

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION



Launceston Reunion 2024

October 18th to the 20th

THE POSTING

LAUNCESTON REUNION EDITION

ISSUE NO 6, JUNE 2024

EDITORIAL: Errol Hatch

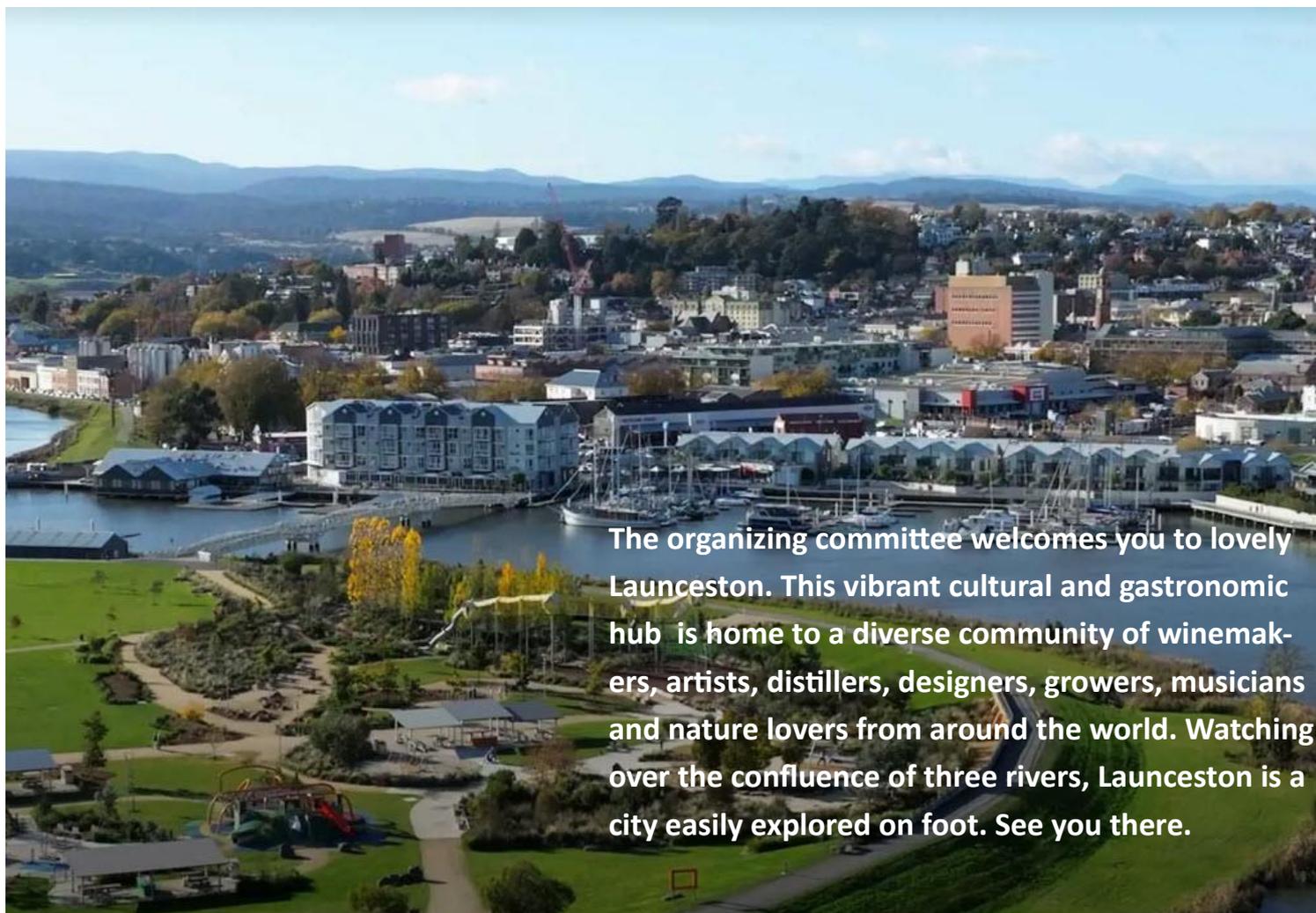
This edition is devoted to the Launceston reunion and covers all aspects of the weekend. Our reunions are even more significant nowadays as our membership is aging rapidly. As we know, it has been aging since its inception with those from the 40's, 50's and 60's being the instigators of the association. The 70's era are now well into their retirement with those from the 80's and lessor 90's still working or getting closer to retirement. We need more of the 80's, 90's and later to be involved for us to remain a successful association. Our AGM will raise this as a major issue with a few proposals to the membership;



Launceston is not exactly just down the highway for many but a logistical challenge to get across the strait so we understand the cost involved and the time to get there so we appreciate those that have committed and those ready to get that form in. All those Tasmanians alone would make a huge difference to the success of the weekend so don't leave it to the last minute gents/Ladies.

I hope the following information helps you with your reunion plans.

Errol.



The organizing committee welcomes you to lovely Launceston. This vibrant cultural and gastronomic hub is home to a diverse community of winemakers, artists, distillers, designers, growers, musicians and nature lovers from around the world. Watching over the confluence of three rivers, Launceston is a city easily explored on foot. See you there.

THE REUNION WEEKEND IN DETAIL

Friday the 18th of October

After arriving or just settling in after a day of sightseeing our first commitment will be the:

6.00pm MEET & GREET AT THE LAUNCESTON RSL

Situated at the corner of Wellington and Eardley street the RSL will be a meeting place for other functions over the weekend. Your booking will cover finger food and the bar will be offering drinks at a discounted rate for members but I'm sure the association will have a Bar tab for you to start the weekend off on a happy note. Dress will be neat casual.

PRICE: \$20.00 a Head.



Saturday the 19th of October

9.00am GOURMET BUS TOUR

The tour is now officially on and the tour commences at 9.00am leaving from the Launceston RSL. A 15 seat Bus has been organized and those that have booked using the Official Booking form can now pay for the tour by letting Errol know. The tour will end back at the Salvation Army church where the veterans band rehearsal should be winding up. If running late the RSL will be the drop off point.

PRICE: \$35.00 a Head



9.30am ASSOCIATION AGM

An important part of our weekend is our AGM highlighting our associations current membership, financial situation, electing new executive, appointing our next location for our reunion and general business. This meeting will be important for the ongoing management of the association. Plenty to talk about and we look forward to new faces taking on the role of vacated seats. The nomination form appears in this edition. Morning Tea and Coffee will be available

11.00am VETERANS BAND REHEARSAL

We move from the RSL down the road to the Salvation army church in Elizabeth street for the Veterans band rehearsal commencing at 11.00am sharp. It's a 20 minute walk or 4 minutes by car where the organizing committee will have set up the room. The music has been selected and issued to members who have I'm sure practiced their parts vigorously. Estimated completion time is 4.00pm and this should coincide with the return of the Gourmet Bus Tour. From there members can return to their accommodation to prepare for the official dinner



6.00pm ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL DINNER

We assemble at the Launceston RSL for our official function of the weekend. Commencing at 6.00pm till late we will be presented with a stunning Buffet meal and entertained by the RAN Band Tasmania Trio. Dress will be formal with Medals or miniatures. The new executive will be introduced and as usual raffles will be running all evening so bring plenty of change.

PRICE: \$60.00 a Head

Sunday the 20th of October

2.00pm VETERANS BAND CONCERT

With a busy Saturday behind us we find ourselves preparing for the Veterans Band Concert at the Salvation Army Headquarters in Launceston. With an expected packed house and a successful rehearsal we are ready to entertain. Dress for the band will be White shirt, Black trousers Black tie, epaulettes and medals. The concert commences at 2.00pm till 4.00pm. Tickets will be sold at the door and will aid the Red Shield Appeal.



5.00pm ASSOCIATION FAREWELL BBQ

Moving from our concert back to the RSL the organizing committee have organized a special BBQ to farewell all our members after a busy weekend of festivities. This will be our last official engagement for the weekend and the committee thank all those that have made the Effort to attend.

PRICE: \$20.00 a Head.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT.

Welcome.

We are getting closer to our Reunion in Launceston and there is still room for more to put up their hands to attend. It is getting harder to put on a reunion these days with age being a main reason to travel and also age quickly reducing our members. The reason we put on reunions is to give members the chance to get together, possibly for the last time and to also meet new members. There is a lot of organization by our local members to find Accommodation, Meals and things to do to make the Reunion work, if any of our Tasmanian members could get in contact with Brian and see if he has something to do to help put the final touches and offer support whilst the Reunion is in progress that would be appreciated.

I will not be standing for President at this coming General meeting, so get your Nomination in if you are interested. All positions on the Committee will be available, so if you can offer some new blood and ideas, please put up your hand. The attached Nomination Form should be used and sent back to admin@ranbandassoc.net before the 12th of August.

This Association is one of the few Associations that are still surviving with a healthy membership, but to be perfectly blunt it has only been two members who have kept the Association together since 1989 to today, Jim Hawkins for 17years and myself for 18years. This is not boasting, we have had assistance from members who have given so much, financially and loyalty which shows you how much dedication that is required to hold a National Association together.

The Veterans Band also has a healthy commitment of players at the moment but I am missing a couple of Trombone and Saxophone players, Please contact me if you are interested in playing.

We have also attached the Booking form which now has the Gourmet Tour price included. For those that have already sent in their form and have paid you can make an additional payment and let Errol know that this has occurred.

See you there in October.

Regards,

Ralph.



FROM OUR MEMBERS

It is good to see comments and responses from members who are enjoying the frequency of the newsletter. I've had a few responses especially to Dale Grangers column on War-rant Officers.

YOGI SOUTAR

Greetings Errol,

Please pass on to those attempting to recall the first WO, that Frank Lunn was the first appointed to the position of "Super Chief" as there was no position for WO in the band in 1964 (As I recall)

Cheers Rob Soutar (Yogi)

DAVID O'MEARA

Hi Errol,

Thank you for the newsletter and I hope your arm has now healed well.

Concerning when 'Digger' Couatts was made WO.

I was in the SOM 1973/4 and it was during this period he was promoted, and I'm leaning towards '74. I remember it well as he was rightfully proud, and us ODs had to stop calling him Chief and call him 'Sir'. This took some getting used to!

Kind regards

David O'Meara

R114204

WAY BACK (PAST EDITIONS)

August 1995 (30 years)

A plea went out to help contact all 2nd world war bandsmen and families of those that died to be apart of the memorial service in April 1996.

It also acknowledges the OAM to member Rod Coghnan-Lane in the Australia day honours.

Mentions of a impromptu reunion by NSW members being organized by John Widdicombe. I wonder if it got off the ground. Be interesting to hear if it did.

An interesting request appeared on page 2 called "FRAGILE HISTORY"

It goes on to ask all members to provide factual history of the RAN Band as very little documentation actually exists. With the book by ex-member Rob Himbury regarding the Silver Drums I don't know of any other concrete documentation out there.

Our website contains booklets on the Coronation cruise, Len Westerns very comprehensive diary of his time on the HMAS Canberra and subsequent ending of world war 2 in Japan. All the training manuals I could find are on there also so I think we have a good start but it is your stories that we also need.

We have 47 editions of our newsletter from its inception to 2006 and then the magazines produced by Ralph and myself since then so we have a good collection so far.

The newsletter also added the visit to the new band rooms by the then editor "Jim Hawkins" who was overwhelmed by its design and setup. He and Ashley still managed to get down to the wets at Kuttabul after the visit and suggest members get along to see the complex.

There are other great stories in this edition so as always check them out on the website.

MUSIC FOR VETERANS CONCERT

Here is the official list of music for the Concert in Launceston. It's good to see the inclusion of some vocal arrangements and the introduction of a choir.

You Can't Stop the Beat

Once Navy Always Navy

Jersey Boys

Sway (Vocal – Jim Henshaw)

Stranger on the Shore 3.00 (Clarinet Solo)

Blues Brothers

Shrek

Mack the Knife (Vocal Jim Henshaw)

Amazing Grace (Band, Piper and Vocalists) X

On the Quarter Deck / Heart of Oak /Life on the Ocean Wave

I Am Australian

Beatles Collection

Elton John

World in Union

Sinatra in Concert

Highland Cathedral (Piper) (arr. Joe Cook)

Still Call Australian Home (Vocalists) X

Sweet Caroline (Vocalists, Encore)X

Conquest of Paradise Extra

(X) TONE CLEFFS; Ann Marie; Kerry Ellis; Ralph Daines; Jim Henshaw; Bill Farrell; Graham Johnson, Alan Lanham

I REMEMBER WHEN

I haven't had any correspondence yet (early days) re: "I remember when" so I thought I would add a couple of stories.

When I went through my DVA applications I spoke to a few members regarding what I should be aiming for with my rep who was ex-army. Well I spent quite a few sessions explaining what we did to him on board the Sydney during those two years. One was loading the ships beer rations from the hangar deck all the way down to the stores below. Now these were RESH'S cans not these piddly little things of today, I'm sure they were 750 or 1000ml cans and we would drop them from the deck above, catch them and drop them down to the next deck, god help us if we dropped them.



That along with moving a Drum kit around the ship up and down between decks created a dilemma in calculating weights for one of the applications. Well at the end of the exercise I alone shifted tonnes of equipment (including Beer) This didn't seem to phase the recipient of my application and I think it also led to a chart that was bandied around with weights etc. for instruments like Tympani's which we use to constantly lift on and off trucks.

As a foot note I had a good source of income as I never drank beer (Bacardi drinker) so I was constantly pursued to sell my ration.

One of the other outcomes was all the medical and movement documentation I received which showed all the postings and trips on board the Sydney. I never realized we did 6 trips to Vietnam with one of them the tour of Army bases for concerts in the period I was onboard. Plenty of trips to Hong Kong, Singapore and the USA.

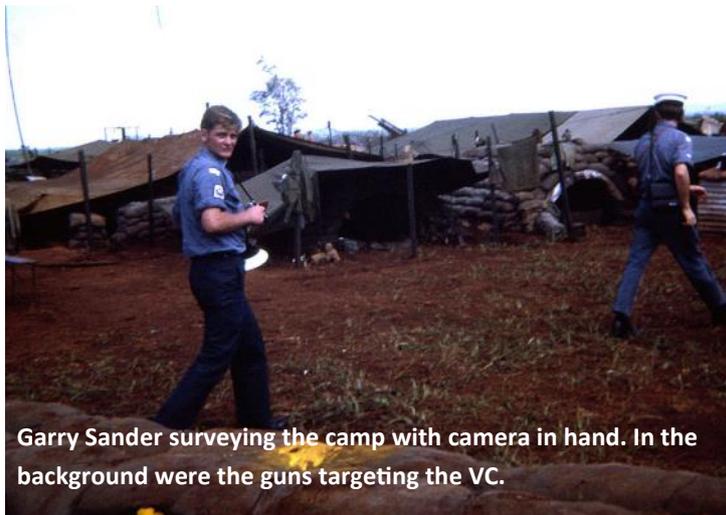
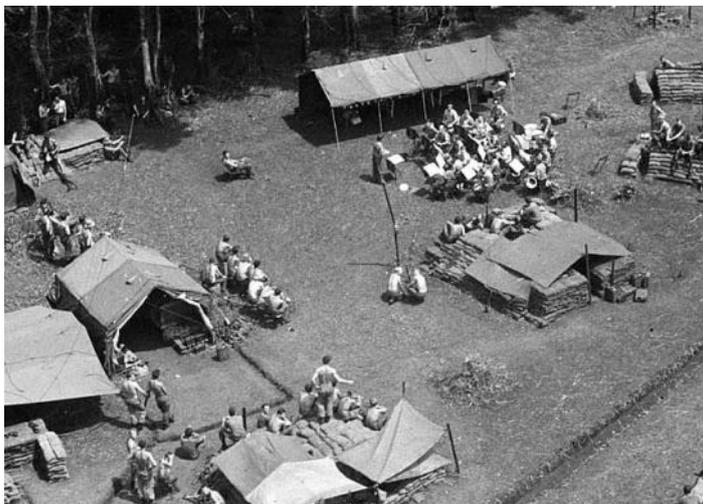
Here's a few photo's of that period in one's life.



Above: One of the trips to Vietnam in 1971 with a stop off in Jakarta. We were carrying Galvanized sheeting and stacks of new transport vehicles.

Below and Above right:

Ariel view of the Sydney Band at Camp Ziggy (I think it was called that) with CPO Frank Lunn conducting. Shit it was hot and the acoustics didn't lend itself to Chappell & Co selections. I think the most modern song in our folder was Classical Gas or the arrangement done by Shiner Wright of Hey Jude to excite the troops.



Garry Sander surveying the camp with camera in hand. In the background were the guns targeting the VC.



Vung Tau Harbour ready to return to the ship after our road trip back from Nui Dat.



Out of nowhere a approaching thunderstorm. We got drenched on the way back to the Sydney.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION INC

1400700

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE POSITION

POSITION

CANDIDATE

PRESIDENT

.....

VICE PRESIDENT

.....

TREASURER

.....

SECRETARY

.....

COMMITTEE

.....

SIGNATURES OF;

PROPOSER

.....

SECONDER

.....

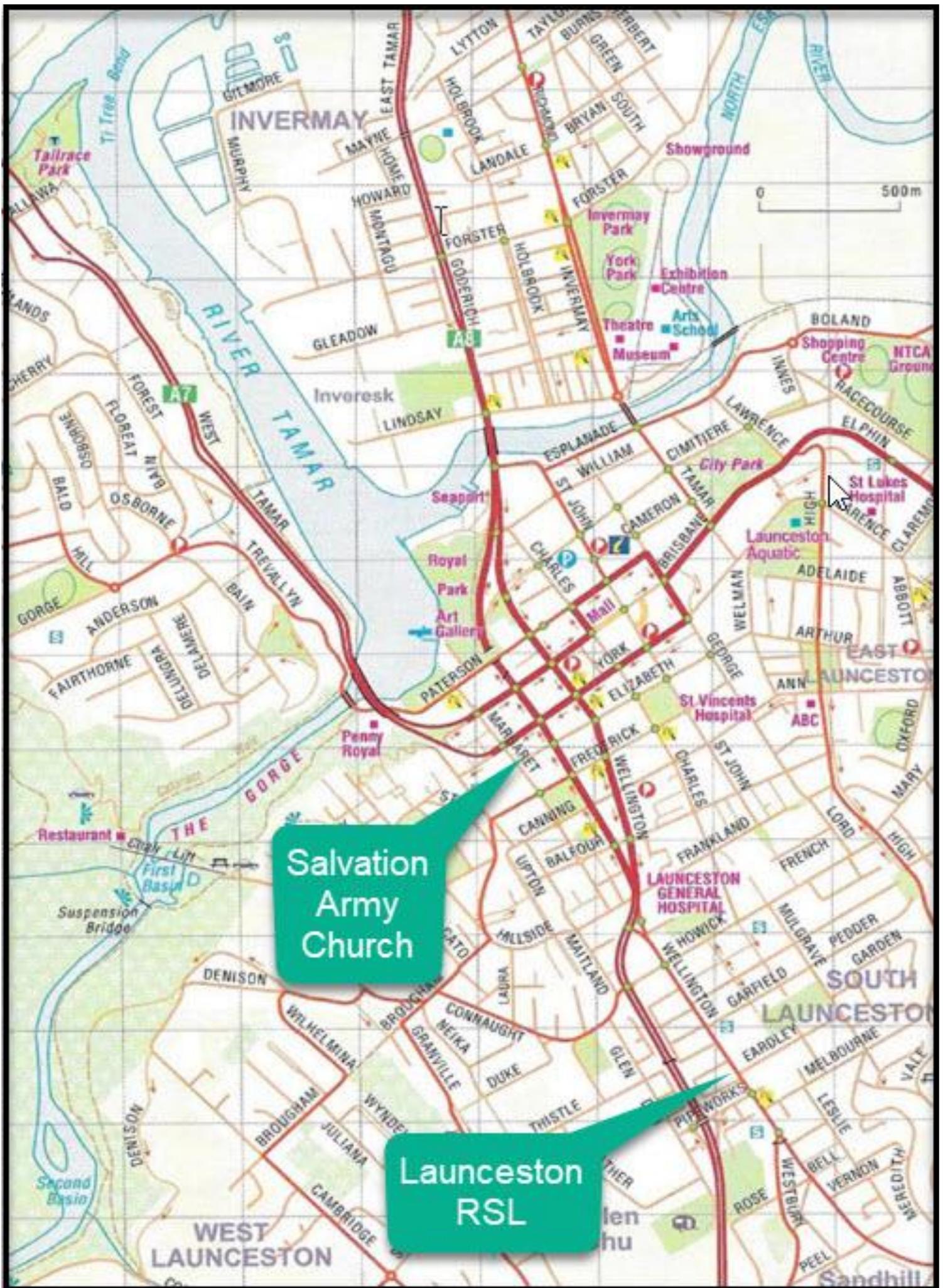
CANDIDATE

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Nominations are to be sent to

admin@ranbandassoc.net

To arrive no later than the 12th August 2022



**2024 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION
LAUNCESTON REVISED REUNION 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

MEET & GREET, LAUNCESTON RSL, WELLINGTON & EARDLEY ST

6.00pm Commencement Number Total \$ _____
 \$20.00

Special Dietary requirements

For: _____ Special Requirements _____

SATURDAY THE 19th OF OCTOBER

GOURMET BUS TOUR

9.00am Gourmet Strip Bus Tour Departs the RSL

Per head price Number Total \$ _____
 \$35.00

ASSOCIATION AGM

9.30am Association AGM commences

Held at the Launceston RSL. Tea & Coffee provided.

VETERANS BAND REHEARSAL

11.00am to 4.00pm Veterans Band Rehearsal, Salvation Army Church

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

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL DINNER

6.00pm RANBA Official Reunion Dinner Launceston RSL

Number Total \$ _____
 \$60.00

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.

Number Total \$ _____
 \$20.00

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