

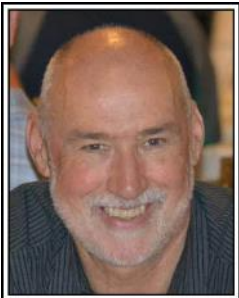


THE POSTING

ISSUE NO 5 MAY 2026

THE 2026 REUNION EDITION

EDITORIAL: Errol Hatch



Well a whole 3 weeks has passed already and the reunion is now a memory but what a great weekend it was to remember. All that attended were there to celebrate another reunion in the relaxed atmosphere of the Lakes Resort. The front bar overlooking the lake was well attended and was the go to place if you were looking for someone. With lounges for the ladies and some of the aging members you could spend hours there (some did) and let the rowing teams row by. Weather was overcast but pleasant..

There is a full report in the following pages so enjoy the read.

Errol

PRESIDENTS REPORT



I am happy to advise that this is my last report as President of the association as we have now have a NEW President elected at the AGM on Sunday the 10th of May. Gabe Kicsak has accepted the role and we are excited to have him as our leader going forward. Gabe is going give the association a whole new prospective in its association with current members, new members and our association with the perm bands. Gabe slots into the generational change we need for the association to progress another 30 years.

Gabe will give us a full report in the next edition of the newsletter.

Congratulations Gabe.

Errol.

TREASURERS REPORT

With the reunion over and accounts paid I can report that the reunion generated back into our coffers around \$1200 in registration fees, raffle income, donations and deposit credits from the resort. The resort over the weekend were very generous with our last minute requests and we were well looked after. I would like to thank all members for their help and look forward to our next reunion.

No AI has been used in this publication and never will be.

THE REUNION

FRIDAY THE 8TH MAY

Some members arrived on the Thursday by various means and settled themselves in for a relaxing weekend at the front bar of the Lakes Resort Hotel. With great views overlooking the lake and window and bar table seating it was a perfect atmosphere to catch up with members as they arrived.

Iain Morrison arrived by the Ghan and had an amazing story of the kitchen catching on fire on the trip down so they were served plenty of cold meals. With a total of 60 attending the weekend and with many new faces it too a little while to recognize some of them.

We had a good representation of ladies with Leywah Lennon, Julie Williamson and Kathy Gillespie joining the other ladies over the weekend. Our first event for the reunion was our Meet and Greet and the room was well set out with Bar tables and tables and chairs and plenty of room for people to mingle. The registration desk was handled by Doug and Roger who made sure all had their drink vouchers for the night. The members crowded in smartly and the evening was underway. Through the evening raffle tickets were sold by Kathy Gillespie, Sharon Hatch and Claire Downton who did an excellent job of collecting over \$400.



Sharon Hatch, Trina Lincoln, Cathy Scruton, Gail McNally and Claire Downton

The draw took place part way through the evening and prizes were framed images and member names of over 12 record albums released from the 50's through to the 80's. It was interesting that nearly all attending were on one album or another.



Above: Gabe and Sue Kicsak, Belinda and Paul Tucker, Roger and Claire Downton.

Left: Peter and Linda Grossman, Paul O'Hara and Ruth Encio.



Bill Farrell and Peter Martin



Rocky Searle and Kevin Hillier



Terry Ekin and Ray Mills

Food came at a constant pace and there was plenty of it through the night so no one went hungry. The night came to a close and the Bar lounge was the go to spot with large TV screens showing the latest AFL game. The resort is a well attended place for Adelaide Crow members as there administration complex is just across the way. The following photos are just a few of the many taken.



Julie Williamson, Cheryl Henshaw, Leywah Lennon and Christine Sander.



Rod Coughran-Lane, Brian Ellis, Taffy Thatcher and Leon Stucas



Right: Derek and Jane Baskerville.

Below: Peter and Lorraine Martin

Below: Kathy Gillespie, Sue McCallum, Kathy Shew and Judy Gallagher.



Pat Gallagher, Geoff Dawson and Ken McCallum.

Right Above: Garry Sander and Jim Henshaw.

Right: Ned and Chrisi Kellas

Below Left: Iain and Sheila Morrison.



Geoff Shew, Guy Scruton, Geoff Dawson and Ken Lincoln.



THE REUNION

SATURDAY THE 9TH OF MAY

Day two had members heading off on tours or just enjoying the surrounds of Adelaide. The organized tours were to the Murray for a paddle steamer cruise and lunch and there was a short tour of the Port river to see the graveyard ships and the Dolphin sanctuary.

The tour to Murray Bridge started at 8.30am after a very nice breakfast in the restaurant where everybody reminisced on the night before. We all climbed aboard the somewhat tight coach even though there were enough seats they were surely made for school kids. With an hour and a half trip to Murray Bridge we settled down to a relaxing trip.

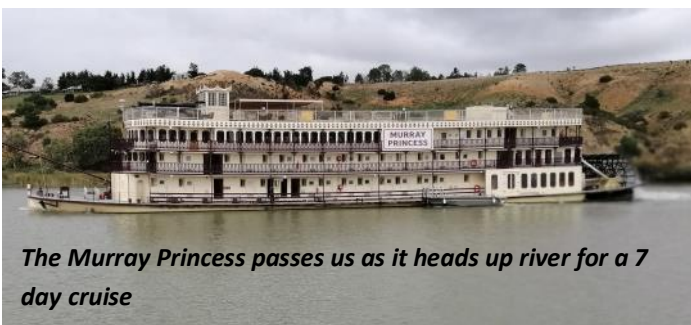
Not too long in the rear section of the bus managed by the two naughty girls, Leywah Lennon and Julie Williamson had a sudden temperature drop to freezing. I, as I was told by the ladies (now joined by Sharon) went and asked the driver if we could firstly stop the ghastly music pumping out of the speakers and to turn off the cooling. As I went down to the front I noticed Ken Lincoln removing his jacket and I felt the front section was relatively warm.



Leywah Lennon, Julie Williamson, Cheryl and Jim Henshaw settling in for a meander up the river

After conveying the message I went back to my seat and within minutes we were fogging up and the humidity was increasing at a rapid pace. This time I went back to the driver and noticed the front section was now freezing. By the time we got to Murray Bridge we all had experienced climate change many times over.

We boarded the paddle steamer "The Captain Proud" and once we were seated we cast off and started our relaxing cruise up the Murray to a commentary by the captain. There were plenty of open decks to take in the scenery before



The Murray Princess passes us as it heads up river for a 7 day cruise

lunch and a very extensive bar.

Terry Ekin and I were on the quarterdeck and were speaking to a couple of other gentlemen who were from New Zealand and they just happened to travel down from Darwin on the same train Iain and Sheila Morrison were on with the fire in the kitchen. They had some funny stories before we left them to have lunch.

With over 50 onboard the little galley turned out some great meals and desert followed as we were coming into dock. It was a pleasant day and for those not seeing the Murray by paddle steamer it was a perfect way to travel.

On our way home we stopped of at the Mount Lofty Lookout and took in the overview of Adelaide and it's surrounds. It was a great day and all I'm sure enjoyed the company.

Errol.



Lorraine and Terry Ekin ready for a great day on the water.



The perfect shot of Paul and Ruth.



Above; Paul O'Hara, Ruth Encio, Sheila and Iain Morrison.

Below: Bob Bentley, Derek and Jane Baskerville



MURRAY RIVER CRUISE CONT.....

Right: Bill and Sally-Ann enjoying the scenery as it passes us by (I don't know how he got that Cat's scarf on a South Australian vessel.



Above: Trina and Ken Lincoln, Gabe and Sue Kicsak ready to indulge in a sumptuous lunch.

Right: Kathleen and Rocky Searle with Peter and Lorraine Martin made up the 30 guests on our Murray adventure.



SUNDAY THE 10TH OF MAY

9.00am saw an early start to our AGM with 27 members participating in our meeting. With the introductions and a agreed procedure to the meeting out of the way we covered apologies of members, the last AGM's minutes and the financials of the 2024/2025 year. A question from the floor by Geof Dawson regarding increase in Fees/Admin cost from previous was due to incorporation costs which I'm sure is no longer a requirement.

The floor was then vacated and elections took place. Acknowledged and seconded from the floor were the following,

Roger Downton re-elected as Secretary, Geoff Bunce as Vice-President and Errol Hatch as Treasurer.

There was an explanation as to why I was not continuing as President and suggested that a fresh approach and a generational change need to happen within our association. I put forward directly to Gabe that he would be a perfect choice to take us forward. After a very slight hesitation Gabe accepted the position of President to a rousing applause. Gabe gave a short speech and took up the Presidents chair.



Left: A full house of members.

Right: Our new President Gabe Kicsak and Secretary Roger Downton.



General business saw presentations of our next reunion. I put forward Ralph Daines' offer of Port Macquarie being a central location or returning to Ballina as a Veterans Band/reunion. The summer 2028 proposal was presented by Kevin Hillier for Frankston Victoria as a significant celebration with it being the 75th year of the Queen's coronation and the RAN Band's involvement in that celebration. With the Veterans band and RAN Cerberus band playing a major role in the weekend it was adopted with a raise of hands as a unanimous choice. Our new President saw this as a significant opportunity to get the new DOM, Andrew Stokes involved in our association and the repour generally of the association and the perms.

Other issues were that we should return to the traditional official formal dinner in future reunions which the floor also agreed on. With that the meeting officially closed by Gabe the members disbursed to prepare for the Association lunch.



THE REUNION

SUNDAY THE 10TH MAY

Our official lunch was held in the lavish Lakeside room again overlooking the lake and commenced at 12pm. The reception desk was Abley looked after by Roger and Doug once more and we had around 58 attend. The room looked fantastic and the tables were adorned with commemorative place mats made by Roger Downton. Lunch started with antipasto plates of meats, breads and varieties of salads. Playing on the very large screen were photos from Rocky Searle for the first hour and then our library from our website as a backdrop with background music from all or albums recorded over the years.

Main course of steak and Barramundi with salads followed and was beautifully presented. The steak was exceptional and the fish I hear also well excellent.

After mains we had our raffle draw with this time a series of commemorative framed plaques of albums from the 50's to the 80's again with the band personnel on each Album. A special plaque was presented to Bill Farrel on his 75th anniversary of joining the Navy Band. There were three of his recordings from the 80's when he was Director of Music.



Bill receiving his plaque celebrating 75 years since joining the RAN Band with a proud Sally-Ann looking on.

Our other two senior members Peter Martin and Ned Kellas were also given plaques for their 73 years service to the Band.



Rose Ezergailis who made the lunch with Julie Williamson and Leywah Lennon.

The afternoon was over before you realized it and we did get a group photo before we all disbanded at the close of the day. Majority of members returned to the Bar/Lounge and enjoyed the remainder of the afternoon.

It was a great weekend and as usual went far too quickly. All enjoyed themselves and thanks to the organizing committee for their efforts in making it run smoothly.

Errol.



Geoff Dawson, Brian Ellis and Taffy Thatcher hamming it up with the photographer Leon Stucas who took the photos at the lunch.

Below: A great group photo of members at the 2026 reunion.



THE REUNION

SUNDAY THE 10TH OF MAY CONT.....



Christine and Garry Sander



Cheryl and Jim Henshaw



New members to the association Linda and Peter Grossman



Ned and Chrisi Kellas



Ken and Sue McCallum



Bob and Kathy Bentley

I would like to thank all members, their wives and partners for making the trip to Adelaide for the reunion and local members for contributing to it's success. We sadly had members that were cautious about attending due to the fuel situation and the uncertain frequency of airline availability. As always it's the members that create the atmosphere of the weekend and they certainly all to enjoy themselves.

Thanks.

Errol.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REUNION.

On the Saturday night local reserve band member Belinda Tucker hosted a mini reunion of ex and current members of the SA Reserve Band at the Lakes Resort Hotel. There was a total of 24 attended and a good gathering of association members that were involved with the SA band also attended.

Joining the SA reserve band in 1981 before transferring to the WA reserve band at Leeuwin I recognized a couple of the faces and had a good chat with them about the early days, ACT's and the Tattoo's held in Adelaide in the 80's

Rod Coughran-lane, Dale Granger, Doug Drysdale, Roger Downton and Blue McNally were some of our members that were in some-way associated with the SA band.

A great night was enjoyed by all and thanks to Belinda for putting it all together.

Errol.



Belinda above, ex and current SA members on the night.



THE POSTING

THE REUNION 2028

The AGM unanimously selected that Frankston be the next location for the RANBA reunion and the summer (Dates to be finalized) of 2028 will be about the time. The involvement of the Veterans band will be a major part of the reunion and participation of the RAN Band Cerberus will be sought. There will be a theme to this as 2028 will be the 75th anniversary of the Queen's coronation and the RAN Band was involved in this significant occasion so the concert could have all the pomp and ceremony of this period.

With Kevin Hillier as President we would have the full support of the RSL and with our new President Gabe Kicsak and his relationship with the perms and the new Director Andrew Stokes will give us the contacts to forge a great partnership for the event.

It is only early days and a committee needs to be assigned to manage and plan the programme of events. The Frankston and beach areas have significantly changed since our last reunion and accommodation and services are now top class. So it is less than 2 years to the event. Bring it on.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Gabe Kicsak accepted the role of the RAN Band Association Presidency after a slight nudge from the floor that he would be our perfect choice going forward. We are excited to have him at that role and in the next edition he will highlight some of his aims for us.

Here is a quick profile in the meantime.



Joined in 1984 as a Adult Reservist and transferred to the PNF in 1990 on Clarinet. Is a Electric Bass player and can handle the keys also.

He served on and at HMAS Waterhen, HMAS Penguin, HMAS Lonsdale, HMAS Jervis Bay, HMAS Kuttabul, HMAS Cerberus, Simpson Barracks, Canberra and the FFG HMAS Adelaide.

More in the next edition.



THE POSTING

51 YEARS ON...

Association member WO Dale Granger retired after 51 years service to the RAN and Band with a lunch at the Frankston RSL on the 25th of May.

He was presented with this extraordinary cake (and other celebrated gifts) that showed a cross spread of his career in the Navy Band.

A well deserved congratulations from all members of the association Dale.



The magnificently adorned cake presented to Dale at the lunch on the 25th of May.



Dale with Leon Stucas and Paul O'Hara at the recent reunion in Adelaide.

ranbandassoc.net

Your Executive:

All Editorial to:

Errol Hatch
RAN Band Association.
PO Box 69 Lynbrook. VIC 3975
Mobile: 0400 706 503
Email: admin@ranbandassoc.net

Association Bank Details:

Bank: ANZ
BSB: 013232
Account No: 290164678
Account Name: Royal Australian Navy Band Association.

All Secretary Correspondence:

Roger Downton
Email: admin@ranbandassoc.net

Your Executive:

President:
Gabe Kicsak
Vice President:
Geoff Bunce
Secretary:
Roger Downton
Treasurer:
Errol Hatch

State Representatives:

NSW: Ralph Daines
VIC: Terry Ekin
QLD: Jeff McIlroy
SA: Roger Downton
TAS: David Hardstaff
WA: Ted Tait/ Bill Farrell

RAN Veterans Band/Events Manager:

Ralph Daines.

Public Officer:

Ralph Daines

Web: www.ranbandassoc.net



PAST EDITIONS

Past editions have been a great inspiration to me to try and create a bit of variety in our newsletters. It is amazing as I look through them (some are on the website) the great contributions made by members who actually put pen to paper and Jim Hawkins then Ralph Daines had to in most cases type it into the newsletter you received.

How things have changed. Emails are even rare as the social media platforms are the preferred communication to anybody that is part of it.

You will (I hope) have noticed a small disclaimer on the front page of our newsletter stating that AI is not used in this publication. As a prolific user of various software programs to produce this newsletter and other articles for business the increase insistence of AI to infiltrate my train of thought as I type has seen me turn off all features related to it on all platforms.

In our retail business through emails, we get well over 20 to 30 proposals about improving aspects of our website, Google presence and general offers to see that it is basically word salad generated by AI.

It has no real substance except to fill a page and at the end you still don't know what it is about. I hope that it (AI) has a phase that passes (or is legislated) and we can get back to basics when writing or telling somebody something.

AI will be another nail in the coffin of current generations to be able to write what they mean without hundreds of lines of gobbledygook.

Catch you in the next edition.

Regards,
Errol.

