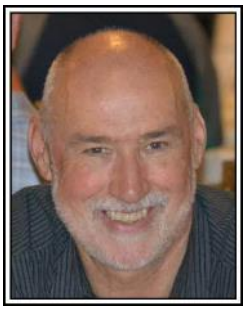
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION

THE POSTING

ISSUE NO 1 JANUARY 2026

EDITORIAL: Errol Hatch



Welcome to 2026, Oh how I longed for 2025 to finish and a fresh new year commence. I don't know why but there is always a feeling of optimism when the new year turns over. Yes there's still the bills to pay or a few carry over headaches but its just that feeling.

This year for me is total focus on the reunion for the first half of the year and making sure we have a successful one. After that we will see what transpires.

Sending out a reunion update proved productive as it brought out members who had sent reunion booking forms but were not listed. Further investigation found that the admin email address for the association was not coming through for a period last year, thus no forms. The forwarding to my email account of admin emails had apparently severed and I was not informed. All fixed now and the list of members attending has now doubled.

The attachment "Past Editions" has the aftermath of the 2000 reunion and what a read it is (see last page of newsletter for more details)

Well there's a bit to read in this edition so lets get on with it.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I can summarize pretty well in one paragraph what the President has been up to since our December edition. It has been a lot of thought as to how the association tackles 2026 and the reunion. My gauge is really our facebook pages as to how busy our members have been and what's on their minds, I conclude there has not been a lot of activity.

A few postings of photo's past and the odd trips to fill the pages and the passing of members have been posted. So we need a reunion to spark the stories and memories of our past in the Navy Band. Lets get behind this reunion as they are definitely harder to put on and members are less willing to travel.

Numbers need to be in the 80's to 100 and that's only 50 members really. We should be able to get that from a membership of over 200. Make the plunge and get that booking form in.

Your President.

Errol.

TREASURERS REPORT

Spent a few bob ($330) getting our website PDF upload program upgraded so I could load the newsletter onto the front page. This failed about the same time as our email address stopped working. Our website is over 14 years old now and though still important to us and some of our senior members as their source of information (not facebook users) we are using it less.

There has not been a major upgrade to it since we released it so we have definitely got value for money from it. Ongoing we need to consider whether to replace it so this will be one of our discussion points at our AGM in Adelaide to see the way forward.

The registration fee on the booking form has been well accepted and will cover costs for upcoming hosting, website registration fees and any other general expenses. Payments for the reunion are starting to flow into the account and as we can't put a name against the deposit use your mobile number as it will help allocate the payment against members.

More to report next month.

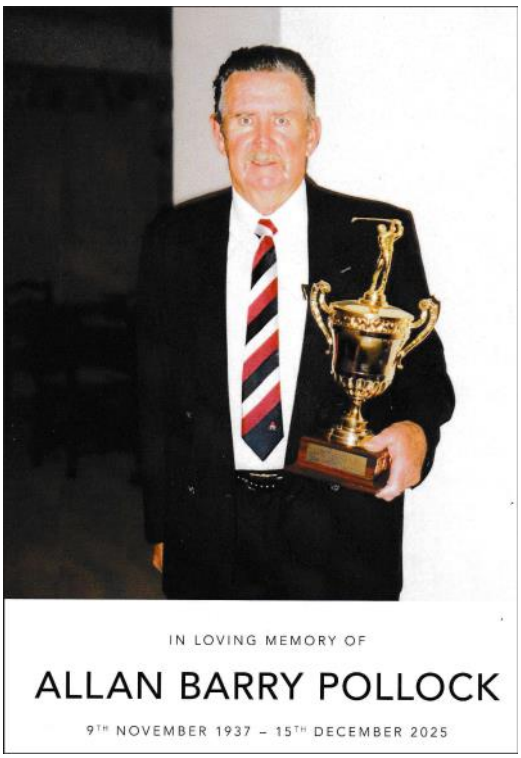
VALE

Sadly a senior member of our Victorian contingent Barry Pollock passed away on the 15th of December 2025. His funeral was held at Bunurong Memorial Park on the 6th of January to a capacity gathering. Barry joined the Navy band in 1953 as a boy musician.

Barry was involved in many local groups especially his golf club and served many years as President, Secretary and Treasurer. Barry was involved in the Veterans band and played in a group with Bill Post, Gordon Crompton and Len Nurse and myself (occasionally) once a week at Bill's place.

He will be sadly missed by all of us. Our heart felt condolences go out to Pat and family.

RIP



WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/EMAIL UPDATES

As I mentioned in my editorial not a lot has been happening on the website or the facebook pages. Since our last newsletter but I have had a few emails that I can pass onto you.

DES FAY 1956

Shirley Fay in formed me that Des is now housebound and very unwell. He sends his regards to all members and hopes the reunion goes well.

Shirley.

NEW MEMBER TO ASSOCIATION

We have another new member joining the association with the reunion being the instigator. Belinda Tucker a ex-SA Reserve Band member has joined along with Peter and Linda Grossman from last month. Belinda joined the SA Navy Reserve Band in 1986 to 2011 and transferred to the 10/27 RSAR Army Band. She remembers many a name from our membership and other reserve bands and the Tatoo's and ACT's she attended over the years. Belinda is looking forward to also catching up with members that moved to the reserve band in SA.

Welcome aboard Belinda.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NAVY RESERVE BAND REUNION

Belinda mentioned the possibility to having a get together/ Reunion of past and current members of the South Australian Reserves on the Saturday afternoon/evening of the 9th of May at the Lakes Hotel. The back bar area at the hotel would be a good place to start and if numbers grow substantially could move into one of the reception rooms. I gave my support to Belinda on this initiative so she and Peter Grossman are following up with ex's of the band.

I know we have amongst us members who joined the Band after leaving the Navy Band (I for one) and would like to catchup if attending Adelaide. This could also help our association in building it's South Australian presence.

Belinda's contact email is pbtucker1@outlook.com

OUR WEBSITE

The website now has been updated with a few program enhancements and I can now load our newsletter and updates to the front page. Page views is up to 800 on the last update so there is plenty of activity on our front page of the site. It is still a vital resource to members so if you have something important to add on our facebook pages don't forget to place it in our band room page on the website.

REUNION UPDATE 30TH JANUARY 2026

What a turnaround since my last update 2 weeks ago, our numbers have double and the interest is out there. All I need now is a consistent flow of bookings for the committee to feel confident of a successful reunion. We have had some emails from members who won't be attending and I thank them for getting in touch.

What led to the influx of bookings was listing those that I had forms for in the last update. This led to a swag of emails stating that they had sent it through late last year. As I mentioned in the editorial and the admin email address of the association not forwarding to my address as it always has done. Now that is fixed I'm looking forward to the next wave of bookings.

We did have a little hiccup at the Lakes reception where the Events manager and reception staff were not on the same page after I told all members to go direct with your accommodation bookings. Again this has been rectified and from emails to me from members all is working now. I did have on hold 50 rooms for the reunion but have now cancelled this so again it is important to get your room booked to make sure you have some accommodation.

So our attendance list to date is,

John & Gloria Bloom
Peter & Lorraine Martin
Peter & Jan Ashburner
Ned & Chrisi Kellas
Jim & Cheryl Henshaw
Gary & Kathleen Searle
Ray Mills
Bob & Kathy Bentley
Leon & Sue Stucas
Dale Granger
Bill Farrell & Sally Ann
Geoff Dawson
Gabe & Sue Kicsak
Blue & Gail McNally
Iain & Sheila Morrison
John & Rose Ezergailis
Errol & Sharon Hatch
Ken & Trina Lincoln
Derek & Jane Baskerville
Pat & Judy Gallagher
Ken & Sue McCallum
Belinda & Paul Tucker
Paul O'Hara & Ruth Encio
Peter & Linda Grossman

So our numbers have reached 45 but that is still only 24 bandies from a total of over 200 listed members. Lets make a big effort to get the forms in. You would have made the decision by now to make the trip and even the South Aussies from my reckoning add another 8 to 10 to the total, so we are getting there.

The river cruise is proving very popular with over 25 booking a spot and the other two tours having a lot fewer. So our next update will be on the 15th of February so I hope I can report another doubling of attendees to the weekend.

Errol.

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PAST EDITIONS

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2000

This edition captured the thoughts after the 2000 reunion March and events in Sydney. There was a beautiful quote in the first paragraph which said,

"I was involved in the 1956 Olympic Games Band and the 1962 Commonwealth Games Band in Perth and today would be one of the proudest days of my life"

Barry Pollock 24/04/2000

A fitting memory of the person and the event that occurred. This edition has a lot of memories about that day and Norm Gullick being elected as President for the next 2 years.

There are plenty of great photos through the pages and a comprehensive account of the weekend from members, some who sadly are no longer with us. It is one of the best newsletters to be released so far.

It will be loaded up on the website for all to read with this newsletter

Editor.

Though a bit blurry, these pictures captured from the video taken of the weekend show the size, pride and skill the band displayed that day.

2026 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION
ADELAIDE REUNION BOOKING FORM

*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: _____

The Lakes Resort Hotel is taking bookings for accommodation for the event and it is important NOT to use their website but to ring 08 8356 4444 and book personally.
Mention you are booking for the "RANBA REUNION" so you to get the best rates.

IF STAYING AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION
WHERE ARE YOU STAYING: _____

ASSOCIATION & EVENT REGISTRATION FEE **Number**
Association and Reunions administrative expenses
Per head fee **$15.00** [ ] Total $ _____

FRIDAY THE 8TH OF MAY **Number**
MEET & GREET COCKTAIL PARTY, LAKE FRONT BANQUET ROOM, LAKES HOTEL
6.30pm Commencement **$39.00** [ ] Total $ _____

SATURDAY THE 9th OF MAY
BUS TOURS
7.00am Bus Tour Departs for the Murray River Cruise and Lunch
Per head price **$189.00** [ ] Total $ _____

10.00am Bus Tour Departs for the Motor Museum Tour and Lunch
Per head price **$89.00** [ ] Total $ _____

11.00am Port River Cruise departs from Mclaren Wharf
Per head price **$89.00** [ ] Total $ _____

SUNDAY THE 10th OF MAY
ASSOCIATION AGM
9.30am Association AGM commences
Location in Hotel to be advised based on numbers attending

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL LUNCH
12.00pm RANBA Official Reunion Lunch in the Lakes Room
Per head price **$69.00** [ ] Total $ _____
Special Dietary requirements
For: _____ Special Requirements _____

Grand Total $ _____

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