

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR MUSICAL DIRECTOR



Photo courtesy Jenny Forbes Photography

John Snowling has been awarded Life Membership of the New Zealand Concert Bands Association, which was presented to him at the Awards Ceremony of the National Concert Bands Festival held in Hastings on 6th/7th August 2010.

John had no idea the National Executive Committee had nominated him for Life Membership. In acknowledging the award, John said, "when we take on roles like this early in life we don't do it expecting this type of award, we do it because we love making music". He concluded by paying tribute to the many local musicians he has had the pleasure of working with including members of the Hastings Citizens' Band, Hawke's Bay and Bay Cities' Symphonic Bands and the students of Lindisfarne College and Hastings Girls' High School in the Concord Bands." He concluded by saying how he was very humbled and honoured to have received the award.

John is currently Director of Music at Lindisfarne College and Musical Director of Bay Cities' Symphonic and Concord Bands. He has been involved in music and bands all of his life after being raised by musical parents in the Ipswich Citadel Corps of the Salvation Army in England.

From 1966 to 1971 he was a musician and principal trumpet in Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards Band in London. During this time he performed on state occasions such as Trooping the Colour, Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Royal Investitures, radio and television broadcasts, recordings and concerts.

In 1978 John immigrated with his family to New Zealand. Since then he has conducted many ensembles including the Hastings Citizens Brass Band from 1978 – 1992, Hawke's Bay Symphonic and Concert Bands 1992 - 2002, and the Bay Cities' Symphonic Band since 2003. He has also conducted the Canterbury Youth Brass Band, Hawke's Bay Youth Band, Hawke's Bay Regional Orchestra, New Zealand National Youth Brass Band and the New Zealand National Youth Concert Band.

As an adjudicator, John has judged both the New Zealand Concert Bands Festival and the New Zealand Brass Bands Championships, all but one of the provincial Brass Band Contests in New Zealand and has twice been invited to be part of the international panel of judges at the Pacific Basin Band Festival in Hawaii. John is also a Past National President of the New Zealand Concert Bands Association, a position he was elected to for three consecutive years.

In 2003 John was awarded Life Membership of the Hawke's Bay Orchestral Society for Services to Bands and received a Community Services Award from the Hastings District Council for his contribution to the Arts.