

CARING FOR YOUR TROMBONE

Instruments are to be looked after appropriately by Band Members. The best way to learn about general cleaning and maintenance is to have your tutor demonstrate.

Below are some simple tips to help you.

DUE TO THE COMPLEX AND DELICATE CONSTRUCTION OF INSTRUMENTS, NEVER ATTEMPT ANY ADJUSTMENTS OR REPAIRS ON YOUR OWN.

If there are any problems, please notify the Band Committee and it will be fixed promptly. All school owned instruments are serviced over the summer holidays, the cost of this is covered in your instrument hire fee.

GENERAL:

KEEP IT CLEAN: Don't chew gum, eat, or drink soft drinks just before or while you play. Food particles, sugar and other foreign materials, when blown into an instrument, are difficult to remove and eventually will affect the playing quality. If you do eat before playing, rinse your mouth out thoroughly with water. The same policy applies to the outside of your instrument too.

AFTER PLAYING: wipe finger prints and other marks off the outside of your instrument with a players polishing cloth. It is necessary to remove perspiration as it has a damaging effect on wood, lacquer and metal.

■ Trombone players are required to purchase slide lubricant. There are basically three types of products used to lubricate a slide: oil, a cream of some type, or a specialty product that combines two lubricants. Each is used separately and most people have a favourite one.

■ Here are a few points to remember when you disassemble any slide and wipe it down:

■ **Never** lean the entire slide or the separated parts against a wall or anywhere they might fall or be knocked over.

■ **Never** lay the entire slide or the separated parts on the floor or across a chair or couch, where someone may step or sit on them.

■ Always put the separate part on a flat, solid surface, even if you have to put the outer slide back in the case while you work on the inner slide.

■ Have your tutor demonstrate how to apply slide lubricant and take their advice on the best one to use.

■ You will need to give your instrument some general maintenance and clean it regularly. All cleaning equipment you will need is available from Mall Music Brookvale or Mona Vale Music, please purchase a kit and ask your tutor for instructions on use.

Just remember, learning to read music and play an instrument is a challenging and rewarding experience. If your instrument is cared for and maintained, the satisfaction you get will greatly increase.

BAND COMMITTEE