



# Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

Christmas Edition 2020

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



*A Magazine for Association members and serving Band members of the RAN*

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**Treasurer:**

Ralph Daines

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**QLD:** John Lennon

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**FRONT COVER CHRISTMAS 2020**

What else but the Christmas tree to bring that festive feel back into our lives. We have been looking forward to this part of the year for months and now it is here with the lifted restrictions we can start to celebrate though still mindful of our safe distancing rules.

The executive and committee of the association wish you a safe Christmas and look forward to a eventful 2021. This edition has some great features and some sad news but all in all we can celebrate our association being another year older and still going strong.

See you in 2021

Your Editor.

A Belated Spring edition.

The Spring edition of the magazine was delayed due to quite a few factors. We have just experienced, here in Victoria, a lockdown that went far longer than we anticipated and I'm sure it had an effect on certain people in our community. With no access to social events nationally and with limited movements between States the ability to provide the magazine with meaningful articles was limited, so the executive decided to amalgamate all into the Christmas edition.

I think you will find plenty to read and digest as we have been able to plan future events and put in any Christmas get-togethers that did occur plus some great articles from members.

Under normal circumstances the mag would have been filled with the Reunion in Launceston and all the goings on that occurred. We have something special organised for 2021 and do hope that you will take up the offer to join other members in Ballina. A full story from Ralph appears in the following pages and the Veterans Band will again be performing on Australian soil.

The promotion of the two Facebook pages over the last 3 months has proved a real bonus to our communication with each other and its good to see what I'm sure the originators of Facebook wanted was a conducive gathering of articles and comment. This, we could not achieve on a website and proves that we have moved on substantially with technology since our Townsville reunion where I pre-

sented then a progressive style of website.

We have definitely seen a increase in new faces to the Facebook sites and hope they continue to be a part of our family through the social events planned in the future. If there is someone you know, not on our sites as yet, invite them to join.

There is still a generation though, that is comfortable with receiving their information via this medium so the magazine is here for a long time yet.

The 2019/20 financials have been released in this edition and we see the Association continue to maintain its financial membership. A good response to the yearly subscriptions has seen our 2020/21 year start off well. Reminders will go out shortly to those that have yet to pay.

We have sadly seen some long standing members pass and they are acknowledge in the magazine.

So, Christmas is upon us once again though it definitely hasn't had the same build up as past years. I can only be thankful that I have not heard of any members brought down by the virus. I wasn't going to say that word but is snuck out.

Regards,

Errol.

## RANBA | SECRETARIES REPORT: John Lennon



Welcome to the latest edition of the RAN Band Newsletter. This will be my final report as I will not be nominating nor accept nominations from the membership for positions both with the executive and non-executive positions.

I did mention last newsletter that Leywah will be retiring as at the 1st July 2021 after 32 years with the same company and we will be catching up with a lot of touring and holidaying. I believe that drawing a line in the sand on my current position as Secretary will give clear air between now and the election of a new Secretary in August 2021. This will allow members to give serious consideration and time

to reflect on who they think would be best suited to take on the role of secretary.

I would like to thank all those members who have supported me over the years and provided kind feedback. Finally, and most importantly, I thank Ralph and Errol for their support. I will continue to provide updates and reports as the Qld rep until a new rep takes over in August 2021. All future correspondence should be directed to either the President Ralph or Treasurer Errol.

Please stay safe and above all, keep well.

John Lennon

Ex Secretary - RAN Band Association

*John's input to the success of the Association and to this magazine has been appreciated by the editor. John has always gone out of his way to make sure we have had interesting articles and reports for our members. He will be missed.*

*Editor.*



Welcome to the final report for 2020, or should I say the Covid 19 year.

I certainly hope that the coming year is all sorted out before August so that our Reunion can go ahead without restrictions and all the country being able to attend. I have set out the proposed program later in the magazine and I would like to ask for an indication from those who would be likely to attend, the contact details are in the information sheet.

**REUNION, BALLINA AUGUST 2021**

Further into the magazine, a proposed programme for a reunion to be held in Ballina on the 17th of August 2021 is announced. In the programme, a Special General Meeting will be held prior to the Annual General Meeting to address a change in regards to Associate Members in the RANBA By Laws. This relates to former members of RAAF, Army and Community Bands who make up a large portion of the RAN Veterans Band who are invited to play, wear the Navy uniform, which they do with pride.

Since the last Magazine, Errol, myself and Christina Cherry (ex RAAF who has been performing with the Veterans Band and is responsible for the Veterans Band Site) have launched and re-launched the Veterans Band and RANBA Facebook Pages, and with much success. Membership has increased, old and new members are conversing and we are attracting a lot of attention from places not before reached.

One thing I would like to ask you all, on a platform like this that it is easy to become emotional and aggressive in your replies, sometimes unintentional. The site is monitored and the Posts will be removed if found by the Administrators to be offensive or in bad taste.

Since our last magazine we have lost two Members to the "big band in the sky", Bill Thompson and John Darby McKenzie. I served with Bill at HMAS Albatross and we had some funny times. Darby came on the first four trips overseas with the Veterans



Band, it was the first time I had met him, a great little guy. Rest in Peace.

This Association came into being in 1994, incorporated in May 2014 and in April 2014 received official permission from the Naval Office to use the name **Royal Australian Navy** and the letters **RAN** in the name of the Association, web site, printed materials relating to the Association, on the uniform of the Association and on our performance materials, and is not related to any commercial or other activity.

The Association has, in all this time, acted with distinction in public and still holds to the ideals of the RAN, especially with the RAN Veterans Band. I am extremely proud of this Association, our members who perform in public, overseas and home, and the fact that when the Association started with around 200 members and we still have around 200 members, something most other Associations would love to have achieved.

Cheryle and I would like to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a most joyous Covid free New Year.

Ralph.



I would like to advise the Qld members, who may not be aware, that I have decided to stand aside as Secretary and Qld rep, I will continue as the Qld rep until a replacement is in place at the AGM in August 2021. In my time, as Qld rep I have made it my duty to make contact either by phone or in person with our Qld members. I can now completely close the loop with my recent visit to Cairns where I was able to catch up with David Parnell in person. It was nice to meet up with David in Cairns and he provided me with some great photos during his time at sea which are now in the possession of Errol and will be added to our pictorial records.



Whilst holidaying recently on the Gold Coast, I was able to catch up with Jim and Nancye McDonough. I have included some photos and an update on Jim & Nancye's health.



I did talk to Vic Knowles who advised that Eliza was in Hospital. We wish Eliza a speedy recovery and our thoughts are with Vic & Eliza. I was also able to catch up with Jim Henshaw who has been unable to continue work due to ongoing health issues which are related to his service. Jim and Cheryle now intend to take things easy and look forward to retirement. Clive and Noeline Smith have been regular visitors to Qld in between lockdowns. Their daughter Joanne & granddaughter Alex live at Newmarket. Leywah and I were able to catch up with them at Jo's place for a lovely dinner. They have a number of great grandchildren

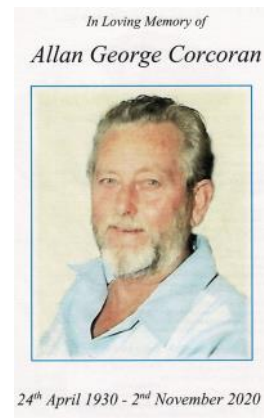
which I have now lost count of. The Smiths have a very well established breeding program.

On a sad note Allan Corcoran ex PO Musn Qld Navy Band passed away on the 2nd November. I had known Allan for many years having played in various bands with him. He was a very talented and fine euphonium player. His funeral was well attended by Qld Navy Band members: Ex chief Musn Dave Lewis, Ex PO Musn Peter Douglas, Ex PO Musn Ron Shay, Ex PO Musn Allan Early and Ex PNF's John Lennon, Ken McCallum & Leon Stucas.

We also sadly learnt John McKenzie one of our Qld Association members passed away. John had been suffering from advanced Alzheimers. He had been in a nursing home for the last 5 years. I had been in contact with Jan, his wife, through their good friends Bryan and Robyn Alchin. Bryan was the bass guitarist in my Rocus Big Band. Many years ago Bryan ran the house band at the Shellharbour Workers Club in Wollongong where his tenor sax player was Shorty Butler.



Attendees to Allan Corcoran's funeral were L\R: John Lennon, Peter Douglas, Ron Shay, Ken McCallum, Dave Lewis, Leon Stucas & Allan Early .



Stay Safe

John Lennon

QLD Representative

To all of our members of the association, the Victorian contingent wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous 2021. We look forward to meeting you all in Ballina in August 2021.

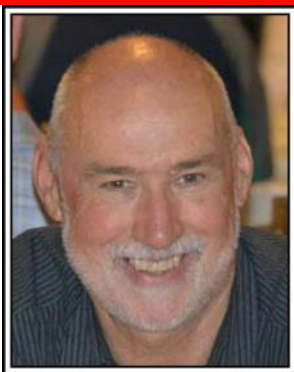
With Victoria now Covid free for over 28 days, we feel vindicated that the harsh lockdown had a purpose and we can go about our business with the feeling of some normality.

All our Victorian members look forward to something musical and social in the coming year and Ballina will be the perfect opportunity for that to happen.

With numbers slowly increasing in indoor and outdoor venues in Melbourne the festive season of Carols is still much a non event as bands, ensembles and choirs have not had the ability to rehearse and in some case they will take up the number of people allowed in the venue. So it looks like a year of no carols' which to some is a good thing for a change.

On that note, stay safe and we hope to report something significant through 2021.

Terry.



On the following page are the financials for the 2019/2020 year for the Association. We again continue to be healthy on the financial front thanks to those that have sent in their subs and the ongoing income the Veterans band had generated over the previous 12 months. With the cancellation of the Reunion we only had a few deposits in the bank that related to functions and thanks to the generosity of some members they donated those balances to the association. The 2020/21 period will also show some significant donations to the Association and I thank those members in advance.

Expenditure has been mainly related to our website, and of course, the magazine. Costs to produce the mag have been stable for the last 12 months with postage the only in-

crease of note. The website has reached a point where constant updates are occurring to protect it from viruses and hacking and this is starting to be a costly exercise as it becomes older technology. Moving it to a newer platform is discussed further into this mag.

On the subs front, we have had a good initial response and statements will be sent out to remind the remainder of our members that subs are due. Through this year I have culled our list based on members being over 2 years behind with subs and not responding to requests to update their details. This has reduced our membership numbers by about 35 but we still maintain over 200 plus active members.

With the promotion of our two Facebook pages there has been an increase in awareness of who we are and the conversations and invites continue to expand our base on this media. It is now convincing some of those to be financial members, to keep our association active, not just financially but with future events where members can meet up.

I present the report to members.

Regards,

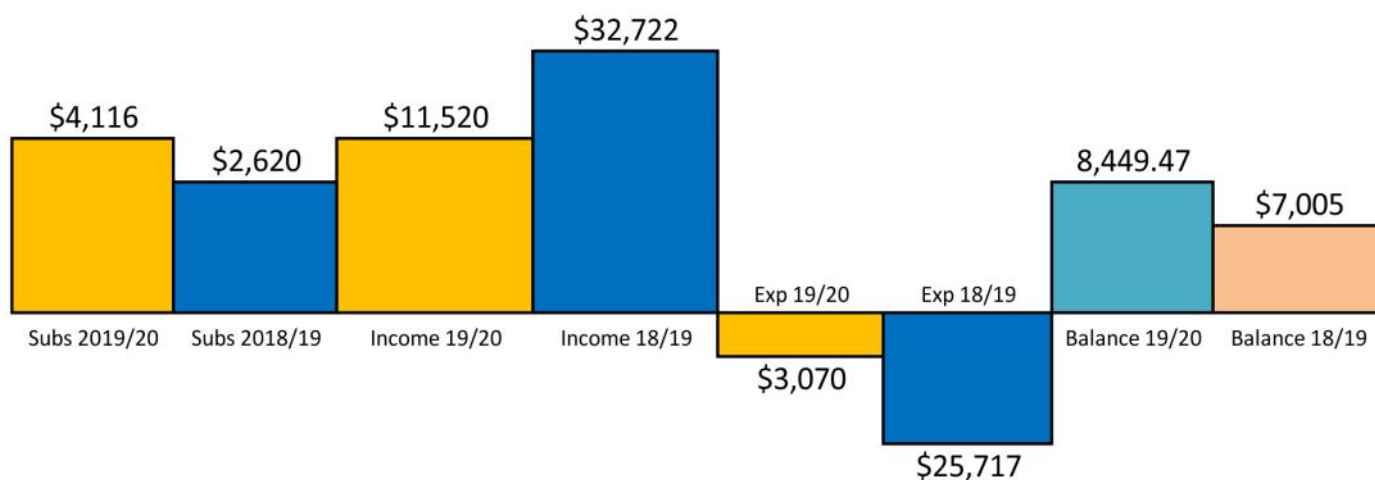
Errol

Assistant to the Treasurer



## Royal Australian Navy Band Financials 2019/2020

Brought Forward:	2019/2020	2018/2019
ANZ	\$7,005.01	\$11,414.27
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	\$4,116.00	\$2,620.00
Donations	\$305.00	\$162.00
2018 Reunion	\$0.00	\$13,308.40
Merchandise	\$93.85	\$48.00
Vets Band (Inc Donations)	\$0.00	\$5,170.00
Sub Total	\$4,514.85	\$21,308.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,519.86</b>	<b>\$32,722.67</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Fees (Bank/ Naval Assoc)	\$403.00	\$171.05
Printing & Setup (Magazine)	\$1,279.59	\$1,465.71
Post	\$772.35	\$636.00
Stationery	\$171.85	\$179.45
Merch Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00
Museum	\$0.00	\$513.50
2018 Reunion	\$0.00	\$17,892.97
Computer/Internet/Website	\$443.60	\$358.98
Veterans Band (Reunion/IPOH)	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,070.39</b>	<b>\$25,717.66</b>
Closing Bank Balance	\$8,449.47	\$7,005.01
(Veterans Band Portion of Balance)	\$4,448.47	\$4,448.47
<b>Balance as of 30/6/2020</b>	<b>\$8,449.47</b>	<b>\$7,005.01</b>



**Greetings from  
South Australia**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the South Australian members of the RAN Band Association, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and most of all, a Happy and safe New Year. What a year it's been and I won't go on about it as like everybody, we are sick of it and just look forward to the day we can get back to "normal".

**Where It All Began "Again"-The South Australian Naval Band, HMAS ENCOUNTER.**

The South Australian Naval Band was formed in 1981 with direction and support from the RAN Band and the then Director of Music, LCDR Bill Farrell. The RAN Reserve Band



from South Australia began its journey with a core of ex-RAN musicians. From memory there was John Ezergailis, Roger Downton, Errol Hatch, Andre Makin, myself and a few others, and with the Band based at HMAS Encounter our first parade was for the RANR Divisions at HMAS Encounter on a Tuesday evening. We performed as a stationary band because only a few members of the Band knew how to march in a parade to Naval band drill and commands. The Band's first Officer in Charge was LCDR Tom Lambert, ex Royal Marine Band and then followed by Lt Collin Tottle, also ex Royal Marine Band.

The Band soon became very popular with a high music standard. The support of the RAN and the RAN Band Directors continued with their annual inspections and when possible providing much needed new musical instruments. It was like Christmas all over again when LCDR Vic Knowles arrived from Sydney with a boot load of new instruments for the Band. Now, the RAN Navy Band South Australia is based at Keswick Barracks, Department of Defence and provides musical performances to the community of South Australia. The Band performs to a very high standard and





is very popular with the Rock Band, Stage Band and other ensembles. The Band also provides ceremonial support, as required.

Following is a recollection from PO Musn Paul West, currently with the SA Police Band and LMusn James Atkinson providing fact checking..

*At the end of 1980/early 1981, posters appeared on noticeboards around the university, college and TAFE, advertising for young musicians who wanted to make some tax free money, by playing in a new band.*

*Tom Lambert (Royal Marines DOM, retired) was responsible for these posters, as well as making sure everyone in the South Australian music world knew it was happening, plenty of talk around, particularly at Music Camp where Tom was conductor of the Wind Orchestra.*

*Initially, about 60 went to a meeting at HMAS Encounter in about February 81 where Tom told us all about the Navy Reserves, how service bands work, how to apply, etc. It was probably about this time we met CPO Paul Williamson, sent over to oversee the formation of this band. I think just about everyone who went to the meeting applied.*

*The first 9 signed on, on the 14<sup>th</sup> July that year, James Atkinson (still there now), Robert DuRieu, David Roper, Stephen Boyle, Michael Murphy, Philip Marriott, Mark Harris, Robby Chenoweth and myself. We were all around 19 -20 years old, except Mark, he was the old guy at 28, nicknamed Grandpa, and was designated Drum Major purely on seniority (age, not time served).*

*Many more members were recruited in the following months, and we were also joined by several ex PNF band members, all who were current members of the South Australia Police Band, making quite a big band, some 30+.*

*By December we had enough to have our own HMAS Cerberus recruit school class (the water is still freezing there, even in December), I think about 18 of us went on that occasion. Amongst the regular recruit school training, we even managed a day at the School of Music while we were there.*

*POMUSN Paul West*

*LSMUSN James Atkinson*

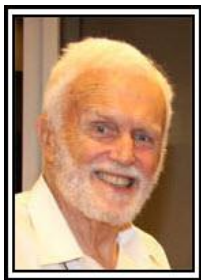
In Closing – This will be my last Report as your Rep for South Australia as I give official notice and resign from the position as from today dated 24th November 2020. I have decided that after 7 years or so, it is time for somebody else in South Australia to take over this role as I have other Fish to fry.

I look forward to remaining a member of the RAN Band Association for many years to come and I would also like to sincerely thank the members of the Executive and all members of the Committee for their hard work and comradery over the years.

Yours sincerely, and Merry Christmas

Doug Drysdale.





In mid-2020, a well dressed man appeared for a job interview. The interviewer, the CEO of the business, was most impressed by the applicant’s CV. However, he did question one aspect in the following terms: “For the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century you have marvellous credentials, but what did you do in 2020?” The applicant replied in a quiet voice, “I washed my hands.”

Yes, this year has seen 12 months of ups and downs and frustration. At the time of writing this missive, the West is still locked down but it is hoped that before publication of the magazine, the lockdown will be a thing of the past.

Musically speaking, we were looking forward to the Launceston Reunion with at least two members indicating that they would have made the long trek across country to join Brian and Kerry on The Apple Isle, but for their sake it can be honestly stated that on the 21<sup>st</sup> October, the author and Maxine drank a toast, not only to Lord Nelson - it was Trafalgar Day after all – but also to Launceston where we would have been downing a couple of cold Boags!

Health-wise, there is quite a bit to report because Ted Tait had sent out invitations to a morning tea at The Odyssey Café at City Beach for the “more elderly” of the western bunch, to which over a dozen responded, including wives.

Hills dwellers like the correspondent et al needed a passport and a cut lunch to get there, but it was a great morning. Arthur Timms arrived an hour early and proceeded back home so we didn’t see him and Kevin Foale had a family commitment so they were also absentia. Ted and Shirley Lincoln arrived with the former looking very spry and insisting he was in good shape. However, since that morning he has been admitted to St John of God Hospital, Murdoch in an attempt to receive the best treatment for his ailments. He has been told that he is required at our Xmas lunch on 9<sup>th</sup> December, so hopefully he will catch up with us all, including the other members of the group who are not quite as old as those who attended the morning tea.

Invitations were posted out for this luncheon with plenty of time to allow for delivery, but Australia Post, in their characteristic style, took their time to reach the addressees. Hopefully they are all in the hands of the recipients and some acceptances are still eagerly awaited.

COVID-19 has certainly put a spanner in this year’s activities and it is sincerely hoped that the ensuing 12 months will be vibrant and full of life and that the next Reunion will see as fit, well and present, enjoying the festivities of Ballina.

The Western Warriors extend Xmas and New Year Greeting to all Association members and wives with the sincere wish that 2021 will be a good one for all concerned.

Incidentally, the bloke in the opening paragraph got the job. He started work the next Day!

Bill.

**RANBA | VALE**



**BILL THOMPSON**

**Warrant Officer (Ret) RAN**

**Passed away on the 22nd of October 2020**

**R.I.P.**

**Bill**



**JOHN (DARBIE) MCKENZIE**

**Clarinet**

**Passed away on the 8th of November 2020**

**R.I.P.**

**Darbie**



**ROBERT CLARKE**

**POMusn (Ret) RANR**

**Passed away in October 2020 of Cancer**

**R.I.P.**

**ROB**



Well, lots of hope for 2020 and not one performance, thank you Mr Covid, we won't book any more gigs with you.

As a Committee, we are actively looking at ways to attract new, younger ex Bandies to this Association, one thing that looks to be attractive to becoming a member is the RAN Veterans Band. I thought that it may be an idea to let all those out there reading this "tome" to explain what in heck is this band, and what is it all about

Once upon a time, way back in 2000, a bunch of ex bandies, around 75, gathered in Sydney for Anzac Day and formed up as a marching band and marched in the Anzac Day Parade, twice. In the following 6 years under Jim Hawkins leadership, the Band marched on Anzac Day in various cities around Australia.

I then took control of the band and in 2010. the Band travelled to Singapore as a concert Band, we couldn't march and couldn't see the music on our lyres, to provide musical support to Anzac Day.

After much confusion with our name, Royal Australian Navy Band Association Band, it was decided to rename the Band the Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band. The Band is under management of the RANBA and the control of the Band is with the Band Manager, appointed by the Committee. RANBA members always get first choice to perform with the Band and as with concert bands it is very difficult

to get all the instrumentation you need, so a decision was made that ex members of RAAF and Army Bands would be invited to join and members of Community Bands that our members played in would be approached also.

2010 Townsville for Vietnam Veterans Day, 2011 back to Singapore, 2012 and 2013 Anzac Day aboard P&O Pacific Jewel, 2013 Sydney Navy Centenary, Opera House, Barangaroo, 2014 Thursday Island Anzac Day, 2016 and 2019 Ipoh Malaysia, plus concerts in Frankston, Gold Coast. On a number of performances, the Band has had up to 50 players.

The Band has received much praise from Senior Service Officers from many countries, High Commissioners, and from our own Navy, so much so that I have given Chief of Navy a tambourine, as he noted in a letter, he would love to join us when he retired.

The RANBA provides no funding to the Veterans Band, all funding is raised by donations for the running of the Band, players pay their own travel and accommodation. At the August reunion, discussions will be held for an invitation to all non-Navy members of the Band to become Associate Members of the RANBA, at the moment all non-Navy members are Honorary Members.

I would like any member who is interested in becoming part of this exciting Band to come along and try it out at the August Reunion in Ballina.

Thank you all.

Ralph Daines



The Royal Australian Navy Band's Farrell-Lincoln Award is presented annually to a member of RAN BAND WA. This award is sponsored by the RAN Band Association from a fund set up through a donation from a former WA Navy Band member and Bandmaster at HMAS LEEUWIN, Michael "Smokey" Dawson, who passed away in 2015. The award carries the name 'Farrell-Lincoln Award', named after two long term tireless WA supporters of the RAN Band Association, former Director of Music LCDR Bill Farrell and CPO Ted Lincoln who were two of the first Junior Musicians at the School of Music HMAS CERBERUS.

The Farrell-Lincoln award is presented to a member of the Royal Australian Navy Band Western Australia who has performed professional excellence by self improvement, maintaining and expanding their Service knowledge and music expertise to add value and capability to RAN Band WA.

Able Seaman Murray Jongeling

Primary role: Tenor/Bass Trombone, Tuba.

Secondary roles: Audio and lighting engineer. Member of Public Relations team.

AB Jongeling is a versatile musician and innovative sailor who has been a major contributor to the success of RAN Band over a period of 38 years. AB Jongeling demonstrates a self-assured, patient and tolerant demeanour that is earned from experience and shared for the betterment of the unit, regardless of individuals rank or position. When AB Jongeling talks, intelligent Bandmasters listen. AB Jongeling displays a selflessness of character which has been pivotal in achieving high profile engagements.

Of note is his involvement in the US Submariners event in Albany Aug 20 with minimum notice and limited personal availability. His practise of often putting the goals of the Band ahead of his own interests has modelled behaviour for junior members of the Band and has fortified unit cohe-

sion and morale. Through his actions, AB Jongeling has lived the first Defence Value of 'Service' and should be commended for his efforts.

As part of RAN Band new strategic vision, Public Relations has undergone a transformation, requiring a large investment of time and focus. AB Jongeling has been at the forefront of this change and has been prepared to assist by utilising his vast knowledge in graphic design, videography and compilation of promotional material. The success of Reserve Band units rely on key personnel to 'step up' when required, and bring their eclectic knowledge base into the unit. AB Jongeling has achieved this, and is to be commended for doing so.

Of all the positive personal attributes and achievements credited to AB Jongeling in the past and efforts forecast for the future, it is his dedication and loyalty to all members of RAN Band Western Australia that was the pivotal factor in AB Jongeling being chosen as the Farrell/Lincoln award winner for 2020. As written by AB Jongeling in a PR profile 'being an elder statesman in the Band now, it is encouraging to see the calibre of the young musicians joining the Band and how well we all get on, no matter the age, rank or gender. We are a family, we enjoy playing music together, but most importantly, we look out and care for each other'.

Murray has made an exceptional contribution throughout his career in the RAN Band, and sets the benchmark on what it is to be a Sailor in the RAN. He is an outstanding musician who respects all members, is dedicated to his service and strives to be the best he can be, both professionally and personally.

BZ.

## RANBA | MUSEUM REPORT: Errol Hatch

So much was going to be done at the museum during 2020. Volunteers were in the throws in early February of commencing to move offices from the admin building to the old School of Music building before we were duly informed that the depot was shutting down. We managed to get filing cabinets over but not much else before lockdown.

Since March, our Officer in charge LCDR John Goss has kept us up to date with the state of play and his endeavours to finalise the shift. This has involved relocating the remainder of admin and all communication requirements to make us self-sufficient. So now we have a very active (when we get back) School of Music building with all the rooms being used. (Just like the good old days).

One significant change took place, which caused a bit of a rumour, was the re-locating of the HMAS Sydney room and the Vietnam room. Rumours floated that the Museum was moving but it was only this section (and our admin move)

to make way for the Sea Cadets to move into those rooms. This has now been completed and all the displays have been relocated.

The depot generally has returned to its upgrading of facilities in the last weeks with contractors catching up on basically a lost year. Work is envisaged to take still another year to complete.

So looking ahead, with plenty of donated items, I'm looking forward to getting back down there and getting into upgrading our display.

For Now.

Merry Christmas.

Errol.



**Vietnam Veterans Day August 2020**

John Lennon, representing the Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band, performed the Last Post & Rouse for Vietnam Veterans Day - Bray Park RSL - 18th August 2020. Photo taken with the local federal member for Dickson – Hon Peter Dutton MP – Minister for Home Affairs. Peter has been very supportive of Pine Rivers & Sandgate Sub Branches of the Naval Association over the last 20 years. John is a member of the Sandgate Sub Branch of the NAA.



Hi Errol

Just a follow up on your article in regards to the future of the Association web site & newsletter. You are correct that there are a number of Facebook groups that have Royal Australian Navy and or Band in their titles. I don't have any magic answer but your observations and potential changes make a lot of sense. We did create a Facebook page "Royal Australian Navy Band Association Inc", which has a grand total of 4 members. Maybe we could use this as a platform to post live articles and update members. I would envisage that all financial members would have access to this Group. We should have a function that only allows the executive to post articles or comments, (I am unsure if this is possible in Facebook).

This would ensure that the group is managed without concern for freelance comments. We would of course have a feedback, alert or contribution link back to the executive to post information such as members health and real time information and articles. For those members who don't have Facebook or computers we could screen shot all the information monthly or quarterly and mail to those members. This would allow current users to participate in their own groups but would be one click away from being in the loop to the latest Association news.

Some food for thought.....

JL

Greetings, one and all. Just to prove that the WA correspondent actually did something during the last few weeks, here is THE CORONAVIRUS SONG, with apologies to WALTZING MATILDA.

Bill.

Once a deadly virus swooped down through the universe,  
Born in a town somewhere China way they say,  
And it came and it stayed making many people sick and poor,  
Virus, oh Virus, you should be no more.

**CHORUS:**

Waltzing a virus, CORONA VIRUS,  
Known to the multitude as CO-VID nineteen,  
And it came and it stayed like a patient in a waiting room,  
Virus, oh Virus, why can't you go away.  
Out came the doctors, nurses and the medicos,  
Throughout the world as they tried to ease the pain,  
But it stayed all around causing death and sickness everywhere,  
Virus, oh Virus, why can't you go away.

**CHORUS:**

Waltzing a virus, CORONA VIRUS,  
Known to the multitude as CO-VID nineteen,  
And it came and it stayed like a jury at a murder trial,  
Virus, oh Virus why can't you go away?  
Down went the markets while the hatches all were battened down,  
Financial figures were left in the lurch,  
But it came and it stayed causing many folk to lose their jobs,  
Virus, oh Virus, you should be no more.

**CHORUS:**

Waltzing a virus, CORONA VIRUS,  
Known to the multitude as CO-VID nineteen,  
And it came and it stayed like the captain of a sinking ship,  
Virus, oh Virus, why can't you be no more.  
Up rode an antidote mounted high in many forms,  
This would prove successful if handled carefully,  
And it came at a time when all doctors were quite mystified,  
Virus, oh Virus, you should be no more.

**CHORUS:**

Waltzing a virus, CORONA VIRUS,  
Known to the multitude as CO-VID nineteen,  
And it came and it stayed like a tow truck waiting for a crash,  
Virus, oh virus, you're being forced away.

*From the last mag I missed placing Frank's story of Anzac Day in Tassie. Sorry Frank.*

Hi Errol, I am writing to tell you of my experience regarding our last Anzac Day.

A call was put out to have musicians play the Last Post at the end of their driveways in neighbourhoods throughout Australia, in view of the strict Covid 19 restrictions.. As I normally play for my local RSL at their service, I considered doing it in front of our driveway. As the day came closer I began having doubts, as I was concerned about how my neighbours, who might not normally attend a service on Anzac Day might feel about the Last Post disturbing their sleep at 6 am. By the time the day came I had resolved that there would be no complaints and headed up to the road to find a group of people milling around, all socially distancing. It was moving to see the efforts that some had gone to.... poppies made from the bottoms of cordial bottles, candle holders made from 2l milk containers & beautifully decorated with hand painted poppies, crosses & "Lest we Forget"

My wife had the radio on ABC and we listened to the ODE and then I played The Last Post and then reveille. Whilst playing I could hear other musicians in the background. As we live on the banks of a bay on the Derwent River, we could hear the sounds of another bugler's call clearly drifting from across the bay.....it created an amazingly moving atmosphere. It was played throughout our suburb on all manner of instruments apart from brass, saxophone, electric guitar, recorders & even bagpipes!

We have heard lots of positive feedback of other people's Anzac Day 2020 experiences. The neighbours & friends who gathered to join us were so moved by the experience that some even wrote to me later, saying that, unlike when they normally attend our large community Anzac Day Service, they felt much more actively involved, felt it a more personal tribute and that they felt the day was the best Anzac Day that they taken part in. As one said, he normally felt more like a voyeur watching the proceedings but this year he felt an emotionally involved participant and he and several others asked if I would continue to do it in future years. I was taken by surprise by the feedback and I have decided that I will continue to play the Last Post at the end of my driveway at 6am on Anzac Day each year, prior to my local RSL service which is always at 7.30am.

It will be interesting to read the experiences of others and I suspect that they will be very similar to mine.

Regards,

Frank Godleman.

### **THE JUNIOR MUSICIANS' DANCE BAND AND BILL THOMPSON**

With the recent passing of trombonist, Bill Thompson, I was reminded of the first 'big band' I played in around March 1960. We were Junior Musicians and decided to form a band with the aim of playing gigs at FND and outside the depot.

The band consisted of Ricky Faye (Cl/Alto Sax), Geoff Simm (Cl/Tenor Sax), Mick Wortham (Trumpet), Tex Gallagher (Trumpet), Bill Thompson (Trombone), Kipper Kearsley (String Bass and Jim Hawkins (Piano). We had to 'borrow' a drummer at the time, the late Ron Kirkwood. Sadly only myself, Kipper and Mick are still with us (October 2020).

We pooled some of our precious pay (about 2 quid a week back then) and went to Allan's Music in Melbourne and bought our first arrangement which I think was 'Sing, Sing Sing', then each fortnight we would buy another until we had a library to last a night's gig. Our first paying job was in a hut opposite the Cinema where the Sunday Night Dance for Recruits was held. Because of the size of the band (8 piece) we didn't get much return on our investment as usually only a quartet was needed, but it was a start. The standard of music wasn't bad for a bunch of young people still students at the S.O.M.

I recall doing an outside gig around Coleraine one weekend for their local footy club and we took Ron Henry along to tell a few yarns in between playing. For some reason, we were not invited back!

All of us were drafted to the Flagship in June 1961, and we made up the nucleus of the Fleet Dance Band with Icky Buntine as our drummer, Kipper changed to trombone and Buggsy Willshire was on string bass. Merve Whitmore joined in on trumpet along with Tony Webber and others, so we did have a big band. We also had access to the band library which made our personal library miniscule by comparison.

A funny thing happened in early 1962 when Bill Thompson found his hair was thinning rapidly, and some wag had sent away for hair restorer from an ad in the PIX magazine. Bill blamed me but I was innocent, and when we reached Manila Tony Webber convinced Bill to have his head shaved, and that his hair would grow back thicker than ever. This he did, and when a few of us returned on board 'feeling no pain' – there was Bill fast asleep on a bottom bunk with the night light reflecting on his bald head. Someone grabbed a Texta pen and had a game of noughts and crosses on his scalp which didn't impress him when he woke up next morning.

Bandmaster LT Don Coxon was furious and made Bill wear a beanie to rehearsals, and instructed him not to take his cap off on jobs until his hair grew back. Unfortunately for Bill it didn't! Those who knew Bill well, knew he tried various 'Irish Jigs' but none seemed to match the colour of his real hair.

I had only made contact again with Bill early 2020 and we had a few yarns and a laugh about previous experiences. He was the Band's 4th Warrant Officer – something he was proud of.

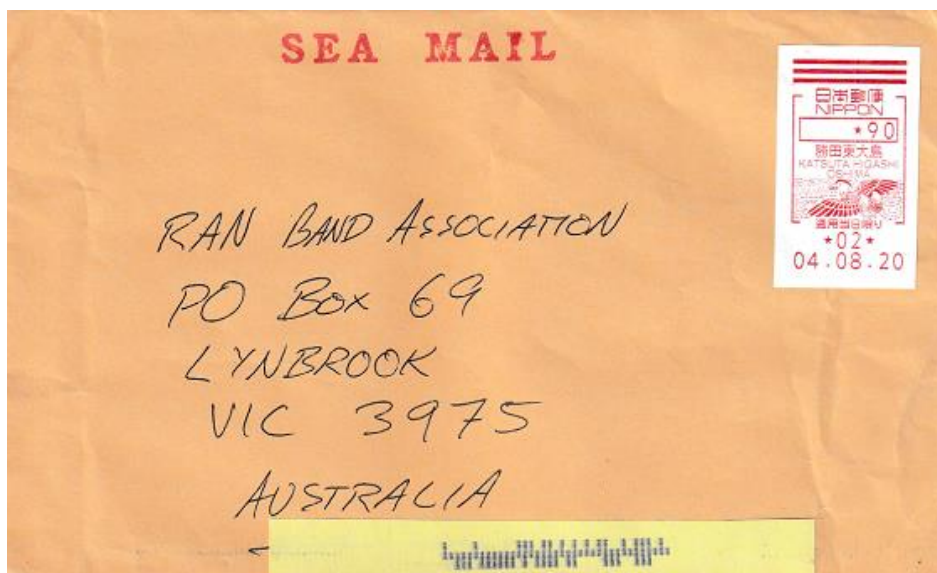
A good friend and very good musician.

Vale Bill.

Jim Hawkins

**Here's something Different.**

Arriving in the post was this envelope with accompanied cheque from association member Phillip Newham who lives in Japan. The first thing that strikes you is the "SEA MAIL" which I haven't seen since the 70's. It's amazing what the pandemic has done to our lives over 2020.



**A FASCINATING SHORT SEA STORY**

**From: Bill Farrell**

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LON 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line". Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ships position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favour.

At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many: The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.

The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.

The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899. In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in:

Two different days,

Two different months,

Two different years,

Two different seasons

But in two different centuries - all at the same time.



SS Warrimoo

Hi Errol,

**(Sent to me in July 2020)**

For my first time I read the Newsletter cover to cover in one sitting. It started at 0400 and ended at almost 0700. If you can determine from that, I am a slow reader, you are not wrong.

It was a shame so many contributors had to include references to COVID-19 their articles. Enough of that had been / is being covered in the popular media. By the way, who is this "Admiral" who writes to you?

As it is with many community organizations, clubs, and bands etc. the declining size of our association is of concern, but I was pleased, however, to read input by many of our loyal members and of their contributions to their local ANZAC Day Remembrance Services.

Cedric Ashton's, **"T.S. THE HEART OF GUNNERY"** (An R.A.N. Bandsman's Experience in World War II), sent in by Happy Jack Hawkins, was enlightening and enjoyable.

I was also interested to read how the Association got started and would like to add,

"Prior to the official date of 26 Years ago (1994) unofficial reunions were organized and held in HMAS Penguin by the band in-house at the time. When I became the BO in 1981, I thought it more appropriate a 'Reunion', being mainly for Ex's, should be organized by themselves. All be-it if necessary, with our help.

"Later, as DOM (1987), ably assisted by my Secretary Gary 'Rocky' Searle, we recreated DOM Jim McDonough's first Newsletter for the Branch, and expanded it to include a growing number of ex-bandies. We built a spreadsheet of ex-members' addresses and continued with the Newsletter. My version was not all that popular though so Jim Hawkins, with my spreadsheet and Bob Bedwell's 'much improved' spreadsheet, took over. Subsequently they, with a few other local ex-bandies in the area, organized the first Official Reunion to be held in the Surfers Paradise RSL Club and Incorporated the Association."

Regards to all and keep up the good work

Vic Knowles.

*On reflection Vic I would agree with you that the "C" word was well represented in the mag. Definitely not a lot of mentions this time. Thanks for putting pen to paper (so to speak).*

*The "Admiral" in question is Bill Farrell.*

**Hello Fellow (Ex)-Navy Band members,**

**(Sent to me in June 2020)**

Firstly, I must apologise for my 33 year delay in joining the association.

Secondly, as I have recently been promoted to the Category Warrant Officer, it is my strong desire and intent to have a more collaborative and meaningful connection with your

members.

I have a number of questions that I'm keen to have answered on how I can assist our two organisations increase out ties.

With this in mind, I'd love to chat through this idea with your committee as a whole or individually (noting our current COVID restrictions.)

Both LCDR Cassie Mohapp (the new Director of Music) and I are very keen to ensure we, as present custodians, carry on your legacy and those who came before you and us.

In closing, please confirm how I can sign up for my membership and I look forward to meeting up with you all at the first available opportunity.

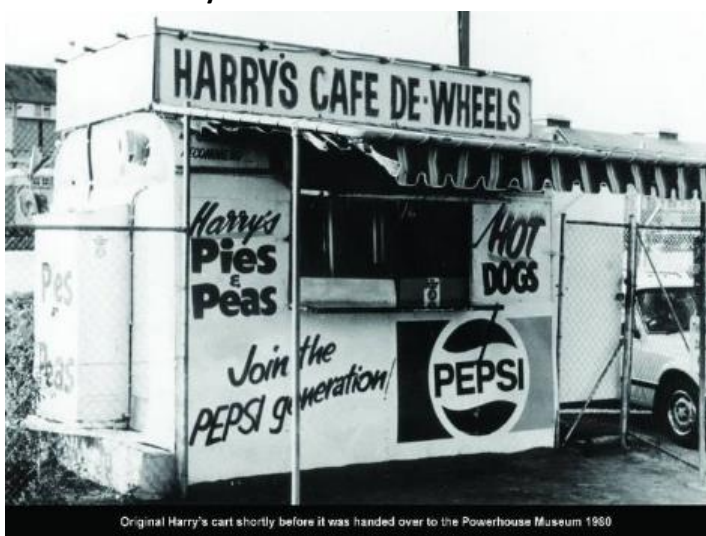
Kind regards

Mark Ham

Warrant Officer Musician

*The executive look forward to working with the new Director through 2021 and beyond.*

### Remember Harry's



Original Harry's cart shortly before it was handed over to the Powerhouse Museum 1960

### Australia Remember When

July 18 · 🌐

Have you ever had a pie at Harry's Cafe de Wheels in Woolloomooloo?

It's an institution in Sydney and over the years has become quite a tourist attraction. It was set up by Harry 'Tiger' Edwards as a pie cart near the northern wharf end of Cowper Wharf Rd, Potts Point, to provide hot snacks for the Navy sailors. Harry wasn't there for long before he joined the Army and was injured during WW2. When he came back he re-opened his little caravan and it soon became a tradition, a 'must visit' for the sailors and Harry did very well indeed. Harry operated the caravan for a further 30 years before selling the business to Alex Kuronya in 1975.

Harry's first pie cart (pictured here) is now at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

*Facebook pages do carry a lot of interesting articles and photos. It's a pity they disappear so quickly from the pages as other posts appear. Kevan Thomas tagged this excellent photo of Harry's Café De-Wheels.*





The executive is excited to announce a proposed reunion in Ballina from the Tuesday the 17th of August through to Thursday the 19th. This reunion will coincide with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial service to be held on Wednesday the 18th followed by a Veterans Band Concert in the Ballina RSL. Thursday will be the AGM followed by a relaxing 2 course lunch. From there members are welcome to stay longer in Ballina and socialise or make their way home or other locations. The Committee is endeavouring to alter Reunions to a more condensed style which will keep costs more affordable and be a more relaxed event. If you are interested in attending the Reunion and or performing in the Veterans Band, please let me know by email [xranband@bigpond.net.au](mailto:xranband@bigpond.net.au) or 02 6585 7767 so that we are able to get an idea of possible numbers. A booking form will be released early next year with all the details and costings.

### PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR A REUNION IN BALLINA NSW AUGUST 2021

#### TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup>

**10 am to 3 pm Rehearsal RAN Veterans Band,**  
RSL Auditorium. The size of the band for the Concert will be subject to any Covid requirements at the time.

**12 pm Lunch for Band at RSL Club.**  
A light lunch (sandwiches) will be provided to band members. Rehearsals will continue after lunch.

**10.30 am Partners Morning High Tea**  
(Small charge)

**6 pm Meet and Greet. RSL Club, Spinnakers.**  
This will be an informal gathering, seated only (covid requirements), finger food at tables. (Price TBA)

#### WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup>

**11 am Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service,**  
Adjacent to the RSL. The Veterans Band members will need to pick up music stands from the auditorium and be in place at the Cenotaph, ready to play, by 10.45. The Service will be completed by 11.45, Band return to RSL Auditorium for light lunch and set up, sound check for Concert.

**2 pm to 4 pm Concert by Veterans Band,**  
The RSL Club Auditorium will be the venue and entry will be free.

**Evening Free for socialising**  
With Ballina and surrounds offering plenty of attractions and eating facilities the evening is yours.

#### THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup>

**10 am RANBA Special General Meeting & AGM**  
The meeting will be held at the Ballina RSL and we encourage all members to attend.

**1 pm RANBA OFFICIAL LUNCHEON at RSL Club**  
This will be a seated 2 course meal with official speeches – Cost to be around \$35. More details to follow.

### Summary

The proposed reunion will depend on the situation regarding the virus in 2021 and allowable numbers able to attend if restrictions are still in place. Information regarding dress and pricing will follow as 2021 progresses. It is important that the executive gets a idea of possible numbers who would like to attend and also those interested in performing.

The following pages also highlight some of the accommodation available in the vicinity of the Ballina RSL so taxis or transport would not be needed.

Ballina is also a great hub to venture further and explore the regions and with flights, trains/buses and coaches you don't have to have your own transport.





## **BALLINA ACCOMODATION**

Ballina has plenty of quality accommodation options in very close proximity to Ballina RSL. Most are in walking distance and following are a small selection’.

### **Boardwalk Motel**

**River & Kerr Streets, Ballina**

**Contact: Eric Budd 02 6681 5677**

Small family run motel. Has 10 rooms, mainly doubles with upstairs and downstairs accommodation. You can specify either level if you require, but take into account the numbers of rooms is limited. Most rooms can accommodate 3 but they do have a family room that can take 5, but I think it might be a little small with only one bathroom. Rooms generally are quite spacious for 2 with a small kitchenette. They also include a continental breakfast in the tariff which consisted of a selection of cereals, toast and canned fruit. This motel is approximately a 5 minute walk from Ballina RSL.

Although tariffs for next August have not been released, they will offer their best tariff less at least 10% for the RANBA. **They do not require prepayment for accommodation when booking, but just a credit card to hold the booking. All payment is when checking in.**

### **Heritage Motor Inn and Richmond Motor Inn**

**227 River St. Ballina 02 6686 9100**

**Contact: Brendon Matthews**

These two motels have in total 42 rooms, mainly doubles with upstairs and downstairs accommodation. You can also specify whether you want downstairs or upstairs. They also have a 3 bedroom apartment with a kitchenette. Some of the accommodation does have a microwave oven but not a many of them.

No breakfast is included or available but there are many restaurants within a couple of minutes walk and a great Club for food directly across the road. These two motels are definitely in the best location to the RSL being directly across the road and would be only a 5 minute walk to Woolworths for additional supplies.





As with the other motels, no tariffs are out yet for next August but they have assured me that by booking direct there would be savings of about \$15 per night. **They also do not require prepayment for accommodation when booking, but a credit card to hold booking. All payments are due when checking in.**

There is also plenty of caravan parks and apartments in Ballina but the above are very close to the Ballina RSL and you would not require any transport.

Ballina is the gateway to the Northern Rivers region, characterised by great bio-diversity, with a laid back lifestyle and friendly, diverse communities.

There is much here to inspire you from the pristine, uncrowded Pacific beaches, tidal bays and fertile valleys meandering around the region's rivers, to the National Parks that showcase lush rainforest, wildlife and waterfalls with hinterland villages offering a rich food and arts culture.

### **GETTING TO BALLINA**

Driving from the south or North is a pleasurable trip. The road from Sydney is now excellent for travelling with a dual carriage way, as is the road from Brisbane.

**Ballina** is serviced well with flights from a number of airlines, even at the moment during COVID 19. Hopefully by next year there might be more direct flights.

***If you can't get a flight into Ballina, Gold Coast airport is not that far away and return shuttles run regularly and are approximately \$110 return to Ballina (prices could change next year!)***

Trains run to Casino from Sydney and then there is a bus service to Ballina. If you are a holder of a pension card, there might be free travel available.

If and when flights are booked please ensure they are fully refundable as per current COVID regulations and restrictions, most airlines offer full refunds, if booking direct.





# RANBA Ballina Reunion 2021

August 17th to the 19th



### THE FIGHT FOR RECOGNITION – LOGISTICAL CREWS

Some 15 years after the end of the Vietnam War, RAN crews on ships which served in Vietnam in a logistical capacity had no recognition whatsoever that they had served in a war zone. This went back to the many voyages to Vietnam and meant that if a soldier was killed while on board HMAS Sydney en route to South Vietnam (SVN) alongside a sailor who died doing the same job, the soldier would have his name on the Roll of Honour at the War Memorial, and the sailor's name would not appear. The soldier came under the Veterans Entitlement Act but the sailor didn't.



This was the basis of my 'Port to Port' court action which took over 5 years from 1988 to 1993.

Basically, I had heart surgery in 1988 and my specialist who operated told me it occurred because of smoking, and asked me when I took up the weed. I told him it was when I joined HMAS Sydney in 1968 and I hadn't smoked before that. He suggested I might put in a claim to DVA.

This I did, and was knocked back straight away. The local Vietnam Veterans Association sub branch had a very good pensions officer and he immediately appealed the decision to the Veterans Review Board where he was my advocate. We travelled to Sydney from Lismore NSW and the board quickly decided I didn't qualify as I didn't have active service.

The VVA advocate suggested that I forget it.

On speaking with a few former HMAS Sydney crew I was advised to contact a Sydney solicitor who specialised in Veteran matters.

Another trip to Sydney and I met up with Brian Winship in his office and he had a barrister there, Matthew Smith.

Matthew couldn't believe that sailors were treated differently to soldiers on the same ship and decided to take up my case at Administrative Appeals Tribunal level.

Several months later, I travelled to Parramatta where the AAT was sitting and along with my witnesses, Rex 'Shorty' Collinson and Peter Charlton, we met Matthew and instructing solicitor Brian for a brief meeting, then into the courtroom.

They couldn't believe their eyes, as the Repatriation Department had flown the Senior Commonwealth Government barrister from Melbourne, and he had behind him at least 6 instructing solicitors, all carrying a copy of the Veterans Entitlement Act which was very recognisable in its unique light blue folder. Obviously the Commonwealth Government thought this may be a precedent setting case, therefore the heavyweights.

Matthew winked at me and whispered "We'll have them on this one". I wasn't aware that by law, both parties were only allowed one barrister and one instructing solicitor. The hearing lasted most of the day – the three of us were called into the witness box and at one stage I noticed the medical member of the three member tribunal was fast asleep in his chair!

Probably about 2 months later I was sent a copy of their decision and we had lost. But Matthew phoned to say that they had made 3 errors in law and with my permission he would appeal the decision to the Federal Court (one Judge), and that he had put in a formal complaint to the Attorney-General about the extra instructing solicitors. I think at that stage, Repatriation realised this was getting fair dinkum.



It took almost a year to get a hearing in the Federal Court (Justice Davies) where I was not required to attend as it was all legal argument. Months later the Judge came down in our favour, so the Department quickly put in an appeal to the Full Bench Federal Court (three Judges). After a lengthy delay, the three judges, Justices Burchett, Einfeld & Beazley heard the case and also found in our favour. Then I was told by phone Repatriation sought leave to appeal this decision to the High Court of Australia.

The High Court dismissed that appeal, and it was now a precedent which meant crews of Logistical Support ships had their service recognised from the last port in Australia until their first port on return. This meant that instead of one day's active service while the ship was in Vung Tau harbour for instance, a sailor accumulated around 15 days for each voyage, and that widened the possibility of a claim for a war caused disability.

I was granted a disability pension of 100% of the general rate and sent a cheque for back payment over the 5 years the case had been going. My barrister Matthew told me not to cash the cheque, and he contacted the Department and said 'See you back in court'. Realising that we weren't going to take their decision lightly, they sent a further cheque for an amount of 5 years of the TPI rate which was considerably larger.

I must say I was extremely lucky that Legal Aid were behind me all the way, and eventually I was refunded the cost of

the heart surgery (by DVA) which took place in 1988. The result of the case made the Sydney newspapers, and I was disappointed with some comments made publicly from a few Army Vietnam Veterans that this was a miscarriage of justice and that the Navy didn't deserve it.

Some six months later, I was told that the Howard Government were preparing legislation to reverse the decision, and after that, I will never have any respect for John Howard (who, incidentally, attended the same high school as I did – Canterbury Boys High, Sydney). Retired Admiral Mike Hudson along with advocate and author Noel Payne plus a member of the HMAS Sydney Association (Vic) went to Canberra and lobbied the Defence Minister and Veterans Affairs Minister and after a long fight, this legislation didn't go through to the House.

In summary, I had some highs during this journey, and many lows. Legal matters do take it out of you and unless you have excellent legal representation who believe in your case, it would not be worthwhile over such a long period. I still believe that we were treated shabbily by governments of both persuasions on the matter of recognition, and at the end of my journey, so did four Judges of the Federal Court.

Jim Hawkins

August 2020



# Note-able Contribution By Musicians of the RAN



Petty Officer Musician Christopher Palamountain checks a driver's details at a vehicle control point in Victoria during Operation COVID-19 Assist. Photo: Private Dustin Anderson

## By Leading Seaman Jonathan Rendell

6 August 2020

Community engagement looks different now for some members of the RAN Band Melbourne, as they trade instruments for personal protective equipment. They are deployed on Operation COVID-19 Assist helping Victoria Police at vehicle control points around the state. Petty Officer Musician Chris Palamountain said he was enjoying the deployment. "The police have been fantastic, they have been nothing but friendly, supportive and welcoming," Petty Officer Palamountain said.

"It has been interesting chatting with officers and getting to know them, as well as learning the similarities and differences between the ADF and Victoria Police." Both RAN Band Sydney and Melbourne deployed about 60 per cent of their members on the operation. Under the direction of police, Navy members are checking people leaving metropolitan Melbourne.

The musicians are deployed with many other members of the ADF. "Our forward operating base is tri-service. Staff from all three services are working together to co-ordinate members on the ground," Petty Officer Palamountain said.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of this deployment is meeting, leading and working with personnel from other parts of Navy and the ADF.

It has been interesting chatting with officers and getting to know them, as well as learning the similarities and differences between the ADF and Victoria Police. "I am team leader of a group of five personnel, none of whom I have met before." Petty Officer Palamountain said everyone adapted quickly.

"I have been impressed with how readily the team has learned this job and with their positive attitude to the task," he said. "They have all been highly professional and we are developing a great team spirit and camaraderie."

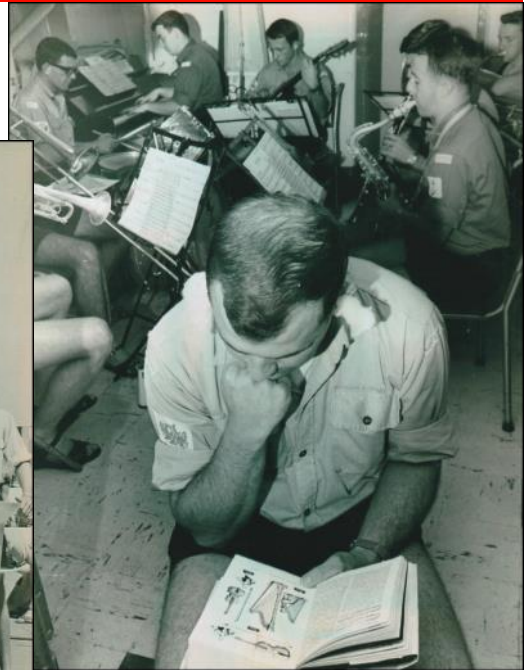
Saxophonist Petty Officer Palamountain joined the RAN in 1998 and regularly composes music the Navy Band performs around the country. Petty Officer Palamountain's last operational deployment in 2003 was in HMAS Kanimbla as part of Operation Slipper and Operation Falconer. While domestic operations like this are less common, members of the band are proud to contribute. "It means a great deal to me as an RAN musician to be helping on Operation COVID-19 Assist," Petty Officer Palamountain said.

"It reinforces our role within Navy being called on to conduct these duties. "To be able to contribute with the efforts of stopping the spread of COVID-19 has been a rewarding experience."

On a trip north to Cairns, John Lennon met up with Dave Parnell who handed over some loved photo's for safe keeping by the association. The originals will be kept at the museum at Cerberus under our ever increasing Band section.



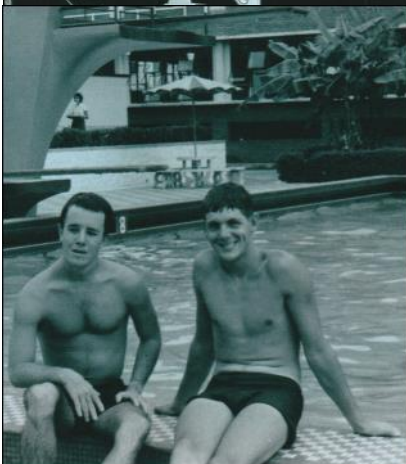
L/R Bob Breen, Peter Kannengeiser, Shiner Wright, Max Argent, Dick Hodge, Trevor Williamson, Tom Gallagher, Jack Noonan, Geoff Coutts, Paul Lloyd, Eric Pearce, Trevor Fenlon, Geoff Russell, Phil Hopkins, Paddy O'Leary, Dick Woon, Mike Dawson. F/L Mouse Blankensteijn, Brian Willis, Mick Higgs, Pud Jackson, Fred Greedy, Jock Heath, Don "Zonk" Lowry & Mac Haines.



Above: Rob Himbury, Chris Marshall, Kev Ridout, Peter Bauers, Dave Parnell & Peter McLeod.



Fleet Band 66/67 under Jim McDonough in Hong Kong  
Left: Eric Pearce, Chris Marshall, Dave Parnell, Rick Faye, Geoff Coutts & Charlie Tumath.



Right: Royal Yacht entering Hobart in freezing weather. Notice Bridge is still being built.

Left: Dave Parnell & Michael Dawson at the NAAFI Club, Singapore.

