



Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

Christmas 2017 Edition

www.ranbandassoc.net



Merry Christmas From the 'Genril'

A magazine for association members and permanent band members of the RAN



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The old saying “Where has the year gone” can definitely be assigned to this year. The months leading up to our reunion went quick enough but after that it flew past. Here we are in the weeks of Carols commitments and other festive happenings and we are even talking about Anzac day next year already.

With the Centenary of the Anzac Day Battle of Villers-Bretonneux in 1918, the marches around Australia will celebrate another significant milestone in Australia’s history. Are you marching? What’s your commitment to the day?

The last association march from my memory would have been at the Canberra reunion so is there one last march in us. The reason I ask is that there just might be an opportunity to march with the HMAS Sydney and Vietnam Logistic Support Veterans Association in 2018. I haven’t put our hand up but it would be a major milestone if we could get a band up.

2018 is to be a big year for the association with the reunion on the Gold Coast and it promises to be bigger than Frankston which is great that we have inspired the reunion to be an event not to be missed. The concert in the 1000 seat theatre sponsored by the Twin Towns Service Club is something every playing member should try and be a part of as it brings us back to our roots of entertaining the masses.

I have been privileged to be a part of the association as treasurer and website administrator and volunteer at the HMAS Cerberus Museum through 2017 and I must admit I have not put as much time into the website this year but watch out in 2018. Retiring from teaching will give me more time to devote to this important part of our association and expand its user base and be a platform for more information to get to you our members.

I would like to thank all those that provided articles for the mag this year and especially to LS Musician Svetlana and the Director of Music for making available in this edition, articles from each of the permanent Bands that could not go to publication.

Have a safe Christmas and see or hear from you in the New Year.

Errol.

Front Cover Christmas Edition

Always with a smile on his face, Mal Codling dressed for the occasion sporting his own beard at the Victorian Christmas lunch at the Seaford RSL. With Gail by his side the Codlings enjoyed a festive afternoon with the other 30 participants.

DMUS—N Message

LCDR Steven Stanke, RAN

It is certainly a truism that 'the more things change, the more they remain the same'. All around us here in RAN Band Headquarters we see change usually in the name of progress, sometimes incrementally slow, but change nonetheless. On the local front I and my staff have moved into far more salubrious surrounds, actually the office across the hall, but our erstwhile open office with everyone crammed into a single space will now be allowed to fade into the mists of time as we can now stretch our legs (and arms, without hitting someone) in digs that don't resemble a gaudy George Street movie theatre or a cheap 1970s motel (and we've stayed in plenty of those!). We've been housed in the Heritage Building on Garden Island for nearly 20 years and love to call the island our home, with its unparalleled views of the harbour, some weird shaped thing called an 'Opera House', a very large coat hanger and, frequently topping these, the side of a humungous grey warship (complete with exhaust fumes). We are truly the envy of any visiting Army Director of Music who tell me how enjoyable they find their office in Canberra.

At the coalface, our musicians are toiling very hard to maintain and improve upon the impossibly high standards that they have already set for themselves. All started by you of course, creating sights and sounds that have now placed the RAN Band at the pinnacle of service music providers. Not to say our position is tenuous but, as Army and Air Force have experienced in recent times, we are frequently told, comfortingly, that Chief of Navy staff refuse to consider any lessening of our services because of the high regard in which they place us. Not a responsibility we take lightly which



is why we are pedalling very fast behind the scenes to maintain current steady speed and direction.

I had the pleasure of attending the Association dinner and annual meetup in Melbourne this year and was honoured to be among such esteemed musical company. Rarely do past members of a music group or orchestra reconvene with such regularity and passion and keep the stories flowing and the memories alive. You will be pleased to know that all those things that you griped about, were amazed at, and fought for are the same catalysts for the developing stories of tomorrow's members. Floating around at sea for months at a time is still hard to reconcile with a working musician's daily routine or family life, sitting on a bus for hours on end to play for a 30 minute service is still surely not the best use of one's time, and postings, don't even get me started. But that was the job then and, touch wood, it will be the job for many decades to come.

I could tell you about all the great events that we have supported this year which, you'll be pleased to know, have been coming in thick and fast. We've played to 200 million (yes, million) on Chinese television (courtesy of the Nanchang International Military Tattoo, check it out on YouTube), had musicians staring danger in the face in the Sinai (a very real danger as we see on the nightly news), and have travelled to many far-flung places around Australia to fly the White Ensign. Among the change that is gradual, the response to live music in the community for example or the ever increasing fiscal pressures, our job and our reason for being though remains the same, to represent our fine Navy and tolerant, inclusive country with the highest possible quality of musical output and respect for tradition. No one here is allowed to think otherwise! I wish all Association members and families good health and fine music making for 2018.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Errol,

How are you? Thank you very much for sending us the latest issue of your Newsletter. I wish we would be doing the same... I am happy to let you know, the recipient of RAN Band Association Award 2017 is Petty Officer Tom Bastians – RAN Band South Australia. Tom will be presented with the award trophy and I will forward on photos of the presentation.

Best wishes,

LMUSN Svetlana Yaroslavskaya
National Public Relations manager
Royal Australian Navy Band

Errol,

Just found this shot in an album I have which shows the Sydney Port Division Reserve Band doing a Church Parade at Garden Island. Not sure there aren't some PNF guys augmenting the Band, as I don't remember us having a Glockenspiel. The date on the back of the photo is 23rd September 1970. Hope it assists.

Bruce McIntosh - Reserve Bandsman - 1964-1975

Errol – greetings.

I had a phone call from Brenda Thompson – wife of Bob Thompson. Bob was in bands of the RAN at the same time approximately as me. Instrument was Clarinet, came from Adelaide, most recently living in Port Macquarie NSW. Brenda told me that Bob had passed away, result of an aggressive brain tumour not all of which could be removed.

Bob was a good mate to me in those early days, and we kept up a sporadic contact more recently. I know he attended a number of reunions, not however the most recent one in Frankston. I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad tidings.

Regards

John Jones.

Hi Errol,

I have just returned home from hospital (September). I had a triple repair Aneurysm, all went well but the only problem I will be out of action until December and no driving a car for 3 months. You are free to pass this on if you wish.

All the best

Paul Farrugia.

More than happy to let members know Paul. Catch up with you at one of our Victorian (Mexican) Lunches in 2018.

Errol.





Treasurer Report

Errol Hatch

The hardest column to fill is the Treasurers report in the off subs period but with the sending out of statements to those that have not paid their 2017/18 dues, paid off in dividends. Some email addresses bounced back though and also a couple of postal addresses but I did have a good response to outstanding subs generally.

I will follow up those that didn't re-

spond and get their updated information. It is important that you advise me of changes of address and email changes, I don't want you to miss out on keeping up to date with the association.

As John mentioned in the secretaries report and the Reunion 2018 article it is now important that you let us know whether you are attending.

Money and the finer details of the

reunion will be in the Summer edition of our mag. Remember the dates are from the 25th of October to the 28th.

I finish this by again wishing you all well for the festive season and look forward to 2018

Errol Hatch.



Presidents Report

Ralph Daines

Greetings from our idyllic lifestyle where the deer run free and the kangaroos use your lawn to leave "reminders".

As the year's end approaches it is nice to look back at the year and see what we as an Association has accomplished. The very successful reunion in Victoria, which showcased the Veteran's Band and the impressive work by Errol Hatch in the Museum at Cerberus. The continued improvement in cooperation with the RAN Band with musicians joining in with the Veteran's Band in Frankston and for next year in Tweed Heads and using the Association's website and magazine to put information out about the regulars, as Defence has stopped Department's having independent mail outs. The interest shown by newer past bandies has increased and has been turned into new memberships.

I'm sure our members are also members of other associations and have no trouble conforming to the constitutions of those clubs, but it seems some of our members don't think our constitution is worthy abiding by. I have received a number of complaints about decisions made by the Management Committee and I am sure they have not consulted the constitution/by laws, or they would not have a need to complain. Our by laws are very fair and mirror those of many other similar organisations, if you think a change should be made follow the steps required and

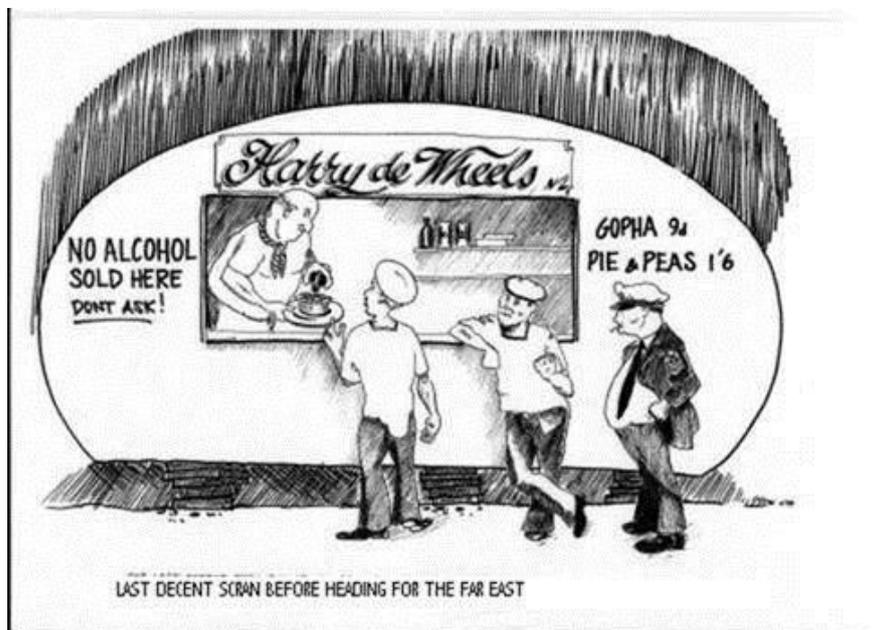
have the changes dealt with at the general meeting. If you require a copy of the constitution/by laws, contact me (Public Officer) and I will send you one.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Bob Thompson, 60s clarinet, I served on Melbourne with Bob in 1965. I understand Bob had an inoperable brain tumour, rest in peace mate.

Organising of next year reunion by John Lennon is going ahead with gusto, John will let you know more details later in the Magazine.

Cheryle and I would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas and a special next year.

Ralph





Victorian Report

Terry Ekin

How time flies. It doesn't seem that long ago we got together to have Christmas in July and here we were, at the start of December, actually getting together for Christmas. There was a good number in attendance and we may have been able to have more, but unfortunately, the RSL were fully booked so they couldn't accommodate any more. Even Santa 'Genril' Claus put in an appearance which set the mood.

Its always good to see so many familiar faces at our get togethers and this time we had some faces that joined in the 70's/80's era. The younglings Alan Fenney, Harry Williams and John Lucas came and hopefully not for the last time. As is the usual, we caught up on what we've been doing the last, ahem, decades and where we are at now. Couple this with dits and war'ies from times past, time marched on and the afternoon went quickly, with RSL staff hovering around waiting to set up for the night (tea) shift.

So many of our members are still very active musically around the peninsula and throughout the suburbs playing in community orchestras, concert bands and small ensembles such as dixie & German bands (thanks for the "gig" Bill & Len). Others are sharing their knowledge and skills through mentoring and teaching in schools and private tutoring.

The Twin Towns reunion may seem a fair way off now but I know some have already booked their accommodation and taking ad-

vantage to visit relatives before and after - probably drying out after. It won't take long until we, as an association, are together again performing, this time, in a 1000 seat venue - we just seem to be raising the bar each time we have these (please, no marching displays).

I'm going to use the 'C' word in print and take this opportunity to wish all members a Merry Christmas surrounded by family and friends sharing good food, good times washed down with a great ale, red or white (whatever your persuasion) or a combination of all. May the bearded one dressed in red bring you everything you wished for and more. Finally, may the New Year bring you happiness, success and a full glass.

Terry



From Left: Mal Codling, Mick Reed with Pam and Col Morris. Top: Barry and Pat Pollock enjoying the house Red: Above: Alan Fenney being accosted by the tongue of Harry Williams while Kerilyn Williams looks on.

Right: Carol and Les Kent, Sharon Hatch, Fran Reed, Shirley Hogg. **Below:** Doug Antonoff, The Pollocks', The Williams', The Nurses', Lorraine Ekin and Dee & David Greedy.



Left: Our organisers, Terry & Lorraine Ekin with Len Nurse. Above: Alan Hogg, Carol & Bill Post with John Lucas and partner Barbara.

Right: Maree Nurse.



Western Australian Report

Bill Farrell

NEWS FROM THE WESTERN FRONT:

Christmas is fast approaching and with it the Westerners Annual Xmas Luncheon for Association members. Can you really believe that 2017 is nearly completed and a New Year is just on the horizon? From all the responses, it would appear that we might have a good roll up at the RAAFA Clubrooms on 20th December with at least one widow already booked.

Hopefully more acceptances will be received before this edition of the Magazine goes to print but readers will have to wait until the autumn edition to discover how we fared. On Wednesday 7th December, your correspondent attended the Annual Luncheon of the Defence Welfare Association, WA Division, where he met up with the representative of the Naval Officer Commanding WA. The rep was Commander Gavin Reeves who informed the writer that in 1972, as a Cadet in CERBERUS, he marched as a drummer in the Moomba Parade with the CERBERUS Band with yours truly as the Band Officer.

That's 46 years ago, and he is now the second-in command of the RAN Submarine Training School at HMAS STIRLING. It's great to be able to catch up with and talk about the memories. Health-wise, there have been no reports of any problems and all who have answered for the Luncheon have not indicated that they are suffering in any way.

Coolangatta is less than 12 months away and there has been no indication as to how many will be making the trip East. There are 2 known ones and possibly at the Luncheon we may be able to get a line on anyone who may be contemplating travelling.

All that can be said in conclusion is to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring everything that is hoped and wished for.

Bill.



Secretaries Report

John Lennon

Planning for next year's reunion has now been locked in, with some minor tweaking to times. We have deliberately kept the planned activities down to a minimum, mainly due to the Gold Coast offering such a diverse range of things to do and see. I am sure we may have the odd keen fisherman who would rather go deep sea fishing than cruise up the Tweed river, which leaves from the same Marina as the River Cruise.

The golfers have a variety of premier and budget courses on the Gold Coast to choose from, and for those who would rather visit some of the attractions on the top end of the Gold Coast, such as Movie World, Dream World, Sea World and the Outback Spectacular, the choices are plentiful. The great thing about the Gold Coast is the public transport, including buses and light rail, is centrally located and makes moving around the coast very easy.

The Commonwealth Games in April next year has meant a lot of money has been poured into transport infrastructure on the coast, including the opening of stage 2 of the light rail

which extends all the way from Broadbeach to Helensvale Station. If you had second thoughts about attending the reunion perhaps plan a holiday on the Gold Coast and include the reunion as one of the activities on your holiday. Bring along your swimmers, towel, sunscreen and clothes, and the only thing you need to leave behind will be your worries.

This addition will give a breakdown of activities and indicative costs for you to start your planning, including, from our previous addition, a detailed (updated) breakdown of accommodation costs at Twin Towns Mantra resort.

If you are attending the reunion can you please advise myself or Errol at your earliest opportunity to give us an indication of attending numbers. We do have restrictions due to Health & Safety on numbers for the Meet & Greet and the Dinner Dance. In the case of the River Cruise we need at least 40 plus to allow us the discounted price of \$55 which is a \$15 saving.

If the River Cruise numbers exceed 60 people I have the option of booking a second boat. I am not sure if it is due

to the Commonwealth games but I have noticed that Twin Towns Mantra has increased accommodation costs by about 7% since I posted the prices in the last magazine issue. I have shown the new rates, with the discounted rates, and you should be aware that a non refundable \$200 deposit is required on booking.

I think you will find most accommodation places in Qld require a deposit on accommodation bookings. If you want to take the chance of making your accommodation booking after the games in April next year you need to make that call yourself.

Now that I have done the hard sell on the reunion please advise if you are attending by sending a text to me on 0409 722 844 or e-mail navy_muso@yahoo.com or use the band web site www.ranbandassoc.net to indicate your intention to attend by clicking the "Reunion 2018" link on the right hand side of the home page. The booking sheet will be included in the next addition of the Magazine so at this point in time, please do not send money.

John Lennon

Ending on a High Note

CPL Bill Solomou

STANDING in front of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra as the rain started to fall, CMDR Paul Cottier had the honour of playing the Last Post for the last time on December 1.

Playing at the 75th commemorative service of the sinking of HMAS *Armidale*, it was his last official performance as a Navy Band member.

CMDR Cottier joined the Navy in 1981 as a trumpeter/bugler and commissioned in 1996.

Upon receiving his commission, he posted as the OC and Music Director of the RAN Band Melbourne, HMAS *Cerberus*.

CMDR Cottier said performing at the AWM had been a great honour and finishing his career at the service for *Armidale* "was a moment I will never forget".

During his 36 years in Navy, he worked in various postings before being appointed Director of Music - Navy in 2012.

"I was the ninth Director of Music in the 100-year history of the RAN Band, so it's not like a lot of people have had that honour before," CMDR Cottier said.

"Here at the AWM, and being involved

with the Centenary of Anzacs ceremonies, has been a wonderful finish to my career.

"I am extremely honoured and privileged to have been a part of the RAN and to have been involved with an organisation that is so professional.

"I often pinch myself to think what a wonderful opportunity I have had, and to find a job that I have loved."

Growing up in a house where music echoed in the hallways – it was his father's passion – it was inevitable music would play a large role in his life.

"My dad grew up in the era where Jazz was played in most country halls," CMDR Cottier said.

"He played various instruments and was a member of the Casterton Vice-Regal Band.

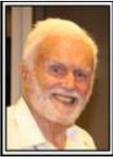
"He gave me a cornet, and at seven I joined the band.

"And the rest, well, that is now history," he said.

CMDR Cottier said he and his wife had a lot of travel booked for 2018.

"We have been married unaccompanied for the past six years, so it will be great to spend some more time together," CMDR Cottier said.





Western Australian Report

Bill Farrell

The winner of this year's Farrell – Lincoln Trophy for the WA Band is LS Nigel Barrett, the Band's lead trumpeter, bugler and Section Leader. He has been a member of the Band since 1988 and has displayed great dedication in all aspects of his work, particularly concerning bugling duties at commemoration services and funerals.

He is right up to date with all matters concerning the Band and imparts this knowledge to other musicians by presenting workshops. In 2015, he volunteered and was selected to represent the RAN Band in New Zealand, gaining valuable experience which he passed onto the RAN Band WA on his return.

He has also successfully passed a Group Leader Course as well as the Petty Officer Musicians promotion course. He

has extensive management skills from his civilian employment and this augers well for his future promotion in the RAN.

He displays excellent leadership and personal qualities and these all add up to a worthy winner of this year's Trophy.

Congratulations from The RAN Band Association Australia-wide.



Queensland Report

John Lennon

Seasons greeting to all from sunny Queensland. I am sure many of us have been busy with various community bands, Christmas Concerts and carols by candlelight. I play in 3 bands and have found my diary overly full since the beginning of December.

The orchestra I play in was conducted by Adrian Head for the final series, and Adrian is ex RAN Band (late 1990's & early 2000's). Adrian was awarded an Admirals Commendation for musical arrangement at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. Adrian is a very well respected conductor, musician and music educator in the Brisbane area. It is heartening to see so many ex Navy musicians represented in community and professional bands.

I attended my first army band reunion at the Maroochydore RSL this year and it was great to catch up with my old HMAS Sydney stepping ashore buddy Dean Butler. Dean was giving his new Motorhome a good workout, driving up from the Eyre Peninsula to the Sunshine Coast. I think it's a sign of the times that most our conversation was centred around our health, and comparing medications.

I used to beat Dean at most things, but he beat me hands down on the medication front. The stepping ashore days are a distant memory, but not forgotten. I

received some good news on the health front with my latest CT Scan and Specialist review showing that I have now moved from Stage 2 Sarcoidosis to Stage 1. I will continue with my current medication for the next 12 months with another review at the end of next year.

I am aware that I am not the only member of the association who is suffering some form of health issue, so for those members who are having health issues I wish the best of health for the New Year. I have found that no matter how much I ache, or how poorly I feel, I still enjoy life and look forward to every day.

Warmest wishes to all and good health for the New Year.

John Lennon

QLD Representative



Reunion 2018—Tweed Heads 25th to the 28th of October

John Lennon

Getting To Coolangatta

The best option for Interstate members who are not driving is to fly into Coolangatta airport then catch a Taxi to Tweed Heads (Twin Towns) a distance of approx 5 klm (10 mins by Taxi). Having said that it has been pointed out to me that some Capital & Provisional cities don't operate regular flights and it may necessitate staying additional days to coordinate flights to and from Coolangatta Airport. The other option is to fly into Brisbane Airport. I have provided some information for those who may consider this option and the time and cost getting from Brisbane Airport to Tweed Heads.

The Train from Brisbane Airport goes to Varsity Lake on the Gold Coast without having to change. The trip is just under 2 hours and costs \$35.15c one way. The Route 760 bus leaves Varsity Lakes station and goes via Robina Town Centre, Varsity Lakes, The Pines, Coolangatta Airport then Tweed Heads which takes about 40 minutes. As you can see it is a bit of hassle from Brisbane Airport to Tweed Heads which could take you up to 3 hours or more, plus the cost. The other option is CONXION Airport Transfers who offer transfers from Brisbane Airport to Mantra Twin Towns Resort for \$118 One Way for 2 people.

Veterans Band Rehearsal

Thursday 25th (13:00 to 17:00)

Thursday the 25th Oct 19 has been confirmed for the veteran's band rehearsal. We have decided 1pm to 5pm as the allocated rehearsal time. This will allow for members who may be running late due to flights, booking into Accommodation etc. Stands will be supplied so just bring Music and Instruments. For those Veteran band members who are flying into the Gold Coast you may need to opt for earlier flights where possible. Unless advised otherwise, rehearsal will take place in the Showroom on the Top floor of the Twin Towns Club. You will be advised of any changes to the rehearsal venue or times.

Meet & Greet

Thursday 25th (19:00 to 22:30)

The Meet & Greet has been booked for Thursday evening in the VISIONS Room from 1700 to 22:30 and is located in the Mantra Accommodation tower which is part of the Twin Towns Services Club complex. For those who want to kick on without interruption you can take the sky walk to the main club area and entertain yourself until 2am in the Morning.

COST: \$35

Tweed River Cruise

Friday 26th (09:30 to 14:00)

We have confirmed a Northern Rivers rainforest cruise on Friday with "Tweed Endeavour Cruises". This tour departs at 9:30am from the wharf complex at the end of Wharf St, which is on the same street as the club and within walking distance for the spritely members. The tour lasts 4.5 hours and includes a BBQ Lunch and cruises up the tweed river as far as Historic Tumbulgum. There is a cap of 60 on this tour however we do have the option of filling up another boat.

COST: \$55 (Min 40 Booked)

AGM

Friday 26th (15:00 to 16:00)

The AGM has been confirmed for 3pm on Friday in the ANZAC room behind the RSL Sub Branch office in the Mantra Tower.

Aarvark & Arrow Micro Brewery

Saturday 27th (10:00 to 14:00)

On Saturday for those who want to have a few beers and spin heaps of yarns a lunch time BBQ at the AARDVARK & ARROW Micro Brewery at Varsity Lakes has been negotiated with the owner and proprietor who just happens to be Guy Scruton, Trombone and ex PO Musician 70 & 80's.

COST: Yet to be Determined

Dinner Dance

Saturday 27th (19:00 to 22:30)

The Formal Dinner will also be held in the VISIONS room on Saturday night.

COST: \$85

Veterans Band Sound Check

Sunday 28th (10:00 to 12:00)

Veterans band Sound check.

Veterans Gala Concert

Sunday 28th (14:00 to 16:00)

The Veterans Band Gala concert will be held in the Showroom at the Twin Towns Club. Further information on the Veterans Band including music program and instrumentation will be disseminated by Ralph Daines. This event will be ticketed and organised by Twin Towns so at this stage we are not in a position to offer free tickets or discounts. Having said that, as we get closer to the event and start more detailed planning we will endeavour to try and secure discounted tickets if possible.

Tweed Heads Accommodation

The Tweeds Heads area allows for varying types of accommodation from Caravan Parks, Budget, Resort and Premier accommodation options. Twin Town Services club offers excellent accommodation at their Mantra Resort Tower which is interconnected to the Services club, and will allow you to stagger home at any time of day and night in complete safety and comfort without ever leaving the air conditioning. Now that we have confirmed Twin Towns Services Club as our reunion venue all members are entitled to a 10% discount on their accommodation best prices at the Mantra Resort. You will be required to place a \$200 non refundable deposit and be aware that best prices can fluctuate. You will need to ring and quote the "Royal Australian Navy Band Association Reunion 25th - 29th October 2018. You cannot receive the discount if you book on line with Mantra so you will need to ring 1800 192020 to book. I have set out some examples of the accommodation types showing best prices (with recent increases) and what you would save with the discount.

Mantra – Twin Towns Coolangatta Accommodation Prices for 4 nights

Thur 25th Fri 26th Sat 27th Sun 28th Oct 2018

NOTE: Prices have increased since last newsletter

<u>ROOM TYPE</u>	<u>BEST PRICE</u>	<u>10% DISCOUNT</u>
HOTEL KING ROOM 2 guests	\$814	\$732
HOTEL ROOM (Bed & Breakfast) 2 guests	\$862	\$775
ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT 2 Guests (1 extra)	\$862	\$775
HOTEL KING SUITE 2 Guests (1 extra)	\$954	\$858
HOTEL DELUX TWIN ROOM 2 Guests (2 extra)	\$954	\$858
TWO BEDROOM DUAL KEY APARTMENT 4 Guests (1 extra)	\$1,188	\$1069
TWO BEDROOM APRTMENT 4 Guests (1 extra)	\$1,188	\$1069
THREE BEDROOM APARTMENT 6 guests (1 extra)	SOLD OUT	
TWO BEDROOM PENTHOUSE 4 Guests (1 extra)	\$1,560	\$1404

If you want to save further on the discount I would suggest pairing up with another couple for the Two Bedroom Apartments and split the cost. This would mean the cost would come down to \$530 per couple which is very good value for a 4.5 rated resort on the Gold Coast. Where I have added extra person you would pay additional for that extra person. I would suggest if you are thinking of sharing the cost by booking a 2 bedroom apartment that you get in early, as I am aware that the 3 bedroom apartments are sold out, which makes me think the 2 bedroom apartments may go quickly. If you intend to stay at Mantra my recommendation would be, get in early to ensure you have secured your accommodation.

John.

Royal Australian Navy Band

Serving in Harmony

2017



NAVY





RAN Band Sydney during the Australia Day celebrations on HMAS Canberra's flightdeck, Sydney, 2017

Over this year, Royal Australian Navy Band continued to support hundreds of naval events around Australia and overseas, with more than 250 engagements supported by RAN Band Sydney alone. To name a few, RAN Band supported the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea commemorations, including a small contingent embarked on HMAS *Choules* to perform at the place of the battle in waters of the Coral Sea, embarked 12 piece ensemble on HMAS *Adelaide* to participate in the Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2017 exercise, toured to Malaysia to support the ADF Ball 2017 and represented Australia during the 5th International Military Tattoo in Nanchang, China. Following a 24 years-long tradition, our two flagship concert series *Band Call* and *Soundwaves* continued to bring free concerts to our dedicated audiences in Sydney and Melbourne presented by our full-time

bands.

'Royal Australian Navy Band' Facebook page is continuously growing. Have a look at our EVENTS section, where we share information about the RAN Band's upcoming community engagements and public concerts. New information booklet *Serving in Harmony* is available for download on our web-page and the hard copies can be posted to you upon written request.

Our e-mail address remains navy.band@defence.gov.au. We would love to hear from you. See you at our next concert!

National PR Manager
LSMUSN Svetlana Yaroslavskaya

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK,
SOUNDCLOUD AND YOUTUBE
'Royal Australian Navy Band'**



NAVY



A Voice of the ANZAC celebrations

LSMUSN Tracy Kennedy

In April this year, I was fortunate to travel to Belgium with two other vocalists from Army Band Sydney and Canberra and members of Australia's Federation Guard. We performed as an A Cappella vocal trio for Anzac Day commemoration services.

Having only met the other vocalists a few weeks prior to the trip, I think we were all a little apprehensive how it would all come together. Our first rehearsal definitely eased the anxiety, our voices blended beautifully and we also got on great which was definitely a bonus!

The trip was twelve days in total, most of it being spent in a little town in Belgium called Ypres, home to the historical Menin Gate memorial. The Menin Gate is a war memorial that was unveiled on the 24th July 1927. It's dedicated to British and Commonwealth soldiers and bears the names of men and women whose graves are unknown and lost their lives in the battles of Ypres Salient in World War 1.

We began the trip with two days of battlefield tours in and around Belgium. Some of the memorials and cemeteries we visited were Polygon wood, Vimy Ridge, Prowse Point, Tyne Cot, and Hill 60. It was an emotional few days, quite confronting to learn more about Australia's involvement in the battles of the western front especially in and around Belgium. Following the tours, we combined with the New Zealand Defence Force contingent for dinner. The entertainment for the night was their Maori culture group, they sang and performed traditional Maori songs and invited us to join in. There was definitely a competitive vibe in the air. Not wanting the Kiwis to defeat us in music as well as the sport, we followed with an impromptu performance of 'I am Australian' which made the whole room erupt in song.

The following few days were spent in rehearsals for upcoming memorial services and performing at a memorial concert in the community of Zonnebeke.



MUSN Tanya Christensen, LS Tracy Kennedy and MUSN Rachel Shead with VC recipient Dan Keighran at the Menin Gate

The concert was an Anzac commemoration concert, themed around the story of the battle of Passchendaele. It was attended by members of the public and local Belgium dignitaries. It was certainly an honour to be involved in such a successful evening. We shared the stage with the Zonnebeke community band the vocalist from the NZ Air Force and local actors and instrumentalists.

Another highlight performance was singing for the official opening of the Australian poppy garden at the Passchendaele Memorial Museum. I performed the Belgium Anthem in Flemish and the trio sang our National Anthem. In attendance was the Minister for Veteran affairs The Honourable Dan Tehan.

On Anzac eve, the ADF contingent took part in a very special commemoration service for the return of the Menin Gate Lions. The lions were a gift to Australia from the Ypres community that had stood guard at the Menin Gate from the mid -19th century. The lions were given to Australia in 1936 and have been a feature at our War memorial in Canberra and now have been returned to Menin Gate for the centenary of the Battle of Ypres. I was fortunate to be interviewed for a documentary about the return of the lions along with Corporal Dan Keighran, VC. The documentary will hopefully be aired in Australia this year.

With a busy schedule, Anzac Day came about quite quickly, the dawn service being our first



LSMUSN Tracy Kennedy performing at the Menin Gate

performance for the day. Chilled to the bone at 0530 we sang 'Flanders Fields' in the quiet and almost eerie cemetery of Polygon Wood. It was extremely emotional and moving to see the reaction of the crowd as we started singing.

Next was Tyne Cot, a memorial that holds the names of the other men and women who have no graves. The service at Tyne cot went very well despite the freezing conditions. Once the service was complete we made our way to the middle of the cemetery where we sang for a headstone rededication for Australian soldier 2nd Lieutenant Reginald Hickling. His final resting place was unknown until researchers discovered his grave in the Tyne Cot cemetery. The contingent then made their way back to town to take part in the special last post ceremony under the Menin Gate.

We then travelled to Toronto Ave which is an all Australian soldier cemetery in Ploegsteert Wood. MUSN Tanya Christensen from Army Band Sydney did an incredible rendition of the Belgium Anthem in French. We also attended a New Zealand service at Messines Ridge which featured the Maori culture group.

To finish off a long but exhilarating Anzac Day, we had one last performance under the Menin Gate. After the night was completed we joined the Kiwis once again for a well-deserved drink.

The trip was incredible and made even better by members of Australia's Federation Guard and the men and women from the NZ defence force contingent. I had an amazing trip, challenging at times but so rewarding at the end of it all.

Ypres is such an incredible little town full of so much history and the friendliest people. I for one have learnt a lot more about our involvement in the battles on the western front. Visiting the sites really hits home how many lives were lost and the importance of Anzac Day not only in Australia but on the other side of the globe.

Lest we forget.



The Coral Sea musical partnership

CPOMUSN Andrew Stapleton

The RAN Band Queensland was tasked by Director of Music - Navy to support the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea commemoration events in Cardwell and Townsville in Far North Queensland. The recommended ensemble was a Brass Quintet, so we set about confirming personnel and early stage logistics for six members including myself. It was exciting to find out that the U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) Band from Hawaii would also be involved in the commemorations. They were sending a Woodwind Quintet 'Tradewinds', plus a trumpet player and their Bandmaster LT Kelly Cartwright to Australia. A key member of the PACFLT Band group of seven was their french horn player Chief Musician David Baine (SW).

From my early correspondence with LT Cartwright and Chief Baine, I knew that this collaboration was going to be more than just a fun exchange of culture and friendship. The partnership of Australian brass and American woodwind ensembles would work perfectly for the expected events. AB Fletcher Mitchell set about preparing the ceremonial music and hymns required for the events, specifically scored for the relevant instrumentation. At the same time, I assisted with the logistic requirements including lodgings, transport and liaising with event

Photos: 'Townsville Bulletin'

coordinators on behalf of the combined group. There has been a long tradition of mutual respect and support being provided to visiting RAN Band elements in Hawaii, and both myself and AB Fletcher were keen to reciprocate that goodwill and support on this occasion.

The PACFLT Band members arrived in Sydney for a stopover and an opportunity to take in the sights of Sydney Harbour before continuing on to Far North Queensland the following day. From all reports, the contrast between Sydney and Townsville was noted. The 2-hour drive to Cardwell was high spirited with the Americans keenly looking to spot iconic Australian wildlife on the way. Their transport and driver were provided by HMAS Cairns and at the same time, our group was heading to Cardwell from Cairns being driven by our primary contact and liaison officer CHAP Ian Lindsay.

After checking-in to the Beachcomber Motel in Cardwell, myself, CPO Karina Bryer and AB Mitchell headed to the Battle of the Coral Sea Memorial Garden for a walk through the service with HMAS Cairns personnel and to finally touch base with LT Cartwright and Chief Baine for the first time. After



LT Kelly Cartwright conducting the combined Australian-American ensemble

exchanging pleasantries we quickly established that LT Cartwright would conduct the services with me providing local protocol and knowledge as necessary for the upcoming events.

The Cardwell Battle of the Coral Sea 75th Anniversary Commemoration began with a street parade led by Chief Baine on Bagpipes followed by a drum corp which included myself, AB Mitchell and AB Max Baillie. On completion of the street march the parade assembled for the commencement of the service. The combined quintets performed beautifully under the direction of LT Cartwright, the subsequent feedback from all concerned was very positive. Ma'am's inclusion of 'Hymn To The Fallen' and 'Going Home' for the wreath laying was an inspiring choice and set the standard for the remaining events. We concluded the ceremony with the playing of suitable marches from both nations, and we knew confidence was high and that the musical partnership was going to be satisfying and rewarding.

Two days later, the Townsville Coral Sea commemoration service began at dawn on a crisp clear tropical morning with everyone from the Governor General of Australia down in attendance. The Prime Minister's address was particularly worthy of note as he spoke very graphically about the human tragedy of the conflict between man, machine, bombs, heroism and loss of life. His words brought home the terrible impact the battle had on so many lives and generated a mood of sombre reflection and thanks for those that gave so much in repelling the Japanese fleet and what would have ultimately resulted in an invasion of Australia. Following the Townsville service, there was an official breakfast attended by all concerned on the terrace of a café which commanded magnificent views overlooking the pristine waters of the Coral Sea. A fitting place to end the Far North Queensland Battle of the Coral Sea official events.

Upon their arrival in Brisbane, the PACFLT Band members were transferred to their lodgings at HMAS Moreton where they would conduct a number of outreach performances for the next four days at schools and a concert at the very impressive recital room at the AMEB facility at Ashgrove. There were also a number of official receptions for the touring USS *Lexington* survivor and relatives of other US veterans. The musical partnership then concluded with the combined Coral Sea commemoration

service, once again under the baton of LT Kelly Cartwright, at Newstead Park. This service cemented the bond between the two bands and capped off an amazingly successful week of musical collaboration and new found friendship. A friendship that will hopefully continue on in the proposed Pacific Partnership and via an invitation by the CO of HMAS Moreton extended to the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band to visit Brisbane in 2018 for ANZAC Day and the Battle of Coral Sea commemoration.



LS Robert Schultz sounding the 'Last Post'



CPO Stapleton marching with HMAS Cairns' sailors

'Last Post' over the Coral Sea waters

LSMUSN Svetlana Yaroslavskaya

For over 100 years, musicians of the Royal Australian Navy Band have been carried on the tradition of performing for the significant ceremonies commemorating the historical events and honouring those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect Australia.

In May this year, six Navy musicians embarked on HMAS Choules to travel to the Coral Sea for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral sea commemorations. The ceremony hosted by Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Timothy Barrett AO, CSC, RAN was attended by the Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC and Lady Lyn Cosgrove, Federal Attorney-General Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, (representing the Prime Minister of Australia), Minister for Defence, Senator The Hon Marise Payne, State Minister for Defence (Japan), Mr Kenji Wakamiya, Ambassador of Japan to Australia His Excellency Sumio Kusaka, US Charge D'Affaires, Mr James Caruso, Chief of Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC and Commander US Pacific Fleet Admiral Scott Swift.

The 'Last Post' sounded over waters of the Coral Sea on the 1st of May to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of one of the most devastating naval battles of the WWII.

The value of tradition and indeed of ceremonial music, performed at nearly every memorial service, is significant to our identity as Australians. The music performed today is the same music sounded many years ago at the places of the battles as the bodies of the fallen sailors were committed to the sea.

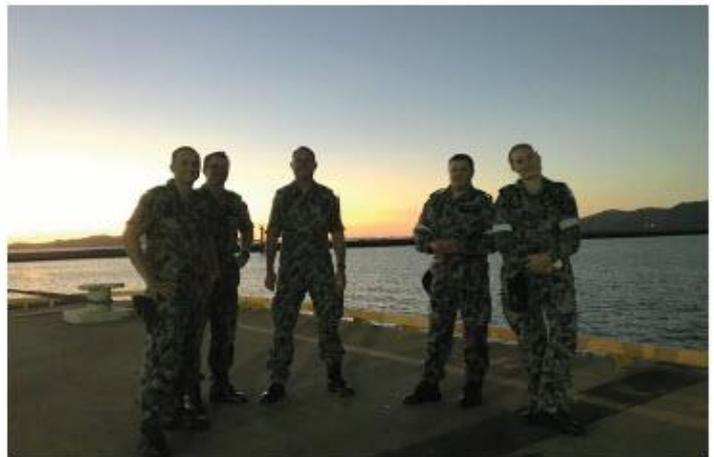
Lest we forget.



ABMUSN Benjamin Smith sounding the 'Last Post'



RAN Band onboard HMAS Choules, the Coral Sea



Members of the RAN Band onboard HMAS Choules

First Service Band to visit King Island



As part of the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations, the Royal Australian Navy Band Tasmania had the unique honour of being the first Service Band to visit King Island. King Islanders have a long tradition of providing serving ADF members to the Commonwealth and to Australia. In the past, they were recognised by both King George and Winston Churchill for providing the most number of Servicemen for the entire Commonwealth (per capita) to fight in WWI. A staggering 200 men out of a population of 1000 responded to the 'call to arms', and of those 29 did not return.

Although King Island is an idyllic holiday destination with world class golf courses and internationally renowned cuisine, RAN Band Tasmania had a very busy working schedule in their short stay. The Monday preceding ANZAC Day saw the band perform at the picturesque foreshore to a large and enthusiastic audience of all ages. The variety concert, presented by the highly professional and versatile twelve piece Navy band, showcased ensembles such as vocal quartet, classical flute and piano, drum corps and rock group, all wowing the appreciative audience. This was followed by a sold-out concert at the King Island Town Hall to raise funds for the local RSL. The night was a huge success with the dance floor crowded with groovers, captivated by Able Seaman Stephanie McCorkelle's dulcet tones and the funky song list; Cat Empire, Bruno Mars, Amy Winehouse, Foo Fighters and ACDC to name just a few.

The Dawn Service the following day and the ANZAC Day march was a phenomenal exercise in precision, pride and honour. RAN Band Tasmania's side drummers acted as a catafalque party and placed their drums in tribute to the fallen, creating an outstanding and moving homage.

Kathleen Hunter – Editor of the King Island Advocate stated, "We expected our 2017 ANZAC Day celebrations to be special with the 12 strong RAN Band Tasmania, but we were wrong. It was exceptional."

Liz Clemons, King Island RSL Secretary, was ecstatic about both the band's performance, and the thousands of dollars raised for the local RSL. She said, "Living in a rural, remote and isolated island, we do not receive many visitors of the calibre and charisma of the Royal Australian Navy Band Tasmania. The band's enthusiasm, their obvious love of music combined with military professionalism was infectious and uplifting for this little island's 1200 residents."

Bandmaster Chief Petty Officer Mark Ham added, "We cannot thank the King Island community enough for their assistance in making our visit such and outstanding success. These friendly, dedicated people show the same traits, such as commitment and dedication, as their ancestors that bravely went off to fight for our nation. It was an honour to be a part of their ANZAC Day commemorations."

Faithful to the BAND CALL

LSMUSN Svetlana Yaroslavskaya

Some of you may be interested in the origins of a great Sydney-based monthly Military Band concert series called BAND CALL at St. Andrew's Cathedral or indeed, some of you may even remember the first concert back in the 90s.



The then Flight Lieutenant David Worrall was the Music Director and Commanding Officer of the Air Command Band, the then Sydney-based Air Force Band. The Australian Defence Force is fortunate to have this officer still serving

as the most senior ranked former Musician/ Band Officer in the Air Force. Now Wing Commander David Worrall serves as a Reservist Staff Officer within the Directorate of Personnel Air Force.



The Air Command Band, 1990s

WGCDR Worrall informs us that as he and his valued and talented musicians of Air Command Band developed their Wind Orchestra performance capability and repertoire, "It became important to find a central Sydney venue to hold a concert series that would provide a regular opportunity for the people of Sydney to hear this fine ensemble in full flight".

Appreciating the acoustic qualities of the Sydney cathedrals, David's enquiries to all of them highlighted the opportunity at St. Andrew's Cathedral which

was already holding organ recitals at lunch times. David tells us: "We had developed a good working relationship with the then acting cathedral organist and master of the choristers at St. Andrew's, renowned Lawrence Bartlett. And fortunately, the



St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney
then Archbishop P. H. Goodhew was a fan of military bands."

The first concert was held in the winter months of 1993 which witnessed a healthy audience of about 150 people who appreciated the performance immensely. Importantly, WGCDR Worrall provided comprehensive program notes which helped inform the audience thus providing an educational experience about the fine medium that is the Wind Orchestra. Additionally, he actively sought new repertoire which the Air Command Band premiered in this venue.

As this series grew in popularity, David invited his colleagues in Army and Navy to participate thus allowing them an important performance outlet as well. In fact, this tri-Service venture also witnessed the birth of the 'Sydney Defence Wind Orchestra' as a single band for about one year in the mid-nineties with the three Music Directors SQNLDR David Worrall - Air Force, MAJ Howard Ward - Army and LCDR Ashley Greedy - Navy. David later became Music Director of the NSW Police Band in 2001 and also introduced that ensemble to the Band Call at St. Andrew's Cathedral.

WGCDR Worrall says, "I am very proud that Air Command Band alas now gone, began a tradition that my fellow service band Directors have maintained with 'Band Call at St. Andrew's' to this day to showcase the fine professional Australian Defence Force bands

we have in Australia. I encourage each to present as much new repertoire, especially Australian, as possible."

Over following 25 years, the Band Call series remained a significant avenue for hundreds of service musicians to showcase their professional skills for the dedicated Sydney audience.

Current Director of Music – Navy, Lieutenant Commander Steve Stanke reminisces, "In 2001, when I was Assistant Director of Music-Navy, I would attend the Band Call concerts and often sit next to LCDR Norm Gullick (rtd), a former Director of Music-Navy. He had retired already when I joined the band but he would tell me stories about his time as Music Director. Norm was a very kind and gentle man and I was immediately drawn to him. When I became the Music Director of RAN Band Sydney in 2010, Norm had passed away but I never forgot the memory of us both sitting up in the loft, agreeing that music played in the city at lunchtime by the RAN Band was a perfectly agreeable way of spending an hour. Despite the relatively difficult acoustics in St. Andrew's (it is a cathedral after all, not a concert hall), I have programmed some stunning works. One very memorable and satisfying work was Frank Ticheli's *Angels in the Architecture*, where we featured one

of our singers, opera-trained Bryony Dwyer, in the organ loft. Truly, there were angels in the architecture that day. And I have always been appreciative of our faithful audience. They know what they like and want to hear!"

Over the last six months, RAN Band Sydney under the baton of their Music Director Lieutenant Brian O'Kane presented three Band Call concerts. LEUT O'Kane says, "I am really enjoying being in charge of the Navy Band in Sydney. Rehearsing the band in preparation for these concerts has been a great pleasure, and I hope the audience is becoming used to the way I make music with the Wind Band. The Band Call at St. Andrew's concert series represents a significant musical connection the Navy Band has with the local Sydney community. We have enjoyed showcasing the different styles of music within our repertoire, including large wind orchestra works, instrumental solos and jazz compositions, and we plan to continue this practice. Playing in the cathedral is a privilege as the acoustic lends itself well to many types of music. For me, there are two extremely enjoyable aspects of the performance - creating the music itself and the obvious enjoyment the audience receives when we share our music. Hearing directly from these dedicated concert goers is very satisfying indeed."



RAN Band Sydney performing BAND CALL at St. Andrew's

Survey confirms the value of the RAN Band's **SOUNDWAVES** within the community

ABMUSN Jade Barker

Those who are familiar with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Band Melbourne will know that they perform a free, monthly 'Soundwaves' concerts in their home location at HMAS Cerberus. This concert series has been running for about 20 years and has become much-loved by the community. So much so, that the original Wednesday evening concert is now repeated as a matinee in the afternoon to accommodate audience numbers. On 16th November last year, which was the final Soundwaves concert day for the year, a surprising event occurred that was a first in the history of the concert series: A pen-and-paper survey was conducted, and audiences flocked to fill out their forms to have their opinions counted.

This audience is clearly a loyal one. Laurel Mott, an audience member wrote, "We are all so grateful to have you [the RAN Band playing concerts for us]". Laurel expresses the sentiment revealed in the survey data which showed that 57% of audience members rarely miss a concert. The second-largest group of people attend 3 – 6 times per year. The survey showed that eight people have been coming for 16 – 20 years and 10 people have been attending for over 20 years! Of these, all are in the Over 70 age group. Most people had been attending Soundwaves concerts for 2 -5 years, followed by those who had been attending less than 2 years.

Photos: ABMUSN Benjamin Smith

Two hundred and forty people submitted their surveys. This is an overwhelmingly positive response. Community researchers, such as those employed by the Knox City Council, say that 25% is a standard survey submission rate. It is estimated that the Soundwaves survey had an approximately 80 – 90% survey submission rate. This supportive response suggests that the Soundwaves series is important to the audience and that members appreciate having the opportunity to express their values.

Although the data shows that the main attraction is the quality of the musical performance and variety, a large proportion of people said that the concerts enable them to feel part of a friendly community. Graeme Summers, an audience member who completed the survey, writes, "It [the RAN Band Soundwaves series] is a wonderful asset to the local community and is an important aspect of my life".

The bulk of the audience fell into the Over 70 age group, followed by the 56 – 70, 36 – 55 and Under 18 age groups. However, 87.5% people said that they bring friends and family from time to time, and almost all said that they found out about Soundwaves through friends. Of these friends and family, all age groups were represented. This indicates that the younger age groups are being introduced to the concert series and are being told about the RAN Band via their older



Members of the audience completing the survey



RAN Band Melbourne during SOUNDWAVES concert

friends and family.

Older people often have grandchildren or great grandchildren who may be introduced to the RAN Band through other community outreach methods such as the Band's schools program. This is evident from Soundwaves attendee, Pauline Griffiths, who writes on her survey, "Thanks to the RAN Band for wonderful performances ... also your work in schools. My grandson is at Padua." Such responses, in addition to the before-mentioned survey data, demonstrates that even though the Soundwaves concert series attracts audience members in the older age categories, the word gets around to younger people as well.

All in the Under 18 category said that they were drawn to the concert because they were family or friend to an RAN Band member. 16% of people said that the concerts give them an opportunity to remember someone in the ADF that they have known and loved, and 69% of people attend due to positive effects on their wellbeing. These two factors suggest that the Soundwaves program goes beyond musical appreciation and entertainment and has an important social, health and wellbeing value within the community.

The ABC television series, Catalyst, in their 2016 episode entitled 'Music on the Brain', reported a scientific study revealing that music acted as a 'back door' into the brain, stimulating memory, positive feelings and physical motor abilities that appeared to have been lost with the course of old age or illness. This means that people with brain diseases, dementia, depression and physical disabilities may be able to experience momentary reversal of their symptoms while listening to specific kinds of music,

particularly music that they listened to in their earlier years. Such is the incredible power of music.

This may be one of the reasons why familiar tunes, big band, 'singer and band' and marches are so popular in the Soundwaves concerts. Despite this, the survey found that the most popular musical genre is large concert band works, followed by marches. However, a significant proportion of people liked other genres, including small groups, rock band, Australian music and music described as "a bit different". It is interesting to note that despite enjoying more conservative genres played by the RAN Band, audiences do enjoy contemporary pieces as well.

Email was by far the most popular form of communication for all the age groups, and some people chose to return their surveys via email as well. Such data is valuable for the administration of the RAN Band and contributes to the knowledge of how best to reach and satisfy audience members.

Music itself is a form of communication. It is able to communicate emotional, social and cultural undercurrents that cannot be expressed in other ways. In the case of the before-mentioned scientific study on the brain, music can momentarily transport the body and mind to a happy time and an easy place of fond remembrance. These kinds of reactions indicate the important role that the RAN Band plays within the community. The Soundwaves concert series is one of the many significant institutions that the RAN Band upholds within the community. It was known before the survey that the Soundwaves concerts were loved, but the survey data now provides hard evidence of just how much this concert series means to the community and what roles it plays in the lives of audience members.



SOUNDWAVES concert series, HMAS Cerberus, 2016

Navy Band aspires community ensembles

ABMUSN Fletcher Mitchell

In February, the RAN Band Queensland travelled to the Gold Coast to participate in a workshop weekend with the Gold Coast City Wind Orchestra with some extra players from the Gold Coast City Brass Band. This was a fantastic opportunity for the band to undertake community engagement with local band musicians over the course of the weekend. Navy Band members spent the Saturday sitting in joint rehearsals as well as taking sectionals, where they were able to work with smaller groups to pass on instrument specific advice and experience. Sunday morning saw another sectional and a final rehearsal before the three bands came together for a social lunch and chat about all things music, community banding and Navy Band.

The weekend of workshops and rehearsals culminated in a joint concert on Sunday afternoon which was well attended. The concert opened with the Navy Band marching on to the stage before performing 'A Naval Occasion' featuring a fanfare, the 'beat to quarters', *I am Australian* and our national march, *Waltzing Matilda*. The bands then combined to perform wind band music of varying genres from arrangements of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals through to modern American wind band repertoire. Following the interval, the Navy Big Band opened the second half with performances featuring vocalist AB Mark Jozinovic and trumpet soloist LS Bob Schultz before the bands combined again to close out the concert with more wind band music and an encore *Midnight to Moscow*, featured the combined

trombone sections consisting of eight trombonists in front of the wind band, which provided both an impressive sight and sound.

The weekend workshop and concert was attended by many high profile members council and state government including MP Ray Stevens, member for Mermaid Beach who gave a very positive review in state parliament. Included in the speech given in the Legislative Assembly on 1st March 2017 was "I thank the Queensland Navy Band for sharing their finely honed musical talents with our local orchestra", and "of particular noteworthiness was the participation of the Queensland Navy Band under Chief Petty Officer Andrew Stapleton, whose team gave much appreciated professional support to the Gold Coast Wind Orchestra".

All in all, the weekend workshops and concert with the community groups was a huge success and something that will hopefully become an annual event with different community bands across SE Queensland. This was a departure from the 'normal' type of performance for the RAN Band Queensland which predominately performs as a big band, rock group or parade band. This weekend allowed for the opportunity to not only share in a traditional wind band concert, but the workshops made it possible for more interaction with community members over the course of the weekend, interaction that is not normally available when performing at events.



RAN Band Queensland during the combined concert



CPO Stapleton being presented with the Plaque of appreciation

People and Awards



The *Kirsty Jones* award is presented annually to a member of the permanent component of the Royal Australian Navy Band who has been assessed as making an outstanding contribution towards the band's operational effectiveness. The recipient of this award is selected to specifically acknowledge their direct contribution to encouraging good morale within the team; promoting a positive workplace atmosphere; enhancing a sense of esprit-de-corps throughout the Royal Australian Navy Band; and upholding Navy's values of Honour, Honesty, Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.

The *Kirsty Jones* award was created to honour the memory of, and as a dedication to, ex-Petty Officer Musician Kirsty Jones who inspired her subordinates and superiors through her personal qualities, positive attitude, and commitment and dedication to duty.

The 2016 recipient is Able Seaman Samuel Sheppard from RAN Band Sydney.



Able Seaman Musician Gary Honor from RAN Band Sydney was presented with Defence Force Commendation - Bronze level.

Citation: 'I commend you for noteworthy achievement in producing media material for the Royal Australian Navy Band's 2015 Album 'The Night of the Mayas' and the 2016 Admiral's Own Big Band Album 'Straight Ahead'.

Your dedication to conceiving, developing and producing quality electronic and print media for use with the release of these albums brought significant attention to the projects and complements the audio product with high quality visual support and album artwork. Your individual vision in relation to the overall artistic media concept was exemplary and your execution reflected the highest professional standards.

Through personal sacrifice and dedication, well above your required duty, you achieved project timeframes and goals. Your diligence, dedication and professionalism, through all phases of project development, ensured a quality product was available to support an important musical milestone for the RAN Band.

Your significant achievements will continue to yield positive results for the Australian Defence Force and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Navy.

*Deputy Chief of Navy
RADML Michael Noonan, AM'*

Three other members of RAN Band Sydney, LS Robert Flynn, LS Cameron McAllister and PO Lucas Kennedy received the HMAS *Kuttabul* Commanding Officer's commendations for their outstanding work on producing the Admiral's Own Big Band album 'Straight Ahead'.



The Royal Australian Navy Band Association (RANBA) Award is presented to a member of the Reserve component of the Royal Australian Navy Band who has been assessed as making an outstanding contribution towards the band's operational effectiveness. The winner of this award is selected to specifically acknowledge their direct contribution to encouraging good morale within the team; promoting a positive workplace atmosphere; enhancing a sense of esprit-de-corps throughout the Royal Australian Navy Band; and upholding Navy's values of Honour, Honesty, Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.

The award was created to promote awareness of the Royal Australian Navy Band Association and to thank the Reserve component of the Royal Australian Navy Band for the assistance they have given the Association.

The 2016 recipient is Able Seaman Justin Munday from RAN Band Tasmania.

A Musicians Profile: A Royal Marines Band Brat: Tom Challis

Hi Errol,

Thanks for the newsletter. I always enjoy the read. A friend of mine has asked he if he could include an article in the next newsletter. His father was a Bandmaster in the Royal Marines before, during and after WW2. I have attached his article for your consideration.

*Many Thanks,
Ed Thring*

My name is Thomas (Tom) Challis and I was born in Berwick Upon-Tweed, Northumberland on the 12th February 1945. My father also named Tom Challis joined the Royal Marines Band Service at the age of 14 years in 1934 and served for 26 years discharging in 1960. He played violin, clarinet and saxophone. During the world war 2 my father served in HMS Manchester, a Town-class light cruiser (1937–1942) on Malta convoys and HMS Berwick, a County-class cruiser (1926–1948) on Russian convoys. Per capita the Royal Marines Band Service lost more members than any other branch of the armed services with the exception of Bomber Command.

At the time of my birth my father was a band corporal (RMBX 694) serving in the Royal Marines Band Service on board HMS Berwick, a County-class heavy cruiser (1927–1946). Around the time of my first birthday my mother and I joined my father at his next posting which was HMS Pembroke, a shore establishment at Chatham. We remained at HMS Pembroke until 1947 when my father had another seagoing draft, this time to the band of HMS Norfolk, a County-class heavy cruiser (1928–1950) as part of the Ceylon Squadron. So once again my mother and I had to do without my father for another Two and a half years.

When I was older my father told me of an interesting incident that happened whilst he was aboard HMS Norfolk. This was during the Partition of India. HMS Norfolk steamed north from Ceylon to represent Great Britain. On the day of Partition (I think it was in New Delhi), Lord Louis Mountbatten and his wife Edwina were in attendance along with Indian officials Neru, Ghandi, Jinnah and the HMS Norfolk RM Band. At this time the Union Flag was still at the top of the flagstaff. After the speeches the flag lowering ceremony took place as the Union Flag was lowered for the last time to the strains of "God Save The King". The Colour Party folded the Flag and it was reverently handed to Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India. A minutes silence was observed, and then the RM Band started playing the new Indian National Anthem. Half a million Indians erupted with cheering, back slapping and hugging.

A footnote to this was the Royal Marines Band of HMS Norfolk had the honour to be the last Military Band to play "God Save The King" in India, and the first Military Band to play the Indian National Anthem. My father's absence went very slowly for my mother, but thankfully my father's parents lived nearby which was a great comfort to my mother. At the completion of his tour of duty in HMS Norfolk my father was once again posted to HMS Pembroke.

Whilst at HMS Pembroke my father was promoted to Bandmaster, and after a few months he was drafted for 4 months to HMS Triumph, a Colossus-class light fleet aircraft carrier which was with the West Indies Squadron. Triumph remained alongside for the 4 months my father was with her and the band was employed for ceremonial occasions.

In April 1953 Bandmaster Challis was drafted to Royal Marines School of Music, at Deal. My family had been allocated the only Married Quarter located in East Barracks. It was situated above the NAAFI and was known as the "Canteen Quarter". At this stage there was over 500 Junior Musicians and Drummers under training aged from 14 to 18 years, at which stage they passed out to join one the Royal Marines Fleet Bands.

Between 1600 hrs and 1700 hrs the boys had personal instrumental practice. Try and imagine 500 boys practicing scales and the odd parts of musical scores all at the same time on different instruments. The noise was to say the least very loud and in some cases resembled being near a cockatoo's cage. Some of you may remember a British Trumpeter called Eddy Calvert. His big hit was Apple Pink and Cherry Blossom White. During individual practice, a trumpet/cornet player would start playing Eddy Calvert's song. All the other boys would stop and then join in. It was like listening to a 500 piece dance band, an incredible sound.

One evening when I was outside of East Barracks I heard the sounds of Apple Pink and Cherry Blossom White drifting from the boys practice area and noticed couples who were walking by to stop, listen for a moment, and then start dancing on the footpath. Such was the affect that the RM School of Music had within the community.

As a young boy growing up in a Royal Marines Establishment I was restricted to where I could and could not go. I was however allowed some freedom of movement to explore the Barracks when the band boys were on leave. At 8 years of age I did a lot of exploring. Barrack rooms always smelt of wet serge. My favourite place was the cemetery next door to the NAAFI. Around the walls were the original grave stones. East Barracks was built as a prison for French POWs during the Napoleonic war and, after a while it became apparent that it would be more useful as a Hospital for Sailors and Marines wounded in sea actions.

There was an open area in the centre of the cemetery and the band boys would often play football there. To my delight I was always invited to play with them. Many happy memories were created on that little patch of grass. Serving in the Corps at that time was a Marine named John Savage, he was the Corps heavy weight boxing champion. He would come into the cemetery and start to train, jogging and shadow boxing etc. He had a large Pussers kit bag filled with saw dust hanging from the bow of a tree. When he wanted to do some bag work he would lift me up and I would hang onto the rope with my legs crossed whilst he pummelled the bag. At the end of each training session he would always give me 3d. (2 cents).

During 'stand easy' the Bandmasters would gather at our kitchen for morning tea. I was always around and loved to listen to their conversations. Some of these Bandmasters included Tom Lambert, Bill Greasley, Jan Harwood, Fred Tobin, Jimmy Pottle, and many more. Tom Lambert was later to serve with the Royal Australian Navy Band. My father also told me that he had a number of friends that transferred to the RAN Band as well.

Coronation Day was spent in the Sergeants' Mess watching the ceremony on TV. Unfortunately the reception was not very clear but it was an experience I will never forget.

At the completion of my father's Two and a half years posting at the RM School of Music, Deal he was posted to the Mediterranean

A Musicians Profile: A Royal Marines Band Brat: Tom Challis

an Fleet at Malta GC. This posting was a married accompanied draft which pleased both my mother and me.

The Mediterranean Fleet Band was split into two bands known as 'A' and 'B' bands. 'A' Band was under the command of Commissioned Bandmaster Harold Newcome, and 'B' Band was under command of Bandmaster Tom Challis my father. My father's band was stationed at HMS Phonocia, Manoel Island. We lived in a flat at Gzira and only stayed there for about three weeks before we had to move because the water was undrinkable. My family then moved to a place called Mosta in the centre of the Island. It was such a relief as the water there was potable and sweet to drink. I attended the Royal Navy school there called Tal Handaque. The headmaster was a Royal Naval Captain. There was also about 20 Naval officer schoolies, and numerous contract teachers from the UK. It was a huge school consisting of just over 2000 children of Navy, Army and Air Force parentage.

While my father was posted to the Mediterranean Fleet the Suez Crisis happened. Troops and equipment came onto the Island in a never ending stream. It must have been like the South of England in the build up to D-Day. Ships of all sizes in the Grand Harbour. I have never seen such a flotilla of ships. I am sure a person could have walked from the Custom's House steps to Fort St. Angelo without getting their feet wet. My father's 'B' band embarked on

board HMS Manxman, a fast minelayer for the duration of the crisis. The build up ceased and the assault started. Airfields first followed by Port Said, all were taken and held. A few weeks later all the boys came home.

We spent two more glorious years on Malta. My father often took the band on 'showing the flag' trips all over the Med. He took 'B' band to Monaco for Grace Kelly's wedding to Prince Ranier and also to Sicily on a Mine Sweeper. It was the only band ever to sail in a mine sweeper and to my knowledge has never happened since.

Prior to his discharge in 1960 my father was offered the position of director of music of the Royal New Zealand Navy Band, but decided that he would opt for civvy street instead.

I hope you enjoyed the memories of a Royal Marines Band Brat. My association with the Royal Marines Band through my father lead me to join the Royal Marines and the Royal Navy where I served in the Fleet Air Arm.

Regards
Tom Challis



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Pictured is Drum Major C.P.O. Petty Officer Musician Williams who was recently promoted to Chief Petty Officer Musician at HMAS CERBERUS.



C.P.O. Musn. Williams is at present Depot Bandmaster, H.M.A.S. CERBERUS.

MUSICAL MOMENTS

Congratulations to Jim Stathis on being promoted to Acting Leading Musician.

Leading Musician Bertie Roche has the head on his 'Bellert' shaved. He hopes to pass PO Musician Ted Lincoln's 'hot' Valiant on the way to Frankston. Hear tell he's still struggling.

P.O.(Q)'s course is off to a hectic start. Leading Musicians Bill James, Max Argent, Paul Farrugia and Jim Hawkins all complain about the lack of hours in each day.

Warm welcomes and congratulations have been extended to Lt. G. D. Coxon, as the Assistant Director of Music, Petty Officers Courts and Lowry, for their Chief Musicians Course, Leading Musician Hawkins for a Petty Officer Musicians Course, Musicians Faye and Gallagher for Depot Band Duties, and our three new entries, Junior Musicians Pankhurst, Butterworth and Wickham for their course in the School of Music.

We offer our congratulations also to C.P.O. Musn. Farrell, on his award of the 'Baton of Honour' as the top student in Conducting at the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal, Kent, U.K., and also the award of the Certificate of Merit from the Royal

Academy of Music for general studies.

Congratulations are also in order for our new C.P.O. Musician Ian Williams, the Depot Bandmaster, and last but not least to P.O. Musician Hopkins on successfully completing his six weeks Petty Officers Training Course. Well done to all three.

The Depot Band and School of Music have completed an engagement at the Government Aircraft Factory, Fishermans Bend, included in the Band were some of the younger members doing their 'FIRST JOB', Ord. Musicians Ellis, Mungovan, Greedy, Eull and Junior Musicians Williamson, Ridley and De Vaurno.

On March 7, twelve Musicians travel to Sydney to combine with Eastern Area Bands for T.V. tapes and the making of an L.P. record.

The outstanding pupil at present, in the School of Music, is Junior Musician Rose, who passed his Second Grade Theory with 95 marks.

Junior Musician Rose has a brother in the Band who is at present serving in H.M.A.S. PENGUIN.

On the Sporting Field we continue our good record with wins in Volleyball and Basketball.

The defeat of the W.R.A.N.S. inter-Service Softball Team, plus the Band's fine effort of 6th placing in the Depot Athletics Championship is a very good achievement.

P.O. Courts has been selected for the inter-Service Rifle Team; we wish him good luck and good shooting.

The Band won its way into the semi-finals of the Sailing.

Boat 1 and Boat 2 were placed first and second in the race against Weapons Operation Division.

The crews were:

Boat 1: J. Musn. Thurlby (Coxswain); Musn. Callaghan; Musn. Cockerill.

Boat 2: O. Musn. Longhurst (Coxswain); O. Musn. Mansell; Musn. Faye.

Cerberus Scene

P.T. Staff Chatter

CERBERUS P.T. Officer, Lieut. Murphy, leaves soon to rejoin Sydney in which he last served in 1957.

His place is being taken by Lieut. V. Powell.

The usually stable establishment of the P.T. Section has suffered upheaval with recent postings.

Seamanship.

Jim Kettle has returned just in time for Inter-Service.

The new Quails; Speed, Graham, Leake, Byron and Quinn have our 'Ten Pound Scheme Boy' Pedro in charge and are progressing slowly.

Anyone remembering BP Purnell will be interested to note that he is still a Public Servant with the Customs Dept and that his younger brother is undergoing tortures at the Staff's hands.

"JES"

The MAESTRO.