



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1997

Editor Jim Hawkins

Greetings, and a happy New Year one and all.

It has been a very interesting four months since the last newsletter with a lot of comment from members.

Sadly, one of our members Graeme Feltham told me that his wife Ellen had lapsed into a coma last October and I'm sure our thoughts go out to Graeme, Vicky, Jacqui and their families during this most difficult time.

The response to our questionnaire has been quite good, and Perth '98 looks like being a great reunion with many more than expected indicating their attendance. Don't forget, you Perth natives, we do need to know your plans as well! I haven't had many responses from the "Sandgroppers" and I do trust you all come along September 1998 when your Capital City hosts the Eastern invasion.

Bill Farrell told me in 1994 that he didn't expect a big roll-up, and I'm sure we will prove him wrong.

Sydney 2000, just over 3 years away, looks like being a huge success. The Anzac Day parade band idea has been greeted enthusiastically with some suggestions being "taken on board.". Rocky Parnell suggested that for those of us who are quite "rusty", the march cards could be posted out to those who ask for them, and that the Victorian chapter could hold their own mini-rehearsals prior to attending the reunion (any old excuse for a bar-b-que!). Great idea Rocky.

Mention last issue of the NSW Police Bands' performance at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian mardi-gras brought comment from their Musical Director by way of a letter stating that the band had never performed at that event. I invited D S Williams (I assume Mr) to forward any retraction sent to the Sydney newspaper whose clipping was reproduced so we could print it here, but as of going to print, no such retraction has been received. Articles reproduced from newspapers and the like are done so in good faith. I wouldn't want to upset our NSW Police Band friends.

Gordon Crompton sent a copy of the Olympic Newsletter, a periodical for members of the Sydney Olympic Supporters. His boss, the Victorian Supreme Court Judge is a member of this organisation.

They are still getting it wrong!

In the historical section under "Melbourne 1956" the publication (which is the official history of all Olympic Games) states;

"There followed a display by the massed bands of the Australian Army representing all Commands and numbering 220 players. One formation in the display which won special applause was the presentation of simultaneous marching and playing which resolved into a design of the five interlocking rings of the Olympic symbol".

Now we all know that the RAN Band was mistaken for Army back then by many people, and some suggest this was the main reason the uniform changed in 1960, but wouldn't you think that it would be corrected by now?

Last year at the Surfers Indicar Race the RAN Band was referred to as "The Band of the RAAF", pretty hard to confuse the two unless the commentator is a blithering idiot, but very petty stuff compared to the official history of the Olympics!

On with the missive.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to you all, I trust you had a great festive season and are prepared for an adventurous year ahead.

Looking around the Internet last year I came across an article regarding Military Bands in Canada. Jim has included it in this bulletin for your information. Seems that in this time of relative peace our politicians see that Defence is the best and least sensitive in vote-catching area to put the razor through. I understand that there will be an announcement regarding the future of several areas of the defence forces made in early March. There are a number of members who have access to the Internet now. If you drop me an e-mail at bedwell@tac.nlc.net.au with your e-mail address if there is anything you want to appear in the newsletter.

Royal Australian Navy Band Sydney came up to Gosford again last September and combined with my band in a very successful concert to a full house. I am very impressed with the attitude and performance skills displayed by the members of RAN Band Sydney. My band members gain an enormous amount by being able to play alongside players of a higher calibre and they have looked forward to the visit each time.

Last June (96) I saw Maurie Jeff in Wollongong and snatched a few minutes with him as I was preparing to take the stage in the National Concert Band Championships. I am pleased to welcome 'Moose' as a new member of our Association along with.....Bob Gwynne, Len Western, Les Church, Ray Ward, Martin Wootton, Geoff Devonshire, Bob Bentley and Bill Rebbeck. Welcome to you all and I trust you enjoy your Association as much as many others do.

The interest in a band of Ex's marching at the year 2000 ANZAC Day parade in Sydney has been extraordinary. Looks like those of us with legs will have to make the effort. I was at an auction of ex-Army Band instruments at Holsworthy recently and lo and behold Melody Pleass and Colleen were there scavenging. Well! Melody became the proud owner of an Imperial 4 valve Euphonium that day and has been 'practising' for the big parade. Melody rings me every so often and says the euph is for sale. We shall see!

Jim and Ron tell me there are a few members who have not kept up their membership...a couple up to two years. Please do not be offended if you receive a follow-up note or call. Your committee is only trying to look after the interests of the Association as well as its members.

Remember, keep the 'dits' coming in to Jim and spread the word and let any ex-bandies as well as current serving bandies know of you Association and invite them to join. Remember this is your Association and needs your support for it's 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 feeling poorly.

Regards,

Rob Bedwell

NEWS JUST TO HAND

Bill Farrell phoned the night before going to print to let members know that the next reunion will take place on **Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th October 1998.**

Most of the reunion will be held at Fremantle. Many more details and functions to attend will be published as they come to hand.

Bill and Maxine were greeted at Perth airport recently on returning from an overseas holiday by brand-new and so far **only** grandchild **Teagan Elizabeth** born on Boxing Day to mum Sally Anne and dad Shane Cross.

Congratulations to all concerned.

I remember Sally Anne's Christening on the quarterdeck of **MELBOURNE** when the Flagship visited Port Melbourne in 1964.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

A shake of the head to clear the Xmas cobwebs, a deep breath of fresh air, and on we go into '97.

Having only returned from leave on Monday 13th for the Sydney Band and the 20th for the Cerberusites, there is not a lot planned yet as far as commitments go for the immediate future, although the usual round of Hobart Regatta, Navy Week Darwin and other 'hardy annuals' seems certain.

Following my promotion and a restructuring within Naval Support Command Headquarters, the Directorate (myself, WO Beavan Andrews and LSSN Andy Porter) will move to the HQ at Pyrmont where besides being DMUS-N, I will take over as Staff Officer, Ceremonial, with a WOQMG and a POQMG on that part of my staff. It's a challenge but I feel it's logical for the Band and Ceremonial to be co-managed.

Some of you may have read or heard of a 'Defence Efficiency Review' initiated by the Minister and to be finalised by March 1st. It will look at all sections of Defence including the Public Service supposedly to reduce waste and remove duplication. It is fair to say that all ADF Bands will again come under scrutiny and we all can only hope for Navy that it is not 1972 revisited.

As it is, I only have 80 people filling 96 positions over the entire branch. At least it will be only a short wait to know the outcome.

On a brighter note (F sharp), LS Debbie Neil (Oboe) was awarded an 'Australia Day Medallion' for her outstanding efforts on Oboe, Keyboards and Vocals. Such recognition for our musicians brings great credit to the branch as a whole, so "well done" Debra.

A new LSMUSN course in February will see five candidates of which four are BMUS. We are about to see a return to the 'Mickey Mouse Killick' days in a big way.

The new complex in the Cerberus Theatre is finished at last with the 'Official Opening' on either 26 or 28 FEB. LEUT Phil Anderson and the Melbourne band should finally have a decent rehearsal and concert venue after 80 odd years of being Gypsies.

Enough from me, I look forward to reading the other gossip and yarns in this edition and wish you all a prosperous 1997.

Regards,

Ashley Greedy AM, LRAM,
Commander RAN
Director of Music-Navy

******PS The opening is either 26 or 28 FEB (to be confirmed), limited seating is available by contacting LEUT Phil Anderson on 059 507200.**

MORE MEDAL INFO

Further to last issue and mention of the Australian Service Medal 45-75 (clasp Far East Strategic Reserve), I was in contact with the medals department, Navy Office and asked about the actual criteria for the awarding of this medal. Suffice to say, the Canberra bureaucrats will not be releasing this information, so I suggest that if you served on the ships mentioned below around the dates mentioned, **apply anyway!** Some members have received theirs after a 5 month delay, but there is still confusion as to who is entitled. For instance, President Rob received the Vietnam Logistical Support Medal for service on MELBOURNE in 1966, and was also on board in 1967. I think this trip will qualify him for the ASM, so once again, **if in doubt....apply! (application form in this newsletter)**. The information received here previously is **more than likely** the criteria used to award this medal.

That is;

Crew who served on MELBOURNE between 21 September 1956 & 12 July 1970.

STALWART between 9 May 1970 & 15 July 1970.

SYDNEY between 21 September 1956 & 8 November 1956.

Those on VENGEANCE do not appear to have accumulated enough qualifying days.

SYDNEY crew during the Vietnam / Vung Tau trips **may be entitled** if you completed a lot of trips, and the only way to find out is by applying. .

If you made a "one-off" trip "up top" on any other ship, apply now.

If in doubt, apply anyway! This will only cost you a 45c stamp and envelope.

We have been as careful as possible to get the facts correct, but no responsibility is taken by the Association for any dates published above.

Getting information from Canberra is like pulling wisdom teeth!

The address to apply is on the application form.

THE Y.C.W. DANCE

Tasmanian Rep. Michael (Asp) Wheldon (03) 63318602 was thrilled to bits when he saw the photo of the YCW dance band on page one, last issue.

Michael remembers an evening in the old hut in 1964 when he and a few others convinced CPO "Spruiks" Noonan to allow them to perform one bracket of "**New Herb Alpert Brass arrangements**" and Keijo Ericsson was playing clarinet. The young Wrans loved Keijo (Michael thought it was him they were swooning over) and he had several lined up waiting to be escorted to the Wran Quarters hedge on completion of the dance (that just reminded me of the squad of Wrans marching up to the cinema on movie nights with a red light carried by the rear rank, facing aft for the benefit of traffic!)

He also pointed out that the silver drum from Tasmania was presented much later than 1961 as quoted last issue, and an old Navy News of 1964 bears this out. He is also chasing potential members for the Association including Bob Bentley who is bandmaster of the Burnie City Band, and Brian Ellis, currently Musical Director of the West Tamar Brass Band, a "red hot outfit" according to "Asp". Others being chased include Snow Cronin, David Thompson and J. Riley.

"Asp" concluded his letter by reminding all about "**El Presidente**" Rob ("Doggie") Bedwell (I haven't heard that nickname....ED) during a visit to Hobart in the 60's. It seems they were staying at Hadley's Hotel and Rob was V.P.I (very pissed and incapable), and had just re-decorated the room with the past 3 days food and grog. Henry Morgan told the assembled throng that they should get him to bed "before he spews again", but Rob was having nothing to do with that suggestion, and regurgitated the remainder on all who were trying to lift him into bed..They spent several hours cleaning up the mess, and Michael sends this message....."**Rob, I haven't seen you for 30 years, and that's one beer for every year, and one for every beer you regurgitated that night...60 beers....I'll collect!!!!**"

Michael is still Postal Manager, Launceston and can be contacted on (03) 63319888 during business hours

(I wonder if the members of the Central Coast Concert Band and Forest High Band have heard that little story about the Hobart visit?.....ED)

VALE FRANK WARD 1913-1996

Many who attended the Melbourne reunion last April had the pleasure of meeting one of our 2nd WW Bandsmen, Frank Ward. Sadly, Frank passed away in August, and below is the eulogy given at the funeral by his wartime and civvy mate, Cedric Ashton MBE.

Frank had 3 loves....Dot, his wife & family, music, and the Navy.

My first brief acquaintance with Frank was way back in the 1930's. He was a student at the Conservatorium learning the double bass from Louis Blitz. We were only on nodding terms then. Our paths crossed again in 1935 at the first ABC celebrity concert with the famous conductor Hamilton Harty. We were both in the orchestra, and developed a casual friendship which lasted for some months till Frank left the orchestra. I did come to know that Frank was also a pianist and was passionate in his love for the music of Beethoven.

In 1940 I joined the Navy for war service and it was on my being drafted to HMAS Canberra to my surprise I met Frank again. We became close friends in the subsequent 5 years.

In wartime, there were approximately 1200 men on a heavy cruiser like the Canberra. Each group segmented into, often isolated groups; Seamen, Gunners, Stokers, Signallers, Cooks, Writers etc seldom mixing.

Frank and I were Bandsmen-a small unit of 12 men who, because of our daily appearance, playing on the quarterdeck or playing in the torpedo space, we became well known to the Ship's Company. Frank, even more so because in addition to playing the Bb bass in the band, he played a portable organ each Sunday for the church service.

Frank became very conscious of the group isolation on the ship-and of weeks & months at sea-of the long periods of inaction and boredom. So he got together a small group and formed a choir. It proved popular, & soon became a large choir, taking up a lot of Frank's time & energy, but giving much pleasure to both the performers & audience on the Canberra; and most important it brought together the hitherto isolated groups.

The second demonstration of his caring occurred on the night of the sinking of the Canberra in Aug. 1942. When the order was given to abandon ship, Frank came up on deck to witness a chaotic situation of tangled wreckage and dead and dying sailors. The US destroyer Patterson had come alongside and was taking off the wounded. Because the Canberra was listing badly, it was a hazardous job transferring the wounded to the Patterson. Long table-tops were used to slide the injured men down. Several sailors either side of the table-top were recruited to guide the bodies, restrained by ropes, from falling into the sea. Frank volunteered to help. With the ship's doctor on the opposite side they guided a succession of injured prostrate sailors to the safety of the destroyer.

I mention just two of Frank's kindly selfless actions in his Navy service. In those five years he developed a lasting friendship for many of his messmates and a love for the spirit of the Navy and all it stood for. After demobilization Frank became a member of the Naval Society and persuaded me to join. "They're a fine lot of fellows" he would often say to me; and he would keep me posted on the WW2 Bandsmen whose numbers were getting fewer and fewer.

Before I conclude, I must mention Frank's post-war association with the Hunters Hill Music Club. As it's musical director he brought great pleasure to the members in the wide variety of programmes. The following are some of Frank's favourite music (which were played at the funeral)...Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana Mascagni, Adagio from Emperor Concerto Beethoven and Cantique de Jean Racine Faure.

And now-Frank is gone from our group....and so departs a staunch upholder of the society, and for me, a dear close friend of many years.

CEDRIC ASHTON

HMAS SYDNEY BAND VOLLEYBALL TEAM

From the day the band took up residence in SYDNEY for the Vietnam run, our volleyball team won the majority of the ship's championships, much to the chagrin of the rest of the ship's company.

The continuity of wins was amazing, and when the editor went on board in 1968, the band were champs and a tradition had to be upheld. The "premierships" would have continued but for the skulduggery of the skipper, Captain D.A.H. Clarke.

To achieve his aim, he created the "Captain's Team" made up of some of the best players on board, and destabilised the band team by demanding the services of Ted Lincoln and Michael "Smokey" Dawson. Some of his memorable plays were holding players down when on the net, kicking opposition players, bullying umpires and best of all, ordering the ship turned about so that the sun was in the oppositions' eyes. He actually threatened to charge me at one stage because I had called him twice for being over the net when I umpired a game between his team and the greenies.

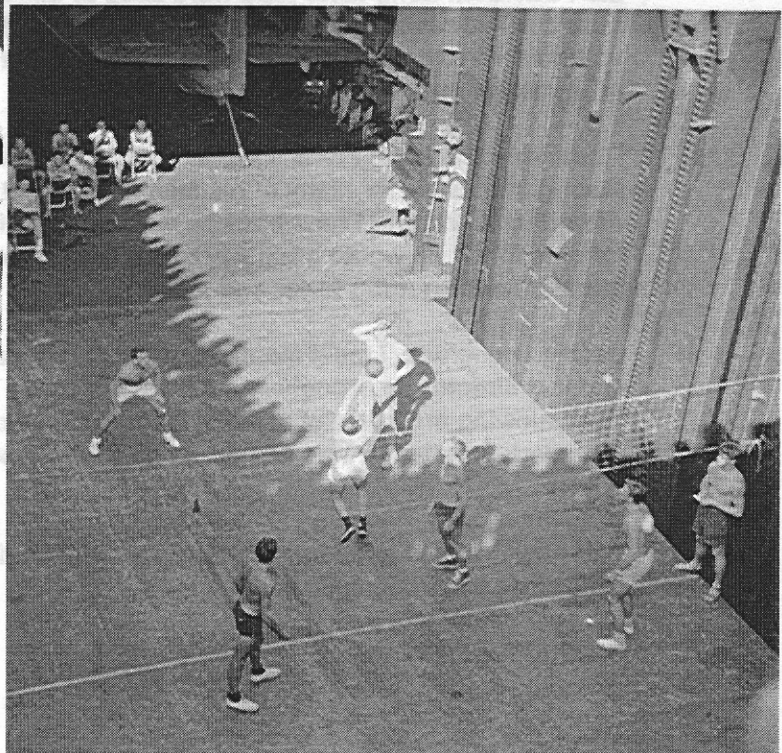
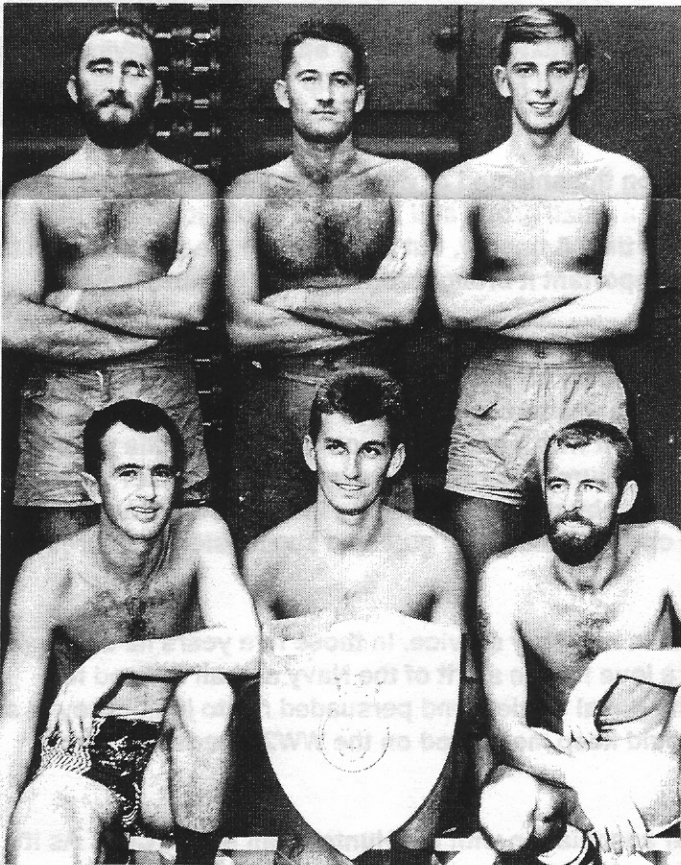
Captain Clarke got his wish, and his team beat us in the grand final.

To rub salt into the wounds, he then took his team for a few days holiday to Nadi when the ship reached Suva, and paid for the "pissy run" with money from the ship's fund!

I spoke with him late 1979 at Mascot airport when he was the owner of the Wisemans Ferry Hotel north of Sydney, and I believe he died in the mid 80's.

Pictured below, volleyball on the lift with the sun in a few eyes, and the 1965 Band volleyball team, ship's champs.

L/R, top, Ron Large, Richie Watson, Hugh Houston, (bottom) Neville Jones, Clive Smith & Peter Martin.



2000.....THE ORIGINAL IDEA

George Duncombe (055) 711679 sent in some very interesting information about the widely discussed 2000 get-together, and swears this is the original arrangement.

Bandsmen, pictured below, arranged to meet at "Man 'O War" steps at 1200 on 17.5.2000.

This would be the anniversary of when this photo was taken on 17.5.1951, and we apologise for the quality of the photo which I had enlarged from a very small photo sent by George.

Those pictured include Jim McDonough, Norm Gullick, Harry Towson, Williams, Sanders, MacKenzie and Jack Day. It looks like Bobby Green's outline far right. In the background (fort like building) —, the tram sheds where the Opera House now stands.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we are happy to publish definite details of a reunion/meeting between now and then if someone would like to make arrangements?

Our main National Reunion for 2000 will be in April to co-incide with Anzac Day.

The other photo, also enlarged from a small print, was taken on SYDNEY in 1949 or 1950 and is (L-R) Sanders, Tiny Widderson, Bob Green and Ron MacKenzie.

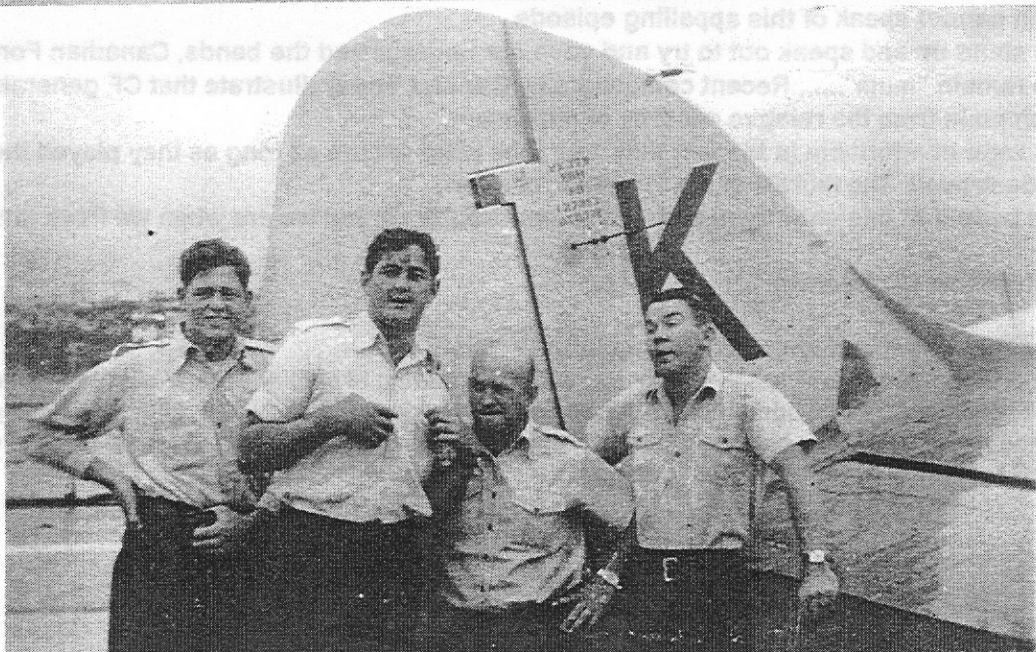


PHOTO I.D. (again)

Patron George wrote with some information about previous newsletters, and mentioned the 1951 SOM Christmas Party photo in the June 1996 issue. One of the officers standing alongside the table with Juniors seated is "Buster" Crabbe, who was then OIC Gunnery School, and went on to become a Rear Admiral.

George also mentions the photo in our last issue of a band on board HMAS ?

He identified it as being HMAS CANBERRA, and the massed bands taken circa 1937 with Rear Admiral Lane-Poole, CAPT A Wilson RN, Warrant Officer "Dickie" Stoner (Royal Marines....on loan) who stood 5 foot 2 inches, and to quote George, "every inch a bastard". Harry Blaskett was the (PO) Bandmaster, and Bandsman George can be seen on the far left of the photo with his tenor sax almost over the guard rail.

He mentioned that he is back playing golf twice a week, and proudly wears his Association cap which is "far superior to anything worn at the Kew Golf Club!"

George wishes everyone a happy new year.

NEWS FROM THE INTERNET

President Rob forwarded some interesting information available on the internet regarding Military Bands. Let's hope we are not reading similar material about Australian Service Bands in the future. I fear we will!

SHATTERING ICONS

A recent television programme which depicted the last days of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police band dubbed "Without a Song" produced within me a gut-wrenching reaction.

September 14th 1993 marked the end of over one hundred years of music in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Similarly, June of 1996 was the second anniversary of the demise of several Canadian Forces military bands.

The elimination of bands in Canada demonstrates very clearly how government dedicate themselves to false economic policies. They trash customs and traditions and then they point to their savings which in fact is insignificant and proudly proclaim how they have saved the taxpayers enormous sums. In fact there was absolutely no thought or justification for the eradication of bands in 1994.

Music branch officers have told me that the full Colonel who pushed the issue of dissolution of the bands was neither ready to listen or negotiate. His mind was made up. And now this irresponsible action has helped to foster one of the worst morale problems ever experienced in the Canadian Forces. There is a direct correlation between morale and military band music. The damage that was done by several high ranking military officers is in fact just another example of the woeful leadership in the forces. the human cost suffered insofar as the musicians are concerned was so extensive that even now over two years later, many of them cannot speak of this appalling episode.

Rather than stand up and speak out to try and save our heritage and the bands, Canadian Forces Generals preferred to remain "mum".....Recent complaints by General Addey illustrate that CF generals are only willing to complain from the relative security of retirement.

The leaders were comfortable in the fact that their jobs were secure as long as they played the game. The icons were destroyed. The morale of the Forces is at a low.

I believe the people of this country need to know how poorly served we are when we have this kind of leadership.

CWO Jack Kopstein CD (retired)

Strong words from a former member of the Canadian Forces.

If the Australian "bean counters" get their way, we could be reading of similar experiences here when one considers the "culling" so far of our bands (2 bands de-commissioned from ARMY, all others downgraded personnel-wise, Navy down to 2 permanent bands and RAAF also downgraded to 35 from 50 plus members in each of their 2 bands).

THE GRAND FINAL

No-one would believe that a grown man would make a phone call interstate slap bang in the middle of the ARL Grand Final where my beloved red & whites were copping a hiding, but Ted Lincoln managed to find my phone number!

(this was the day after the Swans went down to North Melbourne and I was trying to get some money back)

The irksome thing about the conversation was that Ted (09) 3323553 wanted to know why some of the photos he had given me had names omitted or incorrect!

The simple answer given to Ted was that he hadn't written a single name on the back of the photos, and I wasn't around at that time so had to rely on other Ex's memories, some blurred by the odd VB or Tooheys consumed over the past 45 years.

We had a jovial chat (he was sort of watching the game broadcast direct in WA) and he told me that he and Shirley were in Indonesia mid 1996 and bumped into Rex & Evelyn Collinsons' son Matthew and his wife, holidaying at the same resort.

Ted informed me that the Western Australian Committee have some great ideas for 1998...stay tuned!

MANY THANKS (belated)

The two page spread last issue of happy faces at "VIC's 96" did not carry the photographer's name.

Thanks Bardyn (Slim) Halliday for sending in a great selection of photos taken over the weekend.

I had already thanked Margaret Gullick for her contribution published in the July 96 edition, and must also say thanks to Margaret Widdicombe for another terrific selection of photos forwarded. Alan Woodhouse was another photographer who sent us a large selection. We may be able to publish a few between now and the next reunion so those not in attendance can see how old and wise we have all grown!

Quite a few members phoned with information about photos published last issue, in particular the band and sailors outside a "pub somewhere". The pub, I'm told, was The Collector Hotel, and two of the 'bods' not known were Curly Ball and Trunky Bestmann. The other smaller photo on the same page said the band was on Lord Howe Island. This should have read Norfolk Island.

ANOTHER SEAMAN BUGLER

Welcome to new member, former Seaman/Bugler the Rev. Geoff Devonshire of Bethania Qld. (07 3200-5178) who enclosed quite a few interesting details with his membership.

Geoff served in the band between 1943 & 1945 at Flinders, and had a break from the band when on HMAS CASTLEMAINE. During 1945 the Flinders band went to Canberra for Anzac Day where HRH The Duke of Gloucester was the Grand General for the occasion. They played the harmonized version of Last Post.

He was on the War Loan Tour as featured in our last newsletter, and remembers the Bandmaster as being Commissioned Warrant Officer Frank Cockshead (pronounced Co-Shay!)

Geoff nowadays is still a practising Minister of Religion and is Chaplain for the TPI Association. He has offered his services to the Association if the need arises.

Treasurer Ron and myself caught up with Geoff and his wife when they visited Ballina briefly in November last. Ron showed them around the Naval Museum (a must for any Ex travelling through) and they had plans to visit Commissioned Bandmaster Cockshead's daughter, Enid, who lives in nearby Lismore.

A LETTER FROM LEN

Member Len Western (03) 98034086 wrote a very interesting letter about part of his service, and a condensed version follows;

Further to the note on the 2nd page of June newsletter re 1946 Canberra Victory Parade and the photo reproduced October last, I was the trombone in front of the Eb tuba in the left column & Norm Gullick was on my right. Vic Trotman was on BBb tuba at the other end of the front row.

I have very poor memory for names and cannot recall Neville Duniam but his comment that the WW2 Bandies were very stand-offish with the younger members of the band struck a raw nerve.

As I recall, most of the band went to Canberra on a Friday, but, as there was a Victory Celebration Ball being held at HMAS LONSDALE that night, the dance band proceeded to Canberra next day.

As can be seen from the photos, there's not much resemblance to the Canberra of today.. It was cold & miserable as were the members of the dance band by the time we arrived. As well as the parade there was a concert in the Albert Hall at which I played "By The Waters of Minnetonka" as a trombone solo, a piece I have not seen or heard since, although I don't think my rendition was that bad!

The whole band then proceeded to return to CERBERUS by rail from Queanbeyan, changing to the Melbourne train at Goulburn at midnight.

I was one of the ones who wanted to get their heads down but a few of the younger bandies (at this time I was fully 18 & a half yrs) wanted to play cards. The result was that I finished up with a black eye after a punch-up with 3 or 4 of them. Those of us who were HO's (hostilities only engagement) were marking time waiting for our ticket and thoroughly cheated off while many of the younger ones were like kids out of school for the 1st time, so it was not stand-offishness as much as incompatibility.

The list of Ex's at the 1996 reunion had me down as eupho which was my instrument upon entering and during my 18 months in HOBART, however, I had bought a trombone about 6 months prior to entry and took it away with me. Norm Harris encouraged me but, as there was little opportunity to practice on HOBART, it wasn't until after the war and we were in Japan that I had much opportunity to play it very much. We found that the Yokohama Yacht Club was empty so, most days when we were anchored off Yokohama, the band would take our instruments and a cut lunch ashore to the club, practice for several hours then go walk-about until late afternoon.

Our uniform caused some welcome confusion amongst the American MP's and Japanese Policemen as our Marine cap and red band was taken to indicate Staff Officers. This assisted us no end in getting our cigarettes and chocolates ashore for trading, which was banned, while the seamen were frequently stopped and searched by the MP's. The Jap Police afforded us great respect.

There was utter devastation everywhere and the Americans had bulldozed a landing strip in the middle of Yokohama to operate light aircraft for their MP's.

The Jap population were having a tough time getting food & flogging off any of their possessions for items of food, confectionery and cigarettes.

Dan Cummings was our official trombonist but was not interested in dance band, which suited me as it gave me a chance to play the trom. more.

Dan bought himself a Jap trom, but one evening, in a fit of drunken depression, wrapped it over his knee and tossed it out the porthole. When I arrived back at CERBERUS in April 1946, it was as the lead trombone.

Also at CERBERUS at that time was Jack Grimsby, the composer and arranger whose name frequently appears on TV credits. He was a signalman and used to tickle the ivories occasionally in the canteen but I was not aware that he also played trombone.

At the time I was mobilised, September '44, there was not the organisation of music that apparently evolved after my time. My new entry training was as part of a miscellaneous squad comprising cooks, stewards etc with some parading with the Depot Band for colours. My background being brass band I was coming to grips with bass clef and several times Mr Cockshead came up behind me, when at ease on the parade ground, and asked how a certain note was fingered in bass clef.

After several weeks I had to attend the band mess in "B" block after tea for tuition from Stuart Wilkie on the cello, however, in the 9th or 10th week of my new entry training, I was recalled from the rifle range to the RPO's office to proceed on leave prior to joining HOBART in Sydney. Thus ended the lesson on celloing. When we joined HOBART she was still in dockyard hands at the Cruiser wharf at Cockatoo Island after being torpedoed in July '43, so we were sent off on more leave, finally commissioning her in early December.

Our working up exercises at Jervis Bay were interrupted when an American merchant ship was torpedoed off Narooma early on Christmas morning so we hightailed it back to Sydney, circling off the heads for some time awaiting the boom to be opened. Our working up exercises were subsequently completed at Port Philip Bay and I became a man on my 18th birthday in my home port but spending it in sick bay with an infected gash on the shin.

We had eleven in the band but as there was no Bandmaster, Corporal Les (Spike) Malin was Acting Bandmaster so we were effectively only a ten piece band, whose members were;

Cornets, Norm Harris, Laurie Buntine and Lou Garnaut.

Euphonium, Len Western, Trombone Dan Cummings, Bass Vic Trotman.

Alto Sax Billy Redpath, Tenor Sax Frank (Bluey) Herbert. Clarinet Jack (Nuff Nuff) Hayes.

Drums, George Wallace.

After the war Kevin Watford joined as Bandmaster, Tony Cef and Harry Dickson replaced Frank Herbert and Norm Harris returned home from Japan when his wife was having their baby but I cannot recall the name of the young cornet player who replaced him, only that he suffered badly from seasickness.

LEN WESTERN

What great information, and an insight to band life more than 50 years ago. Thanks, Len for adding to our history....ED.

VICTORIAN HAPPENINGS

Victorian representative Len Nurse wrote to mention the next get-together for the Victorian chapter, and this will be held on Sunday 9th February 1997 at the home of Ron Bergman, 12 Romain St Rosebud West 3940. As no times or food/drink arrangements were mentioned in the letter, those not in regular contact should phone Len or Marie Nurse prior to the 9th on (03) 97865325.

Len reports that the Frankston Symphony Orchestra combined with RAN Band Melbourne under the direction of LIEUT Phil Anderson for a concert on 24/11 at the Frankston Cultural Centre, and played favourites such as **Light Cavalry, Hungarian March from the Damnation of Faust, Amparita Roca, The Music Man Selection, Childrens March & Finlandia**. Naval types I recognised from the programme playing with the orchestra included Len Nurse and Bill Post. Len also edited and re-arranged the orchestral scores, and tells me that some of the saxes were playing in 6 and 7 sharps (great mate you'd be, Len!)

Rod Coughran-Lane hosted a bar-b-que after the concert.

Another happening attended by Col & Pam Morris, Phil & Mavis Hopkins and Len & Marie Nurse was the carols by candlelight at CERBERUS where the Navy Band put in a first rate performance according to all who attended. Phil & Len went to "spend a penny" and were directed to the recruit school new canteen, "**much better than most Senior Sailors Messes I have been in**" said Len.

"**Most recruits were sitting around drinking stubbies....how things have changed**" he added.

Len is also "getting the chops in" by playing in a 9 piece band with fellow Ex's Walter Elliget and Bill Post, and said son-in-law Alan Lovelle (Fl/Picc) and daughter Robyn (pregnant again) are moving to Melbourne following Alan's posting to RAN Band Melbourne, and that their other daughter is giving birth shortly, so the Xmas list gets bigger & bigger!

DIRECTOR'S BANDS

Former DOM Jim McDonough announced his engagement to Nancye Sladdin on 2nd August last and they plan to marry early 1997. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them the very best for their future happiness. I met Nancye ever so briefly at the DFSOM last April just prior to Jim "going to the sick bay". Jim is also booked in for a right knee replacement on 12th March, and as I can't think of anything funny to say about knee replacements and previous Naval service, I'll call it a day right here!

NAVAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

The following article by Commodore M. A. McK. (Nobby) Clarke AM, RAN (Retd.) appeared in the summer edition of "White Ensign" and would be of interest to those who were on board between 1 July 1955 & 31 July 1960. If you have any information requested in the article, the Federal Secretary is Commander Peter Cooke-Russell, RAN (Retd), phone (06) 258 6892 (H).

This is another mystery from the past, as your Treasurer, amongst others, received a War Service Loan (as they were then known), yet no Returned From Active Service Badge, nor repatriation benefits. It really "takes the cake" when ARMY & RAAF could serve one day in Singapore and receive everything, when NAVY missed out (again).

The Federal President is overseas at present, therefore I am providing the input for this "Personal View". Admiral Mike Hudson will be back in Australia by mid-November ready to chair the next Federal Council meeting on 07 December.

I take this opportunity to provide you with an up-date and some personal comments on the situation regarding our attempts to get justice for those Naval personnel who served in HMA Ships 'Allotted' to the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve between 1955 and 1960.

As many of you are aware, the Naval Association of Australia has joined with HMAS SYDNEY & VLSVA (Victorian Branch) and other organisations and persons to seek justice for RAN personnel who served in ships of the Royal Australian Navy when they were allotted for duty with the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) during the period 01 July 1955 to 31 July 1960.

In order to assist in the just and equitable resolution of this matter to achieve parity with the Australian Army and RAAF personnel who also served on the FESR, we need to know of any members of the RAN, RN, or RNZN who were awarded and received the Naval General Service Medal (Malaya), (NGSM(M) for service in ships of those Navies in the period July 1955 - July 1960. Please send details to the Federal Secretary.

Continued from page 2

fied for the same benefits provided to the other two services.

I would have thought that the documentary evidence available shows many clear statements that Navy personnel were allotted for Service, with the FESR. A letter from the Minister for the Navy to Prime Minister Menzies with a copy to the Minister for Defence dated 04 August 1955, concerning the Royal Australian Navy component of the Strategic Reserve states in part - "in respect of the units at present allotted to the Strategic Reserve but this will vary dependent on the class of ships present in the area and on their complements".

In the Secretary, Department of Navy letter to the Department of the

This is because the RN under whose command the RAN ships served on FESR, did not produce lists of ships which qualified for the NGSM(M) after 1954. It was personnel who qualified and the standard method of issue was by the individual claimant being required to complete a personal request for award of the Medal on RN Font S. 540, and C.O.'s of ships were to certify that the individual satisfied the requirements of the Admiralty Fleet Order (AFO 2466/1960).

At the Cabinet Meeting on 31 March 1955, Prime Minister Menzies stated that the US and Australia would co-operate in the plans for the defence of Malaya. On 01 April 1955, the Prime Minister announced that Australia, together with the United Kingdom and New Zealand, would contribute forces to a strategic reserve in Malaya and that Australia's contribution would be naval forces, consisting of two destroyers or two frigates, an aircraft carrier on an annual visit, and additional ships in an emergency; ground forces, comprising an infantry battalion with supporting arms and re-enforcement's in Australia; and air forces, consisting of a fighter wing of two squadrons, a bomber wing of one squadron, and an airfield construction squadron.

Australian Army and RAAF personnel, in accordance with Instructions issued by the Australian Army (MBI 14/1959 which was a reprint of MBI 9/1956) and the RAAF (DI (AF)

Pers 10-6), qualified for, and quite correctly were granted, a General Service Medal, the, Returned from Active Service Badge, Repatriation Benefits, War Service Homes and names of those killed inscribed on lists in the Australian War Memorial for their service on FESR. Generally, the qualification period was 24 hours in Malaya or Singapore with no requirement to be in a combat or operational/active service situation or area. Many were married accompanied with provision of married quarters and servants.

The Naval veterans have no disagreement with this situation. The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board (Navy Office) did not issue an equivalent Navy Order or Instruction to match the Australian Army and RAAF Boards Instructions.

Retired members of the RAN have been, and still are, after over 40 years, excluded from those benefits granted to the Army and RAAF despite the documentary evidence that the "Order of Battle and Personnel Establishments for Australian Forces in Malaya" shows the Royal Australian Navy as the first Service mentioned and detailed therein. Additionally, some advisers and decision makers within Defence allege that the RAN personnel were never allotted for service in the FESR, and use this as an excuse to say that they are not quali-

Continued on page 4

ducing conclusive evidence and providing first hand information on FESR operations, 'Off The Top Of The Head Unsubstantiated Opinions', by political and bureaucratic theoreticians are being stated as fact and, unfortunately being accepted to deny equity and to support discrimination.

We do appreciate the difficulty in achieving an early and honest result, observing past bad administrative procedures and the failure to produce essential and valuable records of orders, instructions, copies of correspondence and personal papers. However, we shall continue the fight to obtain justice for our shipmates.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Treasury dated 11 November 1955, it is stated that - "The date on which the R.A.N. Ships were allotted for duty as the R. A. N. component of the Strategic Reserve was 1st July 1955". The spurious discussion on the word "Allotment" is not relevant.

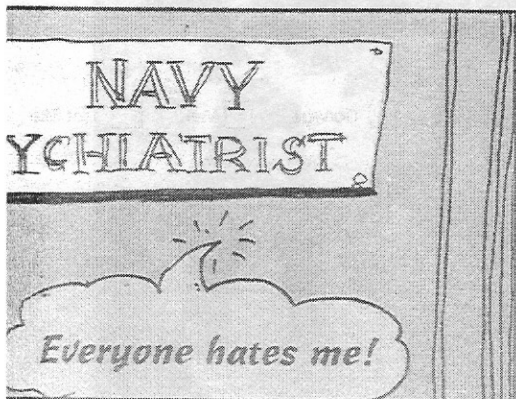
The Chief of Naval Staff, VADM R.G. Taylor, has promised maximum co-operation and support to us in our attempts to reach an equitable solution to what we see as an injustice to retired members of the RAN, however, there are many hurdles to get over even in our dealings within Navy Office.

Despite the efforts of very many highly qualified, senior and dedicated retired RAN FESR veterans who are devoting their time on research, pro-

MASSED BANDS, ST KILDA RD MELBOURNE, circa 1961. Probably TRAFALGAR EVE OR CORAL SEA MARCH.

LCDR George Hooker, LMUSN Bill Farrell, Drum Major.

Tenor Drums, Don Buntine and John Roche, front rank drummers include Ron Kirkwood, Speed Halliday, Ollie Grieve, Richie Watson. 2nd rank L/R Stretch Buddle, Jim Hawkins, Michael Higgs, Graeme Wright, Rob Himbury & Neville Jones (far right). Bass Drum looks like Moose Jeff. The only other I recognise is Phil Hopkins, trombone.

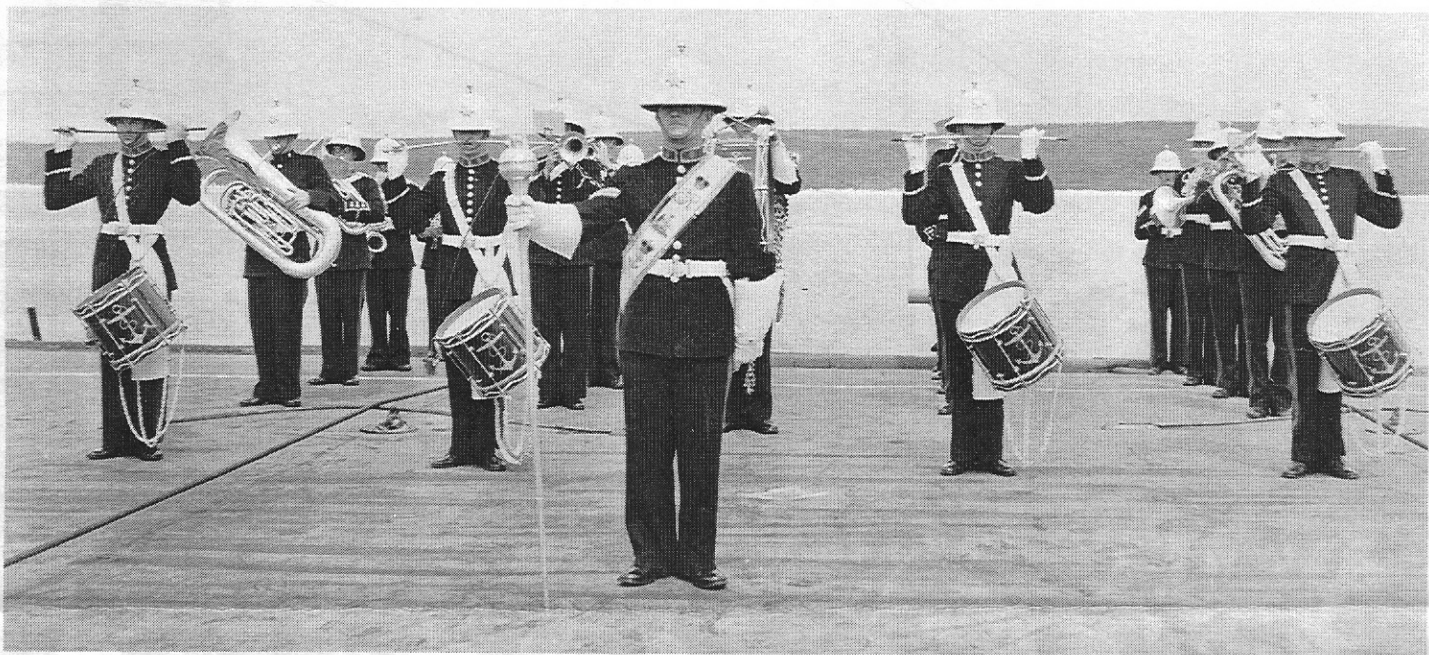


THE OLD RIG

Is it really 37 years ago last month since the RAN Band uniform was changed so dramatically?

The photo (below) of the 1959 Fleet Band on MELBOURNE (photo courtesy R Soutar) would be one of the last taken of the original rig and includes;

Chris (Albert RN) Higgins, Corporal Drum Major, Jesse or Richie Watson, Rob Himbury, Brian Grieve (drums), McCabe, Collins & Gwynne (clarinets), Buddle (F. Horn), Phil Jones, Brown (cornets), Tumath, Slim (basses) Pearce (alto), Soutar (tenor) and Newton (trom). Others not known.

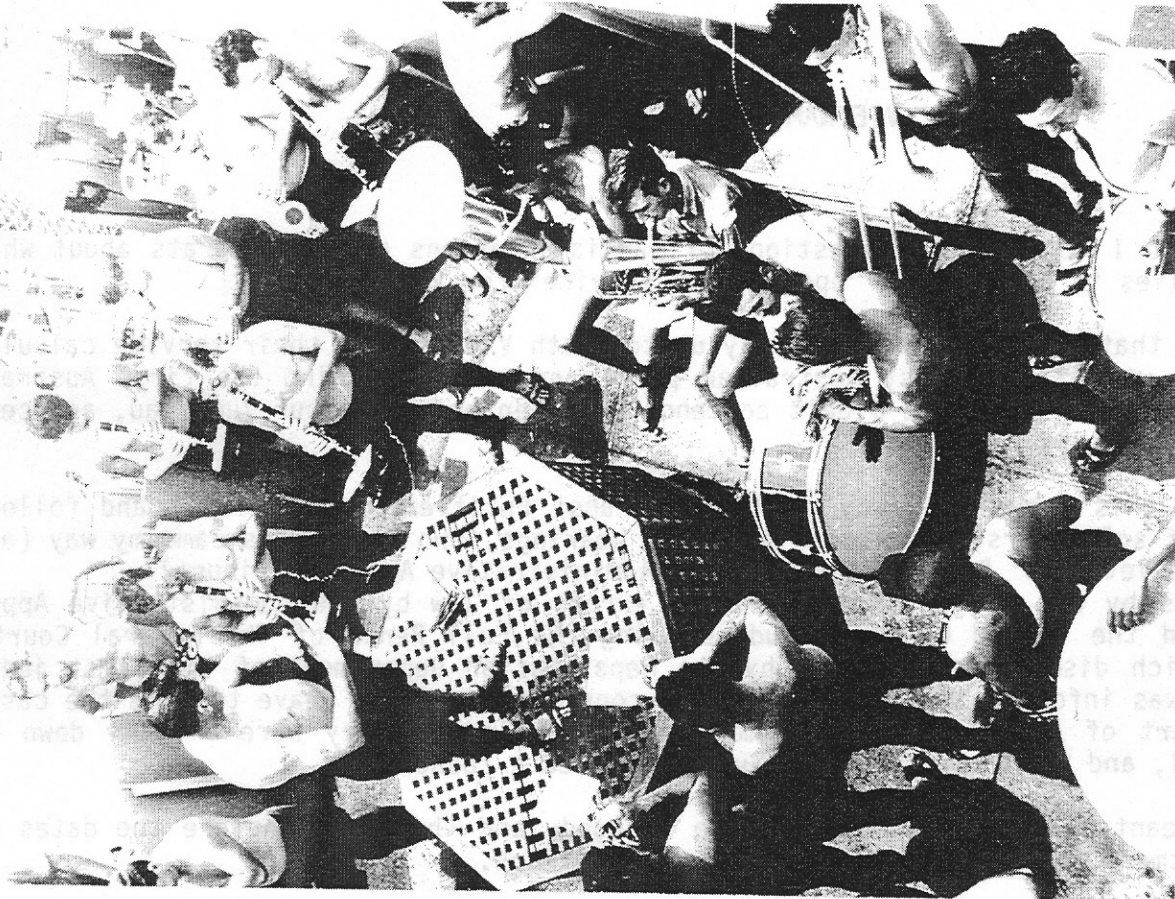




Sgt "Roo", mascot at the Royal Tournament London 1987 was actually a "Pom" as the Aussies had nobody small enough to fit into the suit. Two decades earlier, Bob "Ant" Ridley would have fitted into the sleeve! Musicians in the photo are, clockwise from bottom left, AB Noel Bruin, PO Chris Land, Cpl Mike Hawkins, LAC Lisa Jordan, MUSN Elizabeth Hannigan, Cpl "Rock" Marshall. (photo courtesy Vic Knowles)

Top Right. HMAS Sydney Band, gun sponson, Vietnam 1969. Conductor CPO Ted Lincoln, players include Jim Hawkins, piccolo, Nobby Clarke, Mouse Blankesteijn, Tony Piggot, clarinets, Derek Baskerville, tenor, Jim McFerran alto sax, Smokey Dawson, tuba, Tony Pankhurst, eupho, Darrel Mansell, bass drum, Peter Rose, trom, Jesse Watson & Pud Jackson, side drum, Max Argent, cornet. (others too difficult to recognise).

Photo courtesy Darrel Mansell



VIETNAM SERVICE

Some years ago I began to ask questions of parliamentarians and bureaucrats about what I saw as anomalies in determining "operational service" for Vietnam

My gripe was that Army troops carried by us to South Vietnam had their service calculated from the day we left the last Australian port, and until reaching the first Australian port on return, but Navy time didn't commence until entering harbour Vung Tau, and ceased when leaving harbour.

I challenged this anomaly by way of the Veterans' Entitlement Act (1986) and following five years of solicitors, barristers and many hearings, two major wins came my way (after losing at the Veterans' Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal). The first was by one judge finding several errors of law by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and the second by three judges being the Full Bench of the Federal Court of Australia which dismissed an appeal by the Repatriation Department of the first judge's decision. I was informed that the department considered seeking leave to take the case to the High Court of Australia, but commonsense prevailed as they were already down four judges to nil, and the Australian taxpayer was saved a "bundle".

These wins meant that all dates had to be changed, and the following are the dates used by the department when determining pension applications.

DEEMED ALLOTMENT IN VIETNAMESE WATERS

Under an instrument of the Minister for Defence made on 22 May 1986, certain RAN ships involved in transporting troops to and from South Vietnam, and on other support duties, were deemed to have been allotted for duty during periods when those ships were present in the operational area. The operational area of Vietnamese waters extended out to sea for a distance of 161 kilometres. Details of movements of those ships to and from the operational area in Vietnam are set out on the following pages.

In the case of *Repatriation Commission v Hawkins* (22 September 1993), the Full Federal Court decided that a person whose unit is deemed to have been allotted in terms of section 5(12)(b) is to be treated as if they had a normal allotment for duty under the provisions of the *VE Act* (see 9 *VeRBosity* 70).

Members of units of the Defence Force who were deemed to have been allotted by the Minister's instrument are required to be treated as if they were allotted in the normal manner. In normal cases, the operational service of a person in an operational area extends from the last port of call in Australia to the first port of call on return to Australia (section 6(5)).

In some cases of deemed allotment, operational service does not extend from the last port of call in Australia to the first port of call on return. Where the ship was outside Australia, the Minister's instrument may allot the ship from when the ship entered the operational area, or from an earlier date. Operational service in those circumstances ends when the unit or person:

- is deployed to another area outside Australia (on the day on which the ship leaves the operational area, or reaches another area outside Australia); or
- returns to Australia (on the day on which the ship reaches the first port of call in Australia).

Deemed allotment in Vietnamese waters

SHIP	LAST PORT OF CALL / DUTY	IN PORT VIETNAM	FIRST PORT OF CALL / DUTY
JEPARIT (HMAS) (cont)	Sydney 18 Aug 70 Sydney 1 Oct 70 Sydney 15 Nov 70 Sydney 4 Jan 71 Sydney 16 Feb 71 Sydney 2 Apr 71 Sydney 13 May 71 Townsville 7 Jul 71 Sydney 20 Aug 71 Sydney 11 Oct 71 Sydney 25 Nov 71 Sydney 10 Jan 72	4-7 Sep 70 21-25 Oct 70 3-8 Dec 70 21-24 Jan 71 8-12 Mar 71 19-22 Apr 71 30 May-2 Jun 71 21-25 Jul 71 8-15 Sep 71 29 Oct-3 Nov 71 13-18 Dec 71 3-6 Feb 72	Sydney 23 Sep 70 Sydney 8 Nov 70 Sydney 23 Dec 70 Sydney 8 Feb 71 Sydney 26 Mar 71 Sydney 5 May 71 Sydney 26 Jun 71 Townsville 8 Aug 71 Sydney 30 Sep 71 Townsville 14 Nov 71 Brisbane 31 Dec 71 Sydney 11 Mar 72
MELBOURNE ¹	Subic Bay 31 May 65 Singapore 25 Apr 66 Manila 25 May 66	7-8 Jun 65 3-4 May 66 6 Jun 66	Sydney 22 Jun 65 Hong Kong 6 May 66 Penang 9 Jun 66
PARRAMATTA	Tawau 25 May 65 Singapore 5 Apr 68 Bangkok 15 May 71	8-11 Jun 65 9 Apr 68 22 May 71	Singapore 22 Jun 65 Singapore 15 Apr 68 Subic Bay 24 May 71
QUEENBOROUGH	Hong Kong 27 Jan 63	31 Jan-4 Feb 63	Singapore 6 Feb 63
QUIBERON	Hong Kong 27 Jan 63	31 Jan-4 Feb 63	Singapore 6 Feb 63
STUART	Sydney 16 May 67 Singapore 25 Jan 68	30 May 67 3 Feb 68	Darwin 8 Jun 67 Singapore 5 Feb 68
SWAN	Singapore 4 Oct 71 Singapore 6 Dec 71	6-7 Oct 71 8-9 Dec 71	Manila 14 Oct 71 Subic Bay 11 Dec 71
SYDNEY	Sydney 27 May 65 Sydney 14 Sep 65 Sydney 24 Apr 66 Sydney 25 May 66 Sydney 8 Apr 67 Singapore 28 Apr 67 Sydney 19 May 67 Fremantle 20 Dec 67 Sydney 17 Jan 68 Sydney 27 Mar 68 Sydney 21 May 68 Fremantle 13 Nov 68 Fremantle 8 Feb 69 Townsville 8 May 69 Brisbane 17 Nov 69 Sydney 16 Feb 70 Fremantle 21 Oct 70 Port Adelaide 15 Feb 71	8-11 Jun 65 28-30 Sep 65 4-6 May 66 6-8 Jun 66 20-21 Apr 67 30 Apr 67 30 May 67 27 Dec 67 3 Feb 68 9 Apr 68 1 Jun 68 20 Nov 68 15 Feb 69 19 May 69 28 Nov 69 27 Feb 70 31 Oct-1 Nov 70 25 Feb 71	Fremantle 26 Jun 65 Sydney 20 Oct 65 Sydney 18 May 66 Hong Kong 11 Jun 66 Singapore 22 Apr 67 Sydney 12 May 67 Brisbane 14 Jun 67 Fremantle 3 Jan 68 Sydney 16 Feb 68 Sydney 26 Apr 68 Brisbane 13 Jun 68 Fremantle 28 Nov 68 Townsville 25 Feb 69 Brisbane 30 May 69 Fremantle 5 Dec 69 Fremantle 5 Mar 70 Brisbane 12 Nov 70 Fremantle 4 Mar 71

SHIP	LAST PORT OF CALL / DUTY	IN PORT VIETNAM	FIRST PORT OF CALL / DUTY
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SYDNEY (cont)	Port Adelaide 26 Mar 71 Townsville 13 May 71 Sydney 20 Sep 71 Sydney 26 Oct 71 Sydney 24 Nov 71 Sydney 14 Feb 72 Sydney 1 Nov 72	5 Apr 71 22-23 May 71 6-7 Oct 71 6-7 Nov 71 8-9 Dec 71 28-29 Feb 72 23-24 Nov 72	Hong Kong 8 Apr 71 Townsville 1 Jun 71 Port Adelaide 16 Oct 71 Sydney 18 Nov 71 Townsville 17 Dec 71 Townsville 9 Mar 72 Hong Kong 30 Nov 72
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TORRENS	Manila 16 Feb 72	28-29 Feb 72	Hong Kong 3 Mar 72
VAMPIRE ²	Subic Bay 31 May 65 Manus Is 27 Apr 66 Manus Is 13 Apr 67 Singapore 28 Apr 67 Singapore 14 May 69 Putau Air 21 Nov 72	7-8 Jun 65 4-6 May 66 20 Apr 67 30 Apr 67 19 May 69 23-24 Nov 72	Sydney 22 Jun 65 Hong Kong 9 May 66 Singapore 22 Apr 67 Singapore 5 May 67 Manila 25 May 69 Putau Air 21 Nov 72

VENDETTA ³	Manus Is 20 Sep 65 Sydney 25 May 66 Manila 28 Oct 70	28-30 Sep 65 6-8 Jun 66 31 Oct-1 Nov 70	Hong Kong 3 Oct 65 Hong Kong 11 Jun 66 Colombo 9 Nov 70
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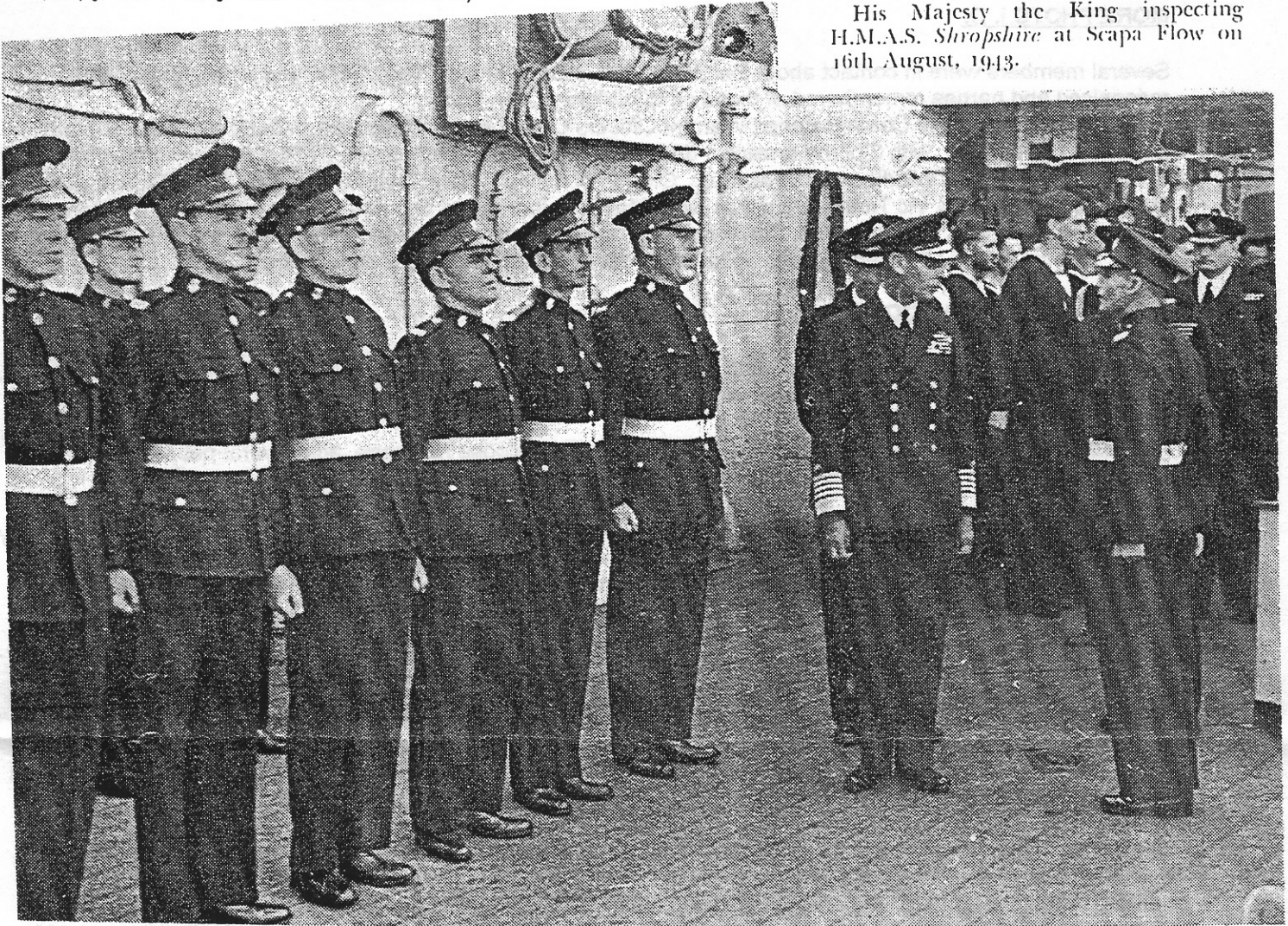
YARRA ²	Singapore 25 Apr 66 Manila 26 May 66 Singapore 22 Dec 67 Singapore 22 Feb 70 Singapore 22 Feb 71	4-6 May 66 6 Jun 66 27 Dec 67 27 Feb 70 25 Feb 71	Hong Kong 9 May 66 Penang 9 Jun 66 Singapore 1 Jan 68 Singapore 1 Mar 70 Hong Kong 1 Mar 71
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Notes

1. *HMAS Melbourne* escorted *HMAS Sydney* to within Vietnamese waters but not into port, then detached for other duties.
2. *HMAS Vampire* and *HMAS Yarra* were additional escorts which entered Vietnamese waters but not into port.
3. *HMAS Vendetta* was also allotted for service in Vietnam from 15 September 1969 to 11 April 1970.
4. VE Act, s 5(12)(b) has been replaced by s 5B(2)(c).

(below) Copy of a newspaper clipping. HM King George V1 speaking with Kevin Watford, who is standing in front of other members of HMAS Shropshire Band, 1943.
(copy courtesy Geoff Devonshire)

His Majesty the King inspecting H.M.A.S. *Shropshire* at Scapa Flow on 16th August, 1943.



Flinders Naval Depot Band, on tour 1946. Chief Bandmaster George Hooker far right.



MORE PHOTO I. D.

Several members were in contact about the photos last issue sent in by Tony Urich, and some faces were recognised and names remembered of those on that Victory Loan Tour.

Nev Duniam remembers Commissioned Warrant Officers Cockshead and Blaskett, with Band Corporal Fred Hatton as drum major, with 3 of the musician drummers being Ron Sparkes (the Ex POW), Cec Hibbert and Shorty Gray, with Tiny Widdison on bass drum. On trombone were Norm Gullick, and Jack Day, Basses, Cpl Mick Davies, Max Beeson & Vic Trotman. Euphos were Max Jarrett and Ron Thomas. French Horns Keith Lister and Nev Duniam, cornets; Cpl Curly Ball, Don Edwards, Jack Lancaster, Don Coxon, Frank Davis with Don Edwards being "orderly" for D.O.M., Bandmaster Spike Mallin clarinet, with others not remembered.

WELCOME ABOARD MOOSE

It was great to receive Maurie (Moose) Jeff's membership as, apart from being in the exclusive flute/piano club (Eb clarinetists sometimes allowed!), Moose and I go back a long way.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we had no idea where Moose had gone, and several people had made enquiries here as to his whereabouts, so here is a brief history.

He paid off in 1970 and worked for Telecom, Zetland NSW where he quite often came in contact with the late Ray Greer who was working as a Commonwealth driver then. Moose left Telecom in August 1987 due to walking difficulties (**had that problem coming back on board many times....ED**), and bought a caravan near Lake Illawarra where fishing was the favourite pastime. In 1988 he and Irene (2nd wife) purchased a house at Warilla where they currently reside (042) 971137. They have 3 sons and a daughter, plus Moose has 2 boys from his first marriage, and Irene has a boy and a girl from her previous. Their daughter has 4 children, and is married to a gentleman of UK descent (my description, not Moose's!).

Health has been a major problem for a few years with heart surgery in 1991, followed by a big operation on his left leg to fix major vascular blockages.

Moose said he had a phone call from Brian Torrens, and was surprised to hear that Ray Greer and Ian White had committed suicide. He thought that Dave Carr had suffered the same fate, but couldn't be sure.

Our beloved Treasurer, Ronald K. Henry gets a mention in Maurie's letter, where a garden party at Government house Melbourne was honoured with the Band of the RAN playing incidental music, and most ventured to the nearest pub at half-time. It appears that Ron was adrift when George Hooker gave the downbeat for the second half, and midway through the second programme he appeared behind the band yelling that he had "crapped his duds" and proceeded to show all and sundry by waving around the freshly washed underdaks in front of the Governor's guests.

This misdemeanour cost Ron 14 days stoppage.

I hope to catch up with Moose at a future reunion if not before, as it has been some 17 years.

RECORD/CD REVIEW

Some years ago I noticed the **Staff Band Of The Women's Royal Army Corps** playing at the Edinburgh Tattoo and thought they sounded rather good, so I was pleased to receive a present being a CD titled "Celebration" (Bandleader BNA 5036).

The recording is a surprise for those of us who are 'chauvinistic' and apart from one or two tracks, is up there with some of the best British military bands. There are 21 tracks, and most belie the widely held view that "shielas can't play brass instruments".

After a slow start with Preidium & Fugue, Nimrod, The Last Post & Reveille, the band plays Jubilant Preiude, Crown Imperial, Colonel Bogey, Twin Eagle Strut and two others.

Part two features Clarinet Carousel played to perfection, Cornet Carillon and Lassus Trombone which took my mind back to Hyde Park, Sydney around 1962 when, during a Waratah Spring Festival concert, DOM George was introducing the various instruments of the band, and each introduced player was required to stand and show his instrument to the crowd. When George introduced the trombone, three of our "elite" stood and played (uninvited) a rough version of Lassus Trombone. The ladies play a much better arrangement, I can assure you! This is followed by Sabre Dance, Tyrolean Tuba, and a jazz arrangement featuring vibes, keyboards and drums of Living in the UK, originally by the excellent jazz/rock group Shakatak.

Director of Music Captain Ena Forster certainly gets the best out of this band.

WHERE'S PUNCHY?

A few of us were discussing "blues" which involved bandies, and the following came to mind.

One committeeman mentioned a story which went around in the 50's of former DOM Don Coxon when he first entered the RAN in the 40's. It seems he was involved in a 'ripper' at Recruit School...one which went for around 20 minutes, and it appears he handled himself quite well (true or false, Don?)

Another remembered "punch-up" took place at the Sydney Showgrounds under the giant concrete stand with the scoreboard on top during the British Empire Tattoo in 1964 when Brian "Ollie" Grieve and Geoff "Digga" Coutts came to blows. Only problem was that Geoff was a PO and Brian wasn't, so the Penguin cells were utilised that evening.

"Ollie" gets another mention for his part in a near riot at "Rockers" (MacQuarie Hotel) Woolloomooloo in the early 60's when the plain clothes police from nearby "Darlo" were intent on cleaning out the pub of sailors for some unknown reason.

A few bandies had been checking out the "raffles" held there nightly and 10pm closing was announced, so when an unidentified bloke suggested to "Ollie" that he should move on by pushing him along the footpath, the copper bit the dust with a great right hook. Only problem.....2 other coppers picked "Ollie" up and threw him the back of the black maria, so a few of us followed the constabulary back to Darlo to get him out of jail.

Many hours later, and with assistance from a Police Band Sgt who was about to start his duty there, Mr Grieve was released. He appeared at the door in a doubled-up position, having been given the old "sand in hosepipe" treatment, quite prevalent for those hitting coppers. Not a mark on him, but a very sick boy!

I must watch the libel laws, but I believe "Ollie" had a few problems during his Army days when he couldn't "suffer fools" and decked a few, costing him the odd promotion (or was that demotion?)

The editor's brand new EJ Holden was used the "Rockers" evening by a bandie who had won one of the Rocker's raffles, and this hasn't been forgotten.

BANDIE MAC

Ron "Bandie Mac" MacKenzie (076) 325129 sent in the original of a piece of music specifically composed for the Flagship AUSTRALIA and presented on September 18th, 1948.

The original magnificent handwriting on the front cover states;

Peter A. Lee presents "Land Of The Southern Cross" (song & march) to the Flagship HMAS Australia.

In appreciation of the spontaneous courtesy and hospitality extended to me on the morning of August 6th 1948 on the occasion of my visit on board the Australia; of the kind consideration of Bandmaster H. Blaskett in requesting the members of the band to play the march with fine spirit and inspiration.....etc etc.

Signed

Peter H. Lee

197 Castlereagh St

Sydney.

I tried the tune on the piano and it is quite well written. I wonder where the original band arrangement is nowadays?

Ron also mentioned his time in MELBOURNE 60-61 when Kev Watford was SubLt and took ill in Singapore and did not return to the ship. Ron took over for the remainder of the deployment including Hong Kong. Ian (Bungy) Williams had been Kev's 2 I/C as a Bandmaster/PO until July 1960 when Ron became Deputy Bandmaster. He also mentioned that Kevin Watford had been Bandmaster of the Brisbane Reserves for about 8 years after WW2 when George Hooker asked him to go to the UK to do the commission course. Kevin died in the 60's.

MORE DITS FROM DIGGA

21 Gun Salute

Back in the year dot at the wet canteen (Murphy's), each branch had a set table for their use. The bandies' table was near the open fireplace, good on a cold night.

One Queen's Birthday night, it was decided by a cook to fire a 21 gun salute in honour of HM. This was done by placing tins of fish paste into the blazing log fire. It was supposed to be timed by throwing the tins in at set intervals, and when they got hot they would explode with a muffled boom and make like gunfire.

In went the tins of fish paste then stand by for the salute.

On this particular freezing cold night a sailor came into the wets and decided to warm the old bum by standing rear on to the fire (we had moved well back because the exploding tins had a habit of spewing hot ash etc. for some feet). Said sailor was just starting to thaw out when the first of the tins exploded, warming his rear end more than he had expected, and this was followed by some rapid fire, the timing not going to plan, in fact, quite a few went off together.

Next day it was found that some of the bricks had split and a neat hole was to be seen in the back of the fireplace. Claude Smith, the canteen bloke, went bloody ape over the whole episode. No sense of humour, that man!

Tall tale but true

I was good mates with a PO Wran who related this story to me.

A couple of her friends (phots) were in England on a project and stayed at a small hotel run by a little old lady. They had a bottle of sherry in their room for 'nip at night' purposes, and noticed that it went down a few nips every now and then, so decided to mark the bottle. Sure enough, it was being nicked, so when the bottle was less than half full they topped it up with urine, but this didn't stop the thieving.

When they were due to book out of the hotel, they decided to buy the lady a bottle of sherry as a gift.

Imagine their surprise when she stated that she didn't drink, but she admitted 'nicking' a "tot or two" from their bottle for the wine trifles served in the dining room.

Talk about getting some of your own back!

The same blokes were working around Melbourne and noticed they hadn't stopped for lunch, so at around 3pm entered a nearby cake shop.

The girl in the shop was busy cleaning up and had her back to the counter. "Got any pies?" asked one. "No" was the reply (without turning around). "Got any pasties?"same reply. "Got any sausage rolls?""Yes", then she actually turned around to face him.

"Are they hot?"....."No, but I can heat them up" she said.

"OK, I'll have two dozen please". said the phot.

She duly place 2 dozen on the counter, and he asked "are they hot?....can I feel them?"

He said..."they are too bloody hot" and turned around and walked out.

It pays to be civil!

The "Old Bill"

Our W.W. (Bill Farrell) had a mate in the "**President's Own**" Band in the good old U. S of A, and he sent Bill a score of the latest Tijuana Brass, and on going through the music we noticed a cue for a klaxon horn, which we didn't have.

I phoned Allens, Melbourne next to the GPO in the old tin shed to no avail, but the bloke at Allens suggested I try the Malvern Star shop opposite Allens, and "whoopie".....they stocked several types.

I asked the chap at Malvern Star if he would mind bringing several to the phone so I could hear them, and he said "beg your pardon, sir!"

I gave him my name, rank and Cerberus extension so he knew I was fair dinkum, and he phoned me back straight away.

Bill thought I was mad.

The Malvern Star man gave me an audition of all the klaxon horns in the shop, and I chose one to suit, but thought to myself how a customer walking into the shop would feel waiting at the counter while this bloke sounded off many klaxon horns into the mouthpiece of the telephone!

We were the first band to play Tijuana Brass arrangements live in Australia.

Never a dull moment!

MORE DIGGA DITS

I was sent to New Guinea to start a band, but no one told me it was from scratch...that is...no money. On arrival I soon found out that the job was a true challenge.

They had a few old rope tension drums-full stop.

So into it...our practice area was a large "haus wind".....(a building similar to a pavillion with a high pitched roof covered with sac sac....sago tree leaf) next to the slipway and chippies shop. I sought the help of the Chief Mech to see if we could make the drums rod-tension, but the catch was I had to help with the work, so I made the rods on a lathe and the Mech made the fingers. The Chippie Officer helped me with some drumsticks made out of dowling until I could get some proper sticks. Next item was to teach the boys to play & read music, march in formation and learn to control a drum whilst on the march. This took some time and a lot of laughing at some of the antics the boys put on...."White Man's Magic!"

We made a drum majors mace & sash (got a real sash much later), the mace we called the "Puk Puk" stik, a long piece of wood with a crocodile carved on one end. This was later replace by a "proper" mace made by the plumber in the Works Dept. at Cerberus. it consisted of a stick, a head made from a toilet cistern float & silver plated, some lead weights to give it balance. It looked the real thing and was perfect for tossing. I took the whole lot back to Manus in an old Ansett plane ("Chance-it with Ansett"). I also got hold of some old bugles (brass & copper) and got them plated at no cost. We put plaited rope around the tubing to stop them tainting through sweaty hands.

On our first outing I checked the boys dress...OK....but their shoes were crappy, the heels run down, so over to stores for new ones....no go! I checked out the old shoes there, removed any good heels I could find and re-heeled everyone's shoes. Now we were looking good. My Drum Major "Yai" was a big tall well built M.E. and really looked the part. I showed him how to toss the mace, and told him that when he could toss it 100 times without dropping it, he could perform in public. Some 4 weeks later...."I can do it Chief" ...he had gone off with his mate who counted, and he made 100 without dropping it!

Our first Divisions was an eye-opener for both the Captain and the Ship's Company. The boys never faltered...played like angels...in three months we could both play and march in tune and in step. I had been told by a "know-it-all" that the So and So's are hopeless...we proved him wrong.

My greatest admirer was LEUT Pat Timmins (Chippie) who made the drum sticks...the boys were "as keen as mustard" and continually practiced during and after working hours...they were so proud of "their PNG band". I stuck to 2/4 beat in the marches as 6/8 was not in their singing etc. This was the secret of our success. I finished up with a band of 24 plus Drum Major, and it was one of the highlights of my Navy career. Another first was using an "echo bugler" one Anzac Day at Lorengau.

Parran, my best bugler hid behind a tree some many yards from the main parade assembly and played the echo to perfection.

We also did a big parade for the District Commissioner, who was retiring, at the local airport in conjunction with a Police Guard of Honour and did a mini Beat Retreat. The Police boys really had their rifle drill down to a fine art. Mick Heaney, the CPO G.I. showed them the "ease the old magazine" trick so when they presented arms they belted the magazine home with a large "crack"...very effective when all done together. The D.C. was very impressed and sent a nice letter of praise.

Rear Admiral "Buster" Crabbe's visit was the talk of the town with the PNG boys...crab being something they relish. The RADM did a tour of inspection and visited the compound workers' living quarters. The senior "Boss Boy" insisted in greeting the RADM in English, so I spent time with him teaching him to say..."Compound ready for your inspection, Sir".

On Buster's arrival Boss Boy gives an Army salute-greets him in English- Buster said thankyou and asks him "How long have you been here at Manus?"

"Mi no bloody savvy talk talk bilong you" said Boss Boy.

"What did he say Chief?" asks Buster.

I told him "He doesn't understand English, Sir".

"Well he bloody well spoke it when he greeted me".

I told him the Boss Boy made a special effort to learn one English phrase and Buster was amazed as he had been told that they all spoke English. The PNG Navy did, but not the compound workers nor the old PNG Navy bods, these were later to be phased out...learn English or go! Eighty percent went! Only the younger generation were learning English at school, the older ones had little formal Education and weren't interested in going back. Buster was presented with a carving of a man with a large penis. He accepted their gift but wanted the penis reduced...a "No No" with the boys as "Big man of the Navy must have biggest". The boys finally agreed to place a "lap lap" over the penis (funny people these white men!). Buster's inspection was a great benefit as he was appalled at the state of the school and buildings...money was hard to come by, but with the RADM's influence we soon had a new school, urgent repairs to the hospital and many other improvements. Buster didn't mince words with Canberra and other Senior naval officers.....a real "White man" in anyone's language!

A JOLLY GOOD SHOW

Rob Himbury (043) 601456 sent in some interesting information last October regarding a combined concert with RAN Band Sydney (LEUT Tony Younglove) and The Central Coast NSW Concert Band (Rob Bedwell) held on 21/9/96.

Rob said that the programme contained a lot of "oldies but goodies" and included The Blue & The Gray, Glorious Victory, Latin Gold, Rush Street Tarantella, Anvil Chorus, Night Flight to Madrid, The Wee MacGregor Patrol & Vaudeville Spectacular, all played extremely well to the point where Rob said **"I must be getting old and silly, but I would have given my left whatnot to be young enough to be back in pussers band!"**.

One Ex who was there playing (apart from MD Rob) was Lindsay Mungovan on horn, and what a thrill for Rob Bedwell to have his daughter Georgina (Seaman Bedwell) playing with the RAN contingent (I just can't get used to calling the Wrans "Seaman"!!!!!!.....ED)

One major point that Rob mentioned was the number of RAN Band personnel who have degrees nowadays. The list of players reproduced below will confirm this.

Another thrill for a young member of the Central Coast band was when piccolo player Lisa Gallard played with two three badge leading hands in the solo of Stars & Stripes.

The most distressing thing for Mr Himbury was that the last time he played with the RAN Band (nearly 30 years ago), 90% of the current band weren't even born!

Rob also sends his thanks to Bill Collins for taking so many photos of the '96 reunion. "Just like the old days" says Rob...."Most of my photographic memories of early sea-time were taken by Bill and for this I am also very grateful".

(Rob was forwarded a large swag of reunion photos as he was just recuperating from heart surgery when we all had a "ball" in Melbourne).

THE PLAYERS

Musical Directors:	LIEUT Tony Younglove, Robert Bedwell
Flutes:	LS Allan Lovelle, LS John Willis, AB Linda Gowdy BMus Ed., Lisa Gallard, Bronwyn Torr, Alison Clark
Oboe:	LS Debrah Neil, Kylie-Ann Clarke
Clarinet:	PO Nicholas Pearce, LS Gabriel Kicsak, LS Sharon Jarvis, AB Leanne Cause, AB Jodie Tonkin, AB Clayton Tschirn, AB Belinda Balchin, AB Danielle Smith, AB Tom Hooyer, SMN Georgina Bedwell, Brett Gallard, Gareth Hockings, Kirsty Clarke, Melanie Close, Jessica McIntosh
Saxophones:	LS David Newman, AB Jeff Cause BA, AB Matthew Jessop, AB Adrian Wells, Lee Hardistry, Jody McSkimming, Arnis Tillers, Phil Lockhart
French Horn:	CPO Andrew Rourke, LS Mark Fox, AB Camille Temple BMus, Grad Dip Mus, AB Samantha Hewitt, David Gerrish, Lindsay Mungovan
Trumpet:	PO Andrew Sloan, PO Andrew Stapleton, PO David Pitchfork, AB Angelique Wynyard, AB Todd Wynyard BMus, AB Steve Temple BMus, Cobber Burnett, Colin Wright, Karen Clarke, Lindsay Jales, Ben Eggers
Trombone:	PO Mark Ham AMusa, As Dip Jazz, LS Paul Damms, AB Adrian Head BMus, AB Bernie Maude BA, Grad Dip Ed, Adam Mason, Rebecca Mason, Geoff Wilson
Euphonium:	PO Steven Packer, AB Michelle Rosenbloom BMus, Margaret O'Neill, Jonathan Gatt
Tuba:	AB Jason Beach, AB Allan Caulfield BMus, AB Ian Foster, AB Kate Dickinson, Ron Arnott, Erin Shonk, Joel Hockings
Double Bass:	AB Allan Caulfield BMus
Electric Bass:	AB Jason Beach
Percussion:	LS Paul Parnell, LS Andrew Stokes, AB Nicholas Pitt, Gerry Hooper, Tim Close, Gavin Clarke, David Mallam, Barney Waters

SNIPPETS

Paul (Willie) Williamson sent his belated apologies for not attending the Melbourne reunion. He hopes to be in Perth 1988 and sends his regards to all.

Wally (Silvest) Handfield called in on his way to the Gold Coast with wife Kaye and said hello. He lives on the Central Coast NSW and is still a travelling salesman (gifts, souvenirs etc.) and was hoping to catch up with Ken Mansfield. he caught up with Treasurer Ron.

The "Ballina Connection"....(Shew, McNally, Henry & Hawkins) had a few with DOM Ashley Greedy and the Navy Big Dance Band when they stopped overnight at Ballina en route to Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads where they were booked for a few shows with Don Burrows and band. The "troops" were enjoying their last night in a motel before being guests of the "Green Machine" at Canungra jungle training establishment on the Gold Coast hinterland. The "session" ended at 10pm for the 'old and bold' (rather early compared to the old days) and it was heartening to see some of the band attacking "gashies" of wine carafes as we old "lite" drinkers headed off into the night.

I called in and had a coffee (cappuccino, no less) with Ken (Kipper) Summerson at his Gold Coast Volvo showroom late '96 and we had a 'mag' about characters of the past, and Ken produced a battered and torn signal from C.N.S which said, in part....

It was with a feeling of deep pride that I witnessed the magnificent and faultless display of the RAN's Massed Band at the Olympic Ceremony today. This pride was greatly increased by the delight shown by about one hundred thousand people present at the main stadium and the praise offered in all quarters for our band officers and men etc etc.

The CNS also thanked the band which welcomed the Duke of Edinburgh at Essendon airport.

PERCUSSIONIST PRIORITIES

Ken Mansfield (perc. 52-60) was in contact to let us know of another change of address, but he is remaining on the Gold Coast and has retained his old telephone number (0755) 938923.

Ken was booked to play percussion in the band at Seagulls Rugby League Club for the musical "Hair" He mentioned that there is only one nude scene compared to the original Kings Cross production in the 70's, and that most of the show has been "cleaned up" to the point where children are allowed as patrons.

Music has been part of Ken's life continuously since 1952 when he joined the Navy, and it looks like continuing well into 1997 as he has recently finalised contracts with an overseas touring company visiting Australia to perform "42nd Street".

Both shows are seven nights per week, and he thrives on that!

Whilst shopping late 1996, Ken heard a concert band playing at his local shopping mall and went to investigate, where he found Vic Knowles conducting the Mudgeeraba Concert Band, a group Vic formed not long ago.

Ken reckons they sound alright!

Any Ex living on or near the Gold Coast who would like a "blow" should phone Vic on (0755) 305103.

HOPPY HAS HIS SAY

Phil Hopkins (03)97863976 phoned just prior to the last issue going to print to say that he thought Max Beeson's comments about Curly Ball being "the greatest drunk I've ever seen" were a bit "over the top" and reckoned Max could have been a little kinder to Curly!

I suppose the Editor could have been a little more circumspect in going ahead with the description, but it was in the context of a story about the opening of the RC Chapel, and you really can't say that a bloke had been on the orange juice and needed someone to take over the band when the orange juice caused him to be very wobbly on his feet!

Phil went on to say that the photo in the June issue of bandies at action stations on SYDNEY must have been taken during WW2 because No. 8's didn't come in until after the 2nd WW and the sailors near the bandies were wearing blues, and the officer was in a black cap, not the Korean war, say's Hoppy. His memory of the Korean war was that only a few bandies were involved and included Bluey Blatch and Slim Halliday (both buglers), and Jack Noonan who was in charge of a "blue-jacket" band on the SYDNEY.

MUSICAL PROGRAMME

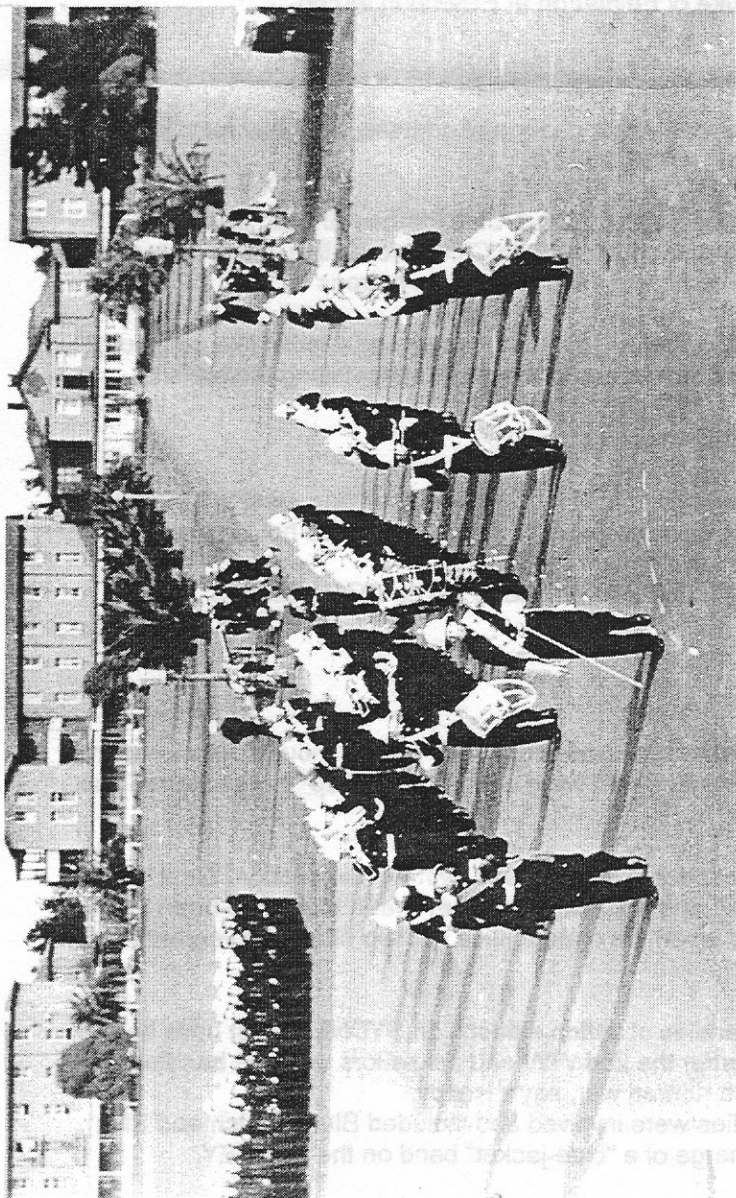
March	Imperial Echoes	Safroni
Selection	Romeo and Juliet	Gounod
Suite	Frescoes	Wood
Waltz	The Grenadiers	Waldteufel
Entr'acte	Wedding of the Rose	Jessel
Selection	Guys and Dolls	Loesse
Extra:	Hit The Deck	Youmans

G.B.Ball Chief Bandmaster, R.A.N.

14TH FEB 1957

top left, FND Band early 50's, Chief Bandmaster "Bogey" Knight, Bluey Carr D/M.

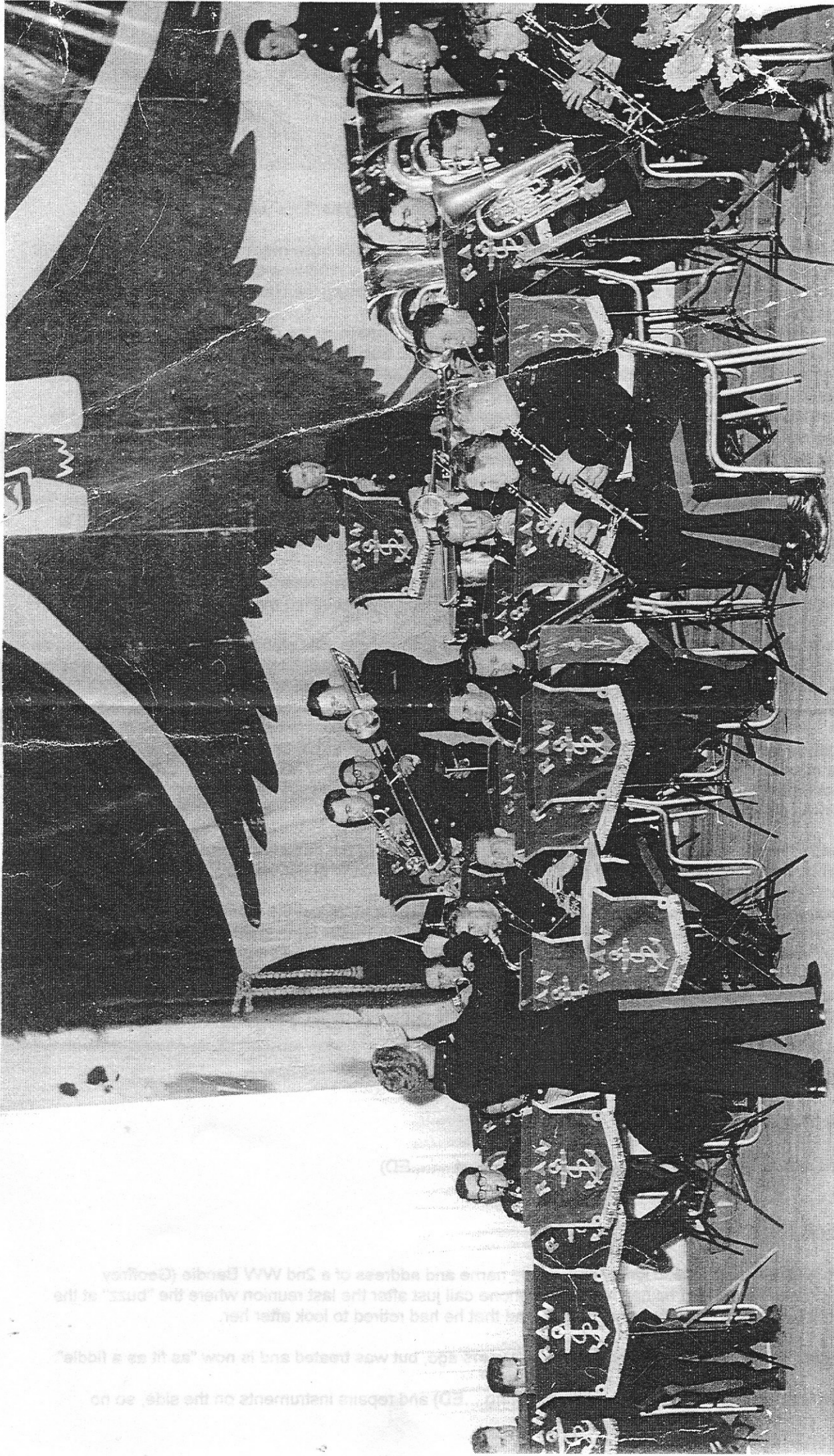
Bottom, Junior Musician Ron "Akky" Large receiving presentation from Depot Commodore (could be Plunkett-Cole) & DOM George Hooker.



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DEPOT BAND HMAS CERBERUS 1959

Conductor Chief Bandmaster Ron Carr.

- L/R M. Jeff, fl, ? oboe, J Cummings, clar, R Carr, ? cornet, B Pollock t sax, R Edwards clar, K Foale corn, J Leslie perc, G Crompton trom, J Jerrard a. sax, E Howes clar, M Haynes f. horn, ? trom, ? perc, could be Bill McCarthy clar, V Knowles clar, W Farrell f. horn, C Tumath bass, T Whitmore euph, R Mackenzie bass, P Farrugia perc, F Greedy clar, ? clarinet.

LIFE IS GREAT by former PMD-Navy Vic Knowles

(edited for space)

Just a short note to bring you up to date with how the Knowles's are fairing as "Ex's" since paying off in September 1994.

Elizabeth and I are enjoying life immensely and are both in good health. We have many great memories to tide us over so we are coping well with that part of our lives....hearing of the many problems confronting the Branch in the "new look" Navy, I consider myself lucky to have departed when I did. Leaving the Navy from an "out-of-branch" job, as I did, I am not sorry to have left at all.

As soon as we settled in Mudgeeraba (20 minutes to anywhere/everywhere on the Gold Coast) I joined the 'Magnificent Mudgeeraba' Lions Club and our recently formed R&SL Sub-Branch, both of which I am now an established member. Twelve months later (Sept/Oct '95), noticing that there was no concert band for anyone over 23 years of age, or woodwind school leavers not wishing to undergo an audition, I formed the Hinterland Community band-Mudgeeraba HCB-4213. Now I am pleased to say we are an incorporated body and starting to perform, and be sought after to perform, in public (see Ken Mansfield's comment.....Ed).

Retirement, the way we like it, is really appealing and really expensive. Consequently we found we couldn't afford it and, after doing a stint in the Reserves (six weeks in Canberra, then 12 weeks in Brisbane) without enjoying any of it, I joined the Qld. Education Department as an instrumental music teacher. For my first 3 months I relieved Ex-Bandy John Cummings in the Palm Beach area. Now I am at Mudgeeraba State School where I am pleased to say, subject to the recent Tropicarnival Eisteddfod, we are the best (actually "most outstanding") Primary School band on the Gold Coast.

As I have said to numerous people now, I have enjoyed many highlights in my Navy career, but leading and being with the kids when we took out the A grade competition at the Eisteddfod equalled most of them.

Elizabeth is currently attending doll making classes, one of her long sought after ambitions, has just completed an adult education Classic Art course and is helping out at the local school by assisting young kids with their reading. That gives her more satisfaction than any other of her pursuits. Through our clubs, classes and contacts we have built up a great circle of friends.

For those who remember our Pyrenean Mountain dog, Ravel, arthritic pain got the better of him, and he lost many bodily functions, so we had to let him go. We are now the proud owners of a "Labradoodle".....a cross between a labrador and a poodle. While we are busy trying to develop his technique in ball fetching, carrying the paper etc., "Dougal" is more intent on majoring in horticulture, irrigation and mining! I can't wait to see what happens when he takes the final bit of soil from under the trailer wheel.

We consider ourselves fortunate living on the Gold Coast, not because of the beautiful weather, which it is, or the wonderful rural environment, which it is, but because we get to see so many of our friends.....I was going to say past and present, but friends aren't past, are they?

Many pass through the area and call in, and we're real pleased about that. In just the last few weeks we have had the Tattoo in Brisbane which brought the BIG Sydney Band and the SA Police contingent of friends, then last week the Navy Band-Sydney Big Band (which of course is smaller than the BIG Sydney Band) to the Gold Coast with Don Burrows.

I'll tell you true, it made me feel proud to have been associated with musicians from such fine organisations. Moreover, I would like to think that some of my more favourable attributes might have rubbed off onto them.....I hope so.

Remember:- 07 5530 5103

5 Marcus Way Mudgeeraba-call in.

(thanks Vic, it's nice to hear you are enjoying life to it's fullest.....ED)

JUST TO CLEAR IT UP!

Ken McCallum wrote a short note to kindly give us the name and address of a 2nd WW Bandie (Geoffrey Devonshire), and mentioned that he had received a phone call just after the last reunion where the "buzz" at the reunion was that Ken's wife had a terminal illness, and that he had retired to look after her.

Not so, says Ken. The "Missus" had a few problems 2 years ago, but was treated and is now "as fit as a fiddle".

Mac is with the Qld. Education Department (**it's catching....ED**) and repairs instruments on the side, so no retirement yet.

THE GRAND FINAL

No-one would believe that a grown man would make a phone call interstate slap bang in the middle of the ARL Grand Final where my beloved red & whites were copping a hiding, but Ted Lincoln managed to find my phone number!

(this was the day after the Swans went down to North Melbourne and I was trying to get some money back)

The irksome thing about the conversation was that Ted (09) 3323553 wanted to know why some of the photos he had given me had names omitted or incorrect!

The simple answer given to Ted was that he hadn't written a single name on the back of the photos, and I wasn't around at that time so had to rely on other Ex's memories, some blurred by the odd VB or Tooheys consumed over the past 45 years.

We had a jovial chat (he was sort of watching the game broadcast direct in WA) and he told me that he and Shirley were in Indonesia mid 1996 and bumped into Rex & Evelyn Collinsons' son Matthew and his wife, holidaying at the same resort.

Ted informed me that the exact dates for our next reunion in the West will be known soon and published here.

MANY THANKS (belated)

The two page spread last issue of happy faces at "VIC's 96" did not carry the photographer's name.

Thanks Baryn (Slim) Halliday for sending in a great selection of photos taken over the weekend.

I had already thanked Margaret Gullick for her contribution published in the July 96 edition, and must also say thanks to Margaret Widdicombe for another terrific selection of photos forwarded. Alan Woodhouse was another photographer who sent us a large selection. We may be able to publish a few between now and the next reunion so those not in attendance can see how old and wise we have all grown!

Quite a few members phoned with information about photos published last issue, in particular the band and sailors outside a "pub somewhere". The pub, I'm told, was The Collector Hotel, and two of the 'bods' not known were Curly Ball and Trunky Bestmann. The other smaller photo on the same page said the band was on Lord Howe Island. This should have read Norfolk Island.

ANOTHER SEAMAN BUGLER

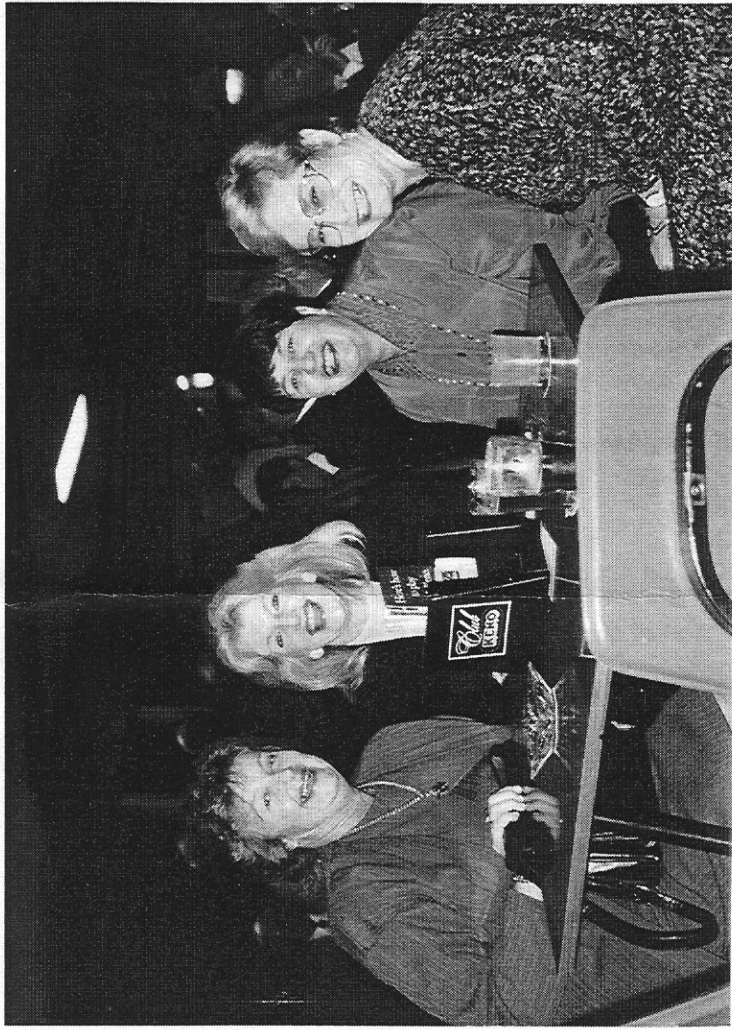
Welcome to new member, former Seaman/Bugler the Rev. Geoff Devonshire of Bethania Qld. (07 3200-5178) who enclosed quite a few interesting details with his membership.

Geoff served in the band between 1943 & 1945 at Flinders, and had a break from the band when on HMAS CASTLEMAINE. During 1945 the Flinders band went to Canberra for Anzac Day where HRH The Duke of Gloucester was the Grand General for the occasion. They played the harmonized version of Last Post.

He was on the War Loan Tour as featured in our last newsletter, and remembers the Bandmaster as being Commissioned Warrant Officer Frank Cockshead (pronounced Co-Shay!)

Geoff nowadays is still a practising Minister of Religion and is Chaplain for the TPI Association. He has offered his services to the Association if the need arises.

Treasurer Ron and myself caught up with Geoff and his wife when they visited Ballina briefly in November last. Ron showed them around the Naval Museum (a must for any Ex travelling through) and they had plans to visit Commissioned Bandmaster Cockshead's daughter, Enid, who lives in nearby Lismore.



Top left,

Bill Thompson & Ron Edwards

Top right, a happy quartet
Evelyn Collinson, Noeline
Smith, Margaret Widdicombe &
Stephanie Semmler.

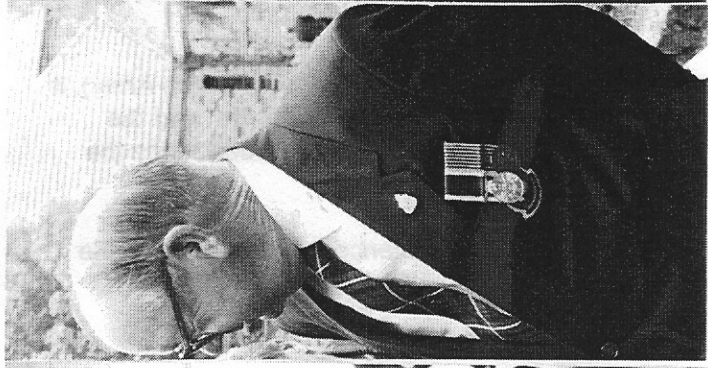
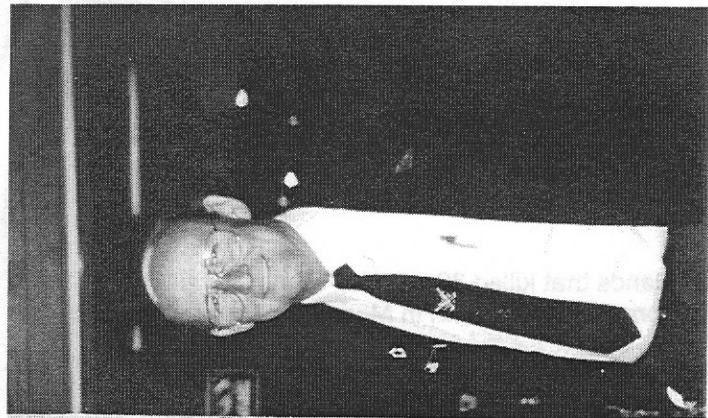
Bottom left,

Patron George Hooker with
Timothy Hooker.

Bar-B-Que organiser
Rocky Parnell.

J.C. Atkins.





Clockwise John Widdicombe, Ted Lincoln, & Bob Soutar. Max Beeson, Ron MacKenzie,, Bill Thompson. Les Wright, Jack Pleass, Phil Hopkins and a very pointed Ken Clarke.



DUTCH ARMY BAND CAPTURED

The word was captured by a light...
A British Air Force plane...
ought the killing of...
All nine captives were...
An E-mail message received on...
The band is called...
was founded recently (about a year)...
Pantarko de Gene. The...
founding of the band.

DUTCH ARMY BAND CRASHES

The world was saddened by a tragic plane crash in the Netherlands that killed 32 people. A Belgian Air Force plane bringing a Dutch Army Band back from a music festival in Modena, Italy, crashed and caught fire, killing 32 people. All nine survivors were seriously burned. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

An E-mail message received on Wed. 17 July 1996 from Holland stated:

The band is called 'Fanfarekorps van de Koninklijke Kandmacht' (Fanfare Band of the Royal Dutch Army). It was founded recently (about a year) by a merger between the 'Fanfarekorps Limburgse Jagers' and the 'Fanfarekorps der Genie'. The trip to the Italian city of Modena was the first appearance abroad since the founding of the new band.

(our compatriots, the Australian Army Band Corps Association sent a letter of condolence to the relatives of the Dutch Army Band members killed in the crash).

THE SUBJECT OF MEMBERSHIP

You would remember mention in the last newsletter of several names being deleted from our membership list for non payment of annual dues.

With regret, we have had to delete a further 20 names since then. This follows a note from the Treasurer being attached to each newsletter stating that the member was overdue by 2 years (last paid 1994), and that the non payment would definitely mean no further newsletters.

This action really hurts your committee, considering the trouble taken by many people to locate Ex Bandies Australia-wide. It is unfortunate, but necessary when compared to those who pay their membership years in advance.

It was thought that our increase in membership dues may have been a contributing factor, but when compared to other Ex-Service organisations, this was discounted.

By comparison.....

Naval Association \$18

RSL Sub Branch \$20

Vietnam Veterans Assoc. \$20

RAN Band Assoc. \$15 (just increased to this amount, and likely to remain so for several years).

It is also worthy of mention that none of your membership money is used to pay for State conference travel for the executive committee, nor to maintain a Federal/National committee. Your National President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer pay their own way to meetings (some requiring interstate travel) and reunions. The computer, fax, photo-copier and answering machine are on loan to the Association and cost nothing except for the occasional service, ribbons and copy-paper.

WE MIGHTN'T BE GOOD BUT WE'RE LOUD!

Sixties popular rock group **The Monkees** announced their intention to re-form recently. During a TV interview, one ageing rocker answering a question about the bands' questionable previous talent made the following statement;

"We really weren't that bad all those years ago, but then again, we weren't that good either. When we played the National Anthem, people of all nationalities stood up!"

SEA TIME?

Noticed in a Sydney Sunday newspaper, then Navy News, this advertisement to raise money for the National Maritime Museum (VAMPIRE is moored alongside Darling Harbour as a static display).

I wondered if it was possible for the Federal Government to book a few bunks for some of the younger members of the RAN Band so they might experience a taste of sea time?

Sarcastic, you reckon???

Well, the programme for the Brisbane International Tattoo, under "The Royal Australian Navy Band" quoted.....

The RAN Band employs all modes of transport in meeting its commitments. Coach travel is common, civil and service aircraft are used when travelling long distances, and of course, being a Naval Band water transport is used to shuttle the Band around Sydney Harbour.
UNQUOTE!

Sleeping over in VAMPIRE

The National Maritime Museum is inviting children to a great night out ... sleeping over on the old destroyer VAMPIRE in Sydney's Darling Harbour.

You'll have to make a quick decision! The first opportunity is Saturday night, November 9, with a second chance on Saturday, November 23.

"We've had a couple of sleepovers on VAMPIRE already and they've been a huge success," says museum spokesman Bill

Richards.

The over-nights are designed for kids aged 8 to 14 (and parents, if they want to take part). The "crew-for-the-night" have organised activities in the early part of the evening, then bunk down in the original crews quarters.

Bookings are normally \$85 per person (child or parent), but they are available for \$75 per person. All inquiries to John Glenn at the National Maritime Museum on (02) 9552 7555.

Scots bewail maverick bagpiper

THE defiant lone bagpiper of Hampstead Heath in London got scant sympathy even in the land of the pipes last week after being fined £45 (\$94) for disrupting the public's "quiet enjoyment" of the open space.

A spokeswoman at the College of Piping in Glasgow said: "Oh no - not him again. He's always onto us, trying to get support. He's a pain in the neck."

David Brookes, 49, spurned a compromise official offer of a licence to play in a bandstand three times. He said he would buy a bicycle and continue practising his art in the open air. "They'll just have to catch me," he added.

The college spokeswoman said of obtrusive bagpipe noise: "People in Scotland have the same problem all the time and resolve it somehow without going to court. They come to an

arrangement with neighbours, or they join a pipe band.

Brookes said he had played on Hampstead Heath for 20 years. He had been given permission to do so. He was "completely surprised" at the ban.

Facing Hampstead magistrates, he relied on the defence that bagpipes were not a musical instrument but a weapon of war under a 1746 ruling. His lawyer, George Fairbairn, said: "[In the

18th century] a man was found guilty of treason and hanged, drawn and quartered because the court found his bagpipes were a weapon of war."

The spokeswoman for the College of Piping said the Disarming Act had been repealed years ago.

"They are certainly a musical instrument, if played properly," she said.

The Guardian

S.M.H.
5/11/96

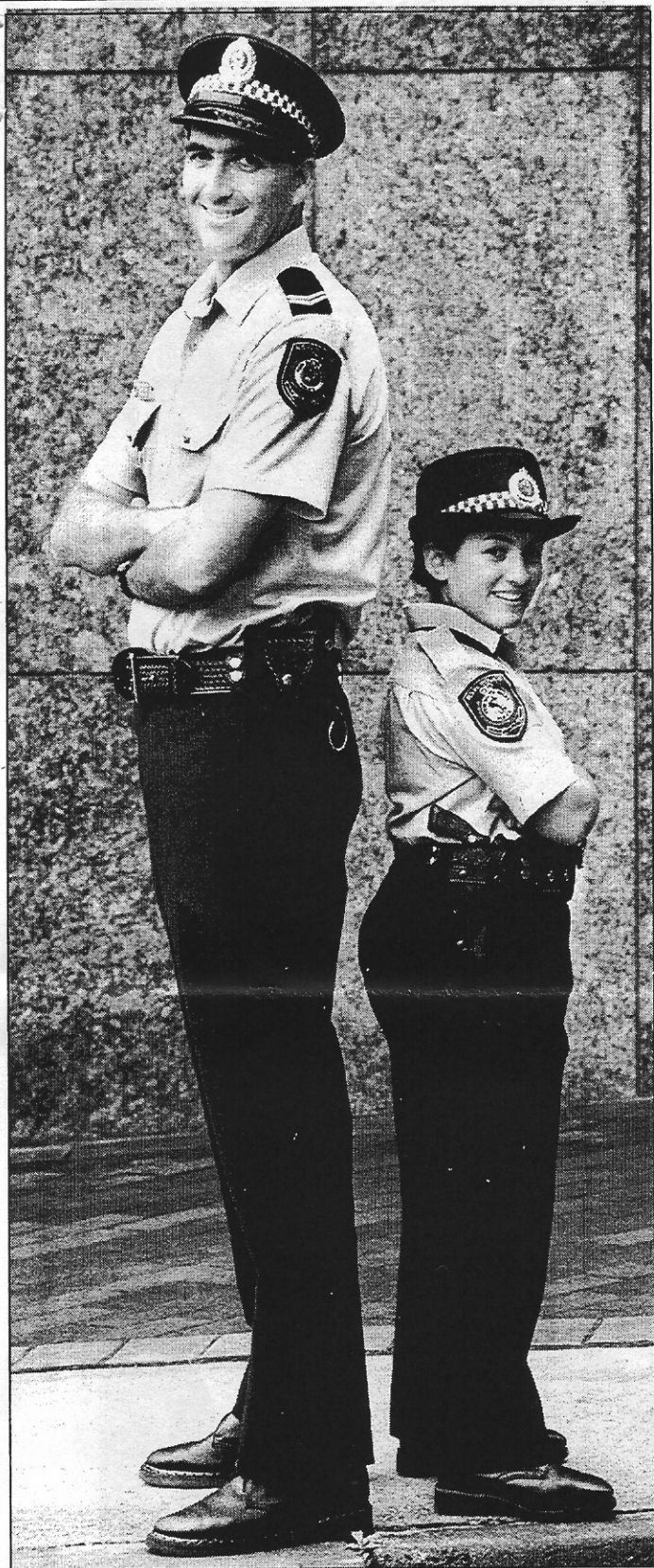
HMAS ALBATROSS Band, early 1970's.

L/R, rear, ? , Jim Anderson, Brian Torrens, Trevor Boyle, Keith McGuinness, Chris Rose, Robertson, Ray Greer, ? , Puss LeDan, Russell Broun, Pete Kannengeisser.

(bottom) Mick Divertie, Frank Whittaker, Trevor Hunt, CP0 Frank Lunn (B/M), Lt Knobby Hall (Gunnery Officer), Maurie Jeff, Rob Bedwell, Bert Kennedy & Gordon Jackson.



20/02 4m2



The long and short arms of the law . . . Senior Constable Scott Willis, 198 centimetres tall, and Constable Amanda De Gioia, who stands only 142 centimetres.

Lowering standards, or being "caught short"?
 Sydney Morning Herald 9.11.96.

(top right) He must have read about these drugs
 in our last edition.

Drug thief faces five-day erection

By DAVID ADAMS,
 chief crime reporter

A burglar who stole drugs from a Seaford impotence clinic at the weekend has been warned that misuse of the medication could be lethal.

The drugs, Regitin, Papaverine, Atropine and Prostin — worth several hundred dollars and contained in around 90 ampules — were stolen from a fridge in the clinic between 11am on Friday and 9.30am on Monday.

Reports yesterday stated that if the drugs were injected into the penis, they could result in an erection lasting four or five days.

"It's unbearable pain," said the owner of the Nepean Highway clinic, Dr Jack Waisman. "I can't imagine anyone who could stand the pain for five days. After five or six hours it becomes so unbearable."

Dr Waisman said anyone who mistakenly injected the drugs would need an operation to drain his penis of the medication.

Professor Nick Christophidis, of the St Vincent's Hospital department of pharmacology and toxicol-

ogy, said: "They are potential killers if taken without medical supervision.

"I would recommend to the people who stole these drugs not to touch them."

Professor Christophidis said the drugs were particularly dangerous for anyone with a heart condition.

If not fatal, the drugs could cause coma, heart attack or stroke, serious heart arrhythmia, convulsions, confusion or excitement.

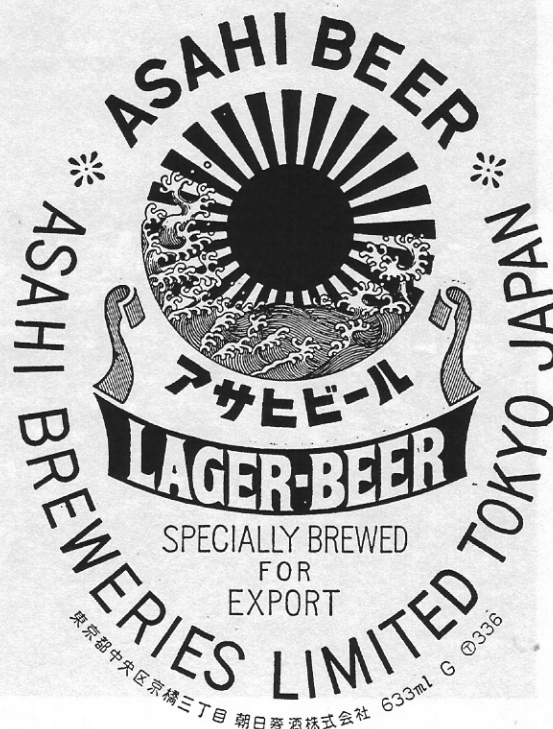
He said a prolonged erection would need urgent attention. "If the erection lasts more than four hours, it could cause the development of blood clots in the penis, and require emergency attention."

Dr Waisman said the drugs would have no effect if taken orally.

— with AAP



MELBOURNE SUN/HERALD



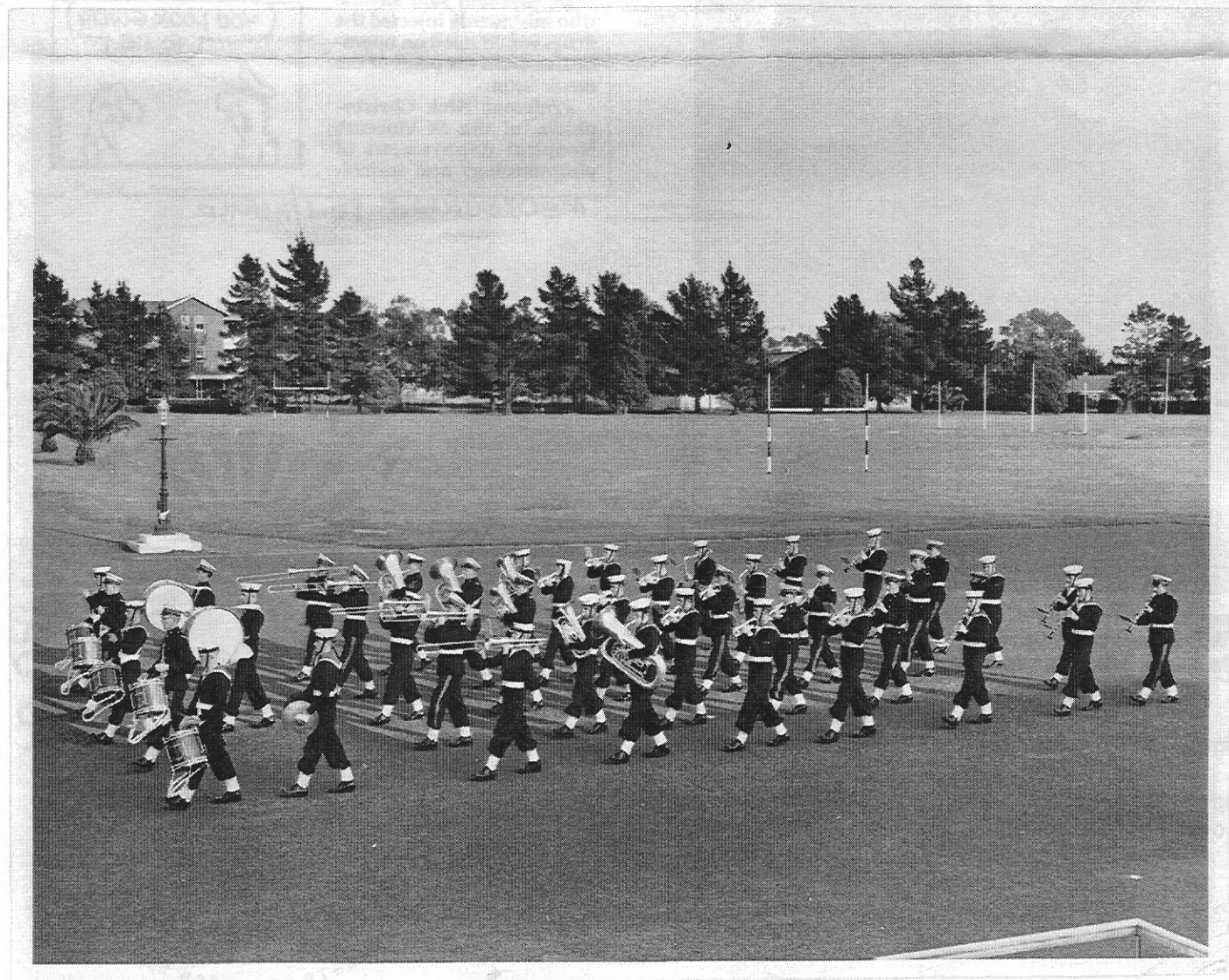
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

This monstrosity looks vaguely like the remains of the trombone left on the roadway at the gangway, PENGUIN, during the 60's when one of our legendary trombonists put his card into the police office prior to travelling private transport to a Sydney job, and returned to the gate to see a vehicle passing over the service-issue instrument.

Actually, it's a cimbasso (never heard of it, do I hear?) which the female player says "can cut through steel".

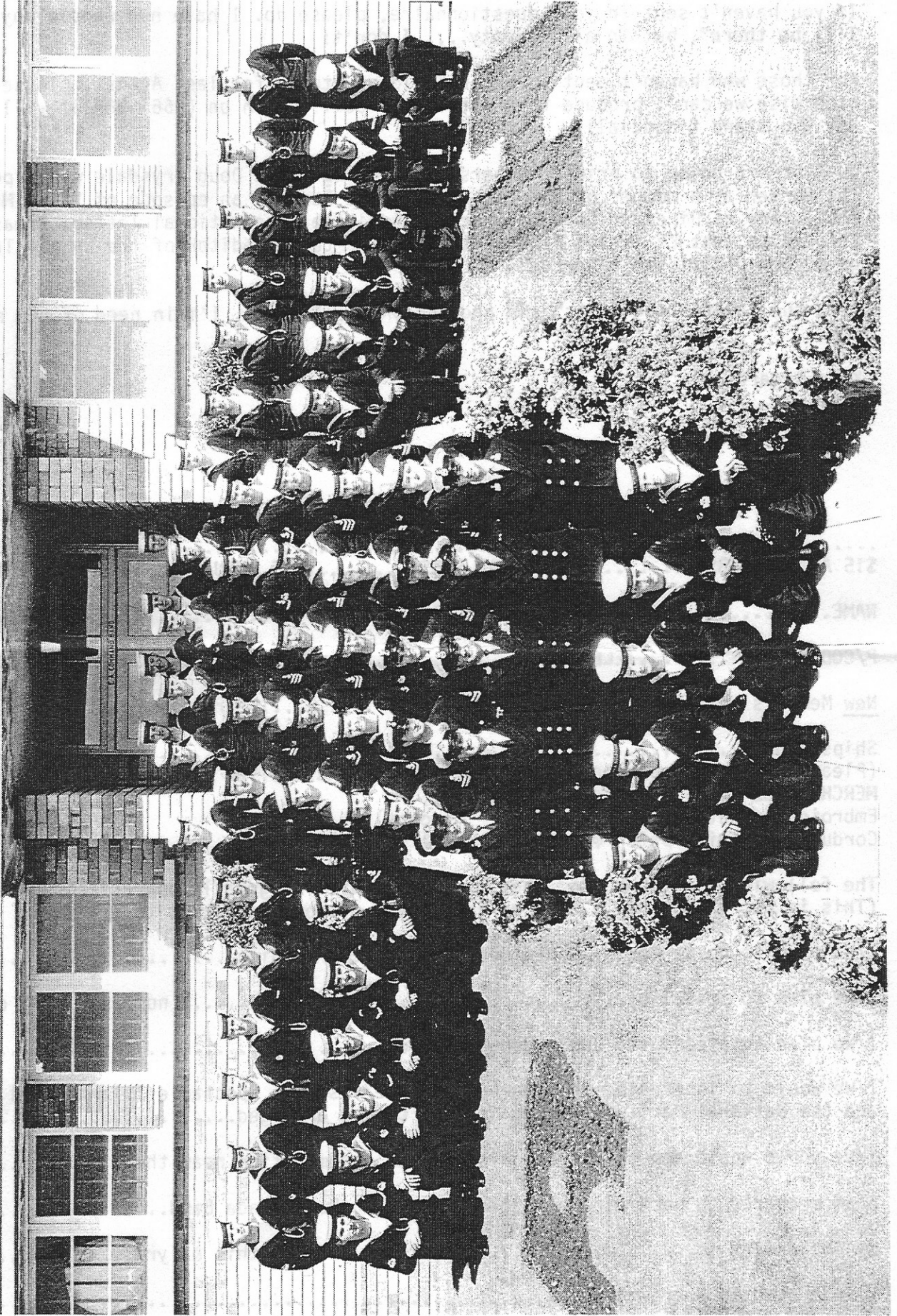
The way it is positioned by the female instrumentalist conjures up thoughts similar to those "old chestnuts" regarding the female cellist!

Pictured below, the FND Band on 31.3.60 with the RANR Band from Perth still in the old rig, but with webbing. I would think this was a first (and last) for the old rig.



PENGUIN, ALBATROSS & FLEET BAND (OR HMAS SYDNEY) LATE 1966

(can you name all those in attendance? First correct entry wins a night out with the Treasurer, second prize, two nights out!).



Many thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter. Without your help, there wouldn't be one!

If you haven't sent in your questionnaire, please do. I have had people say "You know I'll be there", but in all honesty.....I don't!

For those who haven't sent in their "folding stuff" for last August, please do right now otherwise we can't produce this missive. A call to Ron on (066) 869137 will let you know how you stand financially.

Just before going to print, members Paul Farrugia and Doug Drysdale were spotted on TV, the former as a member of the Victoria Police Band in an episode of "Blue Heelers", and the latter as Director Of Music for the Adelaide International Tattoo. Treasurer Ron informs us that Ex Trevor Hunt wrote a letter to the editor of the Sydney Telegraph, and gave some politician a "serve".

Keep the interesting "dits" and photographs rolling in. I'm in need of new material right now.

Kind Regards,

HAPPY JACK

.....
\$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.