



THE POSTING

ISSUE NO 3, MARCH 2024

EDITORIAL: Errol Hatch



We continue to have an impact with our new format of monthly newsletters and members are looking forward to the read. What is pleasing is that the "POSTING" is involving more discussion amongst members that are not facebook visitors.

We have had over 260 hits of our last newsletter and over 800 on our issue 1 from our website. That is great to see and tells me members are returning to the newsletter multiple times.

It is also a lot easier to fill four pages every month as I can report current happenings, upcoming events and information that is only a month old in a timely manner. The reunion continues to gather pace and booking forms are coming in regularly.

Enjoy this edition.

Errol.

WAY BACK 1994 (PAST NEWSLETTERS)

ISSUE 3 was the last issue before the anticipated reunion on the Gold Coast on the 7th to the 9th of July 1994.

Ashley Greedy the then DOM reported in his own column the demise of the Fleet and Penguin bands to form the RAN Band, Sydney and the VNB becoming the RAN Band, Melbourne.

The cinema complex at Cerberus was approved for renovation as the home for the Melbourne band and Young Street Waterloo was underway for the future complex for the Sydney Band.

The bands were made up of 30% females and more than 8 members were direct entries with B.A. and B.Ed. degree's which Ashley was very welcoming of as it gave him quick re-

sponses to vacancies. All future entries would need to meet at least a grade 7 AMEB standard he stated.

The issue had a good response from members dropping a line to Jim. There were over 29 pieces of correspondence and plenty of trivia questions. Why do I mention this.

There was a lot of effort to let ex's know where they were and what they were doing after their time in pussers and it was the only form of communication back then.

A great read.

2024 REUNION LAUNCESTON



Welcome, judging by the replies for players for the Veterans Band Concert during the Launceston Reunion, numbers for the Reunion are looking healthy. The Band is starting to look good But I am short on Trombones, Woodwinds, but I am happy for any instruments. Music has not been selected yet but if you played it the Ballina Concert most of the music you have will be the program.

I am not available until early March as we are off to Japan, but leave messages as I will have internet most/some of the time. I would like to Thank Errol for the extra work he is doing with the Monthly Newsletter.

Kindest regards

Ralph.

WHATS HAPPENNING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Not much happening through the social media networks since the last edition. The passing of the late Len Nurse's wife Marie was posted with her funeral on Friday the 5th of April and on our website the passing of Ron Bergman. More on Ron further in the newsletter.

IS IT ALL LOST

Cerberus museum loses its most valuable assets, its volunteers.

It has been over twelve months since the writer last visited the museum to attend a briefing on the wonderful museum going forward. I reported on that discussion in the Christmas 2022 edition of our Magazine and apparently the hierarchy were not impressed with my version of the future direction of the heritage and the museum. Volunteer B and Volunteer C (They now remain nameless) were hauled over the coals by my article (only because there was an accompanied photograph) and I apologize for that even though all was true and factual.

Well, Volunteers A, B, C, D, E, F and X met for lunch in March and I was surprised that none had been back since late last year with only one returning on a regular basis to offer their voluntary services.

It all sounds secretive but its really sad that over 180 years of service experience is now lost. The Cerberus museum was always about the visitor returning to where it all began and visiting the museum to see all the quirky but relevant items they associated with in their time in the Navy.

Apparently our display is still intact but other areas are suffering or no longer exist. I feel saddened that those volunteers who had put so much hard work into the museum over many years see it going this way.

I'm sure there is more to come in this episode.

Ed.

AROUND THE TRAPS

Victoria

The Victorian contingent held their lunch at the Longbeach RSL on the 24th of March and with numbers a little lower than usual we still enjoyed a very relaxed lunch and chat at our new meeting venue. The RSL has been refurbished and is quite luxurious but was very quiet for a Sunday.

Attended were Mal and Gail Codling, Ray Mills, Doug Antonoff, Terry & Lorraine Ekin, Jan Atkins, Kevin and Elaine Hillier, Mick & Fran Reed, Gabe Kicsak, Errol & Sharon Hatch. I had the opportunity to hand out the questionnaire for the members to fill in on their brief history in the RAN. This involved plenty of discussion on what were some of their indelible memories and ships they served on.

It was also pleasing to know that 10 out of the 13 were attending the reunion in Tasmania so we will have a good Victorian group attend in October. Our next lunch will be held around June and the venue will be advised.

Terry.



Mal &
Gail Codling.



Jan Atkins, Ray Mills &
Sharon Hatch.



Mick & Fran
Reed.



Doug Antonoff, Terry &
Lorraine Ekin.



Gabe Kicsak, Elaine &
Kevin Hillier

VALE

ANDRE MAKIN

John Lennon reported that from the Queensland RSL Obituaries notices a Andre Makin had passed away. We can confirm that it is our Andre who joined the Navy Band in the late 60's. Andrey was a close friend when I lived in Adelaide in the 70's and he was a well respected member of the South Australian Police Band.

Spoke to John Ezergailis on the phone and Doug Drysdale by email informing them of Andre's passing. Andre was Best Man at John's wedding and he and Rose were shocked to hear the news. John sent me through some memorable photos of he and Andre for the newsletter.

RIP

Andre.



Top:

John and Andre dressed for the occasion, Head band looks like it says HMAS Penguin.

Top Right:

Hamming it up out the back of "C" Block.

Right:

Recruit school with Mal Torry.



MARIE NURSE

We would like to advise the sad passing of Marie Nurse wife of long time association member Len Nurse on the 20th of March after a long illness. Marie was well known to most members and participated in all our activities local & overseas. Her funeral was on the 5th of April.

RIP

Marie

RON BERGMAN

Sad to hear the passing of Ron, a real character if he was one. He was always full of stories and his medal count was substantive but sometimes questionable. A great story comes to mind.

At one of the Cerberus open days, Ron rolls up in his Mercedes 350 and parks it out front of the museum in the covered in parade ground area. He gets out but the person in

the passenger seat remained. Well a couple of hours go by and Ron had done the rounds of the depot and heads off. I went over to say good bye and to my surprise the person in the passenger seat was a dummy. Apparently the dummy is in the car so he can use the express lane for two more people.

Even the gangway commented when we were leaving after the open day.



In 2015 Ron made the trip to Lone Pine and got to meet the future king and get to do other amazing feats while he was there.

He loaned me a booklet he made with all the photos he got while over there and he even made it onto the BBC news where the above photo came from.

RIP

Ron.



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VIC: Terry Ekin
QLD: John Lennon
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WA: Bill Farrell

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

ROGER DOWNTON: Secretary**JOINED:**

1966 Junior Recruit HMAS Leeuwin

INSTRUMENT:

Alto Sax, All Sax's & arranging

SHIPS/DEPOT's SERVED ON:

HMAS Leeuwin, Cerberus, HMAS Sydney,
 HMAS Penguin

MATES WHO JOINED ABOUT THE SAME TIME:

Doug Drysdale, John Ezerzailis, Blue McNally

INDELIBLE MEMORIES:

- Performing at EXPO 70
- HMAS Sydney trip to Hawaii, Vancouver, San Francisco and San Diego.
- Concert tour of Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.
- Recordings with the band especially Blue Watermen and having my arrangements recorded.
- Time at HMAS Penguin.

**TERRY EKIN: Victorian State Representative****JOINED:**

1974 Junior Musician

INSTRUMENT:

Clarinet

SHIPS/DEPOT's SERVED ON:

HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Melbourne,
 HMAS Stalwart, HMAS Lonsdale (DFSM)

MATES WHO JOINED ABOUT THE SAME TIME:

Doug Antonoff, John Stucas, Bill Bekenham, Shorty Granger,
 Ray Mills, Steve Wilkinson, Michael Page.

INDELIBLE MEMORIES:

- 1st Tasmanian Tattoo.
- Silver Jubilee Fleet review trip.
- Brisbane Commonwealth Games.
- Tongala, Burn the Dunny weekend.

**Cover Art:**

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

