

Artarmon Music Initiative Finds Success

By Charl Pienaar

Working closely with Matthew Walmsley, Director of Artarmon Public School Bands, a group of Artarmon parents took the initiative to establish Northern Youth Symphonic Wind ("NYSW"), a regional concert band for young musicians in their early years of high school.

NYSW's founding committee summed up the group's goals in establishing NYWSW: "We've long been aware that students leaving Artarmon Primary School's music programme have not always found programmes of similar quality as they've moved on to high schools in the region. We wanted Artarmon students to be able to continue to have access to a quality music programme in addition to their school music activities. As 2009 was the year that the 'Nationals' would be held in Sydney, we felt that this would be an ideal time to establish the band."

While this has been an exciting Artarmon community initiative, NYSW welcomes young musicians from all around the North Shore. The 2009 concert band totals 52 musicians, each chosen on merit through audition, and includes young players living, and attending schools, across the North Shore.

Attesting to the quality of the players under Matthew Walmsley's music direction, only a few months after its formation, NYSW competed in the Junior B (U19) division of the 2009 Australian National Band Competition on Easter Monday and was awarded 3rd place, closely behind Knox Grammar School and Fort Street High School Bands.

Matthew Walmsley noted: "For the band to have done so well in such a short time is a



testament to the whole effort that has been put in by all involved."

This Artarmon initiative is being organised by Matthew Walmsley, Jacqui Fuller, Gayle Marks, Brendan Beckett, Charl Pienaar and Jane Dawes.

