

Barker College
Presents

Battle OF THE Bands

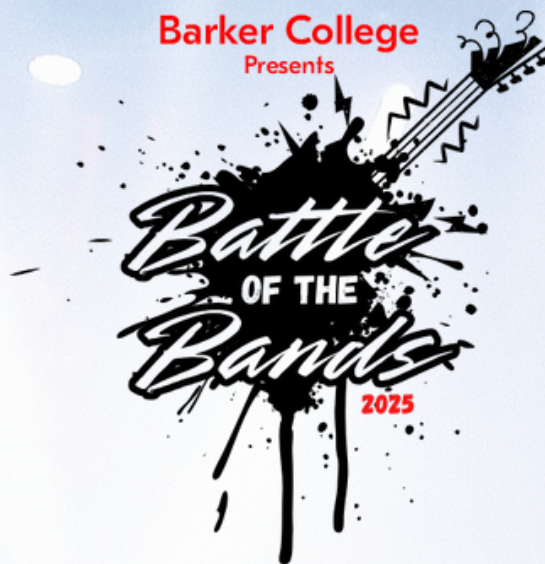
2025

EVENT information PACK

Proudly Sponsored by:

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Dear Principal,

Invitation to Barker College Spring Fair's
Battle of the Bands Competition 2025

We are excited to invite your school to participate in the inaugural **Barker Battle of the Bands Competition**, which will take place on **Saturday, 13 September 2025 from 1pm-6pm**. This competition is an incredible opportunity for student musicians to showcase their talent, experience the thrill of live performance and receive industry feedback.

Each school is invited to enter up to **two bands**, with entries requiring approval from the school's Head of Music before submission. To apply, schools must submit an [online application](#), including a **video audition, by 30 June 2025**. As there are limited spots available, a selection panel will review all auditions and shortlist bands to perform live at the competition. Successful applicants will be notified by **1 August 2025**, and a **\$50 registration fee** per band will be payable upon acceptance.

We are thrilled to announce that [Big Music](#), Australia's premier contemporary music and performance school located in Crows Nest, instrumental in nurturing talent, is sponsoring our competition! **Big Music** offers expert tuition on a wide range of popular instruments, both in-person at their modern studios and online, available seven days a week.

Big Music has generously contributed a MASSIVE prize cash pool of \$3,500!

1st Prize: \$1,000 cash + 1 day in Big Music's **recording studio** with an engineer (valued at \$850)

2nd Prize: \$500 cash + 2-hour **band mentoring** session at Big Music (valued at \$450)

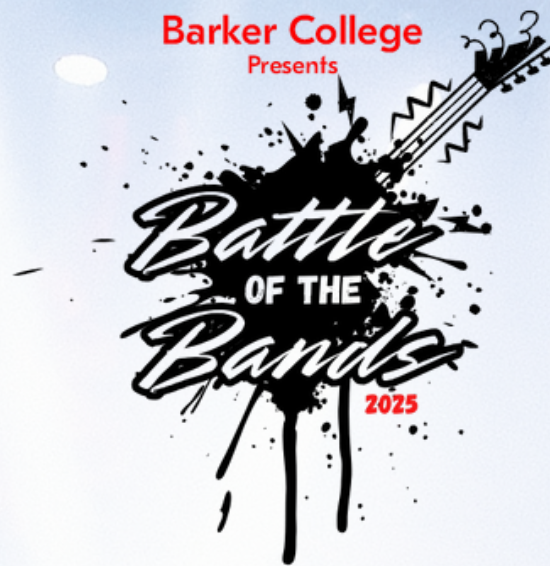
3rd Prize: \$250 cash + 2-hour **band mentoring** session at Big Music (valued at \$450)

[Lightsounds](#) is set to elevate the battle, delivering a **professional grand central stage** equipped with state-of-the-art AV, dynamic lighting, and high-quality screens—creating the ultimate performance experience for our competing bands.

Performances will be evaluated by a panel of **industry adjudicators**, providing participants with valuable feedback and exposure to professionals in the field.

The Barker Battle of the Bands aims to foster creativity, teamwork, and musical excellence among young performers. We encourage schools to enter bands that reflect their students' passion and dedication to music.

For further details, including entry requirements and event guidelines, please see the enclosed information.



We hope your school will join us for this exciting event and look forward to seeing your students take the stage!

Best regards,

Caterina and Candice

Barker Battle of the Bands Organisers
Enquires: fair_entertainment@bcpa.au

Enclosed:

- Promotional Poster - [please feel free to distribute physical and digital copies around your school community](#)
- Event Information
- Registration Process
- Key Dates
- Equipment Provided
- Stage Set-Up
- Adjudicator Panel
- Judging Criteria
- Performance Requirements
- Prizes
- Terms and Conditions
- Enquires

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Battle OF THE Bands 2025



REGISTER NOW!

**CAN YOUR BAND WIN THE
ULTIMATE ROCK BATTLE?**

Perform on our Grand Central Stage
Industry Adjudicators & Feedback

\$3,500 IN PRIZES:

\$1,000 + RECORDING SESSION – 1ST PLACE
\$500 + BAND MENTORING SESSION – 2ND PLACE
\$250 + BAND MENTORING SESSION – 3RD PLACE

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**Spring
Fair**
Barker College
13 SEPTEMBER 2025

BCPA
Barker College Parents' Association
Celebrating 100 Years

Enquires: fair_entertainment@bcpa.au

Registrations close 30 June

SATURDAY

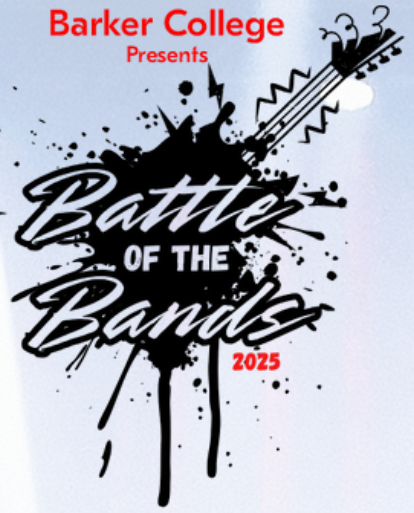
13.9.25

1PM – 6PM

**BARKER COLLEGE
SPRING FAIR**

EVENT information

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Barker Battle of the Bands Competition:

The Competition will take place on Saturday, 13 September 2025 from 1pm until 6pm at the Barker Spring Fair.

The **line-up schedule** will be released on or around 1 September 2025 and will include all relevant information regarding check-in and stage layout. Winners will be announced on the day, at the conclusion of the event (approx. 5.30pm).

REGISTRATION PROCESS

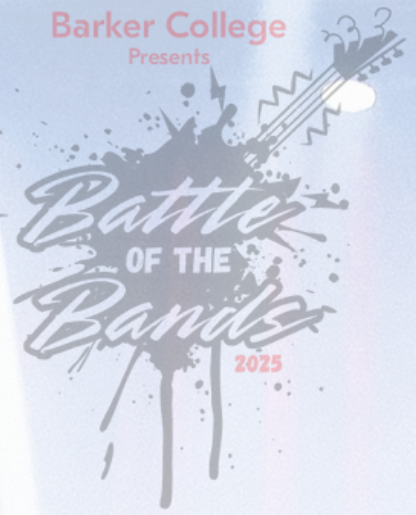
Registration and Video Audition:

Approval from your school's Head of Music is required before submitting an application. Each school may submit a maximum of **two entries**.

To apply, submit an online application that includes a video audition of your band performing a song that is no longer than **3-minutes** in length. The audition piece does not need to be the same as the intended performance piece for the battle.

Auditions will be reviewed by a selection panel from the Barker Spring Fair Committee. You will be notified of your application status by **1 August 2025**. Successful bands will be required to pay a \$50 registration fee upon acceptance. Instructions for submitting payment will be provided at the time of notification.





KEY DATES

Deadline for submissions: 30 June 2025

Successful applicants notified: 1 August 2025

Line up released: 1 September 2025

Competition: Saturday, 13 September 2025 from 1pm until 6pm.

Winner announced: Saturday, 13 September 2025 at approximately 5.30pm

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

We are grateful to our event sponsor **Big Music**, who is generously supplying the backline equipment for the event.

A professional **sound technician** and **stage manager** will be on hand.

The organiser will provide:

Guitar amps (2)

Bass amp (1)

Five piece drum kit with cymbals

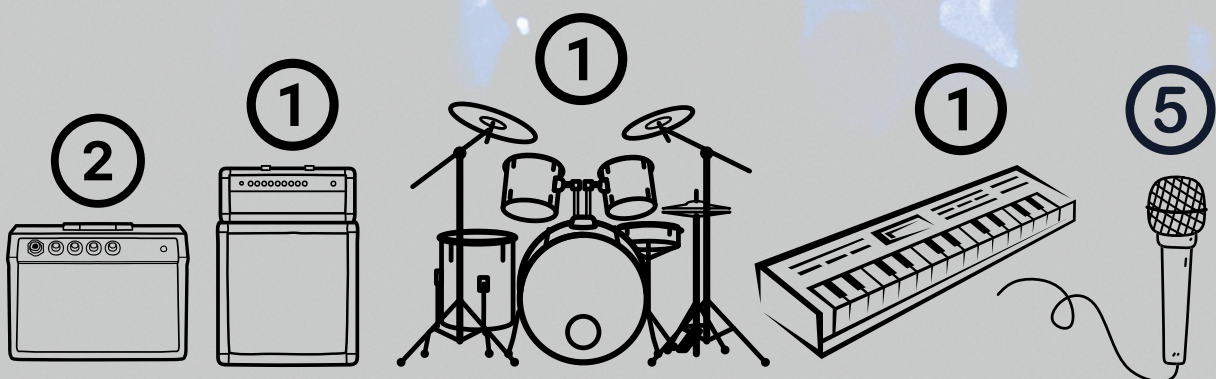
Keyboard (1)

Microphones (5)

Sound system

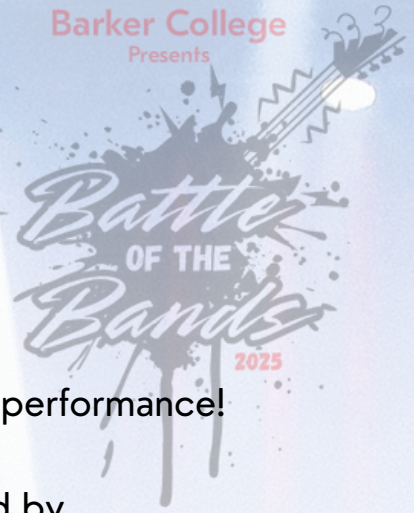
All other equipment must be provided by your bands.

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Get ready to rock on a stage designed for the ultimate live performance!

Our Barker Battle of the Bands stage is generously provided by

 **Lightsounds**, who have been delivering high-quality lighting and audio solutions for over 20 years, offering sales, hire, installations, and event services for a top-tier performance experience.

Stage Features:

Size: 7.2m x 6m

Access: Steps on both sides for easy entry

Sound: State-of-the-art sound system with premium Shure microphones

Visuals: Large LED video screen centered on stage

Lighting: Professional moving head lights for an electrifying atmosphere

Below is the proposed layout for the competition day. The keyboard and drums will each have a microphone if needed. A foldback system and lighting will operate on stage for all performers.

Please note, due to the number of bands performing, minimal stage rearrangements will be permitted.



STAGE FRONT

Barker College

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Battle OF THE Bands

2025

ADJUDICATOR line up

Paul Watson *Big Music Director*

First inspired by The Beatles and Ringo Starr - Paul went on to study with some of Australia's top drummers, including Andrew Dickeson and Milan Troha.

Paul began performing and teaching soon after finishing school and has played with iconic Australian artists such as Choirboys, Jon English, Shannon Noll, The Foster Brothers, and Peter Dinklage. In 2013, he toured Australia with the award-winning Rock Revolution show and has shared stages with rock legends like Van Halen, Aerosmith, and Def Leppard - including a performance in front of 110,000 people at Stadium Australia.

A published author of Zero to Hero Books 1 and 2 and an AMEB examiner, Paul has helped many students become professional drummers and educators. He is currently Head of Tuition at Big Music School & Studios.



Charlie Meadows *Guitarist/ Guitar Teacher*

Charlie Meadows has been a professional guitarist and educator for over 20 years. He has performed with leading Australian jazz figures including James Morrison, and vocalists such as Emma Pask, Gregg Arthur, Kristin Cornwall, Pat Powell, Lily Dior, Darren Percival, Virna Sanzone, Elana Stone, and Kristin Berardi. He has performed with the Big Bands of John Morrison, Todd Hardy and Dan Barnett. He has performed with a variety of other pop singers and entertainers including Deborah Conway, Abby Dobson, Abi Tucker, Monica Trapaga, James Valentine and numerous 'World Music' artists including Jai Uttal (US), Dave Stringer (US) and Afro Moses. Other International performance credits include Irish Gothic Cabaret star Camille O'Sullivan, Eitan Katz (US) and Ukrainian pop star Khrystyna Soloviy. Charlie is a member of the 3 time ARIA award winning gypsy band, Monsieur Camembert. Charlie has numerous TV, Radio and Film music credits including co-composing and performing music for the 2018 Australian Indie feature film 'Chocolate Oyster', which featured at the Sydney Film Festival. Charlie currently teaches guitar and runs the Contemporary Music and Guitar Ensemble programmes at Knox Grammar School. He previously taught tertiary music units in Contemporary Music History and Music Theory at the Australian Institute of Music.



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Battle OF THE Bands 2025

ADJUDICATOR line up

Giac Benvenuto

Music Director, Drummer & Producer

With 18 years of drumming experience, Giac has established himself as a versatile and dynamic musician, performing year-round across Sydney and nationally with artists spanning various genres and settings. Currently in his final year at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, he is completing a Bachelor of Music (Performance) specialising in Drum Set. Recent career highlights include touring throughout 2024 with Ben Lee, Charlie Pittman, Loretta, Charli Lucas, Myma, and Will Baker. Giac's earliest performances date back to local battle-of-the-bands competitions on the Northern Beaches with his first original band, Heartlake, which won the Northern Composure Battle of the Bands in 2019. His experience in writing and performing original music—along with his proficiency in guitar and bass—played a crucial role in shaping his deep passion for music, with the drums serving as his chosen instrument of expression. Beyond live performance, Giac has expanded his skill set into studio recording, production, and songwriting, collaborating with a range of independent Sydney artists, including Will Baker, Sy, and Myma. As an educator, Giac has been teaching drums, guitar, and bass for the past three years, mentoring students of all ages and skill levels. His approach emphasises individualised guidance, aiming to equip each student with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to develop into well-rounded musicians without limits.



Zoë Faen

Voice Teacher/Vocal Coach

After completing a 2-year Assoc. Diploma in Musical Theatre at the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Zoë was awarded the Conservatorium prize for Voice. A few years later she went on to earn a Bachelor of Music/Performing Arts, graduating with Distinction. Since graduating, Zoë has developed a strong interest in the science and anatomy behind the voice. She regularly engages in courses, workshops and masterclasses with highly trained and qualified practitioners of Estill Voice Training, and her teaching is influenced by the Estill Voice Model. Zoë is passionate about vocal health education as well as song interpretation. Singing is storytelling and students are supported to find the different emotions in a song, to find connection to the lyrics and bring their performances to life. Zoë began training voices in 2007. In 2021 she rebranded her home studio and opened under the new name, The Voice Hut. She works with a variety of voices each week - male, female, young, old - for singing and speaking training. Prior to this, she spent 6 years at Ravenswood School for Girls as a private singing tutor. In addition to teaching, Zoë has enjoyed performing in cabaret, musicals, at events, weddings and local venues.



JUDGING CRITERIA

The judging criteria provide a well-rounded assessment of each band's performance, balancing technical skill with audience impact across five key areas:



Pitch Perfect (20%) – Measures vocal and instrumental tuning accuracy, ensuring precise pitch and intonation.



In-the-Pocket (20%) – Evaluates rhythmic stability and authenticity, focusing on how well band members sync to create a cohesive, engaging feel.



Technique (20%) – Assesses technical proficiency and tone development, highlighting fluidity in technique and instrumental/vocal quality.



Chemistry (20%) – Examines band cohesion and synchronisation, emphasising tightness and accuracy in execution.

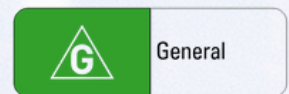


The X Factor (20%) – Gauges energy, stage presence, and audience connection, rewarding compelling and expressive performances.




PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Each band may perform one song, with a total performance time of up to 3- minutes. The song must be suitable for a general audience, which includes children. No offensive language or behaviour is permitted.



PRIZES

We are thrilled to announce that **Big Music**, Australia's premier contemporary music and performance school located in Crows Nest, **instrumental in nurturing talent**, is sponsoring our competition!

 **Big Music** offers expert tuition on a wide range of popular instruments, both in-person at their modern studios and online, available seven days a week.

Big Music has generously funded a **MASSIVE prize cash pool of \$3,500** for our successful rock bands.

1st Prize: \$1,000 cash + 1 day in Big Music's **recording studio** with an engineer (valued at \$850)

2nd Prize: \$500 cash + 2-hour **band mentoring** session at Big Music (valued at \$450)

3rd Prize: \$250 cash + 2-hour **band mentoring** session at Big Music (valued at \$450)

Thank you so much, Big Music, for your continued support of young musicians and for your generous sponsorship of the Barker Battle of the Bands!

TERMS and CONDITIONS

Barker College
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Barker Battle of the Bands - Terms & Conditions

1. Eligibility:

- The organiser of the Barker Battle of the Bands is the Barker College Parent Association ("Organiser")
- The competition is open to students who are enrolled in years 7 to 12 during the 2025 academic year.
- Each school may enter up to a maximum of two bands.
- All members of a band must be currently enrolled at a NSW school and can only participate in one band performance.
- No staff members, instructors, or other school personnel may perform in any capacity during the band's video audition or live performance.
- Each entry must be approved by the school's Head of Music (or equivalent).
- Any band currently signed with a record company is not eligible for entry.

2.Registration:

- All bands must complete the online registration form and submit a video audition.
- Registrations must be received by 30 June 2025.

3.Video Audition Selection Process:

- Video submissions are to be a maximum of 3 minutes.
- All submitted entries will be reviewed by a selection panel from the Barker Spring Fair Committee and will be conducted in a fair and unbiased manner and will adhere to the judging criteria in section 5.
- The decision of the selection panel is final and not subject to appeal.
- Successful applicants will be notified by 1 August 2025.
- Each successful entry is subject to a \$50 registration fee, payable upon acceptance.
- Payment details will be provided to successful applicants.

4.Competition Live Performance Requirements:

- The Barker Battle of the Bands competition is scheduled for Saturday, 13 September 2025 at Barker College.
- Bands are to perform 1 song in front of an audience and 4 adjudicators. Performances are to be a maximum of 3-minutes. Performances that exceed 3-minutes will be ineligible for prize placements.

- Selected bands will perform live at the competition event, with each member playing their respective part without pre-recorded assistance. All vocal and instrumental parts must be played or sung live. The use of backing tracks, pre-recorded loops, samples or any form of audio playback is prohibited, except for real-time instrument effects (eg, guitar pedals) used during the performance.
- The Organiser will supply all backline equipment including a drum kit with cymbals, a bass amp, two guitar amps, a keyboard, five microphones and sound system. A professional sound technician and a stage manager will be in attendance.
- Bands must supply all other equipment (instruments, pedals and leads) to be used for their performance.
- Performances will be evaluated by a panel of industry adjudicators who will adhere to the judging criteria as outlined in section 5.
- The winning band will be announced at the conclusion of the event, approximately 5.30pm.

5. Judging criteria

- Performances will be evaluated based on:
 1. **Pitch Perfect (20%)** – Measures vocal and instrumental tuning accuracy, ensuring precise pitch and intonation.
 2. **In-the-Pocket (20%)** – Evaluates rhythmic stability and authenticity, focusing on how well band members sync to create a cohesive, engaging feel.
 3. **Technique (20%)** – Assesses technical proficiency and tone development, highlighting fluidity in technique and instrumental/vocal quality.
 4. **Chemistry (20%)** – Examines band cohesion and synchronisation, emphasising tightness and accuracy in execution.
 5. **The X Factor (20%)** – Gauges energy, stage presence, and audience connection, rewarding compelling and expressive performances.
- The judge's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

6. Prize Pool:

- The total prize pool is \$3,500, distributed as follows:

1st Prize: \$1,000 cash + 1 day in Big Music's recording studio with an engineer (valued at \$850)

2nd Prize: \$500 cash + 2-hour band mentoring session at Big Music (valued at \$450)

3rd Prize: \$250 cash + 2-hour band mentoring session at Big Music (valued at \$450)

7. Conduct:

- All participants are expected to demonstrate good conduct and sportsmanship throughout the competition.
- Any form of harassment, discrimination, or inappropriate behaviour will result in disqualification.
- Bands are not permitted to wear clothing displaying offensive or crude language or images.

- Bands must adhere to the direction of the stage manager and stage crew at all times.
- No offensive language is permissible during a performance. No stage diving or actions deemed to be unsociable will be permitted at any time.
- Bands will be permitted 3 minutes to set up and sound check instruments and vocal microphone level volumes directly prior to performing.
- The Organiser reserves the right to disqualify any individual or band that violates this code of conduct.

8.Liability:

- The Organiser is not responsible for any injuries, damage, or loss of equipment incurred during the competition.
- Participants are responsible for the safety and maintenance of their own instruments and equipment.

9.Media Release:

- By participating, bands consent to the use of their names, images, and performance recordings for promotional purposes by the Organiser.

10.Changes and Cancellations:

- The Organiser reserves the right to modify or cancel the competition at any time due to unforeseen circumstances without refund including, but not limited to, inclement weather.
- Participants will be notified of any changes promptly.
- If a participant withdraws from the competition, the Organiser reserves the right to select an alternate participant.

11.Acceptance of Terms:

- By submitting a registration form, participants agree to comply with these Terms and Conditions.
- The Organiser reserves the right to modify these Terms and Conditions with changes communicated to participants in advance.
- For enquiries, please contact Caterina and Candice at fair_entertainment@bcpa.au



Please direct all enquiries to our Barker Battle of the Bands organisers:

Caterina Polistina and Candice Barnes
Email: fair_entertainment@bcpa.au