



Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

Winter Edition 2016

www.ranbandassoc.net



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



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No sooner than one edition hits the streets then there is the putting together of the next. This time seems to get shorter and shorter. This is my 9th edition already and I'm still trying to find the magic formula for the magazine

ANZAC Day is a blessing to help feed the mag with what we got up to and this year I have had a great response from members. Remembering back to our permanent days, Anzac Day was a long and by the end of it tiring day on the Bands calendar so now when I read some of the stories from our members, we have kept up that tradition and taken part in all aspects of Anzac Day. Plenty to read further in the mag on this important day.

On the website front ,we have commenced preliminary work on the replacement and our projected changeover will be around July. You will see a significant difference (for the better) of the features that are currently available but they will be enhanced with a more magazine style layout that fits our direction we want the site to be. The articles that appear in the mag will be initiated through the website more promptly and then the mag will be produced for those that want a hard copy so you will see more daily activity on the site.

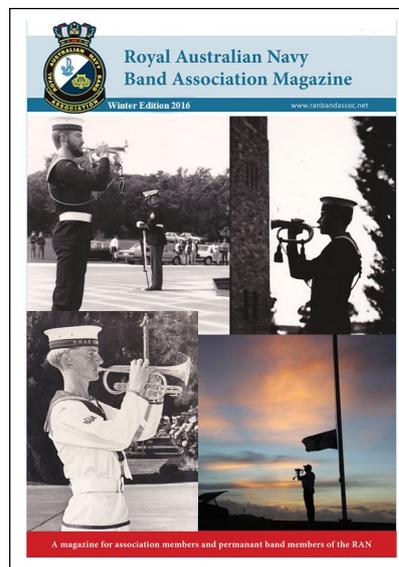
Anzac Day is a good example, the stories will be out there soon after the event not a month later. From there a hard copy of those stories will then form the future magazine.

We have 205 registered members on the website now and a further 98 members that have not registered yet, giving us a total membership of 303. With the new version all those that have not registered to use the site but have an email address will automatically become activated (except those that don't have an email address of course) on the site as all future correspondence from me or any other executive member will be generated through the site. Those members do not have to logon to the site if they choose but I'm hoping that their curiosity will get them involved in viewing what we have.

Invoices for Subs, reunions and events will also be raised through the site. This will make the administration of our association easier and more cost efficient. I'm looking forward to the release and I'm sure you will enjoy the new layout. Next month is subs month and I will be sending invoices out for the 2016/17 period so wait for that to arrive before paying as I will indicate where you are up to.

With the Ipoh trip only around the corner with the Veterans Band and the 2017 reunion only 10 months away there will be plenty to tell you in the next edition, so I hope you enjoy this my 9th.

Your Editor.



Anzac Day: The day a Bugler excels at his craft



Presidents Report

John Widdicombe

In many ways, we Bandies are a lucky lot. We experienced things and situations quite unique in our lifetime. Even now we have the opportunity to carry them on to the fullest, (or oldest?). We still have our band tours, play music together, gather regularly for reunions and enjoy endless talking, even if we have heard the same stories over and over again.

As we enter the second century of Anzac, let's reflect on one of those experiences, our long association with that great Australian historic icon, Anzac Day. Thinking back to our earliest involvement, we can cherish the fact that we actually marched along with WWI veterans, some of whom would have been original Anzacs.

Also, in those days there were huge contingents of WWII veterans following behind those WWI vets, marching past the large enthusiastic crowds that lined the streets to pay their respects. In the cities, Anzac Day marches could take hours to pass any given point. Sadly now the WWII ranks have thinned and in the future they too will disappear just as the WWI vets have done. There have been other more recent wars in which some of our own association members have been involved, particularly Vietnam, so there is still good reason for us to keep our respect and involvement going.

Who could forget that wonderful Anzac Day Sydney 2000 when we all marched proudly behind Lt. Comm. George Hooker. This was the beginning of our own Association's Anzac Day tradition of forming our Vets Band and taking

part in services all over Australia. In fact, over the years, we have all been part of Anzac Day services and marches in various Towns and Cities across Australia, which in many cases included both before and after our Navy time. How many of our buglers and trumpeters have played the Last Post over our lifetime, and still continue to do so. We all carry this long association with Anzac Day, which is something to remember and to be proud of.

For everyone going to Malaysia we wish you all the best for a great trip and the wonderful experience ahead. You have a busy time and a very full program to deliver. Again Ralph and Cheryle have put an enormous effort into mounting this venture, so do them and our Association proud, Fly our flag high. On behalf of the Association, I welcome all those joining the Malaysia adventure that are not ex-Navy. Welcome aboard; enjoy your time with us. Your contribution is most appreciated and needed.

Keep your eye on the calendar, our Melbourne reunion is just around the corner, and we have to fit in Xmas first. Life's a bit like the opening bars of Beethoven's 8th Symphony – VIVACE.

Finally, it's heading up to winter, so rug up and keep those winter bugs at bay. Remember it's not enough just to take that "spoonful of sugar which helps our medicine go down" – at our collective age we need the Flu Shot.



Treasurer Report

Errol Hatch

Not a great deal to report in this edition apart from the increasing number of new members young and old finding the association through the website, so our 2017/18 receipts should will be a good one again. The mag and its associated costs are still the biggest expenditure in our operating year but with the new website we should be able to trim them considerably as we will be able to extract from the site pages to produce a hard copy for those that want it. As I noted in the Editors report, articles will be updated constantly on the site making it more dynamic to our members.

The biggest benefit to the Treasurers portfolio will be the ability to raise and receipt invoices on the site. I currently have 3 individual pieces of software to keep tabs on all aspects of the accounts for the association, plus ad to this, the emailing side, it makes for a possible mistake (admit a few have happened) to occur, With the website managing all

these tasks I can feel comfortable that you are getting an accurate picture financially of our association.

The initial program for the 2017 reunion in Melbourne is taking shape and we will be able to give accurate costs for the functions over the weekend in the next edition.

It has been encouraging that our membership continues to grow and I look forward to giving you a detailed 2016/17 financial report in our next edition.

For Now.

Errol



Secretaries Report

John Lennon

The year is starting to slip away and with ANZAC Day now behind us we have the weeks ahead of us having politics rammed down our throats relentlessly until we get to vote on Saturday the 2nd July. I am guessing e-mails and social media will be in overdrive with everyone trying to sell the virtues of their own political inclinations. My own family is very interesting as we have a wide diversity of political opinions and beliefs and our family gatherings ultimately end in some sort of political discussion and debate. The great thing about democracy in this country is that the people that are closest to you, whether they are family or friends, can be at opposite ends of the political divide. The only observation I would like to make as we move towards the election is the need to respect and be sensitive to the views of family and friends who have differing political views. I will make the exception for one or two close friends who think I am a Dick Head for voting for the party I support. No guessing who I support.

I attended ANZAC day this year at the Glengara Retirement Village were Ralph & Cheryl Daines now call home. I was invited to participate in the village ANZAC day ceremony and also managed to have a blow with the Central Coast Concert band which put on a very entertaining performance after the service. A number of things impressed me on the day, including the quality of the resort and facilities and the friendliness of the residents. I must admit it did change my attitude towards giving consideration to this type of retirement living. I must also make special mention of the Central Coast Concert band which included 2 well know association identities Robert "Bob" Bedwell and Lindsay Mungovan.

“What the day did do, was remind me of how many members are still actively involved in Bands”

A number of members from the band including Bob & Lindsay are regular players with our own Veterans Band. I have to say the standard of the band was impressive and it was interesting to note that the 2 top chair trumpet players are female something that would of been very rare back in the days I started playing. What the day did do was remind me of how many members of our association are still actively involved with bands and how ANZAC day has a special meaning for them. A few bands that would fall into this category include: Vic Knowles (Hinterland Community Band), Brian Ellis (West Tamar Municipal Band), Kevin Hillier (Stonnington City Brass) and Jim Hawkins (Ballina Shire Concert Band). I would be very interested to know how

many other members either run or are actively in community and professional bands (including teaching) as I am equally certain that no other branch of the services has as many people still involved either full time at a community level still applying their trade.

The last thing I would like to talk about is community service and I acknowledge that much of the community band involvement we currently participate in the form of community concerts, retirement home concerts & services like ANZAC day does put many of us in that community service category. My daughter convinced Leywah & I to donate our time and money in the form of food, Clothing & Toiletries for a community day of hand outs for the Homeless people of Brisbane.

The event was held on Mother's Day Sunday the 6th May 2016 at Musgrave Park in South Brisbane. For those of us that have or live in Brisbane and Queensland are aware that Musgrave Park is a magnet for aboriginal & non indigenous homeless people. The park has a reputation of not being a safe place to be. The day was an eye opener for me and I would have to rate as one of the most rewarding experience that I have ever had. It's so easy for us to be very quick to judge these people in the harshest way but let me say that once you meet these people in their environment one on one you realise that many of these people are just like you and I who have been made homeless by bad luck, unemployment and poor health including physical and mental disabilities.

After one of these experiences when you sit in the comfort of your own home at night in winter with a nice hot meal , a heater going and watching TV you can't help thinking what are those people doing at this very moment in time. I don't have to paint that mental picture but I guess you understand what I am trying to say. That is, we are very lucky to live the lifestyle we do and are lucky to live in a county like ours. In a way these people are also lucky that they live in a country where we have people who care about them. On a final note, on a day when politics was the main headlines for the day with the calling of the election it was interesting to note that not one political party member or candidate was anywhere to be seen. I guess not a lot of votes to be gained from the homeless.

Regards,

John Lennon

Secretary

RAN Band Association



Errol

The magazine is wonderful, as always but I just happened to notice the story about one of your fellow Navy guys being buried in a pauper's grave. I will be interested in anything you can find out about it. Or more particularly, the rectification of it.

My Father served in the British Army for 26 years - served at one time on the North West Frontier in India, served in both wars (put his age up for the first one!) - he ended up as a Warrant Officer, was mentioned twice in Dispatches, gave his body to Melbourne University when he eventually passed away and lo and behold, we weren't advised about it but when they had finished with his remains, he was put in a pauper's grave with a few others! My Brother actually got a letter **months** after they had done it. Unfortunately, we had no idea what to do about it.

We could never let our Mother know - she would have been devastated.

Josephine Gwynne.

Hello

I was looking at your web site to find any information on my grandfather, Percy Frank Nelson WHITE who, according to his enlistment records was a Bandmaster at HMAS Cerberus from the 3rd of Oct 1939 to 31 July 1940 and, Leeuwin 1st Aug 1940 to his demobilisation on the 2 Nov 1945 (att.).

I do not have any direct affiliation with your organisation but, am hopeful that I can find something on my grandfather which is proving to be very difficult and I was wondering if you are able to shed any light on his involvement with the RAN?

Regards

Greg Nelson WHITE

Editors Notes: As our website is now extensively covered by Google's search engine I am receiving more and more requests from families regarding their grand and great grandfathers.

Hi Errol

Thank you for your reply regarding information about my Grandfather, Canon Riley. We have his life history and we are very proud of his involvement in the Navy. My dad was very fond of him and remembers the stories he told.

We have his original medals and I have made a couple of frames about him and HMAS Australia that I proudly display at home. I am aware he started the first Navy Band.

There is a photo of him and the band sitting on the deck of HMAS Australia. He wrote extensive diaries during WW1 and they are on hand at the Mitchell Library. He buried the first Australian killed in the great war in a sea Burial after fighting the Germans in Rabaul.

I would be interested in anything you find on him just so that I can add. Also happy to provide or be involved in anything you require.

Kind Regards

Grahame Abbott.

Ed notes:

This group photo to the right appears quite a lot through our photo history so it is interesting to get insight to it. I wonder if that is the original.



I'm excited to report to you that I have taken on the role of Voluntary Curator for the Band Branch of the Museum at HMAS Cerberus as of the 18th of May. It came about sort of by accident but it is something that I look forward to sinking my teeth into and having another avenue of our associations commitment to nurturing our history and representing our past and present members through this wonderful museum.

It has always been a bit of a mystery of how the Band section of the museum was organised and where were all the pieces of history kept that were donated to the museum over the years. You would hear the odd story of "I sent it down to the museum but have never heard from them or seen it again".

This led me to meet up with Toni Munday and WO Marty Gorman a month or so ago to talk about cataloguing what is currently held in the archives at the museum and one thing led to another and it was mentioned that a volunteer would help steer the Band section to a better display and understanding of our history, well that was like a red rag to a bull, solved.....

The current display is now situated in a enormous glass cabinet in one of the large rooms within the museum but only takes up a very small proportion (soon to change) of the cabinet. It has items donated by Barry Pollock which is sort of acknowledged but there are other recognisable items but with no reference to who donated them, what there significance is and the period they were used.

My first task over the coming months will be to catalogue all the documentation and photos of the Band that have been collected and also help collate other material in the archive section. I will also include the files I currently hold here (Photos & News clippings) of the association and create a master database at the museum.

‘Well, That was like a Red rag to a Bull’

There are two distinct areas of archival display, the museum and the cinema complex. It is noted that the cinema's displays don't actually fall into the museums realm so another task will be to coordinate what is held over there for future reference. There are apparently many items not on display at the cinema so I think the cataloguing will find those lost items members are talking about. More to come on this front.



All

HMAS Cerberus Museum gets a new volunteer



Photos currently in the museum's archives have been scanned and over the months I will load them onto the new website which is currently in the testing stage.

It was interesting that when I was clearing a shelf in the archive room to make way for our expanded files I came across a very old brown envelope that said "Coronation 1953". Now this pile of papers, news clippings and this envelope had still to be catalogued so where it came from is yet to be established "That's next weeks job" but opening the envelope I found this portrait photo of Melody Pleass along with others with strict instructions that they not be published until a ministerial statement has been released. Each photo had the details of the person and that they were to be involved in a ceremonial part of the Coronation. I'm sure there are many more old brown envelopes that



contain another snippet of history.

The static display is neat but I must admit in need of an update but that is understandable as Marty, Toni, John, Neil and others are constantly working on the displays within their areas of expertise, and just trying (on no budget) to keep the museum looking as good as it does, is a massive task.

Across the road in the old SOM building the Band rehearsal room is used as a function/Small Cinema space and the other rooms are storage for artefacts that are ready to display or need to be worked on. There is a workshop situated where repairs are done and the band section now has its own area within the storage area.



So here is the big question, Are you prepared to clear out your cupboards of the pieces of history and memorabilia and donate them to the Museum and association now we have a central point of storage and a place to display to the public and former and current Naval personnel. I'm looking for anything of interest about the Band and its history, Uniforms, Badges, Caps, Photos and especially records and even CD's as recordings are an essential part of the Bands history.

I look forward to reporting to you the progress I'm making as we prepare for an official launch of the new Band Section at the 2017 Reunion. (More on this to come)

Errol Hatch

Volunteer HMAS Cerberus Museum.



Veterans Band/Events Report

Ralph Daines

IPOH, MALAYSIA June, 2016

The Ipoh trip by the Veterans Band is only days away and everything is in place for an amazing week of ceremonies, Concerts and social events. With a band of 32 plus partners this is one our largest contingents to leave Australian shores. It hasn't been an easy trip to organise but with patience the establishment in Malaysia has cleared the way for a trouble free tour.

The itinerary has grown as officials have realised who and what is coming and we have had to say sorry to many requests for additional concerts and official functions. It's thanks again to our honorary members who have filled vacant chairs and as usual we will enjoy their company and musical prowess.

Following is the final itinerary of the trip

Tuesday 7th June 2016

Arrive Ipoh, you can arrive earlier but we need everyone there on the 7th

1900 Meet & Greet, venue TBC, finger food provided.

Wednesday 8th June 2016

0900 to 1500 Rehearsal in Ballroom of Syeun Hotel for Band, (lunch provided)

Ladies- morning tour of Ipoh (provided) Time to be confirmed.

Thursday 9th June 2016

0800 (short sleeve white shirts with shoulder boards, caps & medals)

Buses to Kumunting Rd Cemetery Taiping for Commemoration Service at **0930**

(A reduced size Band will be used)

Following Service we will move to New Club Taiping for refreshments followed by a Concert with **full** Band.

PM TBC, a Concert at Malaya Emergency Memorial.

Friday 10th June 2016

0745 Band only (the bus will return for rest of group) (long sleeve shirts with tie, shoulder boards, cap & medals)

Remembrance Service at Ipoh War Memorial (**0900**) followed by lunch at Ipoh Town Hall

1300 Bus will shuttle back to Syeun Hotel

1800 Band only (the bus will return for others)

1930 (long sleeve white shirts, shoulder boards & medals)

Evening Public Concert at Ipoh Town Hall.

Bus will shuttle to Syeun Hotel after the concert.

Saturday 11th June 2016

0615 Buses to Batu Gaja,

0730 Church Service (Band not required, setting up)

0830 (short sleeve white shirts, shoulder boards, cap & medals)

Wreath Laying Ceremony at Gods Little Acre (next to church)

1100 Ceremony at Kem Syed Putra

(Ghurka Cemetery)(morning tea provided)

1200 Buses to Royal Ipoh Club for lunch and Concert (lunch provided),

On completion bus will return to Syeun Hotel

1930 "Troops Night" at Royal Ipoh Club, a dinner for all, all provided, you will need to catch cabs (10MR) (**Navy Blue Polo shirts**)

Sun 12th June 2016

0800 Band only (the bus will return)

(long sleeve white shirts, tie, shoulder boards & medals) to Royal Ipoh Club

0930 Concert for 250 welfare people.

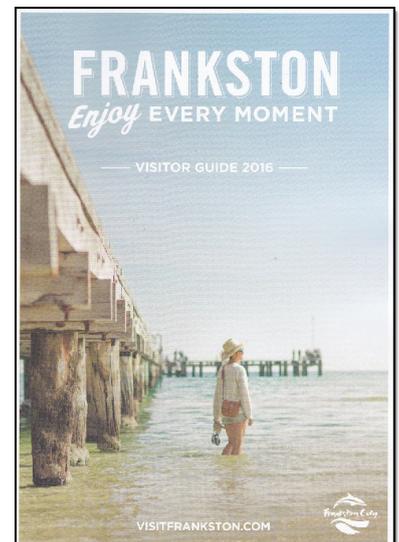
1230 Farewell Concert and lunch at Royal Ipoh Club, bus will return to Syeun Hotel at **1500**

MELBOURNE REUNION 2017

10th of March to the 13th, 2017

The next issue of the magazine will see a full itinerary of the Melbourne reunion. As it is being held over the Moomba weekend you are guaranteed great weather and a bucket load of activities for you and your partners. The bulk of the official activities will be at the Frankston RSL and they have given the association some great prices for our events and even waived room hire and other fixed costs.

Watch this space in the coming issue.





Western Australian Report

Bill Farrell

The first item which should be announced is that overnight temperatures have been getting down as low as 5 degrees lately, which in anybody's language is bloody cold! But us Westerners can handle it, so no more weather reports, at least for the time being.

After last year's reunion, as was reported in the Xmas edition of this illustrious publication, Ted Lincoln spent some time in hospital. Unfortunately, he has spent some more time immobilized this year with a hip complaint. He is now back at home accompanied by a four wheeled walker as a companion so things are looking up. Another on the sick list is Bill Middleton who has been forced to pull out of the Malaysian trip because of a serious complaint. Best of luck to both these members for their recuperation period.

A phone call to this writer from Kevin Foale alerted us to the fact that we may have missed a former member's funeral. A small notice in the RSL magazine advised of the passing of CPO Musician Phil Britten-Jones, a member of the Bicton/Palmyra RSL Club. Enquiries were made resulting in a phone call to the Jones' residence. No reply. Later in the day, Maxine received a return call from Barbara Jones indicating that Phil Had indeed passed away in October last year. There had been no newspaper announcement that we had seen, and they are always checked. Barbara said that he had not been well for some time, he was becoming very insular and at the time he wanted no fuss. All he wanted was to celebrate his 60th wedding anniversary, have family around him and to spend time in his garden.

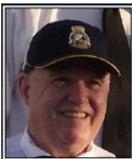
For those who did not know him, Phil was an adult entry in 1952 when Boy Musicians were being recruited by the "symphony full". He joined from South Australia and with the surname of Jones soon received the nickname of Spike. A fine trumpet player, he was also versatile on the sporting field in both football and cricket. Additional information received was that he was a keen trotting enthusiast and at one stage owned a couple of trotters, one of which apparently was a smart performer. His wedding was celebrated on 24th. June, 1955, with the writer as best man, so he achieved his goal of reaching his 60th. anniversary with Barbara. Unfortunately, the last time we saw him was at a Xmas function about 4 years ago. Another goof musician passes on to the great band in the sky!

The saying goes that no news is good news and nothing else has been reported by either telephone or email to your correspondent. This behoves well for the remainder of the Western Australian membership. So until next time, see you in the counter-march!

Footnote:

Bill Middleton's doctor has given him the go-ahead to go and enjoy Malaysia, so he will be joining the percussion section on tour. I have also been in touch with The daughter of Jesse Watson who informs me that Dad has stages of dementia and Cancer. They are looking for a care home for him at the moment. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Jesse and his family at this stressing time.

Bill



New South Wales Report

Bob Bedwell

ANZAC DAY 2016 with a difference. Central Coast Concert Band (the band I was Music Director for more than 26 years) has provided music for Anzac Day services for best part of 30 years at Woy Woy and/or Terrigal Beach. At Terrigal Beach Cenotaph the sunrise during the Dawn Service is just wonderful.



John Lennon playing the Last Post to members and guests of the Glengara Lifestyle Village.

OK! so this is our Association Journal not a community concert band mag! The difference this year was that the community band with Bob Bedwell and Lindsay Mungovan playing at the Dawn Service also went to the lower reaches of Wyong to the Glengara Lifestyle Village for their 10.00 am service , followed by a concert in their Auditorium, with lunch provided.

Glengara is the residence of Ralph and Cheryle Daines: they organised for the Central Coast Concert Band to provide appropriate music for their ANZAC service. The bugler for the Service was ex-bandie John Lennon, who just happened to be in town as well. John also played trumpet in the concert. Ralph had organised the event and also played clarinet the in band for the concert.

There we were "2 ol' salts sitting together in the clarinets, arguing who had to turn the pages! Anytime we can get together no matter how few or how many there are, there is



New South Wales Report

Bob Bedwell

always a “special” time. Brings back fond memories, that’s for sure.

Our audience thoroughly enjoyed the concert of traditional “Military Band” music we are used to performing and we may just go back again and as well as seeing some of the residents at our subscription concerts in Gosford.

Finally: I encourage all of the NSW RANBA members to send any items to myself or the Editor for inclusion in future editions of our Magazine. I am always interested to see and hear of the goings on of old shipmates.

Bob Bedwell NSW Rep .



The Central Coast Concert Band Performing for the Glengara Lifestyle Village.



RAN Band News WA Detachment

Report By CPO Damien Pawlenko

(From the April 21st Edition of the Navy News)

Two members of the RAN Reserve might look like relaxed musicians, but you may not be so calm if you met them in their civilian roles with Western Australian Police. POMUSN Brian Horlock and ABMUSN Nathan Hicks are members of the RAN Band in Western Australia, a Reserve unit based at Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta. PO Horlock is a sergeant in the WA Police with the Forensic Division and AB Hicks is a senior constable with the Liquor Enforcement Unit.

PO Horlock has served with the police for 30 years, including deployments to the Bali bombings and the Boxing Day Tsunami in Thailand. He also worked on victim identification operations following the sinking of two SIEVs off Christmas Island in 2009 and 2012. “Both operations were complex and sensitive investigations where WA Police worked alongside ADF personnel,” PO Horlock said. His other duties include the forensic examination of major crime scenes throughout Western Australia. He has also conducted disaster victim identification training with the ADF Investigation Service as the role takes on more significance . “The transfer of skills and the opportunity to explore WA Police and Defence interoperability was a valuable and rewarding experience,” he said.

AB Hicks has served as a police officer for more than 10 years. He completed a general duties posting in Bunbury where he was awarded a special commendation from the Police Commissioner. The award was for meritorious conduct under stressful conditions where he saved a young girl from jumping off a 40m tower. Following that posting, AB Hicks returned to the city and filled a position with the Regional Operations Group. His primary role at the Liquor

Enforcement Unit is to liaise with licensees within the metropolitan area and enforce the conditions placed on the venue through its licence. He said he had plenty of encouragement to follow a career as a musician.

His father, former LSMUSN David Hicks, played a significant role in encouraging him to audition for the position of a drummer 13 years ago. He met his wife, LSMUSN Kristy Hicks, in the band and they have two children. PO Horlock and AB Hicks said balancing their demanding police roles with a busy band schedule was sometimes challenging. “We both value and enjoy performing with the band, and fortunately we have access to a generous military leave provision in WA Police, which allows us to maintain our Reserve commitments,” PO Horlock said. “We are both very fortunate to be able to give back to the community through our careers that are both challenging and unique.”



Trombone player POMUSN Brian Horlock and drummer ABMUSN Nathan Hicks at Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, WA. Both Reserve Navy musicians are police officers in their civilian jobs. Photo: ABMUSN Murray Jongeling



Queensland Report

John Lennon

Hello from sunny Queensland which all of us up here believe is the best place in the world to live. It has been mostly uneventful since the last newsletter apart from our annual get together. The Qld get together was a great success even though the numbers were down from our last gathering. It is difficult to nail down a date that is going to suit most members and it was just unfortunate that those who indicated initially that they could make it were prevented from coming due to illness, house moves, funerals and unexpected travel as was the case of Ken McCallum who had to travel to Melbourne to take delivery of his brand new Caravan.

Bob (Didgeridoo) Robinson who was living in the bush after going walkabout after his navy life has finally returned to civilisation with his recent move to the big smoke which prevented him from attending. I have some reliable intel that he will be taking up a training role with the Bribie Island sea cadets and will be returning to uniform as a Petty Officer. I should also mention that Bob is well known in South East Qld for his Didgeridoo playing skills and has been part of the opening ceremony at the Woodford Folk festival for a number of years. Poor health also prevented a number of members from attending, including Jim & Nancye McDonough, Rick & Lexie Watson, Howard Turner & Ron Edwards. I received apologies from Shina Wright, Peter Martin, Leon Stucus, John Grainger, Ron Chay, Alan Early, Trevor Williamson, Jim Stathis, Ken Summerson, Gary Sander & Ken McCallum.

Howard Turner advised that he had a Right Knee Replacement in March after which he got a Clot on the L/Lung and is now on blood thinners for 3 months. I vividly recall Howard struggling up and down ladders with his electric keyboard, I would guess that some of his knee problems could relate back to this activity. Jim McDonough advised he had been in Hospital for multiple

weeks since the beginning of the year. While he was in Hospital on his latest 2 week stint Nancye was stuck down with Influenza A and was hospitalised in isolation for 4 days. It has not been a great start to the year for Jim & Nancye dealing with a number of health issue. To quote Jim, he said the health issues could be explained by being "Too Bloody Old". Rick Watson also advised he is struggling with a few health issues and finds it difficult getting out of the house these days. Leon Stucas also gave me call to say he has finally got on top of his health issues after his bypass surgery and is now starting to enjoy his retirement. He was touring down south at the time of the Qld get together.

Ron Edwards has been hospitalised with Alzheimer's disease since the end of last year and is now in the CAMs unit of the Prince Charles Hospital awaiting a vacancy in a nursing home. I have spoken to Ron's wife Jan and she did say he can be visited which does tend to lift his spirits. We wish all those members who are dealing with health issue all the best for the year ahead.

A great day was had by all those who attended the Qld Get Together, which included Bevan & Isabel Andrews, Andy & Dianne Will, Ken & Trina Lincoln, Andrew Stapleton, David Lewis, Kevin (Butsy) Button & partner, Dave Crompton, Ron & Carol Carroll (President - Pine River Naval Association) Pat & Irene Ringold (Secretary - Pine Rivers Naval Association) & Glenda Jacklin (Newham). The weather was perfect and a great time was had by all with many stories told and memories revisited.

John Lennon
Qld Rep



Bevan & Isabel, Glenda and Strop.



Pat, Ron, Carol and Leywah.



Ken & Trina Lincoln



The Hosts, John & Leywah.



The Gathering enjoying a typical Brisbane day.



From Victoria

Len Nurse

The Grand Prix weekend in Melbourne seems to indicate that the end of the balmy summer days is here as Melbourne seems to (As we all know) have its four seasons in one weekend. Friday was torrential rain and wind, taking out sign boards and anything that wasn't bolted down. Saturday had showers but by late afternoon we had high cloud and a high humidity, followed by Sunday's clear 21 degree day, where else would you want to live you say.....

This all goes well for our reunion dates as it is the week before the Gran Prix so it is totally predictable (warm mid 20's) guaranteed. Organising the reunion is now well underway and the Victorian committee plan to provide you with a wonderful weekend of activities. Details will flow over the coming months but put the 10th through to the 13th of March in your Diaries. Melbourne has the Monday Moomba holiday and there will social events on that day so plan to leave on the Tuesday or late Monday night if flying.

The Mexicans first luncheon for 2016 was held at the Seaford RSL on Sunday the 20th of March and we had an excellent turnout. We choose the Seaford RSL for its intimate surroundings and suites the numbers we get to our get togethers. We are committed to have our next luncheon on the other side of the Bay and have had some suggestions as to where to hold it, more to come on that.

With over 30 participants on the day and the usual popularity of the Bistro the queue was long for ordering but unusual for a RSL they were taking orders on an Ipad and gave you the opportunity to pay later. I don't know what the rate of non-payers are but as most of the guests are seniors, remembering to pay after could be a problem. The meals arrived a little staggered but all by the end had received what the ordered (Eric Cross's Lambs Fry & Bacon

looked like it had been waiting awhile for someone to claim it, but Eric enjoyed it)

Those that attended were,

Len & Maree Nurse, Barry & Pat Pollock, Les & Carol Kent, Fran & Mick Reed, Paul Farrugia and his wonderful family, Terry & Lorraine Ekin, Dale Grainger and family, Ron Bergmann, Eric Cross, Bob Bull, Bill & Carol Post, Janet Atkins, Anita Le Dan, Errol & Sharon Hatch.

Apologies from Kevan Thomas, Allan & Shirley Hogg, Doug Antonoff, Col & Pam Morris, Gail and Mal Codling, Ray Mills, Kym Rushworth and Ken Brown were received.

The Dixie band of Bill Post, Len Nurse, Barry Pollock and Errol Hatch played the night before at an outside Summer concert so there was plenty of self-analysis of the performance and the commitment of the partners and wives who had to endure the quite cool evening, but all enjoyed the experience, especially playing in such a large amphitheatre and to a appreciative crowd who probably have never listened to Dixieland. The afternoon came to a close and all were happy to leave the table for the staff to clean (It does beat having to clean up after a BBQ) and headed on their way enjoying the late afternoon sun.

Until the next get together, All the Best.

Len.





MELBOURNE

Report by Errol Hatch

For a few years now a unique Concert Band has performed in the City Square to provide Marches to the contingents that form in Swanston Street that make their way down to Flinders Street where they meet up with a Band (Possibly) and other contingents to continue to the Shrine.

The Band is headed by Michael Thompson RM (Association member) and is called the Anzac Community Band. It is made up of personnel from all over Melbourne who have not committed to any other band involved in the march and I had the opportunity to play with them on this occasion. Members of the Monash Concert Band, Knox Community Band, Oakleigh Brass Band, 4th/19th Light Horse Regiment Band and an ex-bandie, helped create a 35-strong band for the day.

The day turned out to be absolutely glorious and the City Square is a perfect amphitheatre to perform marches and a concert later in the day. We started at about 8.30am and played until the Navy Band and Guard (formed across the street from us) led the Navy contingents off (around 9.30am). More marches were in order and we played the Army Contingents off followed by the Air Force at around 12.00pm.

We finally finished playing marches at about 12.30 and then followed with a light concert for the hundreds of tourists and Melburnians enjoying a glorious day. From my calculations we played Death & Glory, Glorious Victory, HM Jollies, Imperial Echoes, Liberty Bell, Quality Plus, Semper Fidelis, Sons of The Brave, Stars and Stripes and The Thin Red Line, 5 times (could have been 6) so that is 50 marches over the 3 hours.

I was starting to feel it and I'm sure the rest of the band were too by the time we did the short concert to conclude our involvement in Anzac Day in Melbourne. It was a pleasure to play with them and to have such a strong professional band perform and with so many familiar faces (a fair few are travelling to Malaysia). Congratulations should also go to Michael (and Jac) for putting the Band together, well done.

What will next year bring.

Errol.



CASTERTON Victoria

Report by John Widdicombe

Just to let you all know I along with Commander Paul Cottier and his father Harry joined the Casterton (Victoria) Vice Regal Band for the Anzac services. Was quite an event but I do not have any photographs I'm sorry to say. I was pleasantly surprised at the standard of the smallish struggling band, but most bands struggle, especially in the country. Have been in Casterton for 2 weeks now catching up on relatives and school friends so it has been a great time. Off to Ballarat over the weekend for a couple of days before returning home to Sydney

Regards to all our Association members.

John.



BALLINA

Report by Ken McCallum

The Ballina Anzac Day ceremonies started off like most with the Dawn service commencing at 0500. Leon Stucas, Brian Ellis his lovely wife Kerry, Jim Hawkins and myself assisted the Ballina Town Band with their Dawn Service music. In attendance was Blue McNally, Garry Krause, Kevin Buttons, Bruce Compton, and a blast from the past who I hadn't seen for many years was Ian (Bomber) Brown. On completion it was in to the RSL for Breakfast and a few thirst quenchers and many stories as usual.



So to fill in time until the main parade formed up, we were hosted at another thirst quenching venue in Ballina. Lots more stories were spread around until we finally met at the Slipway Hotel ready for the March. We also met up with Carl Torrens, and he did the March with us, which I am sure he got a great kick out of.

On Completion of the March we had the service and then into the club for lunch, here we met up with Ron Henry, who is recovering from an illness, good to see him looking a lot better. As usual Ballina RSL put on a great spread and drinks, also the opportunity to catch up with many other old familiar faces.

Things continued into the afternoon until the campers returned to the Caravan park, and somehow we continued on until 2200 that evening, (should leave the port alone).

Next day those that were fit enough met at the Ballina RSL Bowling Club for a game of bare foot bowls with wives and partners joining in, not sure who actually won. That evening every one showed up at the Caravan Park for a BBQ, Kevin Buttons just happened to have ukulele, so the evening turned into one big singalong, which I don't think there was any one in the



Park that didn't hear us. A great time was had by all until it was time to end as it was time to let all the other people in the Park have some quiet time. A great weekend was had by all.

Look forward to doing again next year and hope more can join us for that typical Ballina hospitality.

All the best,

Mac.

Report by Kevan Thomas

This year the Rotary Club of Dingley Village Victoria conducted three services for the local community.

The Thursday prior to ANZAC Day we held a small service for the local kindergarten children. Approx. 70/80 4 year olds attended the local memorial where I talked to them about the animals and their involvement in war. With the attendance of "Gypsy" the donkey the focus was on Simpson and his Donkey. The service concluded with the reading of the Ode followed by Last Post & Rouse and the singing of the National Anthem.

Gypsy stayed around for photos.

On the Friday we conducted the Schools and Community Service which was attended by over 600 local school children from the three local schools as well as Federal, State and Local Government elected representatives, District Governor District 9810 and local business leaders. A small parade was held led by Pipes and Drums from Frankston RSL and followed by Mentone Grammar Cadets, Local School Leaders, Scouts from the Dingley Scout Group, Catafalque Party from Melbourne University Regiment and riders from Dingley Pony Club.

The keynote address was delivered by Hazar Salaheddine of Kilbreda College who was the winner of Public Speaking Competition. Local resident and singer Greg Salter performed his own composition "We Were The ANZACS". School leaders read In Flanders Field, The ANZAC Requiem and The Victory Emblem. Local solicitor Michael Benjamin was a very capable MC again this year.

ANZAC Day was seen in with a Dawn Service at the



Anzac Day 2016, Around the Country

Dingley Memorial which was attended by about 1,000 locals. The Ode was delivered by Vietnam Veteran and local resident Kevin Perkins, The ANZAC Requiem was delivered by Rover Crew Member Simone Stubley and "In Flanders Field" was beautifully delivered by local Kelly Van Mieghem. Kelly having been born in the Flanders region of Belgium read the poem in her native language of Flemish and then her adopted language of English, a very unique delivery. Wreaths were laid by Federal and State members as well as Rotarians, President of the Springvale RSL and representatives of local football, Netball and Cricket Clubs.

The service was followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the football club which was sponsored by the Dingley International Hotel. I was honoured to be the MC for the Dawn Service. All three events are sponsored by the local Bendigo Community Bank Branch with support also from Springvale RSL and local business.

Kevan Thomas

Report By Mick Leeke,

Sorry, but I haven't been able to make it to Australia's 2017 ANZAC DAY Ceremony just yet !!! But, I did manage to blow the calls on an old Pussa's Bugle (for the third year in a row) in the small South Burnett town of Blackbutt, Queensland.

Both services were well attended for the small size of the town, Approximately 300 people present. The catafalque party of 7 was provided by the Army Signal Station at Cabarla, just north of Toowoomba.

In the grand scheme of things it wasn't much, but it was Mick Leeke's contribution. I have to say that I personally am encouraged by the increased interest & participation of many young Australians on this Day, right around Australia. Particularly in the situation the western world now finds itself in. Hope you're all in good health as am I. I still work 2 days a week & sometimes that entails swinging a 14 lb sledge. At times I reckon I should pull the pin, but on the plus side I suppose the physical exertion is somewhat medicinal!

Best Regards from an old Pussas Bandie,

Mick Leeke.

Report by Geoff "Smoky" Dawson.

This ANZAC Day I was honoured to be a guest speaker at the Mt Evelyn (Victoria) RSL Dawn Service, reading out the Honour Roll for those residents of the area who lost their lives during WW1, WW2 and Vietnam. After the service we marched down to the RSL where breakfast was served.

It was a great service. We had a catafalque party from Ringwood, along with two pipers, a local singer/songwriter performing an original song he wrote for the day, as well as addresses by various local office holders.

One of the highlights was the reading of 'A letter to my Grandfather', written and read by a local resident whose Grandfather was killed at Gallipoli.

Regards,

Geoff 'Smokey' Dawson



Report by Bill Post

Hi Errol here are my exploits on Anzac Day. Up at 4am (This is getting harder every year) to play with the Frankston City Band at the Frankston Dawn Service. By 7.30 am we were on the bus to the Band Room for breakfast and some marching practise, (Do we really need this).

9am back on the bus to Seaford to another service and march for the Seaford RSL. Straight after on the bus again (Does this sound familiar or what) and onto the Frankston RSL to march and play for their Service.

By 1pm we had finished and it was up to the RSL for a free lunch and one or two (maybe more beers). Was Home at around 8pm feeling stuffed, but looking forward to next year.

Regards,

Bill Post



DVA – Disability Recognition

(Part 2)

Compiled by John Lennon & Errol Hatch

This edition of our DVA information presentation will focus on the EDA pension and current serving members making claims to DVA for injuries sustained in their service.

What is the Extreme Disablement Adjustment?

The Extreme Disablement Adjustment compensates a person who is extremely disabled and assessed to be at 100% general rate disability pension, but whose accepted disabilities have further degenerated after age 65. The adjustment is a 50 per cent increment to the 100 per cent general rate disability pension. Assessment for Extreme Disablement Adjustment only takes into account the medical impairment and lifestyle effects of a disability. It does not have regard to whether or not a veteran is employed or any regard to income and assets.

What is the purpose of Extreme Disablement Adjustment?

The Extreme Disablement Adjustment is intended to provide a more substantial level of compensation to veterans who are over 65 years of age and are retired, and whose degree of incapacity is greater than that required to qualify for the 100 per cent general rate, but who do not satisfy the eligibility criteria for the intermediate or special rate pension.

Who is eligible for the Extreme Disablement Adjustment rate of disability pension?

The Extreme Disablement Adjustment is a disability pension paid to veterans to compensate them for injuries or diseases caused or aggravated by war service or certain defence service on behalf of Australia.

The EDA rate can only be considered for veterans who have reached 65 years of age and who are not eligible to receive a Special (T & PI) or Intermediate Rate of Pension. As the name suggests, the degree of incapacity from war or defence-caused conditions must be extreme. The assessment is determined by DVA that you have a degree of incapacity of 100% and you have had your impairment rating assessed to be at least 70%, and your lifestyle rating at least 6, under the approved Guide to the Assessment of Veterans' Pensions.

Example of an application to DVA for the EDA

A member who is over 65 and retired and in receipt of a general rate pension 70 -100%, or has not made any claim to DVA, but has applied for acceptance, for example: Emphysema due to his smoking whilst in the Navy or any other disability\ s that may have contributed to a dramatic decline in medical impairment and lifestyle assessment. It is highly recommended that you speak to a DVA advocate before you make an application for any initial claim or increase that may result in DVA making an assessment at the EDA rate of pension. The two critical areas are the Doctors medical assessment and the lifestyle rating. The lifestyle rating should be completed in consultation with your advocate and in many cases your own family. We have a number of members who have been unsuccessful in their claims for the Special Rate pension for various reasons but have subsequently been granted the EDA. You should bear in mind that DVA may only grant a pension based on the approved Guide to the Assessment of Veterans' Pensions.

Serving and Ex Members making claims for injury recognition.

There is a view of some serving and ex serving members that anyone making claims for injuries sustained in their service are taking free money from the government, some justified, some not. I agree that there are a very small number of people who have made successful claims against DVA who openly state that they had done a number on DVA. I think we all need to be mindful that any successful claim made against DVA for service related injuries should not be looked on as a conquest and expressed to others in that way. Some serving and ex serving members hearing this type of talk do take offence and hence feel that the process of having claims accepted by DVA is corrupted. I recall about 20 years ago, at a get together, a group of members discussing recently accepted claims made against DVA and detailed types and rates of pensions that they were receiving. I vividly recall one of our own members coming up to me saying I wish these guys would not talk about DVA claims within earshot of these Second World War veterans.



There is a number of long term serving and ex servicing members who do suffer from service related disabilities who refuse to make claims for the reasons previously mentioned. I would encourage serving members and ex serving members who are suffering minor disabilities to apply to DVA to have these disabilities recognised. It could be the case that your disability is accepted but the medical impairment given to you may be nil (no disability payment). The most important thing for you is to have the disability recognised and this can happen without any monetary gain. If you leave your claim until after you retire or much later in life it may make your claim acceptance more difficult. Once you have your disability accepted and have subsequently retired you will be issued with a DVA white card which will allow you to claim any medical cost for your accepted disability's. If at some time in the future your disability's worsens it is a simple matter of having your disability's reassessed which may result in your general rate of pension increasing. Any future assessment of your disabilities may result in an increase in the general rate of pension paid and depending on your work status or age may entitle you to the Special Rate, Intermediate Rate or EDA Pension.

In Summary

Current defence policies and programs give serving members a much better awareness of health & safety and rigidly enforce preventative actions to ensure that personal are not exposed to potential health risks and injuries. I could not imagine current serving musicians carrying loads equivalent to what was expected of musicians some 20 to 60 years ago. Not to mention spending long hours in tropical sunlight rehearsing, playing for RAS's and storing ship just to mention a few activities whilst wearing only shorts and sandals with no head protection. I also can't imagine the current navy providing and encouraging musicians to smoke by providing them onboard tax excise free, with a packet costing about 20 cents when I was at sea in 1971 – 72. I could add many other examples as to why many former members suffer long term serious health issues but I think I have made the point.

In addition to the advocates recommended in the last Newsletter the following advocate is well known in the ex naval community and also well known for being the co-author of The Vung Tau Ferry – HMAS Sydney and Escort Ships 1965 – 1972 by Rodney Nott & Noel Payne.

NOEL PAYNE & ASSOCIATES

NOEL PAYNE, OAM

DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS & ADVOCATES
(Compensation, Superannuation & Pensions)

Consulting to Law Firms and Barristers on Veterans' Law Matters

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Administrative Appeals Tribunal Advocate
Veterans Review Board Advocate
Disability Compensation Representative
War Widows Representative
Military Superannuation Representative
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Our final Part 3 of the report will focus on your experiences with how you dealt with your submissions and the help you received from your DVA representative. Also specific questions you might have regarding other medical issues can be addressed. It will also cover areas that sit outside of direct DVA involvement, Depression and mental health being a couple of the hidden diseases we seem to ignore completely. If you have something to say regarding any of these please drop John or myself a line.

Our last report will have a detailed weights chart of all the known items we carried, moved and stored that we can think of. (That includes all those Resch's cans we dropped down below).





A Musicians Profile: Lennis Nurse



1936.

I was born at the Crown Street Women's Hospital, Sydney on the 8th of May 1936. I spent my early childhood years at Clovelly NSW and we lived at No 1 Eastbourne Ave on the North side of the bay. The house was on the cliff edge with steps cut into the cliff face which led down to the water where I learnt to fish and swim. The house has since been demolished. The land was resumed and is now part of Burrow's Park.

1941.



I was enrolled at Clovelly Public School where along with the usual school subjects I was introduced to music by joining the school drum and fife band and learnt to play a 7 key B flat fife. This was a most exciting time for us children as the Second World War had started and Japan had just declared war. There was a fort just a cross the park from our house and we soon became accustomed to gun fire and flares going off at night. I remember the night of the Japanese midget submarine attack as there were flares and gunfire going of all night and the sad news of the loss of life on the Kuttabul.

Another incident concerned the hospital ship Centaur. My father was called out to do some last minute repairs on the Sunday before she sailed and he took me with him down to Woolloomooloo where she was berthed and I had a tour of the ship while Dad was doing his work not realizing that it was leaving on its last voyage.

1947.

January Dad decided to move the family to Brisbane. Dad owned a 1927 1000cc Harley Davidson motorcycle, he built a side car for it and the whole family, Dad, Mum and we three children set off on a great adventure. The trip took over a week on the New England Highway which in those days was a mixture of sealed and unsealed sections. The further north we went the more unsealed it became.

Finally reaching Brisbane we settled at Manly an outer suburb situated on Moreton Bay about 10k south of the mouth of the Brisbane River and I lived there till I joined the Navy. Once settled I was enrolled at the Wynnum Intermediate and High School. During this period I joined the Wynnum Manly Brass where I learnt to play the Tenor Horn.



Ken Brown who attended the same school joined the band on Tenor Horn a year later. During this period Ken and I met a young Alex Henderson and Tommy Whalin both members of the Northern Command Band. Alex played Tenor Horn and Tommy played Soprano Cornet. They were friends of our Band Master Bert Baartz who was also a member of the Northern Command Band.

1950.

Leaving school, I entered into an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic/fitter and Turner with engineering firm John McGrath Motors. On completion of my apprenticeship I worked there for a further 3 years and studied hydraulics and metallurgy.

1955.

During my apprenticeship I was called up for National Service with the Army at Wacol Army Camp Queensland. There I met up with Des Fay who I already knew as we both came from the same area. Des played euphonium with the Wynnum Salvation Army Band. We were both allocated to C Company and we both played euphonium in the 11th Battalion National Service Band.

1958.

October of 1958 I joined the Royal Australian Navy. My first application was to join as an E.R.A. for which I was accepted. However, I discovered the Navy had a band and decided to audition and was surprised to be accepted and thus became a Musician.



"C" Coy.

10 PLATOON: Back Row (L. to R.): Ptes. Jordan, McDowell, L/Cpl. (Drum-major) Colebrook, Ptes. Tebbutt, Leighton, Fifth Row: Ptes. Stuart, Stewart, Lowcock, Purcell, L/Cpl. Latson, Ptes. Lynch, Biddle, Kelly, J. E. Ross, L/Cpl. Power, Fourth Row: Ptes. Friend, Nicolson, Drain, Kemp, Minon, Schultz, Fralim, Wundt, Cpl. Morris, Ptes.

Ewan, Duncan, Third Row: Ptes. Fleming, Noble, Nurse, Fay, Skinner, Perry, Mann, Rowe, L/Cpl. Davie, Ptes. Trower, Kelly, K. J. Piers, Second Row: Ptes. Shaw, Brown, Davis, L/Cpl. Jonghin, Cpl. Hansen, 2/Lt. McFarlane, Sgt. Hunter, Cpl. Colterell, Ptes. Harrison, Kerrigan, Frewer, O'Callaghan, Front Row: Ptes. Collins, Greig, Fry, Tucker, R. O'Connor, Ennis, Tucker, S. Jarvis, L/Cpl. Free.



A Musicians Profile: Lennis Nurse

On completing Recruit School training I joined the School of Music for 3 months branch training. On completion I became a member of the CERBERUS Band under CPOMusn Carr.



1959.

July, I was posted to HMAS Watson as a Musician 2nd Class. My first sea posting was to HMAS MELBOURNE in June 1960.

1961.

On returning to CERBERUS in June 1961, I completed the Leading Musician Course and promoted to Leading Musician on the 4th of May 1962 and employed as an instructor in the School of Music.

1964.

I completed the Petty Officer Musician Course. On 26th January I joined HMAS Melbourne and was promoted Petty Officer Musician on the 2nd of April 1965.



1966.

January, I was posted to the PENGUIN Band and in January 1967 returned to the School of Music as an instructor.

1968.

I completed the Chief Petty Officer Musician course and promoted to Chief Petty Officer on the 3rd of January 1969 and returned to the School of Music as an instructor. One memorable occasion on the Melbourne was being diverted from Hong Kong to the American base at Subic Bay where we waited for 2 weeks for HMAS Sydney and supply ships to arrive from Australia, then with the Americans we formed part of the largest flotilla since the 2nd World War, escorting troop ships to Vung Tau.

1974.

I was posted to the CERBERUS Band as 2 I/C and at the end of 1974 was posted to HMAS Melbourne as 2 I/C of the Fleet Band. I was promoted Warrant Officer on the 7th of July of 1975. On being promoted Warrant Officer I was posted to CERBERUS as OIC of the School of Music.



During my time with the help of Bill Thompson who was then Chief Instructor and other staff members, I changed the day to day routine for trainees by introducing various instrumental ensembles such as Stage Band, Vocals run by Bill Thompson, Concert Band and various small ensembles into the curriculum.

These groups gave concerts at local schools in Frankston and around the peninsula area. Additionally, I organized expeditions to Echuca where we camped on the banks of the Murray River at Moama. Whilst there, the

Echuca City Band kindly allowed us the use of their band hall for rehearsals and concerts.



1977.

The then Training Captain requested me to draw up plans for a new school of music. I informed him that I had information from Army Warrant Officer Frank Bardi that the Army School of Music was moving from Balcombe along with the Army Apprentice School. As Defence was looking at combining training of the 3 services where possible, it became obvious that Defence would only build one School of Music.



It also became obvious that the need to train musicians from scratch was coming to an end as instrumental music was being taught in schools on a wide variety of instruments and students from the newly formed College of the Arts were starting to graduate. The Training Captain agreed with this assessment of the situation and recommended Defence consider a Tri Service School of Music. This came to fruition some years later at Watsonia.



A Musicians Profile: Lennis Nurse

1978.

October of 1978, I retired from the Navy and joined the Victorian Education Department in the Technical Division as a music teacher. After completing the introduction course I was appointed to Aspendale Technical School where I taught for 15 years retiring as Head of Department in 1993.



1987.

I was approached by the Mayor of Chelsea Council and local business people to establish a community concert band. The band was established and I conducted the band for the agreed 2 years term.

Looking Back.

Some of the many satisfactions of my service life were taking part in recording of Blue Water Men and Pacific Horizons, being a team leader in the Darwin clean up after cyclone Tracy, My time as OIC of the School of Music, getting finance for civilian teachers for Oboe and French Horn trainees. Seeing the establishment of the Defence Force School of Music.

Retired Years

Now I am retired, Marie and I enjoy trips in our motorhome and the occasional cruise. I still enjoy my music though I can no longer play the bassoon due to arthritis in my left thumb. I play soprano sax in a Dixie Band with Bill Post, Barry Pollock, Gordon Crompton and Errol Hatch. I also play Bass Clarinet with the Cranbourne Lions Concert Band.

Looking back over my life things that gave me great satisfaction on the personal side was my marriage to Marie 55 years ago and the birth of our 3 children. The friendships I have made over the years from my school days through to the present day. In 1999 I became the first Life a Member of the Chelsea Concert Band. The Chelsea Concert Band is now in its 29th. Year.

Being presented with a Vocational Service Award for dedicated and continuous service in my vocation in 1989 by the Rotary Club of Aspendale. This award has more meaning to me as it was presented to me by John Atkins. I am also a Foundation and Life Member of the Frankston Symphony Orchestra which is still performing.



Len recently enjoying his 80th Birthday with family and friends.

Len Nurse.



The Royal Australian Navy Band Association 2017 Melbourne Reunion, 10th to the 13th March

Join us for 4 days of social events and Celebrations.

Log onto the website:
www.ranbandassoc.net for more information.

Celebrating 45 years since the release of "Bluewater Men"





Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Melbourne 2016

ABMUSN Ellen Zyla

It is often stated that music is a universal language. No truer statement has been made when it comes to performing on an international stage, particularly when the stage is as large as The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

From 8 - 14 February 2016, Defence Bands, musicians and cultural acts from around the world congregated in Melbourne to rehearse and perform a five show spectacular to audiences of 35000 per show. The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has only travelled outside of Edinburgh Castles' ramparts three times prior to 2016, twice to Sydney in 2005 and 2010 and once to New Zealand in 2000. Following the shows success in Melbourne, the Tattoo then crossed 'The Ditch' to Wellington as part of the New Zealand Arts Festival.



The Cornet Section at Full Dress rehearsals.

The Tattoo unites Military Musicians and performers from across the globe that may never have the opportunity of working together in any other arena. With a cast of over 1200 coming from seven different countries for this year's performance, new friendships were inevitably formed.

Working within a Tri-Service environment sparks new friendships and reunites old friends within our own military music world. Many of the musicians from the Royal Australian Navy Band, Australian Army Band Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Band that performed in this year's show, travelled to Edinburgh, Scotland in 2012. The 2012 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo was the first time Australian Defence Force Bands had the honour of performing in the pinnacle of Military Tattoos. During this time many at home and intercontinental friendships were formed and these bonds were strengthened by the Tattoo once again coming to our shores.

Director of Music – Navy, LCDR Steven Stanke said, "Despite the minor service differences, ADF Bands combine very well as we all have a tremendous pride in our product. Performing in The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, especially in Australia, ranks as highly as any international performance in personal satisfaction and national pride." An amazing phenomenon occurs when musicians from across

different services and from around the world are reunited, regardless of language barriers or cultural differences. The initial friendship, no matter how brief the meeting, is rekindled and picked up in the same place it left off - almost as if no time has passed at all.



RAN Band Melbourne in front of the replica Edinburgh Castle at Etihad Stadium (image AB Aaron Pink)

With the world being made ever smaller by social media, we are kept aware of what our friends across the seas are doing but do we ever really, truly take it all in? A 'like' of a photo or a brief comment, all whilst scrolling through our news feeds gives a perception of closeness however when you finally meet up once again, you realise that social media can not make up for the 'human element.' Royal Australian Navy Band has had many musicians transfer to our ranks from the British Armed Forces. For two of our musicians, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Australia provided the opportunity for Leading Seaman Musician Stuart Malcolm and Able Seaman Musician Jonathan Rendell to reunite with former colleagues from the United Kingdom.



ABMUSN Jonathan Rendell with members of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Band that he joined HMRM with. (image AB Aaron)

LS Malcolm served a career of 10 years as a member of the Band of the Welsh Guards prior to transferring to RAN Band in 2006. Since then Leading Seaman Malcolm has been posted to both RAN Band Melbourne and Sydney and in 2009 was deployed in HMAS Darwin for three months on a South East Asia tour. During this trip LS Malcolm visited a number of countries including Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia. Last year he returned to this region with



Australia's Federation Guard as bugler for the Borneo Veteran's 70th anniversary mission. He has also performed in several military tattoos around the world with the RAN Band, including Nanchang - China, Brunei, Hong Kong and The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney. On speaking with members of the Welsh Guards Band who served with LS Malcolm in the UK, one Guardsman said, "We hope you don't mind but we are going to take Stu back with us as long as he gets rid of that crazy sailors' beard! It has been amazing having the chance to work with him once again."

In March 2009 Her Majesty's Royal Marines Bandsman - Musician Jonathan Rendell came to Australia as part of Operation Long Look. Long Look is a six month exchange program between the Australian Defence Force and British Armed Forces. Jonathan enjoyed his time with the Royal Australian Navy Band so much that he promptly began looking into the process of transferring from Her Majesty's Royal Marines Band Service to the Royal Australian Navy Band after returning to the UK and completing his minimum service requirement.

There may have been more to his story, as he happened to meet his future wife ABMUSN Belinda Rendell – nee Knowles – during his exchange in Australia. They were married on 25 April 2011 after Belinda took two years leave without pay to live in Plymouth with Jonathan. Once immigrating to Australia and following a successful audition in 2012, ABMUSN Jonathan Rendell enlisted into the Royal Australian Navy on 19 August 2013. "This years Tattoo has afforded me the opportunity to meet up with five members

of HMRM that I joined the service with. If it wasn't for the Tattoo, we may not have had the chance to work together again." AB Rendell said.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has also afforded the Australian Defence Force an opportunity of bringing Pipers and Drummers together from across all Categories, Corps and Mustering to form a Tri-Service ensemble known as the Pipes and Drums of the Australian Defence Force. The uniform and tartan worn by the group is one that the likes have never been seen before in the ADF. All of the members of this ensemble were kitted up in the same uniform, with some single Service accoutrements such as belts, buckles, badges and shoulder boards being the identifiers of the Service they belong to. The tartan that they wore is that of the Australian Defence Force Academy. This tartan represents all three services with green and gold for Australia and white for academia added to the mix.

Being part of the Tattoo is an amazing experience. With the ability to bring people together from across the globe, share cultures, showcase world-class military music and create unique opportunities for all involved (and that's before we even get on stage) the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo really is a 'World in Union'.

ABMUSN Ellen Zyla



Tri Service Bands of ADF (Image LSIS Dove Smithett)

2016 Members List By Intake Year

1940's

GRIFFITH Jack	1940	QLD
BERGMAN Ron	1944	VIC
WESTERN Len	1944	VIC
BEESON Max	1945	VIC
McDonough Jim	1947	QLD
PLEASS Jack	1947	NSW
GRANTER Don	1949	NSW

1950s

HAINES Milton	1950	NSW
NICHOLS Sue	1950	NSW
LINCOLN Ted	1951	WA
LOCKE Ian	1951	VIC
MacNAMARA Ross	1951	NSW
ROBERTSON Ken	1951	VIC
CROMPTON Gordon	1952	VIC
FARRELL AM Bill	1952	WA
GWYNNE Robert	1952	VIC
KELLAS Randall	1952	SA
COLLINSON Evelyn	1953	QLD
EDWARDS Ron	1953	QLD
HANDFIELD Wally	1953	NSW
JEFFREY Robert	1953	VIC
JERRARD Jerry	1953	NSW
MARTIN Peter	1953	QLD
McKENZIE John	1953	QLD
POLLOCK Barry	1953	VIC
WOODHOUSE Alan	1953	VIC
BUNTINE Don	1954	VIC
BURGESS Edward	1954	NSW
HENRY (Life M) R.	1954	NSW
HURE Roger	1954	NSW
WATSON Rick	1954	QLD
BUCHANAN Colin	1955	WA
COLLINS Bill	1955	NSW
FOALE Kevin	1955	WA
NEWBY Darrel	1955	NSW
SUMMERSON Ken	1955	QLD
BROWN Ken	1956	VIC
FAY Des	1956	VIC
HOGG Alan	1956	VIC
JAMES Bill	1956	WA
JONES Neville	1956	QLD
PEARCE Robert	1956	QLD
STATHIS Jim	1956	QLD
WATSON Jesse	1956	WA
BREWER Fred	1957	WA
BUDDLE Anthony	1957	NSW

HAYNES Lochmond	1957	WA
HODGE Dick	1957	NSW
SEMMLER Keith	1957	QLD
CRONAN Sno	1958	TAS
FENLON Trevor	1958	QLD
HIMBURY Robin	1958	NSW
HOUSTON Hugh	1958	NSW
MORRIS Colin	1958	VIC
NEWTON Maurice	1958	NSW
NURSE Len	1958	VIC
SOUTAR Robert	1958	VIC
WILLSHIRE Mal	1958	NSW
FARRUGIA Paul	1959	VIC
HAWKINS (LM) Jim	1959	NSW
KNOWLES Vic	1959	QLD
THOMPSON Bill	1959	VIC
WIDDICOMBE John	1959	NSW
WORTHAM Michael	1959	NSW

1960's

HEATH Robert	1960	NSW
HIGGS Michael	1960	VIC
JACKSON Gordon	1960	QLD
KANNENGIESSER P	1960	NSW
Lloyd Paul	1960	SA
PARNELL David	1960	QLD
ROCHE John	1960	NSW
SMITH Clive	1960	NSW
WILLIAMSON Trevor	1960	QLD
ARROWSMITH Peter	1961	WA
CALLAGHAN John	1961	QLD
CARKEET Brenda	1961	NSW
CROSS Eric	1961	VIC
LAWRENCE Barry	1961	NSW
LEEKE Mick	1961	QLD
TORRENS Brian	1961	NSW
DAINES Ralph	1962	NSW
FOSTER Gerry	1962	NSW
HUNT Trevor (TC)	1962	NSW
MANSFIELD Brian	1962	QLD
MUNGOVAN Lindsay	1962	NSW
THOMPSON Bob	1962	NSW
TORRENS Karl	1962	NSW
WHELDON Michael	1962	VIC
BAUERS Peter	1963	NSW
BEDWELL Robert	1963	NSW
JENKINS Barry	1963	NSW
JONES John	1963	VIC
McLEOD Peter	1963	NSW

MORGAN Eric	1963	TAS
THOMAS Kevan	1963	VIC
THORNTON John	1963	WA
CODLING Mal	1964	VIC
ELLIS Brian	1964	TAS
HOWDEN Reg	1964	SA
MARSHALL Chris	1964	NSW
MARTIN Phil	1964	QLD
RIDOUT Kevin	1964	VIC
SANKEY Robert	1964	QLD
BASKERVILLE Derek	1965	VIC
BULL Robert	1965	VIC
McFerran Jim	1965	NSW
McGuinness Keith	1965	NSW
McLaughlin Robert	1965	QLD
MONK Ken	1965	TAS
RUSHWORTH Kim	1965	VIC
SWINGLER John	1965	QLD
WILLIAMSON Paul	1965	SA
WRIGHT Leslie	1965	NSW
YOUNGLOVE Tony	1965	NSW
BENTLEY Robert	1966	TAS
BLACKMORE Reg	1966	SA
CRUISE John	1966	SA
DOWNTON Roger	1966	SA
LENARTAS Aif	1966	NSW
MACKNESS Steven	1966	WA
MULLER Graham	1966	QLD
PEARCE Bevan	1966	WA
DICKMAN Craig	1967	NSW
DRYSDALE Doug	1967	SA
EZERGAILIS John	1967	SA
GODLEMAN Frank	1967	TAS
KENNEDY Bert	1967	QLD
LEWIS David	1967	QLD
MAKIN Andre	1967	QLD
McCALLUM Ken	1967	QLD
McNALLY G (Blue)	1967	NSW
MIDDLETON Bill	1967	WA
POST Bill	1967	VIC
ROBINSON Bob	1967	QLD
TORRY Mal	1967	VIC
GALLAGHER Patrick	1968	NSW
HANRATTY John	1968	WA
HILLIER OAM Kevin	1968	VIC
LENNON John	1968	QLD
LUNNISS David	1968	QLD
MAZLIN David	1968	NSW
PRICE Lindsay	1968	NSW

2016 Members List By State

ROBINSON Michael	1968	WA	KENT Les	1974	VIC	PARNELL Paul	1988	NSW
SANDER Garry	1968	QLD	PAGE Michael	1974	WA	1990s		
THATCHER Mel	1968	NSW	CHAY Ron	1975	QLD	TYRIE Glenn	1993	ACT
THOMPSON RM M	1968	VIC	GRANGER Dale	1975	VIC	FOSTER Iain	1994	VIC
COUGHRAN_LANE R	1969	VIC	MCGUINNESS Jeff	1975	NSW	BEDWELL Georgina	1996	NSW
Gutteridge Colin	1969	NSW	MILLS Ray	1975	VIC	2000's		
HATCH Errol	1969	VIC	WILL Andrew	1975	QLD	SEBASTIAN Robert	2009	NSW
KRAUSE Gary	1969	NSW	BUNCE Geoff	1976	NSW	Our Reservist Colleagues		
STUCAS Leon	1969	QLD	CRACKNELL Steve	1976	SA	CLARK Nick	NSW RANR	NSW
THOMSON David	1969	TAS	CREEK Tony	1976	NSW	CROW Kevin	NSW RANR	NSW
1970's			HARDSTAFF David	1976	TAS	GRIFFITHS Ross	NSW RANR	NSW
ANDREWS Bevan	1970	QLD	HEELS Peter	1976	NSW	TOWNS Lindsey	NSW RANR	NSW
ASHBURNER Peter	1970	WA	NEWHAM Phillip	1976	JAP	WEST John	NSW RANR	NSW
BUTLER Dean	1970	SA	DORNEY Ian	1977	NSW	DOUGLAS Peter	QLD RANR	QLD
GAILER Bob	1970	NSW	DOWLER Raymond	1977	VIC	JOHNSON Ralph	QLD RANR	QLD
GILLESPIE Martyn	1970	SA	LINCOLN Ken	1977	QLD	MCINTYRE Rohan	QLD RANR	QLD
GREENTREE Roger	1970	NSW	SKINNER Kirk	1977	VIC	REDMAN Keith	QLD RANR	QLD
HESTLETOW Ray	1970	NSW	WILLIAMS Harry	1977	VIC	COPLEY David	SA RANR	SA
LANHAM Allan	1970	QLD	ANDERSON Lachlan	1978	VIC	BLACKWELL Peter	VIC RANR	VIC
ROURKE Andrew	1970	WA	COTTIER Paul	1978	NSW	MILLITZ Denes	VIC RANR	VIC
JONES Ralph	1971	SA	COTTIER Steven	1978	VIC	PAUL Jeff	VIC RANR	VIC
ROYLE Harry	1971	NSW	CLEVELAND Phil	1979	QLD	REED Michael	VIC RANR	VIC
SHEW Geoff	1971	WA	HOLLAND Mark	1979	NSW	TODD Bob	VIC RANR	VIC
THRING Ed	1971	QLD	SANSOM Andrew	1979	NSW	BARRETT Nigel	WA RANR	WA
BROWNE Ian	1972	NSW	VINE David	1979	VIC	BULLIARD Gilbert J	WA RANR	WA
GRAINGER John	1972	QLD	1980's			COBB Peter	WA RANR	WA
Johns Stephen	1972	NSW	FENNEY Allan	1980	VIC	GOLDSWORD Arie	WA RANR	WA
O'MEARA David	1972	VIC	KARR John	1980	VIC	MAIS Lloyd	WA RANR	WA
SEARLE Gary	1972	NSW	TAYLOR Barry	1980	QLD	MANN Barry	WA RANR	WA
TURNER Howard	1972	QLD	DAWSON Geoff	1981	VIC	MANN Brian	WA RANR	WA
ANTONOFF Doug	1973	VIC	LUCAS John	1982	VIC	REITZENSTEIN L	WA RANR	WA
BEKENDAM Bill	1973	WA	FAIRBAIRN Andrew	1984	WA	REYNOLDS Mitford	WA RANR	WA
Fraser Richard	1973	SA	JENKINS Lyndon	1984	WA	STARKIE Nadene	WA RANR	WA
O'HARA Paul	1973	NSW	KANDILAS Dionysos	1985	NSW	TAIT Edward	WA RANR	WA
WILKINSON Steven	1973	VIC	ROBINSON Glenn	1985	WA	TIMMS Arthur	WA RANR	WA
COCKING Trevor	1974	VIC	JARVIS Sharon	1987	VIC			
EKIN Terry	1974	VIC	ORAM Rebecca	1988	NSW			



Royal Australian Navy Band Reunion Melbourne, MARCH 2017



Melbourne is your next destination for the RAN Band Association reunion and the Victorian steering committee plan to make this an experience to remember. March has been chosen as the month for the celebrations as Melbourne turns on its best weather and activities at this time. Members can enjoy our reunion and the Festival of Moomba or stay on for the Grand Prix week or even sit back and relax around the bay or venture off into the Dandenong's, the attractions are plentiful.

The committee will organise events over four days and apart from our official functions you can enjoy each others company with association organised events and tours.