



Royal Australian Navy Band Association Magazine

Christmas Edition 2019

www.ranbandassoc.net



A Magazine for Association members and serving Band members of the RAN



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A Year of Reflection.

In the history of the Association there hasn't been a time where so many have left us (That we have known of) for the Band above. Just in the last quarter we have lost Ron Henry, Gordon Crompton, Bill Middleton and Jim Harper.

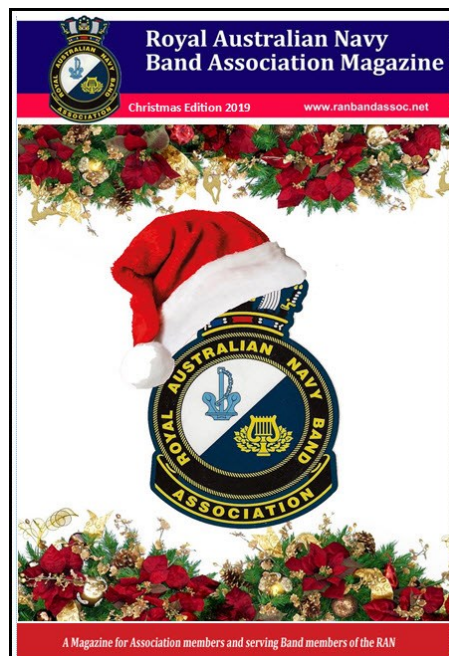
Our condolences to family of the deceased and it is always a hard time for close friends to reflect that someone you have known so well (as a brother in some cases) has gone. Just yesterday at our lunch at the Frankston RSL some of the members reflected on some of Gordons Crompton's ditties and to think he was only playing with them some weeks earlier.

I don't know why I keep thinking back to how we heard about Births, Deaths and lessor important matters some years ago. I have in just the last 2 months had members trying to contact others to be told their phone line has been disconnected. You can't write a letter because it being so small, Australia post will lose it because they are only interested in internet parcels. So what's the answer. There are 4 mediums that are currently a preference.

Mobile phone, Association Website, Facebook, Group Text

I will cover more of these issues further into the magazine but it is an important discussion as we are being bombarded with information overload.

Merry Christmas to all members.



A lot has happened since our last newsletter with the saddest being the loss of 4 of our former shipmates. We saw the passing of Bill Middleton 60s\70s in July, Gordon Compton 50s\60s in November, Ron Henry 60s\70s in November & Colyn Berton 50's (passed away Sept).

All of us in the Band Association offer our sincere sympathies to the partners and family of those who have passed away. I am also aware that a number of our members are struggling with their own health issues. It was interesting at the Ballina All Ships reunion to see a few of us showing off our scars from recent knee, hip & other body part replacements. It is a far cry from the conversation topics back in our teens and twenties. I have decided to draw the line at comparing nursing homes.

The drought and bush fires have also been challenging in many ways. People in most of our country area's are facing severe water shortages, whilst many of our cities and towns are battling choking smoke. We owe a great deal of debt to our fire fighters, who are mostly volunteers, for the incredible job that they are doing in protecting people and property.

Whilst we are talking about air quality and the health risks I was alarmed at the number of our members who are suffering with respiratory problems. A number of members are struggling with health issues related to cigarette smoking. It is also well known that passive smoking can have health implications. We can all remember service related travel & work in trains, planes, buses, mess decks, band rehearsals, including exposure during our training in the School of Music, where we were exposed to unavoidable cigarette smoke inhalation.

If you add to that asbestos dust, polychlorinated dibenzo-

dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans via the ships drinking water, and Beryllium oxide from air powered chipping guns, it is no wonder we have members who are struggling to achieve normal lung function.

If you are making claims to DVA for any of these issues can I suggest you read the risk factors that DVA accept as conditions for making a respiratory illness claim: "Statement of Principles concerning fibrosing interstitial lung disease No. 54 of 2013". Place this into google search and read the factors - it makes interesting reading.

Now that I have covered all the gloom and doom I'll end on a more positive note. The weekend of the 15th, 16th & 17th of November saw the annual All Ships reunion at the Ballina RSL. We had 13 association members attend the formal dinner. It was also great to catch up with Glenda Jacklin (Newham) who attended the meet & greet and formal dinner. The weekend was a great success.

This was followed up the following Wednesday with a lunch time gathering at the Ardvark Brewery hosted by Guy Scruton who entertained us with free drinks and lunch. Thanks Guy for your kind generosity.

John Lennon Secretary

Secretary - RAN Band Association

RANBA | TREASURERS REPORT

HALF YEARLY REPORT.

To all our members who have paid their subs I thank you and for those yet to send it in a reminder will be sent after Christmas. We have had a successful year on the income front and boast a healthy bank balance which is our best ever for a non reunion year with a current balance of \$9880.00

Outgoings have been small with the website (maintenance and modifications) drawing the most for this year.

We currently have 222 active financial paying members (down marginally) so our best result in a financial year is \$6438.00 after we take in Associate members and Life membership. Our biggest cost is the production of this magazine which we produce around 85 copies for those members who require it.

Even with that cost we continue to be a very financial association and our reunions draw very little from our savings when they are on.

The Veterans Band continue to add to our funds with self funded trips by its members and returning surpluses from those that sponsor some of our ventures away.

All in all a half yearly report that we are on the right track financially as an association.

I wish you all a safe festive season and look forward to a busy 2020

For Now

Errol Hatch

Assistant to the Treasurer.



Welcome to our Christmas edition of the Magazine and a very happy Christmas to all of our Members and Partners.

I guess with happiness there will be sorrow and three more deaths of Members recently is definitely sorrow. Bill Middleton, Gordon Crompton and Ron Henry have now gone and I think in Bill and Ron's cases death may have been a blessing as they were both in massive pain. On behalf of our Association I would like to offer our wishes to Robyn and family, Dot and family and Ron's family to remember the good times and I am sure all your friends from the Association will keep an eye on you.

The Association has had a successful year again with a continual stable membership and finances healthy. We are once again Affiliate members of the Naval Association of Australia which looks after our Liability

Insurance. The Veterans Band has attracted more members to our pool of players, I just wish that I could attract some more sponsorship to keep it more affordable for members. The Veterans Band had a successful tour to Ipoh in June and more in the pipeline for next year.

Next year will be Reunion year and Brian and his team are putting the final touches to our visit to Launceston. The confirmed dates are Friday 23rd October to Sunday 25th October, with the rehearsal taking place on the Friday from mid morning to late afternoon at the Launceston City Band Rooms.

Until next year, Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year 2020.

Ralph Daines

The Veterans Band will be performing at HMAS Cerberus on the 1st March as part of the Centenary of HMAS Cerberus Open Day. The Band will give 3 performances during the day and I am calling for players to join us for this special occasion, if you are interested please contact me if interested.

Details of weekend: Saturday 29th February rehearsal at Frankston RSL (times to be confirmed) lunch provided, after rehearsal, get together with wives and partners, snacks provided at RSL.

Sunday 1st March, 10am to 4pm, HMAS Cerberus, lunch provided. Transport is arranged for Band and Partners to and from Frankston.

More detailed information as I receive it from Navy.

Hi Errol,

A few words about Gordon & Ron if you can use them.

To lose two good friends within four days is shattering, particularly since I was in constant contact with both.

Gordon Crompton was at FND when I joined in 1959, and was drafted (not posted in those days) to the Flagship HMAS Melbourne in June 1961 as was I. He was 7 years senior to me and a very competent trombone player and doubled on eupho when needed. Our regular eupho player was Ernie Plester. We had a great time in those 18 months on board visiting New Zealand, then a six month deployment 'Up Top'. On return to Australia Gordon was given a free discharge as he was having marital problems, but being home didn't solve his issues and they separated soon after. He joined the NSW Police Band which, in those days, you had to be a fully fledged Police Officer as there were no Provisional Constables like today. His police work interested him and in 1968 he joined the RAAF Police, and this took him to Malaya and he was based in Butterworth. He told me quite recently about some trips to Ipoh in a sports car and other adventures during his time in the Far East. He met up with Bill Farrell's Fleet Band when they flew into South Vietnam and there is a photo somewhere with him and some of the lads – Punchy Martin, Ralph Daines etc. He met and married Dot during that period and on return to Australia, they settled in Melbourne and he was employed as a Judge's assistant (Tipstaff) in the Victorian Court system. On retirement they bought a house on a golfing estate at Safety Beach where both he and Dot played often. Gordon was a very fit 85 when he passed away because of that insidious disease called cancer. From diagnosis to his passing was only 3 weeks which shocked many people. Every time they ventured north he always called in to the Ballina Band and had a blow. He was still playing well into his 80's. Gordon will also be missed by the band community.

Ronald Keith Henry introduced me to the South Melbourne footy club in 1960, the year I met him. He had joined the RAN Band in 1954 and arrived back from sea with Don 'Icky' Buntine in January 1960, both with their hair dyed blonde. George Hooker was not impressed! Us Junior Musicians thought they were great for bucking the system, and as far as we were concerned, they were 'Old Salts'. They both told tales of 'Up Top' trips which whetted the appetite of everyone listening, and we got our chance to experience what they had been describing in June 1961 when we were drafted to the Flagship Band with them. Ron was chief comedian on board and always had us laughing. When in Hong Kong there were two nightclubs requiring a Navy dance group, and I was with one 5 piece, so Ron formed Ron's Honkers which was a lot of fun I was told. I don't think any money changed hands, just San Miguel (or whatever it was then) and food. Ron returned to Australia and we served together on and off until I paid off. In the early 60's Ron was married with 3 children and that marriage dissolved, and he met a little Pommy lass called Miriam and they tied the knot and had four boys. When I paid off we lost contact for a while and used to exchange Christmas cards until his marriage fell apart and he was living with another lady Patty Tipping. They both moved to Ballina in the early 90's and Ron was involved with the Ballina Shire Band of which I was a member. He had a liking for different instruments and when he became computer savvy he purchased many instruments online – I guess about 20 over the years including a Sousaphone and Marching Baritone. His favourite instrument to

play was the flugel horn. Unbeknown to many, Ron enjoyed arranging music and used to help me when I was librarian in the Ballina band. He did marry again, a lady called Joyce from the UK and Joyce passed away not long ago. From then on, Ron seemed to give up and told me several times he had had enough. He was one of the funniest people I have ever met, and was a pleasure to serve with as you never knew what would come next.

Vale Gordon & Ron.



John Lennon presenting the President of the Pine Rivers Sub Branch of the Naval Association Ron Carol with a RAN Band Assoc plaque, in recognition of their financial support towards the Veterans Band's recent trip to Ipoh Malaysia.

Hearty congratulations to L/Musn. and Mrs. Ricky Faye who were married during leave. All our married bandies have been offering unlimited advice and crying on his shoulder, giving him an insight into what to expect as a competitor in the matrimonial stakes.
Music is a language of its own, providing terms for all events, emotions and feelings.
May your leave be "Molto Giocoso".



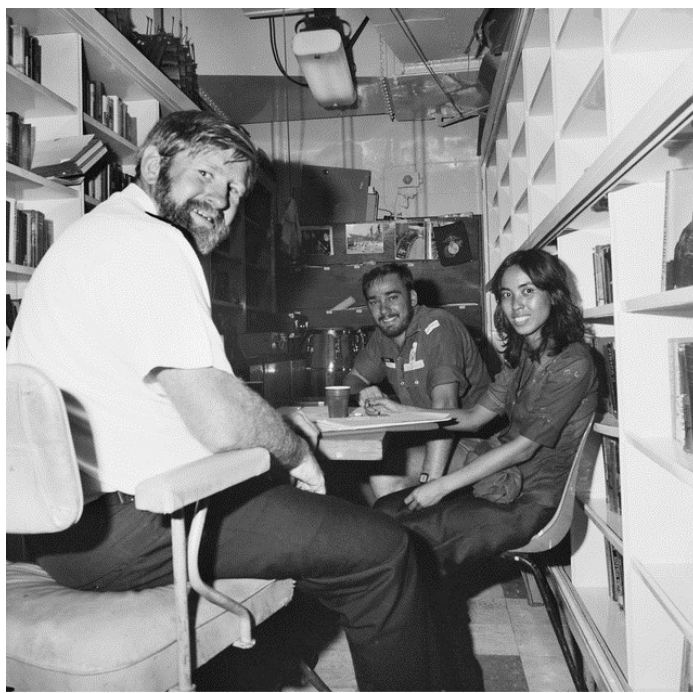
This Newspaper clipping was sent to me from a 1966 Navy News. Perfect for the Magazine..

Regards, Gordon Jackson

Refugee Rescue 1981

Warrant Officer Coxswain Vic Willmott, Chief Petty Officer Musician John Keith Lennon and Vietnamese interpreter Amy Ho, compile a list of names of refugees recently rescued by HMAS Melbourne.

On the night of 21 June 1981, while participating in international naval exercises, the crew of the RAN Majestic aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne II rescued 99 Vietnamese men, women and children from a leaking, overcrowded boat in the South China Sea. The boat had been at sea for four days, the engine was no longer working and the refugees had very little food or water. On the Melbourne they were given medical attention, clothing, bedding, food and water. The Melbourne continued to participate in the exercises while at the same time caring for the refugees and undertaking other humanitarian roles related to injured or ill seamen from other ships. HMAS Melbourne then continued on to Singapore arriving on Friday 26 June. United Nations and immigration officials boarded the ship and processed the refugees before transferring them to the Hawkins Road refugee camp run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The refugees became known as the Melbourne Group 99 (MG99). Commander John Ingram of the Melbourne took an active role in the rescue and care of the refugees on



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

NAVYG1614/08

board the ship and in Singapore where he arranged for supplies of food to be sent to the camp. HMAS Melbourne requested that the Australian government resettle the 77 refugees who had asked to be sent to Australia rather than Europe or the United States of America. This group arrived in Australia in July 1981.



Hi mate, a bloke from the NAA sent me this one. What a blast from the past. I can recognise a few of the lads, many no longer with us. Nice to see Frank looking over his flock.

Brian Ellis

The “Farrell-Lincoln” Award

The Royal Australian Navy Band Association’s Farrell - Lincoln Award is presented annually to a member of RAN BAND WA. This award is sponsored by the RANBA from a fund set up through a donation from former WA Navy Band member and Bandmaster at HMAS LEEUWIN, Michael “Smokey” Dawson who passed away in 2015.

The award carries the name “Farrell-Lincoln Award”, named after two long term and tireless WA supporters of the RANBA, former Director of Music LCDR Bill Farrell and CPO Ted Lincoln who were two of the first Junior Musicians at the School of Music HMAS CERBERUS. The award is presented to a member of the Royal Australian Navy Band Western Australia who has performed professional excellence by self-improvement, maintaining and expanding their Service knowledge and Music expertise to add value and capability to RAN Band WA.

The recipient this year was Able Seaman Daniel Khamov, Lead Alto Saxophone, Improvisor and Audio Engineer.

Daniel has been a Reservist in the RAN since 3 July 2017. Daniel is an outstanding musician and has been a real asset to the Band. He is incredibly easy to work with, is a team player and has been willing to step outside his comfort zone to extend his skills to Audio Engineering. Daniel performs mostly on lead alto saxophone in Big Band and Rock Groups. His improvised solos are always unique, interesting, musical and creative. He works extremely hard on maintaining and improving his musicianship and always shows a genuine interest in others musical perspective.

He is highly encouraging to other members of the band who solo and is forthcoming with tips and techniques for those who are developing their improvising skills. Daniel’s music skills are of an excellent standard and was handpicked to perform a solo for the Army Museum Concert – combined Army/Navy Bands on

February 2019.

With over 2000 people in attendance, Daniel performed Georgia on my Mind including an improvised solo section to an excellent, all from memory. This was an outstanding achievement which demonstrated Daniel’s skill, dedication and pride of professionalism in his music performances. Daniel recently had a successful audition for a fulltime position with the RAN Bands. He is due to post to RAN Band Sydney in the New Year.

He was highly encouraged to pursue this position when advertised by both his peers and supervisors. This is an excellent result and Daniel should be congratulated on this outstanding achievement. Daniel has made an exceptional contribution throughout his career in RAN Band WA and is an outstanding musician, who is meticulous in producing quality musical performances in all genres.



Daniel being presented with the Farrell-Lincoln Trophy from Bill at the recent WA members Christmas Lunch.

A Letter to myself,

I had some criticism to the way some of the current "Passing of members" was relayed to our members. We are in a information bubble now days where a single comment or statement can be relayed to so many without the instigator even realising who it is going to.

In the case of the recent departed members, we knew of those that were not well through social media, but others were adamant that they were entitled to maintain their personal situations to family only until the time had come to let friends know.

I respect that and it was handled that way by yours truly, but to you our members, you must understand that the Editor, Website Administrator or any executive should by rights only notify mem-

bers once it has officially been sanctioned by the family which happened respectfully in the case of Gordon.

Then there's the task of who advises you, I can honestly say that this is a dilemma because social media has no protocols. If you hear it through this media, I or the other executive have no control and I will not castigate the source because in most cases it has been just passed on automatically.

THIS IS THE INFORMATION WORLD WE LIVE IN, FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

ERROL HATCH

RANBA | Ballina—All Ships Reunion

Another great weekend was celebrated at the annual All Ships Ballina Reunion. The weekend was well attended by ex bandies. The weekend started with the Meet & Greet on Friday evening, followed by a Formal Dinner on Saturday night with the entertainment provided by the Queensland Naval Band. Sunday was the memorial service with music and bugler provided by the Queensland Navy Band.

I would like to thank and congratulate Chief Mike Vaughan and the Band on the wonderful music and entertainment for the All Ships Reunion weekend. Their presentation and professionalism added to the success of the weekend. We had a good roll call of ex bandies and it was great to see Glenda Jacklin (Newham) attend the weekend activities.

The backbone of the ex's without doubt is our partners and wives, who were well represented and like the Gents had an enjoyable weekend.

All Ships – Bandies Photo

Back Row – Brian Ellis, Smokey Dawson, Guy Scruton, Jeff McIlroy, Blue McNally, Dizzy Gillespie, Taffy Thatcher

Front Row – Jim Hawkins, Bomber Brown, Geoff Shew, Jim Stathis, John Lennon, Ken McCallum

Stage – Royal Australian Navy Band Queensland



COMMITTAL OF ASHES

Hi All

I hope this email finds you all well. I had meant to have the following information included in the Winter Newsletter but as usual time has gotten away with me.

I am currently working with the Defence Community Organisation (DCO) as a Military Support Officer (MSO) and part of my role is to administer the requests for Committal of Ashes to the Sea (COATS). There are two avenues for COATS and they are Prior Approval whilst you are still alive and the other which is undertaken by your surviving family. To qualify for this service you need to have worn the uniform and served in the RAN or RN or even the MN without serious blemishes. A service history check is always undertaken to determine eligibility.

I have attached both forms and ask if you might know of someone not on the email list that you think might like to know about Ashes Committed to the Sea the please pass this on.

You may have special requests such as a certain ship or place to be scattered and this will be sought however, please be aware that due to operational requirements, DCO is unable to provide you with a timeframe or location in which the committal may take place. It can take many

months for all the necessary arrangements to be finalised.

Once committal of ashes to the sea has taken place, you will be contacted and advised where and when the scattering took place, usually by the Commanding Officer of the unit involved.

I sincerely hope that none of you will require any action for many years to come but I know from dealing with bereaved families that if your wishes is to have a COATS, then prior approval is a good way to get your wishes approved, then your family just need to contact DCO when the time comes.

Regards,

Dale Granger

Warrant Officer

Military Support Officer

Defence Community Organisation

Southern Victoria/Tasmania

Defence People Group

Department of Defence.

(Forms will be available to print from the website shortly.)

RANBA | QUEENSLAND REPORT: John Lennon

In my last Qld Reps report I made mention of the wild weather we had been experiencing with the wind and rain. It is hard to believe just a short few months down the track we are now suffering from some of our worst bush fires ever, not only in Qld but the whole of mainland Australia. It does prove that we live in a land of extreme contrasts.

In the last few months I have been in contact with a number of our Qld members and I can report that nearly all are in good health. I must admit I have lost contact with a few of our more senior members. Ken Lincoln's New Groove Jazz ensemble saw a new audience member at his regular Sandgate Town Hall gig. Rick Watson had attended one of Ken's gigs and from the feedback I have received he was very impressed with the band and will definitely be returning.

Gary Sander has made a solid return to the Tuba and is now a regular player with the Pine Rivers Brass Band and Ye Old Brass Band which performs close to 200 community concerts per year. I spent a few hours with Vic Knowles travelling to Ballina for Ron Henry's memorial service and he tells me he has now retired from performing and partici-

pating in band activities. He showed me his latest travel journals and I now fully understand why he has no time left for music.

Trevor Williamson is still playing exceptionally well with the Brisbane City Pops Orchestra as Principle Bassoon. I joined the orchestra about 7 years ago to help out for a few months. I have now demoted myself down to 2nd Trumpet and handed over the 1st chair to a very competent Luke McCallum who's father Bruce plays Trombone and participated in the recent veterans band trip to Ipoh. I should also mention that Ivan Cocking ex Major - Army Band and veterans band member also plays with the Orchestra.

I have been in contact with 2 of our 3 North Qld members - Peter "punchy" Martin and Leon Stucas - and can report that both are in good health. The fires, drought and water shortages are also a problem in north Qld. I am hoping to catch up with both in the New Year.

Christmas wishes to all members and a safe 2020.

John Lennon

A VICTORIANS REFLECTION ON 2019

As another year draws to a close, I take this opportunity to wish all a very Merry Christmas and hoping the new year brings you health, happiness and success in everything you do. Our end of year get together was planned for the first Sunday in December and planned as a "meet and greet" type of afternoon instead of the usual sit down meal so that everyone could move around and chat with different people.



We set a minimum number of people to keep the costs down for those attending as well as planning a couple of surprise freebies.

BUT, (isn't there always one of those lurking about), when we started planning a couple of months beforehand, we didn't know that Cerberus band were doing a concert in Frankston at the same time, so we didn't quite meet the minimum number (we were close) and had to resort to plan B.



Despite this there was still a good turn out, followed up by the Xmas raffle of ham and other assorted goodies. I'm not going to say who won what - that can be a discussion over some future refreshments.



Sadly, the end of this year saw a couple of final postings - our thoughts go to the family particularly at this time of the year. To those that may be a little under the weather or facing some possible hospital time, hoping your recovery is fast and complete.



The new year presents us with another reunion, this one overseas (Bass Strait is still part of the southern ocean isn't it) and maybe some pre reunion rehearsal time at the Cerberus open day.



Until next time, may the jolly red man bring you all that you wish for and Father time passes on to the new arrival a wonderful 366 days for you and your family.

To any confirmed bachelors, now is the time to make sure your ducking and weaving manoeuvres are up to speed ready for 2020 .

Terry.



Hi All,

From South Australia .

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Healthy New Year.

Doug.



Jottings from the West commence with the sad news of the passing of yet another member, Bill Middleton. Bill joined the RAN as a Junior Musician in the late 1960's and on graduation, spent some time on-board HMAS SYDNEY and HMAS MELBOURNE, before his discharge when he returned to Perth taking up musical duties in the 5th.

Military Army Reserve Band in Perth where he spent 10 years before taking up taxi driving, leading to the position of dispatcher for the organization and afterwards in a similar position for The St. John's

Ambulance Brigade. He was a very keen supporter of The Band Association including many trips with the Veterans' Band, his last being the first visit to Ipoh where, although unable to play the sax, he became an integral part of the percussion section in which, according to Errol, he became "Mr. Tambourine Man." He passed away during the night of Trafalgar Day and his funeral was well attended by Association members and their wives. The Naval eulogy was given by the correspondent.

"The Old Man of the Sea," Ted Lincoln, is still travelling on although by his own admission he is not in the best of health. Your correspondent has attempted to contact former musician Don Mackey-Blair who lives in Greenbushes in the State's south but to no avail, the phone message stating that it is no longer connected. Fortunately, for this article, your correspondent has been in contact with many of the Western members recently and he can attest that most of them are in reasonably good shape. Hopefully, photographs taken at the forthcoming Xmas Luncheon will allow Easterners as good insight into their wellbeing, giving them the chance to judge for themselves.

The Xmas gathering has attracted some 28 starters including 3 members of the RAN Band WA, among them AB Daniel Khaimov, the recipient of the 2019 FARRELL – LINCOLN Trophy for excellence. His CV is extremely impressive, so much so in fact that he applied for an advertised position in the Sydney-based RAN Band and was successful in his application. He is to be congratulated on both achievements.

CPO Natalie Erskine, the WA-based Bandmaster was due for a posting to the East which she declined and is now working in the Submarine Section in HMAS STIRLING. During her time as Bandmaster, she did a great job with the Band and her musical talents will be lost to the underwa-

ter world of submarines. All the best for the future, Natalie.

News of the CERBERUS CENTENARY on March 1st. has hit the headlines and it is hoped that The Veterans' Band can produce a decent sized and musically competent ensemble to perform at the festivities, for which we have been invited to perform. All Association members here in The Wild West wish everyone in the other parts of Australia all the best for the Festive Season and the New Year with the hope that 2020 will be an excellent period for them and their families, as well as The Association which is celebrating virtually 2 Reunions, one in CERBERUS in March, the second in Launceston in October. See you at both venues!

Bill Farrell "The Admiral"





The 2019 Western Australian Members
Christmas Get-together
Photo's By Colin Buchanan



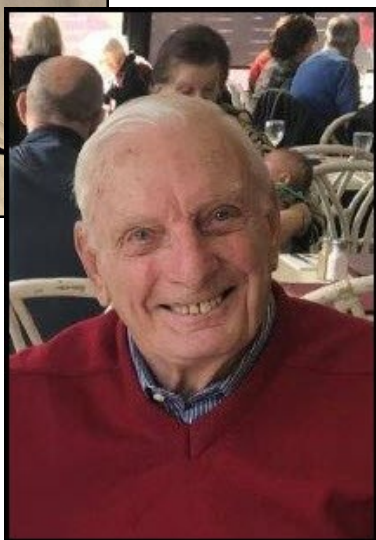
2019 has been a sad year for the Association with the passing of many of our long standing members.

To All those that have left for the Parade band in the Sky

RIP



GORDON CROMPTON



RON HENRY



BILL MIDDLETON



2020 Launceston Reunion Update



With 2020 upon us in a few days time the anticipated trip to Launceston draws closer. A few minor adjustments have been made to the rehearsal schedule with only the one day, Friday being the set day. The Meet and Greet will be at the Launceston RSL starting at 1800 and the AGM will also be at the RSL on the Saturday morning. Other important times will be forwarded early in the new year. So start thinking seriously about travel and accommodation in 2020.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND HEALTHY 2020

