



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

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

CHRISTMAS EDITION 2023



Your Executive:**All Editorial to:**

Errol Hatch

RAN Band Association.

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President:

Ralph Daines

Vice President:

Geoff Bunce

Secretary:

Roger Downton

Treasurer:

Errol Hatch

Committee:

Bill Farrell, Geoff Dawson, Doug Drysdale

State Representatives:**NSW:** Ralph Daines**VIC:** Terry Ekin**QLD:** John Lennon**SA:** Doug Drysdale**TAS:** David Hardstaff**WA:** Bill Farrell**RAN Veterans Band/Events Manager:**

Ralph Daines

Registered Address:

Royal Australian Navy Band Association Inc;

1 Howell Ave, Port Macquarie. NSW 2444

Web: www.ranbandassoc.net**ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE—2024**

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.

2024 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

Another year has passed us by with amazing speed I must say. I'm sure the ABC ads for New Years celebrations was on only last week.

The magazine contribution to 2023 has been relatively sparse and I apologize for this. In the age of so called social media it is interesting how we can become isolated from social events until after they happen. General correspondence sometimes is a text message when it is just as easy to pick up the phone and give a mate or two a buzz or maybe even submit something for the mag by email.

Ralph and I correspond constantly but even this year it feels as though months have passed before we catchup.

Well 2024 is a new year and my New Years resolution is to increase our correspondence to our members through all facets of communication. The Victorians had their Christmas lunch in early December at the Seaford RSL and the main topic to me is that we are not involving ourselves in enough activities to keep our members in the loop either socially or through less technical media, in other words

more of the paper please. And a phone call.

We are all aging and our members need to be on a regular basis, contacted and kept up to date. How are you keeping by the way?

The 2024 reunion is picking up steam and this edition provides more info regarding the itinerary. The Veterans band will be involved and Ralph has sent out pleas for members to participate . There is more detail in the mag.

I wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a safe 2024 and look forward to seeing you in Launceston.

Errol.



Treasurers Report By Errol Hatch.

We have as usual had a good response to members updating their subscription to our association and I also thank those members who made extra donations to our coffers. I will release statements to those who have yet to pay in the new year.

Not a lot can be conveyed on the financial side, with no reunions this year and the magazine limited to two editions our expenses have been minimal so our bank balance remains healthy. A booking form for the upcoming reunion is attached at the end of the mag and if payments want to be made by credit card, facilities are available.

Christmas parade, Melbourne 1966? Don Coxon, Digger Coutts & Bill Farrell Leading, Yogi Soutar on Bass Drum.

Regards,

Errol.



PRESIDENTS REPORT Ralph Daines



Welcome to the magazine for our Xmas Edition.

As we approach the years end, I would like to look back at my year of HORRIBALUS, which may explain my invisibility most of the time.

Early in the year Cheryle and I lost our Grandson Riley, who we were eagerly waiting to welcome, sadly not to happen.

Middle of the year I spent a fair bit of time putting out "Fires with Navy resulting from discontented Members about non invitations to an event. I have spent the majority, of my time in the past 20 odd years as Secretary and President making sure we, as an Association, were beneficial to all Serving members, as well as former members.

In October I found out what it is like to be getting OLD, 2am, I call 000 because of severe pains in stomach, Ambo not interested as my Heart was beating and Vital Signs were OK. I demanded to be taken to Hospital where I was placed on a plastic chair in the corner of Emergency till 8am before a Doctor saw me, even though there were few patients during the night. The Doctor checked my pain and immediately commented "you have a problem mate" and then everything clicked into gear and six days later my Gall Bladder was removed. The one great thing about being in Hospital was I was immune from THE VOICE.

As a very successful Association, which will celebrate the 30th Anniversary next year, we have seen many other Naval and Ship Associations fold, we have still been able to maintain roughly the same numbers

each year. WHY? Why, I believe the reason is that a SMALL number of Members have helped year after year to take responsibility for the Management and the general running of this Association. For the past 10 years we have never had every position held by a different Member, some Committee Members have multiple positions year after year, due to lack of interest. Post 1970 members may not know my history, but I was not wanted by the Navy Band so I accepted an offer to go to the RAAF, but I guess the time at the School of Music and time at sea, has left me with memories that will last forever. The main problem our Association has is a lack of State based Members who will take some time to contact older members, just to check, have a chat, let them know that they are still part of the Band Family.

With next year our 30th Anniversary and Reunion in Launceston for the first time, I would like you to think about coming along. The Veterans Band will be performing on the Sunday afternoon and will be raising money for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. Brian, Kerry, and their helpers are doing their best at making the Reunion one to Remember. The Dates are 18th, 19th and 20th of October, more information later in the magazine.

Till next time, all the best and a Merry Christmas to all.

Ralph.





ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY VETERANS BAND

You may wonder why all the logos appear above? I am just making a POINT that this Association OWN the NAME and will always be the owner. It is incorporated, approved by Navy and will always represent Navy Values.

I am making this point because at our last reunion's Special General Meeting, a section of the Members were concerned over allowing other members of former Australian Service Bands to join the Association as Associate Members. I must admit that I should not have been in charge of the meeting as I was cleaning up the night before, after the Meet and Greet, when I had a fall and knocked myself out, so as a result I was incapable of controlling the meeting and should have handed over control to another member of committee.

The Motion was set aside and later went to an electronic vote via the last Magazine, which passed the Motion.

The RAN VETERANS BAND, since inception has always had members from other service bands making up numbers to allow us to perform as a working ensemble. These players have always accepted the fact they were wearing a Naval uniform and representing with, PRIDE AND ALL PAID THEIR OWN EXPENSES.

On to the Reunion next year in Launceston; The BAND will be performing a Concert on Sunday 20th October, in the Salvation Army Hall in the afternoon, with a rehearsal the day before. The Concert will be raising funds for the RED SHIED APPEAL.

I have sent out emails to a large group of former players and have a number of acceptances so far. If any one would like to participate please contact me on r.daines@bigpond.net.au or 0405 380751.

I would like to wish all members a warm and Merry Christmas and a great next year.

RALPH DAINES, Veterans Band Manager

Editorial, Letters and Comments

Hi Errol,

Sorry I couldn't make the lunch today at the Seaford RSL. Still finding photo's you may be interested in from Gordon's collection. This one is HMAS Sydney 1953 with McCabe, Duncombe, Gullick, Coe, Horton, Crompton, and Williams'

Wishing everybody a merry Christmas and a safe 2024.

Dot Crompton.



Victorian Report: By Terry Ekin

The Victorian contingent enjoyed a long awaited reunion Christmas lunch on the 3rd of December at our old stomping ground, the Seaford RSL.

Attendance on the day was great with only a few late withdrawals and the RSL was the busiest we've seen.



Above, Pat and Barry Pollock enjoying a nice meal, and both looking as splendid as usual.

Left, Paul Cottier, Sharon Hatch and John Lucas enjoying each others company.

Victorian Report: By Terry Ekin

A couple of new faces were in attendance with ex-Director Paul Cottier making the trip from the other side of town and John Lucas finally making it to our final lunch for the year.



Others we had not seen for some time were Mal and Gail Codling along with Ray Mills up from Colac.

It was a wonderful day and those that attended enjoyed each others company.

2024 will be a return to more consistent lunches maybe at a different location.

Have a wonderful Christmas and will hopefully catch up with you all in the new year in Launceston.

Terry.

Below,

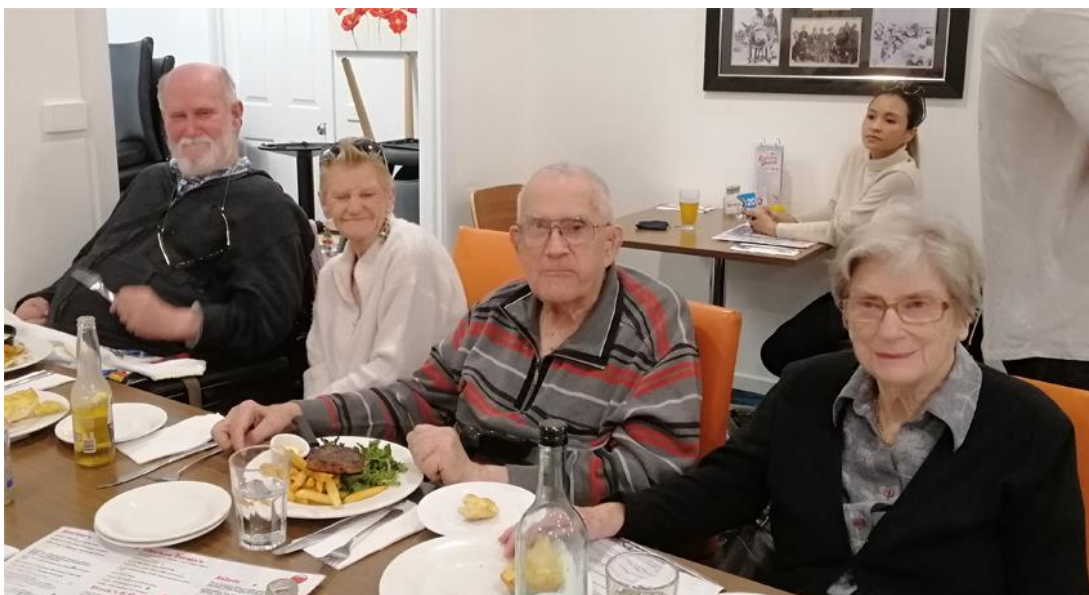
Mal & Gail Codling with Col and Pam Morris enjoying the excellent food and the festive celebrations.



Left, Terry & Lorraine Ekin with Ray Mills.

Above, Les and Carol Kent have been consistent participants to our lunches this year.

Below, John & Mal finally catch up after years since seeing each other.



Wild West Report: By Bill Farrell

Readers will have read all the sad news from over here in the Wild West so it's about time we put on a happy face to prove that nice things do happen here.

Our star for the past 6 months was the Xmas Luncheon held at the RAAFA Club at Bull Creek. There were 22 present including 2 daughters doing the right thing by driving their fathers or mothers, or both, to the function these being the Lincoln and Foale daughters with the Farrell daughter being absent because she had a previous date in Bali with her husband!



It was the day for the annual presentation of the Farrell/Lincoln Trophy and Shirley's presence so soon after Ted's passing was indeed a pleasure.

This year's award was ABMUSN. Angelo Ravina, a pianist with magic in his fingers who came along with no idea that he was to receive the award, in fact he thought that he was coming to the luncheon to provide background music for the proceedings.

As well as being the pianist for the Band's small group, playing at Government House and for official Naval functions, he has become an integral part of the drum corps he has taught himself what we term the "marching glockenspiel," adding great panache to the marching group. He is a delightful young man who has the world of music at his finger tips having just graduated from the Western Austral-

ian Academy of Arts.

Along to cast an eye over proceedings was proud Mrs. Georgina Ravina. Also present were some very recognizable names, Fred Brewer, Kevin Foale, Buck Buchanan, Andrew Fairbairn and Andrew Rourke accompanied by appropriate partners. There were also several members of the West Australian Navy Band including their Chief Brett Donovan, soon on the posting trail back to CERBERUS, plus some older members of the now defunct Reserve Band.



All in all it was the best function we have had, in a private room with bar facilities. Most members over here are in good health although like all of us we are getting rather long in the tooth.

From the West to the East we wish all readers a Happy Xmas and a better New Year and maybe we'll meet up in Launceston in October?

Merry Christmas.

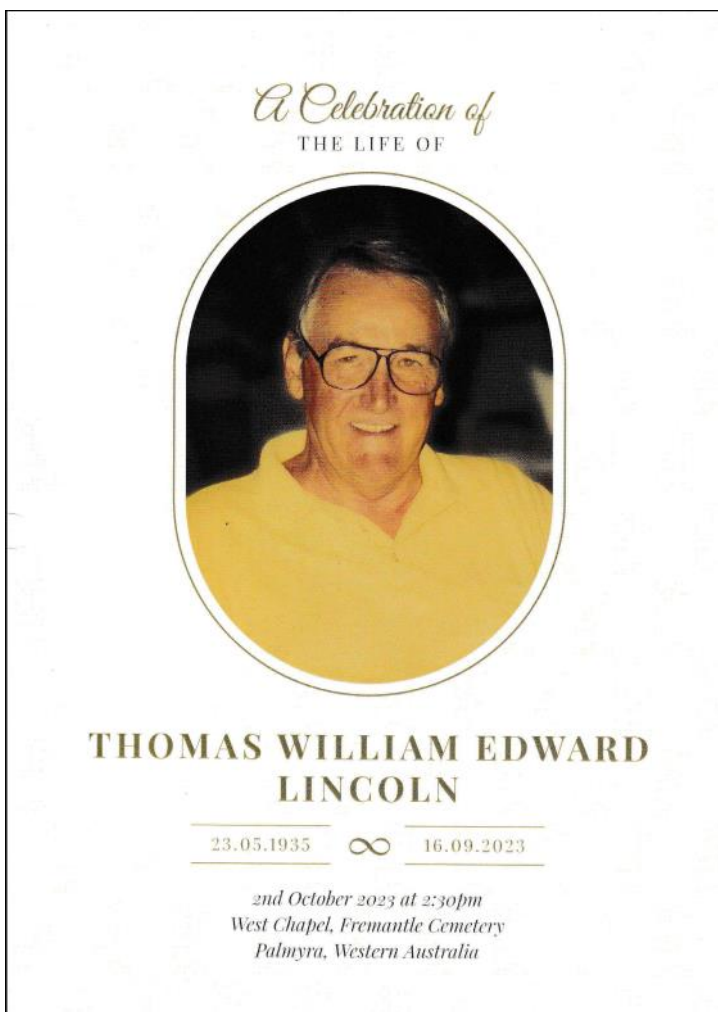
Bill.



VALE

Apart from some pretty hot weather over the past few weeks, there is a quartet of VALES to report. The first one, Maxine, has been covered very well in a previous edition of the Magazine, but there is still a trio who haven't been touched because they all occurred in the latter half of the year. The first one deals with one of the initial entries as a Boy Musician in 1951.

THOMAS WILLIAM EDWARD (Ted) LINCOLN in September of that year from suburban Sydney. He was born in country New South Wales, but the family moved to suburbia from where he took the plunge into Navy life as one of the first breed of Boy Musicians and because he displayed leadership qualities, he was made a Leading Boy Musician. Ted earned a nickname early in his career which he took with him to his grave. He had the habit of putting his head on fellow musicians' shoulders in an endeavor of giving them a fright. Naturally it did and it earned him the nickname of Spook."



On the serious side of things, he was taught the clarinet, tenor saxophone and cello because in those days the RAN maintained orchestras as well as bands. On

graduation as a second class Musician, he was posted to one of several bands, but in October 1956 he, and all other Musicians in the Navy, were posted back to HMAS CERBERUS to rehearse for and take part in the opening of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. The Band undertook a 22 minute complicated marching display which culminated in the formation of the 5 Olympic circles, with the 2 drum majors' maces emitting flame and smoke with the Director of Music saluting out the front. It brought the house down. Ted did promotion courses in which he was successful and in the last few years of the 5th. decade, he caught the eye of a young Frankston lass, Shirley, who became his wife of over 65 years. Came the 1960's and he was promoted to Petty Officer Musician and in November 1962, he was one of a duet of Drum Majors at the opening of The British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth. The other was your correspondent and we worked out a routine of tossing our maces between us on the march, a scheme that was vetoed by the Director of Music after considerable damage to the maces. But we did get around this veto and tossed them another way.

In the years that followed, Ted undertook another promotion course, this time for Chief Petty Officer Musician in which he was successful, whilst helping Shirley raise 2 children, Donna and Craig. In the late 1960's he was posted to HMAS SYDNEY as Bandmaster, undertaking several trips to Vietnam with soldiers and supplies on what became known as The Vung Tau Ferry. He also spent some time at HMAS LEEUWIN in Fremantle and back at CERBERUS as an instructor at the School of Music.

On paying off from the Navy, he spent some time in the Frankston area eventually finding his way to Parry Avenue, Bull Creek, WA where he and Shirley lived a happy and peaceful life. Unfortunately Ted was subjected to much ill health during the latter years of his life which saw him become a diabetic with the usual associated ailments, including multiple visits to hospitals. Prior to this he became a well respected DVA Advocate assisting other veterans with their problems until he was required to quit that position.

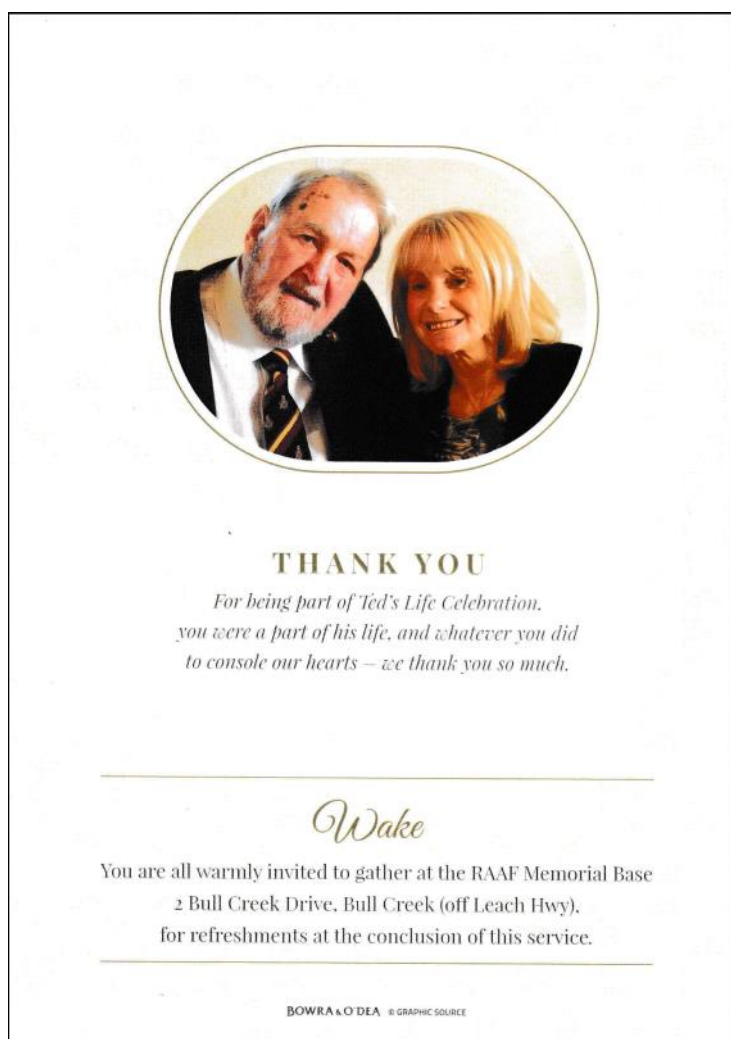
His funeral was held at Fremantle and had an excellent attendance including Association members. The pall bearers were son Craig, son-in-law Richard, grandson Richard and your correspondent who was extremely honoured to be requested by Shirley to carry out the role, particularly as it was nearly 72 years ago that Leading Boy Musician Lincoln greeted me on the Crib Point Station to commence my Naval

career. A silver tenor saxophone was placed on the casket by CPO Musn. Brett Donovan, the Bandmaster of the WA Navy Band, assisted by PO Musn. Nigel Barrett, bugler for the funeral. Ted's memory will live on with those who knew him and with the Farrell/Lincoln Trophy, awarded annually to an outstanding member of the WA Navy Band.

Those who knew you will honour your memory.

RIP SPOOK.

Bill Farrell



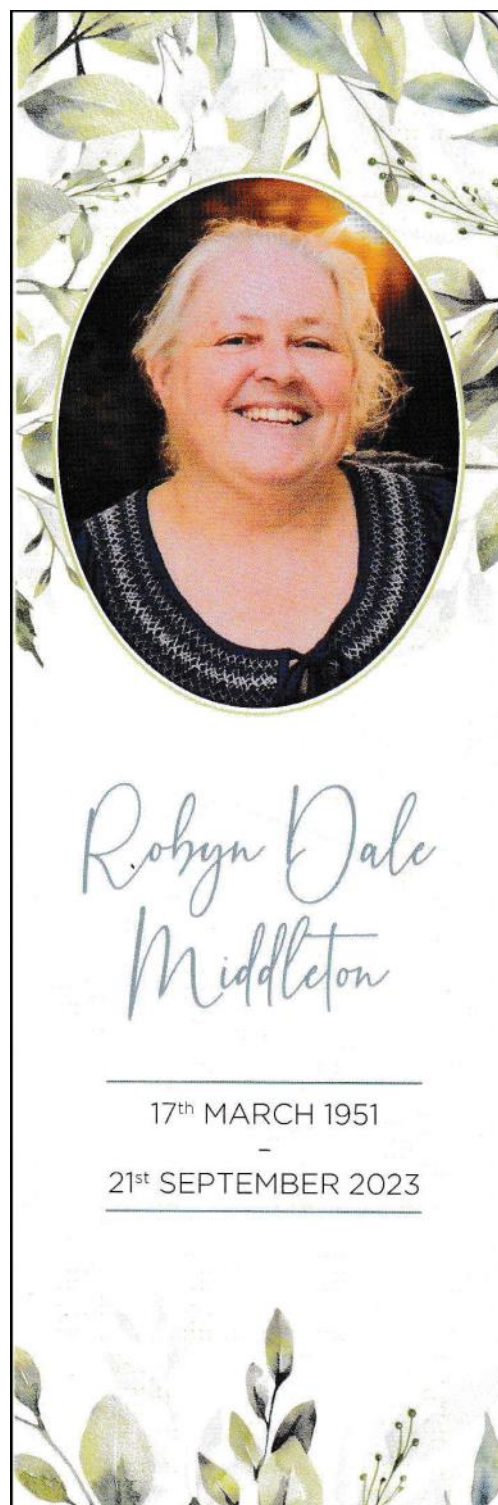
The second of our VALES refers to ROBYN DALE MIDDLETON the widow of tenor saxophonist Bill Middleton who passed away in 2019. Robyn outlived her husband by 4 years, but during their time together she delighted in travelling with the Veterans' Band on many excursions including the South Pacific on cruise liners, Singapore, Malaysia, Thursday Island and many ports of call within mainland Australia.

She enjoyed the camaraderie of the Band and within the group she was very friendly with all of the ladies, and the saying went that if you were looking for Robyn, look for

Cheryle or Maxine because that's where she'd be, in their company.

Her funeral was held in Midland, WA, and your correspondent attended to represent the Association, and in particular the wife of our President. Thank you for your friendship, Robyn, the members of the travelling group appreciated your presence.

RIP Robyn.



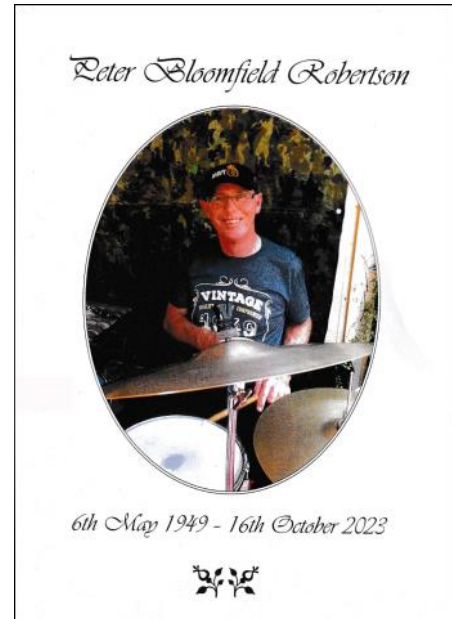
Vale

The final member of the trio was PETER BLOOMFIELD ROBERTSON, known as ROBBO. He would not be well known by RAN musicians on the East Coast, but he was here in Western Australia. He was born in Scotland and, after migrating to Australia, he joined the Reserve Band in Fremantle, HMAS LEEUWIN, in 1982, although this was after 2 years of attending rehearsals prior to enlisting.

His funeral, which was held at Karrakatta, was lead by a Navy drummer from the main gate of the cemetery to the Chapel with family members as pall bearers, as well as being readers of the eulogy and tributes. The Naval Ode was in the hands of Ted Tait and Peter Cobb and the Last Post was played by POMusn Nigel Barrett.

RIP Peter.

Admiral



KARL TORRENS

5th August 2023

Karl passed away after a battle on life support from a second stroke. We enjoyed Karl's company at our recent reunion in Ballina.

RIP

Karl



South Australian Report: By Doug Drysdale

Good Morning all,

Seasons Greetings from Adelaide, South Australia.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

From Rundle Mall to the lovely relaxing surroundings in the backyard of John and Rosie's home

at West Lakes Shore, Where decisions are made and all the problems of the world are solved, ha ha ha!

Best wishes from Rosie and John Ezergailis, Roger and Claire Downton, Douglas and Lynette Drysdale.

Best Regards,
Doug Drysdale

PS: Reunion and RANA Band performance Launceston 18 - 20 October 2024 it's a YES for me.





The Launceston RSL Club, Anzac House, Cnr Wellington & Eardley Streets is where all the functions will be held (the Meet & Greet, AGM and Farewell BBQ). It is 2.2 kms from the CBD, a 5 minute drive or a 30 minute walk, but the good news is that it's only a 2 minute walk from the Big 4 Caravan Park for those who are staying there!

FRIDAY 18 OCT

The Meet & Greet will start at 1800 and finger food will be supplied. Cost is \$20 per head. Dress: neat casual.

SATURDAY 19 OCT

The AGM will start at 0930. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be supplied.

Rehearsal will be at City Band Rooms on Bathurst St (opposite Dan Murphy's) starting at 1.00pm until 3.00pm.



There will be a bus trip on for anyone who is not participating in the concert. It will be during the AGM and whilst the band is rehearsing. It is proposed to depart from the RSL at 0900am with (time permitting) stops at the Ashgrove Cheese Factory, The House of Anvers Chocolate Factory, the Raspberry Farm Cafe for lunch and Van Diemen's Land Creamery for a treat on the way home. We aim to be back in town by 1500 at the latest. *The cost of the bus for this trip is still being negotiated, so unfortunately we cannot give final costs yet. However, we will need an indication of how many would want to go which will determine the size of the bus. (minimum number 24)

The Official Dinner will be held at the RSL commencing 1800 for a 1830 sitting. Dress will be, Gents: tie and jacket, miniatures may be worn; Ladies: after five. This will be a 3 course dinner with a choice of two entrees, two mains and two desserts. Cost will be \$60 for 3 courses. The Navy Reserve Band Hobart will entertain us during the evening. Please advise of any dietary requirements.

SUNDAY 20 OCT

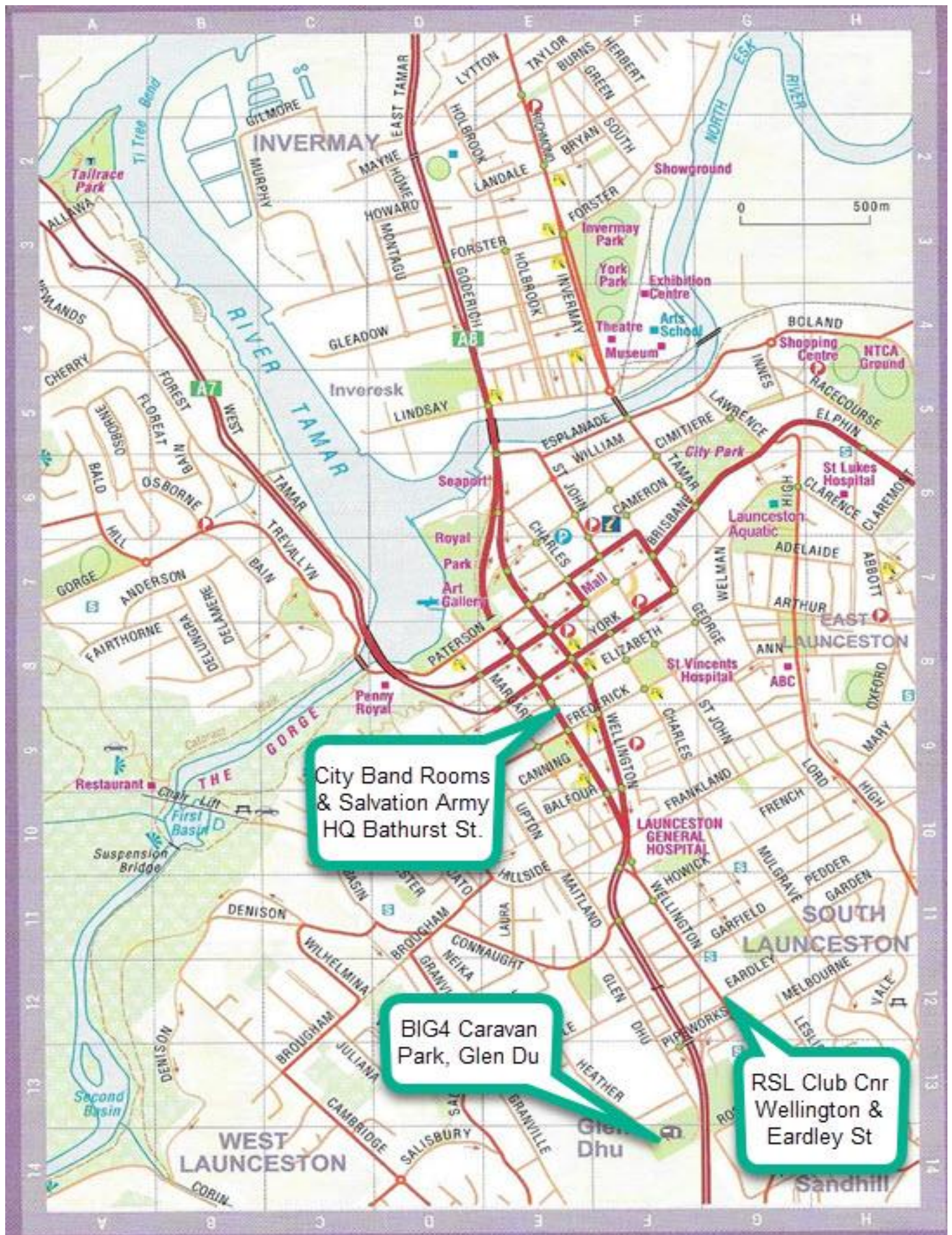
There will be a concert for interested players to be held at the Salvation Army Headquarters, 111 Elizabeth St, commencing at 2.00pm. Admission will be approx. \$15-20 and all proceeds will go the Salvos Red Shield Appeal.

There will be a farewell BBQ at the Launceston RSL after the concert, starting at 5.00pm Cost is \$20 per head and there will be hamburgers, sausages and salad on offer.

The team look forward to you joining them for the long awaited reunion in lovely Launceston.



The following street map of Launceston outlines the venues for the weekend. Depending on where you are staying they are all reasonably close together. The following pages gives you an indication as to current pricing and destination from the CBD.



ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS:

There are many hotels/motels, apartments, B & Bs and caravan parks around Launceston. Some suggestions are:

NAME	COMMENTS	DISTANCE from CBD	PRICE 1 night	PRICE 3 nights
Hotel Grand Chancellor		1 km	168	504
Pepper's Seaport		1 km	267	801
Nightcap at Riverside Motel		6.5 kms	169	507
Pepper's Silo Hotel		1.5 kms	265	795
Country Club Casino		9 kms	162	486
Country Club Villas		9 kms	157	470
Mantra Charles Hotel		1.7 kms	195	585
Quality Colonial Hotel		1 km	193	577
Hotel Verge	New hotel	1 km	225	675
Alice's Cottages B&B		1.4 kms	237	711
Kurrajong House		1.5 kms	206	618
Dragonfly Inn		2 kms	200	600
Village Family Motor Inn		3.6 kms	113	339
Best Western Plus		700m	139	417
Old Tudor Motel	No breakfast available	4.7 kms	175	525
The Grand Hotel		1 km	265	795
Leisure Inn Penny Royal Hotel		1 km	170	510
Elphin Serviced Apartments		1.5 kms	160	480
The Auldington Hotel		1.4 kms	162	486
Balmoral on York		1 km	180	540
Central Apartment Hotel		400m	229	687
Mercure Hotel Launceston		1.2 kms	130	390
Windarra on High		1.5 kms	189	567
Centennial Hotel		1.2 kms	99	297
Parklane Hotel		1.2 kms	140	420
Adina Place		1 km	175	525
Commodore Regent		1 km	210	630
Big 4 Glen Dhu	Walking distance to RSL	4 kms		
Old Mac's Farm	Licensed restaurant on site No shower facilities	4.5 kms	15	45
Discovery Parks, Hadspen		12 kms		
Launceston Holiday Park Legana		11kms		
Riverside Caravan Park, Longford		22 kms		

All prices are correct as of Dec 2023 (searched for 18th, 19th and 20th of Oct 2024), some prices may change slightly before then. Booking directly with the hotel and booking early will get you the best prices. All accommodation is standard room only for two people and does not include breakfast. Most have free cancellation.

Bus Trip - "the Gourmet Strip"

Proposed itinerary for the bus trip for Saturday 19th October 2024 is as follows...

0900 Depart Launceston
1000 Arrive Ashgrove Cheese Factory
<https://www.ashgrovecheese.com.au/>

approx. travel time: 1 hour
visit time: ½ hour



1030 Depart Ashgrove
1100 Arrive House of Anvers Chocolate Factory
<https://anvers-chocolate.com.au/>

approx. travel time: ½ hour
visit time: ½ hour



1130 Depart House of Anvers
1200 Arrive Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm Cafe for lunch and Van Diemen's Land Creamery (across the road) for ice cream if required
<https://raspberrymfarmcafe.com/>

approx. travel time: ½ hour
visit time: 2 hours



1400 Depart Raspberry Farm
1500 Arrive back in Launceston
<http://www.vdlcreamery.com.au/#icecream-gelato-cafe>

approx. travel time: 1 hour



There is an abundance of things to taste, see and do in our beautiful city.

2024 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION REUNION, LAUNCESTON. 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 18th OF OCTOBER

Number

MEET & GREET, LAUNCESTON RSL, WELLINGTON & EARDLEY ST

6.00pm Commencement \$20.00 Total \$ _____

Special Dietary requirements

For: _____ Special Requirements _____

SATURDAY THE 19th OF OCTOBER

GOURMET BUS TOUR

9.00am Gourmet Strip Bus Tour Departs

Numbers Required for Cost to be established TBA Total \$ _____

ASSOCIATION AGM

9.30am Association AGM commences

Held at the Launceston RSL. Tea & Coffee provided.

VETERANS BAND REHEARSAL

1.00pm to 3.00pm Veterans Band Rehearsal, City Band Rooms

If you are playing please indicate at the bottom of the Booking Form

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL DINNER

6.00pm RANBA Official reunion Dinner \$60.00 Total \$ _____

Special Dietary requirements

For: _____ Special Requirements _____

SUNDAY THE 20th OF OCTOBER

VETERANS BAND CONCERT

2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Salvation Army HQ

Price will be \$15 - \$20 aiding the Red Shield Appeal. Tickets at the door.

ASSOCIATION FAREWELL BBQ

5.00pm RANBA BBQ at the Launceston RSL. \$20.00 Total \$ _____

Special Dietary requirements

For: _____ Special Requirements _____

Grand Total \$ _____

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

YES, I would like to Play Instrument _____ No Thanks

Bank Details: BSB 013232 Account No: 290164678 Bank: ANZ Account Name: Royal Australian Navy Band Association
Postal Address: RAN BAND ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 69, LYNBROOK, VIC 3975
Contact: ERROL: Mobile, 0400 706 503 Email: admin@ranbandassoc.net