



THE POSTING

ISSUE NO 2, FEBRUARY 2024

EDITORIAL: Errol Hatch

Our association is a group of reminisors (new word) which is a good thing. If you think about it, the majority of us joined as boy or Junior musicians so our mates were with us all the time as we grew up not like our brothers and sisters who would see their friends occasionally then return home and have different groups depending on their activities. So our bond was quite different and the memories long lasting.

I think of the times we had at the School of Music then our transition on to ships or depot bands. There was always someone we knew well and continued the friendship. When I joined the Sydney nearly all except for the higher ranks PO's and chiefs were just out of SOM who I had met as I went through training.

What I'm getting at here is that there are a lot more memories to share in this newsletter and the magazine than we think. Some maybe we might want to forget but the majority are great memories that we should share.

WAY BACK

Issue 2 of the 1994 edition of the original newsletter had info on the first official reunion of the association on the Gold Coast. The newsletter was well typed and listed a lot of bandies that unfortunately are no longer with us.

Plans were already afoot for the 2000 reunion in Sydney (more on that further in) and Jim was discussing with George Hooker the current state of bands (1993) and bands of World War II which is interesting as there is a follow on to that in this newsletter also.

Also, Jim wrote to Ian MacNamara of ABC radio (who is still going strong I think on Sunday mornings) about the state of service bands at the time.

Other noteworthy news from this edition was BA Lawrence retiring after 32 years.

There were over 100 ex bandies mentioned in the 1994 edition, from letters to the editor, returned newsletters, trying to find and references by other members. It shows that right from the start there was interest in the association.

To read the whole edition you only have to go to our website and you will find all the previous editions under "Band Library" and "Past Editions"



WHATS HAPPENING ON SOCIAL MEDIA LATELY

From my last newsletter the social pages became quite active. It's great that a posted photo (especially one's we haven't seen before) sparks a lot of comment of when, where and who is in it. This one from February on our Band Association page posted by Donna Kerry (Don't know Donna I'm afraid) created some interesting names.

Here are some of the posts from that photo.

Ken Monk posted:

Jim McDonough.

Lynelle Gullick posted:

Who's the drum major?

Gary Searle posted:

Think it might be Tony Webb ??

Harry Royle posted:

Jim McDonough, Tony Webber, Bob Bentley, Noddy Phillipson, Crow Anderson, Dashing Drysdale, Brian Ellis, Blue McNally, Benny Locker, Roger Downton Cokka's and the police horse on the starboard flank is the famous "HOOF HEARTED"

David Smith posted:

Guy Scruton

David Smith posted:

It's guy Scruton

How the hell did Harry know the name of the horse.

Ed

Kevan Thomas



Kevan released some photos of semi-naked men on the flight deck of the Melbourne. Again, comment on where, when and who came up and some well known names appeared.

Keep up the postings. There are hundreds of photos we are yet to see from time past and present.



EMAILS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jim Hawkins



Jim sent me an email regarding a paper written by a Athena Skinner as part of her PhD on "The Recruiting and Training of Apprentice Musicians in the Australian Military in the 1950's". It does make for interesting reading and especially a little section on page 98 which highlights the limited opportunity for advancement by navy musicians. I had seen this paper somewhere before but I will get permission from the author and place it on the website.

The interesting paragraphs were:

"For members of the ARA and RAAF bands, the introduction of apprentice musicians was part of a policy specifically aimed at improving the career prospects for all musicians serving in the armed forces. While staff at the apprenticeship school were concerned about the lack of career prospects for apprentice musicians outside of the military, there was also significant concern about long term career prospects for musicians within the military. The problem was first identified by the RAN in the 1930s (the RAN was the only branch of the Australian military to have a fulltime band service prior to World War II), when they had difficulty attracting recruits for bands for their newly-purchased light cruisers.

Two of the major problems discouraging the enlistment of new recruits was a lack of career structure for bandsmen and wages. Pay rates on enlistment were below award rates, with the average pay increase for RAN musicians in the 1930s being 11 pence over 12 years of service. With provision for only one Bandmaster and two Band Corporals per ensemble, the majority of RAN musicians would never see promotion. The RAN had solved this problem by 1939 with the introduction of trade tests. Trade tests were a series of exams based on a specific trade (in this case music), "with successful candidates receiving a pay rise, and incremental pay rises every three years for the first 12 years of service."

The original RAN trade test for musicians included a minimum six months service, a musical exam (usually conducted by a unit's

Bandmaster) in which musicians were tested on two instruments (or one as soloist) and an exam on the use of fire control instruments. While the trade test system had provided the RAN with a career structure for musicians from the 1930s, the ARA and RAAF were still in the process of forming such a system when the first apprentice musicians were recruited (indeed, the RAAF's professional band service was only formed in 1954, just a year before the recruitment of the first RAAF apprentice musicians).

As such, for musicians in the ARA and RAAF, the introduction of apprentice musicians could be seen not as a threat but as part of a process aimed at ensuring a smooth career progression for military musicians from apprenticeship through to retirement. For example, in 1954, three years after the introduction of apprentice musicians, ranks for musicians in the ARA were:

- ***Apprentice musician***
- ***Recruit musician***
- ***2-Star bandsman***
- ***3-Star bandsman (this rank was still being approved).***
- ***Band non-commissioned officer (NCO)***
- ***Band sergeant***
- ***Bandmaster***

Once recruited, apprentice musicians underwent an 18 month course to train them to become military musicians. This course was extended to two years after a number of boys, many of whom had no prior musical experience, failed to reach the required standard of musicianship at the completion of their course.

Look out for it on the website soon. Ed.

Michael Page:

Posted on Facebook February 22nd.

Hi Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you all for your generous thoughts and wishes from my last message board post.

My surgery was supposed to have been on the 5th March, but I had a real bad relapse and ended up in Royal Perth Hospital last Saturday night.

Had my surgery yesterday Wednesday 22/02/2024. Except for all the stitches and a bit of stomach pains, I survived and recovering well. So I'm sorry to say I will be around for a little while to keep annoying you.

Again thank you all. Especially to Harry Royle and David O'Meara for their phone calls.

Great that mates contacted Michael when he first posted his predicament. Ed.

2024 REUNION LAUNCESTON

Booking forms are starting to flow into my inbox so you are thinking about and some acting which is great. I did a detailed costing of getting to Launceston from Melbourne and flights are still pretty reasonable and seats were available on the Friday of our reunion. Getting back to Melbourne on the Monday was also OK but were a little more expensive.

The budget for the weekend for two flying came in at about \$1337.00 which included accommodation, parking at the airport and attending all of the functions.

The journey by the Spirit of Tassie was a lot different with the travel only which included vehicle and a bunk each came in at \$1108.00. Adding the accommodation and reunion activities it totaled \$1899.00. Plus it is only an hour on the plane compared to overnight. Interesting to note there were no daylight sailings for the week of and after the reunion.

Steve Cottier



Had a welcomed email from Steve who sent through his reunion booking form. Steve and Karen are well and looking forward to catching up with everybody. Steve won't be at the Sunday events as he is heading to Canberra to head up the ADF ARRTS program as Lead music mentor.

I heard about this program through Paul (Steve's brother) when we last had our Victorian's lunch. The website gives a detailed outline of the program but in summary:

"The Australian Defence Force Arts for Recovery, Resilience, Teamwork and Skills program (ADF ARRTS) is an engaging 4-week residential program that helps build confidence and resilience in people who are experiencing health and wellbeing challenges related to service in the ADF, ACT Emergency Services, and the Australian Federal Police. It is open to current serving members, including those transitioning from the ADF, and veterans who have transitioned within the past 3 years."

The program is held at the University of Canberra. Training and mentoring is provided by arts practitioners in 3 streams:

visual arts.

music and rhythm.

creative writing.

Its amazing what is now available to members of the ADF and the cost of tuition, mentoring, travel, accommodation and allowances are covered by the ADF ARRTS program for eligible participants.



Veteran participant Boyd McMahon learnt to play the guitar and sing as part of the music and rhythm stream during the ADF ARRTS 2023 program.



Clive Smith

Now Clive is well settled in Queensland he contacted me to get emails for Vic Knowles, Trevor Williamson, Peter Martin and Barry Lawrence. I sent him the addresses so I'm hoping he gets a response from the boys. Emails are always a good contact point to start and I try to keep them current but with customer databases being hacked daily you always need be aware that the email address is recognizable not the text of the email.

We have had suspect emails come through with ***"this is Fred Blogs and I've sent you a photo"*** but the email address has no resemblance to the senders name. They should be deleted as a matter of course.

It is impossible to know who's address book has been hacked so always be cautious.

IT HAS BEEN FOUND

Jim has been querying the whereabouts of the one and only video of the famous 2000 reunion. I don't remember ever receiving it but Jim was sure that it was with all our association files and memorabilia.

Well I can happily report after weeks of searching I located it in amongst photos and letters. It was actually sitting under a master copy of the Tasmanian reunion.

I have reformatted the video and it is spread over 3 episodes.



It will be loaded onto our website by the time you read this and it is great viewing.

As I stated the Tasmania reunion was also in the DVD sleeve so I will re-format this wonderful reunion and post it also. It was great to see the association still in marching form and to put on a marching display was the icing on the cake.

Thanks Jim for being persistent.

Errol.

AROUND THE TRAPS

Victoria

The Victorian lunch on the 24th of March at the Longbeach RSL (Chelsea) is getting a good response and Terry has booked a table for 20. To all our Mexicans who have yet to book get onto Terry or I and book a place.

I can be contacted on 0400 706 503 or Terry via email at tekin1@optushome.com.au

I had a call from Rob Bull (1960's) Melbourne who sends his regards to all in the association. Rob just got out of hospital and is resting up and won't be attending the lunch but is considering the trip to Tasmania.



Your Executive:**All Editorial to:**

Errol Hatch

RAN Band Association.

PO Box 69 Lynbrook. VIC 3975

Mobile: 0400 706 503**Email:** admin@ranbandassoc.net**Association Bank Details****Bank:** ANZ**BSB:** 013232**Account No:** 290164678**Account Name:** Royal Australian Navy Band Association.**All Secretary Correspondence:**

Ralph Daines.

1 Howell Ave, Port Macquarie.

NSW 2444

Phone: 0405 380 751**Email:** xranband@bigpond.net.au**Your Executive and Committee****Association Patron:**

Rear Admiral Mark Campbell (Rtd)

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**WHO ARE WE**

This column highlights a committee or executive member with a brief history in the Band Branch.

JOHN LENNON: Qld Representative**JOINED:**

1968 Junior Musician

INSTRUMENT:

Tuba then to Trumpet

SHIPS/DEPOT's SERVED ON:

HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Sydney, HMAS Penguin, HMAS Melbourne

MATES WHO JOINED ABOUT THE SAME TIME:

Garry Sander, Ken McCallum, Rocky Searle, Errol Hatch

INDELIBLE MEMORIES:

- First posting to sea and first trip to Hong Kong.
- Opening of Sydney Opera House.
- Concert tour of Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.

**BILL FARRELL AM: WA Representative****JOINED:**

1952 Boy Musician

INSTRUMENT:

French Horn

SHIPS/DEPOT's SERVED ON:

HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Australia, HMAS Vengeance, HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Stalwart, USS Kearsage, HMAS Penguin

MATES WHO JOINED ABOUT THE SAME TIME:

Les McCabe, Bernie Rixon, Ted Lincoln, Nobby Clarke, Max Hassell

INDELIBLE MEMORIES:

- 1953 Coronation cruise.
- 1965 Officers course Kent UK.
- 1969 collision of HMAS Melbourne and the USS Frank E Evans. Bill was the damage control officer.
- 1970 Concert tour of Vietnam HMAS Melbourne.
- Expo 70 in Osaka, Japan with massed bands.
- 1982 Commonwealth Games Director of Music

**Cover Art:**

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

