

THE CLEF HANGERS DONATE \$200 TO CARENNE SCHOOL

Band's donation 'a wonderful gesture'

By **PETER FREESTONE**

FOR the second successive year, The Clef Hangers Concert Band from Baulkham Hills has donated their Bathurst Eisteddfod winnings to Carenne School.

Competing in Saturday night's Open Concert Band section of the eisteddfod, The Clef Hangers came second, winning \$200.

Few people would realise the cost and the logistics of transporting a 40-member concert band and their instruments such a distance just to play for eight minutes.

However, after the winners' presentation was made on Saturday night, The Clef Hangers' musical director Mark Strykowski announced to the packed Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre that the band felt the money should stay in the Bathurst community.

Mr Strykowski said last year, after also securing second place in the same eisteddfod section, they decided Carenne School would be a worthy cause to support by donating their winnings.

He said band members thought the same should apply this year if they were prize winners.

Eisteddfod president Beryl Smith, in the presence of Mr Strykowski, handed over the \$200 to Carenne School representatives Ros Luther and Phil Cummings.

Mrs Smith said The Clef Hangers' donation was "a wonderful gesture".

"I was speaking to one of their leaders who said they love to perform," Mrs Smith said.

"They do a lot of work nursing homes down their way [Baulkham Hills area].

"If there are any competitions on, they just love to perform.

"That's their sole aim - just to perform.

"They didn't want their prize-money to go out of town.

"Last year they went into it quite thoroughly to see who would be a worthy cause to give the money to.

"They saw Carenne performing on stage, so that's what they chose and they said that's who they would give their winnings to this year also.

"I said to them 'it's costing you'. He said: 'that's beside the point - we're doing it because we love it'.

"It just shows there are some wonderful people in the world."