

ILT Foundation Scholarships 5 x \$2,500 each February 2009

INVERCARGILL BRASS BAND MEMBERS TO REPRESENT NEW ZEALAND IN JAPAN

FIVE Invercargill brass band players are winging their way to Japan after being selected for the National Youth Brass Band of New Zealand.

And Andrew Yorkstone (second trombone) his brother Ross (solo cornet) Conner Ellison (second baritone), Ben Cuff (first baritone) and Jacob McQuarrie (percussion) can just concentrate on getting the music right after each member was granted a \$2500 scholarship from the ILT Foundation.

The five, who are all members of the highly successful Ascot Park Hotel Brass of Invercargill, were selected after an intense auditioning process. They will travel to Wellington at Queen's Birthday Weekend to record a CD with the other 35 members of the band.

In July, the band members get together at Christchurch to rehearse before playing concerts in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland as part of the band's 50th Anniversary Concert Tour. Then they will then leave for Japan where they will perform at the Japan International Youth Musicale and also in a combined concert at Osaka with the Breeze Brass Band.

Ascot Park Hotel Brass of Invercargill spokeswoman Jill Ellison said the boys had made their way through the ranks while being tutored locally by fellow members of the Invercargill band.

And the ILT Foundation contribution towards the \$3000 cost of the trip means the boys are definitely the envy of other members of the national band.

"We are so lucky down here. It's great for parents who have already had to contribute for tuition and instruments for years. We've all been saying how lucky we are to be living in Invercargill and it's great the ILT Foundation is supporting the arts," she said.

ILT Foundation chairman Alan Dennis said it was a great achievement for the five young men.

"It is a great example of how people who are dedicated, committed and are willing to do the hard work can succeed. And it's terrific to see five of the 37 band members coming from Invercargill."

He also commended the support of their fellow band members who had assisted in their music careers.

"The ILT Foundation is thrilled to support these young men who are a great example of how success blossoms with a commitment from the wider community."

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