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Musicians are learning the "Last Post" to play in driveways on Anzac Day



Tim Paine says #STAYHOME

Australian cricket captain Tim Paine says Stay Home, Stay Safe this Easter

Melinda Poon is heeding the call for musicians everywhere to learn the *Last Post* to play at moving driveway Anzac Day performances stretching across the nation.

As a long-serving player with the award-winning Latrobe Federal Band, she is well-practiced in the haunting music she usually performs at three Anzac Day services with the band at Latrobe, Sheffield, and Railton.

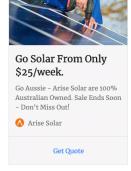
However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak cancelling Anzac Day ceremonies and marches, she had no gig to play at this year before hearing about Music for Mateship.

What began as an idea grew into a national campaign where musicians play the *Last Post* for neighbours and observe a minute's silence.



Brisbane school teacher Alastair Tomkins launched Music for Mateship to bring the community together with a street at a time.





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Right Note: Bugler Melinda Poon is participating in the Music for Mateship campaign performing the Last Post in her driveway on Anzac Day. Picture: Paul Scambler.

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the day before we would go to nursing homes to play the Last Post."

Ms Poon said bands always get called on in times of celebration, in tough times and war.

"Playing at the dawn service on Anzac Day brings the hair up on the back of your neck; it's a real honour and privilege to do it," she said.

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''The 'band fam' is what we call ourselves. It's one of those groups where you can be a member when you're eight through to $80\mbox{-}{\rm plus}$ years old.

"We have a broad cross-section of the community involved in the band, and we love that.

"We also have our social members who don't play and work on the committee."

The Latrobe Federal band is the oldest continuous serving brass band in Australia, established in 1872.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the players have not met twice a week for band practice to adhere to the restrictions but are still doing virtual band practice sessions.

"We're recording our parts and sending them to the conductor where he mixes them together," Ms Poon said.

"He posts them back up so we can listen and have a bit laugh at our efforts while we haven't got a conductor there to keep us together."

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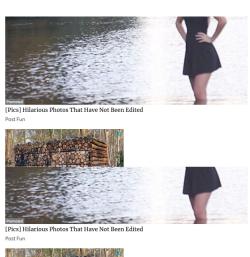


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