



## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION

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Patron: LCDR George Hooker, M.B.E., A.U.A., L.R.A.M., R.A.N.(Rtd)

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### NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 1996

Greetings, one and all,

Welcome to this special **40th Anniversary 1956 Olympic Games souvenir edition**.

President Rob in his last "**Presidential Communique**" drew up a parade band consisting of those who attended "**VIC's '96**" and mentioned how many years experience would be on parade.

Well, "**large trees from little acorns grow**" and from his "seed of an idea" we have decided to float the idea of a parade band to participate in the year 2000 Sydney Anzac Day parade made up of Ex's.

Some of your committee have discussed the idea, and if enough interest is shown, the situation could be something like this;

A "core" band of Sydney (and nearby) Natives could get together a few times before April 25th 2000 to rehearse their playing and marching. Only 4 or 5 marches would be needed. These rehearsals could be held in conjunction with a bar-b-que.

Those who are still capable of lasting the distance both marching and playing-wise would probably own their own instruments, so only larger instruments, a bass drum, some side drums and a mace would need to be borrowed.

The 2000 reunion could be programmed for the weekend prior to Tuesday April 25th, and a final rehearsal incorporating the Interstaters would be held on Monday 24th at hopefully RAN Band headquarters.

Now most people would own a pair of black trousers and a long sleeve white shirt. Association caps are available to all members.

I know for a fact that RSL Headquarters would welcome a band of this quality with open arms.

Let's have your ideas on the subject such as a name for the band, other thoughts for a uniform, Sydney based Ex's who wouldn't mind assisting etc. President Rob is happy to co-ordinate the event. Please complete the questionnaire. It is three and a half years off, but time does fly.

### CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

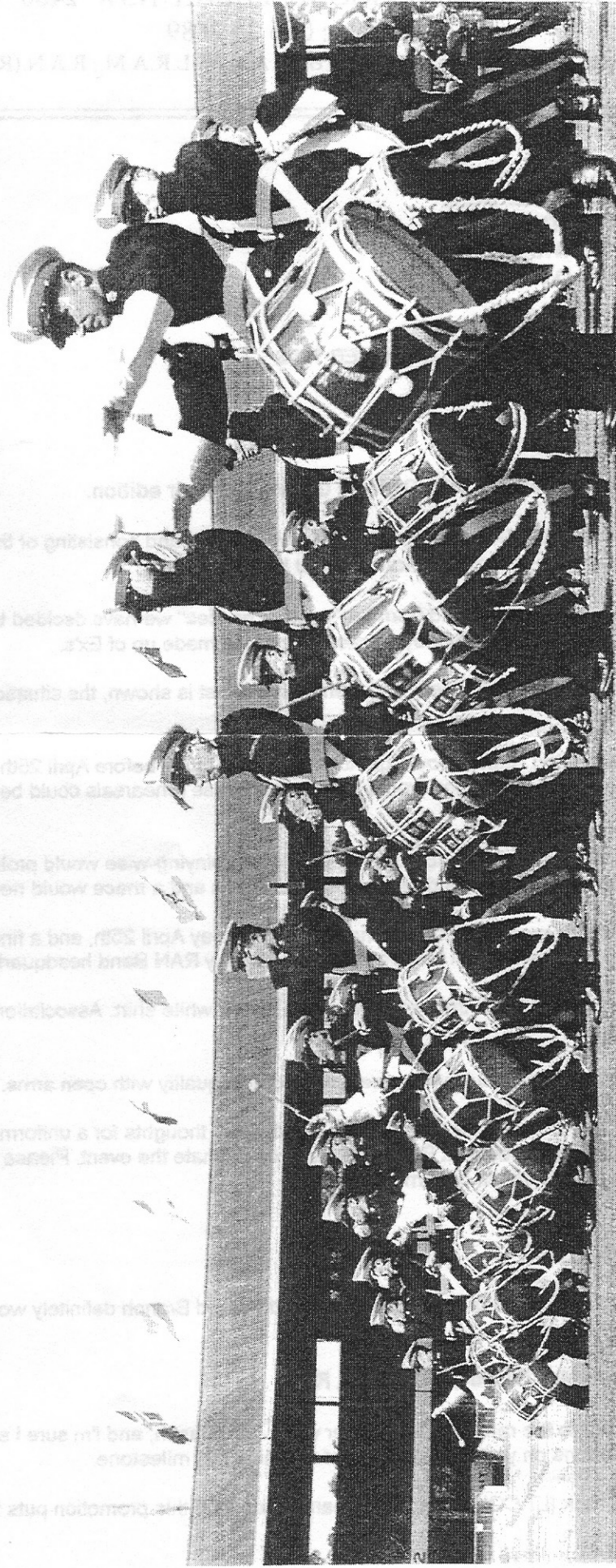
On 1st July, the Association was informed of a promotion within the Band Branch definitely worthy of mention in this newsletter.

Congratulations, **Commander Ashley Greedy, AM, LRAM, RAN.**

Ashley is the first to be promoted to the rank of Commander within the Branch, and I'm sure I speak for all members by saying Congratulations on your achievement of reaching this milestone.

ARMY have had an equivalent rank (LT COL) Director for many years, and this promotion puts the NAVY Director on an equal footing.

**Your shout, young Ashley!**



Forty years ago next month, more than 100,000 people witnessed one of the finest marching displays performed in Australia.

The place, the M.C.G., the occasion, the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. Enter the Massed Bands of the Royal Australian Navy.

This photo shows the drum corps during the final rehearsal. Congratulations to all there.

### 1956 OLYMPIC GAMES, MELBOURNE MEMORIES, by Doc MacLeod.

On November 21st, 1956, The Duke Of Edinburgh arrived at Essendon Airport to be welcomed by a Naval Guard and Band. He will officially open the games at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on the 22nd November.

A large crowd lined the streets as the Duke left the airport.....Olympic fever had hit Melbourne!

Television had just commenced in Australia, and a recent referendum had been held for hotels to remain open until a civilised hour, but the "do-gooders" and churches won.....the six o'clock swill will remain....shame.

The Massed Bands of the RAN had gathered at Flinders Naval Depot some six weeks before the Olympics to "fine tune" the marching display created by Bluey Carr.

Some 112 musicians cursed anyone who had thought up this display as we pounded the parade ground over and over to get it all right. The "wets" got quite a "nudge" with so many "bandies" in attendance at the depot, and at that time Melody Pleass and John Collins were to meet their future wives.

A few of us were put on Commander's report for playing cards after "lights out", but we managed to convince the Commander that gambling was below our standards, even though some small change was found on the table.

We were allowed to have one rehearsal on the MCG prior to the Opening Ceremony, but officialdom stated that we were not to march on the track as this would cause damage, but on the day this instruction was ignored because it was too late for the officials to do anything about it!

On November 22nd 1956 the Massed Bands waited outside the stadium, all keyed up for the big event, and we could hear the murmur from the crowd inside.

The main gates swung open, and to the strains of "Waltzing Matilda", we marched in 10 abreast until inside the main stadium, then broke into two sections and marched to the left and right to meet again in the centre of the stadium where we performed a marching display for 15 minutes culminating in the formation of the five Olympic rings, whereby the two Drum Majors lit the top of their maces, and George Hooker took the salute.

The 103,000 people in the crowd cheered wildly....I think this was one of the highlights of my Band Service.

The Massed Naval Bands then marched into position for the entry of athletes, and we were joined by the Massed Bands of the Army, some 250 personnel, who paraded alongside us to play for the athletes entry.

Greece traditionally was the first to enter the arena.

At that stage, Russia was invading Hungary, and the Hungarians received a loud welcome from the crowd.

We waited for the Russians and their reception, but true to Aussie form, they received a loud cheer also!

After all the athletes formed up, there was a short lull until 1500HRS when the Duke of Edinburgh arrived, dressed as Admiral of the Fleet to perform the Official Opening. He was met by prime Minister Bob Menzies and Melbourne Lord Mayor Sir Frank Selleck. At 1530 the blue and white flag of Greece appeared from the tunnel, and a young Ron Clarke ran in with the torch (our Drum Majors had upstaged him) to light the Olympic Flame, and the start of 17 days of games.

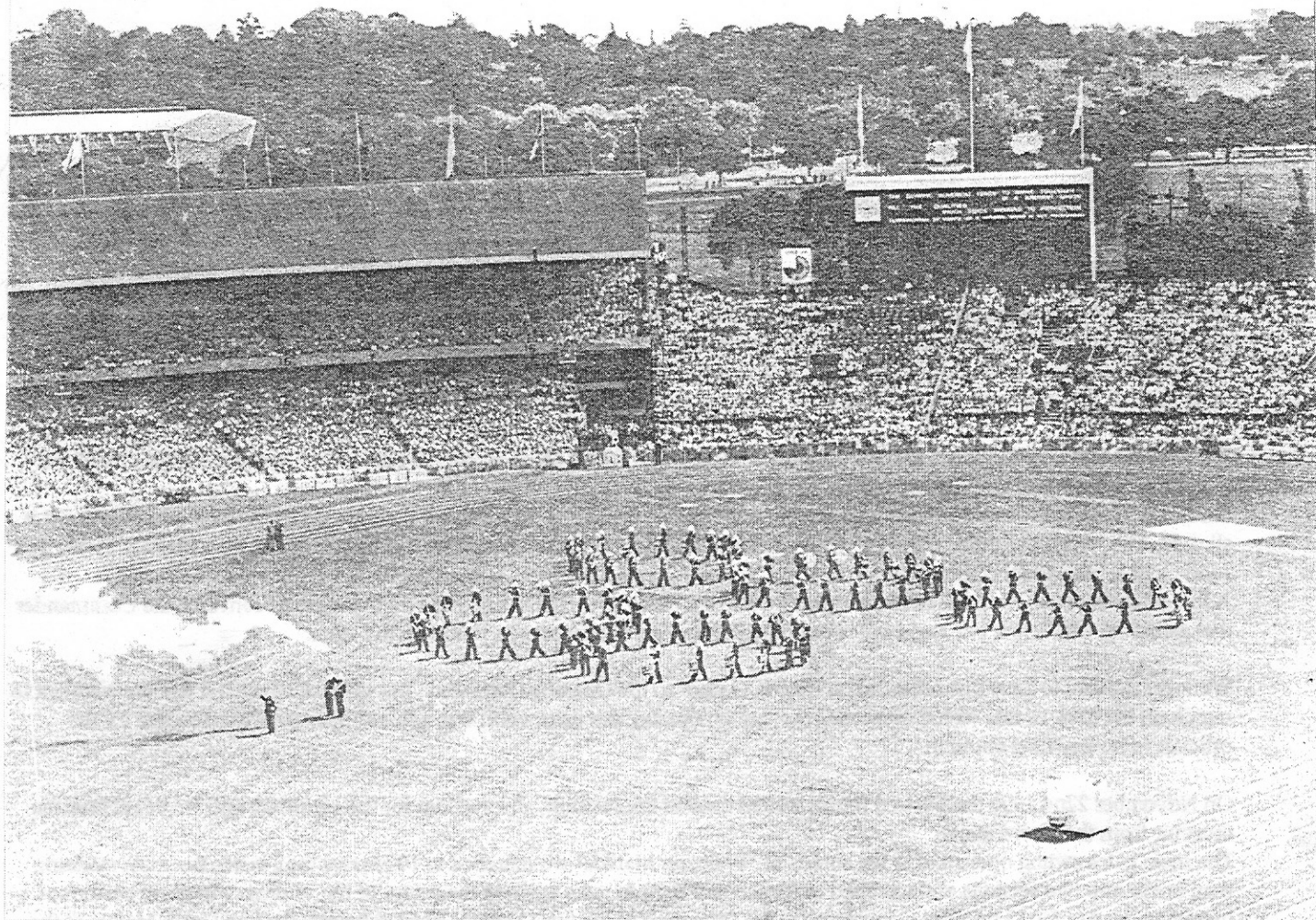
The playing of anthems was split between Army and Navy seated alongside the huge scoreboard and amplified throughout the Cricket Ground. Other venues had to be visited for the playing of anthems, and this also was split between the two services.

At one stage we were at the rifle range dressed in No. 2's, and a spectator thought we were a Russian band (red cap band and gold star), and on another occasion when playing at the Velodrome, we had to go to the centre of the track via a tunnel, and this gave us a good view of the cyclists. This is where Les Tull put on one of his "acts" in front of the TV cameras, and I don't think George Hooker was very impressed.

After commitments, a few of us visited the Olympic Village and had several photos taken with athletes from many countries.

My only regret is that the Penguin Band, of which I was a member, was recalled for several jobs in Sydney, so we weren't able to be at the Closing Ceremony. I'm told it was worth seeing.

**Thanks, Doc for keeping such good records. Perfect timing for the 40th anniversary of this milestone in RAN Band history.**



### OLYMPIC GAMES MELBOURNE 1956

(top) Finale of marching display by Massed Bands of the RAN showing maces lit. Bands sat in front of scoreboard (background) to play anthems for gold medal winners.

(bottom) Photo of drum corps (negative reversed)...looks like Ken Mansfield, 2nd from left, Bill Farrell, 3rd from left (both front rank).



### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As usual the bands have had a very busy time since the last newsletter.

The Melbourne band has been flat out with commissioning both HMAS ANZAC and HMAS COLLINS with the help of the South Australia Reserve Band. Unfortunately for LEUT Phil Anderson his new complex in the old CERBERUS theatre has again moved to the right a couple of months so it will now be closer to the end of the year before it's ready.

From the Sydney band, Navy Week in Darwin was excellent at about 30 degrees and apart from the usual bout of marching displays, concerts and Darwin Show we had a most unusual but enjoyable trip by light plane out to Bathurst Island to entertain the local Aboriginal community and school kids.

Band stickers were at a premium!

While I'm sure some of the Ex's have their own view, I was very pleased with the band's efforts at the recent Brisbane International Tattoo. Sticking to our more traditional style of display, I thought we looked and sounded first rate even up against the Kiwi Army and the Grenadier Guards. I also caught up with Vic and Elizabeth Knowles, Jim Hawkins, Ian "Bomber" Brown (oboe) and had a phone call from Ron Clifton (flute/piano) who has just moved to Brisbane from Darwin.

For the rest of the year the pace is just as hectic with the Melbourne band in S.A. for Navy Week Adelaide 8-15 NOV and the Sydney band in Hobart at the same time for Navy Week Tasmania. Our big UNICEF concert in the Sydney Town Hall 22 OCT with Don Burrows, James Morrison, Julie Anthony and Ian Turpie is just around the corner.....try and make it.

To finish, and on a personal note, my thanks to those who wrote/phoned on the recent announcement of my promotion to Commander with effect 31 DEC 96.

Don Coxon's call was especially pleasing as it was Don who nominated me for Officer Candidate more than 20 years ago. See.....size doesn't matter!

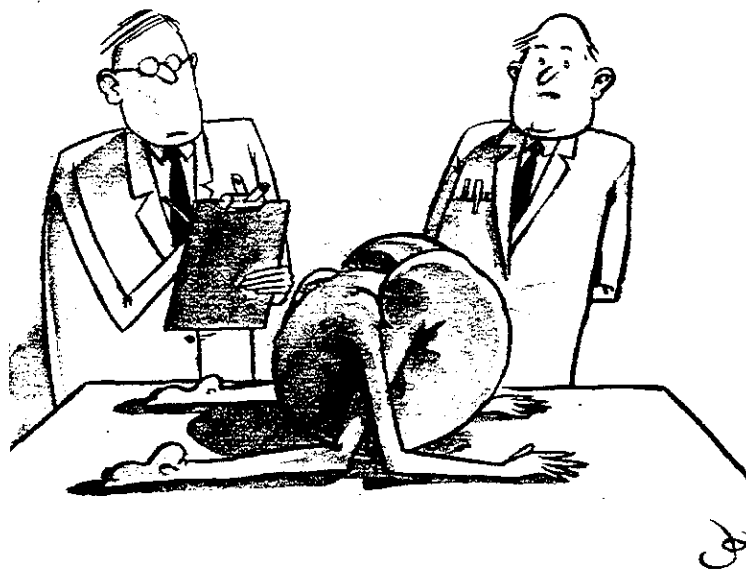
Navy Office has said it will leave me as Director of Music, at present, up until Xmas '98 then I will have to negotiate my last 3 years. The promotion was good. To stay as DOM is a real bonus!

Watch out for an extensive band recruiting campaign prior to Xmas and remember we are always looking for good (young) people.

Regards to All,

**Ashley Greedy, AM, LRAM, RAN**  
**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC-NAVY**

### CASUALTY



"We've been unable to establish whether he's a gymnast or a politician."

### MEDAL INFO.

Norm Gullick phoned with some information from Canberra regarding the **Australian Service Medal (ASM) 1945-75.**

For those who served in **AUSTRALIA, HOBART & SHROPSHIRE** between **3 SEP 1945 to 30 JUN 1947** for a minimum of **90 days**, and on other ships in Korea between **28 JUL 1953 to 26 AUG 1957** for **30 days**, plus New Guinea between **11 MAR 1951 & 16 SEP 1975** for **180 days**, you should contact;

**Director Naval Personal Services  
Navy Office  
Dept. of Defence  
PO Box E33  
Queen Victoria Terrace  
CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Send details of your service, and ask the question regarding your eligibility for this medal with clasps, **Japan, Korea & Papua New Guinea.**

Norm and Margaret were heading off overseas when the last newsletter was being posted out, and will return to Australia during November 1996. They plan to visit some old haunts from their days in the UK & Europe when Norm was training for commissioned rank during the '60s.

Thanks for the info, Norm.

### THE YEAR 2000

Our year 2000 reunion as mentioned on page 1 will probably be held around April for several reasons, one of which is the September Olympic Games.

Many members would remember the arrangements spoken about over the years for bandies to meet "**at Man 'O War steps on 1/1/2000**", at one minute past midnight if my memory serves me correctly, and that means one minute into the new millennium (without getting into the argument about when it starts!).

Another train of thought is that bandies were to meet at the Criterion Hotel, Park St (still there) on new year's eve, 2000. When I asked treasurer Ron if that was new years eve 1999 leading into 2000, or new years eve 2000, he paused, and said....."I think 2000", so there is a little confusion as to where or when!

It would be impossible for your Association to organise a get-together, but if people wish to arrange a meeting place for 31/12/99 or during the following day we will be only too pleased to publish details.

One of the reasons I probably won't be there is that I reckon the majority of Sydney's population will be, celebrating the occasion **near the Opera House** and it would be impossible for a group to locate each other. Maybe it would be an idea to meet prior to midnight (**I can't imagine the nearest pubs at the Rocks being suitable either**), so if some brave soul let's me know the details, we can let others know.

Sydney on most evenings is no place for the faint-hearted, and on weekends resembles a battleground around the City once the "non-handlers" decide to change drinking venues. I can't imagine things changing between now and then.

Please let us know your thoughts on this matter as it has been discussed for at least 45 years.

## **A Message from the President**

I trust this issue finds all members and their families well. I understand the Western Australian connection is already preparing for Reunion '98. I hope you are all making plans to make the trek West.

I had to return to HMAS Cerberus for the Recruit School Graduation Ceremony and Parade towards the end of June to see our daughter Georgina graduate and I visited the Chapel, once again. I can confirm the plaque is firmly set in place. What a great weekend that was!

During July last I took my Forest High School Band to Hong Kong to participate in the Asian Pacific Band Directors' Conference. There were thirty-two bands from the Asian Pacific region and was a great experience for the students. Talk about shop til you drop, they certainly did that! We had a week there and I was delighted to return to one of the best places I had visited during my sea-time. The shopping was still very cheap (I certainly enjoyed the bartering for my 'rabbits'). I stayed in Wan-Chai not far from Luard Road. Those who were on HMAS Melbourne 1966-67 would remember the Cave Bar. At number 20 Luard Road was the 'Cave Bar', this den of inequity is now 'The Big Apple', having recently been refurbished and name changed. The stage is still in the same place, however. Coincidentally, every time I have been to Hong Kong previously it was on HMAS Melbourne. Whilst there this time, tied up in the harbour was the latest HMAS Melbourne for four days.

Hong Kong has certainly changed, that is to be expected, overhead walkways, life running at 150 kph, the Peak as well as the Peak Tram updated, Star Ferry as it was, however, there are a number of ways to cross the harbour now. I was particularly impressed with the Metro railway system, very cheap, very frequent, very fast, we could do no better than to look at this people mover for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

As far as the change of ownership of Hong Kong on 30 June 1997, the locals I spoke to did not feel as though there would be any great change if any at all. HK is still a great source of income for China.

There has been some interest passed on to me regarding an Ex's Band playing at the Year 2000 ANZAC Day Parade in Sydney. This would depend on the date of the reunion, of course. But I wonder if there is any 'real' interest considering another four years will claim the mobility of some, I guess. If you are interested let us know and we will then look at the feasibility of such a venture.

Remember, spread the word and let any ex-bandies as well as current serving bandies know of your Association and invite them to join. Remember this is your Association and needs your support for its survival.

As always if you know of any ex-bandie who is not enjoying the best of health, please let us know. Whilst we are not a welfare organisation we are sure the members would like to offer words of cheer to those are feeling poorly.

Word has it the RAAF Band Association is about to be or has been formed. I wish them good luck and hope they are supported by their members (some of which are members of our Association as well).

Finally, welcome to our new members I hope you will enjoy and participate in your Association's future.

Regards,



Rob Bedwell

### ANOTHER ASSOCIATION FORMED

Ralph Daines (clar/sax 60's-70's) (043) 892576 is one of the many Navy Ex's who served in the RAAF Band, and informs us that a RAAF Band Association has formed. Another contact is former SGT at RAAF Richmond, Rex Campbell (045) 765790, and they would appreciate hearing from anyone who served in RAAF Bands. Please pass the message on. The RAAF Central band was formed in 1952, and Richmond around 1970, so their history is quite recent compared to Army and Navy.

It is hoped in the future to hold a get-together of Ex's from the 3 services, so **stay tuned!**

### A MESSAGE FROM PATRON GEORGE.

Patron George Hooker wrote just as the last newsletter was going to print to say a big **"thank-you"** to the Committee and Victorian organisers of **"Vic's 96"**.

George wrote in part, **"The Committee was responsible for an excellent show. On many occasions I found Len Nurse most helpful...not only to me, but many others also.....please thank the Committee on my behalf.....I can only hope that 1998 is as successful"**.

Thanks, George. We wish you well, and also your wife Rae.

Many of us got a surprise to see a very mature Tim Hooker at the reunion in Melbourne. Quite a few remember Tim as a very young lad during our Cerberus days, and it was great to catch up with him once again.

I didn't get a chance to mention to George that the Demons had been flogged by the mighty red & whites.

The last time I did, I copped a "crash draft" from Cerberus to Nirimba!

Cheers, George.

### HOW YOUNG IS THIS BLOKE?

Taken around 1961 or 1962 in Four Hotel bandies mess, HMAS Melbourne, is a photo of a very young Vic Knowles with Miles Halliday and Bill Thompson seated on a bottom bunk. Vic had just had his wallet stolen, and looks very dejected.

It's a shame Dick Dasczyk wasn't the owner of the Kensington NSW Loan Office. He would have done great business with the Fleet Band in those days.



### **KENSINGTON LOAN OFFICE**

(Next to TAB)

#### **Dick Dasczyk**

Pawnbroker and second hand dealer.

Money lent on all quality goods.  
• Jewellery • Electrical • Power tools  
• Sporting goods • Photographic etc...  
Goods bought and sold, also lay-by.

**178 Anzac Parade Kensington 2033**  
**PHONE & FAX: 313 7773**

## HAIRCUT RUN IN MANILA

The photo of Vic Knowles standing alongside Bill Thompson in the band mess, HMAS Melbourne and the photo this edition of the "Old & Bold" at the recent reunion in Melbourne showing Bill Thompson blowing up a storm on trombone, reminded me of one of the more memorable haircut runs ashore.

The scene...obviously HMAS Melbourne, the place.....Manila, Philipines, 1962.

For several years Bill had suffered premature loss of hair, and some cruel characters had tormented him by sending away for dubious products, be they tablets or creams, to the point where Bill "did the block" in Brisbane and accused **the editor** of being responsible!

I protested my innocence to no avail, and Bill reckoned I was a right bastard for putting him through such emotional pain, and was going to "**punch my lights out**".

A couple of stirrers in the mess convinced Bill that , like a plant, his hair would grow with great gusto if he went ashore and had the whole lot removed.

I arrived back on board appropriately primed around midnight , and heard a sound near Bill's bunk, and there were two of his messmates playing noughts & crosses on his completely bald pate using a textra pen and the night light to see by. Needless to say, Bill was unaware of the goings-on as he had been very primed to go ahead with his "**Manila haircut**".

The next day, Bandmaster Don Coxon nearly had a fit when he saw the finished product (we weren 't due to perform the King & I) and ordered Bill to wear a cap until the tufts appeared once again.

Unfortunately for Bill, this didn't happen the way the stirrers had suggested, and he was left with a "shiny bit" at age 19 or thereabouts. Bill tried an "**Irish Jig**" for some years, but he has succumbed to the fact that many heads are different, and the old saying puts it perfectly.....

**"God only made so many perfect heads.....the others he covered with hair".**

## A LOST IS FOUND

We mentioned two issues back that several members had moved house without letting us know, and their whereabouts were unknown. Thanks to some fine detective work by Ken (Mac) McCallum (074)987660, the whereabouts of Phil Martin is now known, and to add insult to injury, Phil is still in the same suburb, but different address.

Directory assistance were of no help to us, so we thank Mac for his diligence.

Mac is still with the Queensland Naval Band.

## ANOTHER ENVELOPE RETURNED HERE

If you know where R Hutchinson now resides, please let us know because we don't!

He was last at **20 Snell St Merriidn WA 6145**.

Since previous mention of lost Ex's, we are still seeking D H Thomson, formerly of Dodges Ferry TAS., Bert Kennedy, Ballina NSW and Gerry Foster, Tewantin QLD.

## ANOTHER LAYABOUT

Superintendant Phil Ingram of HM WA Prisons has finally handed in the keys to the prison and accepted the redundancy package offered to begin a long career as a TV sports-watcher. He will be moving prior to the next newsletter so we will keep all and sundry posted as to his whereabouts in future.

Phil has some ideas for those travelling to Perth by car for the 1998 reunion, including a trip via Albany (turn left on the Nullabor somewhere, he mumbled) to include the grape growing districts in the south of the Golden West.

There will be plenty of notice given for those who are interested.

A few of the blokes who travelled across the Nullabor by non air-conditioned train for the 1962 British Empire & Commonwealth Games in Perth may wish to travel in luxury (air-conditioned car) compared to the dust-infested wooden carriages with only a flagon of cheap "steam" to takes one's mind off the trip. For those who didn't know, RAAF Central travelled in air-conditioned sleepers that trip!

The "lower-deck" lawyers would have a "field day" if that were to happen nowadays.



**TOP** Victory Loan Tour, Melbourne 1945 or '46.

**L/R** Don Edwards, unknown, Tony Urich, Norm Gullick, ?, ?, Don Cook, Bert Guy, (remainder unknown)

Photos courtesy Tony Urich

**Below** Victory Loan Tour, Rochester Vic.

Bill Morna, Drum Major, Paddy O'Reilly, Bass Drum, Brian Naulty, cymbals, Mick Davies, BBb. Max Jarrett eupho.





Top Victory Tour 1946 Canberra.  
 Bandsman in front of band near Conductor Cockshead is Don Edwards who was under punishment for urinating from rear of moving truck!

Below Saluting Dais Canberra 1946.

(photos courtesy Tony Urich)



### MORE MEDAL INFORMATION

I wrote to the new Minister in charge of Federal Coalition policy on medals relating to their pre-election policy statement, and the awarding of the Australian Service Medal (ASM) with clasp, "Far East Strategic Reserve", and the following reply was received.

Dear Mr Hawkins,

**Thank you for your letter of 5 May 1996 to Mr Wilson Tuckey MP concerning service medal entitlements. This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Defence Industry, Science & Personnel, the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP, who has asked me to respond on her behalf.**

**As outlined in the Coalition's election policy the Government's commitment to honour those who served in Australia's defence forces is paramount. Proper recognition for the tremendous service and sacrifice that the thousands of Australian men and women gave to their country is an important priority for the Government.**

**One of the recommendations in the Government's medal policy is to award the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with clasp "Far East Strategic Reserve" to Australian naval personnel who served in the Far East Strategic Reserve for 30 days or more between 2 July 1955 and 30 October 1971.**

**Work has already commenced to implement the medals policy. Indeed, in addressing the commitment we have made to the Australian people in respect of service medals, the Minister has instructed the Department of Defence to implement the policy in the most expeditious way it can. Changes to Government regulations are required to implement the policy and in some instances the consent of Her Majesty the Queen is also required.**

**I would point out that the Government's policy also clearly stated that receiving medals does not entitle veterans to automatic service pensions. The eligibility for medals and benefits are considered entirely separately and will remain so under our Government.**

**I am informed by the Director General Naval Personnel Services, that a complete list of HMA Ships that served in South East Asian waters is currently being compiled by the Naval Historical Section. Any further enquiries you may have about this matter should be directed to them.**

**I appreciate your concern over this issue and assure you that all steps are being taken to implement our medals commitment in the most efficient and timely manner.**

Yours Sincerely,

(signed)

**Aldo Borgu  
Senior Adviser**

As you can see from the above letter, things look promising for those who served in the FESR between July 1955 and October 1971.

I will be in contact with the Department responsible and publish any new information as it comes to hand.

One very important point made in this letter, and in previously published coalition policy documents which I have here, is that the medal **does not entitle you to a Service or Disability pension.**

The medal is only recognition for service in the Strategic Reserve and is similar to other medals recently granted to allow visual recognition for that service.

To be entitled to apply for pensions from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, you need "allotted service" in a war zone as determined by the Department of Defence.

## DECISION TIME

As many people have put in hours of time and effort to not only form your Association, but to organise National and State reunions plus organise the day to day running of what must now be described as a successful Ex Service organisation, a decision was made recently to "cull" the names of those members who consistently "forget" to send in their annual subs and don't bother to let organisers know they are no longer interested.

Treasurer Ron and myself sat down with our lists, and it was very sad to make the decision to delete a small number of former financial members from our mailing list, particularly since we have achieved two major goals since 1993 when it was first mooted to start an Association.

The second goal was to reach the 200 member mark, and this was done some time back. Please don't let us go backwards with our membership. If you are having problems finding the \$15 annual subs., a 45c stamp with a short note will ensure your newsletter arrives on time until you are "flush" again.

## INFORMATION NEEDED

A letter arrived from former Junior Musician Les Church (1956-1958) who changed branch to become a Signalman.

Les (02) 96655687 was enquiring about Brian "Ollie" Grieve and Ernie Beasley following a chance meeting with Les Tull, who told him about our Association.

I have forwarded "Ollie's" address and phone number, but we have no record of Ernie Beasley (French Horn).

If you know where he is, please let Les know, or write to the editor.

## BAND INFORMATION

I was speaking with member Paul Farrugia from the Victoria Police Band at the reunion and asked him about the make-up of the band (**NO, THEY'RE NOT ENTERING THE GAY & LESBIAN MARDI GRAS!**) and Paul kindly arranged for the Victoria Police Public Relations branch to send us heaps of details about their current set-up.

The **Victoria Police Brass Band** was formed in 1891 by a small group of dedicated police members who performed in their own time and at their own expense. The **Pipe Band** was formed in 1936, and during the 90's became the Premier Police Pipe band in the world.

The Concert band is sub-divided into a total of 6 different groups and sub-groups including **Tour de Force**, "an explosive 22 piece showband" playing rock, pop & swing, **Jazz Squad**, a seven piece trad jazz band which made it's first public outing at the renowned Monsalvat Jazz Festival, **Flute Patrol**, a one piece (YES. ONE PIECE) act made up of flautist John Brodie who does many jobs on his own! He has released a solo recording, and would be very popular with most of the band when they "volunteer" him to do gigs so the other 34 can have the day off!

**Code One** is a rock group of four blokes and a female vocalist and have appeared on the Midday Show and Bert Newton show, as well as supporting top acts including Darryl Braithwaite, James Reyne, Mental as Anything and Southern Sons.

**Division Four** comprises of guitar, clarinet, baritone sax and alto sax. The group have appeared on HEY, HEY and are very popular around Victoria.

The boss of the Concert Band is Inspector Michael Pyne who was the Commanding Officer of the Defence Force School of Music prior to taking over the band in 1988.

The publicity "blurb" tells me almost everything I wanted to know about the band except whether the members are all "real" coppers or "Specials" who are in the majority in the NSW Police Band.

As with most professional groups nowadays, the Bands (and this includes the Pipes & Drums) are forming an "Events Management Team" in order to ensure the right band, is in the right place, at the right time. A quarterly events calendar and newsletter is forwarded to interested parties free of charge, with around forty events listed each quarter. One brochure I received boasts that the bands perform at over 1500 engagements annually to a total audience exceeding one million people. Paul Farrugia is the only Ex still serving, with Bob Soutar, Charlie Tumath and Ken Brown previously with the band. Paul tells us that they have been invited to go to Calgary, Canada in August '97, and are trying to raise funds for the trip.

## MORE BAND INFORMATION

Now, when I was joking in the previous story about the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and make-up, I didn't think that I would be reading the following article in a Sydney newspaper earlier this year.

I will keep my thoughts to myself on the subject, and leave it up to you to make judgement on how times have changed.



# Cupid swaps his arrow for a needle

**A** PRESCRIPTION drug, Caverject, has been available free to veterans since November 1.

It is a remedy for a male complaint called erectile dysfunction. Inevitably, it has been called ED. By a hilarious coincidence, the manufacturer is Upjohn.

The drug is administered in a way I can only describe as excruciatingly painful. Suffice it to say it involves a syringe and instructions such as "insert the entire length of the needle at a 90 degree angle into the injection site" and "move your thumb or index finger to the top of the plunger and press down".

A "companion pack" of five doses retails for around \$130, 10 for \$250 and 20 for \$500. A returned serviceman who is prescribed the drug will get it for the standard charge of \$2.60 and we, the taxpayers, pay the rest.

"What dickhead approved Caverject when there aren't enough funds in the health service for genuine illnesses?" asked vets' campaigner Kevin Wills.

He accused the Department of Veterans Affairs of "opening a can of

worms" and warned it could lead to vets claiming for extreme disability allowance or recreation allowance under the Veterans Entitlement Act.

A spokesman for Upjohn appeared delighted that Caverject, released on the Australian market in May, had found its way on to the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme by November.

An application would be submitted soon to have it included on the general pharmaceutical benefits list so it would be available on prescription to all Australians, he said.

Upjohn claims one in 10 males suffers from ED but I can't see how the figure is reached. Who is going to admit to having it?

If you have a penile problem I advise you to read the fine print in respect of side effects. They are listed as pain at the site of the injection (obvious, I would have thought), local bleeding or bruising (ditto), changes in blood pressure, abnormalities of heartbeat or palpitations, dizziness, headache and fainting.

Doesn't sound like the most romantic condition to be in when rising to the act of love.

By ROBERT SULLIVAN

**WHEN** the NSW Police Concert Band first performed in 1896, the strength of a policeman's character could be determined by the length of his moustache.

Handlebar moustaches were all the rage in a police force which relied on truncheons instead of guns and travelled everywhere on horseback.

The moustaches may have gone, but the spirit of the NSW Police Concert Band lives on just as strong today.

Unit commander Senior Sergeant Robert McMaster said the band would celebrate the 100th anniversary of its first performance at the end of February.

As an indication of how much society has changed since 1896, the band will mark the occasion by playing at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

"While the band originally formed in 1895, it first performed

## First gay gig for cop musos

at Hyde Park in February 1896," Mr McMaster said. "A century on, we are still impressing the crowds."

"We recently released a CD called the Centenary Collection which got a good response from the public."

Mr McMaster said the Mardi Gras concert will be a tribute to gay and lesbian police.

Band spokesman Snr Const Rod Hunter-Brittain said the band regularly performs at schools, nursing homes, charity fund-raising events and government ceremonies.

Mr Hunter-Brittain said the band helps forge a stronger link between police and the public.

Somewhere in the 50's.  
(window sign looks  
like "LIMS RESTAURANT"

L/R Phil Jones, Norm  
Smith, Phil Hopkins,  
Ken Robertson, Les  
Tull, Gordon Crompton  
(seated), Ted Lincoln  
(standing), unknown  
leading hand.



Faces at Lord Howe Island.  
Bob Green, front, centre  
(bald) alongside the  
Governor General and other  
official looking gentleman

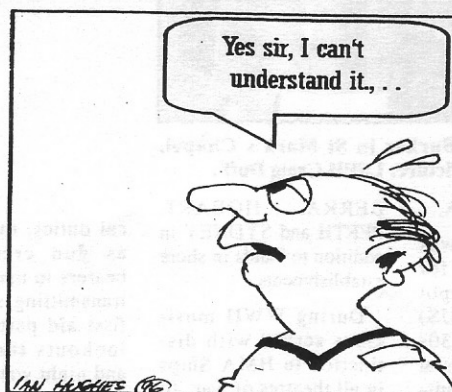
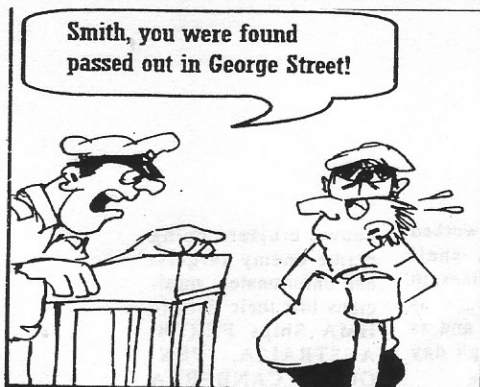
"A pub somewhere", 50's.

(top) L/R sailor, Ken Mansfield, ?, Melody Pleass(no cap),  
?, Barry Pollock, Shorty Gray, Randall Kellas, Slim Halliday, Lofty Dawes, Doc McLeod,  
Jerry Jerrard and Ted Lincoln.

(seated) Ken Robertson, sailor, sailor, Max Argent, sailor, Danny Fisher.

(all above photos given to me copied, at reunion, possibly by Ted Lincoln)

## HMAS WORT



MANY former Royal Australian Navy musicians will meet in Melbourne next month to share memories and honour fallen comrades.

The regular biennial reunion this time includes the unveiling of a memorial window and plaque at St Mark's Chapel, HMAS Cerberus, Crib Point.

Mr Len Nurse, of Frankston, said several former members of the Navy band aged in their 80s had booked to attend a dinner at Malvern RSL as well as the following day's dedication and lunch at HMAS Cerberus.

The musicians' reunion is being held April 19 - 21.

Mr Nurse said many Navy musicians lost their lives during World War II and organisers hoped their relatives

would attend the weekend's events.

Mr Nurse, a bassoonist, was a warrant officer in charge of the Royal Australian Navy School of Music at HMAS Cerberus when he left the RAN in 1978.

He had joined the Navy 20 years before, serving on HMAS Melbourne 1965 when it escorted HMAS Sydney to Vietnam with the first contingent of Australian troops. The band is now part of the Defence School of Music at Watsonia and Mr Nurse spends part of his time playing with Frankston Symphony Orchestra.

More information about the band ceremonies are available by ringing Mr Nurse, 9786 5325.

FORMER Navy bandsmen Phil Hopkins (trombone) and Len Nurse (bassoon) tune up for a reunion.



VS NAVY NEWS 3.6.96 (origin of story unknown)

# Service strikes the right chord

A memorial service has been held in the Memorial Chapel of Saint Mark, HMAS CERBERUS, to honour members of the Royal Australian Navy Band (RAN) Branch who lost their lives during WWII.

A memorial window and plaque were dedicated at the service.

CO of CERBERUS, CAPT Kevin Scarce, was present at the ceremony as were previous RAN Directors of Music: LCDR George Hooker (1954-1970), LCDR Norm Gullick (1975-1976) and LCDR Bill Farrell (1982-1987). Also in attendance were present and past members of the RAN Band from throughout Australia.

The history of the Navy Band branch goes back to the formation of the RAN in 1911 with six musicians sailing to England to assist in recruiting ex-Royal Marines and British Army Musicians into the infant Commonwealth Navy.

The musicians were kitted up in the Royal Marine uniform of the period, at Eastney Royal Marine Barracks in Portsmouth and served in the RAN's first battle cruiser



• ABMUSN Geoff Barker in St Mark's Chapel, CERBERUS. Picture: LSPH Craig Duff.

HMAS AUSTRALIA.

A second band was formed in 1927 for Flinders Naval Depot (HMAS CERBERUS) and by the late 1930s there were five bands at sea, serving in the cruisers AUSTRALIA, CAN-

BERRA, HOBART, PERTH and SYDNEY in addition to bands in shore establishments.

During WWII musicians served with distinction in HMA Ships in all theatres of war. To supplement their musi-

Publicity prior to and following reunion.

Victorian organisers Len Nurse & Phil Hopkins gained the Association some great publicity which led to many more attending and new members. (appeared in Peninsula newspaper)

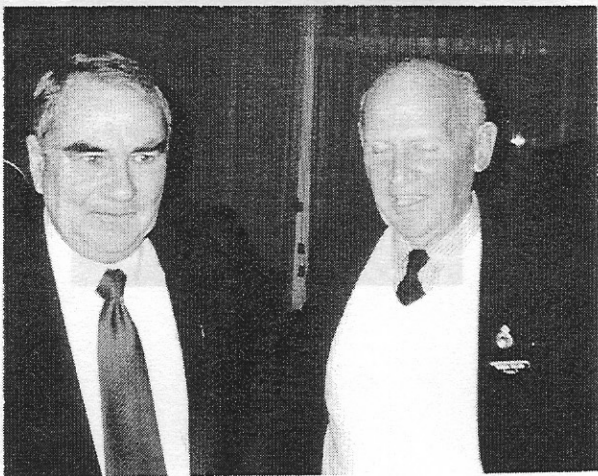
The Navy News article (left) was from an unknown writer.

An article about the Association, and recent reunion will appear in a Naval Association "White Ensign" later this year.

cal duties, they worked as gun crews, shell bearers in magazines, in transmitting stations, as first aid parties and as lookouts through day and night watches.

Fatal casualties were

heavy, cruisers being prime enemy targets, and unfortunately musicians lost their lives in HMA Ships PERTH, AUSTRALIA, PENQUIN, CANNON and SYDNEY.



Scenes from "Vic's 96" Melbourne April 1996

Top left, "Old & Bold" at play, right, Brian Torrens "tripping the light fantastic".

Middle, George Hooker, Bill Farrell, centre, Tony Webber, Bill again, right, Ken Mansfield & Ted Lincoln.

Bottom, left, Len Nurse & Norm Gullick, centre Ian Locke, right Paul Farrugia.



Scenes from "Vic's 96" Melbourne, April 1996.

Top left, L/R Phil Ingram, Tony Webber, Brian Grieve. Top right, Father John Connelly.

Centre left, Les McCabe, centre, L/R Nobby Clarke, Eric Cross, Ted Lincoln. Right, Colin Mackenzie.

Bottom, Ron Kirkwood & Mick Wortham.

### PHOTO I. D.

The S.O.M. Xmas Party photograph published in the last newsletter created considerable interest, and names given to me of those faces not recognised include **Bob Pearce, Slim Halliday (the Corporal), Cliff Shearn, Buck Buchanan, John Cummings, Les Church, Neville Josey and Fred Welsh**. Thanks to those who took the trouble to get in contact

### IDLE BOAST

Treasurer Ron was telling all and sundry about the great deal he received on hiring a Ford Festiva during his stay in Melbourne last April.

He didn't count on the added expense of a "bluey" received in the mail, weeks later, asking for a donation to the Victoria Police social fund of around \$120!

These radar speed cameras are a trap for young players!

Ron reckons cabs will be a cheaper alternative in Perth.

### UP IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT

George Duncombe (055) 711679 wrote to say he has now settled back in Australia at 45 Laidlaw St, Hamilton Vic, and to mention that he really enjoyed the reunion, and looks forward to his newsletter.

He has opened an account for the 1998 Perth "run", but reckons he might be too old to to join the parade band for the year 2000 Sydney Anzac Day March.

George invites any Ex passing through or staying at Hamilton to call in and enjoy a "you know what" (his words, not mine), so put Hamilton on your around Australia list and take George up on his offer..

### BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS

It is always good to get a letter from Neville Dunium. I appreciate his comments and respect his views.

Neville was not impressed with my comments about the New Zealand Army Band marching display at the 1988 Bi-Centennial Tattoo, and said **"they didn't please me at all"**.

To refresh your memory, I said that I cringed when I saw the musicians hopping around like kangaroos, and that although their display was very popular with the crowds, "bullshit baffles brains".

Prior to my response, let me give you some background on Neville, even though his history was published many newsletters back, some of you may not know that he is still active in the band movement after 59 years (Nev now 70).

Neville is one of the most senior drill adjudicators in Australia, still marches as drum major with bands, played brass instruments for 39 years until illness forced him to cease, and knows his bands backwards.

In his letter, Neville mentions the NZ Army Band's **"own choice"** display used at the tattoo, and the fact that this type of creative display has been used in Australia and NZ by bands since 1978.

I think the words "own choice" should be clarified, as this is the major point I was trying to get across.

Service Musicians do not have an "own choice" marching display.....they are instructed to perform exactly what their superior tells them to do, as opposed to the local town band, where a bandsman can tell the bandmaster where to go if he doesn't agree with what is chosen for a display or concert. Simply move on to another band, or retire.

I vividly recall accompanying several fanfare trumpet players to a theatrical dress-hire place near Central Station so they could be measured, inside leg included, by a very "sus" bloke, for their "page's" uniform to be worn at the Sydney Town hall for a "one-off" performance.

Now, if that had been the Blacktown City band, those blokes would have "decked" the measurer, and told the bandmaster where to store the fanfare trumpets, but, alas, it was the Royal Australian Navy, and they had to grin and bear it.

I think if a poll had been taken of musicians from the NZ Band during 1988, very few would have appreciated prancing about

like kangaroos. For mine, I would have been concerned about my "embouchure", but as I said in the article, the general public thought they were the best by a mile. I recently attended the Brisbane Festival International Tattoo where the Kiwi Army Band performed their marching display, very similar to 1988. They were funny, outrageous in fact and went over very well with the crowd, but on a musical scale of 1-10 would have rated a 6 in my opinion, compared to the 8's and 9's of other bands in attendance. They are **still a brass band in 1996**, which explains to me why they would "take a punt" on their embouchures by playing when hopping, running and performing other musically dangerous manoeuvres

.Neville goes on to say that he agrees with my comments about the Navy Band uniform on parade, and prefers the old Marine rig, but we all know that a return to that would be impossible, so he suggests that the "square rig" as pictured last newsletter would look quite presentable with a white lanyard.

He concludes by mentioning that nothing compares with marching in front of a very competent band, be it brass or concert, when they are playing "**Dunedin**" or "**Harlequin**", and his biggest thrill was being in the massed bands of the RAN and Royal Marines during a parade through Sydney having worked up for a week..... "**a great experience**".

Thanks, Nev. That is what we need.....more comment!

### OUT OF THE BLUE

A letter arrived from a gentleman I have just met, Ray Ward, who was one of the first RANR bandies to join RUSHCUTTER when the "Rockie" band was formed in 1950 under Commissioned Bandmaster Alan Bird. Ray had received a newsletter passed on by a member, and another member was recruited.

In his most interesting letter, Ray (02) 94282971, mentions his time on board VENGEANCE, including the fact that only one musician/bugler was on board when the Rushcutter band joined the ship on 6 June 1953 to act as ship's band for 2 weeks. The ship sailed for various trials, and the Bandmaster had some trouble locating the dots for the official ship's march, "Sambre et Meuse". He managed to get a copy, only to see it blown away one day at sea. Ray informs us that the ship's crest was three daggers and the motto..."I Strike, I Cover". He has some photos which will be copied for us from his "historical file" which will be very interesting for the future.

I was amazed that Ray mentioned he was in Lismore from 1963-65 with the GIO and lived very close to my residence of today.

Welcome aboard, Ray.

### LIFT YOUR ACT, HAWKINS

Since last July when I received his resignation, I have been intrigued why Col Harkin asked for his name to be removed from our list. I was throwing out some old files, and came across a letter Col had written to Vic Knowles in 1990, passed on to the Association, which sang the praises of those who kept Ex's in contact, and news of various RAN Bands.

I decided to write to Col asking why he had such a change of heart, and this is his reply (unedited).

Dear Jim,

**In reply to your letter 16.6.96, I vaguely remember my letter of 1990, which I probably wrote because contents of the news letters around that period were in context for me, contained jargon/terminology I was familiar with, including many of the people.**

**The news letter I received just prior to asking to be removed from membership was vastly different. It was difficult to interpret the jargon, the acronyms, ranks and so on. The band branch has changed a lot since we paid off and so have the people, most of whom I've never heard of.**

**There are other reasons.....My job is such that I have to spend considerable time reading a raft of publications to maintain general knowledge of the industry in which I work.**

Can you imagine how frustrating it is to come across the RAN Band News Letter in my reading material, which is written in a language all of it's own needing careful reading to be comprehended, then, face work technical stuff, which is never brief, must be read and understood? The truth is I put the band news letter aside and didn't finish reading it. So, to be fair to you I decided to resign and stop wasting time and money. Put simply, I don't want articles sent to me that I'm not going to read. Let me add, I have cancelled other publications as well for the same reasons.

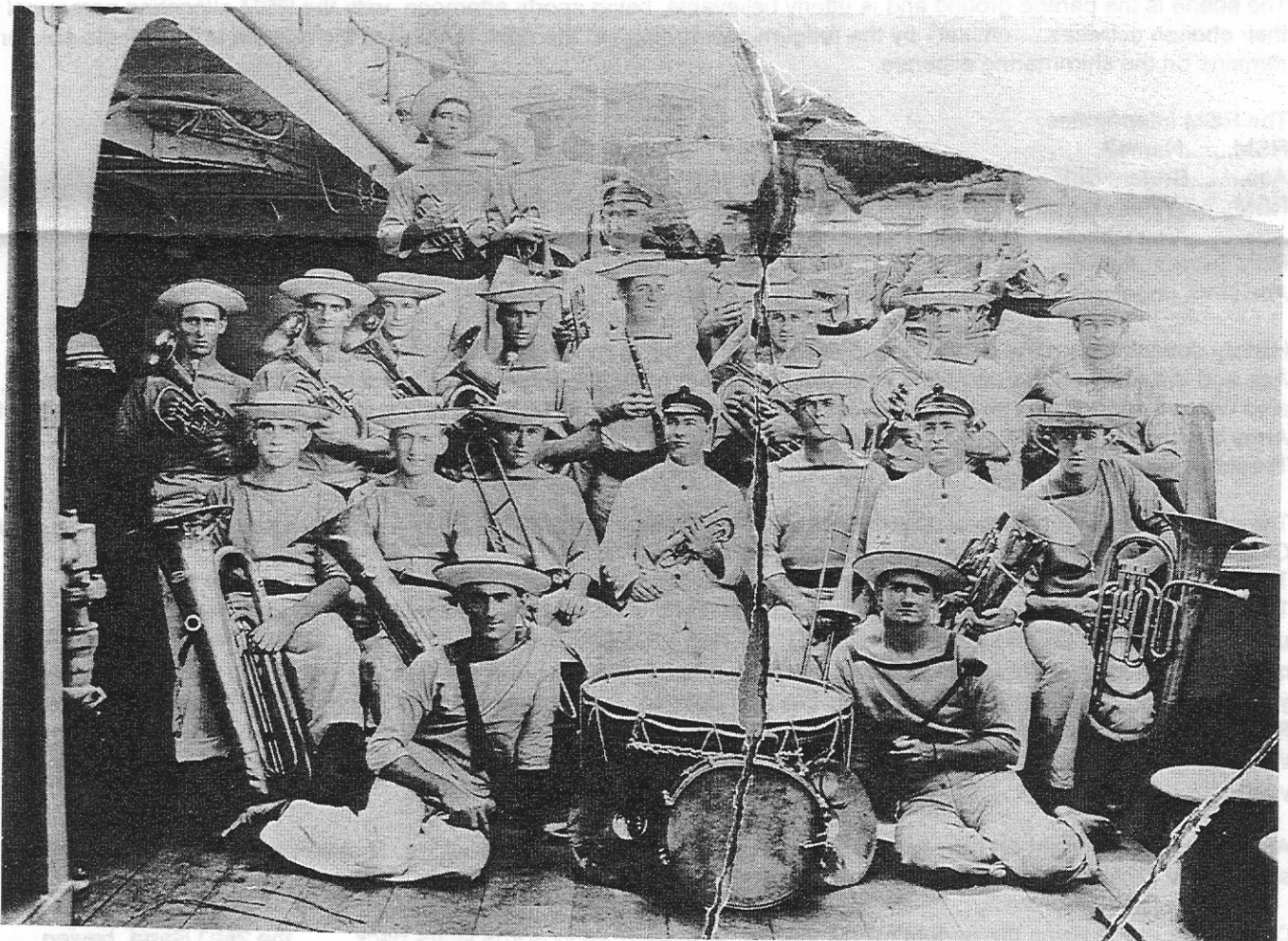
Before I conclude please consider this. The armed services will always be different versus the civilian environment and unless one maintains some contact, individual understanding will fade and that is clearly what has happened to me.

All the best,

Col.

I can only conclude that if one member alone has resigned for these reasons, the rest of you must understand the jargon/terminology (?) used in the newsletter!

I leave you to ponder Col's dilemma.



This very old photo was sent to me some time ago by persons unknown. I have no details about the photo, but guess it would be one of the first taken of a band on board one of the State Navy ships. Do you have any details?

## THE LATE "ACE"

A recent copy of the Army Band Corps newsletter brought back memories of a real character in Service music, the late clarinet/saxophonist 'Ace' Bruton.

Ace was totally "different" in many ways, none the least being his employment into the Army brass band world in the '50's as a reed player. This came about when the late Bandmaster, Eastern Command Lt Bill Pearson decided that items such as **Golden Wedding** needed the real thing, as opposed to a tape heard recently of Harry Berry's Burwood Brass Band recorded late 60's where the piano solo in **String of Pearls** is played **by the drummer!**

According to the A.A.B.C. newsletter, and remembered by this editor (more later), Ace called everyone, from high ranking officers to the local derro, "**Brar**" (Brother), and he kept everyone in the 1956 Olympic Games band entertained with his running commentary while appearing to be "hyped up" where one may be forgiven for thinking he was effected by a chemical "mood enhancer". It was almost impossible to curb this "India Rubber man" as he bounced from one situation to another.

He led a charmed life, and leaving aside the fact that his bearing was un-soldierly and his version of standing to attention was about as motionless as a victim of "St Vitas Dance", his most irritating habit was to continually chatter like a cage full of cockatoos. At Kapooka, a yarn originates about Ace.

The scene is the parade ground and is utterly believable, being sports afternoon, with the RSM allocating personnel to their chosen activities.....cricket - by the redgum, swimming - to the right, tennis - at the rear etc until a single soldier remains on the shimmering expanse.

The RSM interrogates;

RSM,.....Name?

Ace,.....Bruton, Sir!

RSM,.....What do you play?

Ace,.....A saxophone, Sir!

RSM (now agitated).....What sport do you play?

Ace (with impudent asininity).....None Sir, I'm a spectator!

History doesn't record the conclusion to this imbroglio, but is most likely to have involved an 'apoplectic RSM'.

Ace and the Army parted company when he decided to feign 'psychosis' to obtain a medical discharge.....it worked, but also worked against him several years later when brass bands converted to military and Ace decided to re-enlist, but the Army declined to accept the application of a "**Froot Loop**".

Thanks AABC

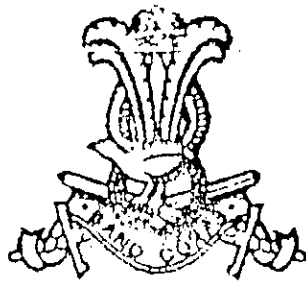
The editor had several musical experiences with Ace during the 1960's when he required a pianist at the NSW Leagues Club, Bowling Club, Kyeemagh (near Brighton-le-Sands NSW).

This new club had all the "mod cons" for musos including a light, sound & curtain control panel on the stage.

The floor show for the evening was the **Scheider Sisters**, a C&W duo, and when the compere announced the usual.....**LADIES & GENTLEMEN, PRESENTING THE WONDERFUL TALENTS OF...THE SCHNEIDER SISTERS**...the quartet began playing the fast 2/4 chaser, and Ace (the 5th member and bandleader) was at the panel busily flicking on yellow, red, green lights whilst the electric curtains opened.....on comes the act.....sing the first three bars of "**Yellow Rose of Texas**" when suddenly the curtain closes around them.....the band "petered out" and Ace looked very pale. Well, Mary Schneider gave him the best "serve" I had ever heard from a female, in fact language I hadn't heard for years.

Anyway, the show went on with Ace leaving the panel alone during proceedings. That same Mary Schneider is the one seen on TV recently murdering the classics by yodelling same!

Dear old Ace was given the perfect farewell when he passed away some years back.....the **2MD Band**, having finished their regular Sydney Cenotaph gig drove out in the bus to an Eastern Suburbs cemetery, and unbeknown to the Rabbi (Ace was the other Jewish member of the Army Band) alighted from the bus, and played several of his favourite tunes, then left the scene and allowed the family to mourn. Vale one of the funniest blokes I have ever met.



Someone in the Army Band had a great sense of humour when the ladies were first admitted into the Corps!

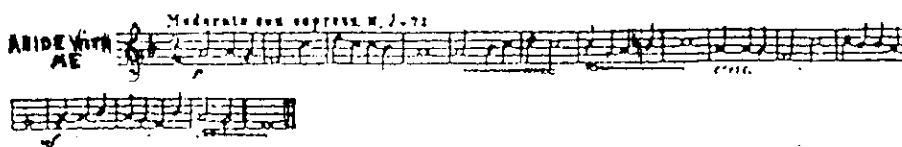
Sorry the reproduction wasn't up to scratch once the original was reduced to fit into the newsletter.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND CORPS

# Standard Audition

All applicants must competently perform the following as indicated.

Men's Test Piece



## PRELUDE AND THE LAST HOPE IN C AND C# MINOR (from the Opera Marche de Lolo (March of the Ducks))

TRADITIONAL  
Arranged by  
JOHN STUMP  
Op. 43, No. 9

Women's Test Piece



### IT ONLY TAKES ONE!

Prior to the Melbourne reunion, a non member who shall remain nameless, made enquiries about the weekend, and indicated he wished to attend the Saturday evening dinner.

He was asked to forward his cheque/money order to the Association as bookings for the dinner were essential.

Having not heard from him up to the Saturday in question, it was assumed he changed his mind and wasn't attending.

Come the Saturday night, there he was, large as life, telling the Treasurer that his cheque had been posted.

Treasurer Ron suggested he should pay his dinner money, and when the said cheque arrived, it would be destroyed and not cashed.

You guessed it.....no cheque, and this bloke fully intended to bludge on his former workmates.

This type of person is not needed as a member of our Association, and had it not been for the quick thinking of the Treasurer, we would have been out of pocket because we didn't know his address and would have had no hope of chasing him up.

### TARGET PRACTICE

Following reports of an accident during "RIMPAC 96" near Hawaii where a Japanese Navy Ship shot down a carrier-borne U.S. aircraft and both crew ejected safely, my mind immediately went back to the MELBOURNE in 1964 when the band had their action stations on the gunnery direction position and an aircraft towing a "drogue" flew past the ship.

The gallant gunners on the bofors began firing, and their tracer shells showed that they had missed their target by a mile!

One of the wags said....."I wouldn't be that pilot for quids.....the safest place would be in the target"!

It looks like history has repeated itself because the Navy Jet was towing a target when shot down.

The Japanese have "apologised" to the US Government.

### HOME AGAIN

Intrepid traveller Gordon (Pud) Jackson is back on Australian soil following his stint in Saudi Arabia, and says to all **"we are so fortunate to live in this country and I'm more than pleased to be back. I did my short time with the Arabs (bad choice of words, Pud) and I won't be going back that way again in a hurry"**

Gordon is living at 4/8 Deeley St Maylands WA and is on (09) 2728266.

### DIIS FROM DIGGA

Following some very amusing stories from Geoff (Digga) Coutts, our faithful contributor has sent in some more of his memories published below. Geoff served from 1949 until 1975 and his history includes time on or in CERBERUS, ALBATROSS, PENGUIN, RANC CRESSWELL, NIRIMBA, TARANGUA (N.G.), VENGEANCE, SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, ARUNTA and lists his highlights as Foundation Bandmaster of the PNG Band at TARANGUA as well as native labour officer and buffer, Olympic Games 1956, 2 Royal Tours, Expo 70 Japan, "lots of trips to the Far East with time in HMS TERROR Singapore 1969, a tour of Vietnam with the Fleet Band, opening/commissioning Exmouth Gulf, witnessing atomic test in 1952 (Monte Bello Island), Aust/British Tattoo Sydney 1964, and time in the AUSTRALIA as a stoker attached to the Admiral's staff prior to changing to the band.

Geoff also assisted in designing the silver drums, was author of the bugle/drum tutor and Ceremonial Parade Manual plus the percussion syllabus.

With that experience, Geoff has a million 'dits', and here are a few.....

**Way back in the old days when the migrant camp was at Somers and the Depot employed them for domestic, galley and mess hall duties, one Clive Coe (Hambone, early 50's) noticed that they all went home via the West Gate.**

The sentry just waved them through, so Clive got a 'ping' on how to leave the Depot without going through the routine of falling in, being inspected, putting your card in to the cop shop, then on return reporting to them again and having the car inspected for sly grog and the like.

He got dressed in a brown suit, parted his hair in the middle and wore an outlandish tie. He was going to Somerville to get some grog so we could all have a 'smokey'.

He arrived at the West Gate and in his best migrant accent stated.... "Me go to Somers, mate!"

The sentry just waved him on.

On return, the same accent, and was waved straight back into Cerberus. The band had a great smokey and many more after that episode.

The old saying .... "where there's a will there's a way" was certainly true about the Bandies Branch.

On that subject, what happened to all the June/December "piss-ups" at the Crib Point Hall?

They were well organised, with a barrel of beer and bottles for 'afters', great food like chicken, crayfish, turkey, salads all at a nominal fee plus a live show by all and sundry.....one bandie could recite Banjo Patterson drunk or sober, remember him? (yes, Digga, and Michael Higgs has been off the grog for years since.....ED)

### HOW TO BEAT THE SYSTEM

Sitting in my office at the old S.O.M. the dockyard coppers came in to see me about a major crime committed by some "very bad Junior Musicians" ..namely that they had robbed the "goffa" machine, not of money, but of all the goffas.

The Sergeant produced a note written by one of the "criminals", and it read "I.O.U. X amount for the soft drink taken and consumed".

One of the kids, an ex "Mobi", worked out how to get the machines to operate without money. The machine was the chest freezer type and the bottles slid along a track to the exit point where a coin in the slot would release the bottle for consumption (an easier way was to take the top off with an opener and suck the contents through a straw....ED)

Anyway, the little "flea" from the canteen wanted the Juniors charged and fairly danced up and down about the whole episode. After some lengthy conversation we finally got him to agree to the kids paying their I.O.U. and leaving sleeping dogs lie. He agreed, but to get revenge he took the machine away and lost a good source of revenue.

The Sergeant and myself nearly broke up laughing about the whole episode. "Boys will be boys."

### A MAN CALLED BLUE (HORSE)

I never knew anyone like "Blue" Blatch who could get himself into trouble with such ease. His deeds are classics.

Blue was on SYDNEY as a bugler and lived in the watchkeepers mess.

One time he was down in the showers below the mess getting ready to go ashore, and in the meantime the kellick of the mess, a Leading Seaman Gunnery Jack, was entertaining his fiance in the mess above.

Blue came up the ladder with just a towel wrapped around his "comic cuts", leapt up to the hammock bar, dropped the towel, swung on the bar and sung the popular advertising jingle of the day..... "Eat me, cause I'm a Peters Ice Cream".

The fiance and kellick's mouths fell open (bad choice of words again, Digga....ED) and the rest of the mess roared with laughter.

Blue spied the girl, and sheepishly dropped to the deck, as red as his complexion, and retreated down the ladder and yelled for some clothes. He got the nickname "horse" from then on

The same bloke had more front than Myers.....I went ashore with him once, he would bowl up to any girl that took his fancy and ask her a very direct question. He claimed he got a lot of knock-backs, but did score quite often.

During our 'run' in WA I met an Ex barmaid who was over there as a "working girl" to earn enough money to put her daughter through High School and Uni back in Sydney. She invited me to the races with four of her "girlfriends". Blue was with me, and the info these girls got from the bookies and jockeys was unreal. We won a packet and returned to their place of work for the rest of the weekend. One of the girls was quite taken with Blue and I didn't see him again until Monday morning. He had a grin from ear to ear.

Apparently he lived up to his name, and the girl wanted him to go back to Sydney with her, but alas, we sailed off into the sunset and broke her heart.

The other episode worth remembering was at CERBERUS when once again, Blue was duty bugler.

He had a habit of standing with his legs wide apart when he played his bugle calls, and he was into the first bar of "wakey wakey" when the QM decided to give Blue a "gotcha".

He stopped the bugle call mid-stream and said loudly, "You bloody bastard" which of course went right around

the Depot on the open piping system. He got 14 days "Jenkas" for that little lot.

Another time he had to play tubular bells for Sunday Church Parade. Hymn-like tunes were played for about 15 minutes before the Service. Blue played a few tunes, then burst forth with "On Top of Old Smokey". He told the O.O.D. when run-in that it was a Salvation Army Hymn titled "I'm Glad I'm a Christian" from the Salvo's red book.....he was legit, but copped another lot of punishment for not sticking with the programme. Poor old Horse!

Thanks, Digga. Another great list of stories from the past.

Just a message from the Editor.

If anyone takes offence with any of the stories printed in this newsletter or phrases used, please remember that this newsletter is published for Ex Musicians/Bandsmen, and is not the "War Cry" or the Chaplain's Newsletter. Stories will be told as they occurred without stooping to absolute gutter language, even if it was used originally.

.....ED.

### THE ROYAL MARINES

Some time back it was mentioned that the Royal Marine Band Service was down to 2 bands, and last issue we mentioned that the School of Music was closing down.

We were wrong about the amount of bands now serving, as a programme given to me June this year will attest.

The **Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines** under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel R A Waterer performed "Beating Retreat" on Horse Guards Parade, 11, 12 and 13 June 1996.

Five bands were involved, and these were;  
Portsmouth  
Plymouth  
Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines  
Scotland  
Britannia Royal Naval College

.....so we were slightly out with our story.

We were correct, though, when we said ladies were now serving in the band, and the School of Music, Deal, Kent, has closed it's doors, and re-opened at HMS NELSON, Portsmouth.

One very interesting point in the programme given to me was that all RM Bands are still orchestras, as we were prior to 1962. Another point which caught my eye was the admission price to attend a concert at the Guildhall City of London by the massed bands on 22 October 1996. Only **50 Pounds per person!**

Now this does include a buffet supper & wine **during interval** (not much time to get your fill), but at around \$100 Aust., we should never complain about forking out \$5 or \$10 to see a Service Band concert.

### ANOTHER HOSPITALISATION

Just missed in our June newsletter was the news that Ron (Akky) Large, cornet/drums 50's, 60's (0755) 763862 was due into Murwillumbah NSW hospital to undergo knee replacement surgery. Ron has had considerable problems with his knees for years, and wife Fran told me that the operation had been performed, and "Akky" was in a lot of pain, but looking forward to getting home.

Once this knee is OK he will need another operation for the other (no jokes about buying your slippers, Akky) in around 6 months time.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

## War service medal commitment honoured

THE Federal Government will honour a controversial election commitment to widen the entitlement of ex-service personnel to military medals.

Defence Industry, Science and Personnel Minister Bronwyn Bishop has been under pressure to modify or drop the proposal.

But Mrs Bishop told the Victorian RSL conference in Melbourne yesterday that the commitment to give an estimated 100,000 ex-servicemen and women an extra medal would be honoured.

"The regulations that the Governor-General had to make

are made. We are still awaiting the changes that Her Majesty the Queen had to make," she said.

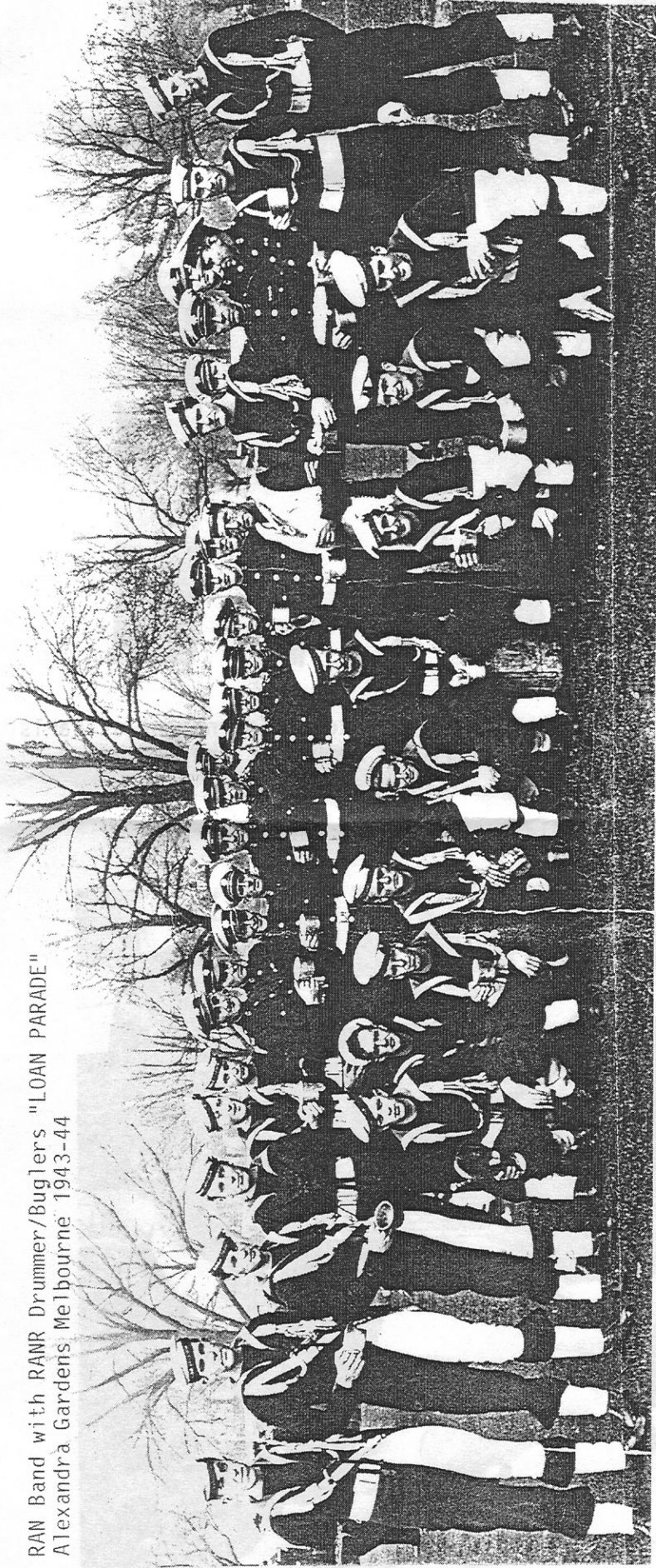
The decision means all defence force personnel who served overseas for 30 days or more between 1945 and 1975 — except Vietnam veterans who have their own service medal —

will be eligible for the Australian Service Medal (ASM).

In addition, the government will reduce the qualifying period for the 1939-45 ASM from 18 months to 30 days, and cut the qualifying time for the Volunteer Defence Corps medal 1939-1945 from three years to six months.

TELEGRAPH  
MIRRO

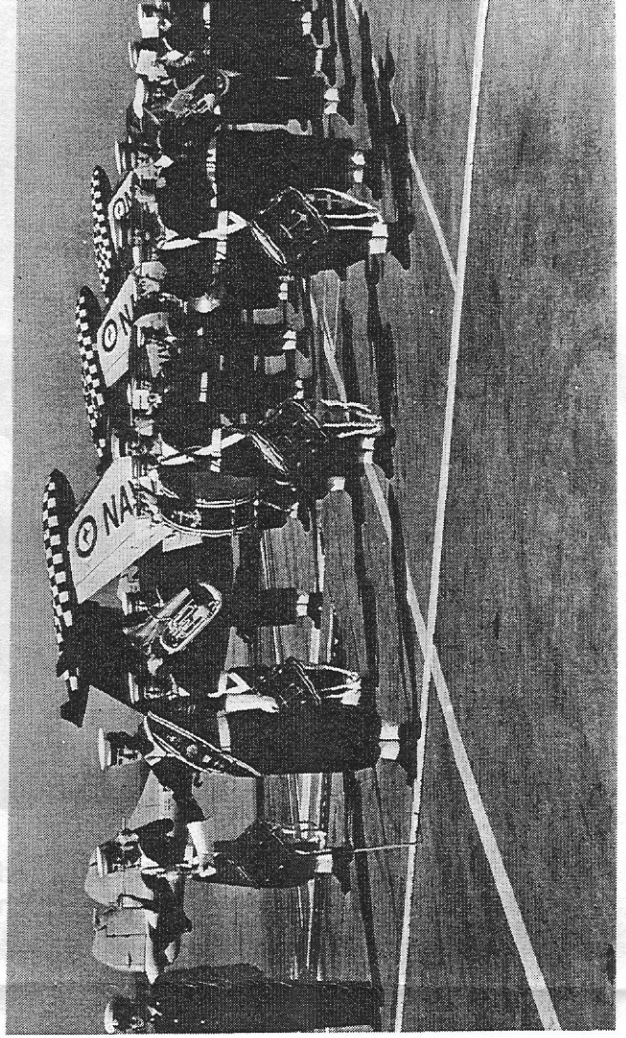
RAN Band with RANR Drummer/Buglers "LOAN PARADE"  
 Alexandra Gardens Melbourne 1943-44



Above photo courtesy Ron Bergman who has many of this era.  
 Ron showed me several during the '96 reunion, most too large  
 to reproduce in the newsletter.

Right. Fleet Band late 1962, Lt Tom Lambert RM, Bandmaster.  
 PO Drum Major, Ted Lincoln. Front row, (L/R) John  
 Roche, Speed Halliday, Paul Reid, Richie Watson. Mal (Buggsy)  
 Willshire, cymbals, and Ernie Plester, eupho.  
 Sea Venom jets behind band.

(HMAS Melbourne)





A Tri-Service Australian Band visited the UK in 1987 for the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. Pictured above, Leading Seaman "Timber" Mills with a member of the RAF dog handling team.

Below, Leading Seaman Ken Lincoln meets "The Old Bill" outside Earls Court.



THE OLD BILL'S REGIMENTAL MUSEUM  
AS THE AUSTRALIAN BAND'S FRIENDS

## THE VIETNAM LIST

I acquired a recent publication from the Department of Veterans' Affairs of an updated list of those who served in and around Vietnam between 1962 & 1973 including names of entertainers, civilians not previously listed.

I thought we may be able to publish a list of personnel of various RAN Bands who served there, but the book only lists names in alphabetical order, with official numbers, and a code showing which ship or unit each person served in.

The only mention of bands is that of the Fleet Band personnel who toured the country around 1970 (photos shown in Feb. 1996 newsletter), and even some of those who were in that band don't get a mention. Mal Torry is not on the list of those who served in Vietnam at all, and several musicians are not credited for that "in country" tour under LT Bill Farrell.

The Department of Defence has been contacted and told of their omissions.

In the list of official entertainers (there were several "unofficial" concert groups who weren't sanctioned by the Government) is the name J. Leslie, who I would guess is member John Leslie, former percussionist RAN 50's, 60's.

I was told that Ron (Petals) Carkeet (eupho) went ashore to go on tour with the Fleet Band, but suffered a severe bout of diarrhoea, and was placed in a US hospital for the duration. He may be the only bandie who was hospitalised "in country" during the Vietnam conflict?

Another of life's little mysteries is the listing in the book of Gullick, N. C., shown as unit/ship "unknown".

It is interesting to note that in the RAAF section, The Central Band of the RAAF is listed as having toured South Vietnam on one occasion..

We would all be aware that many ARMY musicians served there, some with great distinction, but they are only listed amongst the thousands as members of various battalions.

## ANOTHER OLYMPIC MEMORY

Alan Hogg (03) 98029963, long time member of the Melbourne Rockies wrote with a very good tale of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, and said that as a National Serviceman of that time, he was fortunate to be included in the band for the opening ceremony, and the band which played the various anthems for gold medal winners.

Having practised the anthems of the most likely countries to win medals for a couple of weeks, the band most capably carried out its duty at the various events.

During the triple jump, a new Olympic record was set by V. Einarsson from Iceland, and as the contestants prepared for their final jump, CPO Lunn told the band to open the blue National Anthem books to the Iceland anthem.

**What shock and horror to read, after the heading ICELAND....."Band parts of the Icelandic National Anthem are issued by the Superintendent, RN School of Music, on demand by ships visiting or likely to visit Iceland".**

When asked....."What do we do now, Chief?"

The Chief, being a very religious man replied....."Everybody pray!"

Fortunately, the power of prayer prevailed and **Ferreira da Silva** of Brazil jumped a new record of 16.35m and we had the Brazilian National anthem.

Iceland had sent a team of three to Melbourne and I have often wondered which anthem we would have played if the Icelander had won!

It just so happens that National anthems were recorded at all Olympic Games from 1960 onwards.

Alan goes on to say how great it was to see so many of the old faces at CERBERUS in April, and thanks the Committee for their hard work in organising such a great weekend.

Thanks, Alan.

## SLEUTHING

I was asked by a few people about a comment made by Ern Trotter, President AABC Association in his letter to me, published last newsletter, where he mentioned some "sleuthing" which took place to locate an old Digger from their band.

I received a phone call earlier this year from Ern asking for assistance in locating the widow of a former bandsman who had recently passed away, and thought to have lived in Ballina NSW. The Army wanted to do an obituary as this chap had won the Military Medal in Korea whilst there as a bandsman.

For the sake of privacy, let's say I was asked to locate the widow of John Henry Smith, trombone, Korean service.

I contacted the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch, and yes, they knew of John Smith who had passed away a few months earlier. His widow's phone number is 999999. I duly phoned Mrs Smith, and explained that the Army Band Corps Association wished to interview her and was her husband John Smith who played the trombone?

"Yes".

Did Mr Smith serve in Korea and win the Military Medal?

**NO!**

She explained that her late husband had served in the Army Band, played trombone, but served in the 2nd World War.

I thanked her for her time, and contacted a mate in the Sydney headquarters of the RSL who informed me that the gentleman I was making enquiries about was alive and presumably well, and lived near Richmond NSW.

I informed Ern Trotter that their information was a little premature, and that two former bandsmen, with exactly the same name and who played the same instrument had served in the Army Band. They were not related.

It just shows how mistakes can be made, because they had received a "buzz" that a former comrade had passed away, and the news of his death would have been very embarrassing had this gone to print.

We received news that a former DOM had passed away recently, and when I phoned his wife to check on the facts, he was just walking in the front door!

Vic was relieved that his name was not in the death notices of the local paper.

## A GREAT SELECTION

For those interested in military band recordings, I was sent a catalogue of British CD's now available in Australia at the **ANZAC MEMORIAL**, Hyde Park, Sydney, telephone (02) 92677668, and distributed by **Bandleader**, Melbourne.

The list sent to me contains some 45 choices ranging from the Big Dance Band of the RAF to the Massed Bands of the Guards, Royal Marine Bands various, most of the British Army Bands and live recordings of various Royal Tournaments. Also, a few Canadian Service Band CD's. It is by far the best selection of military band recordings I have seen.

All CD's are \$29.95, plus \$5 postage per order.

At the other end of the price scale, and for those living in or visiting Sydney, don't miss a visit to the lower end of Pitt St and the 4 second hand record/tape/CD/book shops just near Goulburn St. For as little as \$1, some old band recordings are available, most in pretty good condition, and usually a good selection to choose from.

In Melbourne, I found a shop almost opposite the Town Hall (Batman Music, I think) which actually have their band CD's etc sorted, albeit a little expensive for a 2nd hand store with CD's ranging from \$16.95 to \$18.95

**VOLVO**

GOLD COAST EUROPEAN AUTOMOBILES  
17 Ferry Road  
Southport, Qld. 4215  
Telephone: (07) 5532 6288  
Fax: (07) 5532 8981



Ken Summerson  
Manager

## OUR DIRECTORS

I spoke to two of our former DOM's in July, namely Don Coxon and Jim McDonough.

Don, (03) 97292652, is still in charge of the music department at Brighton Grammar (Vic) and told me that he had been in hospital earlier in the year having several growths removed. His doctor decided it was time for the operation, and thankfully the cancer has been halted.

Jim McDonough (0755) 732112, is also having medical problems, but not to the same degree he suffered whilst in Melbourne for the reunion. He lost his mother one week after the April get-together and had to fly back to Melbourne for the funeral. Jim's brother came out from the UK at the same time.

I passed on our sympathy.

## ANOTHER RETIREE

Maxwell Hassall, bass (50's, 60's, 70's) phoned to say he has retired from the Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club (Sydney) and has moved to 84 Coral Tree Lodge Greenwell Point (044) 471990 near Nowra on the South Coast of NSW.

Max said he was in the local pub and heard a voice say....."shut-up or I'll sool Deano onto you", and sure enough it was Doug Dean, trombone 60's-70's rather the worse for wear.

They had a yarn, but Doug took a while to figure out who Max was.

Some would remember Max's early club days when he was a part-time supervisor at Burwood RSL and helped many bandies get part-time bar work, then he paid off and worked for 11 years at Leichhardt RSL as Assistant Manager before progressing to Secretary Manager at Marrickville.

He was part of the HMAS SYDNEY Band for the Coronation Cruise in 1953, then paid off later in the 50's, re-entering in 1966 and staying for his 20 years. During that time Max returned to the UK on MELBOURNE for the 1977 Silver Anniversary Cruise when only 5 of the ship's company had been on SYDNEY for the Coronation Cruise. Max and the four others were introduced to Earl Mountbatten, later assassinated by the IRA.

Max phoned his former secretary and told her he was having problems with his decision-making in retirement.

When she asked him what he meant, he told her he couldn't make up his mind whether to get up at 9am or half past!

I'll probably get into trouble if I don't mention that former DOM Bill Farrell was one of the five on board MELBOURNE who had been to the UK in 1953, and that current DOM Ashley Greedy was in Fleet Band for that cruise..

"Fall out the Roman Catholics" was the order of the day when the band were introduced to His Holiness the Pope in Rome during the return trip.

## THEY'RE TRYING TO DRIVE US CRAZY

Remember many newsletters back we featured the photo of the Army Reserve drummer at the Adelaide 1965 tattoo who was playing his side drum back-to-front?

Not to be outdone, a **whole drum corps** in the 1996 Sydney Anzac Day march were doing the same thing!

They weren't Cadets, nor a junior school band either, but real live adults.

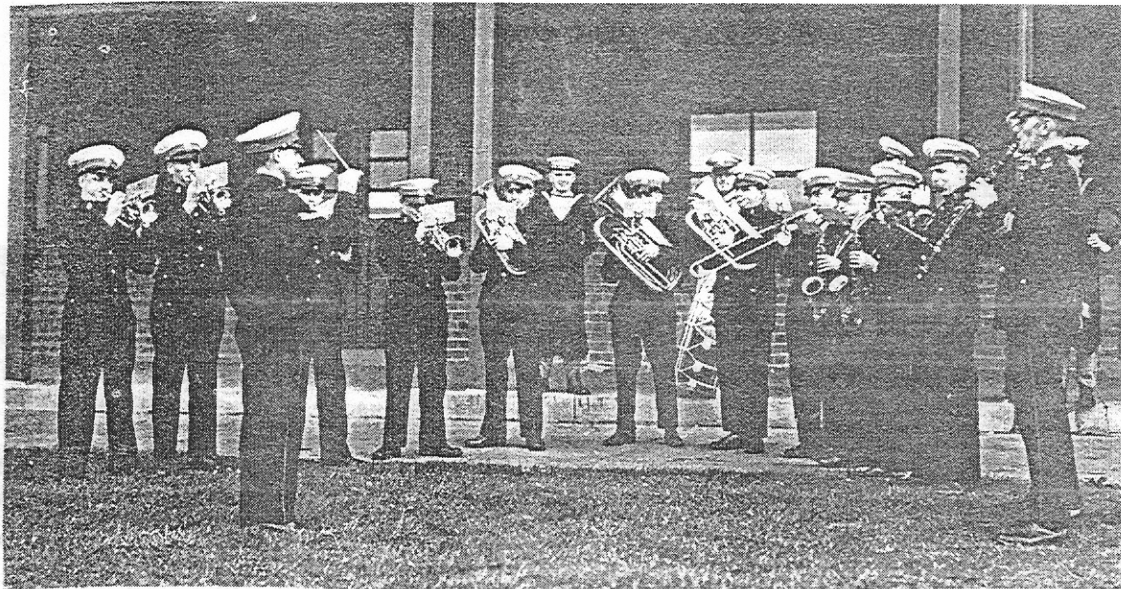
I didn't catch the name of the band, but heard the commentators mention that it was a church band made up of Pacific Islanders now living in Australia, so watch out for them if you receive TV transmission of the Sydney march.

Another example of someone deciding to change "the accepted" is that of the producers of a TV Programme shown on SBS and originating from the UK titled "**The secret life of machines**" where a product such as a washing machine or TV set is pulled apart and minutely examined.

The theme music for the programme is Dave Brubeck's "**Take Five**" obviously written in five four time.

Not on this programme, though.....it has been changed to **four four!**

(bloody hard to play the sax solo)

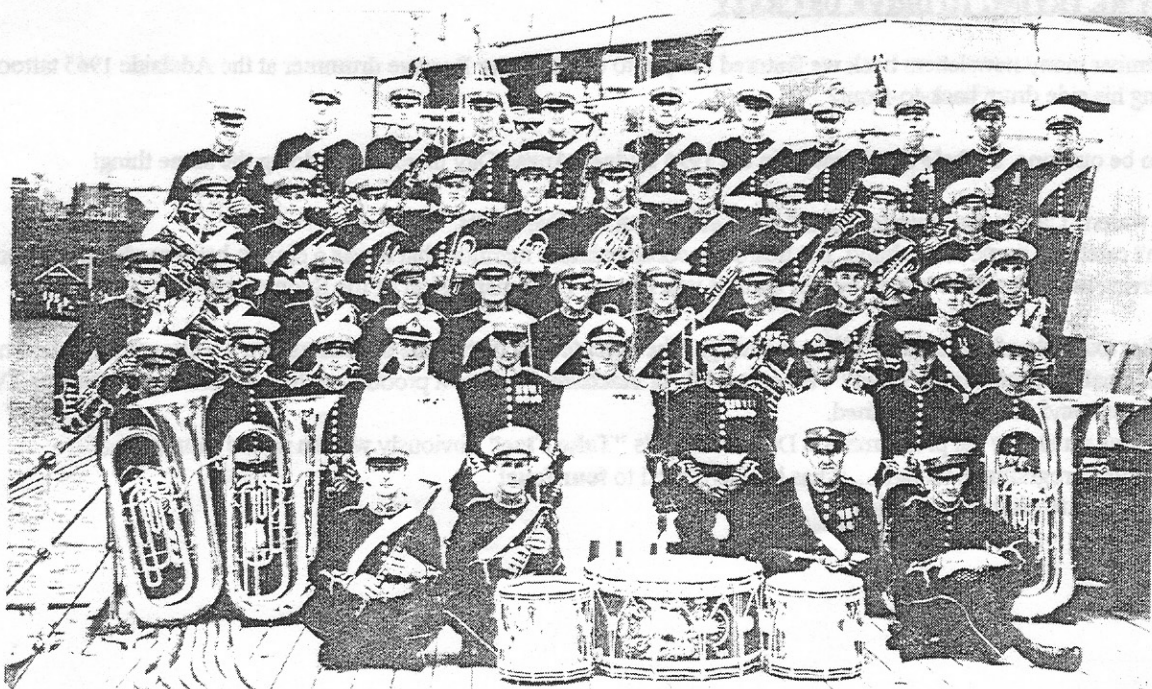


From a collection of photos of the late Hec Napier. These photocopies were sent to us when Hec passed away. We hope to contact Mrs Napier regarding the originals.

TOP Flinders Naval Depot lunchtime band....Bandmaster Frank Selwood....Hec Napier 2nd from left.

MIDDLE March past Melbourne 1937.

BELOW A very large band on board HMAS ???  
The only writing on the back of the photo says "Rear Admiral Lane Pool" (or Lane-Tool) and "Hec Napier, 2nd back row, 5th from left."



## TREASURER'S REPORT AS AT 30/5/96

A very successful year for the Association has just passed. Membership has increased, largely from an influx of WW2 Veterans, and Reservists, however, that unexpected "Odd Bod" occasionally turns up!

The Victorian Branch hosted a very successful Reunion and Dedication and your Committee is most grateful to all concerned.

We had a large advertising bill in order to contact as many WW2 Vets. as possible, and of course there was the Plaque etc. In both these matters we were lucky (?)....thanks to some sweet talking by Happy Jack....in obtaining a grant from D.V.A. and another from the Australia Remembers Committee.

You are no doubt aware of annual fee increases to \$15. This is to cover the increase in printing and postage costs, also a third issue of the newsletter each year. Although the financial situation is quite healthy at the moment, it must be borne in mind that some members have paid many years in advance, so it is important to keep up with your subs.

I must thank all those who responded so swiftly to my "little reminders".....many thanks.

Ronald K. Henry  
Hon. Treasurer

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
1.7.95 Brought forward	1057.45	Printing	1057.13
Grant; Aust Remembers	300.00	Postage	828.08
Grant, D.V.A.	500.00	Stationery	264.32
Fees-donations-		Merchandise	556.00
Merchandise-raffles	4644.12	Advertising	442.80
Interest	72.32	Plaque	255.00
		Wreath	20.00
Total Income	6573.91	Bank charge	25.00
		Debit Tax	17.50
Stock in hand		F.I.D.	5.60
Hats-28	336.00		
Patches-94	376.00	Total outlay	3748.69
total	712.00		
Income	6573.91		
Expenditure	3748.69		
Current bank balance	2825.22		

(signed) Ronald K Henry, Hon. Treasurer.

FROM THE TREASURER Please remember your annual subs were due here last August!!!!!!!  
Phone me on (066) 869137 if you aren't sure where you're at.

.....  
\$15 ANNUAL SUBS.....\$15 ANNUAL SUBS.....\$15 ANNUAL SUBS.....\$15 ANNUAL SUB

NAME.....ADDRESS.....

P/CODE.....TELEPHONE.....AMOUNT ENCL.....

New Members only Years Served (1951-68).....Instrument.....

Ships/Depots.....

(Please make cheques/money orders out to Royal Australian Navy Band Association)

**MERCHANDISE** I require the following;

Embroidered patch @ \$4 plus \$1 P&P (amount) \$.....

Corduroy Cap with patch @ \$12 plus \$5 P&P \$.....

**The following questionnaire, when completed, will be greatly appreciated by organisers.  
(This is not a booking....only an indication of your intention to attend)**

I/We plan to be in Perth, September 1998 for the reunion.....Y/N

I/We plan to travel by.....(nominate mode of transport)

I/We plan to attend the 2000 Sydney reunion.....Y/N

I/We would be interested in a harbour cruise/visit to Spectacle Island Naval Museum  
and the National Maritime Museum if this can be arranged.....Y/N

I/We would appreciate organised hotel accomodation near the city.....Y/N

I am prepared to participate in the 2000 Anzac Day Parade Band.....Y/N

My instrument is....., I can provide this & lyre.....Y/N

I will need to borrow a .....

**Thankyou for your answers.** Many more details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Please send to.....**THE SECRETARY, 80 BALLINA RD GOONELLABAH NSW 2480 ASAP.**

**STOP PRESS**

**Victorian Chapter representative Phil Hopkins has notified us of a Victorian get-together on SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER 1996 at:**

Barry and Pat Pollock's house  
7 Burnley St  
FRANKSTON VIC

It's a bar-b-que and everyone is welcome. Please phone Barry or Pat on (03) 97837171 for details of times and catering/drink arrangements.

.....

Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Keep those stories coming in and we'll be in contact early February 1997.

**HAPPY JACK.**