



THE POSTING

ISSUE NO 1, JANUARY 2024

EDITORIAL: Errol Hatch

As we know our association is made up of many senior members who are in some cases not interested in involving themselves in our social media platforms so I've decided to release a monthly newsletter with what's happened, happening and what's coming up in our little world. The magazine will still be part of our communication.

The newsletter will undoubtedly be using the recourses of our Association and Veterans band facebook pages to enhance its content but I'm relaying this to our members not savvy with technology or those who just want a hard copy. There will be no exact format but I'm sure over time I will get in a uniform style.

Enjoy the read and your feedback will be most welcome.

Errol.

PERSONNEL

Had a welcomed call from Mick Wortham to update me to his health and pay his association fees. He's happy to be out of hospital and is resting up after a long period in hospital. He sends his regards to all and is looking forward to an operation to relieve his current leg issues. He also keeps in close contact with Jim Hawkins and Jim, wrote on our facebook page:

"I had a long conversation with Mick Wortham yesterday and today. Boy, he is switched on mentally.

Mick was upset to hear of the death of Kirk Skinner as he was one of Kirk's instructors at the SOM.

I suggested that Mick contact the DVA at Granville to update his disability pension via one of their advocates as he is only on a small percentage for hearing loss and he agreed to do this. He is allowed a few red wines each night which he greatly appreciates as beer now bloats him.

That's called old age Michael!!"

Had a call from long time Melburnian Peter Blackwell who moved last year to North Queensland to take up a position as Wellbeing advocate for the Queensland RSL. He looks after senior members in their 80" and 90's by visiting or contacting them regularly by phone. He covers from Cardwell all the way through to Thursday island.

He called as my editorial in the Christmas mag hit the mark with him as it is his everyday priority to make those contacts, what a great position to have. He also indicated that the Frankston RSL has a similar program for their members.

Kevin Hillier (President Frankston RSL) confirmed with me that it works very effectively with their HELLO program and have volunteers who look after those in their 80's plus.

The Frankston RSL is also expanding their facilities with a DVA grant to provide a portable space and house DVA compensation and volunteer advocates to ex service personnel.

AROUND THE TRAPS

The word is getting around regarding the Launceston reunion and booking forms are starting to filter through the system. With the Veterans band now performing it has added a now very busy Sunday to the weekend. It is important to get your bookings in as soon as possible so the organizers can get catering organized and provide a price to members for the gourmet bus tour on the Saturday.

DROPPED IN

Ray Mills and Mal Codling dropped into our music store in Lynbrook today Tuesday the 13th and straightaway enjoyed the cool after coming in from 36 degree day outside. Both are looking well and Ray handed over his loved Armstrong flute that he pulled apart years ago with the hope of cleaning and reassembling. Time had passed so he has left it up to me to get it back to playing so he can take it to Launceston.



ANOTHER DROP IN

Red (Kevin) Hillier also dropped into the shop on Saturday the 10th to leave an old drum kit for me for parts. He has been cleaning out his garage as he is moving house and came across his original copy of Volume 1, Number 1 of the 1993 RAN Band Association newsletter..



Over 30 years has passed and I could copy some of Jim's paragraphs into this newsletter and they would be relevant today, for example:

"This newsletter requires your input! To keep us going requires your input! Please keep the information flowing or we have no newsletter (magazine)"

That was from page 1.

It still is a good read even after all this time. I also noticed there was only one mobile number in the whole newsletter and that was Bob Bedwells. Back then they cost thousands and were the size of a brick.

There are many names we don't hear of and of course past members throughout the newsletter. When we read these early editions I was always enlighten with names I hadn't heard of for a long while and what they were up to or where they settled after leaving the band. I'll endeavour to find all my copies and extract articles from our associations early years.

STATE OF THE STATES

I thought I would take the initiative and give the states a cold call to hear what is happening association wise, personal and music wise with our state reps.



VICTORIA

Terry released a discussion email last week regarding our ongoing Sunday lunches at Seaford RSL. With a deposit now required to reserve the booking it is important that those agreeing to attend do so. Terry has put forward a option to visit another RSL, or hotel ongoing. The Victorian chapter has always been active in social events and we need to continue to make our lunches entertaining and affordable.

So all you Mexican's let Terry know your thoughts. In the meantime we plan to hold our first lunch for 2024 on the 24th of March at the Longbeach RSL (Chelsea) starting at 12.00pm. From all reports it is a very pleasant refurbished RSL and the menu looks very tempting.

Let Terry know or you can send an email to admin@ranbandassoc.net

THE POSTING

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Rang Bill on Friday and got him when he was in a bit of a low, (it was 12 months since Maxine's funeral) but we had a good enlightening conversation about the idea behind this newsletter and it's title.

We reminisced about the official postings sheet that we agreed was listed every 6 months back in the days when we were 5 bands strong. It normally gave bandies 6 months or so to organize where they were off to. There were occasions where a posting happened on short notice due to a instrument shortage or the odd AWOL.

We also agreed that social events should happen more often. As with the Mexicans not all can attend at the same time but every couple of months you are certain to get a good turnout. Bill is going to follow that thought but I would stress that members from WA should get behind the idea. A counter lunch on a Sunday at one of those fantastic yacht clubs or hotels is the perfect setting. With 41 degree days the aircon is running full pelt at Bill's so I left him to enjoy it.



QUEENSLAND

John Lennon our rep for Queensland is always on the go and tells me that his caravan skills are being put to good use. Health issues have been sort of OK but has had the odd scan or two and looks forward to positive outcome. Plenty of playing with the big band and he is accompanied by other association members Gary Sander, Clive Smith and Garry Searle.

A couple of ex's he mentioned, Bert Kennedy and Phil Martin have not been travelling so well of late so our thoughts are with them. He will keep us up to date with their progress.

John will organize a get together soon for members and will advise a date once his health issues are sorted.

Apart from that, he's looking forward to travelling in convoy with Shane Urquhart to Launceston for the anticipated reunion.

TASMANIA

Ralph touched base with Brian regarding the reunion and all is in place for a excellent weekend. Brian is sourcing a few instruments for players travelling that won't have an instrument with them.

Booking travel is now vital as all forms are getting tighter around our dates. John Lennon also mentioned getting his and Shane's caravans booked was difficult. You also need to remember those that are travelling by the Spirit of Tasmania it now leaves from Geelong.



REUNION UPDATE

Initial booking responses have been slow so far with only 4 confirmed booking forms landing on my desk but the Veterans band responses have been exceptional. Following is the current band list with instrumentation and if all of you get those forms in that would be appreciated.

As with past reunions I don't need the payment straight away but for the organizing committee to get numbers especially for the Gourmet tour the form would be very handy.

Flights and sea travel should also be a priority as not all airlines fly into Launceston and the ferry is always busy.

Our current band list:

LAUNCESTON BAND 2024

CONDUCTOR:

BRIAN ELLIS

FLUTE:

RAY MILLS

OBOE:

CHRISTINA

CLARINETS:

RALPH DAINES, AARON BUCHANAN, GABE KICSAK, TERRY EKIN, JOHN WIDDICOMBE, PETER MARTIN, NED KELLAS.

SAXOPHONE:

ARNIS TILLERS

HORNS:

ALAN LANHAM, BILL FARRELL, ANN MARIE, DAVE HARDSTAFF.

TRUMPETS:

DOUG DRYSDALE, JOHN LENNON, GRAHAM JOHNSON, SHANE URQUHART, FRANK GODLEMAN, DALE GRANGER.

TROMBONES:

GEOFF BUNCE, KEN BROWN, MICHAEL DIGHT.

EUPHONIUM:

KERRY ELLIS

TUBAS:

RON ARNOT, LINDA SMITH,
GARRY SEARLE (ELEC BASS), IAIN MORRISON.

PERCUSSION:

ERROL HATCH.

WHATS HAPPENING ON SOCIAL MEDIA LATELY

Apart from Phil Cleveland touring the high seas and a few photos here and there, there has not been a lot of activity in the past month. A few of note though.

Jim Hawkins, 10th February.

Just for historical accuracy, there was only one Bandie on board Melbourne when it collided with Voyager on the 10th February 1964. That was a bugler - I think his name was Williams but I'm not sure. I was at Cerberus and in the morning of the 11th I was given a shake by Bill Farrell to tell me the news. It shocked the whole depot. As an aside, I knew a Leading Stoker who was in the engine room when the ships collided. He escaped, but a Midshipman next to him died. He was still in shock when drafted to the Melbourne and made part of the catapult party. He was on the flight deck when the collision with USS Evans occurred in 1969 and still suffers nightmares to this day.

[Chris Marshall](#)

I was in recruit training, at Waller block, when I heard the news, never forgotten.

[Harry Royle](#)

My good mate from High School lost his life in that tragedy...years later, when I was posted to CVS21 the 'Fighting Lady'....the WO Coxon who was onboard ..shared the horrific aftermath ...and showed me the scars on his buttocks...he was reading a ditty on the shitter at impact time.

Jim Hawkins 11th February

Has anyone been in contact with Michael Higgs?

The last time I saw him was at the 2000 Sydney Reunion and that's almost a quarter of a century ago.



Your Executive:**All Editorial to:**

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President:

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Ralph Daines

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Web: www.ranbandassoc.net**WHO ARE WE**

It is a case sometime members not knowing who there executive and committee members are and where they fit into the history of the Band branch.

This little section will highlight a committee members brief history in the Band Branch.

ERROL HATCH: Treasurer**JOINED:**

March 1969 Junior Musician

INSTRUMENT:

Trumpet then to Percussionist

SHIPS/DEPOT's SERVED ON:

HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Sydney, HMAS Penguin.

MATES WHO JOINED ABOUT THE SAME TIME:

Chris Jones, Colin Gutheridge, Hanratty's, Gary Krause.

INDELABLE MEMORIES:

- First day of posting to HMAS Sydney, Meeting Blue Mcnally who immediately took me to the pub in Pitt Street where most of the band were. Returning late evening and trying to find somewhere to sleep.
- Opening of Sydney Opera House.
- Concert tour of Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.

**RALPH DAINES: President****JOINED:**

1962 Junior Musician

INSTRUMENT:

Trumpet then to Clarinet

SHIPS/DEPOT's SERVED ON:

HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Albatross, HMAS Melbourne

MATES WHO JOINED ABOUT THE SAME TIME:

Peddles Carkeet, BA Lawrence, Dick Dazak, Bob Bedwell.

INDELABLE MEMORIES:

- 1969 collision of HMAS Melbourne and the USS Frank E Evans.
- 1970 Concert tour of Vietnam HMAS Melbourne.
- The amazing Expo 70 in Osaka, Japan with massed bands.

**VALE**

Kirk Skinner January 2024

Cover Art:

The 1970 Freedom of entry of Melbourne with massed bands and the whole of HMAS Cerberus and HMAS Melbourne contingents.

