Term 1, 2013

PRESIDENTS WELCOME
Welcome back to all band parents and particularly those with new students in the Training Band. The Band Committee provides support for the school, teachers and students with the aim of providing students an opportunity to develop their musical experience.

I welcome any parent interested in supporting the Band and will ensure an opportunity for any level of involvement if offered.

We welcome all and look forward to a fun and challenging 2013.

2012 WRAP UP
What a wonderful year it was for Eleebana School Band. Our bands once again showed their quality at various competitions.

The Senior Concert Band won the Gold award at the State Band Championships and coming first place at Bandfest.

The Intermediate Band won a Bronze award at the State Championships before joining the Senior Band at Bandfest.

The Training Band won Silver at Bandfest in their category.

The students also performed fabulously at the Succession Concert, Winter Winds, Spotlight and various school events. Solo Night was a great tribute to our talented band members and a wonderful night to finish the year. Lots of proud and smiling faces were seen on stage as the students received their awards.

A special thanks to all those member of the Band Committee who did a fabulous job with organisation and fundraising. A thank you also to all those parents and friends who assisted the band through volunteering time, transport and being enthusiastic audiences.

A final thankyou to the Mr Bell, Ms Philippa, Mr Goeldner, Ms Fittock, Ms Cashmere and Mr Graham who helped support the students and the band program at Eleebana.

BAND PRACTICE
This year there will again be three bands.

The practice days for the bands are:

- Senior Band – Tue & Thur – Hall
- Intermediate Band – Mon & Thur – Library
- Training Band – Mon & Fri – Hall

All band students are to arrive at the school at 7:30am in order to set up and have their names marked off the roll ready for the Band Conductors to commence training at 7:45am.

A parent helper is required at the beginning of these sessions to assist the
students set up and to mark the role. A volunteer sheet will be circulated at the first band meeting (see below) and followed up with emails.

**BAND CONDUCTORS**

We are lucky to have very experienced band conductors to assist our students achieve their best. The Training Band is conducted by Mrs Susan Philippa who has worked with the Eleebana Training band since 2004. She is a very accomplished musician and nurturing conductor and also has a Diploma of Education. Susan also assists other school band programs in the district.

The Intermediate Band will be conducted this year by Mrs Jo Cook. Jo has conducted several school bands in the past and has privately tutored numerous students. She is currently working at Lambton Public School where she started their school band program in 2010. Jo has a BMus and DipEd and has worked as a classroom music skills teacher throughout the Hunter. Welcome.

The Senior Band will be conducted by Mr Michael Bell who has been conducting the Eleebana Senior School Band since 1996. He has an association with the school as far back as 1986 when he taught students from the Eleebana School Band from his private studio when he himself was a Tertiary student. Michael is consummate musician and conductor who also teaches and conducts at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music.

**BAND AGM**

The first Band Meeting for 2013 will be held on Monday 11th February at 6pm. This meeting which is for all band parents will be the Band AGM and Band Committee members will be elected. A brief list of roles and responsibilities of the Band Committee members is outlined below.

- Band Convener (president)
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Minutes Secretary
- LMCC Representative
- Music Support (photocopying, folders, etc)
- Fund Raising Coordinator (specific activities being Welcome BBQ, Disco, Election, Bunning’s)
- Band Performance Support
- Social Event Coordinator

It would be fabulous to see the majority of parents attend this meeting and offer assistance to fill these positions.

**BAND CAPTAINS**

Band Captains and Vice-captains have been elected for 2013. The students nominate themselves and are then voted in by their band peers (from Intermediate and Senior Bands). The Band Captains for 2013 are Hannah Head and Bronson Romani, while the Vice-captains are Tahlia Nicholas and Liam Deer (shown right to left in the photo below).
The role of the band captains is to ensure the hall is set up and students are warming up, ready to commence when the conductors arrive. They also collect any awards on behalf of the Band.

**BAND FEES**

The Band Fees for 2013 is proposed to be $340 (without instrument) per student, which will be presented and discussed with the 2013 budget at the first Band meeting. The fee requirements including payment schedule and details are provided in the Band Information Booklet.

We recognise that this cost may have an impact on family budgets, however a review of other school programs and instrument costs highlights that this is a cost competitive musical program, which is additional to the normal school program.

If any parent has concerns about meeting these payments, then please discuss with the band committee (treasurer) about interim/ flexible payment options.

**TERM 1 EVENTS**

A few events are scheduled for Term 1 for the Band and these are outlined below:

- **Mon 11th Feb** – Band AGM (as previously discussed)

- **Fri 15th Feb** – Welcome BBQ (weather permitting). The Senior Concert Band will play at the welcome BBQ and the Band Committee will also be responsible for catering and cooking the BBQ. Volunteers will be needed to organise and operate the BBQ on the night. Senior Band members need to arrive about 15 minutes prior to the start of the BBQ to set and warm up. Dress will be casual for Band members so they can join in the fun of the evening after they have played. Band students will receive a free sausage sandwich and drink.

- **Mon 11th March** – Band Meeting

- **Thur 21st March** – School Disco. The first Disco of the year is a fundraising event for the Band and volunteers will be needed to assist collect money, etc this night.

- **Fri 12th April** – Grandparents/ANZAC Day. The Senior Band will perform for family and friends as part of the day’s activities. Dress will be normal school uniform.

**SUGGESTION BOX**

A suggestion box will be placed in the school foyer for band members/families. This will enable anyone to anonymously offer suggestions or voice concerns about any aspect of the band program.

**COMMUNICATION**

Communication (or lack thereof) was highlighted as being one of the major concerns that came from a survey of band families last year. This newsletter is one attempt to improve on this issue. Regular emails are also sent home with important information. If you are not receiving emails could you please let Mr Goeldner know or email Khaalyd Brown at ecopro@aapt.net.au Information is also being put into the school newsletter. If you have any problems with receiving information please let someone know.