

***RANDWICK PUBLIC SCHOOL***

***TRAINING BAND PROGRAM  
2005***

***HANDBOOK***



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## Dear Band Parents and Students

Congratulations on your decision to become a member of the School Band Program and part of the musical family at Randwick School. We wish all new band students, and parents, the very best for this new and exciting experience. The School Band Program at Randwick School is made up of two bands, the Senior Concert Band and the Training Band.

As your child is entering their first year in this program, we welcome them to the Randwick School Training Band. For your convenience we have compiled a Handbook and suggest you read it carefully and keep it in a prominent place for future reference.

**RANDWICK BAND = MUSICAL EXCELLENCE = COMMITMENT = ATTITUDE**

## The Benefits

The Randwick School Band is an extra curricular activity that is designed to provide musical enrichment to students within the framework of the educational values of the school.

We employ professional musicians for the program: two conductors - one for the Training Band and one for the Senior Concert Band - as well as tutors who are all excellent musicians in their field.

As a result of the program, children will learn to play a musical instrument. If they wish to continue their involvement when they move on to high school, they have the grounding and the potential to develop musical ability to a higher level.

As band members, children become an integral part of a social group (or "team") brought together to pursue a worthwhile common aim. The program requires every member to do his/her personal best. A high level of co-operation, respect for others and commitment to practice are expected from members.

The program has the aim of developing the confidence and self esteem of the students. This comes from succeeding in an endeavour that is regarded by the school and the broader community as worthwhile.

This program will encourage your child to develop the self-discipline and commitment necessary to succeed in other areas of pursuit. Statistics show that children who participate in similar activities tend to transfer valuable skills to other areas of the curriculum. The skills they learn from being part of the band program can be applied to many other areas of life and can give them the confidence to tackle things they might otherwise avoid.

All rehearsals aim to provide a positive and enjoyable learning experience.

## Band Rehearsals and Objectives

### Training Band

Full Training Band rehearsals are held for one hour every Thursday morning, during the school term. Children are to arrive at the School Hall by 8.00am and set up for a prompt start. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals (please refer to Attachment A, point 3 for exceptions). For every rehearsal, students need to bring their instrument, band book, music folder and a pencil.

**First rehearsal: Thursday, 24 February 2005, 8.00am, School Hall.**

## **Rehearsal Objectives**

Every rehearsal is aimed at the improvement of the following musical ensemble skills:

- Intonation
- Tone quality
- Rhythmic accuracy
- Articulation
- Tempo
- Reading music
- Musical excellence

From time to time additional rehearsals may be scheduled in relation to important concerts and performances.

## **Concerts and Performances**

The Training Band will be planning to work towards two or three performances this year. These may include a Mid-Year concert and End of Year Graduation Concert, as well as a performance for the school assembly. The band will also participate in the NSW Band Festival, which will be held on either Saturday, 6th or Sunday 7th of August 2005. Please refer to the Band Contract regarding conditions of participation at major performances.

## **Randwick School Band Committee**

The Band Committee is a P&C sub-committee. It is an integral part of the band program. It is a vital ingredient to maintaining a successful, high quality experience for your child. The role of the committee is to:

1. Collect and administer the funds involved with the running of the band. This includes repairs, instrument and equipment purchases and paying the conductors.
2. Participate in policy and decision making processes.
3. Support the band in its endeavours and initiatives.
4. Raise funds.

Parents are invited to join the committee and/or assist current members to ensure the continuation of its role and the ongoing success of the program. Please make yourself known by registering your interest with a current committee member.

## **Band Fees**

The Band Committee collects a fee to cover the running and associated costs of the program. This fee covers the conductors' wages, performance costs and purchase of music and instruments.

The band fee can be paid as a one off **yearly amount** (\$200), or as a **payment per term** (\$70 p.t.)

Payment should be brought to the first rehearsal for the Training Band. If you elect to pay per term, payments are then due the second week of each term. Fees that remain outstanding may result in your child not being allowed to continue in the band program.

Fees are to be placed in an envelope with your child's name and labelled 'Band Fees' clearly on the front and handed to the conductor at rehearsal. Cheques payable to **Randwick School Band**.

## **Instrument Tuition**

Specialist tuition is very important in ensuring your child's success on their instrument. In addition to the band rehearsals, private lessons with a specialist tutor are important to building your child's confidence and mastery of their band repertoire. They are therefore a requirement of being in the band program. Whilst these private lessons (which can be shared between two students to keep costs down) are essentially for working on band repertoire, all lessons should cover extra material such as solos and duets when applicable.

The Band Committee provides a list of professional tutors who conduct lessons at school, and outside of school, depending on the tutor. These lessons may be held before/during/after school, again depending on your tutor. Shared lessons should be kept to a maximum of two students per group, once a week for ½ an hour. Alternatively, it may be more suitable, depending on your child's learning style, for them to have their own lesson. Some students also find it better to work at a more intensive level or faster pace than in a shared lesson.

## **Tuition Fees and Invoicing**

As a guide,

- Shared lessons - assuming two students - would be approximately \$15 per lesson (\$135 per term)
- Private lessons - one on one - approximately \$30 per lesson (\$270 per term)

Prices may vary from tutor to tutor. The tutor will invoice you direct. All questions regarding lesson times and fees should be directed to your tutor.

## **Band Uniform**

Unless otherwise instructed, all performances will require students to wear full school uniform, which includes: gold short-sleeved shirt, black shorts/skirts or tunic, black shoes and socks, gold or black hair accessories.

## Hire of School Instruments

The school owns a number of instruments - mainly lower brass and tuned percussion instruments - which are available for hire for the duration of your child's time in the band program. These instruments are for use by your child only. Please note these instruments are not insured whilst they are off the school premises. We recommend you insure the instrument for its replacement value, the amount of which is available from the Band Treasurer. We also ask that these instruments be returned to school over the end of year school holidays for cleaning, servicing and insurance.

The hire fee of \$110 per year covers normal maintenance costs. However, parents are responsible for repairs and servicing to the instrument arising from accidental damage. Please discuss with the Band Committee before undertaking any repair work on a school instrument.

## Music

Practice copies of music will be issued for use at home and in lessons and rehearsals. These copies will be stamped with an AMCOS label and remain the property of the school. Illegal photocopying of music is an offence and the school can be fined very harshly for it. If any music is missing, the Band Conductor must be notified. A pencil with eraser should be kept with the folder. Pen is not to be used on the music.

## Equipment

Always have on hand the extra supplies relevant to your instrument. These may be cork grease, valve oil, and spare reeds. Cleaning equipment is essential. Please ask your tutor if you are not sure of what you need or how to care for the instrument. All music stores should carry these items.

## Practice at Home

**Where:** A quiet, enclosed room. Turn off any television/radio, etc. It is best to practice where there are no other people to distract you.

**How often:** Every day - regular practice achieves best results.

**When:** Early morning is best. Try to avoid late evening practice when body and mind are tired.

**How long:** At least 20 minutes per day - everyday - increasing the time as endurance increases. It is sometimes helpful to have a short break during the practice session.

**What to practice:** The session should include:

- Warm ups - long tones you can play comfortably;
- Technical work - set scales and exercises;
- Specific pieces of music - band pieces (priority), solo pieces set in your lesson, duets, ensembles;
- Anything else required.

## **Behaviour**

Exemplary behaviour is expected at all times. The School Discipline Policy applies to all activities relating to the Music Program. Therefore, the same rules apply as in the classroom. Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Students must take direction from the Band Conductor and their tutors as they would from their classroom teacher.

## **Scholarship**

A limited number of scholarships are available to families whose children would benefit from financial assistance. This scholarship covers the band fees or instrument hire for the year. Applications are assessed annually, and are not automatically rolled-over.

Application should be made in writing to the Band Committee Treasurer, via the School Office, no later than **Friday, 18 February 2005**. The Principal and the Treasurer will assess each application. The successful applicants will then be notified in writing. All applications are treated confidentially.

## RANDWICK SCHOOL TRAINING BAND

### CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

The following conditions are to be met as part of the acceptance into the Randwick School Training Band. Please read carefully and discuss points with your child before accepting a place in the band.

1. A child accepted into the Training Band will be required to remain in the band for one school year. If the child and parent agree, the child may then choose not to continue at the end of that year. It is expected however that all members will **continue in the band through to Years 5 and 6.**
2. Your child will be required to practice a minimum of **20 minutes per day**, 4-6 days a week (30 minutes in Years 5 and 6). Rehearsals and lessons are not included. Experience has shown that parents and students that adhere to this are much more successful and are more likely to continue their learning of their instrument long term.
3. Parents agree to notify the **Band Conductor (in writing, in advance)** if their child will be absent from any rehearsals or part of the school term (eg holidays taken during school term), especially near scheduled concerts. Please try to organise doctor's appointments, etc, outside band rehearsal times.
4. Band fees (if paying by term) are due **by the second week of each term.**
5. Parents will help their child by reminding him/her to bring their instrument, music book, band folder and pencil to all rehearsals.
6. Band members are expected to attend all performances, both in and outside of school hours. Participation in major performances are subject to satisfactory attendance and commitment to all rehearsals, especially those leading up to the performance date.

**PERSONAL COPY. PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE IN A PROMINENT PLACE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. DO NOT RETURN.**

We/I have read the above and agree to the conditions of acceptance of my child into the Randwick School Training Band.

Parent's Name ..... Student's Name .....

Signature ..... Signature .....

Date ..... Date .....