

Award honours stalwart service

JACKSON SAUNDERS

HAYLEY Gallivan was yesterday presented with an inaugural award that honours the service of Edith Aitken, who has been involved with what is now known as Bendigo and District Concert Band for more than 60 years.

Hayley was awarded the Edith Aitken Award for the Bandperson of the Year for 2010, after the band performed at yesterday's Australia Day celebrations at Lake Weeroona.

Mrs Aitken joined the band in the late 1940s when it was known as the Golden Square Brass Band. In 1989 it became known as the Golden Square Concert Band and since 1996 it has been the Bendigo and District Concert Band.

Mrs Aitken, 82, said it was an honour to have the award named after her, and that she still loved being involved with the band.

A trombonist, she also served as

treasurer of the band for 24 years. Outgoing secretary Brendon Alsop said the Edith Aitken Award was the band's most prestigious award. "It could be said it's like the best and fairest of the band," he said.

"(It's) the one who puts in at rehearsals, during gigs, helps set up, pack up, tries to improve and everything like that, and Hayley is a perfect example."

Hayley's passion for music is clear, and it has been shown through her commitment to the band over the past four years. "I come along because it's so much fun - it's not a chore," she said.

The 18-year-old said it was nice to have her efforts recognised and she was grateful for the support she had received from fellow band members.

The baritone saxophonist said she aspired to become a music teacher.

This year she will study a Bachelor of Music at Monash University, and although she

realises her involvement with the band will be restricted, Hayley said she would be going to band practice whenever she could.

The Edith Aitken Award was one of two awards presented yesterday.

The Most Improved Musician Award for 2010 was yesterday presented to Isabel Guest.

Three other awards for 2010 were presented at the band's Christmas break-up, the President's Service Award going to Graeme Phillips and the Musical Director's Award to Don McArthur.

The Bendigo and District Music Academy Rising Star Award went to Zebulun Lea.

Mr Alsop said the band had 35 or so members, and new members were welcome. For details, visit www.concertband.com.au or phone Michael Dobson on 0408 362 996.



PRAISE: Edith Aitken presents Hayley Gallivan with the award.