



# Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

Spring 2017 Edition

[www.ranbandassoc.net](http://www.ranbandassoc.net)



A magazine for association members and permanent band members of the RAN



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**TAS:** Brian Ellis

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Statement.

“I have been consumed by time”

There is at the moment not enough time in a day, a week or from today a year. October is here already and I'm struggling to keep on top of all the things one wants to do or has committed to.

I had planned the magazine to be out in the first week of September but here we are in the first week of October. I'm sure I'm not the only one with this problem. Of time catching up.

As a still playing member, I can say that I have not stopped since our reunion, From rehearsing for an up coming stage production of Cat Stevens, filling in with Red Hilliers Stonnington Brass Band, Playing with Len Nurse, Barry Pollock, Bill Post and Gordon Crompton in the great little Dixie Band, Playing in Mabel's old time dance band (Yes there still is a monthly old time dance with supper) complete with out of tune Hall piano and finally my own Swingland 8 piece.

Oh yes, teaching 3 days a week.

Now you might say it's my own fault, answer: I love doing it but if someone can extend a day or week by a few extra hours all the other things will come easy.

Anyway, that's my sermon with the tag,

“I can't believe it when I hear that some of our members haven't picked up there instrument for years. I can understand for health reasons but there must still be a passion in there somewhere.

Just think of the concert in March, well next year it will be bigger than Ben Hur (as they say) so start practicing, find that band and join up or are you like me “not enough hours in a day”

It is always a quite period association wise after a busy reunion and with no Veterans band commitment , so the magazine might not look as busy.

Our Vale in past mags had been absent ( a good thing) but this quarter has been a sad occasion for reporting the passing of colleagues. Some were shocking in the way they happened and others, surprising because they were so young.

Who didn't we hear about is the question we must ask. The instance of family members privacy in these sad occasions is understandable but to not inform his mates to me is sometimes confusing, or to hear it second hand or well after the funeral, does not give us the opportunity to just acknowledge our sadness.

Enjoy the read.

Front Cover Spring Edition

The museum is for ever evolving and currently as you can see the Band room has a new member. But, what is wrong with that photo you might say.

The Drum is not right firstly. We are setting up a correct period drum that will sit on the mannequin safely. But there is two other missing items and one incorrect item still to be rectified. can you see them. Answer next issue.



# Secretaries Report

John Lennon

Planning is now well advanced for next year's reunion, with a detailed breakdown of confirmed and proposed activities. I have put together a comprehensive accommodation cost breakdown with various combination options. I have only focused on Mantra Resort accommodation and it would have been quite exhaustive to propose or recommend other accommodation options and pricing. For those that are looking for budget accommodation and caravan parks I have deliberately left that up to individuals to investigate and negotiate best prices.

Since the last newsletter we have seen the passing of 2 members Bill James & Howard Turner and the passing of Qld member Rick Watsons wife Lexie. In the case of Bill it was a tragic accident and our thoughts have been with his partner Annie. Howard appears to have suffered some medical event and again, our thoughts have been with Sandra over her loss. I spoke to Rick Watson recently who appears to be holding up as best as can be expected. Lexie had been suffering with poor health for some time. I am sure I speak for all association members and partners to say we share your grief. I have

been out of circulation for a few weeks so apologise if I have unintentionally missed the passing of any members or partners.

I mentioned in our last newsletter how wonderful it was to see the wives and partners of deceased members who attended our last reunion in Victoria. Whilst I have been thinking about this in light of the recent passing of 2 members, it was almost like a bolt of lightning that I got a call from one of our elder statesman (meaning he is older than me). He gave it to me straight that we should do more to encourage more partners of deceased members to attend our reunions. I would like members who have contact with deceased member partners to encourage them to join the association family and be part of our reunions.

Finally – Many members may already know that I have been in and out of Hospital for the last 2 weeks with health issues. After initially presenting myself to hospital for a heart attack it turned out my lymph nodes had swollen to 3 times their normal size and had pushed against my heart causing the attack. After many CT's , Ultra

Sounds and a biopsy (which involved major surgery) it confirmed I suffer with sarcoidosis.

Leading up to the diagnosis it was either going to be lymphoma or sarcoidosis. During the biopsy surgery it was also revealed that I have asbestos scarring on the lung which is benign. I am yet to start a treatment plan which should happen soon, but I am currently still not myself and have lost a fair bit of weight. For those of us who served on the Melbourne or the Sydney it is clear to me that there may be members who have asbestos exposure damage and may not even be aware of it.

The PET scan revealed I had up to 4% scarring of the lung. It was only confirmed as damage caused by asbestos when the surgeon got some very high definition photos of the scarring during the lung collapsing and biopsy process. There is no cure for sarcoidosis which effects the immune system, but there are treatments available to assist with living a normal life.

Regards'

John Lennon

## HMAS CERBERUS PAY OFFICE IN THE 1960's



SBLT SDSU (W) D.A.SMITH CHECKS OFF NAMES OF PAY WRITERS AND ARMED GUARDS BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE COVERED IN PARADE GROUND FOR GENERAL PAYMENT. EACH LOCKED WOODEN BOX CONTAINED ENVELOPES WITH A FORTNIGHTLY PAYROLL IN EXCESS OF \$1 MILLION.



INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST ELECTRIC ADDING MACHINE TO THE HMAS CERBERUS PAY OFFICE IN JUNE 1966.



## Treasurer Report

Errol Hatch

2016/17 has been a busy year to say the least. The anticipation of the Melbourne reunion took most of our efforts to make sure it was a success and I think it achieved that. The cost to host it was substantial and all of the tours and major functions were costed. Included in the year was the commitment for the association to be the main benefactor of the Band section of the museum. This started with us taking on the task of procuring additional display cabinets to create a worthwhile display of our heritage.

From two display cabinets we were targeting 3 more at a subsidised cost (new they are in the \$8000 plus mark) through the efforts of WO Marty Grogan who had contacts in the display cabinet world. Well from our initial visit to Geelong where the cabinet company was located the museum negotiated 12 cabinets in groups of 4 for the museum. This finally gave the Band section in total 7

display cabinets plus a whole room as our display room.

It also significantly increased the museum's display area and the ability to display more currently archived material.

Why am I revealing this to you in our Treasurers report you might say. Well.....

From our financial report on the opposite page the most significant cost was the initial museum setup and acquisitions. The display that was officially opened by our president is ours and with future additions (from you) will be a significant attraction to the museum.

A lesson learnt in this year just gone was that raffles are not our forte. Though there was participation by the members (some were extraordinary) we only raised \$3,695.00 and with the 1st prize of \$3,000.00 (Won by John Karr who donated \$300 back to the cause) we

were left with around \$995 in the museum acquisition kitty.

Our other extraordinary costs was the concert. Our final attendance was extraordinary but our ticket price average was at the lower end (pensioner rates and groups) so our outlays for hire were slightly higher than the income. Again hindsight might have had us have higher ticket prices but could have limited our ability to get people on seats.

But all is not gloom, we finished the year off with a surge of subs and I thank members for their diligence in paying them. I will be issuing statements to those that have forgotten and look forward to having a successful 2017/18

I table our 2016/17 financial statement.

Errol Hatch



## Presidents Report

Ralph Daines

I would like to start with an apology for not being very visible since becoming President, but for Cheryle and I it has been a year that has been horribilus, but finally we are settled in our new home and town. My contact details are now, 1 Howell Avenue, Port Macquarie, NSW, phone 02 6585 7767, mobile 0405 380751.

Next year is quietly and quickly creeping upon us, our 25th year as an Association, I bet Jim Hawkins, Rob Bedwell & Ron Henry didn't envisage the results and success our Association would have reached at this stage, over a few beers, last century. With out doubt the RAN Band Association has become one of the most successful Associations in Australia, whilst other Associations are closing down or amalgamating through dropping membership, the RANBA has in fact grown in members, 210 members in 1994 and now stands at 257 full members and 85 Honorary members. The growth of the Veteran's Band from Anzac Day 2000 to what it has achieved to date has had a big bearing on the Association attracting new and younger members, the Association is officially recognised by Navy Office and the support of the serving Bands and DOM have been instrumental (no pun intended) in assisting the Veteran's Band reaching the musical standard it now has attained.

After the great success of the Veterans Band's performance at the Melbourne Reunion we have decided to stage another, at the 2018 reunion, in the 1000 seat Showroom of the Twin Towns

Services Club, Tweed Heads NSW. With the RAN Band support of 2 Horn players in Melbourne, I have been in discussions with Navy and the Veterans Band will be, in principal, joined next year with a contingent from RAN Band Sydney. A lot of things need to be sorted but I have been assured that if it is possible it will happen.

I have been trumpeting our great growth as an Association, but on the other side of the scales we have also been loosing members to that massive "Navy Band in the Sky", recently we have lost Robin Gailer, Howard Turner and Bill James, on behalf of the Association I would like to offer condolences to all families. I didn't serve with Rob or Howie, but I certainly did with Bill "Friday" James and I am totally gutted with his passing, Friday was a great support to me with little emails with a pat on the back when things were going wrong, he had an outlook on life that was out of this world but his words were also caring and quirky.

Thanks to John Lennon for his organisation with the preparation so far for Tweed Heads, I am looking forward to another Reunion to remember. Also next year could have another trip to play music, keep an ear out.

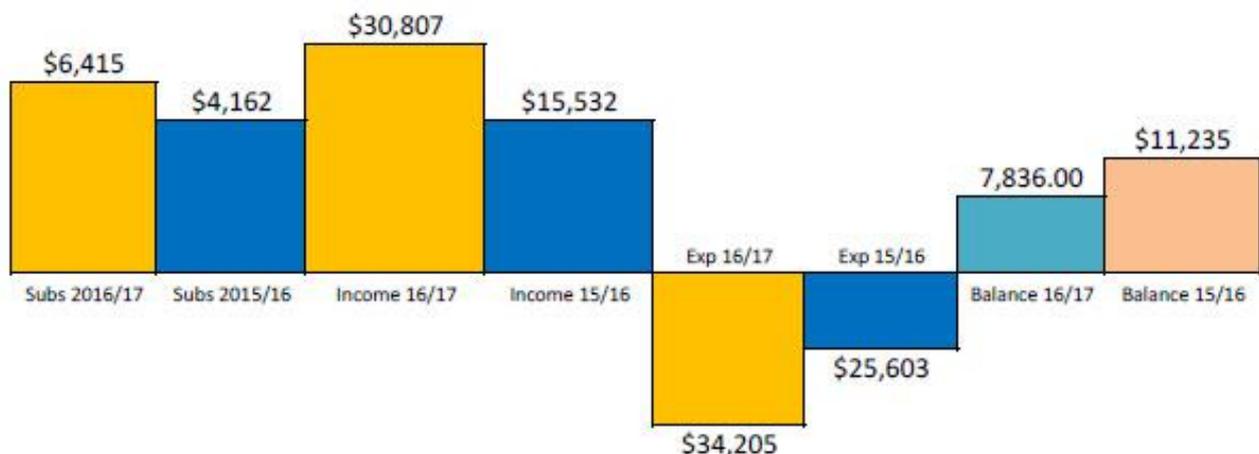
I hope you are all well, if not "take your tablets", so long till next mag.

Ralph Daines.



## Royal Australian Navy Band Financials 2016/2017

Brought Forward:	ANZ	2016/2017	2015/2016
		\$11,235.08	\$21,306.91
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Subscriptions		\$6,415.00	\$4,162.00
Donations		\$1,075.00	\$400.00
2015 Reunion		\$0.00	\$5,803.00
2017 Reunion		\$16,785.00	\$0.00
Museum Raffle		\$3,695.00	\$0.00
Merchandise		\$368.00	\$436.00
Vets Band (Inc Donations)		\$2,469.00	\$0.00
IPOH Tour		\$0.00	\$4,731.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$30,807.00</b>	<b>\$15,532.00</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Bank Fees		\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing & Setup		\$1,790.93	\$2,856.73
Post		\$620.35	\$457.70
Stationery		\$527.00	\$431.85
Merch Purchases		\$80.00	\$697.97
Cap purchases		\$0.00	\$2,431.00
Museum Setup & Cabinet Purchase		\$7,545.62	\$0.00
2015 Reunion		\$0.00	\$11,391.05
IPOH Tour		\$0.00	\$7,337.53
2017 Reunion (All Functions)		\$19,732.39	\$0.00
2017 Museum Tour (Buses/Lunch)		\$2,300.00	\$0.00
Veterans Band		\$1,609.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$34,205.29</b>	<b>\$25,603.83</b>
Closing Bank Balance		\$7,836.79	\$11,235.08
Veterans Band Portion of Balance		\$3,778.47	-\$2,918.47
<b>Balance as of 30/6/2017</b>		<b>\$7,836.79</b>	<b>\$11,235.08</b>





## Victorian Report

Terry Ekin

The sky was clear and blue with the sun shining at its winter best. A gentle breeze carried the soft and sweet scent of jasmine to soothe the inner senses. What better conditions to have a mid year get-together lunch. But this is south of the border and that was nothing like the reality. It was typically overcast for the time of year, cool, breezy but fortunately dry when the Mexicans settled in at the Seaford RSL for the Christmas in July lunch.

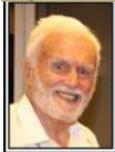
The tables were adorned with Christmas garlands, lights, crackers (of course), candy canes and the odd, seasonally appropriate figurine to help set the mood. The timing was chosen which would allow the "grey nomads" to attend before they ventured off to warmer climates to help bolster the economy of northern localities (somewhat like the Taswegians going to Melbourne).

The attendance numbers neared 30 showing that the comradeship continues to remain after so many years and spans across varying periods of service. Stories recounted of

times and mates of the past, sharing news of the present and plans for the future kept the banter going for several hours interrupted only by food and the odd liquid replenishment to stave off dehydration.

Genril showed off his prowess with a 3D printer which, coupled with his amber clouded memory of a much, much earlier "celebration", provided a fine example of a misbegotten souvenir which now adorns the work desk. I'll say no more - what happens at "hmmm" stays at "hmmm"!

In closing, many of the Mexicans are now probably enjoying the warmth of locations further north while those of us who remain behind bask in the warm glow of the household heater. The next lunch is likely to be into the start of December as the closer you get to Christmas, the less time we seem to have as we catch up with friends and family, so keep that period in mind. Happy to consider any suggested ideas and possible venues, so until then, stay safe and, especially, warm.



## Western Australian Report

Bill Farrell

WILLIAM KNIGHT JAMES .....

Saying farewell to a friend or a close acquaintance is always an emotional affair, particularly if the friend has been known for many years. Such was the case

with William Knight James, aka Bill, Billy and more affectionately by his Navy Band Association associates as "Friday."

He was undertaking his normal morning constitutional bike ride along Coolup Road near his residence on Sunday morning, the 18th of June when he was struck by

a four wheel drive vehicle which was obviously being driven too close to the edge of the road. He died at the scene, leaving a distraught wife, Anne who, probably only minutes before, bade him goodbye with the words "be careful."

Bill joined the RAN Band Service in Olympic Year, 1956, and was possibly a member of that unit at the opening ceremony of the Melbourne Olympics at the

Melbourne Cricket Ground which was stunning success. He was an extremely talented pianist, flautist and piccolo player developing a great ability on the saxophone, being promoted through the ranks to Chief

Petty Officer Musician.

His easy going attitude brought him many friends and on leaving the service, he made his mark as a teacher whilst performing in many combo bands.

From his marriage to Sue, a WRAN who predeceased him, there were two

daughters, and although they did separate, they remained friends because of the children.

He was always present at Association functions in Perth and attended the bi-annual Band Reunion there in 2015.

His funeral in Fremantle was very well attended with a large group of be-medalled Association members hearing 5 eulogies, including one of very emotional

quality from his great friend Rob Himbury who flew in from New South Wales with wife Jan for the occasion.

He will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

RIP Friday, see you in the counter-march!



# Queensland Report

John Lennon

Since the last report I had the pleasure to catch up with a couple of our north Qld members and some of our interstate members. Whilst on holidays at Agnes Waters & Town of 1770 I managed to catch up with a real blast from the past Rudi Strating. He is currently retired from teaching in the NSW northern rivers area and is living on his son's property at Agnes Waters in his Caravan.



He has built himself a man shed next to his van & spends a lot of his time working with timber. If anyone is holidaying up at Agnes Waters I am sure he would be thrilled to see you. He is easy to find and is a frequent visitor to the local library having settled into being a fully fledged local.

The other north Qld connection was Leon & Sandra Stucas. Leon & Sandra are on the final leg home after a long period exploring NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia having not been home since departing in February to attend the reunion in Frankston. We had a wonderful lunch with Sandra & Leon at the Hamilton Hotel which was organised by Ken McCallum, where we also caught up with Gary & Molly Krause.

Gary & Molly are up from down south, house sitting a multi-million dollar mansion on the Brisbane River at Indooroopilly. We spent the time spinning heaps of yarns sprinkled with a fair bit of bull shit. I must admit I was not 100% on the day but it was the best medicine I had had in weeks.

The other big event was a trip to Ballina to see the Navy Band Sydney perform at the Ballina RSL. They were on their way home from their trip to Maryborough where they performed at the Maryborough music conference. The musical standard of the band never ceases to amaze me. Their performance was enthusiastically received with standing room only. The band was lead by Lieutenant Brian O'Kane who I met after the Concert.

After being out of the Navy Band for over 35 years I was amazed to see AB Musn Molly Meldrum on Percussion and PO Musn Gordon Orr playing Clarinet. Gordon is in the process of retiring to Bribie Island QLD and we look forward to Gordon being a new addition to the Qld chapter.

Whilst in Ballina I had the opportunity to catch up with Jim Hawkins, Blue & Gail McNally, Harry Royle, Brian & Kerry Ellis & Karl Torren, who was extremely happy to see the band, and some familiar faces from his Navy days.

I would again like to thank Blue & Gail for putting me up for the night. On a rather sad note I also caught up with Howard Turner and his wife, who were so excited to catch up with old mates. He was looking forward to next year's reunion. Unfortunately he passed away a few weeks after that meeting.

Until the next edition of the magazine, all the best from Queensland.

Regards to All.

John Lennon

From Left: Leon, Ken, John and Gary.





## Reunion 2018—Tweed Heads 25th to the 28th of October

John Lennon

Twin Towns Services Club – Tweed Heads has been confirmed as the venue for our 25th Anniversary reunion on the weekend spanning the dates 25th 26th 27th & 28th of October 2018. Due to the enthusiasm shown by the participants & members and the success of the Veterans Band concert at our Frankston reunion we have included this in our 2018 reunion at Tweed Heads.

We have extended the reunion dates by one day to allow for the Veteran band to have a full day of uninterrupted rehearsal on the Thursday. This will free up Friday & Saturday to allow all members to be involved in a full range of unplanned & planned activities. At this stage we are in negotiation with Twin Towns to present the Gala Concert in the showroom at Twin Towns Services Club on the Sunday commencing at 2pm.

The Meet & Greet has been booked for Thursday evening in the VISIONS Room located in the Mantra Accommodation tower which is part of the Twin Towns Services Club complex. The AGM has been confirmed for 3pm on Friday in the ANZAC room behind the RSL Sub Branch office in the Mantra Tower. The Formal Dinner will also be held in the VISIONS room on Saturday night.

In the last newsletter I had proposed a whale watching tour which has been removed due to the lateness of the whale season and the closing of the Coolangatta operator. If we do have members who still wish to go Whale Watching “Whales in Paradise” which operates from Surfers Paradise comes with some very high recommendations. It would be up to individuals to organise this bearing in mind that you would have to travel some distance north to pick up the tour.

We are now proposing a Northern Rivers rainforest cruise on Friday with “Tweed Endeavour Cruises”. This tour de-

parts at 9:30am from the wharf complex at the end of Wharf St, which is on the same street as the club and within walking distance for the spritely members. The tour lasts 4.5 hours and includes either BBQ or Seafood Lunch and cruises up the tweed river as far as Historic Tumbulgum. There is a cap of 60 on this tour however we do have the option of filling up another boat.

On Saturday for those who want to have a few beers and spin heaps of yarns a lunch time BBQ at the AARDVARK & ARROW Micro Brewery at Varsity Lakes has been negotiated with the owner and proprietor who just happens to be Guy Scruton, Trombone and ex PO Musician 70 & 80’s.

The Tweeds Heads area allows for varying types of accommodation from Caravan Parks, Budget, Resort and Premier accommodation options. Twin Town Services club offers excellent accommodation at their Mantra Resort Tower which is interconnected to the Services club, and will allow you to stagger home at any time day and night in complete safety and comfort without ever leaving the air conditioning.

Now that we have confirmed Twin Towns Services Club as our reunion venue all members are entitled to a 10% discount on their accommodation best prices at the Mantra Resort. You will need to ring and quote the “Royal Australian Navy Band Association Reunion 25th - 29th October 2018.

You cannot receive the discount if you book on line with Mantra, you will need to ring 1800 192020 to book . I have set out some examples of the accommodation types showing best prices and what you would save with the discount.

### Proposed Programme

Thursday 25th Oct 18 – 10am to 3pm - Veterans Band Rehearsal – Proposed

Thursday 25th Oct 18 – 7pm to 10:30pm - Meet & Greet – Confirmed

Friday 26th Oct 18 – 9:30am to 2pm - Tweed River Cruise -

Friday 26th Oct 18 – 3pm to 4pm – AGM – Confirmed

Saturday 27th Oct 18 – 10am to 2pm - Aardvark & Arrow Micro Brewery - Proposed

Saturday 27th Oct 18 – 7pm to 10:30pm – Dinner Dance – Confirmed

Sunday 28th Oct 18 – 10am to 12 Midday - Veterans Band Sound Check - Proposed

Sunday 28th Oct 18 – 2pm to 4pm – Veterans Band Gala Concert – Proposed



# Reunion 2018—Tweed Heads 25th to the 28th of October

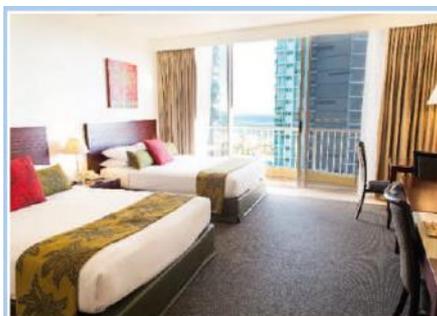
John Lennon

## Mantra – Twin Towns Coolangatta

Accommodation Prices for 4 nights Thursday 25th, Friday 26th, Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th Oct 2018

ROOM TYPE	BEST PRICE	10% DISCOUNT
<b>HOTEL KING ROOM</b>		
2 guests	\$762	\$685
<b>HOTEL ROOM</b>		
(Bed & Breakfast) for 2	\$806	\$725
<b>ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT</b>		
2 Guests (1 extra)	\$806	\$725
<b>HOTEL KING SUITE</b>		
2 Guests (1 extra)	\$892	\$802
<b>HOTEL DELUXE TWIN ROOM</b>		
2 Guests (2 extra)	\$892	\$802
<b>TWO BEDROOM DUAL KEY APARTMENT</b>		
4 Guests (1 extra)	\$1112	\$1000
<b>TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT</b>		
4 Guests (1 extra)	\$1112	\$1000
<b>THREE BEDROOM APARTMENT</b>		
6 guests (1 extra)	\$1416	\$1274
<b>TWO BEDROOM PENTHOUSE</b>		
4 Guests (1 extra)	\$1460	\$1314

If you want to save further on the discount I would suggest pairing up with another couple for the Two Bedroom Apartments and split the cost. This would mean the cost would come down to \$500 per couple which is very good value for a 4.5 rated resort on the Gold Coast. Where I have added extra person you would pay additional for that extra person. Get in early is the key to securing accommodation.





## I will stay the night

Mantra Twin Towns are pleased to extend to all guests of the **Royal Australian Navy Band Association Reunion on 25 - 29 October 2018** a 10%\* discount off the best available accommodation rate. The hotel rooms or apartments are beautifully appointed with stylish and comfortable furniture and all the amenities you need to make yourself at home. Relax in the on-site pool or take a short walk down to Greenmount beach. For group accommodation blocks, please email [twintowns.conf@mantra.com.au](mailto:twintowns.conf@mantra.com.au).

To book call **1800 19 20 20**  
or email [twintowns.res@mantra.com.au](mailto:twintowns.res@mantra.com.au)

**mantra** | twin towns, coolangatta

mantra

\*Terms and conditions apply. Subject to availability at the time of booking and subject to change. The discount applies to dates pre and post the main date.

## Letters & Emails to the Editor

Hi Errol,

As you know, Phil Anderson disbanded the Sydney Reserve Band nearly 7 years ago and although most of these guys are still in the Reserves, they are pretty much forgotten about.

I was a member the Sydney Rocky Band until we got the flick but now, every 6 months we still have a "Divisional Meeting" at the local pub near the Sydney Band studio.

Anyway, we had one of these get togethers last night and I was mentioning how good the last Melbourne Reunion was and asked some of the ex-bandy members, why they do not come along to get the answer, "we never hear anything from the Association or about the Reunions" so I promised to have them added to the list.

This list below is our current mailout list for the 6 monthly Divisional Meetings, there are a few members who we have lost contact with but this is currently the best we have. I did not speak to all these below about this, but I feel sure they would all like the opportunity and an invited to join the RAN Band Association.

Would you like to email these below and put forward an invitation to join the Association?

Rocky Searle

*Rocky,*

*Thanks for this email. I will contact those that are not already part of the association and invite them to join. Its great to hear that there is still contact between past and current members of the rockies bands and the Melbourne boys also had a get together (see below). Keep me in touch when you propose to have your next one.*



From Left: Rob Clarke and Alan Hogg.

### **EX-RANR Melbourne Band members Luncheon**

Organised by Allan Hogg and Shane Ladd, ex-members of

the Rockies band met up at the Wheelers Hill hotel for a get together that was long overdue. Reunions had been organised in the past and moderately attended but this time the



From Left: Les Kent and Steve Jacobs

partners of members attended and a great venue was sort. In attendance were,

Les Kent, (1970) Shirley and Alan Hogg (1955), Nick (now sadly deceased) and Carol Van Oostveen (1975), Doug Smith (1948), David Wright (1972), Diane and Rob Clarke (1967), Sharon and Errol Hatch (1979), Mick Reed (1982), Paul Farrugia (1979), Greg Hannan (1979), and Steve Jacobs (1980).



From Left: Greg Hannan, Nick Van Oosveen, David Wright and Doug Smith.

The hotel provided a wonderful setting and the sun shone through the large glass windows on what was a wintery day. As usual as quick as we arrived the day came to an end but the day is now on our yearly calendar. There would have been more participants but for some reason they did not arrive and we assumed they visited a different hotel.

Alan Hogg.

## A Musicians Profile: Bevan Pearce

*G'day Errol.*

*Received your message about material for the next Band Magazine. Here is an interesting profile concerning Bevan Pearce, not a permanent musician, but you will read that he definitely deserves an airing because of the uniqueness of his story.*

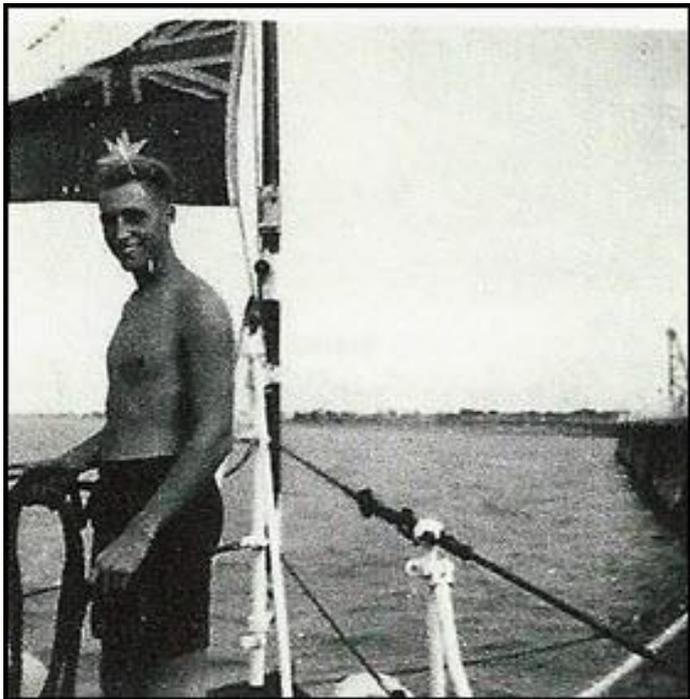
*The Admiral.*

### ONE OF A KIND .....

In the annals of the RAN Band Association, there are a number of unknown and untold stories. This is one of them.

Teenage years see a lot of boys begin their musical apprenticeships in bands, particularly of the brass nature, and at the age of 16, Bevan Pearce spent short period in a learners' band before being invited to join the Bunbury City Band, WA, to take over the BBb. Bass, an instrument previously played by his Father.

Members of the Band at that time included Kevin Foale, a well known performer in RAN Bands and another musician names John Cornell, who later gained fame as "Strop", Paul Hogan's offsider.



Bevan aboard HMAS Fremantle, Onslow 1956

At the age of 19, like all others of his age, Bevan was conscripted for National Service and, being selected for the Navy, he reported to HMAS LEEUWIN in January 1956 for his allotted 6 months tour of duty. After initial training, all recruits were posted to the Perth-based corvettes HMAS FREMANTLE & JUNEE for their sea training. As a Recruit Seaman on-board the former, Bevan was trained in gunnery and quartermaster's duties together with other Naval duties.

Sea time lasted from April to June during which period both ships sailed to the Monte Bello Islands where an atomic bomb had been exploded in 1952. This deployment was to make preparations for an another atomic test, to be undertaken by British forces, assisted by the crews on-board the RAN ships. The Islands were still active with radiation from the previous test, but little consideration was given to the sailors being ashore carrying out prescribed duties, dressed in shorts and sandals.



ATOMIC EXPLOSION (as seen from HMAS Fremantle 16<sup>th</sup> May 1956)

The second explosion was in May 1956 in the presence of both FREMANTLE and JUNEE. British scientists had been placed on-board both ships, all dressed in full protective gear, with the sailors dressed in No.8's, although they were allowed to roll their shirt sleeves down! One of the young officers on-board FREMANTLE at the time was Sub-Lt. Alan Beaumont, later to be promoted to Vice Admiral and Chief of Navy. When the detonation occurred, all crew members had their backs to the blast but were later told to face the Islands.

Discharged in 1956, Bevan returned to his civilian occupation with the West Australian Government Railways and a decade later was transferred to Perth where he was invited to join the Fremantle Port Division Navy Reserve Band in which he served for 12 years, establishing lifelong friendships with the late Graham Worth, Arthur Timms, Harry Goldsward, Ludwig Rietzenstein and many others.

## A Musicians Profile: Bevan Pearce

During his last six years he was promoted to Leading Musician and assumed the position of Drum major. Following his RANR time, he joined the Army Reserve Band then under the direction of former Navy Band member Alan Kyrwood, only to be joined at later times by a further 8 ex-RANR musicians.

He spent 7 years in the Army Reserves, towards the end of which he joined The City of Perth, the oldest Brass Band in the State, later becoming Band President, during which tenure he had Bill Farrell appointed Bandmaster and then Director of Music, after convincing the strictly brass band committee of the importance of enlarging the 100 year old Band into two divisions, brass and concert.

Bevan's other achievements during his 20 year involvement with this

premier Band was to include women into the previously all-male Brass band, introduce a new uniform to reflect a modern image and most importantly, together with another ex-RANR musician, Bill Bell, and supported by Perth's Lord Mayor, lobbying the City Council to invest \$250,000.00 for the construction of a dedicated building in the iconic Queen's Gardens, adjacent to the WACA, expressly for the use of The City of Perth Bands.

Life Membership as awarded, but a move to Mandurah has all but severed all involvement with this excellent Band. Although no longer involved with community bands, Bevan maintains a keen interest in The RAN Band Association and the Australian ex-Services Atomic Survivors Association. Together with 3 other National Servicemen and supported by ex-SAS member and

Federal politician, Andrew Hastie, they recently had success gaining Commonwealth Government recognition of the serious effect the Monte Bello experience had on the medical condition of many sailors in the "Wills" intake at HMAS LEEUWIN in January 1956, resulting in "gold cards" being issued to all survivors. At least 26% of the intake have passed away with cancer and there are many others still suffering the after effects of their experience.

As already stated, this is the unknown – until now – story of "Bevan, the Bomb and Bands", the person involved being the only Association member to go through an atomic blast!

## A Musicians Profile: Nadene Starke



Hi Errol,

Thanks for asking me to contribute a profile to the magazine and inquiring as to how the WA band is going since the retirement of some of our members.

We are traveling along quite well over here in WA.

I do miss some of the old crew that you mentioned. We caught up with a few of them on ANZAC Day as Robbo

hosted a BBQ for old and new members of the RANBWA... Robbo treats me like a daughter and Andy, Ted, Phil Mander etc. are good pals of mine :)

Yes, I was at the reunion in 2015, a great night! ...remember we had a little trio playing - I was singing and by husband Brenton was on Bass and Tiana played the keys (she's married to Brian Horlock who I'm sure you'd know)... and then some of you guys played with us too :)

The RAN Band WA has been such a significant part of my life, it's hard to know where to begin in telling my story!

I joined the band in 1991 when I moved to Perth (from Albany in the South West of WA) to attend uni... I had been a naval cadet as a teenager and my unit, TS Vancouver, was the first cadet unit in Australia to have its own band (largely due to the efforts of

ex-RAN Band member Don Blair, who had been teaching me flute at school). I got to know the reserve band when they would come to Albany for events, so it seemed only natural for me to audition once I'd moved to Perth.

I have many wonderful memories of my early years with the band, in particular our tours to country WA, where we were always well received. In the 1990s we would regularly endure the 15+ hour bus trip to Exmouth, which was home to the American base Harold E. Holt. We would assist with their Independence Day celebrations as well as Australia Day events. In those days we were predominantly a concert and marching band, with big band and rock band ensembles used only occasionally. As time moved on, we ceased to perform as a concert band and I embraced my passion for singing with the Big Band!

# A Musicians Profile: Nadene Starke

The RAN Band WA has given me so much more than the gift of music. The band is my family and I even met my husband Brenton (a bassoon / bass guitar) player in the band. Apart from one year spent living in Malaysia, we have both remained involved in the band for all of this time.

I have had so many wonderful and sometimes quite extraordinary experiences during my time with the band. In 2003, I performed in a series of Tour De Force concerts in the Middle East Area of Operations with the RAN Band Sydney and Angry Anderson - Christmas in Baghdad was an amazing experience, especially for a reservist, and the experience earned me an Australian Active Service Medal!

Another notable experience was singing the national anthem at the AFL Len Hall Tribute Game on ANZAC Day, 2008. Traveling to Sydney for the International Fleet Review in 2013 was also unforgettable as we had the chance to spend time with and learn from all of the RAN Band detachments as well as bands from around the world and of course the RANB Association band too!

The interesting experiences keep coming and earlier this year I had the amazing experience of spending two weeks in New Zealand with the RNZN Band as part of the Tasman Scheme, an initiative that aims to promote reserve service as well as interoperability between the Australian and New Zealand defence forces.

Our family ties with the RAN Band WA seem likely to continue for a while yet - my son Kellan has recently been endorsed as a trumpet player in the RAN Band and will be heading off to recruit school in July!

That's a brief history of my 26 years with the band! Feel free to use some of it (or not) - or let me know if I can help with any other info. - I guess you're probably more interested in full time member's stories, but the interesting thing about us reservists is that we do tend to hang around for a long time, which gives us a unique perspective! It's much more than just a job to us :)

Best regards,  
Nadene



Nadene at the back at the 2015 reunion, Perth.

PS - I'm currently helping to transfer our music library onto a central database - finding some interesting bits and pieces as it's a bit of a walk down memory lane at times! I've attached a pic (below) that has your name along with some of your buddies from the 80s... then on the right was probably who played it about ten years later! :)

WEST AUSTRALIA  
NAVAL BAND

## ORIGINAL DIXIELAND CONCERTO

Based on JAZZ ME BLUES, BALLIN' THE JACK and ORIGINAL DIXIELAND ONE-STEP  
by JOHN WARRINGTON

**CONDUCTOR'S CONDENSED SCORE**

**INSTRUMENTATION  
COMPLETE BAND**

*Handwritten notes:*  
 Chief Hogg  
 Shane Cook  
 Jimmy Adams  
 Brian Haslocks  
 Dave McWhorter  
 Phil Mander

*Handwritten notes on the right:*  
 Out the front  
 Cowbell ?  
 Tambourine ?

1 Dixieland Clarinet in Bb	Tin
1 Dixieland Tenor Saxophone in Bb	Flu
1 Dixieland Trumpet in Bb	Serif
1 Dixieland Trombone	Melissa?
1 Dixieland String Bass	Julian
1 Dixieland Tuba	Neale
1 Dixieland Drums	

1 Conductor's Score  
 1 Piccolo in C  
 1 Piccolo in Db  
 2 Alto Saxophone I in Eb  
 2 Alto Saxophone II in Eb  
 2 Tenor Saxophone in Bb  
 1 Baritone Saxophone in Eb  
 2 Trombone I  
 1 Trombone II  
 1 Trombone III  
 1 Baritone (Treble Clef)

## HMAS Cerberus Museum

As reported in our last edition, the official opening at the reunion finally brought reality to the association and the Band branch having a significant presence at the museum at HMAS Cerberus. The acceptance by the Manager WO Marty Grogan in our endeavours to bring the history of the Band has been fantastic and he and the team of volunteers have started to create a similar style of display for other Branches, Ships and Establishments, the WRANS and a new room devoted to HMAS Lonsdale.



From Left: Rex, Neils and John re-positioning the Chapel into it's new position along with the historic Chapel Organ.

Our display area is designed to be forever changing and portray a certain aspect, period or event in the band's history and I am always on the lookout for inspirations for our next display. As I've stated many times before, your input is crucial to the display staying fresh and vibrant and any piece of history you want to display is most welcome and will be correctly noted when displayed.

We have positioned the Historic Gun carriage into the Band room (See picture on right) which adds another element to the room.





Rex and Neils in front of one of the new cabinets housing uniforms from Afghanistan and other important artefacts.

We will be installing another TV screen (courtesy of John Lennon) and this will be displaying items like, programmes of events, manuals and other interesting memorabilia. The main screen in the display cabinets will continue to showcase the Bands and individuals photos we have collected over the last 24 years.

Visitor numbers to the museum continue to increase and organised tours are constantly amazed at the size of the museum and it changes from those that have been before.

With the new glass cabinets now installed it has been a task to bring from storage many pieces of history that have been locked away due to insufficient display areas and also not having the security of cabinets.

Displayed are also recent pieces of interest, uniforms worn by members in Afghanistan for instance. Interesting in the fact that they were especially made for the specific conditions there now no longer are made.

As our front cover also displays, we have assembled a mannequin in the Band room complete with side drum and Bugle. The side drum is only temporary while we refurbish a correctly dated drum to suit the uniform.

If you are ever in Melbourne and you have time, make the trip down (even if you were here in March) to Cerberus and pay us a visit. Remember though, always book ahead so we can make sure we can accommodate you.

The Team.

The Vale in our magazine of late has been absent which is a good thing but unfortunately we have had the passing of three of our musical colleagues.



**BILL (FRIDAY)**

**JAMES**

Died from a tragic accident on  
SUNDAY the 18th of June 2017



**ROBIN (Bob)**

**GAILER**

Passed away on the  
26th of June  
2017



**HOWIE**

**TURNER**

Passed away on the  
30th of July  
2017

**RIP**