



# Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

Christmas Edition 2016

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





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Another Great Year,

Welcome to our last edition for 2016. If there was ever a year that flashed past it must have been this one. It feels only like yesterday that the New Year kicked off and we were anticipating the trip to Malaysia and any thing else that was going to crop up for the year.

Since Malaysia in June we have had Open Day at HMAS Cerberus, the Veterans Band remembrance day on the Central Coast, The raffle to raise funds for the Museum and preparations for the upcoming reunion taking shape all in a matter of the 3 months since our last edition.

My foray in raffle ticket promotions for a cause has been a major learning curve as it is totally reliant on the membership to get behind it and get out there and do the selling. It was pleasing for those that took up the cause and also those that initially indicated to me there reluctance to take a book of tickets to sell on for reasons they explained, but were happy to buy a ticket or two. The results will be known further into the mag as to how it went. The first prize was the teaser as it had to be significant enough to get the buying public to separate with their money and I think it proved a good selling point.

The reunion continues to grow in bookings and I see the next 4 to 5 weeks as being the busy period for members making their decision to travel to Melbourne for this important event on our calendar in 2017.

I must thank those who have kept in touch regarding the magazine and those that have contributed to its success, Its good to get feedback from members as to what else we can include, so as always, keep them coming.

Merry Christmas to you all and have a healthy 2017.

Your Editor.



Do you think something is happening in Melbourne in 2017



## Presidents Report

John Widdicombe

There are words in our vocabulary that surprise us when they rear their “OMG” heads. Xmas, Birthday, Anniversary, Credit card due, to quote a few. We Bandies have a special word in our vocabulary “**Reunion**”, and they are always just around the corner. When they do arrive all the other events have come and gone a couple of times, we are all a couple of years older, there are a few more grey hairs (where applicable), the wrinkles are a bit deeper and we’ve forgotten a few things recently.

But that’s all on the back burner at reunion time, we all act and feel much younger, the grey hairs darken due to no worries at reunions, the wrinkles shallow out a bit in trying to appear younger among our peers and we have certainly not forgotten each other or how to talk, laugh and enjoy our ourselves.

We hold great and proud memories of our long standing Navy Band heritage, which now includes the reunions. We have been getting together regularly for many years which gives us that lifetime of unique togetherness and camaraderie we experience.

So make the effort and get to the March Reunion in Frankston, it’s going to be great returning to what I consider the Birth place of Naval Bandsmen. Remember if you’re not there someone will always ask after you and you might even be mentioned in those “memoirs” that always prevail.

If you can bring an instrument along please do and join in the Band that Errol has put so much time and effort into arranging. That will be a very nostalgic and worthwhile experience.

Congratulations to the Band that assembled at Glengara Village for Remembrance Day. Although small, the Band was very well balanced and we were able to perform a high standard concert. Thanks to those who travelled interstate from Brisbane and Melbourne, and a big thank you again to those who joined us from outside the Association. All members should be aware we rely heavily on the outside musicians that eagerly join us, not just to bolster the numbers and help with the balance, but to keep the Band going and enable us to present quality performances. There is a future for the RAN Veterans Band, but it requires broad thinking, proper management and leadership. Remember, Association members are welcome at all times, it’s your band and the only audition you have to pass is arriving with an instrument.

It is with regret I acknowledge the passing of Walter (Wally) Handfield, fondly remembered by so many of us. A good muso, fun guy and a good bloke. RIP Wally.

On behalf of the management team I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may the New Year bring you good health, happiness and a great reunion.

John Widdicombe.



## Treasurer Report

Errol Hatch

The coffers are building rapidly as the Raffle ticket income and reunion bookings flow into the Bank. Direct depositing has proved a bonus for the association and I’m sure you the member, as it saves all the cumbersome exercise of having to write cheques and posting to the treasurer.

Also with our EFTPOS facilities I can take payment directly over the phone for the reunion, so use this facility if you feel inclined, plus its great to say hello to you as we trade numbers. The direct number for this is **0400 706 503**.

Six monthly statements for subs will be sent out and it is important to remember that you need t be financial to take advantage of the reunions events.

The 2015/16 report issued in the last magazine continued to show that growth in members continues although slight and we need to continue to inform ex-bandies that we meet to be a part of our membership for the association to be viable. Our Veterans Band tours, reunions and merchandise are our only other opportunities to have a constant income for us to produce this mag and provide a effective website. 2017 will be the year of our major release of our new look website and this is covered in detail in the magazine.

I thank you all for your involvement in the association and for making my job a lot easier by taking up new technologies when it comes to finances and I look forward to serving you into the future.

Errol Hatch

### 2017 Raffle winner results.

**1st Prize: Joseph (Johnno) Karr. Vic**

Flight Centre Gift Voucher to the value of \$3000.00

**2nd Prize: Rod Coughran-Lane. Vic**

B1 KORGE Digital Piano valued at \$799.00

**3rd Prize: John Thornton. WA**

Marshall Bluetooth Stereo system Valued at \$499

Congratulation to all the winners and those that took part in the selling of tickets.

Thanks to EVOLUTION MUSIC for the donation of 2nd and 3rd prizes.



# Secretaries Report

John Lennon

Well another year has come to an end and our 2017 reunion is just around the corner. The 2017 reunion at Frankston is shaping up to be a huge affair which will include plenty of activities and events with the visit to HMAS Cerberus being a highlight for many. All going well the planned multimillion dollar infrastructure upgrade to Cerberus may not have commenced at the time of our planned visit. The planned work is going to take up to 10 years to complete and will transform Cerberus into a high-tech training facility for the Defence Force for many decades to come, so this will be our last chance to see Cerberus mostly as we saw it during our time of serving.

I recently attended the dedication service for the unveiling of the defence service memorial at Glengara Retirement Village at Tumby Umbi on the Central Coast. The veteran's band was in attendance with the memorial and unveiling organised by Ralph & Cheryl Daines who now call the village home. The band was small but well balanced and I would like to once again thank Ralph & Cheryl for their hospitality and the bands attendance shows the appreciation the band members have for Ralph & Cheryl and their untiring dedication to the Veterans Band. The event was held to coincide with Remembrance Day (11/11/16) and apart from the master of ceremony getting a little muddled up with his timing of the playing of the Last Post all went well.

It is one of the rare times I had to play reveille twice the second one being called at the end of a marathon piece to try and fill in time to get us to 11am. When I finished playing the fill in piece I thought 'thank Christ I don't have to play the Last Post and Reveille again' when at that very instant the master of ceremony announced "The Bugler will now play Reveille". As I scrambled to pull the mouthpiece out of the Trumpet and get it into the bugle and stand up, I thought this is not going to be good. I hit the first note of wakey wakey which is an "E" and I think I hit a "G" or something - either way it sounded like a really loud fart !!!!, to which the master of ceremonies announced "I think we have a problem with the Bugler" whilst I kept thinking of the NASA saying "Houston we have a Problem".

As quick as a flash and with the split second thought of I don't really want to play wakey wakey twice anyway I played the Army rouse. It went over perfectly and I don't think anyone realised the difference except for the band members and Graham Johnson who was wetting himself with laughter next to me while I was playing the rouse. For all those who may or may not be interested all the calls were note perfect with the exception of one very loud "Fart !!!!". On a rather sour note Ralph & Cheryl had their home robbed the week before which put a huge amount of stress and strain on both Ralph & Cheryl leading up to the event.

I am not sure how many members use or are aware, If you are in receipt of any DVA payments you can access all your details and services through your "My Account" from the DVA home page.

You can use your account for the following:

- Request a Lump Sum Advance online
- Request a DVA Officer to contact you
- View your payments
- Update personal and financial information

- Request official letters
- Book medical transport & return journeys
- View current bookings
- Medical travel reimbursement claims
- View recent travel claims
- Download popular forms, factsheets and publications

I use my on line account all the time and it is very handy. It's easy to register for My Account by Calling the Veteran's Access Network on 133 254 (metro) or FreeCall 1800 555 254 (regional callers) during business hours Monday to Friday. I have used the Lump Sum advance a couple of times and it comes in handy if you have an unexpected bill and you don't want to put it on the credit card. You don't pay interest and the repayments are taken out of your pension over a 13 fortnight period. You can use the loan request as many times as you like but can only apply again once you have paid back an existing advance. After you make the advance application the money drops into your bank within a day or so.

I am currently attending a heart smart program through DVA which runs for 12 months. The Heart Health Program aims to help you increase your physical health and wellbeing through practical exercise, nutrition and lifestyle management support. It is a 52 week Program and includes two physical activity sessions per week that are tailored to meet your needs and 12 health educational seminars. The program covers a range of topics including setting healthy goals, nutrition and healthy eating, physical activity, chronic conditions, quitting smoking, responsible alcohol consumption, back care, stress management and maintaining a healthy heart. Unfortunately ADF members who only have peacetime service are not eligible for enrolment, however if they have had liability for a disability or disabilities accepted under one or more of the relevant Acts, you may be eligible to access other services, such as exercise physiology, dependant on their accepted conditions and referral from a General Practitioner.

Finally, I would like to thank all those members who participated in selling and buying raffle tickets to raise funds for the purchase of display cabinets for the RAN Band room at the HMAS Cerberus museum. I am not sure if we made our target amount but I am sure we are well on the way towards it. Well done Errol on organising and co coordinating this activity.

See you all next year at the reunion.

Regards

John Lennon  
 Secretary  
 RAN Band Association



## Vale Walter (Wally) Handfield

Jim Hawkins,

I'll always remember the double guitar Wally Handfield played in small groups where he could change from guitar to bass then back again.

There's a book to be written about his exploits - particularly during his first stint in the band when at the Tross. When he re-entered I was an instructor at the SOM and we had some great times both socially and musically.

RIP Wally.

John Lennon,

Very sad to hear that Wally Handfield has passed away. He was a true gentleman and a very talented Musician. I did my PO's course with Wally and witnessed his musicianship and lovely nature first hand. For those who are not aware Wally had perfect pitch and did all of his Harmony & Course arrangements in his head.

This had it's advantages and disadvantages. We had our final Harmony exam at the end of the year when the Church across the road from the School of Music was playing Xmas carols through a load speaker. They had to get one of the Staff to go over and turn it off as Wally could not put a single note to paper except Silent Night or Hark the Herald Angles Sing.

Errol Hatch

I had the pleasure of spending a lot of time with Wally at Penguin when Mal Codling, Bert Kennedy, Wally and I toured with the careers van around NSW. What a learning curve that was, we played everywhere and everything.

Wally's library of songs was immense, I don't know how Mal and Bert kept up, it was easy for me I just hit the skins, but I learnt so much about small group playing and we became a tight little group.

Thanks Wally. R.I.P



Wally Handfield, Graham (Shiner) Wright, and Errol Hatch.  
HMAS Penguin, 1973

John Widdicombe,

I, along with Lindsay Mungovan, attended Wally's funeral and spoke at length with Kaye and all the family, and passed on our condolences on behalf of the Association. Their daughter Kylie has requested if anyone has photos or anecdotes of Wally they would be greatly appreciated by the family as they have so little on his Navy days.

Just email them to me at [margandjohnt@bigpond.com.au](mailto:margandjohnt@bigpond.com.au) and I will pass them on. Kylie tells me "Wally" was a wonderful dad and a wonderful man to all. He continued his music after the Navy becoming Bandmaster of the Coonamble Band and gave music lessons to all ages. He was a Sales Rep for quite a few companies including Triumph Lady's bras and underwear, as Kylie says "too funny at times" - not difficult for us to imagine.

His last job was with Grace Bros as Traffic Controller in the Loading Doc, a job he loved.

On retirement Kaye and Wally had plans to travel around Australia in a camper, but sadly due to Wally's illness it was not to be.

Peter Martin,

Again I am distressed to read that another good mate has passed on, I can name all of the "Boy Musicians" that were in the school when I joined and the number that is deceasing at unbelievable rate.

So the real reason that I attend the reunions is the very fact you just don't know when and if you will ever see those how you have had a close friendship with most of your life. I went into the Vale site and started counting the number of mates that have passed on, I stopped at 102 I didn't want to continue.

Punchy.

Maurice Newton,

Sorry to hear of the passing of Wally Handfield, not only a very good French Horn player, but a fine Guitarist. Listen to his accompanying guitar to Kevin Ridout's solo in "You cant see round corners" (Bluewater Men). Condolences to Kaye and family.

Jim McFerran,

Sad to hear about Wally. Remember him re-joining around 1967 when I was at Cerberus. Last saw him in Bathurst around 20/25 years ago, had lunch with him, I think he was working as a rep.

John Widdicombe,

Again we acknowledge the passing of one of our kind, Wally Handfield - a Navy Bandy. I met Wally on my first draft which was to Albatross 1960. Most of the band lived on board in C20 mess which was very social and friendly and I recall Wally being the fun guy of the mess.

That extended to the Wet Canteen every Monday night where along with Gordon Dalby (sax) and Spike Jones (drums) Wally was institutionalized as the weekly entertainer, with his guitar and songs, which often led to a request for an extension of time and that was sometimes granted by the Commander. Years later I met up with Wally and Kaye in Frankston.

RIP Wally.

Kevan Thomas ,

Sad to the passing of Wally. We did our PO's course together. Nice guy.

RIP.

John Ezergailis,

Rest in peace Wally... you couldn't find a nicer bloke... you're with a lot of your mates now, but sadly missed here.  
John & Rosie.

## Divisions and Official opening of the HMAS Sydney Room

**FRIDAY THE 25TH OF NOVEMBER 2016**

As I reported in the last edition of our magazine, work was well underway to have the HMAS Sydney room completed as we were working to have it officially opened by the Governor-General Sir Peter Gosgroves AK MC (Retd) at the last divisions for the year and for the current Captain of HMAS Cerberus, Captain S Bowater OAM RAN on Friday the 25th of November.

The day brought light showers early and a cold but bearable breeze across the parade ground for the morning divisions. The Governor General had stayed over at the depot so there was not going to be any major delay in he and the dignitaries to arrive. Markers fell in at 10.00am sharp and the ships company soon after. It was quite a display of personnel and included Army and Air force members who also train at Cerberus. As the Governor General was officiating there was a Royal guard and the Royal Colours was on Parade. This added a bit of pomp to the divisions and the Royal Guard and Band produced quite a sight as they marched their way onto the parade Ground.

Guests also included a large contingent of VLSVA and HMAS Sydney association members and some of our very own members, Gordon & Dot Crompton, Kim Rushworth, Kevan Thomas, Alan Hogg and yours truly were in attendance. The sun did arrive about the same time as the Governor General and the divisions was underway. The band was under the banner of LT Matt Kloh who had come down from Sydney while LT Andrew Stokes was away on long service leave.

**“ He commended the Band for their professionalism and importance to the Navy”**

All the inspection standards were performed, Scipio etc. and the band sounded as usual full and tight. The inspection took some time so the Band got a good workout. The Governor's address was a welcomed change from the norm as he, Peter, seems a very down to earth person and that came across as the speech was presented. He commended the band and the Band Branch for their continued importance to the Navy and their professionalism to music.

The march past took just as long as the inspection and all the divisions did an excellent job at the dais. The Governor General finally left the parade ground to make his way to the HMAS Sydney room where he met WO Marty Grogan and members of the VLSVA & Sydney association. He spent some time in the room discussing the display and reminiscing, as he was one of the thousands of soldiers that were transported on the Vung Tau Ferry, so I'm sure he had just as many stories to tell.



Parade assembled for the Royal Guard and Band.



Band marching onto the parade ground past the Museum.



Part of the large crowd, notice not a cloud in the sky.

He officially opened the room by unveiling a commemorative plaque struck for the occasion.

With his official functions completed, the party made their way to the covered parade ground where there was a morning tea put on for all personnel and this carried on for the remainder of the morning.

It's a rare occasion that the Governor General of Australia officiates at a Division and even rarer to have him officially open a section of our museum, it comes down to who you know and the credit must go to WO Marty Grogan who's effort created the HMAS Sydney room for all future visitors to see.

His Excellency presented WO Martin Grogan OAM with a Governor General Medallion for his outstanding work in setting up the new HMAS Sydney Room in the Cerberus Museum.

Well done Marty.



The Governor General arriving for Divisions.



WO Marty Grogan receiving his medallion from the Governor General.



The Governor General Officially opening the HMAS Sydney Room.

## Open Day, HMAS Cerberus, 23rd OCTOBER 2016

I have been to many of the Open days at HMAS Cerberus but this year was different as I was involved in it rather than be a visitor. With inclement weather leading up to the Sunday, parking was going to be a problem for visitors as they had planned to use the paddocks at the West gate end and Bus visitors to the Depot. In the end Crib Point and the surrounding parks was packed with cars as the day cleared to be a typical Spring Day.

Security is such a in your face thing nowadays as you enter Cerberus I was surprised with the ease of entry for the thousands of visitors that attended. With Helicopters on the parade ground and events happening everywhere the visitors were definitely treated to a full on day.

The Band as always played a pivotal role and they had recitals through the day at the Cinema Complex. The traditional Beat to Quarters and Ceremonial Sunset at the end of the day was the climax of the open day.

The Australian Federation Guard put on an excellent marching display using Army drummers to provide the drill tempos. The Army also had a small group performing through the day on the parade ground and kept the crowd entertained.

The Air Force weren't to be left out and there were fly passes all day over the depot and the Helicopters finally left parade ground just before the beat retreat (Oops!, Beat to quarters).

# HMAS Cerberus Open Day

The Museum was the probably the busiest complex (apart from Millies at Lunch time, and the Cinema) and all the volunteers were on board to answer crazy questions and discuss with ex's all the stories they had. On the day we had a surprising number of memorabilia pieces left with us and the updated layout of the museum was well received by those that had been to the before.

As I was manning the Gift shop section I had on display our merchandise and other small trinkets to fill out the area. As the museum is now not part of the Navy canteen system all of the merchandise had been remove, We filled the fridge that was still there with drinks and that was probably the biggest seller on the day. I could have sold hundreds of magnets and pens if I had them as the visitors were after anything that had Navy on it, even the postcards that we found when setting up went out the door. Next time we will be more prepared.

By 4.30pm most of the public had gone with a few hangers on and it was time to put the museum back in order, bring certain pieces of the collection that were not housed in cabinets back onto the floor and generally give it a clean up.

It was a experience to deal with the public in this environment and the museum proved itself (again) as an institution to the history of the Navy and to be housed in Cerberus is a bonus.



The RAN Band Association merchandise display added a bit of colour to the gift shop.



There was a constant flow of visitors through the gift shop. (Left) The Melbourne detachment performing Beat to Quarters on the parade ground.



Look what we found hiding in the back room of the School of Music. There is a photo on the website with this banner being used.

(Left) Aerial view of the Museum and parade ground on Open Day. All the visitors were heading down for the Beat to Quarters and the Sunset Ceremony.



# Veterans Band/Events Report

Ralph Daines

## 2016 in review

2016 has again been a busy year for the veterans Band and it is pleasing that the enthusiasm has not wavered from those that attended the adventures. With a trip overseas and a Remembrance day (Local) on the Central Coast we have managed to cater for both groups. Malaysia was covered in our last magazine and further in is the Remembrance day report. I would like to thank all those that have come on board and also those honorary members who fill those vacant chairs. Next year is the big one and there should be no excuse for those who want to be part of the Veterans band as Melbourne will be the place to be in 2017.

## Melbourne 2017 Reunion

The Melbourne reunion draws that much closer and it's now important that you make the commitment and let the Melbourne organisers know your intentions. There is a Booking form on the back of this magazine and it outlines all the functions that are taking place. The Anniversary Band is a healthy 50 plus at the moment and with some wanting to join and others having to bailout we will still have a full compliment of players. Those that have committed would have started to receive music for the occasion from me and others from Errol Hatch.

Rehearsal information and a detailed music program will be provided in the new year but it is vitally important that you advise me if there is any difficulty with your music. We have a total of 5 hours to come together and produce a tight program so we are relying on your individual rehearsal before we meet in March. Doug Drysdale will be taking the baton for this concert and most of us have seen the charts and have worked with Doug with our trips away. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Veterans band to showcase to our members and public and the venue, The Frankston Arts centre is wonderful complex to put on a performance.

The list of members currently participating are,

Geoff DAWSON, Terry EKIN, John KARR, ARNIE TILLERS, Len NURSE, Gary SEARLE, John CRUISE, Trevor WILLIAMSON, DIANNE HUDSON, Ralph DAINES, Ken McCALLUM, Clive SMITH, ALAN LADD, Vic KNOWLES, Peter MARTIN, Randall KELLAS, John WIDDICOMBE, Doug DRYSDALE, Kevin HILLIER OAM, Gordon CROMP-

TON, SARAH BOND, Craig DICKMAN, Arie GOLDSWORD, David HARDSTAFF, Bill FARRELL AM, Lindsay MUNGOVAN, Kevin RIDOUT, Don BUNTINE, Errol HATCH, Bill MIDDLETON, JAC JENNER, Barry POLLOCK, Geoff BUNCE, Kevin CROW, Ralph JONES, Paul O'HARA, Bill POST, Peter BLACKWELL, Dale GRANGER, John LUCAS, Leon STUCAS, Eric CROSS, Allan FENNEY, John LENNON, Frank GODLEMAN, Rod COUGHRAN\_LANE, Peter McLEOD, Michael THOMPSON, Harry WILLIAMS.

Our rehearsal venue will be at the Frankston High school and has been kindly provided by ex-bandie, Peter Sharp who is their Director of music.

As always it has been a pleasure working with members who have come away with us and I look forward to finding more interesting locations (Local and o/ seas) for the veterans band to play and enjoy each others company.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Ralph Daines.



## Remembrance Day and Monument Dedication, Glengara. NSW

The Veterans band first gig on home turf since Sydney 2013 was at the Glengara Retirement village for Remembrance Day and the unveiling of a Tri Service Monument. Organised by Ralph, it was an opportunity for those that don't get to travel overseas with the band to come together for a major event.

Ralph had organised earlier in the year, the installation of a Tri-services monument at his retirement village with the unveiling to take place on the 11th of November. As with most things not all ran smoothly when dealing with the three services individually but in the end it came off and the memorial was delivered just in time and with all the correct spelling and crests in order.

The band was a an 18 piece and all the important instruments were covered. John Lennon and Graeme Johnston drove down from Queensland and Sharon and I came up from Melbourne and the remaining members were from Sydney and the coast. The band was under the baton of Rob Bedwell and the selection of music reflected the ceremonial part of the program and a light concert that was organised after the service.

Rehearsals took place on the Thursday morning in the magnificent auditorium of the Glengara complex and along with the choir produced a full sound which was to be enjoyed by the members and guests the next day.

With rehearsal completed some of the band members met their billets for the first time at a social gathering and enjoyed each others company until the Bar closed mid afternoon. Most of the band members were local so they left to return the next morning for the service.

Friday morning saw plenty of action as ground staff and volunteers setup the lawn outside the entertainment complex for the remembrance day services. The monument was shrouded in the Australian flag and all was ready. A very large crowd gathered and the band setup in the rotunda just off the lawn. The proceedings got under way a little earlier than anticipated and was running ahead be at least 10 minutes. To try and make up time the band played a few pieces (one at half the tempo and this definitely helped make up time but still left us a bit shot). If you have read the Presidents report (suggest you do now), you will know the results of still being early to the 11.00am deadline.

It all fell into place in the end and the morning was a great success. From there we moved all our gear into the complex for the concert as the morning warmed up. Joined by the Glen Singers the band put on a light concert and was well received. After, we joined the members and guests for lunch and then packed the gear which concluded the veterans band commitment.

I thank those that made the effort and proved again the enthusiasm of members to still get involved in playing and coming together to enjoy each others company.

Lets have more of these on our shores, its only a matter of a suggestion to get it underway.

Errol Hatch.

(Right) Band in full flight in the rotunda at the Remembrance day service.

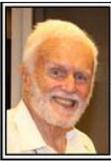


Our first rehearsal at the Glengara entertainment complex.



Our President, John Widdicombe, laying a wreath on behalf of the Association.





## Western Australian

Bill Farrell

On November 19th, 1941, HMAS SYDNEY II, a Leander class cruiser, was engaged in a deadly battle with HSK KORMORON, a disguised German raider. At 1800 hours, the death knell sounded for the Australian ship and its crew of 645 as, according to witnesses - survivors of the German ship, it sailed over the horizon, ablaze like a funeral pyre. Very soon after, KORMORON sank also.

Eight and a half hours short of 75 years later, the author of this narrative, accompanied by his wife Maxine, were driving up the Brand Highway to the mid – west City of Geraldton, some 406 kilometres north of Perth, the scene for the 75th. anniversary memorial service, which was to commence at 1700 hours at the impressive SYDNEY MEMORIAL. A large crowd was expected and the locals, plus visitors from overseas, interstate and Perth did not disappoint the organizers.

At the head of the list of dignitaries was The Governor of Western Australia, The Hon. Kerry Sanderson, AC. There were medals aplenty, with the service being conducted by a Defence Force Chaplain and the music, usually provided by the Geraldton City Band, was played this year by the RAN Band (West Australian Division), conducted by CPOMusn Natalie Erskine, RAN. It should be stated at this point, that they performed very well throughout the proceedings. It was a very simple but moving service with all the right trimmings, The Naval Prayer and The Naval Hymn were both recited and sung prior to an address by the daughter of Captain Joseph Burnett, the Commanding Officer of the SYDNEY when she was sunk. The daughter, who was 5 years of age at the time of the tragedy, had travelled from the United Kingdom to present an excellent address, with no notes, which was extremely emotional throughout.



Then followed the wreath laying ceremony lead by the Governor, during which the author laid a wreath on behalf of The Association. The card on the wreath read, “In Memory of Our Musical Shipmates from The Royal Australian Navy Band Association.” Every wreath layer, and there were about 100 of them, was accompanied by either a Cadet from TS MORROW, the local Sea Cadet Unit, or an Air Cadet from the local RAAF Unit. The author’s assis-

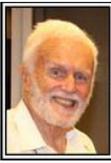
tant, a rather small in stature Sea Cadet, informed me that if assistance was required to carry the wreath he would do it and that when the wreath had been laid, we would salute, about turn and march off the area. The latter two suggestions were politely declined.



The Last Post and Reveille concluded the service with the National Anthem rounding off proceedings. The Sea Cadets and the Band then performed a modified Sunset Ceremony and all participants and mourners left the Memorial fully satisfied, their memories of HMAS SYDNEY 11 fresh in their minds. To lay the wreath, which was very distinctive in colour, with miniature instruments amongst the flowers, was indeed an honour and was still in place next morning when we revisited the site.

All that lay ahead of us was the drive back o Perth, this time partly on the Indian Ocean Drive which fronts the sea and then the Brand Highway. Next time you are in the West, take some time and spend a couple of days in this mid-West City and visit the Memorial plus the Museum which has some fascinating artefacts concerning SYDNEY as well as a recently photographed 3D film of the ship’s wreck on the ocean bed.





## Western Australian Report

Bill Farrell

This edition begins with the usual medical updates commencing with Bill Middleton who is on the improve, as is his wife Robyn who is surviving after hiccups of the heart, and finally, the old man of the sea, "Spook", who has not been well recently, but on the day of writing this submission, according to his wife, Shirley, he was well.

On the day before, however, he was subjected to an epidural, and if readers are unsure or uncertain of the full ramifications of this, look it up on Google. But like the first old man of the sea, he will surely recover. Incidentally, the Lincoln's are the proud owners of a great grand-daughter.. Congratulations!

The HMAS SYDNEY 11 commemoration service has been covered in a separate article, but is still receiving small mentions in the newspapers over here. The new book, "HMAS SYDNEY 11 – IN PEACE AND WAR" has just been released and informed sources indicate that it is a very well written tome. If anyone is interested in Australian Naval history, there is another publication on bookshop shelves entitled "FLAGSHIP – THE STORY OF HMAS AUSTRALIA", written by Mike Carlton. This is also an excellent read, a point that can be verified by the author of this submission because he has quietly read the contents.

It's nearly that time of year when the Westerners hold their annual Xmas lunch, which is now celebrated at the RAAF Memorial Village at Bull Creek. One acceptance already in is from Fiona Russell, widow of the late Geoff Russell, OAM, French horn exponent extraordinaire, and she will be made very welcome at the function.

The number of Association members travelling to Frankston for the 2017 Reunion is uncertain at the present time but there will be a few for sure, plus wives. It appears as though the organizing committee has done an excellent job in the planning and it will great to be back in our old stamping grounds of the '50's and 60's, not forgetting of course the chance to see the improvements made in the Frankston scene, which should be a revelation.

All that is really left to say is to wish all members and wives a very Happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year, and if you are unaware, our second city, Fremantle, has altered their Australia Day celebrations to January 28th. for cultural reasons, although it should be added that the local indigenous community are not happy with this proposed change.

Bill Farrell.



## Victorian Report

Len Nurse

Season's Greetings to all Association members from the Mexicans. We have had a busy year planning for the 2017 reunion incorporating the bi- annual general meeting. Thanks must go to Errol Hatch for taking a leading role in the planning and is to be congratulated for coming up with a workable business plan. However the success of the reunion rests on support of all members to make it so.

I have had a busy year taking on the bass clarinet with the Cranbourne Lions Band which was conducted by Navy Musician Fletcher Mitchell who has been posted to the Queensland Reserve Band. Fletch is an outstanding Euphonium player and a Yamaha soloist who travels to Europe and the U.S. demonstrating Yamaha instruments. Fletch has been replaced by another Navy Musician Dominic Parsons, principal clarinet with the Cerberus Band. The Cranbourne Band has two ex Navy Musicians Nat Pollard trombone and Karen Baker Clarinet who I am hoping will join the Association and take part in the Reunion band next year. The Cranbourne Band allowed me to take their bass clarinet to Ipoh, a trip I really enjoyed. Thanks to Ralph and Cheryl's organization.

On another front our Dixie band has had a busy year with play outs. The band consists of Bill Post bass, his son Andrew and Kevin Ridout guitar, Barry Pollok Tenor Sax, Gordon Crompton and Kevin Hillier trombone, Errol Hatch percussion, myself Soprano Sax, as we have no ex Navy clarinet players our Clarinets are two retired school teachers

Alan Tacon and Ian Claperton. We rehearse in Bill's garage on Wednesday afternoons. We play out at Probus Clubs, retirement villages and other community organizations on request which results in approximately 12 or more playouts a year which suits our life style.

Other ex musicians involved in community music are Dale Grainger and Terry Ekin with the Casey Concert Band, while Rod Coughran-Lane, Kirk Skinner and Eric Cross are involved in community music in the Gippsland area. Kevin Hillier, as well as being President of the Frankston R.S.L. is Music Director of Stonington City Brass and also is responsible for the organisation of all the bands for the Melbourne Anzac Day March.

I'm sure there many ex muso's all over Australia who do likewise and enjoy great satisfaction from being involved in community music and other community organisations.

On behalf of all Mexicans I wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and good health in 2017. Hope to see you at the 2017 Reunion.

Len Nurse.



## Victorian Report

Len Nurse

Friday the 9th of December at the Seaford RSL was our last Mexicans lunch for the year and it was excellent that we had so many members attend. Our initial meeting place the Frankston RSL was fully booked out so there was no regrets in returning to Seaford.

Apart from enjoying lunch we had the opportunity to draw the raffle and Kevan Thomas was first our official drawer. The winner was Joseph (Johnno) Karr who was actually at the lunch and was over the moon at winning 1st prize. Second prize was drawn by Kim Rushworth and Rod Coughran-Lane won the digital piano. 3rd prize was drawn by Carol Post and John Thornton from WA won the Marshall Bluetooth stereo system.

Again, it was a great day and proved that the Victorian contingent can hold a great day for its members.



(Left) Our 1st Prize winner. John Karr.

(Below) Now there's a couple of old salt's, Kim Rushworth and Kevan (Well travelled) Thomas making it to our Christmas lunch.



## Queensland Report

John Lennon

Not much has been happening in Qld since the last addition. For many of us this is a busy time of the year and for those with banding commitments it normally ends with the usual community Christmas Carols. Christmas is that exciting time of the year when we catch up with family and friends and reflect on the past year.

I also acknowledge that for some members this may not be a time to celebrate or being happy for a number of reasons, including poor health, family conflict or the passing of family and friends. For those members especially I hope the New Year offers better health and peace of mind.

I am aware that a few Qld members are already planning for the reunion next year in Frankston. I am already working out my itinerary for next year when I will try out my

recently purchased Jayco camper trailer. I have already booked my free family accommodation for the trip and plan to spend about 2 weeks travelling to Melbourne and returning back home. I am particularly looking forward to playing in the Veterans Band for the 45th anniversary of the "Blue Water Men" album with some of our members that I have not played with for over 40 years. For those who have booked the Winery tour I look forward to catching up over a nice local wine.

To all members attending the reunion I look forward to catching up next year.

Regards to All  
John Lennon  
QLD Representative

# "BLUE WATER MEN" MASSED BANDS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY



## 2017 Royal Australian Navy Band Association Reunion. Melbourne.

10th to the 13th of March 2017

ASSOCIATION OF BANDS BY ERIC JAPT, JOYCE HAWKER, MEL THURSTON, JACK GRIMSLEY, DON COXON, BRIAN MAY, BOB YOUNG, OHY JANGSTER, TOAMU...

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

The Victorian committee for the 2017 reunion are looking forward to welcoming members to Melbourne in March 2017 and are pleased to provide the association with a detailed itinerary for the reunion. We have endeavoured to provide as many interesting activities as possible apart from the official functions over the 4 days so you can enjoy your stay in Melbourne.

You are not obliged to attend the non-official events but the committee has made an effort of giving you a diverse range to choose from.

### Location

Frankston has been chosen on the basis of facilities that are conducive to our reunion needs, a RSL that offers international style facilities and accommodation that is affordable and world class. For those that decide to stay in central Melbourne, you will be looked after as the committee will have transport to and from the Railway station for all our official functions. We will also endeavour to provide you with a pickup timetable to major events to suit those travelling from the city.

### Accommodation

Frankston and surrounds boast some excellent accommodation and we have endeavoured to point you in the right direction depending on your budget. See our suggested list of International Hotels, Motels and Caravan parks that are close to where our official functions will take place. Options like BnB's and holiday houses could also be what you are looking for so the possibilities are endless.

We have listed a sample of what's available within 10 minutes of all our official functions. If there are any specific places you would like us to check, let us know.





### **Best Western Frankston International 03 9781 3444**

Best Western are offering a Deluxe spa room (While they are still available) at \$153.00 an night and this includes a full breakfast in their restaurant. Speak to Nathan and let him know you are from the RAN Band Association

### **Quest Frankston On the Bay 03 8765 2500**

This international Hotel is in the heart of Frankston and all its restaurant's and has the best Beer garden for those lazy warm Melbourne afternoons. They have given us a rate for a Studio Apartment of \$203.00 a night and require a credit card to reserve a booking. Use the RAN Band Reunion as a reference.

### **Quest Frankston Serviced Apartments 03 8796 1000**

The serviced apartments are situated about 1/2 a kilometre from the Quest Hotel and depending on your requirements can offer you an exceptional price for your stay in Melbourne. Ring them and discuss the options available.

### **Frankston Holiday Park & Sandhurst Motel 03 9786 8355**

10 minutes from the RSL and situated on the Frankston-Dandenong Road so you have easy access to Eastlink or into Frankston.

Powered sites start from \$38 a night and there is availability, but be quick as summer in Melbourne is a caravan paradise.

### **Big4 Mornington Peninsula Holiday Park 03 5971 2333**

Heading towards Hastings from Frankston is the popular Big4 Peninsula Holiday Park. This is a premium park and you would need to get in early to book a site or one of their onsite cabins. They have deals all the time so get on their website but currently drive through sites start at \$40.00 for the reunion period.

### **Frankston Motel 03 5971 1233**

The Frankston Motel is in the same vicinity as the Big4 Holiday Park. It is 4 star and has rooms starting from \$98.00 with availability for the reunion weekend.

### **Transport**

We will endeavour to provide transport too and from the railway station and major Hotels in the area when the official engagements are on and also have transport arranged for other important functions over the weekend.

### **Tours**

We have organised tours for those that wish to partake in them and they have been designed to coordinate with plenty of time for our official functions to take place. As you read further they are part of the program. They will rely on numbers and costs are involved. It is difficult to accommodate tours and free time between functions but the tours we have organised are good value for money and highly recommended.

## The Programme of Events

Following is a detailed programme of the weekend.

### **FRIDAY the 10th of March**

#### **8.00/10.00am GOLF DAY, HMAS Cerberus Golf Course**

Here's an opportunity to start the reunion off with a round and a laugh or two as you make your way around the beautiful Cerberus Golf course. This will be a popular social gathering and is open to all members of any playing ability. We have priced in 18 holes and 9 Hole events with starting times that have all finishing with plenty of the day left. On conclusion there will be a light lunch at the club rooms (Included) and then return to the Frankston RSL where you can meet up with partners and other members who may have returned from other tours.

**9 Holes including a light lunch \$28.00 (Clubs and Buggies are available)**

**18 Holes including a light Lunch \$42.00 (Clubs and Buggies are available)**

#### **9.30am Mornington Winery Tour**

For those that are not into Golf or the partners of those attending Golf we have a wonderful winery tour of the Morning Peninsula. Wineries on the peninsula are more than just tasting wines, they also offer crafts, specialty foods and tours of their facilities. This tour takes in 4 fantastic wineries and includes a light lunch and will return to the Frankston RSL at about the same time as the Golf day returns so partners can meet up. There are limited number of seats (20) so get in early. The price includes wine tastings at the 4 wineries and lunch.

**Price per Head \$110.00**

#### **10.00am Shopaholics tour**

For those that can't get enough of shopping a trip to the Monstrous Chadstone Shopping Centre will have to be on the list. We will coordinate a pickup to get you there and return and you will enjoy a relaxing lunch in one of their restaurants before returning to your accommodation or the RSL.

**Price: Depending where you are located pickups will be organised FOC**

#### **6.30pm Official Meet & Greet Cocktail Party**

Our first official function will be the traditional Meet & Greet held at the function room of the Frankston RSL. The M & G will conclude with a short concert by the Admirals Own Big Band as part of the evenings celebrations. You will be welcomed with ample food and Drink for members so you will be quite satisfied by the end of the evening. Once the evening concludes you can enjoy the many lounges at the club to continue the social aspect of the evening.

The committee have organised a bus service from the Rail Station and selected International Hotels in Frankston to the venue and will also be available when the gathering concludes. Those that intend to stay in central Melbourne, you will be looked after with this service and a Melbourne MYKI card for travel will be offered before you arrive in Melbourne as part of your reunion pack.

**Price: Per Head \$35.00 Includes ample food and Drinks from 6.30pm**

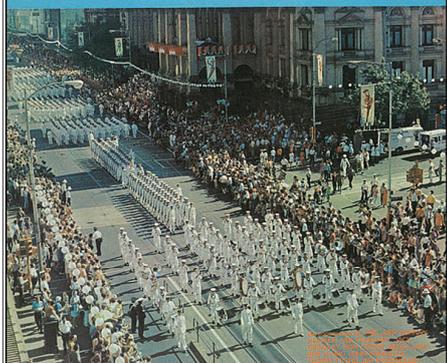


Tourism Victoria





**BLUE WATER MEN' MASSED BANDS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY**



## Saturday The 11th of March

### 9.00am The Associations AGM

An important event in the reunions programme will be held at the Frankston RSL and we urge as many as possible to attend. Nominations for the executive and other business will be accepted as per our regulations closer to the meeting

### 10.30am RAN Veterans Band Rehearsal

As part of our reunion, the Veterans band will be presenting a Matinee Concert on the Sunday. This concert will commemorate the 45th anniversary of the recording /release of the "Blue Water Men" Album which was significant in the recording history of the RAN Band. The rehearsal will be at the Frankston RSL or possibly the Concert venue (more to come on this)

### 9.30am Guided tour of the Peninsula

Those not involved with the rehearsal will be offered an excellent tour around the Bay and surrounds to the town of Sorrento via Arthurs Seat, then ferry across to Queenscliff where you will have lunch and enjoy the historic streets before ferrying back to Sorrento for the trip home. The tour will conclude at 3.30pm back at the Frankston RSL.

**Price: \$75.00 Per Head. This includes Bus, Ferry ticket and lunch. Queenscliff has many attractions and great wine and food.**

### 12.30pm Veterans Band Lunch

Light lunch will be provided to members rehearsing for the concert.

### 1.30pm Veterans Band

Continue with rehearsal which will conclude at 3.30pm.

### 7.00pm RAN Band Association Dinner, Function Centre, Frankston RSL.

Doors will open at 6.45pm with special guests arriving at 7.00pm. The evening will have the RAN Band, Melbourne detachment providing a small group and our special guests will be the Director of Music and a few surprise guests. The evening will be as usual a relaxed affair with speeches, raffles and light entertainment. The evening will conclude at 10.30pm and guests are welcome to move to the lounges within the RSL to continue there reminiscing. The committee will again be providing buses to the station and Major Hotels from 10.45pm.

**Price: \$75.00 Includes 3 courses, drinks from 7.00pm until conclusion of evening.**

## Sunday the 12th of March.

### 9.30am Tour of HMAS Cerberus and Museum Complex.

A special tour to HMAS Cerberus has been organised and buses will be leaving Frankston RSL, the Rail Station and Major Hotels to take you down to HMAS Cerberus. \*Those that are vacating their hotels, we will be able to store your luggage for the day (on the Buses) and it will be available at the end of the day or when you require it.

Once there, we will visit the museum and officially open the new Band Branch section along with a tour of the other areas of the museum. This will be followed by a tour of the RAN Melbourne detachments facilities at the Cinema Complex and if

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time prevails the wardroom. A Light lunch will either be organised at the museum or on our return to Frankston.

**Price: N/C. The 2017 Reunion/Museum Band refurbishment raffle will cover this tour if all take part (More on this in the Autumn edition of our magazine)**

### 1.00pm Sound Check for Concert

On returning we will be making our way directly to the concert theatre for a sound check. Those not involved in the concert will be provided with a light lunch before the concert (if it is not offered at HMAS Cerberus) and then will be free to take in the Frankston surrounds before the concert commences. Those involved in the concert, you will have a light lunch after sound check (again if not offered at HMAS Cerberus).

### 2.30pm "Blue Water Men" Anniversary Concert.

The concert will be compered and will go for an hour and a half concluding at 4pm. It will include selections from "Blue Water Men" and other recordings from that era. The concert will conclude the official reunion programme and from the concert, members who are returning to their home states will be assisted to the train station or appropriate transport. Remaining members are welcome to return to the RSL for farewell drinks.

**Price: Free to Association Members who attend the Gala Dinner.**

**Ticket Sales : \$15 Adults, \$7 Children, \$10 Pensioners**

**Group Bookings of 10 or more @ \$7 each**

**Proceeds go to aid The Prostrate Cancer Foundation of Australia and The National Breast Cancer Foundation.**

## Monday the 13th of March

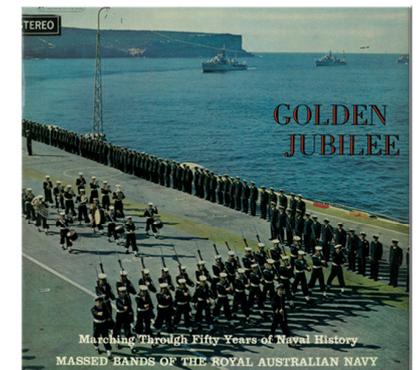
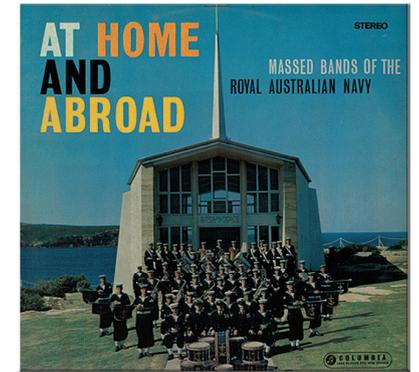
### TBA am Moomba festival Parade.

As part of the Moomba Festival weekend the Moomba Parade is an integral part of the festivities. We have an invitation from the organising committee to be part of it. Based on volunteers who would like to march this will be on or off our official programme.

If we have enough members the Band will have a short rehearsal before departing by train or making your own way into central Melbourne. Side drums, Bass Drum and Cymbals will be already in the city so it is only a matter of you taking your individual instruments. The order form has a questionnaire regarding this so if you can respond to it the would be appreciated.

So,

As you can see there is a lot happening and the committee look forward to welcoming you to a wonderful weekend in Melbourne.





## 2017 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION REUNION, MELBOURNE. 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

**FRIDAY THE 10TH MARCH**

**8.00/10.00am Golf Day**

- 9 Holes with Lunch \$28 per Head
- 18 Holes with Lunch \$42 per Head

**Number**

**Attending**

|                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | Total \$ _____ |
| <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | Total \$ _____ |

**9.30am Winery Tour & Lunch \$110.00 per Head**

|                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | Total \$ _____ |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|

**Shopaholics tour \$N/C**

**6.30pm \*Meet & Greet Cocktail Party \$35 per Head**

|                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | Total \$ _____ |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|

Special Dietary requirements

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

**SATURDAY THE 11TH MARCH**

**9.30am Peninsula Guided tour, Ferry & Lunch \$75 per Head**

|                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | Total \$ _____ |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|

**7.00pm \*RANBA Gala Dinner \$75 per Head**

|                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | Total \$ _____ |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|

Special Dietary requirements

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

**SUNDAY THE 12TH OF MARCH**

**9.30am \*HMAS Cerberus/ Museum Tour. No Charge for members attending Gala Dinner**

**2.30pm \*Blue Water Men Anniversary Concert. No Charge for members attending Gala Dinner**

|                                           |                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> |                                           |
| <b>Extra Tickets:</b> N/C Tickets         | <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> |
| Adults \$15ea                             | Total \$ _____                            |
| Children \$7ea                            | Total \$ _____                            |
| Pensioners \$10ea                         | Total \$ _____                            |
| Group Bookings of 10 or more \$7ea        |                                           |

**Grand Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have not already advised the us of your interest in being a member of the Concert Band, Please indicate here.

YES, I would like to Play  Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ No Thanks

**Bank Details:** BSB 013232 **Account 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