

ARTIST NEWS

The Australian National Band Championships 2009

Yamaha Music Australia continued their sponsorship of The Australian National Band Championships this year and the event was held at the Seymour Centre, Sydney University, over the Easter Long Weekend: 9 - 13 April 2009.

74 community brass and concert bands (3700 competitors) from across Australia competed to claim the title of Australian National Champions and 2900 single day passes were purchased by the general public over the course of the weekend.

Held over 5 days, the Nationals showcased the best community bands from around Australia, with soloists, small groups, full brass and concert bands competing. This year, the organisers were lucky to be able to secure the Royal Easter Show as the location for the 'Parade of Bands'.



After a close contest, with many bands performing at a very high level, the winning A Grade brass band, Gunnedah Shire Band, were awarded the coveted 'Fireman's Helmet' first place trophy. The A Grade Concert Band first prize winners were Hobart Wind Symphony.

Yamaha's presence was featured heavily throughout the championships, and the Yamaha brand 'new look' trade stand was popular with both competitors and the general public. Development Artists, Sheona White and Simon Gresswell were present at the event with Sheona featuring as tenor horn soloist at the Gala Concert on the Saturday evening, and Simon invited as guest tubist in 'National Australia Brass' conducted by Professor David King.

Also performing with National Australia Brass were YMA local artists Thom Humphrey (YEP842S), Joseph Cook (YEB632S), Mark Howcroft (YEP642) and Paula Russell (YCR8335S).

Paula Russell won the Open Cornet Championship at the Australian Nationals and, the following week, went on to win the Invitational Slow Melody Contest, the Championship Cornet Prize and the Open Champion of Champions at the New Zealand Band Championships. Paula's profile and influence in Australia continues to grow and her achievements are driving demand for Xeno cornets around the country.

For more information about National Band Championships, please visit: <http://www.nationals09.com.au/>