



# Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

Spring Edition 2016

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



**Ipoh, Malaysia.  
June 7th to the 12th, 2016  
Full story inside plus the  
2017 Melbourne Reunion.**

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



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The later part of the winter period before our Spring edition is released is usually pretty quite, so thank heavens that the first part of winter was busy, otherwise we would not have much to tell.

This year the Veterans Band trip to Malaysia was a jam packed experience and there is plenty to tell you about and photo's galore through the pages of the magazine.

Our upcoming reunion has plenty to report also and those that are not email driven will find all the details inside. The response has been excellent already and I have included FAQ's in the back of the magazine for those specific issues that have cropped up.

Another financial year has ended and we have the Balance sheet for our 2015/16 period being reported on and we have from the report maintained a strong position over the last 12 months. Along with the subs now starting to come in the 2016/17 period for the association is looking good. More inside.

A new column to the magazine is the HMAS Cerberus museum section. This over the coming year will be a significant and interesting column, as you help create a unique Band branch section and contribute items to its growth.

So, I hope you enjoy this edition and as always your contributions are important doesn't matter how small.

Enjoy the read.

Your Editor.



Ralph Daines performing "Strangers on the Shore" at one of our many concerts held in Ipoh, Malaysia in June 2016.



## Presidents Report

John Widdicombe

Our association is sailing well. We can still muster enthusiastically for reunions and get together, and for those interested in playing, we have the activities of our RAN Veterans band. Of course keeping this all running takes a lot of management and organisation and we have a hard working and devoted committee taking on these challenges on your behalf. But without member support even a good management committee can achieve little, so remember it's your Association and everything it stands for and does is for you as members. So give a lot of thought to attending our reunions, and supporting our Veterans Band whether you are playing or not, as you and your family are very welcome to join in the band's undertakings.

Congratulations to all who ventured to Ipoh. Obviously from the articles - printed elsewhere in the Magazine - the trip was a huge success and the band, under the baton and leadership of Doug Drysdale was most impressive. Congratulations Doug and thank you for your contribution and expertise. A special welcome to all the non ex-Navy Muso's who assisted in filling vital positions in the band and swelling the numbers. I hope you all felt very welcome both as players and socially. We are proud of our Band and proud to have you on board. Thanks yet again to Ralph and Cheryle for all the preparation and organisation so ably carried out.

It's pleasing to see the state reps flowing those interesting reports into the Magazine. Don't forget that as a member it's your duty to keep your state rep well informed with any goings on. Many of us have very close friends living in other states, and remember we are all in that slowing down time

of life, so this is a great way to keep up to date with each other, particularly with those who are not travelling so well.

Thanks to those who passed on their very interesting Anzac day activities. There are certainly a lot of us taking part in the Anzac Day parades and ceremonies around the states, particularly in smaller places outside the big cities.

We must turn our attention now to the Melbourne Reunion. Please make every effort to be there. I can think of nowhere more suitable for a Band reunion than Frankston. Perhaps it will spark new stories and things from the past to talk about, or even family history memoirs as I think many Bandy's families started there, with many bandies' children being born in the Frankston Hospital. There might even be moments of nostalgia in visiting old haunts and the houses we once lived in. I know I have very fond memories of my time there, and surely we all look forward to what is an overdue visit to Cerberus.

Many thanks to Errol and his band of merry music-making sailors for the great reunion informative brochure. There is no excuse now for not knowing what's going on and what's happening down Cerberus way next March.

So start preparing - empty your credit card and fill your suitcase, that's all you'll need for the Sunny South Victorian Reunion.



## Treasurer Report

Errol Hatch

The 2015/16 Financial year was my first full year where our computer invoicing system played a significant part in issuing and receipting our subscriptions. It also re-issued statements after the initial invoice showing members any other outstanding amounts. This proved a bonus as nearly all cleared past subs giving the balance sheet a healthy lift.

I must admit there were one or two outstanding subs that were paid but not taken up in the previous year but thanks to those that questioned their statements I was able to acknowledge them. This helps to clean up part subs so don't hesitate to let me know if you feel you have paid previously.

Also thanks to those that have added donations to the subs payments, these are always appreciated and help strengthen our bottom line. Our merchandise section has also added to our coffers, though not as profitable we do recover our cost

with a small profit. We will be reviewing our merchandise section with the upcoming reunion and also the postage side of the ledger especially with Australia Post drastically increasing their charges.

The Veterans Band trip to Ipoh was predominantly covered by members paying their way, but this tour used a small portion of the Veterans Bands surplus due to some unforeseen transport and food costs.

So, all in all a successful year just gone and the following page gives you detail and graph of where our association is at financially.

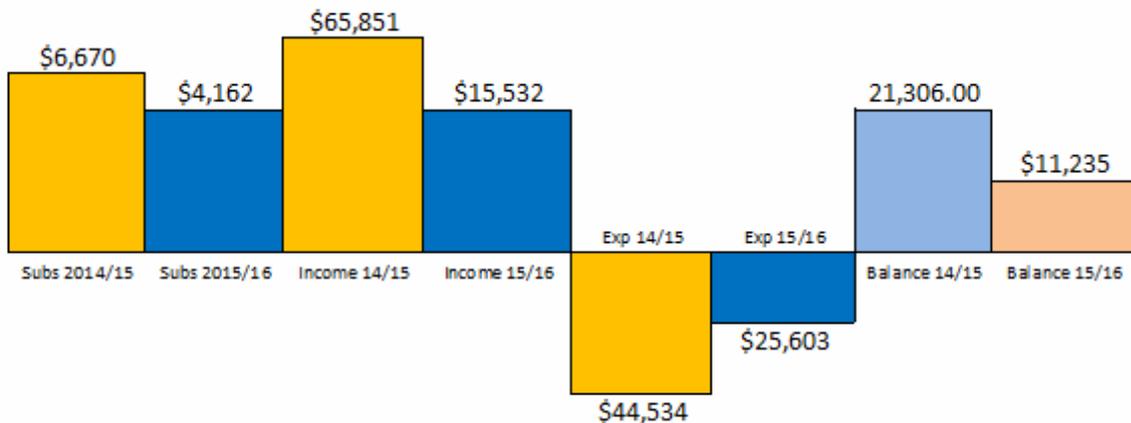
For Now.

Errol Hatch.



## Royal Australian Navy Band Financials 2015/2016

<b>Brought Forward:</b>	<b>2015/2016</b>	<b>2014/2015</b>
	ANZ	
	\$21,306.91	\$2,063.33
		\$6,603.28
 <b><u>Income</u></b>		
Subscriptions	\$4,162.00	\$6,670.00
Donations	\$400.00	\$5,540.00
2015 Reunion	\$5,803.00	\$4,755.00
Merchandise	\$436.00	\$92.00
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.78
Thursday Island	\$0.00	\$40,116.80
IPOH Tour	\$4,731.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,532.00</b>	<b>\$65,841.19</b>
 <b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Bank Fees	\$0.00	\$33.00
Printing & Setup	\$2,856.73	\$2,319.00
Post	\$457.70	\$821.06
Phones	\$0.00	\$153.39
Stationery	\$431.85	\$534.68
Merch Purchases	\$697.97	\$2,449.26
Cap purchases	\$2,431.00	\$132.30
Thursday Island	\$0.00	\$38,091.56
2015 Reunion	\$11,391.05	\$0.00
IPOH Tour	\$7,337.53	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,603.83</b>	<b>\$44,534.28</b>
 <b>Closing Bank Balances</b>		
	ANZ	
	\$11,235.08	\$15,784.62
Veterans Band Portion of Bank Balance	-\$2,918.47	-\$5,525.00
	\$10	\$2,950.07
	\$10.9	\$2,572.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,235.08</b>	<b>\$21,306.91</b>





## Secretaries Report

John Lennon

As we move towards the end of 2016 much planning has been going on in Victoria by Errol and the Victorian committee for next year's RAN Band Association reunion at Frankston. From the feedback so far it is shaping up to be a very memorable reunion which may also be the last opportunity for many of us to visit HMAS Cerberus before commencement of major infrastructural capital works and re-development.

I would imagine a number of historically valuable buildings would be immune from the redevelopment. I am aware that a number of members attending the reunion are doing so for the opportunity to visit HMAS Cerberus. I would imagine the last image of HMAS Cerberus for some members were well over 50 years ago, and at the time, they would have been glad to see the back end of the place. The Victorian's have included a well planned visit to the Historical precinct which encompasses the old School of Music which is now the administration centre for the HMAS Cerberus museum.

This edition will see the end of our DVA recognition assistance articles with Errol & I hoping that it has assisted members seeking recognition of illnesses & disabilities sustained whilst serving in the RAN Band. Each edition I try to focus on a theme and this time I would like to touch on personal safety as we get older. I was prompted by a couple of personal incidents that made me reassess how I respond to aggression and assess my personal safety.

I have lived in the same house and area for the last 26 years and have always felt safe and secure and would not hesitate to challenge anyone who either threatened my safety or the safety of my family. I have noticed in the last few years a frightening tendency by some of our youth to be aggressively disrespectful and violent to anyone in authority. I had a recent incident out the front of my house

where a young person was riding in my street on an unregistered trail bike, which prompted me to go out the front to witness his stupidity. This prompted his mate to give me a gob full of foul mouthed crap which ignited a fire in me that I thought had gone out and I called him on his comments.

He was all of about 15 or 16 and had pox marks and sores on his face, and Mike Tyson type face tattoos, which had me making the quick assessment that this guy is a drug addict. As we come face to face I sucked in my gut, puffed out my chest and took a firm stand which at least kept him at a safe distance. The conversation that followed was tense and I never took my eyes off his hands until he walked away. After he left I went inside and went to the bathroom to spray disinfectant over myself and while I was there looked in the mirror and it was then that I saw this old man.

I thought to myself you bloody idiot, I was lucky I didn't get a knife driven into my chest. The lesson for me was don't confront these type of people at my age, or maybe look at establishing my own chapter of a Outlaw Motorcycle club. If one of these type of gentleman had witnessed this young person's treatment of me as a returned serviceman it would of taken a team of Orthopaedic surgeons to put him back together.

Regards

John Lennon

Secretary

*Editors Notes:*

*Due to the number of Ipoh features in this issue I have left the final DVA article till the next edition.*



**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](http://www.ranbandassoc.net) for more information.

Celebrating 45 years since the release of "Bluewater Men"





### Correspondence to Paul Baker, Composer for the dedicated Veterans Bands March, Waltzing Old Mates.

Good morning Paul,

I listened to your March yesterday and was impressed.

For you to offer the March be dedicated to the Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band is indeed a kind gesture, one I would like to accept on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band and the Committee of the Royal Australian Navy Band Association.

It was a pleasure having you as part of the RANVB in Ipoh and also to be able to play one of your newest compositions, Cinta Kinta, in it's premier performance in Taiping and each of our Concerts in Ipoh there after. I assure you that the RANVB will be performing Up Periscope and Taiping Suite in future Concerts.

If you could please forward to me the parts of Waltzing Mates Older I will add to our library. On reflection, would you consider renaming the March, Waltzing Old Mates?

Look forward to catching up in the future.

Kindest regards,

Ralph Daines.

### Association Member John Jones writes:

I have been asked if I would like a few words said about my wife Joan, who passed away 18 July last. Joan was navy through and through, and some of you knew her, so if you let me say a few words about her I'd be grateful.

Joan and I married in 1970. That's before I left the RAN, and she was my life partner through the whole of my orchestral career. I know that some of you will remember her. Joan was a WW2 veteran, of England which didn't entitle her to any favours in Australia, as you would know. Joan was very interested in the Submarines Association, so I may quote from that profile.

Joan served in the RN 1944 to 1949. On completion of basic training, she served in several RN establishments, including HMS Dolphin which gave the connection to the submarine branch. Joan described the somewhat better state of supplies in surrendering U-boats at wars end as a revelation.

Joan was active as Treasurer in the Submarines Association Victoria Branch for 25 years.

The bare bones of Joan's life as I know them are that she journeyed to Australia with husband number one who set up the photographic branch in the RAN. Joan was working at Cone's timberyard Port Melbourne when we married.

Humour was an integral part of Joan's existence. Attending a concert, if the piece was a modern work of the 'squeaky gate' variety, she'd ask the MSO's managing director "where did you get that??" Never one to mince words, our Joan. Trevor Green had an English sense of humour, luckily for me next day.

### Ipoh Veterans Band Tour.

Hi Ralph.

A big thanks to yourself and Cheryle for organizing such a successful tour. I had a great time, enjoyed the playing and sharing company with a great bunch of musicians their wives and partners. How many ex Australian Service bands can boast of having a current British High Commissioner as a groupie? Watching for the next installment.

The link that you listed below for Paul's composition didn't work for me however here is one that did: <https://youtu.be/c56y7B1z6Mk>

Cheers

Bruce Munchenberg.

Joan for the final seven months lived in a memory-support unit at Brighton. There is humour even there I found. One day I was called with the request to come over and calm Joan. She was marching Homer up and down the passages thinking she was with her husband. Homer was a handsome man, the mistake was understandable. When I entered the unit Joan realised at once, and we had a happy and calmer hour. I spent a great deal of time visiting Mayflower; I was determined to assist in making Joan's stay as 'normal' as it was possible for it to be.

About three weeks later, the supervising nurse of the unit revealed to me the conversation she had overheard that day. Joan had been saying to Homer, "...we are married." Homer's reply, "I'm married to Brenda." Joan's response, "ok, you will have to make a choice!"

Joan was blessed with wonderful friends.



This column will be a fixture in our magazine from now on as there is so much to tell you about the goings on at the museum at HMAS Cerberus.

## History so Far....

Significant changes to the funding and personnel of the museum have occurred over the last 12 months and there is now added tasks of WO Marty Grogan and his team of volunteers to continue to keep the museum relevant. It has been an enormous task with the number of donated memorabilia items and the correspondence that passes the desk of Marty daily and the amount of politics that goes with it.

Along with WO Marty Grogan, is long time veteran of the museum, John De Douglas who has seen it all and with his encyclopaedia of knowledge keeps all aspects of the history of the Navy and its protocols relevant. The School of Music building is the current holding area for said artefacts while the Gunnery school contains all the archival documents and photos that have been collected. It is these areas that the attention of the volunteers is most focused. Though there has been a login system of some sorts into a log book and related software it is somewhat disappointing that many items have disappeared either to other museums or someone's individual collection.

It is a credit to John and Marty that they have managed to locate where a lot of it has gone and attempted to get it returned. There is a current drive to catalogue where things currently exist throughout the base and beyond and to make the museum more secure now it is controlled by a dedicated team.

## The Future.....

With a limited funding base the museum now relies on those visiting the museum to pay. It is a very small amount but will help with sundry costs to run the administration side. Branches that want to upgrade their displays or add additional features now have to fund the cost involved in doing so. The museum spent tens of thousands of dollars on museum quality display cabinets and have created a wonderful experience when viewing the displays. For the museum to continue its world class displays this style of cabinets needs to be maintained.



## Band Branch.....

The Band Branch has a unique opportunity to add a significant piece of history to the museum as we have been assigned a large proportion of one of the rooms to mount our display. This will be at a cost though as I envisage that we will need to spend up to \$5,000 on cabinetry for our Branch to mount a premier presentation.

I therefore propose that we hold a national raffle to raise funds for this cause. The raffle will be the "2017 RAN Band Reunion Museum Refurbishment" Raffle. We will issue books of 25 tickets @ \$5.00 a ticket or 3 for \$10.00 to sell with the draw to be announced on the 5th of December and winners to be notified and listed in our Christmas edition of the magazine.

Sellers will also have the opportunity to win something by going into a draw.

### Prizes will be:

**1st Prize:** A \$3,000 Flight Centre Gift voucher for the winner to spend on any travel or Holiday package.

**2nd Prize:** KORG B1 Digital Piano valued at \$799 (delivered to your door)

**3rd Prize:** MARSHALL Acton Compact Stereo Speaker system with Bluetooth Valued at \$499.

Sellers will have the opportunity to win a \$250.00 gift voucher of their choice.

Now we have a better banking system controlling the ticket income, the issuing of ticket stubs and their return will be more efficiently so we should have a successful raffle. Those wanting (hoping all) to participate can contact me on 0400 706 503 to request books or via our website or email at [admin@ranbandassoc.net](mailto:admin@ranbandassoc.net).

More on this on the inside back page of our magazine.



## Commitments by you.....

I have had a commitment from a few with donations/loans to our section of the museum but I'm sure there is a lot more

of you out there that have an important piece of history that would fit. Our branch is unique when it comes to history as we have significant things to display from specific periods. Our recorded album collection is a good example as each decade (and in between) has a recording taking us in to the next. With members listed on most we can see those that have come and gone, those that moved up through the ranks and those that reached the pinnacle as our Directors.

## What's currently happening at the museum.....

The team are in the throgs of moving from the Chelsea RSL all of the HMAS Sydney (all ships) displayed artefacts that were there, to a new room at the museum. This is a major project as there were many neglected pieces from all of the Sydney's not on display that now will be. We are restoring the current cabinets of the models (see photo's) and these will be the backbone of the display. Along with Marty's collection this room will have significance to the 60's generation as it also sits next store to the "Navy in Vietnam " Display. This display will be ready for Open Day at HMAS Cerberus on the 23rd of October.

The following text is an insight to the redevelopment of HMAS Cerberus.



Restoring the display cabinet of the Sydney 3 model. This one has suffered the least amount of damage. Other models in the background.



The detail on the Sydney 3 brings back memories. Who remembers many an hour out on the Bofor landing.

## HMAS CERBERUS REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

From The NVN News Navy Victoria Network , July 2016 Volume 6 Edition 7.

The NVN Team, along with any ex-Navy personnel who ever had the 'pleasure' to undertake training at HMAS Cerberus (affectionately known as "The Cradle of the Navy") were thrilled to read the news last March that the Defence White Paper had earmarked \$500M to be spent on major upgrades and new facilities in this, the Navy's largest training base. The scope of work for the \$273M Phase 1 of "The Cerberus Redevelopment Project" is currently being refined for a 2017-18 start date. And according to the media release, more than \$200M has been allocated for subsequent stages. Investment of this magnitude certainly appears to secure the long-term future of Cerberus.

This reassurance, of course, has also been warmly welcomed by the Mornington Peninsula Shire and residents in the Western Port area as the Base and its inhabitants provide a significant benefit to the local economy of the region. The project will include the upgrade of underground engineering services including firefighting and potable water, storm water, sewer, gas, electrical and communications systems. These 'enabling services' will be progressively upgraded over a four year period to minimise the disruption to the training output of the Establishment. The above ground works include a combination of new and refurbished logistic and personnel support buildings in addition to training buildings to support RAN and ADF training capability requirements.

Before the planned works can commence in early 2018 there are several Defence and Government approval stages that are yet to be successfully navigated. The current proposed scope of work includes the following items: New ADF Physical Training School; New Marine Technician training building; New School of Survivability and Ship Safety buildings and practical training area; New Clothing and Naval Store building; New Junior Officer Living in Accommodation; Extensions to the Junior Sailor's Galley; and Refurbishment of Recruit and Category School Living-in Accommodation. The proposed works will also include the demolition of a number of buildings that have well and truly done their job over the years. Landscaping of these sites will be undertaken throughout the project. It is an exciting time for Cerberus as it approaches the 100th anniversary of delivering trained personnel to support the ADF.

The planned investment is also a very welcome indication of the Federal Government's commitment for training to continue at the Base for many decades to come. So if the ex-Navy readers of this edition of the NVN want to have one last look at Cerberus the way she has looked for many years, you had better 'get your skates on' and come down to the biennial "Open Day" planned for Sunday 23 October this year. Alternatively, you could try to convince the ex-Navy Associations to which you belong, to organise a bus trip and guided tour while you can. More information regarding the Federal Government's plans to increase Defence spending by \$29.9 Billion over the next decade to deliver the strategies and plans set out in the 2016 White Paper is available at [www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper](http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper)



# Veterans Band/Events Report

Ralph Daines

## IPOH, MALAYSIA June, 2016

In June of this year our Association's Veterans Band made the journey to Ipoh, in north western Malaysia to provide musical support to the annual "Ipoh Week of Remembrance." This week commemorates all those service men and women from the Commonwealth who served in Malaya in WW2 and the period 1948 to 1989, which includes the Malayan Emergency and The Indonesian Confrontation, and the Malay and Malaysian Forces. Many of our Association Members fall into that category.

Each year the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association of Australia attend the event and on the opening day of the week hold a Remembrance Service in Taiping for 28 Australian Soldiers and 10 dependants who are buried at the Christian Cemetery, it is a credit to the NMBVA that they make this pilgrimage to the forgotten.

These men may be forgotten by Australia, but they are not by the locals. I was leaving the cemetery after Doug Drysdale and I had been checking space for our involvement, when an old Malaysian man approached me, hugged me and said "thank you for coming to honour your men", it made the trip so much more meaningful.

I won't say anything more about the trip, as it will be written about by many, but what a performance by your Band, one day rehearsal for a 34 piece band and the music quality was excellent. If you want to hear some video clips on Facebook, go to the Veterans Band Ipoh page, it is a closed page, ask to enter and I will be notified and will let you in.

The Association now has its own official march, called Waltzing Old Mates and arranged by a former Royal Marine Bandsman, Paul Baker, who lives in Malaysia and played in each of our performances. Keep an eye out for when the premier performance will be, it is being worked on now.

The following 4 pages were put together by a member of the National Malaya Borneo Veterans Association,

Peter Kelly, who attended the Commemorations and was very impressed with everything the Band did, he also has made a donation to our Association.

The other page is from a local Ipoh newspaper, the Echo. A full report on the trip is further in the magazine.

## Melbourne 2017 Reunion

Featured in the magazine is the complete itinerary of the Melbourne reunion and what a packed weekend the Victorian organising committee have in store for us.

I urge you to get you bookings in early so they (the organising committee) have a good indication of numbers and get your accommodation organised now. There are some great accommodation rates going at the moment on the internet and with only 6 months to go they will only get dearer.

The concert program for the reunion has proved to be very popular and with nearly a 50 piece band putting their hands up to play we look forward to a memorable concert. More details will follow over the coming weeks with regards to the distribution of music and other important info about the reunion, so watch this space.

## Remembrance Day Central Coast, 10th & 11th November.

I am looking for interested players to be part of the Veterans Band on the 10th & 11th November for the dedication & remembrance ceremonies of a new memorial and a concert in the Village where I live on the NSW Central Coast.

If you are interested in playing please let me know and I can give you more details on what will be happening with accommodation etc.

For Now.

Ralph Daines.



## FEATURE



### RAN Veterans' Band supports pilgrimage



## First time Malaysian trip to pay tribute to servicemen killed in Malaysian Emergency



The Australian Defence Adviser to Malaysia, Group Captain Wendy Horder, and the British High Commissioner to Malaysia, Her Excellency Vicki Treadell, were in awe of the RAN Veterans' Band during its support trip to Ipoh, in the northern area of peninsula Malaysia.

The trip was jointly organised by the Warriors' Association of Malaysia — similar to our RSL— and the National Malayan and Borneo Veterans Association of Australia to pay their respects to the Australians, British, Gurkha and other Commonwealth service personnel who were killed during the Malaysian Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation conflicts.

At a ceremony and lunch held in the Ipoh Town Hall after the main official ceremony, the band performed

with other local and Gurkha musicians and won the heart of the British officer.

The Ipoh Cenotaph was the centre of the main ceremony during the



LEFT: The British High Commissioner, Vicki Treadell, who asked the band to return.

four-day ceremonial visit, which included performance at the Kanunting Road Christian Cemetery in Taiping, in which 28 Australians diggers are buried, the Church of the Holy Trinity Cemetery in Batu Gaja, which is known locally as "God's Little Acre", the Gurkha Cemetery in the barracks of

the 2nd Royal Ranger Regiment of the Malaysian Army in Tambun Road, Ipoh, as well as providing musical support at informal gatherings such as the Taiping New Club and the Troops Night at the River front Hotel in Ipoh.

Later during the pilgrimage, the British High Commissioner to Malaysia, Her Excellency Vicki Treadell, unsparingly praised the professionalism and dedication of the band and its conductor, Doug Drysdale, on their sterling support for the event.

She almost pleaded with the band to come again next year.

Doug Drysdale is a former RAN band member and was also a member of the South Australian Police Band. A Drums and Pipes team of Gurkhas were flown in from Brunei to take part in the ceremony, particularly at the Gurkha Cemetery in Ipoh.

RSL QUEENSLAND  
HERE FOR THEM FOR 100 YEARS.



## FEATURE

### RAN Veterans' Band supports pilgrimage



## Band put on a concert for the local townsfolk at the New Club in Taiping

**F**ollowing its ceremonial duties at the Taiping ceremony, the Band was again in action, playing an hour-long concert for residents of Taiping at the New Club.

The event was a huge hit. As would become the norm, the Band played while everyone else sat down to lunch.

After the concert the

players had less than half an hour to have their lunch, pack up and hit the road again.

The Taiping Cemetery contains 28 Australian soldiers' graves.

During the 12-year-long Emergency, a total of 37 Australians were killed.

**TOP PIC:** The Band at the Taiping New Club concert.



**ABOVE:** Space was so tight at the Taiping Cemetery, the Band had to squeeze in among some of the graves.



**ABOVE:** Malaysian Army Rangers raise the Australian and Malaysian flags at Taiping.



## FEATURE

### RAN Veterans' Band supports pilgrimage

## Son of a legendary RSM paid his respects

**A**mong the members of the RAN Veterans' Band was trombonist Patrick Steer, pictured at right, who is the son of former RMC Duntroon and AHQ RSM, Peter Steer.

Peter was a 6ft 7inch member of the King's Company, Grenadier Guards and he first came to Australia as the batman to the Governor of Victoria shortly before the outbreak of WW2

After WW2 service he joined the Australian Army as a WO1 in 1952 and served in Korea with 2RAR and later became the RSM of the Battalion.

Patrick served with 3RAR as a band member in 1961

and later with the RMC Duntroon Band when his father was the RSM there.

"Dad used to chip me for some imaginary dress blemish every time he inspected the Band," he said.

Patrick returned to 3RAR in 1963 and served in Malaysia, Thailand and was with 1Pl, A Company, 3RAR at Stass in Borneo during the Indonesian Confrontation campaign when Paddy Young was its CSM.

**RIGHT:** Patrick Steer checks a grave at the Gurkha cemetery.



## Gurkha ceremony was something special



**A**mong the other dignitaries attending the Gurkha ceremony at the 2nd Royal Ranger Regiment site in Ipoh were the Malaysian Ambassador to Nepal, His Excellency Dr Niranjana Man Singh Basnyat, and Consular and Military representatives of Australia, Britain and New Zealand, as well as the President of the Warriors Association of Malaysia, Dato R. Thambipillay.

A special VIP guest was the Colonel, Brigade of Gurkhas, Colonel James Robinson, who flew from Britain for the ceremony.

In a brief interview, Colonel Robinson said he was more commonly known in the Gurkha community as "The Tribal Chief."

To make it to the Gurkha ceremony, the Band had to pack up at "God's Little Acre" in Batu Gajah and race to the Rangers' camp in Ipoh to set up. It was not the first time the Band almost had to be in two places at once.

A lone, very nervous Gurkha bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille — at an earlier event, nerves had overcome the young bugler and a member of the RAN Veterans' Band had stood in for him. But in front of his Colonel, there was no way he could let the Gurkha side down.

**LEFT:** The Colonel, Brigade of Gurkhas, Colonel Robinson delivers his address.



## FEATURE



### RAN Veterans' Band supports pilgrimage



**We were not the only troops in town**

**RIGHT:** The Gurkha Pipes and Drums from Brunei, display their musical skills at the Troops Night at the Riverview Hotel concert in Ipoh.



**ABOVE:** Australian soldiers of 8/9RAR, based in Butterworth, Malaysia, mounted the Catafalque Party for the imposing ceremony at the Cenotaph in Ipoh. **INSET:** The Australian Catafalque Party.



## Remembrance Week: We Who Remain

The evergreen poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow came to mind during the remembrance week and beyond: "Your silent tents of green, we deck with fragrant flowers; Yours has the suffering been, the memory shall be ours." Pinning the red poppy to our coats, the spirit of the war memorials is to remember and enshrine those who have made the ultimate sacrifice beyond the shifting sands of time.

### Commemorative Line-Up

The week started off with the inaugural 1400m goodwill trophy race dedicated to the Tasmanian Turf Club and National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia at the Perak Turf Club (PTC) on Saturday, June 4. "To commemorate the event of them coming here for the memorial, we run this race. The veterans will present the prize, a wall clock, to the winner," Soo Lai Kwok, the general manager of PTC told Ipoh Echo. Will this be an annual event? "I would say so," Soo enthused.



Goodwill Trophy Race

Ipoh Echo did an exclusive one-on-one with Ken McNeill, the International Liaison Officer of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia. The Tasmanian-based Aussie veteran who was also the organiser of the Taiping service for Thursday, June 9 said: "At the Kamunting Road Christian Cemetery, we put Australian flags on their graves. This year we're bringing wooden crosses which have been inscribed by Australian school children and supplied by the Australian War Memorial. It will be placed at the gravesites too. The naval veteran band will play at the cemetery as well as at the Taiping New Club."

Ralph Daines, 70, attended the memorial for the first time last year. This time, he brought the Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band along for their first-ever performance in Malaysia. The 34-strong band played the clarinet, French horn, euphonium, trombone, oboe, alto saxophone, flute, trumpet and drum. It was incredibly admirable to see these ex-navy men hugging heavy instruments; all treated as if their own, in the hot sun for the whole week.

"We'll go anywhere where we can provide music for a remembrance service. Just playing is what keeps us young and happy," Daines, the vice president of the Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band, explained. He joined the band as a 15-year-old.

The Cenotaph War Memorial at the Ipoh Railway Station honours soldiers who died during the two World Wars, the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation. Not forgetting civilians and war prisoners who perished at the Thailand-Burma Death Railway between 1943 and 1945.

The naval veteran band was at the cenotaph on Friday, June 10. It performed together with the bagpipers from British Gurkha Regiment and the St Michael's Institution band. Organising chairperson, Dato' R. Thambipillay, stated, "This annual Ipoh sentinel remembrance has grown in significance. It's supported by the Armed Forces, the Royal Malaysia Police, Commonwealth High Commissions, Ipoh City Council, military veterans and schools in Ipoh. Our sincere gratitude goes to these people."

On Saturday, June 11, planters, miners, police personnel, Commonwealth troops and the general public who gave their lives during the Malayan Emergency were honoured during a memorial service at the God's Little Acre cemetery in Batu Gajah.



HE Vicki Treadell laying a wreath



Wreath laying at Syed Putra Camp



Dato' Thambipillay and HE Dr Niranjan

Organised by the Malaysian Palm Oil Association, guests attended a service at the Church of Holy Trinity before proceeding to lay wreaths at the memorial. Present were British High Commissioner, Her Excellency Vicki Treadell; Defence Adviser of New Zealand High Commission, Captain Keith Robb; Defence Adviser of Australian High Commission, Group Captain Wendy Horder and Vice Chairman of MPOA, Poh Syee Wha.

June 16, 1948 was the day when three British planters, Walker, Alison and Christian were murdered near Sungai Siput. "We must honour these young men from far flung corners of the British Empire who answered our call for help," Poh said.

The Gurkha remembrance service at Syed Putra Camp saw His Excellency Dr Niranjan Man Singh Basnyat, Ambassador of Nepal, presenting a donation of RM19,500 for the upkeep of the recently-built memorial to Dato' R. Thambipillay, president of Wira Association Malaysia.

### Time is a River

Time is catching up on those who have contributed to the memorial efforts here. Dearly missed is the late Professor Dr Colin Wendell-Smith, 88. A Brit who lived in Tasmania, Colin was a medical doctor serving the British Army during the Emergency. The gynaecologist then became a professor at the University of Tasmania. His first memorial service in Malaysia last year was his last, as he passed away in December. "Colin was a great man. He spent a lot of his life teaching. He loved to share his knowledge," Ken said.

According to Daines, some of the elderly players have to switch instruments, for instance to those with lesser tone holes, as their fingers are getting less mobile. Meanwhile, Hendrik Willem Hol and his Ipoh-born wife, Mee Yoke, may not be able to attend upcoming commemorations as Hendrik moves around with a walking aid.

"There are 28 Australian soldiers interred in Taiping from the 1950s. While I'm still alive I'll keep going there to conduct services for them. These fallen soldiers are virtually forgotten unless we gather there every year," 77-year-old Ken declared. He was enlisted at the age of 17 in the Royal Australian Air Force. He first came to Malaya in 1962 and has been involved in the Taiping remembrance service since 2007.

Ipoh Echo Team



Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band



## Western Australian Report

Bill Farrell

Hi to all you Eastern Staters from the Western Warriors. Not much will be said from this side concerning the recent trip to Malaysia because it is felt for certain that there will be many mentions from other sources about this foray in to the wilds of the jungle. Just let it be said that it was an interesting experience and once again arranged with great aplomb by the "Daines' Travel Agency." One thing that will be mentioned though is that Bill Middleton made it, at the behest of his medical advisor, and although he had a relapse whilst in Ipoh, he is making a good recovery back home.

Ted Lincoln is at home after another short stay in hospital and he hopes that it will be the last one. A major function for us recently has been the funeral of Bill James' first wife Sue, who passed away from cancer about 4 – 6 weeks ago. It was an extremely well attended funeral with a good smattering of Ladies from the ex-Wrans Association of which Sue was a very keen member.

She was involved with organizations and committees which was the reason that there were so many ex-servicemen in attendance. The Band Association was well represented and Bill was very pleased with their commitment to be there.

Maxine and I were privileged to attend Divisions at HMAS STIRLING for the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Tim Bar-

rett, AO, RAN, on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Although the morning was very chilly 2 degrees, and the parade was scheduled to commence at 0830, the weather stayed fine with bright blue sky and no rain. There were nearly 800 on parade with the WA Naval Band being enhanced by musicians from the Eastern States including a Band Officer. There was a further 300 sailors, approximately, sitting on the sidelines watching the goings on. It appeared strange to see the entire parade wearing patent leather shoes! Nothing like the spit polished boots that we used to wear in the dim distant past.

Musically, it sounded quite good but there were a few bugle notes of doubtful authentic at one stage of the proceedings. The parade was followed by a morning tea during which we managed to speak to the Chief of Navy and inform him of some of the doings of the Veterans Band, including Ipoh, and then we had a tour of the Depot which has had a very large makeover to bring it up to the standard that it is today. All in all it was a great day's outing, and as I was told by the Bandmaster when I made comment concerning the incorrect notes, "Once a Director, always a Director."

The number attending Frankston next year from WA is an unknown quantity at present, but it can be certain that there will be a contingent, how large will be seen at the Reunion.



## Victorian Report

Len Nurse

Our Mexicans lunch at the now familiar Seaford RSL took place on the 28th of August. Attendances were down somewhat do to many being overseas or north for the warmer weather but a total of 19 still enjoyed the beautiful weather streaming through the atrium.

There were plenty of apologise sent through and a few we didn't hear from but attending were Barry & Pat Pollock, Les Kent & Carole, Gordon & Dot Crompton, Bill & Carole Post, Errol & Sharon Hatch and Val Hatch (Errol's mother), Jan Atkins, Gail & Mal Codling, Ray Mills, Harry & Kerrilyn Williams and Maree & myself (Len).

We had a good discussion regarding the reunion of course and all agreed that there is not much more we can do to entice our members to Melbourne in 2017.

Discussions were focused on specific events and also the need to start thinking of prizes for raffles etc etc. Our needs for stands and tympani's for the concert have been sourced from Frankston High thanks to Peter Sharp who has also offered the music department for our rehearsal on the Saturday.

The Dixielanders of Barry Pollock, Gordon Crompton, Bill Post, Errol Hatch, Kevin Ridout and myself continue to gain

popularity. Performing last month at the the Pollock's retirement village in Frankston to a big audience we will be this September in Cranbourne and with future dates for October, November and of course Christmas, Dixieland music is gaining a foothold in the south.



Harry & Kerrilyn Williams.



Val & Sharon Hatch with Gail Codling..



Maree & Len Nurse, Dot Crompton, Carole Post, Pat & Barry Pollock and Bill Post.

(Below) Les Kent & partner, Carol Kneebone.



Mal Codling and Ray Mills enjoying a cold one.



## Queensland Report

John Lennon

Hello to all our fellow association members. I would normally say "Hello from Sunny Queensland", but the weather over the last month has been anything but Sunny. We have been suffering some record low temperatures, which has caused me to break open my storage box with my seriously warm jumpers. On the local front I would like to thank those who attended Ron Edwards's funeral which I believe was well attended.

The Veterans Band trip to Malaysia was a great success and was well represented from Queensland, which included myself, Leywah, Peter & Lorraine Martin, Shane Urquhart, Allan Lanham, Graham & Dianne Johnson & Patrick & Alison Steer. Allan, Graham & Pat are ex Army Band while Shane is the Father & Father-in-Law of ABMusn Natalie Urquhart & Lieutenant Bandmaster David Coit. The feedback from the Queensland attendees is a clear "When's the Next Trip".

After we finished our very busy week of band activities in IPOH Peter, Lorraine, Leywah & I flew to Hong Kong for a week of R&R. We had a wonderful time, even though we all were suffering through various stages of the Flu thing that was doing the rounds. For those who have not been to Hong Kong since their Navy days there is not much that is recognisable from those days. A few of the things that struck us straight away was: The absolute sea of people, The effectiveness and user friendliness of the transport system especially the Subway,

The obvious wealth in the city with young people driving high end luxury sports vehicles. Real Estate availability is an obvious problem with high rises and smaller living areas. That became painfully obvious when

we booked into our Hotel at Mong Kok, an area in Kowloon, where the room was nice but so small we had to shuffle sideways to get past each other. I actually had to store some of my gear on top of the spot light trunking just to make some room. The air was generally clear and free of pollution with very strict pollution laws enforced.

In summary we had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves with endless shopping by the girls with Peter and me struggling to keep pace. It was great to get home and rest. On the personal front I had the unlucky experience of having my car written off while stationary in traffic not far from home. This accident highlighted a major problem on our roads today, which is inattention by drivers using such items as mobile phones & car navigation systems.

The vehicle that hit the rear of my vehicle was travelling at 60 KPH and made no attempt to brake, causing substantial damage to the rear including rupturing the fuel tank. The end result was a four vehicle accident which included the 2 vehicles in front with me and the driver behind being carted off to hospital by ambulance. The driver was booked for inattention - she claimed she was one car length behind me and didn't notice me stop. I did ponder if I was a casualty of the new Pokémon craze. Apart from aggravating an already stuffed back and neck I am almost back to square one which equates to returning to manageable levels of back pain.

Until the next edition I would like to wish all members good health and happiness as the year moves on very quickly. And safe driving !!!!!

Regards to All



## Ipoh, Malaysia 7th to the 12th of June 2016



Arriving at Ghangi Airport after a one and a half hour flight from Ipoh Malaysia, you appreciate the organised skill of Singapore and the total discipline of the people and government instrumentalities. The theme of Ipoh was “you are in Malaysia” and over the 6 days the Veterans band were there, there were plenty of stories relating to “Well you are in Malaysia you know”.

We Begin.....

Members of the Veterans Band arrived from all corners of Australia to Ipoh, Malaysia either via KL, Singapore, Hong Kong, Penang and other cities in South East Asia.

Arriving in Ipoh by all different means, train, bus taxi and plane we all successfully assembled on the Tuesday evening for our Meet and greet at the soon to be popular (and cheap) Royal Ipoh Club. With over 50 people in the troupe the organisation skills of Ralph and Cheryle would be put to the test over the next 6 days, but this our first event went off without a hitch. Ralph welcomed us and gave us the latest itinerary to what was a very fluid program.

Wednesday morning commenced with all attending our first breakfast in the hotel followed by our first group rehearsal. The ladies and men (not playing) went on a half day tour of Ipoh and its surrounds and they came back with some interesting tales to tell.

The band held its first and only rehearsal in one of the hotels many function rooms and we gelled from the first down beat of the Baton held by Doug Drysdale. With a program of memorial and concert events we flew through a substantial folio of music that was certain to provide our audiences with an experience to remember. The band was definitely our most complete with full compliments in all instruments, the sound was explosive in certain arrangements.

Performances of World in Union, Conquest of Paradise and Ashokan Farewell with the inclusion of our harmonised Last Post was to make the services a moving experience. The band also had the opportunity to perform for the first time a composition by ex- Royal Marines member Paul Baker of a march called Cinta Kinta written for the local Band that donated the stands and Drum kit for the length of our stay. Paul stayed with us for the remaining days and made the number of French horns to 5, yes 5, that was only topped by our 5 amazing Trombone section. And 7 Trumpets.

We were joined for the rehearsal by four members of the Ipoh Band with two on Euphonium, a Flute and Clarinet player. They all played well and their sight-reading skills were excellent. They were to join us at different occasions over the next few days.

We finished the day and most members started to explore the culinary delights of Ipoh or made their way back to the Royal Ipoh Club.



## Ipoh, Malaysia 7th to the 12th of June 2016

Thursday saw our first official day and we were on our three bus convoy for a hour trip to Taiping to the Kumunting Road Cemetery to hold a remembrance service for the Malay Association who was our reason for being in Malaysia. The service was short but appropriate and we finished with the Last Post before guests visited the war graves and left poppies. From there we were invited to the New Club Taiping for a lunch and our first concert.

With well over 100 attending and seated while the band was setting up and having lunch there was a anticipation in the make shift auditorium. The band opened with our now traditional Heart of Oak/ Life on the Ocean Wave and the Malaysian Armed forces march and moved through the hour long concert with plenty of applause. Waltzing Matilda was concluded with a massive appreciative applause and the band was swamped by photographers and dignitaries were photographed with members of the band.

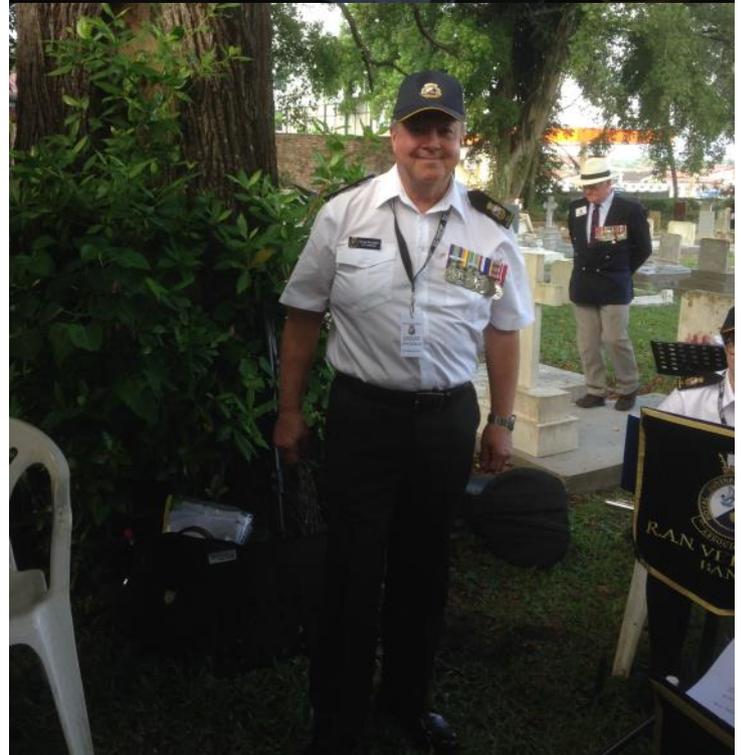
With our long return trip to Ipoh we were all quite relaxed once we reached the Hotel. The evening in Ipoh was hot and humid (as usual) and by now most had found their favourite watering hole and entertained themselves. Some of the popular haunts were the Irish Pub, The Beer & Barrel and of course the Royal Ipoh Club and their crazy ticket system.

Friday at 9.00am we were at the Ipoh War memorial for a moving service by the "Warriors association Malaysia" The service involved pipes and drum from the British Gurkha Regiment, The Wesley Methodist Choir, St Michael Institute Band and ourselves announced as The Royal Australian Army Navy Airforce Association Band which sort of stuck with us for the duration of our performances, well nearly.... (read on).

From the service we moved across the road with the help of the police to the Town Hall for a short 10 minute concert by the Choir, then the Bands , speeches and then a lunch for non-Muslims as Ramadhram had started. Returning to the Hotel celebrations were then held at the Ipoh Club for Leywhah Lennon's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Ally & Pat Steer's 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary.

Saturday had us up at and on the bus at 6.15am for a church service at Batu Gaja at 7.30am and then a memorial service in the cemetery of Gods little Acre at 8.30am. The Church service concluded and the congregation made there way to the cemetery for the formal service. The British Gurka pipes and drum performed and John and the band performed the Last Post again with distinction.

With the end of the service we the band made its way onto the buses and headed to the Ghurka cemetery at the 2<sup>nd</sup> rangers Barracks Ipoh for the second service. This was the first service to





## Ipoh, Malaysia 7th to the 12th of June 2016



be held at the new cenotaph in a special section of the Barracks. The Ghurkas performed the majority of the service and the band provided some moving pieces to the service. From there we were back on the buses to the Royal Ipoh Club for Lunch and an afternoon concert for members and guests. Returning to the hotel late in the afternoon Saturday was not yet completed as we were guests for the Troops night at the Kinta Riverfront Hotel.

This was to be a social evening but somehow the program had us performing a concert, so we were back on the bus with our gear heading to the Hotel. We held our 4<sup>th</sup> concert in three days and most of the audience had heard us so we tried a few new pieces which worked well. The evening finished with a dinner and speeches by the then well known dignitaries. As we were back on Sunday morning in the same location we were able to leave the stage setup. After our longest and busiest day everybody was happy to get back to the hotel.

Sunday morning at 9.00am we were back on our familiar bus the Riverfront Hotel for what was called "The State Goodwill Function" sponsored by the State Government and the "Warriors Association". The only problem was that there were no State dignitaries present only the representatives from the Commissions, guests and of course our partners and friends. Our concert was shortened but was well received. The speeches that followed were very complimentary of the band and it became apparent that we have left a lasting impression with the organisers and Commissioners. After lunch we made our way back to the hotel for the last time.

Sunday evening saw us all at the Ipoh Club for a goodbye get-together where a presentation to Ralph, Cheryle and Doug took place. With our tour completed some stayed to enjoy the Ipoh hospitality while others returned to the hotel or to their now well visited local night spot. After breakfast the next morning most were on their way by the same means they got to Ipoh and onto other locations for an additional holiday or back to Australia.

Ipoh will be most remembered for the hospitality of the organisers and the wonderful acknowledgements given to the Band over the 6 days. It was a credit to all the members for their musical expertise and patience and especially to those honorary members who made a significant contribution to the success of the tour. We always go from these adventures tired and spent but we really anticipate the next one.

This would have to have been the most stressing trip for our organisers, Ralph and Cheryle to put together but as usual we came out the other end happy to do it again. This is a credit to their organisational and diplomatic skills. Great work you two.



# Ipoh, Malaysia 7th to the 12th of June 2016



# "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

### 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





## 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.**

BLUE WATER MEN' MASSED BANDS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY



## 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

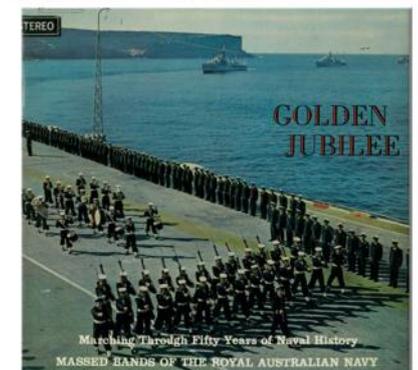
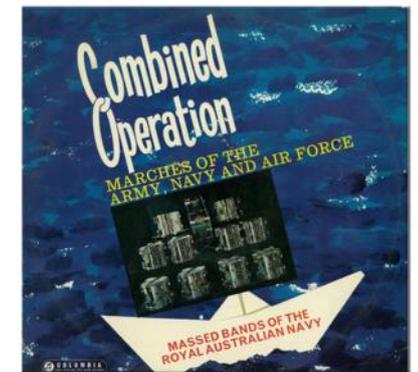
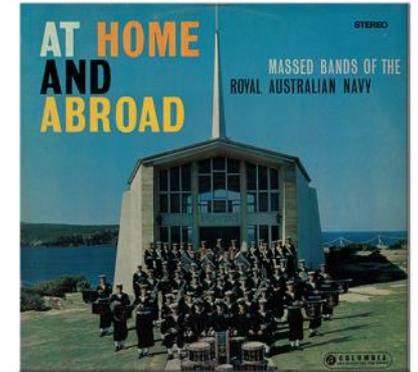
### TBA am Moomba festival Parade.

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.



## Prices

### Friday the 10th of March,

**9 Holes of Golf and Light Lunch (Including Drinks) \$28.00 a Head**

**18 Holes of Golf and Light Lunch (Including Drinks) \$42.00 a Head**

(Buggies and Clubs can be hired from the club rooms)

**Winery Tour which includes lunch and tastings \$110.00 a Head**

(Limited numbers for this tour so be quick)

**Meet & Greet Cocktail Party (Official Event) \$35.00 a Head**

Providing you with substantial food and Drink from 6.30pm and a great atmosphere plus a wonderful concert at the end of the evening. What more could you want to start the weekend.

### Saturday the 11th of March

**AGM: (Official Event) \$N/C**

**Guided tour of the Peninsula \$75.00 a Head**

This includes Bus tour, Ferry to Queenscliff , Lunch and return to the Frankston RSL.

**Shopaholics Tour \$N/C**

**Gala Dinner (Official Event) \$75.00 per Head**

Full 3 course dinner with wine Beer & soft drink commencing at 7pm. Raffles, Door prizes plus fantastic entertainment from the RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment.

### Sunday the 12th of March

**HMAS Cerberus/Band Museum Opening (Official Event) \$N/C**

Includes Buses to Cerberus, light morning tea and Lunch . Free to members attending the Gala Dinner.

**Blue Water Men Anniversary Concert (Official Event) \$N/C**

Free for members who are attending the M&G and Gala Dinner.

**Extra Ticket Sales: \$15.00 Adults, \$7 Children, \$10 Pensioners**

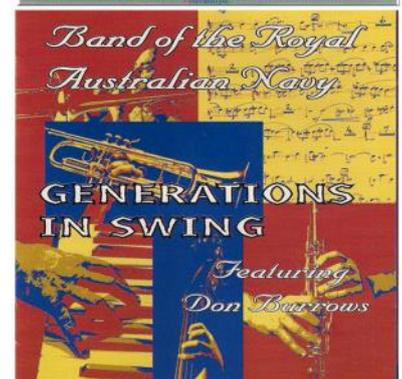
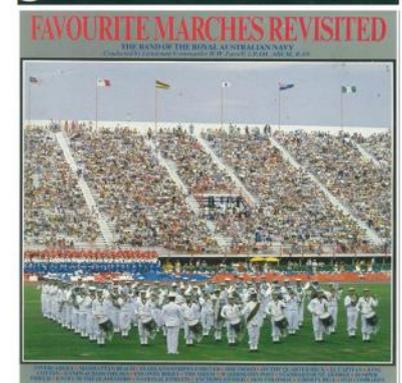
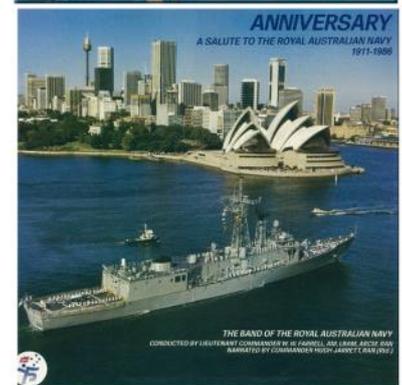
Proceeds go to Aid the Prostrate Cancer Foundation and the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

### Monday the 13th of March

**Moomba Festival Band \$N/C**

The Booking form is attached and we urge you to book early not just for the functions but accommodation and travel. With 8 months to go as we know it will be upon us before we know it. Return the form via email, Post or just respond with the details of your booking to admin@ranband.net

To those that have already committed to the concert band via our initial email we thank you. Current numbers give us a 40 piece balanced Band, but if you missed the email and would like to be a part of this wonderful experience, use the order form to acknowledge your interest. The Moomba Festival Band as we indicated will be a marching Band. The length of the march is not great and is in the morning. If you would like to represent the association at this family event indicate it on the order form also.



**MELBOURNE**  
VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

2017



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND REUNION

## FAQ

### **What's the best way of getting to Frankston from the Airport**

With Frankston being on the opposite side of Melbourne (We apologise for that) to the airport you have at least a 2 hour journey which ever mode you use. Cost of the journey is the difference. Here are some suggestions.

**Skybus** to Frankston. **Skybus** now has direct buses to Frankston and they leave the airport on the hour. This is the most efficient and reasonably priced. Suggest you book this early to guarantee a seat.

**Skybus** to the Southern Cross (Spencer St) terminal then train to Frankston is the cheapest . You would probably take an extra half hour but would be a third of the price of the direct **Skybus** journey to Frankston. Those choosing this method will have a **MYKI** card to help reduce the cost further.

### **What's the accommodation availability in Frankston.**

As we indicated in our Reunion Brochure there is plenty of accommodation in Frankston. Premium style is limited so our suggestion is to get it booked asap. If you want us to review your selected hotel or even Caravan Park give us a ring on 0400 706 503 and we can give you an update on its location to our functions and the quality of the services, we might forget but Frankston is now a premium holiday destination so there is plenty of different types of accommodation available.

### **We are staying in Melbourne , how easy is it to get to Frankston.**

If staying in Melbourne or any of the inner suburbs your **MYKI** card will get you onto the train to Frankston. The organising committee have organised buses at all official function times to run shuttles to the RSL so you will be accommodated once you arrive in Frankston.

### **Where do I get a MYKI card**

As part of our reunion package those staying outside Frankston and requiring travel will be issued with one. You have to normally buy one and place credit on the card to use on all Melbourne's public transport. They cannot be cashed in like most other travel cards overseas so we recommend you hang onto them or when finished hand them back to the organising committee.

### **When do we have to pay for the functions.**

Obviously the quicker we get the booking form in the better, so if you have committed to attend send it through as soon as possible. Payment can be made at a later date and we would expect all members to have paid for their weekend no later than the 1st of February 2017. An invoice/Statement will be sent reminding you that we have not seen payment so we won't forget you.

### **How do we get extra tickets to the concert**

Tickets will be available to purchase shortly and we envisage a packed house. The Frankston Arts centre is a world class entertainment venue and our advertising campaign with the Arts centre will be comprehensive.

### **You mentioned the Raffle in the museum article, how do we get books of tickets to sell**

Ticket books will be released in the coming weeks and if you would like to participate in selling tickets please contact Errol on : **0400 706 503** or by email: **admin@ranbandassoc.net** or: **ehatch@optusnet.com.au**

Remember the tour to HMAS Cerberus on the Sunday is free and we look forward to you all in attending.

**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 type="text"/>	Total \$ _____
	<input type="text"/>	Total \$ _____

9.30am Winery Tour & Lunch \$110.00 per Head  Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shopaholics tour \$N/C

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

Special Dietary requirements  
 For: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Requirements \_\_\_\_\_

**SATURDAY THE 11TH MARCH**

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

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

Extra Tickets: N/C Tickets

Adults \$15ea	<input type="text"/>	Total \$ _____
Children \$7ea	<input type="text"/>	Total \$ _____
Pensioners \$10ea	<input type="text"/>	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

**MONDAY THE 13TH OF MARCH**

TBAam Moomba Parade, Would you like to take part? YES  No Thanks

If Yes, What Instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

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