and other overseas travel representing Marlborough in Japan, China and Australia.

Through our training programmes, youths as young as 8 years old are recruited through the primary schools to learn music, brass instrumentation, marching, discipline, punctuality, responsibility, and multi-cultural social etiquette. Most youngsters continue with the Band through their secondary school years, and those who stay in Marlborough usually continue on through adulthood. Unfortunately many are lost to the cities for university or work opportunities and the city bands benefit, but we always have a new group coming on.

How We're Funded: Annual running costs of the two bands are around \$130,000, and funding sources include concerts, charitable grants, and fundraising activities such as assisting with the air show car parking and the St Clair Marathon marshalling. When the Band plays for private functions such as visiting steam trains, Christmas in the Park, Mistletoe Market, and other events the organising body pays for our services.

Students pay a modest fee to learn and for the use of their instrument. Due to the high demands on members time with playing commitments, rehearsals, fund raising and other activities within the community, the band does not apply individual membership fees. The band believe that implementing annual fees would adversely impact on tenure of membership.

Instruments range in value from \$5,000 to \$20,000 each, uniforms \$300 to \$1,000 each with every player needing two uniforms (marching & stage). A rough calculation shows that a band of 35 members requires equipment exceeding \$400,000, but also there is music, music stands, mutes, and other minor equipment, plus bandroom maintenance and upkeep.

Building and car park tenants provide additional income to assist with some of these expenses, but charitable grants and Council Sponsorship are essential elements to the Band's very fragile economic wellbeing.

Marlborough District Council is considered to be our principal sponsor and our name reflects this. We are proud to represent both the Marlborough District Council and the Marlborough District at large, and for that reason the Mayor of Marlborough is our honorary President.

It is our sincere wish that Marlborough District Council value our relationship as much as we do and can approve an annual CPI adjustment to the existing annual grant.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Brian Nicholas
Executive officer

Marlborough District Brass Band Inc.

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