

but not harsh, and the boys do their best to maintain the standard of efficiency required.

We were sorry that we could not take part in the Centenary contests, but with so much programme work to do it was not possible to get in the required amount of practice. Perhaps we may be able to take the trip to Ballarat.

The boys are looking forward to their next trip to Bairnsdale, where they had such a wonderful time on their last visit. We have found two very fine supporters recently in Mr. Crawford (late captain of the 20th Battalion, A.I.F.), who was so taken up with the lads on Anzac Day that he forwarded a donation through the "Sun," and Mr. E. Gow, of Hawthorn, whose interest in the boys is such that there is some competition run every week, and all the trophies are supplied by him. What a pity for all bands that there are not more of this type of supporter.

We turned out to play at South Melbourne football ground recently with St. Vincent de Paul's and Brighton Municipal Bands, and during the performance were treated to an exhibition of staff swinging by the drum-major of the latter band. More such leaders would be a fine asset from a public point of view. I really think that the more spectacular a performance the more popular it is. Personally I would like to see the gentleman concerned open a class of instruction for young drum-majors and help to eliminate the necessity of borrowing drum-majors. At present there do not appear to be enough to go round.

"B NATURAL."

MARYBOROUGH CITIZENS' BAND.

Since the last report of the Maryborough Citizens' Band many engagements, together with assistance at charitable functions, have been performed creditably. St. Patrick's Concert was the first one, on March 19, and then a tour was made to Eddington for the gymkhana.

Then the big task of assisting with all the events during the Easter home-coming celebrations began. On the Thursday evening the band met the special train from Melbourne at midnight to greet the home-comers, and give them a rousing welcome.

On Good Friday afternoon the band, together with the visiting Geelong Central Salvation Army Band, gave a recital in Princes Park, and in the evening in the Paramount Theatre. This proved a great success. A tribute was paid by Mr. F. C. Johnston to the Methodist Ladies' Quartette, and he congratulated them on

their beautifully rendered hymns. On the Saturday musical assistance was given at the Railway Employees' Picnic at Princes Park, and on that evening was held a reunion banquet for past and present bandsmen.

Among the home-coming bandsmen were Messrs. Bert and Fred Thomas, W. Morris, J. Crothers, and a number of others. Mr. F. C. Johnston, Mr. R. Llewelyn, Mr. Chaffey (president of Maryborough Old Boys and Girls), with past and present local players, were all present, and thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment. Many vacant spaces were filled to the brim. It's a way we have in the brass band.

On the Sunday afternoon both bands united again in the park and played very nicely. Mr. Johnston conducted massed hymns. The collection was nearly £20.

On Monday the band toured to Newbridge. This was the first visit of the brass band to the town, and it made such an impression that the engagement is assured for next year.

The boys had a good day, and were well treated. At Craigie on the Tuesday, Bandmaster "Paddy" Harris was successful in the bandsmen's race. He carried the "big drum," and had a decent handicap.

Wednesday was the occasion of the school's physical culture display, which proved very successful, and realised £150 for the local hospital. Sunday saw the finish of the big events. We supplied the musical programme for the annual Anzac service, held in the Town Hall. Drum-major T. H. Lee is president of the R.S.S.L.

Bandsman J. Harris was granted a permit to play with Collingwood Band at the Melbourne contests. Our band com-

menced its winter Sunday evening concerts on May 26, and holds them fortnightly.

Mr. E. A. Barker, the Band League representative, had the pleasure of the company of Mr. M. Denyer, one of our trombone players, at the last meeting of the League.

The Maryborough Band is still the main one on the firing line regarding professional coaching, most of the letters being written by disgruntled persons who do not state facts. Do they know what they are talking about? It is allowed by the ruling of the Australian Band Council, and it will take more than a letter or two to alter the rule. Maryborough goes out to win. It plays the game from start to finish. It gets a conductor to ensure a win or to be as near the top as possible, and because other bands will not avail themselves of the same opportunities, and enter with the same progressive spirit, they try to howl Maryborough down.

Maryborough reads all these letters with interest, but really had a real laugh at the persons concerned. These paltry letters which appear from time to time may bring out real facts to various bands, and create courage and the will to follow the example of the progressive Maryborough Band. Thus we will get improved playing in bands generally.

About ten players of the junior band have joined the ranks of the senior band, which has given much encouragement to the bandmaster and bandsmen.

H. R. DREW, Hon. Secretary.

HOPETOUN AND DISTRICT.

Although no reports have been sent about the Hopetoun and District Brass Band for some time, we have not been

Band Contest - - Mittagong, N.S.W.

Under the auspices of the Band Association of N.S.W.

Eight-Hour Week-End
October 6 and 7, 1935

Over £60 in Prize Money

Further Particulars from

L. J. BOURNE, Hon. Secretary, Band Contest
Committee, Box No. 16, P.O., Mittagong