

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, no. 4

September 1994

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<u>PRESIDENT</u>	Robert Bedwell	<u>Treasurer</u>	Ronald Henry
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Greetings, one and all.

Yes, this is a bonus newsletter, with your next publication due February 1995.

For those members who have sent only \$7 to date, your 1994/95 subs are now overdue. To remain on the mailing list, we need your subscription NOW!!!! Any queries regarding membership should be made to the Secretary on (066) 252689, or Treasurer on (066) 869137.

The reason for this bonus issue.....?

We have had such a great response from members that a huge backlog of stories has built up, and we had a "few bob" left over from the re-union and thought it more prudent to spend it on productive purposes rather than pour it down the drain at Frankston, "VIC'S 96".

Jim Hawkins
EDITOR

(please note...we will return to our computerised newsletter once the editor gets the hang of the new fangled gadget!!!!)

SURFERS RE-UNION

Our 1994 National re-union was a huge success, with record attendances on the Friday and Saturday evenings. The sea of faces when 156 people sat down to a sumptuous smorgasbord on 9th July was a sight to behold, and copious amounts of Orlando/Wyndham wines courtesy of Ralph Daines, along with the amber fluid courtesy of CUB/Graeme Feltham helped our cause. Ralph also organised several prizes for the raffle, ably conducted by M.C. Blue McNally, which raised \$580 and helped subsidise the extra seafood we had arranged. Compere "Blue" handled the evening with aplomb, and the short speech segment went down well. Patron George brought the house down with his "The last time I saw Harris" story, and gave a short talk on RAN Bands during the 2nd WW. President Rob Bedwell showed that he has lost none of his wit, and UK Visitor Ray "Goofy" Newer tried to say a few words to the accompaniment of the chorus chanting "Oggie, Oggie, Oggie". Mick Leeke told a story about the DOM's sword, and my spy tells me that just as he was finishing his un-rehearsed story, his wife and daughter arrived to pick him up, only to be horrified to hear his voice on the mike as they walked up the stairs! The organising committee were called to the floor for a round of applause by all attending. The committee consisted of Jim Stathis, Ron Edwards, Ron Large, Ron Henry and Jim Hawkins, who all attended several meetings on the Gold Coast to arrange the weekend. The evening continued with patrons coming and going from the function room to the downstairs bar area where the QLD Naval Band were playing just the right music for the occasion, and where at 10.15pm the "Old and Bold" took over the stage to show the young musicians of today that a band can set up and commence playing within 5 minutes! (no sound checks...just get on with the music). The

group I heard playing some great jazz consisted of Jim McDonough (piano), Ken Mansfield (drums), John Noonan (cornet), Ron Edwards (reeds), Darrel Newby (trom) and Randal (Ned) Kellas, (bass). They really did blow the place apart, and apologies must go to those who wanted to have a 'blow' but were unable to because of time constraints. This problem gave us food for thought for "VIC's 96".

Midnight crept up on us, and the bar closed until another day. The editor and many others wanted to keep going, but RSL rules are made not to be bent (I did try my darndest!). Several stayers carried on to Jupiters Casino where one famous Ex lost his wife in the crowd, and when she approached him while he was talking to a statue at 4am, he didn't recognise her! Our only physical casualty was Rex Collinson who broke his ankle when someone moved the car he was leaning on. Rex spent 4 hours at Tweed Heads hospital just to finish the evening off.

Prior to this magnificent evening, and not knowing how many people would be in attendance, the committee organised a 'practise run' on the Friday, where many Ex's had been gathering since early morning. When it was realised that "our crowd" would make life very difficult for regular patrons around 5pm raffle-time, and with our golfers yet to arrive, a hasty decision was made to open up the function room (already set up for Saturday's General Meeting!), employ a barman in a hurry, and move the crowd upstairs. More than 120 Ex's and friends checked out the photographic display, met a few Ex's who couldn't attend the Sat. dinner (such as Trevor Fenlon, Neville Jones and Ray DeVaurno). I am told that the barman took \$1300, which would have paid for his wage, plus a handy profit for the club who were hesitant to employ him in the first place!

I did notice one Ex who had enjoyed the Saturday so much, he decided to go back to his room for a snooze prior to the dinner. It was a shame that he arrived back just as all the food was put away.....and it had been out for a long time!

A Manager at the club told me that quite a few Ex's began arriving on the Wed. before the weekend, and by Thursday he had put up a notice showing where each Ex was staying. One Ex rubbed his name out on the Friday morning so the other 'stayers' couldn't find him.

I was unable to attend the Sunday get-together at the club, but spoke to quite a few people who were adjacent to Graeme Feltham's mobile phone when the "session" was in full swing. It sounded like Saturday night repeated. Your committee decided to make the re-union self-financing, in other words, no Association funds whatsoever are to be used to pay for another person's good time when many members just can't make it to the re-union. This was mentioned at the General Meeting, and was applauded.

PROBLEMS

We will have to look at the arrangements for booking seats and paying for the Official Dinner. All comments to your committee were positive about this part of the weekend. We lost quite a few 'bob' when people just didn't turn up (their mate or partner had only paid a deposit, but promised us "2 to attend"), I do thank those who at least phoned me close to the event to change prior arrangements...at least we could tell the chef, who aren't the easiest to get on with at the best of times. We paid for 5 extra people, and this is a pain in the butt for the raffle ticket sellers trying to make a quid for the Assoc.!

STORIES ARISING!

Ken "Knobby" Clarke phoned from Hastings to say that he had bumped into Phil and Mavis Hopkins walking out of Seagulls Rugby League Club, looking "broke". "Hoppy" gave the General Meeting a racing tip with musical connotations, and not being a betting person, I can't say whether it won or not, but I remember a tip "Hoppy" gave us all way back, named Royal Marine, which won around 10

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on the trot. Yes, I know Hoppy, you put the chaff in one end, and Bandies^{3/}
dodge what comes out the other on Anzac Day.

Ronald K Henry (treasurer) was hard to locate following his weekend, and I found he had hosted Don and Lillian Buntine at Ballina prior to their return to the State of Victoria. Ronald has recently purchased a mobile home at Shaws Bay, Ballina, right at the mouth of the Richmond River, and overlooking the blue Pacific. We have balanced the books from re-union weekend, as several people paid for their membership/dinner/merchandise with one cheque, which is understandable, but confusing for Ron's accounts as we tried to keep things separate.

Jesse Watson phoned from WA to ask...."who had their 'lights punched out'". I told him it was a cultured weekend, and he replied....."It must have been a Masonic Do".

The photos on display were magnificent, and my disappointment was not finding the time to look at the Alan Woodhouse presentation (done for his B.A.) in detail, which was worthy of a day's reading. For those who took the trouble to bring albums and photos along, it was very much appreciated by all in attendance. I did pick up a few loose photos late Saturday, and have located many owners. If you lost one or two, give me a call.

I had a yarn with Randall (Ned) Kellas who was in at the same time as myself, but we never crossed paths. We agreed that the Australian musical 'scene' is really a small world when discussing several jazz musicians we had worked with over the years.

My spy tells me that a former D.O.M. almost missed his flight from Coolangatta when a security alarm alerted the airport police to check out his wife's baggage containing the travelling "fighting irons", taken everywhere as sharp knives are hard to find in motel rooms. He and Mrs Ex DOM didn't stop puffing until the aircraft flew over Grafton!

1ST GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Some 80 members and guests met in the function room, Surfers RSL at 11am Sat. 9.7.94, and the meeting proceeded as follows;

11.10am Meeting opened.

38 apologies were tendered.

Gold Coast committee member and function organiser Jim Stathis welcomed all to the 'sunny' Gold Coast.

President Rob Bedwell said a few words, welcomed Patron George Hooker, and handed over to Secretary Jim Hawkins for his report on happenings since the inception of the Association. Inward and outward correspondence was read and tabled.

Treasurer Ron Henry gave his financial statement: (as at 30.6.94)

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions, donations	\$2164.00	Credit Union shares	\$10.00
Merchandise sales	59.00	Credit Union charges	\$10.00
Interest	<u>3.94</u>	Govt. charges (FID)	\$ 3.26
		Printing (3 issues)	\$581.25
		Postage	\$403.11
		Telecom	\$168.97
		Stationery	\$99.65
		Advertising	\$40.00
		Self-inking stamp	<u>\$26.35</u>
<u>Totals</u>	\$2226.94		\$1342.61

A credit balance is held in the account totalling \$884.33

(signed) R K Henry Hon. Treasurer T J Hawkins Hon. Secretary

All interim committee positions were declared vacant, and PMD-Navy Ashley Greedy took the chair for the election of office-bearers. All interim office-bearers were elected un-opposed, and Jim Stathis was elected Vice President of the Association.

Zone Representatives were elected;

<u>Victoria</u>	Phil Hopkins, Gordon Crompton, Ken Clarke, Len Nurse, Alan Woodhouse
<u>QLD</u>	Ron Edwards
<u>W.A.</u>	Bill Farrell
<u>S.A.</u>	Randall Kellas
<u>TAS</u>	Michael Wheldon
<u>NSW</u>	John Widdicombe, Ralph Daines and Shiner Wright (Snr)

Future Re-unions

A debate took place about frequency and venues for future re-unions. It was decided to hold National re-unions every 2 years, with the cities to be host as follows;

1996 Melbourne

1998 Perth

2000 Sydney

Associate Members

We welcome Associate Members of the Association, and the fee will be the same as Members.

Association Fee

It was decided to increase the Annual fee to \$10 from August 1995.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Ross MacNamara mentioned that he had visited the Mitchell Library, Sydney, and they require any historical band photos relating to the City of Sydney. They only have a few in their collection, and Ross is happy to liase with the library and any Ex who may wish to lend same. Ross is on (02)8316836.

Warrant Officer Les (Shiner) Wright spoke about photos sent to the RAN via Jim Hawkins over the past few years, for copying and return to owners. Many have been returned to the Association and forwarded to owners. Any queries to Jim Hawkins.

Don (Icky) Buntine moved a formal vote of appreciation to the interim committee for work put in whilst forming the Association. This was seconded by Jim McDonough.

PMD-Navy Ashley Greedy gave a short and informative talk on the state of RAN Bands at present.

The Secretary will make enquiries regarding the possible production of Assn. lapel badges and ties.

A members list with addresses and phone numbers will be published in a future newsletter (when space permits).

To complete general business, Patron George was presented with an Association Cap with patch by President Rob, Jack Noonan asked about pensioners discounts (we weren't sure whether this was "tongue in cheek"), and Phil Ingram mumbled something from the rear of the room.

The Meeting ended at 1225 hrs.

SUMMARY

Several letters and phone calls were received about the weekend, and all were positive. Clive (CJ) Smith wrote from Singleton NSW to say thanks, and mention that wife Noeline, who stayed behind to look after the farm, was very envious when she heard who had attended, and "won't miss the next one".

PMD-Navy Ashley Greedy wrote a letter of thanks and said, in essence, "please accept my personal thanks for a wonderful re-union weekend. To see so many old musical salts was, to say the least, amazing!"

Margaret Gullick sent a very nice note to say how much Norman and herself had enjoyed themselves, and to mention that "too many of Norman's boys are growing old!" It's a sad fact of life, Marg. (although Neville Jones didn't look a day older than when he paid off).

Your Victorian committee are already discussing dates/venues for the 1996 re-union, to be known as "VIC'S 96". Because we will have the Chapel Window Dedication on this weekend, several factors must be taken into consideration prior to deciding on definite dates, but I would hope to have dates for you by the February newsletter. START PUTTING THE DOLLARS AWAY THIS WEEK!

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NEWSLETTER

STRANGE POSTINGS

Alan Woodhouse (03)7894081 wrote a newsy letter and mentioned a musicians' posting very few would know about. It was HMAS GLADSTONE, a training corvette where several junior musicians were actually posted for a week in 1954 (he realises that many RAN Bands travelled on various ships without being officially posted on board). The C.O. LCDR Ponton organised this event, with Frank Lunn in charge, and some of the personnel involved included Barry Pollock, Jerry Gerrard, Don Buntine (seasick even up the river), Vic Slim, Ned Kellas and others he forgets. he does, however, remember their 1st meal on board which consisted of saveloys, mashed potato and green peas (how many colours do they come in?). The weather was rough, and not many meals stayed down, so the pong was extreme!

The ship travelled to Launceston for one week, and the Juniors worked 'part of ship' over and back, doing gangway duties whilst tied up alongside. Those duties consisted of being attired in bandies rig, and marching up and down the wharf the length of the ship swinging a baton (not conductors). Alan has fond memories of his RAN days (and RANR also) where he played sax, oboe and sometimes bass drum. He can only remember playing sax on parade once for an outside job, and that was for the 1956 Olympics. His fond memories of the band do not include his many, many jobs on bass drum, or cymbals for that matter.

HISTORICAL CORRECTIONS

I appreciate being corrected on information which appears in these pages, but I can only publish what I am given, and take it in good faith. For example, 2nd WW Veteran, the late Hec Napier wrote to me with some details, and spelt the name of his first RAN Bandmaster at FND as Coxhead, when it should have been spelt Cockshead (there was a Bandmaster Coxhead). The other mistake which caused quite a few phone calls was the story about the bugler on board MELBOURNE on that fateful night with VOYAGER. Jesse Watson phoned me with apologies to all, to confirm Jim Stathis's story (make that correction of a previous story that Darrel Mansell was there) to say that he had phoned Darrel, who declared himself a 'non starter' as he had only joined in 1964 and was still under training. The bugler was definitely Bungey Williams (with the glasses). His first name eludes me. The above 2 examples could have had a bearing on RAN Band history, had a writer of same taken them as gospel.

LOST EX'S

Mention was made some time back about the whereabouts of Bob "Cookie" Roper, and Peter Steains thought he may be living on the Far North Coast of NSW, near Byron Bay. I have checked all the Roper's in the local phone book, to no avail.

We also mentioned Bob "Nellie" Gwynne, thought to be an accountant (how boring) at Frankston. Vic Knowles reported in to say that he had heard that "Nellie's" son had an hotel at Langwarrin Vic, and that he helped out there sometimes. (worth a check those nearby?)

Vic Knowles also mentioned that Andre Makin was now on the Gold Coast, and in contact with Bob Bentley (one who hasn't joined). If any Tasmanian Ex is in contact with Bob, maybe the question could be asked about Andre's whereabouts.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

It was great to learn that Ray "Goofy/Oggie" Lower went via Perth on his return to the UK from Surfers Paradise, and that the "Westies" (yes, they'll have a real football team over there shortly, the Western Rugby League Reds) held a party in Ray's honour. I did phone the venue at Jesse Watson's during the proceedings and had a farewell yarn with Ray. Quite a few turned up, but they were talking "in shorthand" when they got on the phone.

Jesse told me about Ron Edward's visit to WA just prior to the re-union. It seems Jesse notified Freddy Brewer that "Uggers" was to be visiting at a certain time, and when Freddy tapped him on the shoulder, he looked like a "stunned mullet". They hadn't met in 33 years! Ron also visited Kevin Foale and Bill Farrell during his stay.

Our old gaoler (or is that jailer?) mate, Phil Ingram is up to his old tricks again. Just when we found him down Perth way, he put retirement off and took the position of Superintendent of the Pardelup Prison near Mt Barker, not far from Albany WA, and can be contacted on (098)511682. He is about 4 hours drive from Perth for those visiting that part of Australia, and near a wine growing area which suits him fine. It is a very low security prison farm on thousands of acres where inmates help grow timber, crops etc., and Phil can't get used to the cold weather compared to his previous posting at the top end of WA.

MORE SAD NEWS

The phone call came from Alan Woodhouse to let us know that Chris (Albert RN) Higgins of Mornington VIC. passed away on 14th August 1994. Chris was involved in Ex Service associations, and according to Alan, was at a meeting of the Cerberus museum not long before his death.

Our sympathy is extended to his Family. A late report in told of Bill McCarthy passing away on 22nd August. I don't think Bill had surviving family.

LONG LOST TRUMPETER

Great to get a note along with his membership from Eric Pearce (60-66) now teaching at Carnarvon WA. He is visiting Perth over Xmas and will catch up with quite a few mates then, and Eric will be spending a week in Melbourne from 20th December next, so for you Victorians who haven't seen him for ages, give him a call on (099) 412914 to make your arrangements!

BRASS BAND BIAS

I was given a copy of a resurrected brass band journal, Oz Oompah which contained some good articles, but one 'took the cake' when a correspondent was writing about the possible demise of the WA Army Band. He made the suggestion that the band could revert back to brass with much less personnel than "these massive 50 plus military bands".

I suppose they could convert to a pipe and drum outfit to cut numbers, but imagine how they would sound backing an International artist? Fair dinkum, some of these blokes have their head buried in the sand, and

have no idea how professional outfits operate. Just imagine a 16 piece brass ensemble being sent to play for the S.A.S Commando Ball with 200 very fit young ARMY types wanting for heavy metal? I suppose a few could play the Australian National Anthem while the remainder escaped! My band career started with a brass band, and I love the sound of a good big brass band on parade, but we all know their limitations. It's a shame the writers of these articles don't!

VICTORIAN CHAPTER

Phil Hopkins (03) 7863976 reported in from Frankston with some addresses of lost Ex's including Geoff Coutts and Don Lowry. he said that Ross MacNamara and wife Cilla visited the Hopkins' early '94, so Phil organised one of his special bar-b-ques and invited a few local's along, including Dave Crompton, Ken Robertson, Bob Jeffrey, Ian Locke, Mal Codling, Ken Clarke and Barry Pollock.

Hoppy informed us that John Widdicombe had organised a get-together for some of the band of MELBOURNE who were on board when the collision with USS Frank E. Evans happened on June 3rd 1969. The boys and their girls got together in Canberra during the official weekend where they attended a Dawn Service, Sunfire breakfast while visiting the sights of the National Capital. Bandies attending were Hoppy, Bill Farrell, John Widdicombe, WO Les (Shiner) Wright JN. Bob Anderson and Bob Bentley. Captain J.P. Stevenson attended, and despite being fully exonerated by a Court Martial, thought he had been "taken for a ride by the Navy" and resigned in 1970. (shades of Captain Robertson after the diabolical VOYAGER enquiries!).

Hoppy said that the HARMON Senior Sailors were very hospitable, but he wasn't impressed with the 'unisex' heads. No urinals any more...and he had to wait while a young mother and kids vacated the toilet area.

Vic Knowles had been in Canberra prior to the re-union and arranged great accomodation for all.

Ted Lincoln and Shirley visited Frankston from the West during Easter '94 it is reported they both look great.

Hoppy visited Michael Higgs en route to Canberra at his Wodonga residence, and Michael gave him a cutting from the Border Morning mail of 7.5.94 relating to Ex RM and RAN Bandsman Donald Trivitt who died in Albury in 1983. A mate of Don Trivitt, and former Royal Marine Bill Woolford from Albury was one of the few Australians invited to the 50th Anniversary remembrance services at Normandy. Don's medals had been given to Albury RSL when he died, and they decided to ask Bill to present them to the Royal Marine Museum. Don had joined at age 14, and saw service in almost every theatre of WW2 whilst on board HMS KENT. He was discharged in 1949, and joined the RAN in 1950, serving until 1960 when he moved to Albury. The photo in the clipping shows Bill Woolford receiving the 8 medals from the Albury RSL President Graeme Townsend.

Len Nurse (bassoon 58-78) phone (03) 7865325 spent some time mid 1994 visiting daughter Karen and her husband who are based in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). He and Marie had a great time, and can fully understand why their kids are enjoying the stay there, with the family living a rather decadent lifestyle being supplied with a maid, chauffeur and 24 hour security guard.

During their stay, Len and Marie took the Vung Tau ferry (no Punchy, they haven't put it back together from Gillette razor blades!) down the river to Vung Tau and stayed overnight in the Seabreeze Hotel which is run by an Aussie. It's the only hotel with a swimming pool. Karen had sent her chauffeur on ahead with the baggage which he checked in, then picked them up from the ferry. They were given a delightful tour of Vungers and Len tells all those who visited South Vietnam (South) that the statue is still on Cape St Jacques (what statue, Len?) along with the huge radar antennas used by the Yanks during the war.

Bob (Yogi) Soutar (057) 810402 sent in a great scrap-book which his dear Mum put together from the late 50's to the 70's which created a lot of interest at the re-union. Bob mentioned the old ceremonial uniforms pre 1960, and the disposal of same. Rumour has it that Bob "Nellie" Gwynne (where is he?) sold

many a uniform to a circus, because Bandies noticed ice cream boys, animal trainers, the band, and ringmasters wearing very similar outfits (they were exact, to be precise). More photos were received from 'Yogi' including a few taken at CERBERUS with half the band in old rig, others sailor suit, but all in gaiters. I guessed it was when we had a visit from some of the Reserve Bands during their ACT, and this was confirmed when Graham Worth of the WA Reserve Band brought some photos to Surfers. He said it was 1962, but I would have thought it earlier, as most bands should have had the uniform change by then. Any official comment?

"Yogi" has volunteered his services to assist the Association, and was very sorry to have missed the re-union. He had to cancel because of family sickness.

Geoff "GET A HAIRCUT" Digga Coutts said hello to all with his membership dues, and is residing at 46 Church St Hastings 3915. He has married again, and wife Norma is a teacher. Geoff works at the Hastings hospital in the maintenance section and was foundation musical director of the Hastings Shire Band until a "tiff" with the female secretary (unlike you, Geoff!). From scratch, the band gained 25 members within 6 months, and went from brass to concert. Five of the trainees sat for AMEB certificates in that time. "Digga" is remembered for many things including that altercation with "Ollie" Grieve at the Sydney showgrounds during the British Empire Tattoo 1964, but the one thing that I recall as if it were yesterday, was the time at the Melbourne Showgrounds during the A G Hunter cup (trots) when Digga, as drum-major didn't hear the double beat to halt, and the punters had money on him whether he would do an extra lap!!!!

STILL IN VIC-LAND

Great to hear from Ex RANR and Ex Bandmaster RM's Philip Thorne whose "ships served" column read something like (if I get the writing correct) HM Ships CUMBERLAND, ARGONAUT, AURORA, BIRMINGHAM, CEYLON, THESEUS, VANGAURD and numerous "stonewall frigates". Phil played cornet/violin and served in the RANR from 66-78. Phil is on (03) 3982053, and I make the point again. RANR musicians and Ex's are most welcome as members of the Association.

Dave (Rocky) Parnell (clar/sax 60-72) was having a cup of coffee with Kath, the missus, in downtown Melbourne when Ex JP (Judge) Jones of the Melbourne Symph. strolled past with his wife Joan.

Rocky tells us that Joan has terrible memories of a Bandie, in fact, a horrible Bandie who took a laughing machine (bag of laughs) to a concert by the Band of the Royal Marines many moons ago, and let it off during a break in proceedings. Now Joan, being of British stock, took offence and was terribly upset at this vile act, and still thinks many Australian Bandies don't appreciate British music.

Not true, Joan.....Hoppy assures the writer that it went off accidentally!

Tony Webber wrote a note with his membership to mention that for the first time, the RAN is sending a woman shooter to compete overseas in an international competition.

Dad is very proud, and I'm sure we all wish Able Seaman Jess Webber the very best as the only female in the team bound for Bisley in the U.K. According to Warrant Officer Pat Marsh, "Jess began shooting in 1992 and was placed 14th in the 1993 Champion Shot of the Navy. Her achievements are extraordinary". 20 year old Jess will shoot in the ultimate shooting event in the world Well done Tony's daughter!

RAAF TALES AGAIN

My old story-telling Ex RAAF Bandie was at it again, telling me about the time the RAAF Central Band were in Perth for some important jobs, and the RAAF cooks had prepared the cardboard box lunch to be consumed en-route, with a huge jam tart on large silver platter as 'afters'. The tart on the 3 ft x 18 inch tray was placed on the floor near the front self-opening door. Well, before they got through their sandwiches and orange, the bus turned right at a major Perth intersection, and the tray with tart and knife slid left, down the stairs, and

under the rubber seal travelling several feet along the roadway before coming to a halt near a startled driver who had swerved to avoid it. The bandies yelled out to the bus driver to stop, and a quick thinking Warrant Officer jumped off the bus, picked up the silver platter, walked over to the nearest driver in the traffic jam (no pun intended), and said, "would you care for a slice, Sir?".

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THE CROWEATERS COLUMN

Allan Parkyn (cornet/violin 54-61) sent in a letter with his membership to mention that when he received his newsletter (he hadn't been on the mailing list) he couldn't wait to get to the phone and call a few old mates he hadn't spoken with for years, including Randall Kellas, Bill Rebeck, Ron Edwards and Dan Carty (we haven't got Dan on our list, Al.) When Alan payed off on Christmas Day 1961, he returned to South Aust. and became involved in the motor trade, selling Holdens for more than 30 years (I can still hear that smooth voice!!). You should have a yarn with Ken Mansfield, Al....he sold GMH for almost as long).

Alan is married to Kay, and they have 2 boys, Mark 25 and Grant 23, both doing well in their chosen careers. He hopes to attend the 2000 re-union (we hope to see you before that, Al) as he can remember it being mentioned by the late Bobby (Grub) Green at the Criterion Hotel, just before Bob broke into "Lucky Old Sun" at the bar when in one of his "moods". Alan is on (08) 3564106.

Doug Drysdale (trumpet 67-76) dropped us a few lines on SA Police letterhead to let us know that all is well in the "winestate" and that he is currently Musical Director of the SA Police Band. He also keeps the gold buttons shiny as a CPO in the Reserve. Serving members of the SA Police band and Ex's include SGT Ken Ekin, drum major and admin., Sen. Const. Roger Downton, band arranger and MC., Const. John Ezergailis, trumpet, and Const. Ross Nicholson bassoon (some haven't joined the Association, Doug....pull some rank!) Bandmaster Doug (aren't I old fashioned?) can be contacted on (08) 2892337.

During the editors career in wine sales, and along with Ex Graeme Feltham, we visited Adelaide for a National Sales Conference, and had a 'blow' with Ex Dick Woon, then running the porpoise pool somewhere near Glenelg (try spelling that backwards). If any Adelaidian has time, you may wish to check out whether Dick is still involved in marine parks in that city?

AN ADMIRAL SPEAKS OUT

Retired Vice Admiral David Leach would be remembered by many members of our Association, and his comments in the Sydney Sunday Telegraph, May 1st 1994 should be listened to by all Australians. I am passing on his comments, and the view expressed by him is not that of our Association. (we don't have one as an Association).

Vice Admiral Leach is vitally concerned that minority views and interests are being allowed to set the Defence agenda, forcing the RAN into dangerous new waters. Decisions are being made which are not in the best interests of Australia, military-wise, he said.

His comments follow the release of a report which ranks the Australian Navy as little more than a "brown water", or coastal defence force. Apart from stating that we have a problem defending a 20.000km coastline, he stated the obvious when he said the Navy had a major problem keeping up with Government rulings such as "putting women in submarines, accepting homosexuals as the 'norm', forcing the issue of "mixed manning" in Type 12's.....SWAN, TORRENS, DERWENT..and that we don't have wheelchair access to gun turrets!.

(as the politically correct would have us do).

"We can't comply with all the things that are law in Australia. It is different in the Services, and I think we have to realise that". "There is