



# Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine



December 2015 Edition

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



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



# Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

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## Associations New Lapel Pin



The Association now has available to all new members and current members a fine lapel pin of the Associations crest. They were released at the 2015 reunion and some members received them. To make the distribution easy those that would like one, could you please send the administrator an email on [admi@ranbandassoc.net](mailto:admi@ranbandassoc.net). I will send one through to you with the next Association magazine.

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## Your New Executive and Committee

### Association Patron:

Rear Admiral Mark Campbell.

### President:

John Widdicombe.

### Vice President:

Ralph Daines.

### Secretary:

John Lennon.

### Treasurer:

Errol Hatch.

### State Reps:

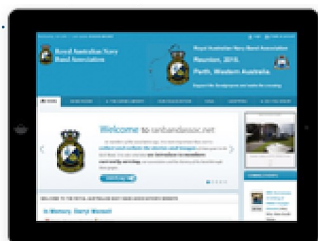
NSW: Robert Bedwell.  
Vic: Len Nurse.  
QLD: John Lennon.  
SA: Ned Kellas.  
Tas: Brian Ellis.  
WA: Bill Farrell.

### Committee Members:

Bill Farrell, Doug Drysdale.

### RAN Veterans Band/Events Manager

Ralph Daines.

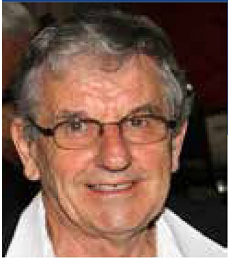


On our website: [www.ranbandassoc.net](http://www.ranbandassoc.net)

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

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## The President's Report

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to continue as President of your Association, a position I hold with much pride and respect.

On your behalf I thank and welcome all who have taken on positions and roles in the running and management of the Association, particularly the return of Ralph and Errol in their Executive roles, and a special thanks and welcome to John Lennon for taking on the position of Secretary, replacing Don Buntine, a long-standing past Vice President and Secretary.

At the AGM, we granted life membership to Ralph and Errol, and I speak on behalf of everyone when I say they are very worthy of that honour. Along with Jim, they have set a high standard for recipients of Life Membership of our Association. Congratulations Ralph and Errol.

Congratulations also to our WA comrades for the wonderful Reunion they organised. As usual, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, laughing and talking their way right through the weekend. On behalf of all those who attended, I extend our thanks and appreciation to all involved in making the Perth Reunion 2015 the memorable event it was.

Let's not overlook the usual role the ladies play in these reunions. Without them we old jack tars would probably spend our "Meet and Greets" in the bar enjoying "pub grub" in our jeans. So a big thank you ladies for your contribution and influence in setting high standards in dress attire. Very much appreciated by all.

Thank you also to all who travelled the distances to be there. I am sure you will agree with me, it was worth it. It was also pleasing to welcome some new faces on board, faces I hope we will see again in the future.

I must say our members are a very loyal lot. Right opposite our venue in Perth is the new Perth Entertainment Centre and a *KISS* concert there clashed with our Official Dinner. The Hotel was awash with *KISS* fans and free tickets were being offered around, but all our members refused the temptation and loyally attended our Dinner instead.

So, we can now look to the future events. Always keep in mind how quickly they come up, and prepare your planning and commitment well ahead. As you are aware, Ralph and Cheryle have the planning for the Ipoh trip mid next year well under way. This will be a wonderful and exciting experience to be part of, so give it serious thought. Then there is the Melbourne Reunion 2017. Remember – they will be upon us before you know it.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish you all the best over the festive season celebrating with family and friends.

John Widdicombe

PRESIDENT

## Albany Anzac Memorial

Following the Perth Reunion I travelled to Albany to visit the National Anzac Centre, a trip which proved to be a wonderful experience.

From the outside the box-shaped Centre appears small but very imposing, jutting out of the landscape and overlooking King George Sound where this historic event took place.

Once inside, the real value of the Centre emerges. Looking through the glass frontage of the building there is a spectacular view of the harbour and its surrounds. At waist height there are screens that display the layout of the Fleet which anchored there 100 years ago. Glancing up from these screens to the actual view of Harbour gives you the exact placement of each ship. This allows for a good understanding of the enormity of the assembly of ships and the task undertaken to carry the Australian and New Zealand Soldiers to war.

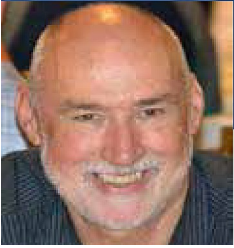
The Centre was very busy the day I was there. I understand visitor numbers are much higher than expected and it is considered a major tourist draw card.

The feature of the museum is the cutting-edge technology

which allows a very easy and comfortable wander through the displays. All written material is electronic reproduction, set around eye level and scripted large enough to read even if standing behind other viewers. The displays of memorabilia and photos are softly but effectively lit and extremely interesting and well presented. Another element I found fascinating was the touchpad technology available throughout the museum.

As you walk through the museum, you carry your own small hand piece (similar to a mobile phone) and activate it on symbols to listen to readings from personal letters, diaries, reports, stories etc. On entry you are issued with a card containing the name of a soldier, which allows you to swipe the card and follow his story all though the theatres of the war.

There is also much associated history, monuments and memorials in the surrounding area and I spent the whole day there with a longish lunch break, but found it a very comfortable and exhilarating experience and well worth the drive to Albany.



## From our Editor

A lot will be written about our latest Association reunion in this edition but I personally must thank all those that made the weekend most enjoyable. Perth turned on a glorious weekend weather wise and those that made the trek were treated to exceptional hospitality by the Sandgropers. A full report is embedded in the pages along with some great photos, enjoy.

Also this edition introduces us to new committee members and state reps. I thank those reps that reported on behalf of their states over the last 2 years and welcome the input of our new reps and the continued commitment of those that continue to represent their state. It is also important that what transpired at the AGM be reported and our Acting Secretary (at the

time) will provide us with full details.

From the Editors desk I get many little messages and suggestions about members or happenings of our association and I try to insert as many of them into our "letters and News Section". Please keep them coming, often they will expand into worthwhile stories or responses from members.

Enjoy the Christmas of 2015 and I look forward to catching up with those going to Malaysia and any Anzac day gigs around the country in 2016.

Regards,  
Errol Hatch.



## From our Treasurer

The AGM gave me the opportunity to present my first full report since taking the office of Treasurer. I thank the members who accepted the report and those that asked questions in relation to it. The following page gives you a detailed breakup of the 2014/15 financial year plus an insight to the previous year. A question was raised regarding my statement that the Thursday Island trip turned a profit. When you look at the figures it shows a slight loss but the grant of \$2900.00 from the DVA for the trip was finally received at the end of the financial year into our old Credit Union account giving us a surplus well over \$2,000.00.

Statements are currently being sent out for outstanding subs, so we should see another influx to boost our Bank Balance after Christmas. The Executive and committee in Perth initiated an award to presented to a member of the Perth Detachment using the donation of the late Smoky Dawson with the Trophy appropriately named "The Farrell/Lincoln Trophy" (More on this in the magazine).

This trophy will be presented yearly to the most deserving member of the WA Detachment. This award could be duplicated for each state Detachment and

would be a perfect reminder of our Association and our recognition of their achievements to their Detachment.

The association currently have an award for the School of Music, Watsonia and a National award to the most outstanding Reservists. I think this is something we should pursue and your thoughts to this idea will help get it get underway through the executive.

The association now has available to joining members a lapel pin of our Crest which Ralph organised to have at the reunion. Some were handed out but if you missed out or would like one, drop me a line and I can send one onto you. [admin@ranbandassoc.net](mailto:admin@ranbandassoc.net)

I've already mentioned Christmas wishes, so I'll end with wishing you a safe and healthy 2016.

Regards,  
Errol.





## Royal Australian Navy Band Financials 2014/2015

Brought Forward:	2014/2015	2013/2014
	\$10	\$2,063.33
	\$10.9	\$6,603.28
		\$4,058.67

### Income

Subscriptions	\$6,670.00	\$4,330.00
Donations	\$5,540.00	\$820.00
2015 Reunion	\$4,755.00	\$10,134.85
Merchandise	\$92.00	\$369.00
Interest	\$0.78	\$0.89
Thursday Island	\$40,116.80	\$1,085.00

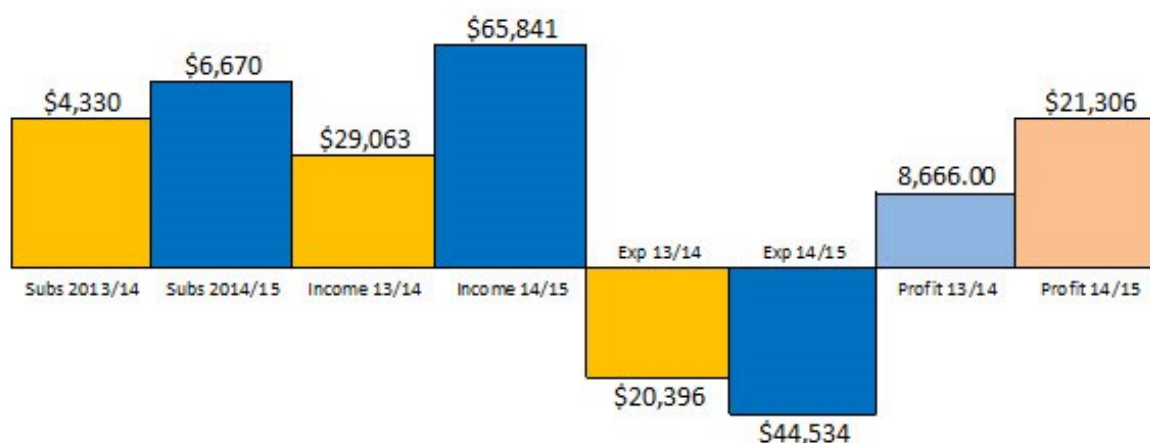
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$65,841.19</b>	<b>\$29,063.37</b>
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### Expenses

Bank Fees	\$33.00	\$163.00
Printing & Setup	\$2,319.00	
Post	\$821.06	
Phones	\$153.39	\$66.75
Stationery	\$534.68	
Merch Purchases	\$2,449.26	
Cap purchases	\$132.30	
Thursday Island	\$38,091.56	\$1,400.00
2013 Reunion	\$0.00	\$18,767.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$44,534.28</b>	<b>\$20,396.76</b>

### Closing Bank Balances

ANZ	\$15,784.62	
\$10	\$2,950.07	\$2,063.33
\$10.9	\$2,572.22	\$6,603.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,306.91</b>	<b>\$8,666.61</b>





## Secretaries Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the association for having the trust in me to take on the role of Secretary of the RAN Band Association. I would also like to pay tribute to the previous secretary, Iki Buntine who unfortunately due to health issues could not carry out his elected duties. The secretaries functions were carried out by Ralph. Ralph has now passed on the secretary role to me and I look forward to the challenge.

Whilst many of the Secretary's functions have been passed on including the Newsletter (Errol) and Function/Events (Ralph), I look forward to working and help lead the executive. I would also like to acknowledge Ralph and Jim Hawkins who as the driving force behind the association have evolved the association into what we have today. As we move forward we must be mindful that without younger members joining our association we will eventually suffer the same fate as many other ex service organisations. It is in this light that I touch on a subject that may cause some to say "What is this bloke on about". As the Navy and the current band branch evolves we are going to see more and more ex and current serving musicians from even more diverse backgrounds (this is a fact of life) and it is this light and the fact that we need to attract new members that I take a deep breath and continue with this message .

I suppose a number of members would like to know what makes John Lennon tick. Well some very good friends from my Navy days have referred to me as a goose steeping left wing union shop steward. I don't know if I am that far to the left however, I do believe in a fair go regardless of who you are or what you believe in, I also believe that you should never bite the hand that feeds you. It is scary times we live in at the moment and in light of the Paris terrorist attacks carried out by Muslim extremists it is too easy to brand all Muslims as terrorists.

I was bought up with Christian values so I do find it difficult to understand the Muslim religion, I also grew up as a heterosexual male so I do find it difficult to understand how a man can be sexually attracted to another man. Having said this I have worked professionally and very close with both groups and I am proud to say that I have some very good friends who are gay and who I have great respect for. The Navy of today welcomes people from both of these minority groups and are treated with mutual respect and free of discrimination. Our Navy now has the highest ranking Muslim female in the Navy and Defence Force (see article further into the magazine). Part of Captain Shindy's role as "Head of the Guided Missile Frigate System Program" is as

an Advisor on Islamic Cultural Affairs in the Navy & Defence Force. Captain Shindy is very well qualified with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Hons) and a Masters of Commerce (Advanced Major in Organisation and Management Studies) from the University of New South Wales. As members of the Royal Australian Navy Band Association we should be mindful that we should look past the fact that someone may be female, gay, Muslim, dark skinned and even transgender and focus on their ability and how they contribute to the defence of our country.

I must admit I find it difficult to understand people from within our own ex naval (and ex defence) communities that send material via e-mail that is the opposite to current values that exist in the Royal Australian Navy. To give a perfect example was the message sent to some naval association members who actually mocked Captain Shindy for being a Muslim and wearing a veil with her naval uniform. The message I am trying to get out is that we need (and I am deliberately repeating myself) to look past their race, religious beliefs, gender and sexual orientation and focus on their ability and their contribution to the defence of our country.

We can also use the current navy band as an example which shows since they opened up the band branch to female musicians that the diversity and talent has enhanced the bands professional stature considerably. I am certainly not trying tell any members how they should think and to use the navy adage "suck their eggs", I for one have always respected people who have differing views to myself but by the same token no amount of e-mail messages etc will alter my views and I am totally comfortable that we live in a ethic diverse and non discriminating society.

I hope this does not sound like I am trying to lecture members as this is not the intent, it was meant to give an insight into who I am and I like everyone else, I still have the capability of deleting an offensive e-mail or ignore an offensive comment and I will not try and hand out union membership applications to anyone at the next get together.

Have a great Christmas and a safe 2016.

Regards

John Lennon.

*(I have requested the article about Captain Shindy to be available in the magazine for you to read and have a better understanding of her role)*





## RAN Veterans Band/Events

### **MALAYSIA 2016, IPOH REMEMBRANCE WEEK. 7TH TO THE 13TH OF JUNE**

The RAN veterans' Band will be venturing to Malaysia in 2016 assisting the Australian Malay Borneo Association. Following is a current proposed itinerary of the program and suggestions for travel and Accommodation. More details will be forwarded to members who have acknowledged that they will be attending over the coming months.



**The Ipoh Town Hall**

#### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

- Arrive in Ipoh, you can arrive earlier but we need everyone there on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

- Rehearsal in Ballroom of Hotel for Band 0900 to 1500, Lunch provided.
- Ladies excursion (full details later)
- Get together in evening (full details later)

#### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

- Bus to Kumunting Rd Cemetery Taiping, (full details later) Lunch will be provided.

#### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

- Morning Service at Ipoh War Memorial followed by lunch at Ipoh Town Hall.
- Evening Concert at Ipoh Town Hall.



**Ipoh War Memorial**

#### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

- Bus to Batu Gaja, 0730 Church Service,
- Wreath Laying at Gods Little Acre
- Ceremony at Kem Sued Putra (Ghurka Cemetery),
- Lunch at the Royal Ipoh Club.



**Gods Little Acre**



**Kem Sued Putra  
(Ghurka Cemetery)**

#### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

- PM Concert at The Royal Ipoh Club.



**The Royal Ipoh Club**

This is only a proposed itinerary which includes what the Malay Borneo Association are doing, as I sort through what we can and can't do I will let you know. As I can't obtain a grant for this trip and I would like to be able to do as much as possible, as usual, with the funds we have, I am going to have to ask for a \$45 a head levy, prior to departure, to assist with the transport costs. Ipoh is situated half way between Kuala Lumpur (200k) and Penang (170k) and I will

suggest ways to get there further into this column.



**The Syeun Hotel, Ipoh**

The Syeun Hotel has been used by the Malay Borneo Association for their past visits and Cheryle and I stayed there in June and were very happy with the refurbished rooms (deluxe twin pictured) and the Hotel in general. The Hotel has given us very good quotes on all room categories and they have guaranteed all rooms are the new rooms. You are free to stay where ever you want but as rehearsals and buses will be departing from the Hotel you will have to make your own way to the Hotel as we can't do pickups, as the streets are too narrow for the size bus we will be using.



**Typical Deluxe Twin Room**

I have listed all room categories below with prices in Malay Ringgit (divide by 3 is the easiest to convert to Aus \$), the 2 bedroom suite is enormous and would suit 2 couples wanting to share. Prices also include breakfast.

Standard room (Window/no view, only 2 single beds) rm140.00nett

Deluxe Twin or King : rm160nett

Junior Suite : rm 250.00 nett

Executive Suite Single : rm 350.00 nett

Executive Suite Double : rm 450.00 nett

### Travelling to Ipoh

You can fly to Penang or Kuala Lumpur and get buses or train to Ipoh. You can fly into Ipoh from Singapore each day on Firefly but flights are not frequent from Kuala Lumpur. As Cheryle and I tried both train and bus in and out of KL these are my suggestions.

Busses depart KL airport direct to Ipoh basically around the clock, we decided to stay at an airport hotel as we came in late at night and caught the bus early next morning. The bus (about 30 ringgit) is a very comfortable coach with airplane type seats but it took 3 hours to get to Ipoh and stops the other side of Ipoh, so a taxi ride is needed to get back into Ipoh (about \$10 fare)

The ETS (electric train service) train leaves from KL Central and costs 25 ringgit and takes less than 2 hours and stops in the centre of Ipoh, a 10 ringgit cab fare to hotel, to use this you will need to take the airport express train into KL Central. (This will be our choice) Where KL Central is located are a number of international hotels (across the street) and I am trying to get a good price for accommodation for anyone who wants to stay a day or two before or after Ipoh. From Penang both buses and trains run to Ipoh, I haven't tried them but the new ETS now runs from Butterworth Station and buses run from Butterworth Station, which I understand is not too far from Penang airport.

More to come in the New Year and I thank those that have committed to the trip. If you would like to come either as a player or non you are definitely welcome, so please get in touch with me

For Now.

Ralph.

The gentleman with yours truly, is the President of WIRA and is responsible for the erection and restoration of all the memorials you are going to see, his name is Dato (Sir) Rajasingam Thambipillay MBE AM





## Letters and News

### A Drop worth Remembering

G'day Errol, I wonder if this is worth putting in the next Band letter. I have a bottle of Plonk which is from (I think) 1000 Bill "The Admiral" Farrell had issued for the 30th Anniversary of the School of Music at Cerberus. I was wondering how many are left in various Bandies Plonk collections. I purchased 2 drank one and still have this one No. 724 .Wasn't a bad drop then and after 30 plus years should be even better.

Regards, Ken (Kipper) Summerson.



### A New Life in Vietnam

Hello Errol,

I would like my friends in association to know of my new life here in Vietnam, So here goes.

I now have a girlfriend since moving, a 3 month old Baby and have setup house in a large 9th floor apartment here in Na Trang. We have a nice view of the city and Na Trang is a beach city with a population of 500,000 and I am able to walk to the Beach and swim each morning.

I am very excited about our new family and life here in Vietnam. I am teaching english, speaking once a week at school and doing music with kids at an orphanage. I was able to buy lots of little Drums/Sticks/Shakers and all things percussion and give to the children. I have about 15 of them aged between 5 and 10, mostly girls. Everyone has something to hit and I take along my trumpet and play easy simple songs like "Down by the Station and Yankee Doodle etc". They all have a ball, the only thing missing are cymbals which I will have shortly.

### All Ships Reunion

The All Ships reunion was recently held in Ballina and as usual was well attended by Association members and by the photos provided by Blue McNally it was a weekend to remember.

If you haven't been to one, make a point of getting there as it is always a great weekend to catch up with colleagues.

Blue will provide the magazine with the dates for the 2016 event when they are released.



Brian Ellis, Geoff Shew, Jim Stathis, Ken McCallum, Blue McNally and Geoff Dawson. Below: The Ladies seem to be always enjoying the occasion.



I intend to live here permanently now and if any of members would like to visit us here with or without instrument (to play with kids). I would love to welcome them to Vietnam the land of happy people. My phone is +841206151754 or from Vietnam 01206151754 .

Best wishes to all  
Gordon Jackson.





## Victoria

### Lieutenant Cassandra Mohapp departs the Band Branch.



Cassandra Mohapp, Don Buntine, Eric Cross, Robert & Jo Gwynne, Des Fay and his wife, Len & Marie Nurse.

Dot Crompton, Pat Pollock, Allan & Shirley Hogg, Carmel & Bill Post, Kevin Ridout, Barry Pollock & Gordon

The Victorian chapter of the Association enjoyed a special lunch on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November to thank LT Cassandra Mohapp for supporting the association over the years of her reign at the head of the RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment. Association members were always welcomed to chat to her and band members at the monthly concerts and gatherings. We were especially appreciative of being invited to participate in Navy Band's 101st Birthday celebrations last year at HMAS Cerberus. Cassandra will be taking up the post of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant at HMAS Cerberus next year and will be away from the band for a period of 2 years.

Speaking to Cassandra, she is very excited with the new posting but will miss the band immensely and looks forward to joining them again in 2018. The lunch was also our last get together for 2015 and proved a very successful day with over 30 attending.

It was held at the Frankston RSL (Currently our proposed 2017 reunion location) and the restaurant accommodated us well and provided a relaxing atmosphere for the afternoon. The weekday event proved a winner with some association members attending that we have not had the opportunity to see for many a year.

Those that enjoyed the day were, Kevan Thomas, Kevin Ridout, Robert Bull, Paul Farrugia, Ron Bergman, Michael Thompson and partner Jac Jenner, Errol & Sharon Hatch, Don Buntine, Eric Cross, Len & Marie Nurse, Robert & Jo Gwynne, Gordon & Dot

Crompton, Barry & Pat Pollock, Des Fay & his wife, Alan & Shirley Hogg, Dale & Sarah Granger, Terry & Elaine Ekin, Doug Antonoff, Mal & Gail Codling, Ray Mills, Bill & Carmel Post and Steve Cottier.

As always, discussion was of adventures past and tall tales (some true). The reunion for 2017 was mentioned a few times and the report on how the Perth reunion went was also discussed over a beer or two or three. The meeting of Kevan Thomas, Kevin Ridout and Paul Farrugia was to take them back over 40 years since they had seen each other and there was plenty to catch up on.

Our guest of honour departed late into the afternoon which brought to a close another successful Victorian luncheon. 2016 will be upon us soon enough and all Mexicans wish our association members a safe Christmas and look forward to an eventful 2016.

Len.







Mal Codling, Terry & Elaine Ekin, Doug Antonoff & Dale Granger and bubs.



Steve Cottier, Ray Mills and Gail Codling



Paul Farrugia and Daughter, Ron Bergman, Sharon Hatch, Jac Jenner, Michael Thompson, Bob Bull and Kevan Thomas.

The Christmas Edition of the Royal Australian Navy Band Newsletter has been released and is now available for reading on our website.

A feature in the newsletter was the awarding of the "Farrell-Lincoln" Trophy. More about this award further in our magazine.



### The Farrell-Lincoln Award

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

The Royal Australian Navy Band's Farrell-Lincoln Award is to be presented annually to a member of RAN Band Western Australia. This award is sponsored by the RAN Band Association from a fund set up through a donation by former WA Navy Band member and Bandmaster at HMAS Leeuwin, Michael "Smokey" Dawson who passed away in 2015.

The award carries the name 'Farrell-Lincoln Award' as it is named after two long term, tireless Western Australian supporters of the RAN Band Association. They are former Director of Music LCDR Bill Farrell and CPO Ted Lincoln who were two of the first Junior Musicians at the School of Music, HMAS Cerberus.

Congratulations to LS Barrett.





## RAN Band Association Inc Awards

The Royal Australian Navy Band Association Inc gives annual awards to both the Permanent and Reserve components of the Royal Australian Navy Band. The reasoning behind this decision was to forge a closer relationship between the Association and today's RAN Band.

In 2008 the annual award to the most outstanding Navy Student on the Section Leader Course at the Defence Force School of Music commenced. In 2011 the annual award to the Reserve component commenced and is awarded to a "member of the Reserve component of the RAN Band who has been assessed as making an outstanding contribution towards the Band's operational effectiveness."

This year with the sad passing of Michael "Smokey" Dawson came a legacy from his Estate to the Association with instructions that Michael didn't want his name on any trophy or such. As the reunion was to be held in Perth in October, the Committee decided that something Western Australian should be created which included Smokey and after discussions with the Director of Music the Bandmaster WA Detachment and Committee Members two decisions were made. Firstly a round of drinks was shouted at the Meet and Greet the second an award totally Western Australian, following is the official wording of the Award.

### **The "Farrell-Lincoln" Award**

*The Royal Australian Navy Band's Farrell-Lincoln Award is presented annually to a member of RAN BAND WA. This award is sponsored by the RAN Band Association from a fund set up through a donation from a former WA Navy Band member and Bandmaster at HMAS LEEUWIN, Michael "Smokey" Dawson who passed away in 2015.*

*The award carries the name 'Farrell-Lincoln Award', named after two long term tireless WA supporters of the RAN Band Association, former Director of Music LCDR Bill Farrell and CPO Ted Lincoln who were two of the first Junior Musicians at the School of Music HMAS CERBERUS.*



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





## Royal Australian Navy Band Reunion, Perth 2015

What used to be a boring trip when flying from the East to the West or vice versa is now bearable with inflight entertainment, a reasonable meal (if you travel with a quality airline) and more frequent departure times. One movie and we're here at Perth airport jumping into a cab and into an ever changing Perth skyline.

I used to hate flying across the Nullarbor in the 80's and 90's for business as it seemed to take forever to get there and the midnight flight back stuffed you for the whole week. But Perth is where it is and those that made the effort were to be treated to a great weekend. Most travelled over on the Thursday or before or as some did, leave 3 months ago and trailered their home away from home with them.

The Four Points Sheraton was the central location for all the events of the weekend and most Western Australians stayed there for the weekend also. As always the organising of the weekend was continually happening in the background and our Vice President/Events manager along with Cheryle, Bill and Maxine Farrell were busy putting together a special presentation for the Gala Dinner. I must say though they did get the opportunity to visit a few (maybe plenty) of wineries prior to the reunion. An estimated 85 attendees were registered to enjoy the weekend and though smaller in numbers than previous reunions they certainly made up for it in enjoyment and participation.

Our Friday night Meet and Greet took place in the Subiaco room and most had already met in the main bar beforehand so they were well into conversation, tall stories and boisterous laughter as more local association members arrived. With the reunion being in Perth we got the opportunity to meet up with members that don't get the chance to make it the eastern reunions so there were many familiar faces we had not seen for some time. Peter Ashburner made his way up from Albany and Kevin Foale up from Mandurah to name a few and John Hanratty was someone I haven't seen since 1970 and it was great to have a chat with him over the course of the weekend.

Our Perth committee hosts, Bill & Robyn Middleton, Bill & Maxine Farrell, Arthur & Jean Timms were relieved that the reunion was underway and their hard work was being appreciated and were looking forward to the main event, the Gala Dinner. Our other local association members attending were Bill James & Anne Arrowsmith, Peter Arrowsmith, Peter Cobb, Bill Bekendam just to name a few. The evening concluded before we knew it and most took up residence in the Main Bar of the Hotel where remnants of the gathering were still there in the early hours of Saturday Morning. Others members wandered into the city for dinner or other entertainment.

The AGM is always a good indicator as to how well the Meet and Greet went the night before as members either powered in or slowly and cautiously made their way to the Coffee and Tea table. The turnout was excellent and only a few didn't show to hear of the association's current standing and to welcome the newly elected executive and committee. With the incorporation regulations in place, the meeting flowed with the Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurer's reports and our last AGM's minutes passing. Matters were raised that had been on the agenda and concerns regarding clause (b) of Section 8 of our By-laws was taken from the floor. A presentation was given for the 2017 reunion in Melbourne in March with the Moomba celebrations as the backdrop to the week-



## Royal Australian Navy Band Reunion, Perth 2015

end and possibly the Frankston RSL as our meeting and functions location. While this was happening the ladies were enjoying a relaxing morning tea in the foyer of the hotel.

The meeting closed with a new Secretary in place, John Lennon and the current executive re-elected. State Representatives were re-appointed and some executive members took on the role of state reps where they were no volunteers. Listed in the front of the magazine is our current elected executive, committee members and State Reps for your information.

With the official proceedings finished the Bar was the logical meeting point to continue our conversations. As there was no musical commitments most members ventured out and about as the day promised excellent weather and our Association dinner was not until 6.30 that evening. Fremantle offered the perfect day and the museum (suggested by Bill Farrell) was well worth the trip, so was the Fish and Chips down on the wharf.

Returning to the hotel the front bar was beginning to fill with KISS fans who were playing directly across the road at the Entertainment centre. The hotel was booked out so we were in for an interesting evening with our Gala Dinner being held in the Fremantle room at the back of the Foyer. The room was well beautifully laid out and the WA contingent dressed it with especially designed place mats, pens and a wonderful commemorative mug donated by Bill and Robyn Middleton. The Band, an excellent trio was provided by the WA Detachment of the RAN Band. A slide show ran for the duration of the evening featuring photos from our website and the ladies were around early selling raffle tickets for the amazing number of prizes.

The evening started with the special guests arriving, Bill offering prayer and the Band entertaining us with wonderful vocal arrangements. The menu selection was well received and the wine (From the Margaret River & Swan Valley regions) flowed freely. The Band swelled with Bill James, Kevin Foale and yours truly providing a little change in style and sound, all in good cheer. The speeches were kept to a minimum but the presentation of the new "Farrell-Lincoln" award sponsored by the association took pride of place on the night as both men that adorned the award were there to present it to the first recipient, AB Musn Tiana Horlock.

The raffle draw took over the floor and many a draw took place before we finally run out of prizes. Thanks must go to all those that donated prizes especially to Kate Bedwell and Kerry Anne Jordinson for their exceptional donations. The evening continued and eventually guests slowly made their way from the Ballroom out into the crowded noisy foyer and bar, why, because the KISS concert had just concluded and there were hundreds of face painted, sweaty fans lining up for a cheap drink. As we mingled we found out that they were charging \$10 for a plastic

cup of beer and exorbitant prices for water and food so the hotel was their first port of call.

With the end of the Gala Dinner that was the end of the official function for the reunion but most met the next morning at Breakfast in the foyer of the hotel and enjoyed a chat and said there goodbyes from there. Members either flew back east that day or went on their way touring the state. As with all reunions they come and go very quickly but the opportunity to catch up with members not seen for years adds to the memories of a great weekend.

Thanks WA for putting on a great weekend, See you in Melbourne in 2017.

Errol Hatch



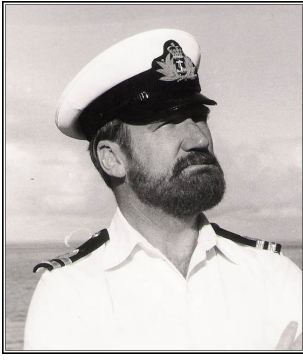


## Royal Australian Navy Band Reunion, Perth 2015

The following attended the 2015 Perth Reunion, Leon & Sandra Stucas, Randall & Christine Kellas, Peter & Lorraine Martin, Bill & Robyn Middleton, Phil & Anita Cleveland, Ken Robertson, Ralph & Cheryle Daines, Harry & Trudy Goldsworth, Jim Hawkins, Gary & Kathleen Searle, Ken & Sue McCallum, Taffy Thatcher, Doug & Lyn Drysdale, Kevin & Sylvia Foale, Peter Cobb, Blue & Gail McNally, Pat & Julie Gallagher, Maurice & Jean Newton, Lindsay Mungovan, Dean & Elaine Butler, Don Buntine, Ted & Shirley Lincoln, Errol & Sharon Hatch, John Widdicombe, Colin Buchanan, Bevan Pearce, Ludwig & Alida Reitzenstein, Trevor & Maree Williamson, Max Beeson, Arthur & Jean Timms, Doug Antonoff, Bill James & Anne Arrowsmith, Peter Arrowsmith, Andrew & Robyn Rourke, Michael & Christine Page, Peter Ashburner, Geoff & Kathy Shew, John & Barb Lucas, Fred Brewer, Trevor Hunt, John & Margaret Hanratty, Gary & Chris Sander, Bill & Donna Bekendham, Brian Kearsley, Gilbert & Vicki Bulliard, Brian & Kerry Ellis, Ian & Fiona Widdicombe, Bill & Maxine Farrell,







## A Musicians Profile: Victor G Knowles, LRAM, LGSM, TMus.A

### 1941 -1957

Born, Monday the 8th of December, 1941 in Echuca and was the youngest of 4 siblings. Family moved to Nathalia in 1944. Dad now a "Ganger" of sleeper cutters in the Barmah Forest. Started at Nathalia Primary School in 1946. Family moved to Euroa in North East Victoria in 1948.

#### 1952

Joined the Euroa Band on Tuba. Learned to drive Grandma's car.

#### 1954

In October of this year I put my age up to join the 59th "Hume Regiment" CMF Band in Shepparton. 3/159566 and in December 1955 I left school.

#### 1956

Started work in one sawmill stacking timber Docks then changed to another to work in the log yard barking and cutting logs to lengths. Changed jobs during 1957 to work in a Garage as Greaser and Cleaner-upper. Bought my first saxophone and my family's first car.



### 1959 - 1963

#### 1959

Monday, 30 March 1959, joined the Navy as a Recruit Musician, wearing Royal Marine style uniform with Fred Greedy and Paul Farrugia. Two months before John Widdicombe joining.

#### 1960

Tuesday, 26 January 1960, Joined Flinders Naval Depot Band as Ordinary

Musician. Toured Tasmania and performed at the Hobart Regatta.

#### 1961

July, Posted to HMAS Melbourne. Sailed to NZ for maritime exercises.



#### 1962

January, Married Saturday 28th to Lynette nee Buchanan On the 29th I Sailed (The Monday) to Maritime Exercises in South China Seas and visited Hong Kong, USA Port at Subic Bay & Manila in Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia.

#### June,

Sailed into Sydney to see the AMP Building as the tallest in the city, hitch hiked to Toowoomba (bloody cold) to see my pregnant wife.

#### July,

Detached from HMAS Melbourne to join a massed band for opening of Empire Games in Perth rehearsals.

#### September,

Re-joined HMAS Melbourne. September 13th Became a father to son, Brooke while in aboard HMAS Melbourne in Moreton Bay on Exercises. September 17th Sailed into Sydney aboard Melbourne, Hitch hiked to Toowoomba to see the baby.

#### November,

Swapped places with Ted Howes and travelled with Massed RAN Band to Empire Games in Perth.

#### December,

Celebrated my 21st Birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>, on a train between Melbourne & Sydney en-route from Perth to Toowoomba via Brisbane, post Empire Games.

### 1963 - 1970

#### 1963

January, Posted to HMAS Cerberus (with wife and baby) for 3 month Leading Musician Course, undoubtedly the least talented of my fellow Course Members but persevered and topped the course.

April, Posted to band at HMAS Watson (Sth Head) then transferred with band to HMAS Penguin, (Middle Head) July, Advanced in rank to Leading Seaman Musician.

#### 1965

July Posted to HMAS Cerberus (with family) for 6 month PO Musician Course, Least Talented but persevered and somehow topped the course. My wife and boys remained in Frankston for the next 11 years..

#### 1966

On completion of PO course, joined band in HMAS Cerberus.

#### 1967

January Joined the RAN SOM as Woodwind instructor.

January, My second, son Matthew was born on 28th.



#### 1968

July Advanced in rank to PO Musician.

#### 1969

January Posted for 12 month CPO Course. Actually the first and only candidate on a Navy promotion course to be awarded the Teacher of Music, Australia Diploma through the AMEB.

#### 1970

January, Was the leading Drum Major to lead 20,000 international sailors through the streets of Sydney to celebrate Cook's 200 years of discovery.



March,  
Created a marching display, trained and led a combined band of about 50-60 musicians to march at EXPO 70 in Osaka Japan. Half of this band were aboard HMAS Melbourne while the rest of us flew with the Australian Expo Entertainers contingent, including Don Burrows with his band, Rolf Harris and many others. Rolf actually marched between me and my off-sider drum major, POMUSN Tony Webber, with his "three" legs.

July,  
Advance in rank to CPO Musician.



### 1971 - 1975

#### 1971

January, Posted to HMAS Melbourne as CPO of the Fleet Band. SBLT Kevin Foale was the Bandmaster.

June, Detached HMAS Melbourne to HMAS Sydney to travel to USA to pick up new aircraft. Visited Hawaii, San Diego (As DM led 4th of July parade on Coronado Island), San Francisco, Victoria, Vancouver Island, Vancouver, BC and Hawaii and Fiji on the way home.

Rejoined Melbourne

#### 1972

January, Sailed to Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

#### 1973

July, Sailed for exercises with USA and Canadian forces off Hawaii. Band transferred to USS Bryce Norton for 14 days in Pearl Harbour to enable our beds be provided for US communication sailors in MELBOURNE. During that time Band Officer returned to Aust. Leaving me IC for the remainder of time in Pearl Harbour and the return voyage.

#### 1974

January,  
Posted to RAN SOM, HMAS Cerberus as Chief Instructor.

April,

Last Australian sailor to be awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. This medal only awarded to lower-deck (non-commissioned) sailors having completed 12 years from age of 18 and having signed on to complete 20.



#### 1975

July, Selected for promotion to Sub Lieutenant. Studied hard for academic qualifications. Two subjects Night School, two private, trained PO Course, worked in as a barman three nights played dance band Saturdays.

### 1976 - 1980

April,

Joined Royal Marine School of Music in Deal, Kent, England to study for qualifications at Royal Academy of Music for promotion. Sat and was awarded Lieutenant with Guildhall SOM in London.

#### 1977

July,

Returned to HMAS Penguin having failed one element of the RAM Exam. My family and I moved to Naval Housing (Erected as temporary accommodation in 1942). This year I became a member of the Brookvale Lions Club where, soon in after I sponsored the Late CPOCOM Max Stokoe into the club.

Because of my failed course a RM Officer, Captain Wally Shillito was posted to Penguin to assume the role that was expected of me, and I became his 2IC.

#### 1978

May,

Returned to RM SOM (in RAAF C130, Cathay Pacific 707 and RAF VC10 t) to carry out private study for one month and resit the RAM Exam element (Conducting), Success at last. On arrival at the Sydney Airport, after an adventurous of trip, I was met by Wally on the airport terminal footpath with a glass of champagne and a massive cigar.

July,

Promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and posted as Fleet band Officer HMAS Melbourne.

September,

Moved my family to a house we bought at Lawson in the Blue Mountains.

#### 1979

January,

Sailed to "shake-down" with Admiral of Fleet, David Leach, Commodore, David Martin (later Gov. NSW) and Jazz man Commander John Foster as XO. "L" Flag flew as we sailed out of Sydney and "P" Flag flying on our return. Then a visit to Tasmania for the Hobart Regatta Band detached to HMAS Hobart and Torrens for Ships' visit to Hobart. Band split in two for a band Contest across the waves as we journeyed south.

Another year and another trip to Pearl Harbour, where we did spend 10-14 days ashore on Ford Island (Sight of the infamous Japanese Pearl Harbour raid). This time, with bands of the US Navy, Marines and the Canadian Maritime Service we formed a "Rim of the



## A Musicians Profile: Victor G Knowles, LRAM, LGSM, TMus.A

Pacific" to perform a very successful concert in a park Waikiki.

**1980**



The following year, aboard HMAS Yarra, we were to become one of the first bands - with a Royal Marine Band and a French band from New Caledonia, to perform at the Independence Ceremony of the new country of Vanuatu. Our ship (Yarra) provided the platform for the celebratory fireworks that night and transport for the Prime Minister, Father Lini to his home on the extinct volcanic island of Pentecost. Returning to Sydney the Yarra revisited New Caledonia to refuel (we had called into refuel on the way to Vanuatu and setup a performance for this visit up), went ashore and put on a concert in the town centre to a group of local school kids - we thought, actually they were visiting from Katoomba, NSW.

Back aboard HMAS Melbourne and we set sail for Singapore, Jakarta and Cochin in India.



### 1981 – 1988

**1981**

I posted ashore to become Music Director of the Navy Band in Sydney - the Naval Support Command Band. In this band over the next two years we travelled extensively around NSW and Queensland and also travelled in C130

Aircraft to Western Australia, Darwin and Alice Springs where I thought we were to be the first sailors in this town. As it was, however, the local RSL was playing host to "their" adopted ship's company from one of the Patrol Boats stationed in Darwin.

Penguin also combined with the other Service Bands to carry out ceremonial duties for the Brisbane Commonwealth Games.

**1983**

January, I posted to Cerberus once more to become Music Director of the Victoria Naval Band and carried out ceremonial duties in that establishment as well as throughout Victoria

November, Melbourne Cup weekend, over the back fence at one of my musician's houses I met this woman called Elizabeth. I had virtually become permanently separated from my wife and kids and, because of my new found acquaintance, confirmed that fact on Boxing Day in the Blue Mountains and returned to my new found love in Melbourne.

**1984**

I was proposed to on Valentine's Day, divorced in July and married on the first day of spring, in the Chapel at HMAS Cerberus. The Cerberus Wardroom Officers formed a Guard of Honour for us as we left the Chapel.



**1985**

January, I was posted to the newly formed Defence Force School of Music, in Watsonia Barracks, where I performed the roles of Training Development Officer and Senior Instructor of the Junior Wing for the next two years. Elizabeth and I settled into Army Housing (not as bad as Naval Housing), and

were joined by Eliza's 8 year old daughter, Naomi.

**1987**

January, I was appointed to the position of Director of Music – Navy. I was responsible for the posting and promo-



tions of all naval musicians, the standards of equipment and performances for all the permanent and Reserve naval bands of Australia. I was posted back to CERBERUS to assume that role.

Later in 1987, I accompanied 50 of our musicians to join with 50 from each of the Army and Airforce to perform at the Royal Tournament in England.



### 1988 – 1994

**1988**

August,

My role as DMUS-N, because name changes to directorates in Canberra was changed to Principal Music Director-Navy and I was posted to take up this new position in Naval Support Command Headquarters, Remington Building in the middle of Sydney.

I formed a 70 piece band of Permanent and Reserve Naval Musicians to take part in a "Military Marching Band Pageant" with bands from France, England, West Germany, Morocco, USA, and others in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan form a band of about 2000 musicians.



## A Musicians Profile: Victor G Knowles, LRAM, LGSM, TMus.A

After that we amalgamated our three permanent bands to perform at EXPO88 in Brisbane. I was informed by one of the organisers we were the only band to receive a standing ovation for these shows.

Elizabeth and I moved into a house in Seaforth looking west over Middle Harbour toward Chatswood. The house was tumble down shack but the view was worth a million bucks.



**1992**

I remained in that posting until I was moved "sideways" to become the Administrative Resources Coordination Officer at the Naval Staff College in HMAS Penguin in a job I did not like nor, I think, did I do very well in that role, but we were able to stay in our little shack in Seaforth until my resignation from the Navy.

**1994**

I resigned from the Navy. Moved to Mudgeeraba Qld, Met CPO Max Stokoe and joined the Mudgeeraba Lions Club, Naval Association and newly formed Mudgeeraba RSL

**1995 - 2015**

**1995**

I formed the Hinterland Community Band and with Headmaster, George O'Brien's permission commenced rehearsals in the Mudgeeraba State School, Also, after enjoying retirement but unable to afford the life I was enjoying, started looking for work but all to no avail until George suggested I try for the Instrumental Music Instructor's job there when the current instructor, Ron Graham retired. I did, and with George's help, got the job.

**1996**

In that position, having taken over from

a talented a little band after RG and with George's support, encouragement and musical input, Mudgeeraba State School went on to win ten of the next 11 musical competitions for Senior Primary School Bands eisteddfods.

**2005**

April Re-Retired after school band played in ANZAC Ceremony

**2008**

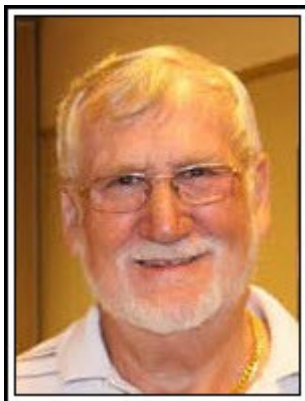
Moved into the Mudgeeraba Music Centre as Band Headquarters and it's Manager.

**2015**

Since its formation the Hinterland Band continues to carry out monthly Twilight Concerts in the centre of Mudgeeraba, has assumed the role of Ceremonial Band at the Southport Yacht Club's Blessing of the Fleet from the QLD Navy Band and officiates at all remembrance service when required in Mudgeeraba and the Gold Coast Hinterland.

Life goes on.

Vic Knowles.







Head of the Guided Missile Frigate System Program Office, Captain Mona Shindy, is also the Chief of Navy's appointed Strategic Adviser on Islamic Cultural Affairs. As part of her role as Strategic Adviser on Islamic Cultural Affairs, Captain Shindy works to help create a better understanding among Defence members of the Islamic faith, traditions and cultural sensitivities.

Captain Shindy explained how this work helps to improve Defence capability.

'It gives our people, particularly when working with our close Muslim-allied navies, a better understanding and appreciation of serving Muslims, their needs and how they view the world', she said. Another key function of the role is to increase the appeal of the Navy as an employer of choice among the Australian Muslim community.

A member of a large, culturally diverse extended family, and involved in many community and school mentoring programs, Captain Shindy is determined to motivate and inspire others, and is passionate about encouraging more

Muslims to think about the ADF and the Navy as a career.

In 2013, Captain Shindy participated in the Community Relations Commission's outreach to the International Fleet Review. She was also instrumental in the establishment of an Australian Navy Cadet Unit, comprising many culturally diverse groups, in western Sydney.

'The new cadet unit highlights the wonderful way in which the RAN gives back to the community, enriching and enhancing the lives of young Australians', she said. 'Through the Australian Navy Cadets Youth Development Program, teenagers are given great skills for life. I feel privileged to be involved with this and I am excited for the current and future youth of western Sydney.'

Egyptian-born Captain Shindy joined the RAN in 1989 as an undergraduate engineer. She holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Hons) and a Masters of Commerce (Advanced Major in Organisation and Management Studies) from the University of New South Wales.

She said her career has exposed her to a broad range of technologies and experiences in and around the Defence Materiel Organisation. She has seen everything from active service at the start of the 2003 Iraq War to shore positions involving overseeing myriad complex programs. 'As a mother, I would like to think I am helping to create a future for my children where they feel understood, included, and respected', she said.

Captain Shindy said that, although there have been challenges, the ADF and the Navy are well positioned to improve cultural sensitivity. She said she is honoured to be working with the Chief of Navy and Defence on this critical issue.

## Melbourne, 2017 Reunion



### 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.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN **MELBOURNE** IN 2017 