



Launceston Reunion 2024

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

A magazine for association members and serving band members of the RAN.

WINTER EDITION 2023

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to this our latest edition of the Magazine. Not much has happened since the last edition but we have some good new and some not so, but life has to go on.

Continued Page 7.



REUNION OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.

The 2024 Launceston reunion is officially announced and we can confirm dates and a interim itinerary for the week-end. Members are looking forward to meeting up again after a successful reunion in Ballina in 2022.

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VALE

Since our last magazine we have sadly lost more members and loved ones to the band above.

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND CELEBRATE 110 YEARS

Report by Ralph Daines on Page 8



QUEENSLAND REPORT

By John Lennon.

Greetings from Queensland. We have all had a busy year with holidays and band commitments. In February I travelled to the York peninsula to celebrate Dean Butlers 70th Birthday.

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Your Executive:**All Editorial to:**

Errol Hatch

RAN Band Association.

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Ralph Daines

Vice President:

Geoff Bunce

Secretary:

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Ralph Daines

Registered Address:

Royal Australian Navy Band Association Inc;

1 Howell Ave, Port Macquarie. NSW 2444

Web: www.ranbandassoc.net**ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE—2023**

We currently have Polo Shirts and Caps available for purchasing. Orders are to be sent to Ralph at xranband@bigpond.net.au or ring him on 0405 380 751

Payments are made via direct deposit after you have contacted Ralph with final shipping pricing.

2022 Polo Shirt

Bank Details: BSB: 013232 Account No: 290164678
Bank: ANZ, Royal Australian Navy Band Association.
Include your name as a reference.



Latest T-Shirt design is a Blue & White easy wear fabric with Crest.

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2X-Large and 3X-Large.

\$30.00 plus \$12.50 Postage.

**Official Association Cap**

Perfect for that sunny. Great looking fit all size cap with Association Crest

One size fits all.

\$18.00 plus \$9.95 postage.

From The Editors Desk: Errol Hatch

I'm not going to bore with a lot of detail about my escapades since we last corresponded but to say that both projects I mentioned have progressed with differing results. The house now has windows installed and doors frames done. The outside walls are ready to have the cladding installed, so I'm on the home front with move in at Christmas time. The music store now has the café operating and it has proved a hit with locals, tradies and businesses in the area.

Not the easiest of projects to get a café up from scratch but we have been lucky enough to get some experienced young baristas who love what they do. The menu has grown as we get better at satisfying our local customer base and the tie in with the music store works well. Our next expansion is to have an intimate live music venue within the shop and the cafe to provide light meals to patrons. In these tough times generating cash utilizing the existing facilities is the key.

Musically in the last 6 months there has been a void only broken by Anzac day which saw Melbourne put on a absolutely wonderful day. I had the opportunity to play with the Anzac Community Band stationed at the shrine to play veterans up the last 50 meters. It was a large band totaling around 50 musicians from bands around Melbourne conducted by association member Michael Thompson.

The reunion in 2024 is now official and Launceston is the location. There is plenty of detail inside the mag relating to the dates and proposed program so it is now time to start getting your bookings in for this long awaited trip to Tassie.

Our facebook pages continue to grow with vetted personnel joining the Association and Veterans Band sites. There is no way this magazine can compete with the almost in-

stant updates to news and events happening with our members. I am really questioning this magazines viability going forward. Apart from official information i.e. reunion Bookings, committee elections and specific association correspondence the magazine is only supplemented with news that in the case of this edition is 6 months old. I appreciate we have members who look forward to receiving the mag but that totals around 10 to 20 at best.

Posting the official correspondence on the front page of our website and advertising the fact that it is there through the facebook pages brings the information to members quicker. I don't have to build a magazine that has the correct number of pages to go to print and fill it with news that is out of date. It's a thought going forward.

Our website is now over 10 years old and with the few reincarnations on the front page it hasn't changed in the background since its launch. It is now only serving as a junction when the mag is released through facebook that it gets plenty of hits. For instance, the Christmas edition has had 3262 hits. That means it has been opened that many times to be viewed since I released it. If you look at other past editions the numbers are staggering.

So, enjoy reading what is in the following pages and I will attempt to produce another edition sooner than later.

Errol.

The photo on the left was in the Christmas mag and below with the café now opened to the public.



Treasurers Report By Errol Hatch.

It's that time of year again to send out our yearly subscription invoices to all members. After our successful reunion in Ballina we have had new members join and some past members re-join. It is always heartening that the website and facebook pages are finding past colleagues who are joining our growing band of members and we now ask them to help our association by becoming a official member. The sites have 221 followers to date which is encouraging.

We have sadly had members pass away but we continue to be a strong association with ex-bandies still finding us. Our membership subscription is currently still our only source of funds with the Veterans Band financing its events through either donations by the event organizers or the players themselves.

This has been very successful and the Veterans band has grown in stature each year and especially since Ballina. Again it is another avenue in promoting our association.

Look out for your subscription invoice. Some members have paid some years forward so you won't receive one until you are due.

Regards,

Errol.

Editorial, Letters and Comments

Hi Folks,

I can't remember if I sent this photo before. There are a lot of familiar faces here including 'Shakey' Lloyd (cymbals), Barry Lawrence (tenor drum), Nick Depasquale (side drum), Wally Barry (side drum without gaiters looking at camera), Smokey Dawson (tuba), Fritz Semmler (eupho), Jock Heath (clarinet), Dick Hodge (clarinet) etc.

Cheers

Jim.



Editorial, Letters and Comments

What might have been. HMAS Cerberus Band at Edenhope Victoria February 1960 wearing pooch bags from the old uniform similar to the Royal Marines.

Apparently the bosses decided to do away with these. I think they improve the uniform. This was only 2 months after the uniform change. (courtesy John Widdicombe)

Jim Hawkins.



Cerberus Museum Update From John Douglas

<https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-cerberus-heritage-and-learning-centre>

I just found our website. No Comment.

Closed for re imagining!

Imagine all the people,
It's easy if you try,
No hell below us
Above us, only sky.
Imagine all the people
Livin' for today.

John Douglas
(Very Long standing volunteer to the Cerberus Museum)

The Seekers performing at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl as part of Music for The People concerts

I was up the back in the Massed RAN Bands. My wife Lindy was in the crowd looking after one of Ron Henry's young sons who managed to drop his ice cream cone down the neck of some poor chap who was sitting on the grass. I thought the crowd was 100,000 but it has grown since 1967 to 200,000. My old mate Mal "Buggsy" Willshire fell madly in love with Judith Durham. I can't remember what we played opening this show before the Australian Symphony Orchestra joined us on stage (Conductor Hector Crawford) for the finale with the Seekers.

Jim



Editorial, Letters and Comments

MY FIRST ANZAC DAY AND OTHERS..... Jim Hawkins

It was the 25th April 1954 when as an 11 year old drummer in the St George Sutherland Shire Brass Band I caught the 7.30am Blue Bus from near my home in Bexley NSW down to Rockdale Station where a train to the city wasn't far off. My very first memory of that morning was getting dressed into a very itchy serge uniform – handed down over many years – and as proud as punch wearing my white cap with the band badge on the cap band.

Getting on to the train at Rockdale was another memory with all the Diggers' medals jingling as nobody had their medals court mounted back then and this sound continued when we all got off the train and hundreds of people made their way to the assembly places near Martin Place. There was no Martin Place station in 1954.

I was told to look out for 'Ozzie' our elderly bass drummer, and as I had never been allowed to go to the city alone before this day, it was rather daunting finding the assembly point when everyone else seemed to know exactly where they were going.

In 1954 there were tens of thousands of WW2 Diggers and hundreds of WW1 Diggers marching on this important day, and many more bands took part compared to today. In my area of residence alone we had our band, then Hurstville Brass (A grade), Kogarah Brass, Bexley Brass, Rockdale Brass then two CMF Bands, 45th Batt. based in Hurstville and 4th Batt. Based in Arncliffe. The Artillery Band at Kogarah wasn't formed until 1958. It was similar all over Sydney with many more marching bands available for Anzac Day than we see today, and almost no school bands invited to participate except for the very finest Army Cadet Bands which included Marist Brothers Kogarah of which a neighbor of mine was Drum Major.

I recall being very excited when we stepped off on what was my first long march carrying a heavy side drum, past the thousands of people clapping as we went past them. Too soon it was over so I stood near the finish of the march near Hyde Park and listened to other bands as they approached the conclusion and recall the sounds of those bass trombones hitting the very low notes with their slides extended with the use of a handle.

Then I had to make my way back to the railway and back home, slightly uncomfortable in the serge uniform on that very hot day.

I did four more of those marches with ST George until 1959 when I was 'seconded' to the 18LAA Band under Bandmaster WO1 Frank McGuinness as an under aged drummer in a borrowed uniform. I was rather tall and got away with it, and thank goodness no official approached me and asked me for I.D! Later that year I joined the RAN and didn't march in Sydney until 1963 with the Penguin Band, then many more after that. Included was a proud moment in 1971 when I was the WO1 Bandmaster of the 18LAA Band - the full circle had been completed.

In 2000 it was a privilege to be the Drum Major of the RAN Veterans Band when 80 former musicians paraded during our National Reunion and the band was led by former DOM, the late Norm Gullick. That was one to remember as we did the march twice to help the band numbers.

I did march in 2019 with my cobber Mick Wortham and the route had been changed somewhat from the original to one starting uphill and a real knee challenge for a couple of 'cross'.

Hi Errol,

I Hope you are well. I have been doing some internet research on the Museum of HMAS Cerberus. Most of the websites and information seems to be old and out of date. I did come across HMAS Cerberus Heritage and Learning Centre and the old Museum of HMAS Cerberus. I was wondering if the painting of HMAS Melbourne that I donated to the RAN Band Association, painted by my late mother, is on a wall somewhere or just in a pile with other interesting Naval artifacts and antiques.

If it is not on display anywhere, I would prefer to have it back on my wall thanks. But if the painting is on display, well that's great.

Just wondering what is the status of the RAN Band Museum thanks?

Regards,

Doug.

Doug's painting was returned to him and I currently have all of our donated memorabilia stored while the museum is being re-imagined. What happens after that is up in the air.

PRESIDENTS REPORT Ralph Daines



Welcome to this our latest edition of the Magazine. Not much has happened since the last edition but we have some good news and some not so, but life has to go on.

Results are in for the **Amendment to the Constitution**, see the report in this edition. It was important to have this matter clarified as the Veterans Band rely heavily on former Band members of other Services filling the gap (**Association Members are always given first opportunity to play in the Band**) that is not filled in by ex-navy Bandies at various performances. Having a say in matters regarding the

Veterans Band in connection with Association Meetings when they wear the Navy uniform represent the Navy and our Association is not a lot to ask for. If more of our own members assisted, it may not be required to ask for outside assistance.



Note the Tie Paul O'Hara is wearing with Navy Uniform, RAN Band Association.



The **RAN Band's 110th Birthday** party was held at Garden Island on 21st June and I had the honor to represent the Association and catch up with a lot of familiar faces and the Director of Music.

PRESIDENTS REPORT Ralph Daines

The Director of Music, Commander Cassie Mohapp is a great supporter of our Association.

In the last couple of months, I have had the pleasure to be contacted by two former financial members of the Association requesting to be back in the fold and who would say NO. The main reason is loss of contact with old mates. I would think there are a number of former members out there who have decided to leave the fold for various reasons, but I ask of you to have another think about coming back, remember **Once a Bandy Always a Bandy.**

If you are a serving member of the RAN Band and you follow us on Facebook and would like to become a member of the Association, get in contact with the Association at admin@ranbandassoc.net.

Hoping our Members are well, to the families who have lost loved ones our condolences.

Till next edition.

Kindest regards Ralph.



AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTIONAL BY LAWS

In the Xmas edition of the Magazine, a **BALLOT PAPER** was placed to alter a section of our Constitution (AS SHOWN BELOW), VOTING was open until the 31st March 2023.

Only 14 Members voted, the Association Constitution requires a quorum of 5 Members to vote.

The result of the Vote was 12 YES and 2 NO;

The AMENDMENT was accepted.

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION BY LAWS

BALLOT PAPER

A Special General Meeting was held prior to the Annual General Meeting, 19th August 2022 to discuss amendment to the following section of the RANBA Constitution By Laws.

The meeting was unable to agree on the wording of this motion, so the meeting was informed that an amended wording would be made and sent out to all members of Association to vote on electronically.

AMENDMENT IS PRINTED IN BLUE BELOW. SECTION b) ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

1 MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership with voting rights is a former serving member of the Permanent Royal Australian Navy Band or the Royal Australian Navy Band Reserve

Associate Membership is available to Widows, family of full members and to former members of The Royal Marines and foreign Navy Bands. Associate Members may attend General Meetings and participate but have no voting rights

Associate Members who are a members of the RAN Veterans Band may attend General Meetings and have voting rights ONLY in relation to RAN Veterans Band matters.

Honorary Membership can be afforded to any person who has offered outstanding assistance to the RANBA and musicians who assist from time to time in the RAN Veterans Band but have no voting rights.

Serving Members of the Royal Australian Navy Band are invited to become members in the category of Honorary Members but if they wish to receive the Association Newsletter and the use of the Association Web Site, they would need to apply for Associate Membership or Full Membership if they want to vote.

As per changes to the Association Incorporation Regulation 2022, Schedule 2, 4(2)(a) and 5(3)(a); Schedule 2, 1(1) relating to postal voting, the Ballot Paper sets out details of the Amendment and voting can be now electronically sent to admin@ranbandassoc.net

Members can still return a this Ballot Paper via Post to PO BOX 69, LYNBROOK.VIC.3975 with a circle around YES of NO below.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR BALLOT PAPER OR EMAIL BY 31ST MARCH 2023

VOTE : YES OR NO.

RALPH DAINES : PUBLIC OFFICER

Queensland Report: By John Lennon

Greetings from Queensland. We have all had a busy year with holidays and band commitments. In February I travelled to the York peninsula to celebrate Dean Butlers 70th Birthday. On my travels I caught up with Shina Wright, attended my Grandsons graduation from Kapooka at Wagga Wagga and visited Julie Williamson (Paul's Wife) at Crystal Brook SA.



Clive and Noeline Smith have finally settled into their new house in Brisbane. Clive is now our lead Tenor Sax with Rocus big band. I would like to acknowledge

a few other new arrivals to Qld, Kuni Wendel and Gary Krause. Kuni and Gary have settled in Hervey Bay which boasts the world record for the longest convoy of mobility scooters. We now have 3 members in Hervey Bay, including Bert Kennedy. Kuni has become the go-to person for all matters relating to DVA through his advocacy position with the local RSL.



Our far north Qld members include Peter “punchy” Martin and Leon Stucas. I have included a picture of Peter flexing his muscles to Leon warning him of serious injuries for any misdemeanor. Leon catches up with Peter whenever he is in Townsville.

Our Brisbane members Gary Sander, Gary Searle, Ken Lincoln, Ken McCallum and our newest member Clive have all been very busy with band commitments. I recently was updated by a band member who met up with Phil Martin at a retirement village where Phil currently resides. The report back was that he looks well and was happy to talk about his Navy days.



Queensland Report: By John Lennon



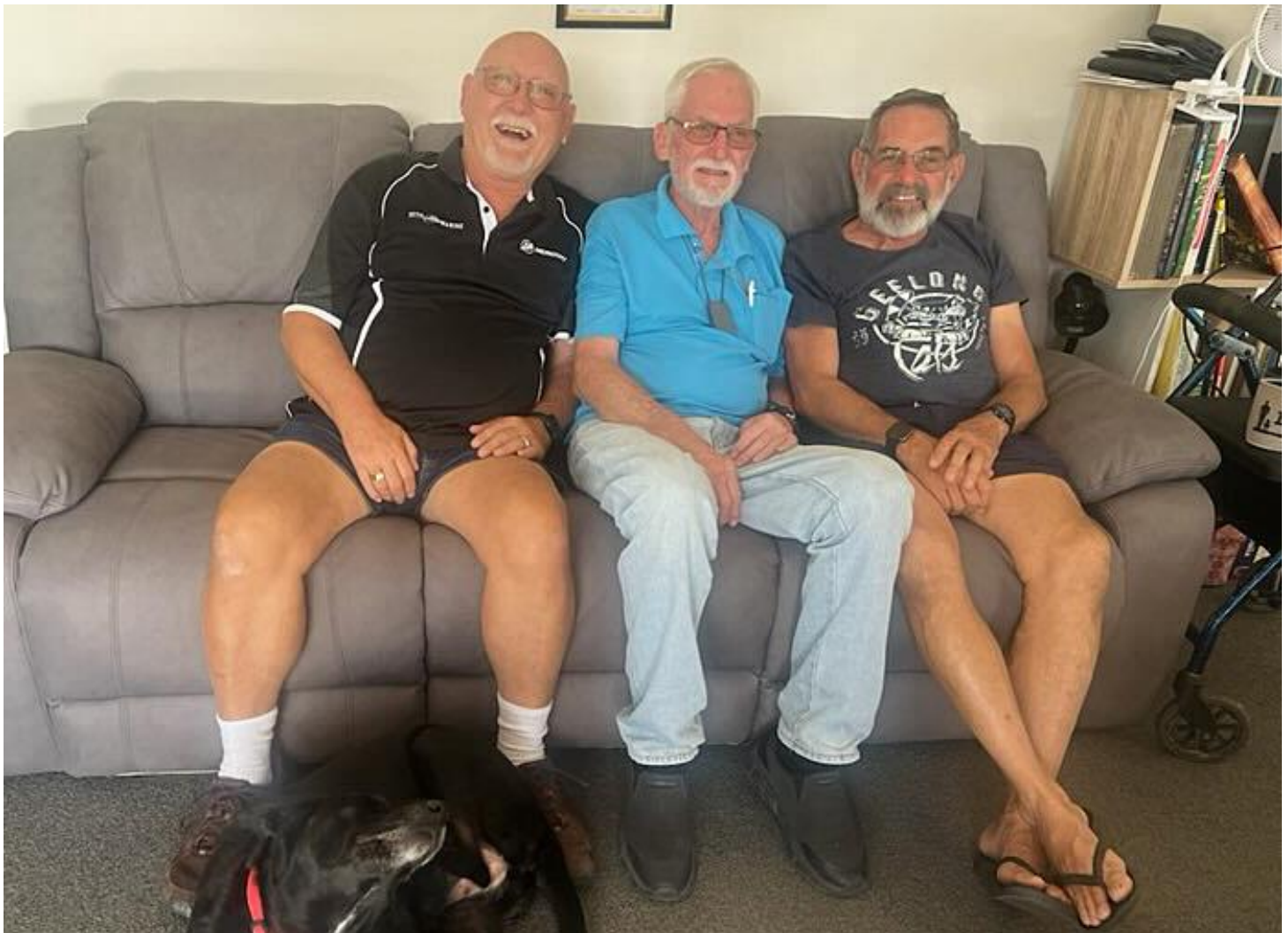
Our other cluster of members are on the Gold Coast which includes Jim Henshaw, Guy Scruton and Vic Knowles. I am in regular contact with Jim, filling in on trumpet with the Hinterland Swing Band. Guy is now retired and is traveling through Europe under the guidance of Blue McNally.

Leon Stucas and Ken McCallum travelled to Ballina for ANZAC day after which they visited Shina, staying for a few days spinning plenty of yarns and drinking heaps of the local Ale.

We also hope for a speedy recovery for Trevor Williamson after his knee replacement surgery.

All the best.

John Lennon.



South Australian Report: By Doug Drysdale

Greetings from South Australia.

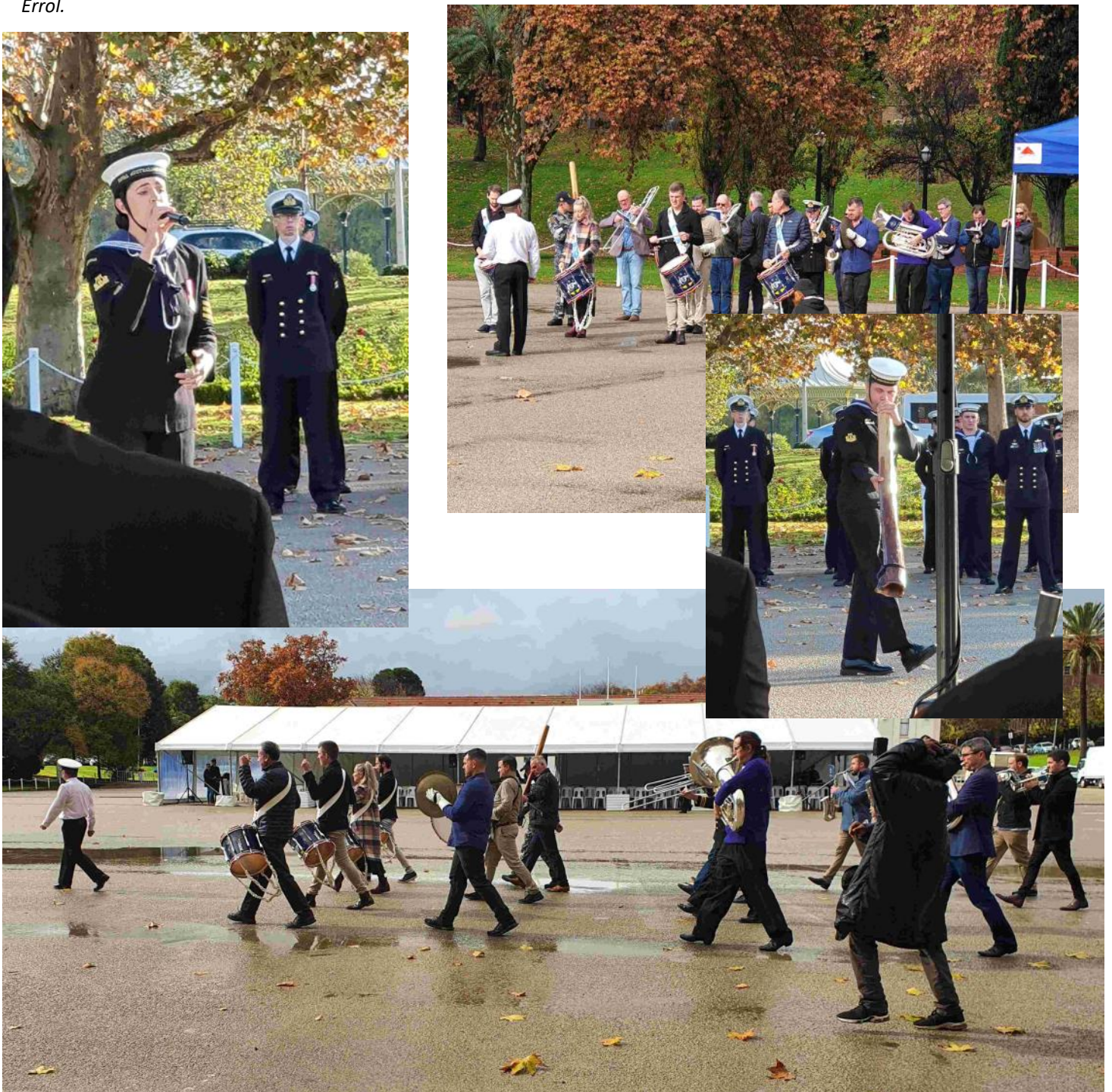
On the 28th May I was privileged and honoured to be invited to attend the HMAS Encounter (III) Recommissioning Ceremony along with many other ex and serving members of the Royal Australian Navy.

The Recommissioning Ceremony was held on the Torrens Parade Ground, Victoria Drive Adelaide South Australia. The Recommissioning Ceremony was supported by the combined bands of the Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne and members of the Royal Australian Navy Band Adelaide. I have included a few photos of the Band rehearsing the Ceremonial Parade in very wet conditions in the morning on the day before. Sorry, no names are provided. See a local enjoying the rehearsal and joining in with the band on parade. Best wishes and regards to all from Adelaide South Australia.

Doug.

I remember the Torrens parade ground well. In 1968 the Navy band performed a Sunset ceremony as part of the Adelaide festival of Arts. I was 14 turning 15 a couple of months later and that's what got me hooked on joining the RAN Band.

Errol.



VALE

Members of The Association were shocked to learn of the passing of Maxine, beloved wife of 62 years of Bill Farrell – former Director of Music – on January 19th this year. Maxine had been resident in The Hermitage Nursing Home, Ellenbrook, for the past 14 months suffering from dementia, which gradually led to her passing away in her sleep on the day mentioned.

The Nursing Home staff were exceptional throughout her residence, and she developed a special attachment to several of these staff members during her stay there. Her funeral was held in The Chapel of St. Mary & St. George at Guildford Grammar School where Bill took up the position of Director of Music on his retirement from the Navy and where Maxine became Wardrobe Mistress in the Drama Department as well as being appointed House Mother of one of the Boarding Houses. There was an excellent attendance at her funeral including a great array of relatives including some from interstate, every member of Bill's Rotary club, some nursing colleagues dating back to the early 1950's and one from the Mornington Bush Nursing Hospital where Maxine worked, 3 staff from The Hermitage plus many other friends including members of The Band Association.

It was a farewell of which she would have been proud and a fitting one for a wonderful lady.

RIP Maxine

Randall (Ned) Kellas reported the passing of,

Allan Stuart PARKYN
25.06.1938 - 26.06.2023

Dearly loved husband of Kay and Father of Mark & Grant.

Puppet to Brad, Lachie, Tom & Will.

Will be sadly missed.

RIP
Allan.



Vale

ROBERT BEDWELL OAM



I would like to share with you some thoughts about my mate Bob Bedwell, gone too early, nearly made 77 years of age, BLOODY HELL.

Bob joined with Ron Henry and Jim Hawkins to bring this wonderful Association into being in 1994 and ever since had been an active Member and assisted me greatly with the formation of the RAN Veterans Band and the Incorporation of the Association.

Bob joined the Navy Band in 1963 after auditioning on Fife, on the phone with Don Coxon, he became a brilliant Clarinet player and overall Musician and created musical pathways for hundreds of kids through his lifetime.

I met Bob at the School of Music and we managed to weave havoc both in and out of the Navy, we were firm mates, both of us pretty good squash players, in fact we became Commander Brasch, XO of HMAS Cerberus, practice bunnies. Once we both worked out his devilish game we retaliated and started to smash the ball into him at every chance, one way the belt a senior officer around and not get locked up.

I played in various musical combinations over the years, but the funniest time I had was playing in the Orchestra for Tony Price Productions and Bob was Conductor. He used to get his rocks off by feeding prompts to the Cast but not from the show we were playing but another, ie South Pacific and we were performing Student Prince.

Bob told lousy jokes, I remember vividly that during our time at Cerberus he would sit on the end of my bunk and tell jokes for ages keeping me awake. He did lots of good things for many people and was appreciated by many.

Bob's passion in life (other than Family) was his Central Coast Concert Band, which he started last Century, and he still played up to the end of last year. His

other loves were his Lodge and making long phone calls, but the phone is silent now.



This photo was taken last year prior to the Ballina Reunion with a Quilt made by Kate, Bob's wife for our Reunion Raffles.

DEMENTIA IS A BASTARD OF A DISEASE.

REST IN PEACE MATE

RALPH DAINES .





The 2024 Launceston Reunion is officially announced and we can confirm dates and a interim itinerary for the weekend.

Brian, Kerry and the team in Launceston have chosen the 18th through to the 20th of October 2024

The Reunion

October in Tasmania is now our focus to meet up and enjoy each others company. This reunion is back to a traditional association reunion with no veterans band commitment (not yet anyway) in the program.

Friday the 18th of October

Meet & Greet

Our first official engagement is the good old Meet and Greet to be held at the Launceston RSL. Times and prices will be advised in our next edition. The focus will be on a good time in a relaxed atmosphere.

Saturday the 19th of October

AGM

Our official AGM will be held in the morning of the 19th at a location to be advised. The remainder of the day is free for you to venture around Launceston. No specific tours have been organised yet but suggestions will be forthcoming.

Official RANBA Dinner

Moving back to our formal dinner for this reunion it will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel and will be



a tie event. We will be entertained by a small group from the Tasmanian Navy Band (To be confirmed).

Sunday the 20th of October

To end our weekend the team has organised a farewell BBQ lunch at a location to be advised. This will be our last function of the reunion and members can head off on adventures throughout Tasmania.

Reunion Prices

Final prices and function locations will be available in our next edition but the Grand Chancellor is definitely where our dinner will be held.

Accommodation

There is a abundance of accommodation available and the Grand Chancellor is the obvious location as our dinner will be held there. There is no reunion special room prices at the moment but we will keep you informed if a negotiated price is forthcoming.

Travel

Now we have the dates we all can now look for the appropriate travel requirements to get us there. Flights direct to Launceston do fill quickly and I would be cautious to cover yourself for cancellations.

Summary

A full booking form, pricing and a detailed timetable will be issued in our next edition. We look forward to a successful reunion in 2024.

