



THE POSTING

ISSUE NO 5, MAY 2024

EDITORIAL: Errol Hatch

I commenced this edition in the early month of June with the view to release mid June as usual but unfortunately I had a mishap with a ladder (yes Ladder) and broke the top part of my left arm in 3 places. Was I annoyed that I missed that last step, you bet I was. I had so many things to do before months end including this newsletter and the bloody house.



I did get the opportunity to use the Gold card for the first time and was looked after very well by the private sector. With a plate and 20 od screws later the arm is recovering well and I have reasonable use at the moment. **Anyway, how are you all out there.**

When I sent the April edition out through emails I asked that exact question and I got a fair few replies which was great and to hear from some that I haven't heard from for awhile was even more encouraging.

Here's a few of the many I received.

Ken "Dubbo" Lincoln

G'day Errol

Beautiful one day perfect the next here in Mitchelton QLD - just around the corner from Clive and Noelene Smith. We get together to have a play through some duets etc and re-live memories regularly. Heaps of fun.

Sadly there's not a lot of EX- RAN band get togethers up here - there's plenty of us up here so we might need to change that though.

Playing heaps, I teach 4 days a week, am in 3 big bands, 3 small(3,5 10 piece) jazz groups and the MD of The New Groove Jazz Ensemble. NGJE's been doing a Sunday arvo concert on the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Sandgate Town Hall with 24 different charts every month since 2004. So most charts only get played once a year. You can check some of them out on YouTube:)

Trina and I often do aged care performances on a Friday and its great to see the joy music brings to the faces of the residents.

I hope to be able to have a bigger input to the association when I finally retire....(I may be 90 by then though :)

Cheers to all

Ken "Dubbo" Lincoln Ex WOMUSN

Phillip (Newham) Otake

Hi Errol,

All good here in Japan, mate.

I'm still running a couple English schools and parenting two teenage boys (Yikes!).

I'm looking forward to getting to a band reunion... eventually...but our schedules never seem to align. But I look forward to reading the newsletters, as I don't do social media...I don't have time!!!

Cheers!

Phillip (Newham)

Harry Williams

"All good here in Somerville, Victoria, Currently retired an doing some log splitting in the backyard to be prepared for the fight against the Melbourne cold over winter.

Regards,

Harry.

Derek Baskerville

Feeling great and still fit. Currently on a world cruise and working our way through the Mediterranean.

All the best

Derek.

Reg Howden

Hi Errol.

Thanks for the news letter you sent out.

I must renew my membership to keep in touch.

Saw this photo when I was looking for something else yesterday.

Kevan Thomas, Peter Bauers, Kevin Ridout . Gary Deviona , Jim Anderson. Chris Marshall.

That was 58 years ago now, all a little older now.

Cheers for now,

Reg Howden.



Peter Blackwell

Hi Errol,

So, my answer would be:

All good up here in Cairns, Far North Queensland. Have recovered from Cyclone Jasper & the flooding.

Remain working with RSL Queensland as a Wellbeing Clinician- providing social/emotional wellbeing along with assisting those veterans who are in financial distress or are homeless or potentially going to become homeless. I cover the area from Cardwell up to Thursday Island & work closely alongside the various sub branches around the area. Nice to have a Monday to Friday job after 45 years of shift work as an Emergency Nurse!!

Musically - playing bass trombone with Far North Brass & about to join FNQ stage & concert bands so keeping busy there too!!

Not sure if I will get to Tassie this year for the reunion but am working on it!!

If anyone knows of any ex bandies up this way, let me know & I can make contact with them as needed.

Cheers,

Pete Blackwell.

Doug Drysdale

Hi Errol,

Good reading again. All good here, just got off the phone from speaking to John E---Z. Where do I start? Good suggestions, yes very good. The last time I made some suggestions I got into trouble for making suggestions.

Yes, state reps, you don't need them, they are (no positions) anyway, my opinion. Why have a secretary in a different state when he is not consulted on committee matters?

Get-togethers, that happens here in SA with the usual ex's, Roger Downton, John, myself and we include Police Band guys and partners as we do and did the same job. The catch-up dinner wherever is titled - idgas - I Don't Give a Shit. We all have a good laugh about 'Remember When'.

Remember When, good suggestion, who ever suggested it?

I can remember when, myself, Burt Kennedy and Frank Goddlemen were on duty at the School of Music HMAS Cerberus way back. We were rostered on to clean the School of Music on a Saturday morning with no leave for the weekend.

Well, when we had finished the duty in the morning and back in our donga we decided to go ashore anyway. We cut across land near the West Gate, so we wouldn't get caught, hitched a ride to Frankston, I think, then got the train to Melbourne.

We stayed one night in a hotel in Burke Street. Had a great time at a disco and a few beers. We got back late Sunday night, but had to sneak back through the Wrans Quarters so as not to get caught and put under arrest. I can't remember what else happened. You'll have to ask Burt or Frank.

Anyway, it was a great adventure. I'm sure there are many, many stories one could tell.

Anyway, once again, good reading Errol. See you in Tassie.

Cheers,

Doug.

WAY BACK (PAST NEWSLETTERS)

February 1995 Edition

This edition announced the next reunion in Melbourne in April 1996. Apart from the get together the Dedication to the Bandies window in the Cerberus Chapel was to be a major part of the weekend. Phil Hopkins and members had this well organized.

Issue 5 had a lot of correspondence from states and members and plenty of great stories and reports from the President and The Directors desk of Ashley Greedy.

Of particular note from Ashley was the new purpose built band rooms for the RAN Band—Sydney. Boasting 1500 square metres with 4 studios and 13 practice rooms it sounded very impressive.

There was also a detailed profile of the late Norm Gullick by his wife Margaret, a great read.

The edition is on our website under past newsletters.

Ed.

Garry Sander

Morning Errol,

A couple of photos you can use if they fit. Christine and I are well and have been on the road but are really looking forward to Launceston

Garry.



This was taken at Cerberus in 1988 on the playing fields in front of the Wardroom. The Queen presented new Colours to the RAN.

Ashley was the band officer, and I was the DM. We paraded with the silver drums.



1971 on the "Streets of San Francisco" From left, Garry Sander, Red Hillier, Errol Hatch, Michael "Robbo" Robinson and John Doyle.

We think that Roger Downton or Bert Kennedy took the photo.



Jim Hawkins

Hi Errol,

I had an enjoyable meet up/lunch with Gary Sander and his wife Christine at Ballina RSL Club yesterday.

We were joined by Blue McNally and Gail, and Geoff Shew and Cathy.

The Sanders are staying at Hastings Point in their caravan - a lovely small town south of Tweed Heads right on the ocean.

Gary told me he is conducting a band in Brisbane and enjoying life in general. They will be attending the Launceston reunion but have yet to book. I think he said they will be taking their caravan across on the ferry.

I am still enjoying playing with the Ballina Concert Band and we have quite a few gigs coming up. Since we were no longer required for official duties with the Ballina RSL Sub Branch, we expanded our wings and played at Alstonville on Anzac Day and the band was well received - even to the point of applause after each item played. The War Memorial is in a very picturesque park behind the shopping centre, and the huge crowd in attendance was a surprise considering what a small village Alstonville is.

I then returned to Ballina for lunch with Blue, Ken MacCallum, Geoff Shew, and all the way down from Ayr in North Queensland, Leon Stucas. Also with us were Bruce and Dave Compton - two long serving members of the Queensland Reserve Band.

Great to see Clive Smith get his OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) recently - I got mine last September.

Cheers

Jim H

VALE

It is our sad duty to inform you all of the passing of our oldest association member, John (Melody) Pleass on the 6th June. Melody was one of our first members and always supported the Association.

There will be no Funeral, as was his wish, but his daughter will be hosting a party in celebration of his life at their home.

Ralph Daines.

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Ralph Daines

From I'm sure our longest serving WO.

Hi Errol,

Hope you are well and I am looking forward to catching up at the next Victorian luncheon. The below email lists all the RAN Band Warrant Officers and with the exception of the first 4 all the others have a number that is the number given when promoted, ie Shina Wright was the 312th Warrant Officer promoted in the RAN.

Name	Date promoted	WO Number
Geoff Coutts?	First WOMUSN	
Len Nurse	1975?	
Bill Thomson	1976?	
Geoff Russell	1980?	
Leslie Wright	12/12/1985	312
Trevor Hunt	10/03/1989	563
Barry Lawrence	1990	629
Dale Granger	17/06/1993	845
Bevan Andrews	07/09/1995	1011
Rod Couchran-Lane	25/01/1996	1008
Ken Lincoln	10/01/2002	1296
Bill Bekendam	19/06/2003	1339
Andrew Sansom	10/03/2011	1590
Camille Smith	01/07/2016	1713
Mark Ham	13/01/2020	1826
Grant Metcalfe	17/01/2022	1935

Dale Granger WOMUSN

National Reserve Band Manager

FOLLOWUP

I actually have Shina looking into the first WOMUSN and he believes it was Sim Halliday.

Regards

Dale

Ed Notes

I think he is right. I'm sure Slim was WO before Digger. I remember Digger still a Chief in 69 and there was promotional photos with Slim as a WO at the school of Music. Also the Freedom of Entry Band on our front page has Slim and Digger as the Drum Majors. I think they are both Wo's there.

Web: www.ranbandassoc.net

