

JENNIFER CRAIN

Instrument: Bass Clarinet

Position: Committee Secretary

Joined: 2002



MY STORY

My grandmother would always say that her four children received piano lessons but only two could play, lucky for me one was my mum. Her love of music was always present in our early lives in the form of singing along with the radio and also singing to us. I started piano lessons at the local convent but this was an intermittent opportunity as I could only have lessons when there was a nun available to teach. When the current nun left there would be an argument about continuing in a town further away from home, but we lived on a farm and time and money were short for making long weekly round trips. I went to high school looking forward to taking music but I was the only one in my year to elect it so that was that. At this time I saw the SSO twice on country tours and decided firmly that when I grew up and was in control of time, money, and transport I would learn to play something. At college I took up piano again, flute and guitar. About this time I discovered that my grandfather had his own dance band in the 40's, playing clarinet and sax, and thought maybe I should give one of these a go. Recently I was given a photo of him in his Tumut town band uniform playing trumpet. After moving to the Hunter as a teacher I discovered the world of concert bands (no such beast was known of in the Riverina at this time). I was asked to help with one band, then another and eventually got my own school band to run including combined bands and camps. I had noticed that it was hard to get kids to play low brass and consequently the tone of my bands was thin, then a friend suggested I learn Bass Clarinet, to cover the gap. Finally in my thirties I had the time, money, transport and the passion for the right instrument. I wanted to play in a community band by the time I was forty and I achieved this goal through the warm and generous welcome given to me by the City of Lake Macquarie Concert Band. It took a lot of gumption to go! I continue under the patient tuition of Mr Graham Lamond, who has given up asking when I am going to play a real clarinet!

I am pleased to be able to fulfill both my passion for learning an instrument myself and for being able to provide musical opportunities for students in school bands.

ABOUT ME

I am a primary school teacher and band manager. Husband Javier.

Hyperactive cat *Essy* & geriatric dog *Bandit*. I love any type of music



Philosophy

You've got to make it happen

Email:

sarras@bigpond.com