

# Silver band showcase to be unveiled at show

By LAUREN TINDALE

A NEW display cabinet featuring a series of photographs that tell the history of the Katanning Silver Band will be revealed at this year's Katanning Show.

Built by Alan Levitzke, the concept was sparked by bandmaster Terry Noonan's sister-in-law Pat Phillips.

Instead of locking musical instruments up in a storeroom or museum, she felt they should be used to highlight the glory days of the band.

On one side of the cabinet, a photo shows band members in 1929 with a brand new set of instruments - several are still used today.

Bandmaster Jeff Smith is featured in a picture from 1948.

His direction made the band the best of its kind in country WA at the time.

"Jeff Smith did for our band what Mick Malthouse did for the West Coast Eagles," Mr Noonan said.

"He set high standards and goals of excellence, with a team of players who followed his leadership."

The other side of the cabinet displays the band's efforts with junior musicians over the last 20 years.

Highlighted are the contributions of Mr

Smith, Hugh Mouritz, Archie Morrell and Jack O'Neil to band and dance music and their pursuit of entertainment in the region.

The Katanning-based Wesfarmers agency has agreed to display the cabinet from its premises after the Show.

It is a mark of respect for Mr Mouritz, who, with a business partner, used the site to run a garage before Wesfarmers bought the building.

"Our intention is to invite other business houses to display the cabinet in their premises," Mr Noonan said.

"Maybe it will take two to three years to go around town."

The Silver Band has re-formed, starting regular practice sessions in July this year under the guidance of Perth City Band member Robert Kearsley.

"We play everything from Brass Band Boogie to concert music," Mr Noonan said.

"We are having good fun.

"There are seven players at the moment but we need more.

"It is disappointing with so many people in the region with good musical qualifications not wanting to share their talents with the community."

The group rehearses every second Tuesday in the Katanning Town Hall.



TERRY Noonan proudly shows off a new cabinet that showcases the history of the Katanning Silver Band. It will be revealed at the Katanning Show this weekend.