

# Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

## Winter Edition 2021

A magazine for Association members and serving Band members of the RAN



### Milestone by Ships Bands.

HMAS Melbourne Fleet Band and HMAS Sydney Band celebrate 50 and 51 years respectively since touring Vietnam. Our President suggests an opportunity in Ballina to celebrate this milestone. **More on page 3..**

### HMAS Cerberus and the Museum takes on a new look.



What's happening down at Cerberus would upset the traditionalists but it's progress. **Page 12 for more..**

### Ballina Re-union

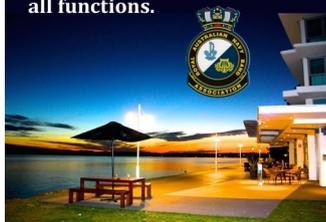
Final program of the Ballina Re-union complete with accommodation suggestions. **Full details Page 15..**

#### RANBA Ballina Re-union 2021

Tuesday the 17th to Friday the 19th of August.

Full details now available in our latest edition of the RANBA Magazine.

Great accomodation deals within walking distance of all functions.



### Mr Music Retires 50 years ago.

Another milestone passes with the late George Hooker retiring in 1970. **Continues on page 9..**



### Vale to past members

Our Vale of past members continues to grow and we report three more (that we know of) who have passed away since our last magazine. **Vales on pages 5 and 6.**

A sponsored ad.

EFNOTE 5

The future of Electronic Drums has arrived. Pure Controlled Acoustics. Visit [www.evolutionmusic.com.au](http://www.evolutionmusic.com.au) or see them in Ballina 2021. *Evolution music*

**All Editorial to:**

**Att:** Errol Hatch  
RAN Band Association.  
PO Box 69 Lynbrook. VIC 3975  
**Mobile:** 0400 706 503  
**Email:** admin@ranbandassoc.net  
**Proof Reader:** Roger Downton

**All President Correspondence:**

**Att:** Ralph Daines  
1 Howell Ave, Port Macquarie. NSW 2444  
**Phone:** 0405 380 751  
**Email:** xranband@bigpond.net.au

**All Secretary Correspondence:**

**Att:** Ralph Daines  
1 Howell Ave, Port Macquarie. NSW 2444  
**Phone:** 0405 380 751  
**Email:** xranband@bigpond.net.au

**Your Executive and Committee Association Patron:**

Rear Admiral Mark Campbell (Rtd)

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Ralph Daines

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Ralph Daines: Errol Hatch (assistant)

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**VIC:** Terry Ekin

**QLD:** John Lennon (Retired)

**SA:** Doug Drysdale (Retired)

**TAS:** David Hardstaff

**WA:** Bill Farrell

**RAN Veterans Band/Events Manager:**

Ralph Daines

**Registered Address:**

Royal Australian Navy Band Association Inc;  
1 Howell Ave, Port Macquarie. NSW 2444

**Banking Details**

**Bank:** ANZ

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013232

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**Account Name:**

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**A SLIGHT GRAPHIC CHANGE.**

A slight change to the layout of our magazine to reflect a new year. Our social sites are continuing to grow and members are posting interesting stories and comments about other members posts. The magazine is still our main source of information for most members. This edition has the latest up dates regarding the reunion and is important for members wanting to attend as the official booking form is on the back page. Enjoy my second last effort.

**The Financial position of the association continues to grow.**

Report By: Errol Hatch (Assistant to the Treasurer)

In the Christmas edition, I reported on the 2019/2020 financials and with no correspondence back am assuming that all members are accepting it, Thanks.

We are very healthy financially with our balance at over \$10,000.00 and outlays have been minimal and the upcoming reunion is not requiring any amounts to reserve venues or functions thanks to the generosity of the Ballina RSL. Membership has not decreased apart from recently deceased members and our facebook pages continue to increase, so we are definitely finding new members to the Association. It is heartening to see interaction on those pages as there is not much that can be placed on the website unless there is official announcements or magazine releases.

With the upcoming reunion we of course have the AGM and it would be good to see some new blood on the executive to steer the association to new directions. If you are interested please nominate and be a part of the team.

Well, until the next mag or if I see you in Ballina, stay safe.

## EDITORIAL

By: Errol Hatch

All I can say is that with the months having passed so fast I missed a complete edition, I'm sorry. Socially the country is slowly starting to get back to normal though the pandemic is still in the back of our minds and we are reminded every-day that we are lucky to have the freedom currently enjoyed. This time last year uncertainty was rampant with predictions of us getting through this by mid year and no mention of a vaccine apart from scientists mapping the virus so progress could start. How quickly we have forgotten the cost and social dis-function we went through especially here in Victoria. Speaking from experience in retail we are still trying to catch up financially and with product delays it will be another 12 months before we are back to normal is my prediction.

As Ralph has indicated the re-union/Veterans concert will definitely be going ahead and all the details regarding this anticipated event are covered. This gathering is a little different as it is through the week and I have had a few members voice their disappointment that they can't make it. The aim was to coincide with Vietnam Veterans week and have Ballina as our first gathering where our reunions and Veterans Band can combine. It will be a more relaxed affair but still with the functions we expect.

I would like to thank John Lennon and Doug Drysdale for their contributions to the magazine over the years and I will find it impossible to fill the holes left by their informative words. We will be holding, as is required, our AGM so Ralph and I are looking forward to new members participating in the process of running our successful association.

### **The re-union will definitely be going ahead....**

Ralph Daines...

Musically, bands are now rehearsing a social distancing formation and starting to perform. Len Nurse with the Lions Club Cranbourne Band had their first performance on the 1st of May. I helped Kevin Hillier's Stonnington Brass Band do a Citizenship ceremony with a reduced band and again the social distancing requirements. I'm also currently helping the Casey Philharmonic rehearse the complete suite of Star Wars for a major concert in July. I now remember how counting a multitude of bars for one crash could be so hard on the brain, but the overall sound is as you would expect for Star Wars from a Philharmonic orchestra, MASSIVE.

Back in 2019 to early 2020 I had a workshop band known as the MBBOW (Melbourne Bag Band Orchestra Workshop). We met once a month and workshop charts that



1953 Coral Sea Parade from the Photo album of Joy King. More in future editions.

were more from the 70's rhythm era with orchestrations suited to a mix of instruments (similar to a studio orchestra) we had a great uptake of association members and local musicians participated and it was very enjoyable. Since March 2020 we haven't returned and finding a rehearsal venue that will allow a band of that size with the requirements near impossible until we come out of this. This is the problem many bands face so playing generally still has a long way to go.

What have you been doing playing wise. It would be great to get a feed back of what has been happening in your neck of the woods, musically.

Sadly we have had more members pass away and a few more not travelling too well. We are always aware of our aging membership and are thinking of the loved ones left behind. More tributes are in the magazine.

The museum reports what is happening down at Cerberus and the massive civil works taking place. The old precinct A,B, C Blocks and the parade ground area are currently going through upgrades and should be completed by the end of the year.

I will have a lot more to provide in the mag so I will finish with: Looking forward to catching up with as many who can make Ballina in August.

Regards,

Errol.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT OUTLINES FUTURE EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS.

By: Ralph Daines. President RANBA

Welcome to latest Magazine. Anyone out there who is not feeling well, firstly listen to your Doctor then pick up a glass of wine and feel happy.

The Reunion in Ballina is all coming together and all the latest information and the booking form is inside this edition. We are making this Reunion cost friendly and Ballina RSL is making it easy for us as we will be using the facilities of the Club for all of our events. A list of accommodation is also in the Mag with distances from the Club. There are a number very close, two of which are across the road from the Club. A little tip for anyone who will be using the Club facilities for their time in Ballina: join the Club for next to nothing which will give you discounts on food and drinks.

Sadly, we have had a few more Members join the "Band up there" Kim Rushworth and Don Icky Buntine. On behalf of the Association I would like to pass on our condolences to their families. Rest In Peace.

This Reunion will be the first one to be held on an annual basis and I hope we find the numbers to make it work. We know many of our Members reside in that part of Australia and I would like to invite all those who haven't been to a Reunion before, come along and join your old mates.

Speaking of Reunions, it has occurred to me that this Reunion can be a reunion of members of the 1970 and 1971 Bands that were on the ground in Vietnam. 51 Years ago the Fleet Band off HMAS Melbourne became the first Australian Navy Band to spend time on the ground in a war zone, touring all Bases in Vietnam with Australians attached and it is 50 years ago that the Band of HMAS Sydney disembarked for a day for Concerts in a number of positions in Vietnam. I am interested to see if as many members of those Bands could show their faces and share old memories.

This year there will be a Special General Meeting prior to the Annual General Meeting to discuss amendments to the Association's Constitution. Most of the amendments will be minor, with the main amendment being "Offer Associate Membership to Members of the Veterans Band". Details of the amendments and Notice of Meeting is in this Magazine.

**I'm interested in seeing members of the 70 and 71 Melbourne and Sydney Bands attend the reunion....**

Ralph Daines..

All positions of the Committee will be vacant at the General Meeting, **SO**, if anyone would like to serve on YOUR Committee, please fill out an application form which is in this Magazine.

With Covid restrictions eased, the numbers for the Veterans Band has been expanded, **SO**, I now can have a Band of 50, **SO**, if you would like to play and haven't already let me know you are playing, contact me on, xranband@bigpond.net.au or 0405 380 751.

I look forward to seeing many, many, many of you in Ballina on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

**RANBA Ballina  
Re-union 2021**

**Tuesday the 17th to  
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our latest edition of the  
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all functions.**

**Here’s what you said.  
Editorial, Letters and  
Comments:**

**Not a lot has happened in Qld** over the last few months. The pandemic has creating uncertainty but in Qld we appear to be on top of any outbreaks. The weather has been great and all members are well. I also look forward to catching up with my many friends during my future travels. I wish the association all the best for the future.

John Lennon

**Looking forward to the reunion** in Ballina in August and having a blow with the Veterans Band. I hope a South Australian will put his hand up to nominate as the rep for our great state. See you in a couple of months. Regards,

Doug Drysdale

**The passing of Don Buntine**

I was a close friend to Don whilst in the Navy, very sad news indeed! RIP Don,

Keith "Fritz" Semmler



**Vale, Andrew Sloane**

Andrew passed away on the 22nd of January 2021. Andrew was a fine trumpet player in the 70’s & 80’s and was I/C of the WA Naval Band for a short while as a POMusn. He moved to Geraldton where he taught music when he paid off.

RIP  
Sloaney.

Andrew Rourke

**Sad to hear about Icky,**

I shared a room with him in Adelaide ‘08, Townsville ‘10, Singapore ‘11. I put him up at my place in Sydney in ‘13 and caught up with him at a FEASA reunion again in Adelaide in ‘16. I’ll miss his humour and great stories. RIP old mate.

Craig Dickman.



Paul “Scarlett” O’Hara with family after receiving the 2nd Federation Star (45 Years) at HMAS Kuttabul in March of this year. Congratulations Paul on a great achievement.

**HMAS Cerberus Volunteers**

Celebrated a rare get together at the Seaford RSL just before Christmas. With the lockdowns of 2020 we were not allowed onto the depot in numbers greater than three when restrictions were lifted so this was a wonderful opportunity for us all to catch up.

Errol Hatch.



## Victoria slowly returns to normality.

Report by: Terry Ekin

A new year starts and with the gradual easing of restrictions, things are ever so slowly beginning to show promise of returning to the life as we remember it pre the Chinese Lurgy. Orchestra & Concert Band websites and Facebook profiles now announce the return of rehearsals and then actually live, in person, in front of a living audience, concerts.

In my newsletter entry about this time last year, I spoke of a local orchestra doing a proxy concert video which eventuated to have been a common occurrence for many orchestras and bands throughout the world. Of course, we can still play/practice at home but what's the inspiration when there's nothing like performing with a group and having that extra human contact. After all, we are a herd species, so the return to group rehearsals and performances is welcome to those who are still actively playing.

As a sidenote, with the branches roots in the Royal Marines, for anyone interested there's a YouTube channel that plays 24/7 of the RM band's performances over recent years - not just one performance or video.

For those reading this online go to; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6339TKrlrcY> and for those not reading it online but have the internet, Google "Youube 24/7 Royal Marines".

Many of us, where we could, attended or may have played at this year's Anzac Day services and marches despite restrictions placed on the day even though COVID is so intelligent and sympathetic to the Australian way of life, it won't go to sports events.

Frankston RSL only offered a late morning wreath laying ceremony whereas Seaford RSL, as small as it is, offered an early morning gunfire breakfast and, albeit short, a street march. This is where our 2 year old grandson attended his first Anzac Day parade and where we're likely to attend and support in the years ahead.

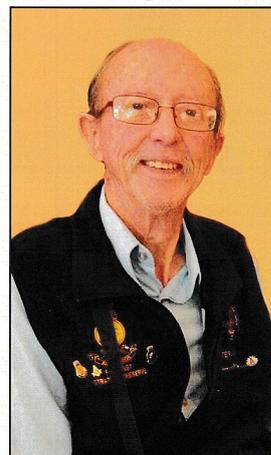
Last year, our luncheons were cancelled for obvious reasons however, now that most of the restrictions have been removed, we can look at getting together again, so Mexicans, keep an eye on your inbox as we look at the end of this month (May) to go to lunch at the Seaford.

To anyone who is under the weather, we wish you have a speedy recovery and return to good health.

Terry.

## Vale to a Senior member of our Association.

Celebration of the Life of  
"Don"



**Donald Graeme Buntine**  
23rd April 1939 - 20th April 2021

A small contingent had the opportunity to pay our last respects to Don "Icky" Buntine on Wednesday the 28th of April. Don definitely was well respected in the Pakenham district with involvement in all aspects of the city. From gate keeper at the local football ground, working on major works within Pakenham to being (I'd say) the last milkman that used a horse and cart for deliveries. The service was well attended and had a Masonic Lodge and RSL service along with some great photo's of his life in civvy street and the Navy. Those who attended were Barry and Pat Pollock, Len and Maree Nurse, Des Fay and wife and Errol and Sharon Hatch.

RIP Don.



## Another Member sadly leave us.



Sadly another association member has passed away since our last magazine, Kim Rushworth, Clarinet/Saxophone, (1965) in March of this year. Kim's family had a private service and plan to hold a memorial service for friends at a later date. Kim was such an active member in the local music scene here in Melbourne and he will be remembered as the gentleman of JAZZ.



## Veterans Band Prepares for Ballina 2021

Article by: Ralph Daines. Veterans Band/Events Manager

The programme for the Veterans Band in Ballina will consist of two performances, the Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Ceremony which will be conducted by Brian Ellis and the Ballina Band has been invited to join us. There is no mention of any music for that ceremony at the moment as I am awaiting information from Ballina RSL Sub Branch. The Bandmaster of the Ballina Band has been invited to join us for both occasions.

The Band for the Concert will be conducted by Roger Downton and at the moment we have 32 players confirmed to play, see band list below. I am able to have a Band of 50 for the Concert, so if anyone else would like to participate give me a call, [xranband@bigpond.net.au](mailto:xranband@bigpond.net.au) or 0405 380 751.

The Veterans Band has been very successful over the past 10 years because of the amount of support we have had from our band friends from the Army, Air Force and Community Bands. Putting a Band together is not easy and you are not always going to get full support from our own members, so I have had to call in favours from old friends

and the wonderful recruitment of John Lennon to fill the void. These “outsiders” have joined in, worn the uniform with pride, paid their way, and a number have been with us for almost every performance. Both Errol Hatch and myself have decided to put forward to the Association a motion to invite those “outsiders” into the “insiders” by way of Associate Membership of the Association and this motion will be put forward to members at Ballina.

### **The Veterans Band has been noticed and praised from high places within Navy....**

Since we started the Veterans Band, we have lost a number of our older Members and we are not getting any of our younger Mem-

Ralph Daines...

bers filling the spaces. The Veterans Band has been noticed in high places, received praise from high places and has been often thanked for making the Navy proud. The Navy Veterans Band is the only band that can use the name, we are officially credited. We have from time to time been called ‘Rich Dicks’ for going overseas, but the one thing we try to achieve is to make every one of those trips a holiday environment inclusive of partners. A large effort is made to raise funds from donations, grants etcetera, to lighten the financial strain on the members of the Band and because each member or the Band wants to be there, it makes the music so easy to produce. If any one would like to chat about the Band, I am available on 0405 380 751.

Yours in Music, Ralph Daines



# VICTORIAN RESERVISTS MAY 2021 REUNION.

Article By Alan Hogg

With no Naval Reserve Band in Victoria for over 30 years, it is heartening that ex members still keep in touch and with the relaxation of gathering restrictions can meet up again at their favourite watering hole, the Wheelers Hill Hotel. After a few phone calls from Alan Hogg (1955) and others, ex members met on Wednesday the 5th for a welcoming luncheon since 2019. Sitting out in the sundeck on a glorious Autumn day were 11 bandsman from different eras of the Lonsdale based Reserve Band.

Apologies from Paul Farrugia and Alan Woodhouse were conveyed as conversations got underway to what's been happening in our part of the world. Sadly this group has lost members over the last year and they were remembered in conversations.

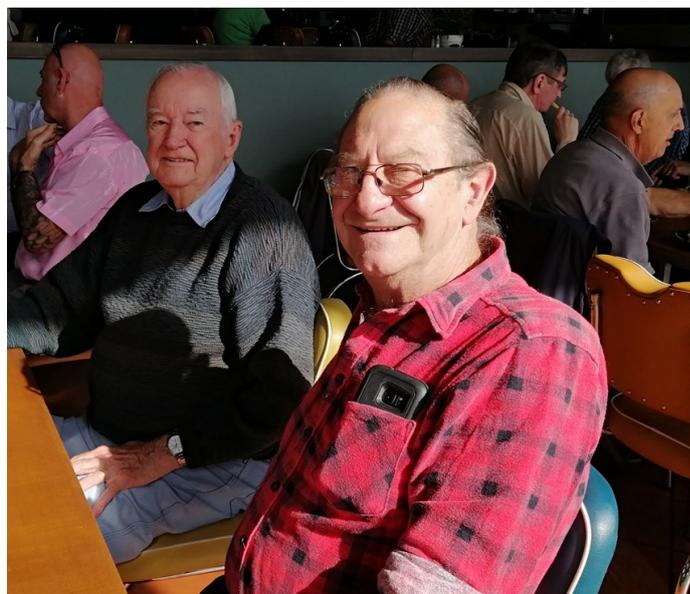
**Combined ACT's were some of the best times we had, especially Perth in the early 80's**

Les Kent...



Frank Charles, John Nellar and David Wright enjoying the Bright Sun at the Wheelers Hill Hotel.

“The Victorian Band did a lot of gigs around the Yacht Clubs organised by Alan Woodhouse and others “ said Stephen Jacobs as we were reminiscing on what kept the



Two of the organisers of the re-union, Alan Hogg and Mick Reed.

band busy and the massed bands at the Adelaide tattoo in the early 80's was probably the most memorable mention.

Attending the reunion were, Bernie Oppermam (1970), Shane Ladd (1986), Frank Charles (1970), Stephen Jacobs (1980), Les Kent (1979), Alan Hogg (1955), Mick Reed (1982), Ron Hobba (1967), John Nellar (1969), Errol Hatch (1979) and David Wright (1972). Sharon Hatch, Nola Wright and..... Hobba joined their partners for the luncheon.

Some notable names popped up in conversation with Frank Charles reminding us of his Big Band ventures which most of us took part in over the years and now in his late 80's is still playing his Trombone.

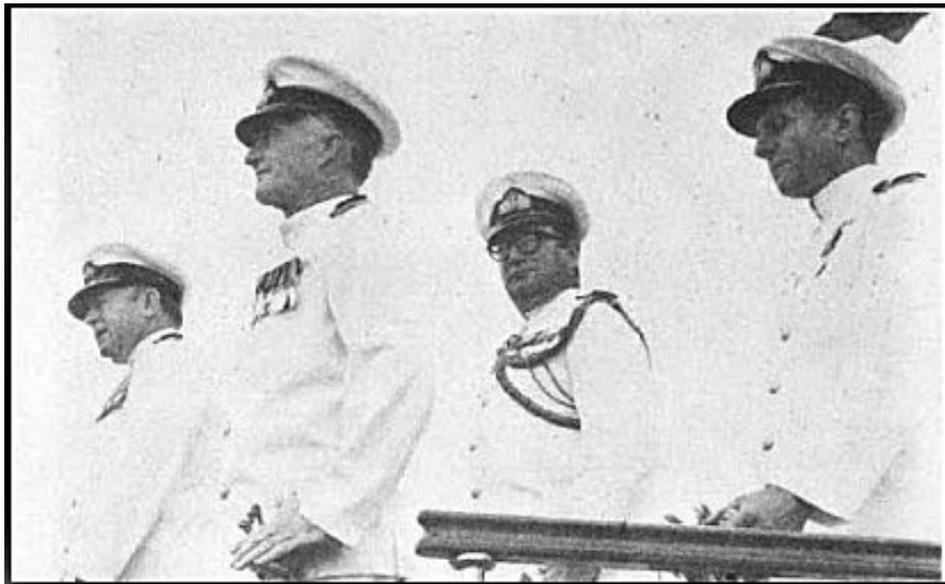
**I remember doing Big Band gigs with Frank at the German Club. I think I got paid in beer.**

...Laughs Errol (Who doesn't drink Beer

The reunion concluded late afternoon and it was agreed by all to meet same time next year and to find other ex's to join in the day.



# FAREWELL TO RAN'S 'MR MUSIC'



**LCDR GEORGE HOOKER (Left foreground) listens as Commodore Purvis addresses the ship's company at Cerberus on the occasion of Lcdr Hooker's farewell. Lcdr Hooker took the salute at the March Past of the Band.**

**Article in the NAVY NEWS, March 6 1970**

**The man who was instrumental in bringing the Bands of the Royal Australian Navy into the world's spotlight, was farewelled at an impressive ceremonial parade at HMAS Cerberus recently.**

After 34 years in the RAN, the Director of Music L C D R George Hooker MBE, LRAM, AMUA has moved out of the Service to take up the position of Head of the Music Section with the South Australian Education Department.

His popular wife, Rae, and son Timothy (who was a student at Peninsula Grammar School until this year) watched proudly as Dad was accorded the honour of taking the salute at the March Past of the Band.

Daughter Sue, who has been teaching deaf and dumb children in England, unfortunately missed the parade but will soon be reunited with her family. The Superintendent of Training, Commodore Ian Purvis ADC RAN, paid a glowing tribute to the career of Lcdr Hooker during an address to the 20002 sailors and WRANS on parade.

George Hooker of The Boulevard, Somers, Victoria, is known throughout Australian music circles for the way in which he has developed the RAN band and the RAN School Of Music at Cerberus, which is unique in the Services.

Since Lcdr hooker became the RAN Director of Music in August 1954, he has watched the branch grow from 96 to 160

men, with bands in HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Sydney, and at the shore establishments HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Albatross and HMAS Penguin. As well as these bands the musicians have built up a bluejacket band among the apprentices at HMAS



**"THE BOYS" say farewell their own way. This group includes LMUN Bill Thompson, MUSN Red Hillier, MUSN Gary Sander, LMUSN Clive Smith, MUSN Kim Rushworth and foreground MUSN Lindsay Mungovan.**

Nirimba at Quakers Hill in NSW, and a drum and bugle band at the Junior Recruits Training Establishment, HMAS Leeuwin at Fremantle, WA.

Lcdr Hooker can justifiably be proud of the arrangements with EMI to make one LP record a year- the latest "Naval

Sounds" makes a total of 12 excellent selections of band music available over the counters.

Talking to his "boys" as he called them, one gets the impression that his greatest achievement was his negotiations with the Australian Music Examinations Board, which resulted in his musicians (who are trained by the Navy in the Navy) covering the AMEB syllabus and the Chief Petty Officer Qualifying T MUS A, which is equivalent to a licentiate.

George, himself, is a senior examiner with AMEB and was well known to matriculation music students throughout Victoria from whom he expected the same high standard as he did from Navy musicians.

A man who believed in the optimum effort, he worked hard to achieve the best possible conditions for his sailors and they, over the years, have rewarded him and the Navy with performances which equal those of the world best "military" bands.

Ask those proud Australians who watched George and the band perform at the Melbourne Olympics, and the Perth Empire

Games - the 200,000 audience who attended The Seekers concert at the Myer Music Bowl - the devotees who participated in the 1959 Adelaide Festival of Arts.

**Continue page 10**



## Tribute, at last, to 74 allies lost.

Article from The Senior News South Australia.

IT HAS been a long time coming but a plaque commemorating those that died in one of Australia's worst peacetime naval accidents is about to be unveiled.

The collision between HAMS Melbourne and the USS Frank E. Evans happened in the South China Sea on June 3, 1969 with the loss of 74 American sailors.

The plaque, to be unveiled in Ulverstone, Tasmania on June 3, honours not only those that died, but the survivors from both ships, some of who carry the memory to this day.

One of them is 70-year-old Gary Smith, the man who single-handedly spearheaded the campaign and paid for it out of his own pocket.

Just 17 at the time, he endured memories of the traumatic day for years. "It was one of those things that couldn't fail to have an impact," said Gary, from Ross in Tasmania's midlands.

He described the site of the plaque at Shropshire Naval Memorial Park as an idyllic location, "right on the

river, a place people could go to and not get distracted by the rest of the world".

The memorial is mounted on a plinth, opposite which is a seat bearing the message: "Please sit. Reflect on the price paid for the peace you enjoy".

Gary stresses it's not just Aussies who paid the price, "but the people on the other ship who still pay the price, mentally and physically".

If you wish to attend, RSVP Gary on 0448-273-773 or email [gcpdcmj7@gmail.co](mailto:gcpdcmj7@gmail.co). The service will be on the 3rd of June at 11.00am, Shropshire Memorial Park, Dial Street, Ulverstone. (opp Water St)

### From page 9

His crowning glory would have been at Osaka this year where, the RAN band are performing at Expo '70 but a man of his vast experience and service background of management and discipline, is in great demand.

Thus he has been snapped-up by the South Australian Education Department as the head of the music section of the adult education branch. Everyone who knows him wishes him well but are in agreement that the Navy's loss is South Australia's gain.

BIOGRAPHY- LCDR Hooker studied violin at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide, for 12 years and was awarded the coveted Elder Scholarship in 1930. He was an associate of the University of Adelaide when he joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1936. LCDR Hooker saw service in most theatres of the war.

He served in HMAS Canberra, HMAS Australia (when it was subjected to Kamikaze bombing for a period of five days) and in HMAS Hobart when it was torpedoed while returning to Australia from Trobriand Islands. He visited England in 1946 to participate in the Victory March through London, during which time he conducted some of the world's leading military bands.

He was also was a representative at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952. The MBE was awarded to Lieutenant Commander Hooker in 1957 for service to music in the Royal Australian Navy. LCDR Hooker took up his appointment as Director of Music for the Royal; Australian Navy in 1954.



A Bandy say's "THANKS , GEORGE".  
Continues on Page 11.

## The HOOKER TROPHY

Article by: Dave Parnell

Those who knew DOM LCDR George Hooker may recall he was an avid golfer. George was a member of Cerberus Golf Club and his legacy to the club was the "HOOKER TROPHY".

This trophy is played for annually over three rounds. Somewhat like a Concerto for Golf in three movements. The game is played as a 4 ball, which means teams of two players compete against each other. The first elimination round is a stableford event. The pairs surviving the cut off play in the second qualifying event which is a par round. The two top scoring pairs qualify to go into the final round. This is where it gets interesting. The final round is a 4-ball handicap match play event. Hope I am not boring the non-golfers. Each hole is won by the team whose member has the lowest score. The team with the most holes up at the end is the winner. For example, if your team is four up with three left to play you have won the match.

It was the 15th hole and the game was tied with both pairs three up with three to play. The player stood over his putt knowing he had a handicap shot on the hole. His partner had missed his putt but with a handicap advantage on the hole if he dropped the putt the trophy was theirs. If he missed, they would have to go to the next hole as both pairs would still be three up with three to play. He carefully

lined up the two-meter putt. Satisfied he had the right line he played the shot.

All four players anxiously watched the ball roll towards the hole and gently drop in. They were now four up with only three left to play and the match was won. That was the most nervous putt I think I have ever played. Nothing left for it after that but to return to the clubhouse and enjoy a beer.

The year 2008 "Hooker Trophy" has pride of place in my admittedly rather sparse trophy cabinet. Must have been on a roll that year as it sits beside the 2008 Chief Petty Officers Gold cup. I always held George in high regard and if there was any trophy I would prefer to have on my shelf it would be the "HOOKER TROPHY"

Dave Parnell.

From Page 10

## A BANDY SAYS "THANKS, GEORGE"!

When one looks back at his service in the Navy, there is always that nagging thought in one's mind that someday a good friend and mate will pay off from the service and go into HMAS Citizenship.

Oh yes it has happened to me before, and no doubt will happen again, but I feel not to such a extent as occurred when Lt. Cdr. George Hooker, Director of Music of the RAN for the past 16 years and "opus magnus" of the Band Branch, walked through the gates of "Cerberus" for the last time in February as a serving officer.

Affectionately known as George, Uncle George "Sir, the Boss, the DOM no relation to that well known beverage, and many other names, he has towered over the ranks of Navy Musicians for nearly two decades and has been instrumental in putting the RAN Band on the map.

With him at the helm, we have weathered through numerous Royal and VIP visits and Olympic and Empire Games, and many other engagements equally as important such as Band tours throughout Australia, TV shows, radio programmes and record sessions.

I shall always remember him in an off moment on a South Australian visit playing golf in a fierce gale- or so it seemed and just as he hit a 2 x wood to a 120 yard hole, the wind dropped necessitating a 4 wood back to the green.

On the same trip eating fish and chips out of a newspaper because we were late back for an evening concert after another round of golf!

And always lurking in the background was his charming wife, Rae, who was always the ever present guardian angel of the Band, helping and giving advice. Yes I got some of that too!

Now they have gone to Adelaide from where George joined up in the mid 1930's, gone I'm sure with a ton of memories that I'm sure will live with them for life.

May I humbly and sincerely say Thank you George and Rae for being such good mates to so many and especially to a few I know- you will both be sadly missed.

JUST A BANDY.

**Appeared in the NAVY NEWS, March 6 1970.  
(Who was "Just a Bandy"?)**

# HMAS Cerberus and the Museum takes on a new look.

Article by: Errol Hatch

Having returned to the museum for the first time at the start of April, it was a stark reminder of the changes that have occurred not just to the Museum but the surrounds of HMAS Cerberus.

Gone are all the pine trees that were running alongside the covered in parade ground. Many of the trees had also been removed from around the pond, and the admin centre at the parade ground. This has created a different feel to the area and will take many a year to recover. New buildings have been completed at the west gate and the A,B, and C Blocks continue to be refurbished to their original splendour.



*All the Pine trees have now gone from the surrounds of the museum. It's ironic that the sign says "Beware Falling Branches as there is not many trees left for Branches to fall."*



*The gardens thou green lack that shade that those massive trees provided.*

*Right: The old Director's room is now the epicentre of the museum admin.*

The Museum has had additional glass cabinets re-positioned from the now vacant Vietnam café and Sydney room. A fair proportion of the HMAS Sydney display went to the Vietnam museum at Phillip island and is now well displayed there.

The museum admin is now housed in the old School of Music and has taken on a homely atmosphere and is good to see the offices and kitchen being used as they were way back when.



The Volleyball court area is still a worksite but should be returned to its glory later this year.

Plans to change our display in 2020 to the new format (Bands in Conflict) have been put back on the agenda. This was to correspond with the 50th and 51st year anniversary of Melbourne and Sydney Band's touring Vietnam but I will have to do this as the year progresses. It will also to include 1st and 2nd world wars, the Korean and Afghanistan conflicts.



Volunteers to the museum have been restricted somewhat and are only allowed to come onto the depot in certain numbers but it is still a pleasure to get down there and help create a unique experience.

Until the next edition

All the best.

Errol.

*Below: The HMAS Australia room was full of documentation and archival material that needed to be housed in the new museum admin quarters.*

*Above: Storage is at a premium at the moment with a lot of personal items donated to the museum still to find a home.*

The museum is still not open to the general public yet but might be later in the year. Recruits still spend time as part of their training visiting the museum.

The plan will be to hold another successful BBQ in early 2022 launching the new display and other new displays. More will be announced as the year progresses and we start welcoming visitors.



A promotional banner for the RAN Band Melbourne. It features a conductor in a dark uniform on the left and a group of musicians in similar uniforms playing various instruments. The text "RAN Band Melbourne" is in blue, "Soundwaves" is in large white letters, and "LIVE CONCERTS ARE BACK!" is in large yellow letters on a black background. At the bottom, it says "CONCERT SERIES BEGINS MAY 2021\*" and "Band &amp; Cinema Complex, HMAS Cerberus". There is also a small crest logo in the bottom right corner.

CONCERT SERIES BEGINS MAY 2021\* • Band & Cinema Complex, HMAS Cerberus

\* Visit the RAN Band facebook event page for all the schedules dates and program.



# RANBA MEMBERS CELEBRATING ANZAC DAY IN PICTURES

This year's Anzac day was quite different to 2020 nationally. Each state had different restrictions to numbers allowed to gather and the beneficiaries in the end were the local RSLs. Registrations for marching in Melbourne were limited to 5000 but they reached only 70% of this target, though there were many that just showed up. Following are our contributions by our members to the day.



A very proud Peter Bauers carrying the banner in the 2021 parade.



As usual, a great turnout of ex's in Ballina for the 2021 Anzac Day.



Jim Hawkins above and again with Nick Chiselett (well known from our Veteran band escapades) visiting Ballina from Melbourne, at the march in Ballina.



Petty Officer Musician Nigel Barrett sounds the Last Post during a commemoration of the 23rd anniversary of the fire aboard HMAS Westralia (II), in the chapel at HMAS Stirling, Fleet Base West .





Events have now been finalised for the reunion and you will find below a detailed calendar, with prices. On the last page is the official booking form. As with previous reunions, we ask you to scan and email back the form and deposit into the indicated account, the balanced owed

For those with limited access to computers, please ring ERROL on 0400 706 503 and he will take your booking over the phone and complete the booking form for you. You can also use credit card over the phone for anyone booking.

The executive are looking forward to having as many members (playing and non-playing) attend.

### OFFICIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE REUNION IN BALLINA NSW AUGUST 2021

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

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

**12pm Lunch for Band at RSL Club.**  
A light lunch (sandwiches) will be provided to Band members. Rehearsals will continue to 3pm.

**11.00am Partners High Tea - Craft Bar.**  
A great selection of pastries, sandwiches including sea and Coffee.

Price: \$20.00pp

**6pm to 8pm Meet and Greet. RSL Club, Craft Bar.**  
Informal gathering with mixed hot and cold finger food.

Price: \$30.00pp

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

**11am 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.

**1.30pm to 2pm Sound Check.**

**2.30pm Auditorium Doors open for Concert.**

**3pm to 5pm Vietnam Veterans Concert.**

The RSL Club Auditorium will be the venue for this 2 hour concert.

**Evening Free for socialising.**

With Ballina and surrounds offering plenty of attractions and eating facilities the evening is yours.

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

**10am RANBA Special General Meeting & AGM.**

The meeting will be held at the Ballina RSL and we encourage all members to attend.

**1pm RANBA OFFICIAL LUNCHEON Spinners RSL.**

2 course sit down meal

Price: \$35.00pp

### Summary

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





## **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 (300 Metres)**

**River & Kerr Streets, Ballina**

**Contact: Eric Budd 02 6681 5677**

Ring for latest pricing, but includes continental breakfast.

### **Heritage Motor Inn (20 Metres)**

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

**Contact: Brendon Matthews**

4 star Queen Room \$149 for two; King room \$159; Twin room \$159; Family room (1 queen, 2 singles) \$189; Apartment 3 rooms 2 King beds and 2 Singles \$270

### **Richmond Motor Inn (40 Metres)**

3 1/2 star Queen room \$139; twin room \$149; King spa \$165. Family room \$175

These prices are firm for August and only for **bookings made direct** and Reunion details to be quoted when booking. Ground floor rooms are on a first come basis. Telephone number. 02 6686 9100

Both the above motels are linked together and there seems to be little difference in the quality. Some family rooms have 2 completely separate bedrooms and seem perfect for those who wish to share.

They do not have any option for breakfast but **The Cove Restaurant** directly across the road is open from 7.30am. The Cove will offer all members of the Association 10% discount when mentioning the Reunion.

### **Other suggested accommodation:**

**Coast inn** (400 metres) 3 star \$100

**River Street Motel** (450 metres) 3 star \$110

**Hotel Comfort inn** (500 metres ) 3 star \$135

**Riverside Suites** (200 metres) Hotel rooms and Apartments 4 star No pricing available if booking direct, but they do include continental breakfast.

**Ramada** ( 400 metres) 4 1/2 star \$220

**Almare** (900 metres) 3 star \$100

**Ballina Travellers Lodge** (800 metres) 3 1/2 star \$140

**Ballina Manor (1 kilometre)** 5 star \$161

**Avlon Gardens** (1.2 kilometres) 3 star \$115

**Ballina Colonial motel** (1.2 kilometres) 3 star \$110





**Ballina Homestead Motel (1.1 kilometres)** 3 1/2 star \$108

**Ballina Palms Boutique (1.1 kilometres)** 4 star \$145

The above are all on the Island and walkable for most. Above prices except, for Heritage, Richmond and Boardwalk are all on Bookings.com and **all have free cancellation.**

Airport is approximately 3 kilometres from town. Gold Coast airport is 50 minutes.

Best accommodation off Island is

**Ballina Byron Islander Resort (1.6 kilometres)** 4 star \$135

**Reflections Holiday Park** Caravans and cabins is about 4 blocks to RSL..... Lovely! There are two Reflections on the Island and another at Shaws Bay which is only 2 kilometres to RSL.

#### **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.





# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION INC

1400700

## NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE POSITION

POSITION

CANDIDATE

PRESIDENT

.....

VICE PRESIDENT

.....

TREASURER

.....

SECRETARY

.....

COMMITTEE

.....

SIGNATURES OF;

PROPOSER

.....

SECONDER

.....

CANDIDATE

.....

Nominations are to be sent to

[admin@ranbandassoc.net](mailto:admin@ranbandassoc.net)

To arrive no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**2021 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION  
REUNION, BALLINA BOOKING FORM**



- \*If paying by Cheque please return form with cheque to Address listed below
- \*If paying by Direct Deposit return this form by email or just advise your requirements and you will be issued an invoice number for payment into our account
- \*The association now have credit Card facilities and payments can be made by, Ringing Errol on 0400 706 503

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PARTNERS NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STAYING AT:** \_\_\_\_\_ If not Known, Please advise once booked

**TUESDAY THE 17TH OF AUGUST**

**10.00am to 3.00pm Veterans Band Rehearsal**

10.00am to 3.00pm RSL Auditorium. With Lunch at 12pm

Light lunch for non playing members attending Rehearsal.

**\$8.00pp**  Total\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**11.00am Partners and Members High Tea**

High Tea in The Craft Bar Ballina RSL

Special Dietary requirements

**\$20.00pp**  Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Requirements \_\_\_\_\_

**6.00pm to 8.00pm Meet and Greet**

Hot & Cold finger food in the Craft Bar

Special Dietary requirements

**\$30.00pp**  Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Requirements \_\_\_\_\_

**WEDNESDAY THE 18TH OF AUGUST**

**11.00am Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service**

Adjacent to the RSL. On conclusion Band will return to RSL for light Lunch

Light lunch for non playing members attending the service.

**\$8.00pp**  Total\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**1.30pm Soundcheck. Auditorium Doors open at 2.30pm Bar Open**

**3.00pm to 5.00pm Vietnam Veterans Concert**

This is a Free Concert

**THURSDAY THE 19TH OF AUGUST**

**10.00am RANBA General Meeting**

Boardwalk Meeting Area Ballina RSL

**1.00pm RANBA Official Luncheon**

Sit down 2 course Lunch

**\$35.00pp**  Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary requirements

For: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Requirements \_\_\_\_\_

If the function is cancelled within 48 hours prior to the scheduled event, A 50% charge will be applied to all catering.

**Bank BSB:** BSB 013232 **Acc No:** 290164678 **Bank:** ANZ **Account Name:** Royal Australian Navy Band Association

**Postal Address:** RAN BAND ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 69. LYNBROOK. VIC 3975

**Contact:** ERROL: Mobile, 0400 706 503 **Email:** admin@ranbandassoc.net

**NOTICE OF MEETING FOR AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND BY  
LAWS OF RANBA**

**19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021 BALLINA RSL AT 11AM**

A Special General Meeting will be held prior to the Annual General Meeting to discuss amendment to the following section of the Constitution.

**Part 2-Membership**

**Section 3-Application for membership/ Type of membership**

**Sub Section (2) Membership types**

**(b) Associate Member (reduced fee)** without voting rights, but may attend General Meetings and contribute, may be widows, former serving members of other Service Bands, former serving members with family ties.

**Add, Invited members of the Veterans Band.**

PUBLIC OFFICER..... Ralph Daines.

**VETERANS BAND BALLINA**

The following have confirmed to be playing as of the 12th of May 2021

**Conductor-** Roger Downton

**Flute-** Kathy Butcher    **Oboe-** Christina Cherry

**Clarinets-** Ralph Daines, Clive Smith, Rob Bedwell, Peter Martin, Ned Kellas, John Widdicombe

**Saxophones-** Peter Bauers, Geoff Dawson, Ken Lincoln, Len Nurse, Barry Pollock , Arnis Tillers

**French Horns-** David O'Meara, David Hardstaff, Diane Wills, Ann-Marie Lukic, Bill Farrell

**Trumpets-** Doug Drysdale, Rex Campbell, Allan Lanham, Laurie Green, Jim Henshaw

**Trombones-** Geoff Bunce, Ivan Cocking, Greg Butcher, Michael Dight

**Euphonium-** Andrew Will, Kerry Ellis    **Basses-** Ron Arnott, Linda Smith

**Bass Guitar-** Garry Searle    **Percussion-** Errol Hatch

Anyone who would like to join us, please contact Ralph Daines at [xranband@bigpond.net.au](mailto:xranband@bigpond.net.au) or 0405 380 751

**PROPOSED MUSIC TO BE PLAYED**

You Can't Stop the Beat, Once Navy Always Navy, Down Under Overture, Jersey Boys, Save The Last Dance For Me, Stranger on the Shore, Blues Brothers, Shrek, Magic of Andrew Lloyd Webber.

On the Quarter Deck / Heart of Oak / Life on the Ocean Wave, Man From Snowy River, Elton John, Abba, John Williams Symphonic Marches, Sinatra in Concert, You're the voice.

**EXTRAS** World in Union, American Patrol (James Last), Instant Concert.