



PC174320

**RECRUITING CALL:** John Booth and Ian Shaw are trying to keep the Model Band alive.

**Picture:** Peter Cronin

## Band sounding out future

A 103-year-old Ipswich band is in danger of closing due to dwindling member numbers.

Saxophone player John Booth's grandfather Samuel Owen was the first conductor of the Ipswich Model Band when it was established in 1906.

But now, with fewer than 10 regular members, John said the band faced an uncertain future.

"My grandfather started it, but it looks like I might

be there to close it, although I don't want to," Mr Booth said.

The band, which is a combination of the concert, jazz and marching disciplines, performs at events across the city and South-East Queensland.

Musical director Ian Shaw said he believed increasing competition from other musical groups had contributed to the historic band's demise.

"We had to say no to the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers this year for the first time in as long as I can remember," Mr Shaw said.

"Ultimately, I would like to have 30-plus members. Officially, we now have 10 on our books."

He invited those interested in joining to observe a rehearsal.

■ Phone 0407 138 531 or visit [www.ipswichmodelband.org.au](http://www.ipswichmodelband.org.au).