ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER JUNE 2000

Greetings, one and all,

"I was involved in the 1956 Olympic Games Band, and the 1962 Commonwealth Games Band in Perth, and today would be one of the proudest days of my life".....Barry Pollock, 25/4/00.

Yes, the Sydney 2000 Anzac Parade Band was a credit to all who participated, and the perfect ending to our fourth National reunion. I found it difficult to come down from 'Cloud Nine' as I'm sure most of you did. See reports inside this newsletter.

The committee of inquiry into South-East Asia Service reported to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs early March this year. See details inside.

I must report the death of member Bert Guy on 4.2.00. You will recall that Bert was having trouble with circulation to his leg, and at age 86, had one leg amputated, and was told there was a need for a further amputation. This became too much for him, and he passed away. Condolences were sent to Mrs Doreen Guy on behalf of the Association. Bert's good friend Patron George Hooker phoned with the news of his death. Bert and a few Ex's used to get together around Anzac Day each year well before the Association was formed, and this continued in Melbourne until sickness and age took its toll. He was a Second World War Veteran. Vale Bert Guy. One of our newsletter contributers, Ray Ward sadly passed away on 17.4.00. Ray served from 1949-54 in the Sydney RANR Band. then Active Reserve from 1958-76, and his stories and photos have been featured in these pages, the most recent being a critique of an RAAF Band concert last issue. Condolences were sent to Mrs Ward.

Welcome back Jim McFerran (clarinet, 60's-70's), and Jerry Jerrard (reeds, 50's, 60's). A warm welcome to Les Haines (clar/sax, 50-56) who was a member of the Coronation Cruise, 1953..a remarkable statistic the number of that band who are members of this Association! Also new members Mal Torry, Bob Thompson & Keith Philipson from the 60's, and Georgina Dumigan (nee Bedwell) who has just paid off.

Jim McDonough (07) 5571 5864 lost his clutch bag at the dinner. It was leather, approx. 24cmx16cm, dark brown with outside glasses pocket. Of sentimental value, he would like to hear from anyone who may have seen the bag, or anyone picking it up from the floor under a table near the band. ID in the bag.

The Australian Army Band Corps Association newsletter reported the death of former Royal Marine and Army woodwind instructor Phil Annable on 26 APR. Phil attended the 1996 Window Dedication.

Ray 'Goofy' Lewer, out here from the UK for the reunion, had a bad 'turn' after our weekend while staying at his sister's in Melbourne. Doctors were still doing tests at the time of going to print, and his return to England had been delayed. Thanks Phil Hopkins for 'keeping watch' over Goofy.

For the first time since 1994 only six members had to be sent a letter regarding their subs. This compares favourably with the usual 25-30 who had to be reminded in the past, and the Treasurer thanks you! Don't forget that 2000-2001 subs. are due in around 8 weeks time! Please pay on time.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Vics bar-b-que, Rob & Josephine Gwynne's, 186 Monahans Rd Cranbourne (03)5996 6664 Sunday 25 JUNE.

Jim Hawkins
Editor

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Hello to everyone,

Firstly, as always, it is sad to hear that two of our stalwarts; Ray Lewer & John Connelly are under the weather. I'm sure I join all of you in wishing them a speedy and full recovery.
My apologies for missing the reunion. By all accounts (accurate and exaggerated) it was a great gathering, bringing together many old & bold for the first time in years. Congratulations must go to the organising committee. The Fleet Commander Rear Admiral John Lord commented to me that he really enjoyed the olds on parade and thought you sounded great. Even the youngies in the Sydney Band said it sounded good and solid. I notice you even picked up a few prizes in the Anzac Day band competition.
Norfolk Island was another outstanding success with two contrasting cabaret shows each night which included former Bandstand and Vietnam tour girlies Dinah Lee and Lyn Fletcher. With just a 15 piece swing band, we managed to include the Dawn Service at 0430 (pitch black!) and the Anzac March with VC's Keith Payne and Edward Kenna. Along with Sir Roden Cutler they are the last of the Aussie VC winners and are a couple of great supporters of the RAN Band. A great ANZAC Day ended with yet another cabaret.
On the Band front, things are progressing quite well with some excellent new young and talented musicians and our numbers are moving up quite nicely - a good and healthy sign for our branch. The Melbourne Band has just returned from Darwin after participating in yet another INTERFET 'welcome home' parade which included RAAF Band Sydney and ARMY Band Melbourne. A nice change in climate after CERBERUS. The Sydney Band has just completed a successful tour of the North & Central Coast including Gosford, Newcastle and Muswellbrook with full-house school and community concerts. The tour was preceded with a great concert at the Salvation Army Congress Hall in Sydney for HMAS HOBART's decommissioning with guests including Lady Martin and Admirals Lord, Swan and Horton and several other ex HOBART Commanding Officers. Many of you, like me, will remember welcoming HOBART into Hobart in 1966. The decommissioning on Friday May 12th marked the end of more than 34 years of service when she followed HMAS PERTH out of service. HMAS BRISBANE goes in March 2001 - the last of the DDG's. This week, the Sydney Band is off to Cairns for the commissioning of the two new survey vessels HMAS MELVILLE & HMAS LEEUWIN, both good historic and traditional naval names.
Enough from me. I hope the post-reunion headaches have finally gone and the fingering charts packed away for a few more years.
Regards to all,

Yours in Harmony,

Ashley Greedy AM
Commander RAN
Director of Music - Navy

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Well, what an Easter!!

I don't think I have had such an enjoyable time in many years and it certainly won't be forgotten for a long time to come. To be able to furnish a 75 piece parade band was a feat in itself, and took no small amount of organising, I can assure you.
However, it was well worth it, for the sound produced was unbelievably good when you think that some people had not blown for 20 or so years. Amazingly, people's lips came good and they hadn't forgotten the drill.
Our Patron George marched in front of the band like a true veteran and certainly didn't look like a man in his 80's. It would be wonderful if this event could be repeated again in the future, but Anzac Day and Easter don't coincide very often, so the chances are slim.
Special thanks must go to Dick Dasczyk and his reunion committee for a fantastic job of organisation and also to Secretary Jim Hawkins for not only the idea of parading a band, but being largely responsible for it happening.
I'm sure that everybody met someone they hadn't seen for a long time, being such a big reunion. My own experience was seeing Les Haines whom I hadn't seen since the mid-fifties, and Harry Towson, Master Mariner and pilot, not seen since the sixties. Also Jock Taylor. Great to see these old mates again.
I was honoured to be elected to the President's position for the next two years and will endeavour to do whatever I can to help keep our Association functioning in a similar manner to that which has proved to be successful over the past years.
Regards to all,

Norm Gullick.

That's Bernie (far right in jacket) with camera in hand racing ahead of the band to get some more footage for our video.

There were another two cameras capturing all the action during the march.

2000 REUNION - "THE VIDEO"

*Those who attended **SYDNEY 2000** would have seen Bernie running around with his (professional) video camera.....on the ferries...at Spectacle Island....at our Official Dinner.... on the Monday at Victoria Barracks.....on the Anzac Day Parade route.....capturing all the action of of this great weekend. Even if you weren't able to attend, you can sit back and check out all the 'Old & Bold', and really capture the atmosphere, plus hear the 75 piece band, and the muso's who performed at the dinner.*
For those who were there, this is your video to show family and friends just how RAN Musicians enjoy themselves on retirement!
There were three cameras along the Anzac Day march route to capture all the action.

OVER ONE HOUR OF REMINISCENCES FROM YOUR REUNION.
***PLUS "THE HOOKER YEARS"** BY JOHN WIDDICOMBE (as seen at the reunion plus more)*

Purchase this professionally made video by sending a cheque/money order to;

ATV 5 Video Productions ***$35 INCLUDES POST AND PACKAGING***
PO Box 2319
TAREN POINT NSW 2999 *(money orders to ATV 5 Video Productions)*
(phone enquiries (02) 9524 1990) *****PLEASE PRINT*****

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

STATE.....POSTCODE.....TELEPHONE.....

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH.....(COPIES) OF THE ANZAC REUNION VIDEO.

I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER** (no cash please) **for $.....(total)

PLEASE ALLOW 3 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. DO NOT SEND ORDERS TO THE ASSOCIATION.
(special thanks to John Widdicombe for making this possible, and for spending many hours assisting in the editing and post-production. Thanks also to Bernie for being such an easy person to get on with!!)

FROM YOUR TREASURER

SOME BOUQUETS AND BRICKBATS

BOUQUETS for an outstanding performance by the ANZAC Parade Band which started moving in the right direction after a fine rehearsal under the baton of our President NORM GULLICK. Norm's professional approach and the enthusiastic response by the players made the whole venture a pleasure.

BOUQUETS for the fine organisation and choices of venues to our SYDNEY COMMITTEE. At each re-union we have been able to go away fully satisfied that a great job has been well done.

BOUQUETS to those two unsung heroes KEN McCALLUM and GRAHAM WORTH whose tireless efforts with raffle sales allowed us to be able to afford all those free drinks!!

BOUQUETS to RALPH DAINES for donating the prizes for the raffles, thus saving the Association hundreds of dollars.

BOUQUETS to you, the MEMBERS for your support in all of the above and your attendance and participation in them. It makes the whole effort so much worthwhile.

BRICKBATS to the few who have probably never been involved in setting up or organising a large function, who feel that they can turn up at the last minute and gain entry. Numbers have to be known for catering and seating purposes. This, of course, does not include those who were waiting on cancellations. It was published in the newsletter that all bookings closed on March 1st. Others were asking for music at the last minute when they were clearly asked more than a year ago what they required. Also there was a very good reason for not wanting the membership and re-union monies on the same cheque, in spite of the fact that it is clearly requested on the bottom of the membership renewal form.
To end on a bright note----------see you all again in Brisbane in 2002.

R.K.H.

DEFENCE FORCE LEAVE PLAN

The Travelodge, Centra, Park Royal motel chain have initiated a scheme whereby serving and ex-members of the Armed Forces can obtain discounts on their accommodation when they book into these establishments.

Known as the Defence Force Leave Plan, and for the cost of $15 for 3 years, members are entitled to substantial discounts on motels throughout Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. When booking it is best to state that you are a member of the Defence Force Leave Plan, DFLP.

To join, you must have proof of your service - ID card or service certificate is sufficient - and you will need to know your service number. Any Travelodge, Centra or Park Royal motel will have details and joining forms and you do not have to be staying at the motel at the time of joining.

It is very worthwhile being a member as it assists with holiday budgeting to a great extent and also allows discounts on cooked breakfasts. Don't be caught without it, join today and reap the benefits of your past service in the RAN Band.
(from a talk given by Bill Farrell at the General Meeting. I believe rooms which are worth around $190 per night in Sydney were discounted to $109...a huge saving in Sydney....ED)

ASSOCIATION CHAPLAIN UNDER THE KNIFE

Just before going to print I had a call from RAN Chaplain Father John Connelly to say that he was to have by-pass surgery to correct a blockage to one of his arteries to his heart. This operation was performed at the Sydney Adventist Hospital on Thursday 18th May, and the Intensive Care Sister told me that John's lungs were causing problems. President Norm visited John on 23/5 and said that although he was in pain, he was on the improve. When I spoke to John on the Tuesday prior to his operation, he told me that he had a pain in his face when in Timor, and had casually mentioned this to a Medic, who thankfully wrote this up on his medical documents. Someone in authority decided a full medical was called for, and the blockage was found. I'm sure I speak for all members in wishing our popular 'muso' Chaplain "God Speed" in his recovery, even if he is in opposition territory during his hospitalisation.
Welcome to the '**ZIPPER CLUB**', Jibbers!

SYDNEY 2000

The 'Early Birds' began arriving on Wednesday 19th April with our Treasurer Ron setting up camp in the less than salubrious Criterian Hotel (Slim Halliday and Qona only lasted one night and booked out!) along with his old run-ashore mate 'Icky' Buntine and by Good Friday they began arriving in droves. It was 'Spot the Bandie' that afternoon at the City of Sydney RSL Club and again at 9am next day down at Man O' War steps while waiting for the ferries. Our old ferries arrived and 47 boarded one of them, with 80 travelling on the larger of the two to Spectacle Island to be welcomed by the Curator of the magnificent Naval Museum, LCDR Colin Bartlett.
What a place!
Building after building holding every type of Naval artifacts....you could spend days there and still not check everything out. Ships, Depots, Branch memorabilia, weapons, photos galore and lots of recently donated material still in boxes. Only organised tours are allowed on the Island, and a call to LCDR Bartlett on (02) 9181 3308 will put you on the right track if you wish to go there. Personally, I think the whole museum contents should be placed on permanent display in a purpose-built building in Canberra so the whole of Australia can appreciate the material.
It was back on the boats after one and a half hours (not long enough) and the bar-b-que lunch was ready, to be eaten while looking around the harbour. Great value, with 'Open Till' for at least 2 hours.
By the way, a donation of $200 was sent to the museum in appreciation of our visit. The Skippers showed us Darling Harbour, the new WATERHEN, Garden Island and Fleet Base East, and even a nudist beach where the cold winds couldn't deter the 'show-offs'. We returned to the Opera House at 3.30pm, all commenting on what great value the cruise had been. Thanks Mick Wortham for putting us in touch with this cruise company!
After a short break (for some), we made our way to the Catholic Club for more story telling and 'smallie eats', with music supplied by the NSW Naval Reserve Dance Band. Ralph Daines donated 5 great hampers for each night, and two of the five were won by the Hunt family. They contained scotch, wine, a shirt, caps, glasses, water jug, other items for the bar etc and we actually ran out of raffle tickets (what a sin!). The crowd started to thin out at 9pm, with a few partying on into the night.
On Sunday morning, our general meeting was packed with the largest attendance yet. The 80 members were entertained by a song by the "Two Ronnies" marching in a brass band, and this put everyone in the mood for an informative meeting which discussed everything from the 2004 reunion being held in Tasmania, and more than likely Hobart, to the use of the Internet to inform more people of our existence. Several donated RAN Band records were auctioned, along with the latest Royal Marines Band CD, and this swelled Association coffers by a few hundred dollars. The meeting finished, and many people stayed for a special screening of a Cecil B de Widdicombe movie made at Casterton, Victoria around 1963, starring Paddy O'Leary and Bob Breen. We then saw footage of the 1962 Commonwealth Games workup, travel, and actual marching display, along with John's films taken when he was on board MELBOURNE in 1961 and 1962. Great stuff! We finished the morning with a short excerpt of a movie made in 1947 called 'Always Another Dawn' starring Bud Tingwell and the FND Band of that era, kindly supplied by Ron Bergman, then a short segment of actual footage in colour of part of the marching display of the 1956 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony Band, courtesy of Speed Halliday. All in all, a great meeting.
The Sunday evening began around 6pm when almost 200 people arrived for the official dinner. Once again, the NSW Naval Reserve Band were on deck, and we thank them for playing very suitable music during the evening. Our 'Open Till' began on arrival, and was still in operation when the bar closed due to lack of interest at 12.30am (are we getting old?). There wouldn't be many functions in Australia where for $35 you could partake of hors d'oeuvres on arrival, a great hot and cold buffet, sweets, tea and coffee, good wine on every table along with orange juice, and the bar free all evening, not to mention the entertainment. Again, we had 5 more of Ralph Daines' terrific hampers, and yours truly cracked it for a win (didn't get a chance in WA because Ted had them all rigged so the 'Natives' won all the prizes.....remember?). Thanks Ralphy for the best raffle prizes yet!
During the evening, a few of the 'Old and Bold' blew out the cobwebs, and we heard from Patron George with another very funny story. The photographers in our midst were given a great photo opportunity when many of the 1953 Coronation Tour Band from HMAS SYDNEY came forward to a round of applause, and then two of the original Boy Musicians from the 1951 first intake were presented to the crowd...namely Les Tull and Ken Robertson. This evening would have been the latest night for most of us, but yet the Parade Band were all on deck by 10.30am at Victoria Barracks the next day. Those who followed the dyslexic instructions from Leon Stucas are probably still waiting for the 830 bus from Liverpool St (thanks, Leon...it was the 380), and Phil Hopkins joined in with a crowd who decided to walk up Oxford St to check out the left-overs from the gay and lesbian mardi-gras, and found his legs giving out 100 yards from the Vic. Barracks gates.
Instruments were issued, lyres distributed and drums checked before sectional tuning and rehearsal. I must admit I was with the drum corps on the grass, far from Norm Gullick's band only rehearsal, and was taken aback when the first strains drifted across to us. It was pure quality, and we wandered back to the car-park to listen.
Then it was time to all join together and rehearse stepping off, wheeling, halting, marching between confined spaces as we would experience on Anzac Day. Following about one hour of solid blowing, it was time to go away until the big day, around 50 deciding to try the cold beer at nearby Paddington RSL Club. The weather had been kind so far, but what about our parade through the streets of Sydney on the 25th?

We awoke to clouds in the sky and a forecast of "showers expected", but most were on "Cloud Nine" when we reached the assembly point at the corner of Pitt and King Sts. Pipe Bands, Cadet Bands, The Band of the RAN, NSW Police Band and thousands of Veterans were assembling nearby, so MD Norm decided to warm up with Heart of Oak, just to blow the cobwebs out. Comments later revealed that a band this size and quality had not been heard on an Anzac Day March for many years, and we were away about 9.30am.
With Patron George, President Norm and our first Non-Commissioned Warrant Officer Slim Halliday at the front, the 160,000 crowd lining the streets gave us a great reception, even if the ABCTV cameras missed most of the band the first time around. Many had expected Patron George to struggle to make the distance, but he surprised everyone by remaining on the right flank all the way. He commented later..."I think I marched further than everyone because all the wheels were left wheels and I had to get around pretty quick-smart!"
It was a quick goodbye to those not marching twice, and we were away to find O'Connell St so as to march once again.
Then it struck!
The bloody rain.
We were formed up waiting to step off, and it came down in buckets, but Father John Connelly had a word with his boss, and no sooner had we stepped off that the rain stopped. Many wet Ex's just laughed it off, and were still laughing when we halted near Martin Place to let the last of the 8th Division go past from the other direction. That happened to be the 120 member Scots College Pipes and Drums.
With a parade marshall screaming at me to get our band going straight away, I told him in no uncertain terms that we would be leaving a respectable distance between them and us, and lucky we did because at least the TV cameras had little else to concentrate on but us when we reached the ABCTV cameras in George St.
Soon it was all over, and instruments returned, with Bill Collins and Rob Himbury yet to finish their duties and return gear to Norm's NSW Ambulance Band H/Q. For this we are very thankful, because most of us had a beer in our hand 10 minutes from the end of the march. Once Rob and Bill had returned Norm's gear, they were off on a long drive to the Central Coast to return Rob Bedwell's drums, basses, euphos etc., not to mention his band trailer.
I must also thank the RAN Band Sydney, via Warrant Officer Shina Wright for not only lending us a glock and other gear, but for supplying Ray 'Goofy' Lewer a cornet at very short notice, and having someone waiting near our vehicle to take it back to Waterloo. Dutchy Holland and the NSW Police Band were also very helpful.
Norm Gullick's Ambulance Band and Rob Bedwell's Central Coast Concert Band also provided equipment.
Others who made this band possible include Peter Martin who brought a heap of lyres down from Townsville. Treasurer Ron who made up backing cards for all instruments with lyres, and my friendly Hazleton Airline Lismore staff who allowed me 30 kg's of luggage instead of the usual 15 just so I could carry the music on cards and all the necessary material needed for a 2 yearly meeting. Dick Dasczyk stowed our banner at his shop, then took it to the RSL Club, and arranged for it to be returned to Lismore. Thanks to Vice-President Ron MacKenzie for carrying the banner around twice, along with Josephine Gwynne who filled in at the last moment when Nerida Mansfield was unable to attend. Ron Bergman carried two old Navy side-drums with him on the train from Melbourne.
Rob Himbury's grandson was our 'Mascot' and picked up the dropped drumsticks along the way.
When our commitment ended, many went to the 'Bandies' pub "The Globe" for a few jars and met up with other musicians. I actually bumped into a former ARES Drum Major I hadn't seen since 1973.
The NSW Committee deserve a round of applause for their dedication in organising this reunion. Everyone did their bit, and it was a pleasure working with you fellas. If I have missed thanking anyone, please accept my apologies. Thanks also to the DOM Navy, Commander Ashley Greedy who kindly arranged for us to have music and sound systems both nights, but who had to work on Norfolk Island during our reunion (OK...I know...someone had to do it).

The final word should come from Hoppy, who was starving after the march, and found a pie-cart right near the dismissal point. The bloke noticed his outfit and trombone, and said..**'Were you with that large band that just marched past?".** Hoppy said he was, and the pie-seller said **"I've been selling food here every Anzac Day for years, and that's the best band I've ever heard".**
Quite an accolade, for a 'bunch of (mainly) old bastards!'

Many of our number were asking when this could be done again, and who knows? It took years of planning, of sending out questionnaires, borrowing instruments and vehicles and hundreds of phone calls and memos. Anzac Day is mid-week in 2001 & 2002, and on a Friday in 2003, posing problems trying to organise a rehearsal. The Brisbane 2004 reunion dates have been decided for October, so 2005 is the next suitable date, and many of our players are required to be in their home town on Anzac Day. One idea has been thrown into the centre that we try to arrange a 'sit-down' blow during the 2002 Brisbane reunion, possibly on the Sunday morning, with a keg, and followed by a bar-b-que lunch. I can just see Norm conducting Light Cavalry and wincing as the notes blurt forth, but this is only a thought. We are open to suggestions. Several people asked if I could contact the Prime Minister and volunteer our services for a Gallipoli Dawn Service. My only comment to them was..."Who would choose the musicians to travel on the PM's 707 when we were told only 30 were invited, and 100 wanted to attend?"

Nothing will ever compare with the 25th April, 2000, no matter how hard we try.

SNIPPETS FROM THE REUNION

Member Les Church marched with his old Ship's Company near the beginning of the Anzac Day March (Les changed rate from a Bandie) and faxed me saying..**"It was nice to meet up with everyone yesterday and see the old faces again. I marched at the head of the parade, heard quite a few bands, and then watched as the Association Band marched by, and by all the comments that I heard, everyone agreed that the Association Band was better than any other".**

President Norm had to move quickly following our 1st time around. Buck Buchanan carried Norm's Ambulance Band uniform in a bag at the rear of the band, then Norm had to rush off to get changed in time for the Ambo's appearance in the Parade.

Treasurer Ron woke up the crew at the Criterion with his rendition of Heart Of Oak one morning, and Phil Ingram had to ask him what he was playing, as his ears couldn't work it out. Ron mumbled something about getting his lip in, and told Stoney where to go!

Who could live in the heart of the city of Sydney on a permanent basis? Every night the young fools were to be heard screaming and hollering outside my hotel until around 5am, and the sirens also wailed all night.

Patron George was in contact to say congratulations to all NSW Committee members on a job well done.
George was looked after by Bill and Maxine Farrell who picked him up in Melbourne and drove him to Sydney.
They then booked him in with them and escorted him to all functions, and he was very thankful.
George also was thrilled with the performance of "his band" on the 25th, and is so looking forward to receiving his video tape of the weekend that he was about to buy a new PAL video player to play it on. In the past, he has put up with a BETA system which meant his son had to have any tapes recorded onto that system.

Speaking with George on the phone after the march was Commander Ron Brasch, RAN (Rtd) who passed on his congratulations to all band members. Ron ('The Stick') told George he was very proud to know many of the band and was "thrilled to bits" when he saw the musicians on television

Member David Hardstaff (03) 62724098 from Hobart is keen to get a list of those members on the Internet. Please get in contact with him at;
davcoff@optusnet.com.au (computer buffs should also see final page for Association web-site)

The early birds at the City of Sydney RSL Club on Good Friday settled down to watch the Australia-New Zealand Rugby League Test on the 4th floor with the big screen. The 'locals' mostly were wearing black jumpers with a little silver fern, so we knew we were in for a hard time. I thought I was at the Auckland RSL when the game started and the crowd and boof-headed Maori bouncers were cheering for the New Zealand team from the kick-off, but this didn't last very long once Australia found their form and were scoring at random. At 10pm, and when Australia were leading by 38-0, the staff (also Kiwis, I presume) switched off the TV and announced that the bar was closed, and that anyone requiring a drink should go to the 1st floor bar. Very un-sporting, I thought, and felt a stranger in my own country (once again). Final score...Australia 54, New Zealand **NUL.**

Bill 'Friday' James told me after the march that the piccolo I had loaned him was working OK until the 2nd time around, and he was peeved that a bassoon player, Yogi Soutar, also playing piccolo was sounding great right to the end. **"He put a few parts up the octave, and that really made me jealous"** said Bill.

Michael Higgs only had one complaint about the whole weekend.
During the Anzac march Michael was in the front rank on side drum, and right alongside Randall 'Ned' Kellas who was giving a great performance on cymbals. **"I had to duck and weave a few times so that Ned didn't decapitate me! No wonder he was moved from the flank because no-one in the crowd would have been safe."**

It was great to see John and Jennifer Patterson at all the functions. Many will remember Jenny as the former Jennifer Shepherd of 684 Forest Rd Bexley whose Dad Stan & Mum Mary used to take in any stray Bandies during the 60's. Somewhere along the way, a stray Birdie by the name of John Patterson came back one day and the rest is history.

The Army Cadet Band from Holsworthy who marched into the Globe Hotel playing "We're a bunch of bastards" (or that's how the sing-along went anyway) and raised $200 quick-time with a whip-around, got a shock to hear the strains of a great jazz trombone accompanying them during a few of their numbers. **Blue Newton** was just in the right mood to let fly with a few hot licks which made the kids sound a lot better. They were very keen and the CO is looking for a former service musician to help out with the band. Contact Ron Brown 9607 2350 for details.

MORE SNIPPETS

Our Second World War Veteran Bandies were represented in the parade band by not only Patron George and President Norm, but also trombonist Len Western and side drummer Ron Bergman. Len and Ron completed the march twice, but unfortunately another 2nd WW Veteran Tony Urich (horn) made it to the rehearsal, but after a circuit of the car-park had to pull out due to a 'dicky knee'. Well done, Gents!

Michael Higgs went to what he thought was the mens toilet at the City of Sydney RSL only to find someone fluffing their hair and putting on hair spray. Ooops..out he went and into the toilet next door, only to find real ladies washing their hands etc. Dammit...back to the original door which definitely said MEN!
I had a similar experience when I came out of that very same urinal to wash my hands, and found a bloke putting on lipstick!
Bloody different in Sydney nowadays.

You wouldn't expect head injuries at a cultured reunion, but the first day on our harbour cruise Phil Ingram hit the deck (literally) when he walked into a toilet door on the ferry. Not to be outdone, Henry Morgan was loading the trailer at the end of the march and mis-judged the height of the roof and took some bark off his face.

Bill Thompson's new wife Yelena saw the funny side when a 'stirrer' gave him a condom and said "Here's one to replace what you gave me when we were out last week, Thommo".
Thommo has taken on the 'Kojac' look with completely shaved head and I was sorry we didn't get around to having a blow together for old times. He is still very 'match fit' with the trombone!

Ron Edwards had a blow with the Naval Reserve Dance Band and stayed around to join the 'Old & Bold' with Kevin Foale on trumpet, John Callaghan, tenor, Blue Newton, trom, Jeff McGuiness drums, John Connelly, bass and myself on piano. After that others were up on stage, but I didn't take notes as I was with the bar manager working out the 'dry till' arrangements. Sorry, folks if you didn't get a mention.

Mild panic time on Monday when I received a phone call from home to say that Jim McDonough had lost a clutch-bag (I'm not going to say men's purse). Jim didn't know where I was staying, so phoned Lindy who gave him the number. He is desperate to get the bag back if anyone knows its whereabouts (07) 5571 5864.

The lads, led by Treasurer Ron, gave their usual performance of 'Old Mill Stream' at the dinner, and President Norm told me he was in tears when Ron performed 'Grenada'. It was the first time he had seen this act by our Treasurer.

When a contingent of musos went to Paddington RSL club for a beer after the rehearsal, we were joined by Norm Vaughan, the Chief Band Marshal of the NSW RSL. who told some interesting stories of his RAN days.

Our world traveller, Ray 'Goofy' Lewer told us that he didn't bring his cornet for several reasons, one being that he was frightened of 'getting the wobbly boot on' and losing it, and also that it is an original 'Boosey', that is a Boosey without the 'Hawkes'. Quite recently the Boosey & Hawkes company offered him 800 English Pounds for the instrument to place in their museum, but he declined the kind offer.

Many of those in the parade band couldn't believe their eyes when members of the NSW Corrective Services Band walked past wearing the old No 6's POMUSN right arm rate. I mentioned some time back that I thought their bandmaster must have been to a Pussers Band fire sale, because they are identical to the RAN badge.

When we were looking for O'Connell St for our second 'stint', we had to wait to cross Hunter St as the Diggers were marching between us and our objective. During a gap, we crossed only to bump into the real Smokey Dawson, who was marching with the Entertainment Unit. Smokey served during WW2.

Treasurer Ron had just completed his interim report on Association finances when a question was asked from the floor. David Hardstaff wanted to know if the last member alive inherited the 'kitty'. I can't remember the answer!

I know Ron has thanked our raffle sellers Graham Worth & Mac McCallum, but their efforts proved embarrassing as I had only taken 4 ticket books along on the Saturday, and we ran out. Sunday was a different matter, as I had another 5 books, and John 'Banjo' Patterson kindly supplied another 5 books. We used 9 books on Sunday.

Good to see interest from current RAN personnel in our rehearsal at Victoria Barracks on Monday 24th April. I said hello to Bevan Andrews, who is now a LEUT with the RAN drug and alcohol counselling service. Also Paddy O'Leary and Marjory were there with their son MAJOR Sean O'Leary who told me he had just completed 14 years in the Regular Army and can't wait to make LTCOL so he can order Paddy around!

SYDNEY 2000 by Bill Farrell

An encapsulated look at Reunion 2000!

Driving into Sydney, one has to notice the changes, the road works, the signs, the people of all races.....

Saturday early, a taxi to Man O' War steps - "Where's that?", queried our Asian driver. The ferry trip brought back memories of seatime - Spectacle Island was an interesting visit - lunch was better than Sunday lunch on the Flagship, some of them anyway - the faces from the past...Ming, Les Tull, Jock Taylor, Les Haines, Hal Towson - other wives reminiscing.

The Catholic Club, more memories, more talk - dits that have expanded a little, but great comeraderie.

The meeting, news, videos, gossip & interesting notes - well worth it.

The dinner, great atmosphere, great food, great friendship and again the salty stories, and the Reserve Band who did a great job and who appeared very impressed by the playing of the oldies. Not to forget "Down By the Old Mill Stream!"

Monday, hangovers, dry throats, but the business part was with us - that four letter word 'PRACTICE!' Tune up, warm up, exercise the marching muscles, some of which had been dormant for up to 55 years. Then came the blowing. At first rough, but after a pause of a few marching paces you could recognise the marches.
'When do we form lane for the double criss-cross in Standard?'

Director Norm "Watch the phrasing please" - Punchy's answer 'Fair go Norm...we are sight reading!"

Three times around the car park and Paddington RSL called.

Anzac Day, fine - at first! Rehearsal of Heart of Oak brought favourable comment from outsiders - old faces, older ships and the parade commenced.

The Banner, proudly heading the Band, was followed by a prouder Patron George on the right flank - still clearing the way for his boys - with some 1200 years of service, playing and balance excellent, appearance first class. Dressing by the centre, better to dress by the stomachs, and around we went twice, backs straight, eyes keen, lips pursed.

Did anyone catch that helicopter shot on ABCTV News that night of the Band - dressing perfect, 100% for effort!

And then it was over, the yarns stopped, the personnel dispersed still talking about Reunion 2000.

Well done the NSW Committee.....roll on Brisbane!

A happy crew at the City of Sydney RSL Club, day one. Clockwise, from left, Leon Stucas, Geoff Shew, Jim Hawkins, Ray Lewer, Ned Kellas, Slim & Qona Halliday, Pat Pollock, Ron Henry, Kathy Shew,Jean Timms (at rear) Barry Pollock's eyes and Eric Pearce.

photos courtesy Graham Worth

(top) Scenes from the General Meeting Sunday 23/4 then 'Resplendent Ron' with John Widdicombe.
(next row) Jock Heath, Kerry and Brian Ellis, Bill Middleton & Bert Kennedy. Punchy, Norm Gullick & Rob Bedwell. Leon Stucas giving directions to the 830 bus from Liverpool St, (rear) Bill's son, Bill Collins & Rob Himbury.
(bottom) Gail & Mal Codling, Pud Jackson at back, Phil Ingram, Nellie Gwynne & Jim McDonough, Rocky Parnell (seated). Rex Collinson, Goofy Lewer, Yogi Soutar, Shiner Wright Snr, then T.C. Hunt, Ken McCallum and Bill Middleton.

photos courtsey Graham Worth

(top) Mick Wortham, Rex Collo, Goofy, Ron, Buck Buchanan, Graham Worth, John Widdicombe then Ron Edwards, Kevin Foale and Blue Newton. Bill Farrell in 'THAT' jacket! (middle) Irish Houston, Stretch Buddle, Ron Kirkwood, Ron Bergman & Brian Ellis. On the ferry. Margaret Gullick and George enjoying the dancing. (bottom) Jim & Nancye McDonough, Bill (minus jacket), Peter Bauers & Julie, Vic & Elizabeth Knowles. Jim, George and Slim Halliday. Jock, Blue with Bill Thompson & Yelena.

THE "TULLY" SHOW. *That larrikin from the 50's* ***Les Tull*** *with everyone. Top, with Phil Jones, Donna Marshall, Yogi Soutar Kipper Summerson & Rob Himbury. Icky Buntine, Phil Hopkins, guess who & Hal Towson. Next row, Paddy O'Leary & Phil Ingram. Ming McCabe Peter Martin, Jim McDonough, Speed and Slim Halliday.*
(below) Gordon Crompton, then (standing) Ken Robertson leaning on Ming, Melody Pleass and Ross MacNamara.

Finally, the photo any sane Bandie could never have thought would be taken!

Les and Patron George.

Thanks Les for all the photos, including the other 40 we didn't have space for.

ANZAC DAY 2000 - SYDNEY

*(top) Rob Himbury & Ron Bergman, Banner & 'Icky', Sonny Locke & Kev Foale.
(2nd) Blue Newton, Michael Higgs, Hoppy, Phil Ingram, Melody, Doc Newby, Trevor Williamson & Yogi Soutar. The Trombone section marching along George St.
*(3rd) The Band approaches Mavis Hopkins (with camera) in George St. Rob Himbury (minus stick) with Grandson Josh, then a very upright Icky Buntine, Michael Higgs.
(4th) Patron George, Slim Halliday and Jim Hawkins with Ned Kellas on cymbals (watch your head) Ron Henry, Mal Codling and member Dutchy Holland (on duty with NSW Police).*

Thanks Phil & Mavis Hopkins for the photos.

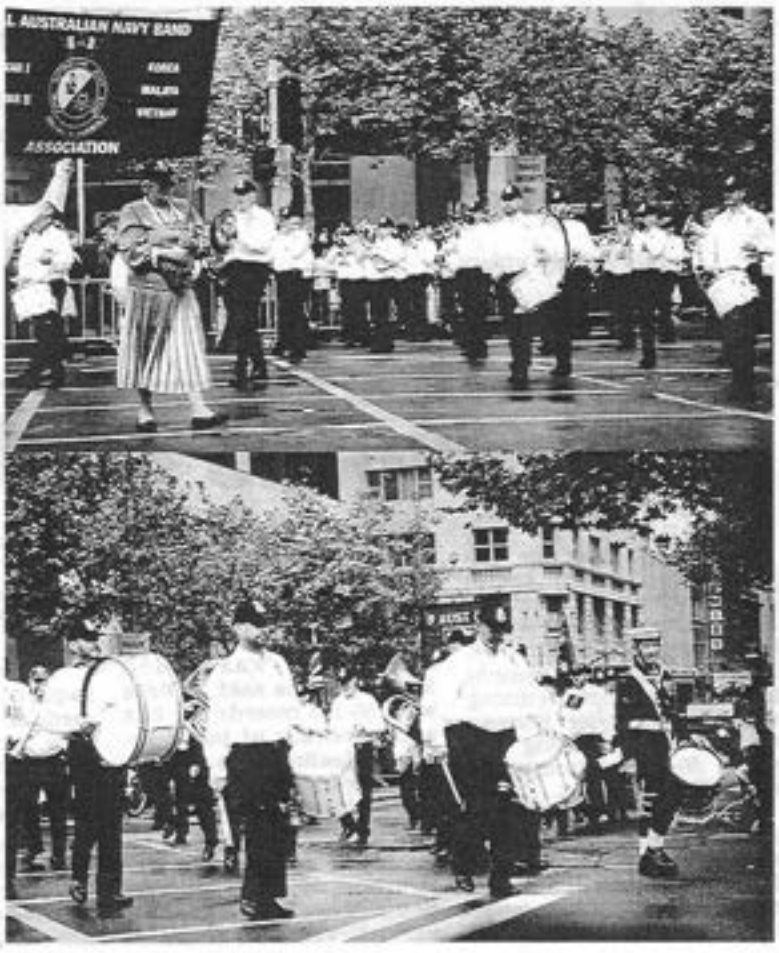
First time around...George St...courtesy Alan & Delores Woodhouse. Some of us have been grazing in good paddocks! Who is the trom. player alongside Geoff Bunce looking down?

Second time around....a little rain won't hurt us...photos courtesy the Woodhouse family.

(below) The final wheel from Bathurst St into Elizabeth St.

That's it folks....it's all over until maybe another time.

(head up McGuiness....the Police Horses don't come this way!)



OUT OF THE BLUE

A letter arrived from Mal Torry (cornet, 67-75) containing a membership application. Mal was given our address by John Ezergailis, with whom he joined the RAN in 1967.
Like quite a few others out there, Mal had no idea of our organisation and said (in part).....
"My introduction to this magazine came about two weeks ago after a wonderful reunion with John Ezergailis and Doug Drysdale in Adelaide after a lapse of some 26 years. Where does the time go?
We were the Adelaide connection in the Intake of '67. My wife Roma and myself were thrilled with the close bond of friendship that is still shared with John and Doug and their respective families and we slipped easily, if not a little drunkenly, back into this old friendship.
Our reunion...what a buzz!!..many white wines, reds and champagnes later, plus many 'remember whens' and 'what ever happened to'.....?. The memories and the good times, as well as some bad ones too, all came flooding back. Looking through old photos, new ones too, of the 1996 reunion in Melbourne, old familiar faces. Lots of new too, in the back issues of this magazine - courtesy of John. I never realised the Association even existed. I have really caught up on lots of guys - great stuff - keep it up, fellows!
Another thing I've learnt - my entitlement to certain medals for time served in Vietnam. I have still to apply for these, and look forward to receiving same.
For those who are interested, I have spent the last 23 years in the little township of Mallacoota, building a home with Roma, and working many jobs. We moved to Adelaide four years ago, and now are living aboard our yacht 'Kahana'. Our plans - to push off, heading towards Tasmania, then, the East Coast, and all being equal, who knows where after that? 'Kahana' is a 46ft timber ketch, well equipped for world cruising.
Looking forward to receiving my first issue of this wonderful little magazine,
Yours Faithfully,
Mal Torry."

Thanks for the compliment, Mal. We wish you well for your future cruising wherever this may take yourself and Roma. Personally, I prefer around 20,000 tons beneath my feet. (just ask Hal Towson about pirates!)
Mallacoota brings back fond memories of around 1975-76 when 'Filthy' Feltham and myself worked for Wynvale Wines and this was part of Graham's territory, calling in at the Genoa pub on the Princes Highway to hear the parrot out the front swearing at all and sundry, and then the Gypsy Point Hotel avoiding the boxing kangaroo before the final stopover at Mallacoota. Truly a lovely part of Australia.

RETURN THANKS

A note was received from Mrs Doreen Guy which said;

My Family and I would like to thank the Patron, Committee and Members for their kind message of sympathy in the sad passing of our dearest Bert.
He will be sadly missed in so many ways, he loved his music which he played until he went to hospital. He had a wonderful send off with the White Ensign, his medals and the cap with HMAS AUSTRALIA on the band, and the boys with the poppies.
I felt very proud with the wonderful attendance to pay him tribute to his way of life.

Sincerely yours,

Doreen L. Guy.
15.2.00

War records go AWOL

KOREAN war pensions may be endangered by secret moves to destroy 1946-63 army service records in Brisbane and Melbourne.

Destruction of the records in the name of cost-cutting will be a blow for Korean war veterans awaiting this year's 50-year commemoration of the conflict.

Melbourne-based military historian Lieut-Colonel Neil Smith AM told The Sunday Mail that hundreds of boxes of records including sensitive service material was destroyed in Brisbane and Melbourne between November and January.

"The particular series of records destroyed in Melbourne was coded MT1247/1," he said. "There were 50-100 records per box and hundreds of boxes involved dealing with pay, allowances, administration and national service.

"About 18 months ago we managed to stop the destruction of army records. Some were useless. This time they're not. Some of the records destroyed were unique."

Korean War veteran Kevin Wills said vets were fuming.

"It could affect subsequent applications for medals, pensions and benefits particularly for those navy strategic reserve personnel who worked with the army," Wills said.

Destruction of the records ironically coincides with a plan to compile a list of every Australian service person since the Boer War.

After enquiring about the facts surrounding the story (left) I was assured that all the records in question had been transferred to either micro-film or computer or both.

One would hope so!

(sent in by Akky Large)

A WORTHWHILE TRIP

For the first time in years I attended the NSW State Conference of the Naval Association which was held in beautiful Nelson Bay, just north of Newcastle. Not only did Ted Lincoln have a connection there (Mum and Sister lived there for some time) but the place is full of ex-sailors.
One to tap me on the shoulder during the weekend was ex-bandie Les Haines (clar/sax) who promptly joined the Association and made an immediate booking for he and his wife for the April reunion.
Facing an 8 hour drive early the following morning, I decided to have a reasonably early night after the official dinner, so I was saying farewell to a few shipmates at 10.45pm when a familiar face came up and said **'You don't remember me, do you?"** (I had been looking at this familiar face all night trying to work out where from).
I admitted defeat, and he said **"I'm Tony Piggot".**
Sure enough, my memory came back, and we worked out it had been 35 years since the last time we met.
Tony was a member for 4 years, then let his membership lapse. He told me he had been thinking about how silly this had been. I didn't push the membership bit, and wouldn't be surprised if Tony joined us once again.
Nelson Bay was once the home of HMAS ASSAULT during WW2. This was a land base training commando-type Army, Navy and RAAF people and was also home to many from the US Navy, housing 2000 personnel at one stage. The depot is gone, but one building is still in use as an aged-care facility. If you are travelling or holidaying around Nelson Bay, visit the RSL Club as it is one of the best in NSW. The President is Ex Warrant Officer Writer Les Dwyer. The RSL Club owns the motel next door and the price is right!

ANOTHER VOLUNTEER BAND

The photo (below) was taken on Anzac Day 1956 in Perth. It shows the MELBOURNE Pipes & Drums leading a contingent from that ship led by Drum Major PO Gunner Norm Vaughan. The Pipe Major was Chief ERA Eric Donaldson (from the City of Melbourne Pipe Band), and the Pipe Sgt was Stoker PO Jock Howe (Geelong Pipe Band).
Norm Vaughan is now the Chief Band Marshal for the Sydney Anzac Day March and has been for many years.
During his time with the MELBOURNE Pipes & Drums he was also Drum Major of Lakemba Pipe Band (Sydney).
He told me that other sailors in the band were members of St George, Mount Gambier and Woolongong bands prior to their Navy career. They supplied their own pipes, and the ship's canteen fund purchased the drums in Edinburgh early in their UK stay when commissioning the ship. He remembers the ship's band being led by Frank Lunn with Don Coxon assisting. During the Perth Anzac Day March the inevitable happened....the RAN Band came to a halt, and the Pipe Band caught up playing at a different tempo!
Thanks Norm for taking the trouble of sending in one of your valuable mementoes.
How many other Volunteer Bands were there????

OBITUARIES
Barbara MacLeod, AM

RAN Captain
1929 – 2000

"To achieve the marvellous", wrote Tom Robbins "it is precisely the unthinkable that must be thought". When a 24-year-old schoolteacher from Capel in Western Australia went by train across the continent to join a "man's Navy", many must have thought: "Barbara Denise MacLeod, what you are doing is unthinkable." At the very least, a life in the Navy of 1953 was an ill-regarded career choice for a young woman.

MacLeod, who has died aged 70, was born in Bunbury, WA. For the next 30 years, "BD", as she will affectionately be remembered, dedicated herself to ensuring that women could have a fair and proper place in the Navy, shaping the careers and futures of hundreds who served in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS).

Perhaps her greatest achievement was winning over those who tried to limit women's careers to the WRANS alone. She achieved what she probably considered her birthright: to serve fully in the Australian Defence Force.

Her no-nonsense approach to life, her integrity and courage, and her belief in hard work blazed a trail for many young women of the Navy to follow. That is, follow if they were strong enough and brave enough. She was no easy act to follow.

Her look could freeze at 50 paces, her voice could have a young woman trembling in trepidation, and her criticism, always well founded, could cut to the bone.

But for all the "toughness" there was tenderness too – she loved people and gave her all for the "Navy family". In return she was liked, loved, admired – even feared by a few – but respected by all.

BD knew that the road for those 300 or so women who were to join the WRANS in the 1950s and '60s was never going to be easy.

The one constant who fought to achieve better status, worthwhile careers and a level playing field for women was BD. Her generosity of spirit, her strong moral code and her genuine belief in the equality of women eventually became an acclaimed asset for all who served in Australia's Navy.

That she was elevated to the position of WRANS director and later director of naval industrial policy as a full member of the Royal Australian Navy are real achievements in the advancement of the status of women in the ADF.

Without these steps, we would never have come so far along the path to equality as we have, with women now serving in all but one area of the Navy.

After retiring, BD took a very active role in the community life of Mollymook, on the south coast of NSW. She was a keen sports lover. Golf became a passion in her middle years, presumably giving her pleasure because it was one of those few things in her life that could not be directed, ordered, inspected and disciplined.

At MacLeod's funeral, her sister officer Commander Susan Jones used the words of the American writer Maya Angelou to summarise MacLeod's approach to life:

"A woman should be tough but tender, laugh as much as possible, live a long life. The struggle for equality continues unabated, and the woman warrior who is armed with wit and courage will be among the first to celebrate victory."

MacLeod is survived by her brother John and sister-in-law Rosemary.

Andrew Stackpool

Debut outing . . . the newly formed Federation Guard prepares to welcome Interfet representatives to Parliament House. Photograph by MIKE BOWERS

NEW GUARD FOR A.D.F.

There was a suggestion years ago that a guard should be formed and based in Canberra to save training individual guards for VIP occasions and State visits. This has now come to fruition with the newly formed ***Federation Guard****, a Tri-Service guard who are posted to Canberra for around 18 months. A rumour circulated that Army wanted a single Canadian-type uniform, but this was opposed by Navy and RAAF as it looked very 'Army'.*

Commonsense prevailed with the use of the ***S.L.R*** *rifle instead of the Steyr. The UK and USA Presidential-style guards use older weapons because they look smarter, not like something from a May Day parade in Moscow.*

How long before we have a Tri-Service Band based in Canberra? This would make a lot of sense considering how much it costs to send the Navy Band there for sometimes a 30 min. job!

A REPORT FROM HOPPY

The Victorian Chapter continue to socialise by way of their quarterly bar-b-ques, the last at the Hopkins residence which has moved to Seaford (no, not the Hopkins...just the house.....the powers-that-be changed their address from Frankston to Seaford!). Faces at the last 'do' included Rod Coughran-Lane & Sue, Dave & Kath Parnell, Paul & Carmen Farrugia, Col & Pam Morris, Mal & Gail Codling, Barry & Pat Pollock, Nellie & Jo Gwynne, Gordon & Dot Crompton, Ron Bergman, Len & Marie Nurse, and of course, the hosts. Apologies received from Sonny and Evelyn Locke, J.C. Atkins, Tony Urich and Linden LeDan.

Hoppy also sent in one of the Fleet Air Arm Association magazines, 'Slipstream' which contained quite a few 'dits' and will be featured on these pages in future.

At the time of writing, Hoppy was looking forward to hearing the dulcet tones of one Phil 'Stoney' Ingram at the Sydney reunion saying something sweet, such as...."**HOPKINS, YOU ROUGH-HEADED OLD BASTARD....YOUR SHOUT!!!**

Ten out of ten for the socialising staying-power of the Victorian Chapter.

Scenes from the bar-b-que held at the Hopkins Hacienda.

Top, left...mine host at the controls!
Top, right, Paul Farrugia and Col Morris.
Bottom, left, Len Nurse, Gordon Crompton & Dave Parnell.
Bottom, right, Pat Pollock, Carmen Farrugia, Phil himself, Pam Morris & Marie Nurse.

INQUIRY INTO SOUTH-EAST ASIA SERVICE ANOMALIES

The findings of this Inquiry were made public early March and quite a few Veterans would have applauded the results. For some of our Ex's the news was good, for some, we are not 100% sure. Sailors who served for 28 days in the operational area of the Malayan emergency between July 1955 and July 1960 were recommended to get;
The Naval General Service Medal, clasp 'Malaya'.
The Australian Active Service Medal, clasp 'Malaya'.
The Returned From Active Service Badge.
Access to the Service Pension. (you are already entitled to apply for a Disability)
All of the above will be subject to confirmation by the Minister. The Federal Budget announced on 9th May that a certain amount had been approved toward Malayan Naval Veterans, but very little detail was given.
Now, for those who may have missed out.
The crews of **HMAS MELBOURNE & SYDNEY** during the **1956** deployments do not appear to have accrued enough days, with **MELBOURNE** & **SYDNEY** only registering 21 and 22 days respectively that year. Please also remember that calculating qualifying time for pensions and medals differs. Pensions are calculated with 'Port-to-Port provisions (IE Last port in Australia or overseas to first port in Aust. or overseas) **but to qualify for medals you must have spent the entire 28 days in the Operational Area.** On going to print, we did not have a list of ships & dates available, so those concerned should apply now for both if you wish.

Judge (and Major-General) Mohr in his summing up was very critical of the way Veterans have been treated in the past, with comments such as;
Campaign Medals.....On some occasions, issuing authorities have applied their own interpretation of terms used in the qualifying service criteria for campaign medals, or perhaps, have misunderstood the nature of, and reason for, campaign medals. In particular, the terms "in direct support of operations" or "in support of operations" have at times, I believe, been mis-interpreted to impose conditions of eligibility far in excess of what was intended by the authority that decided on creating the medal.

He went on to criticise the record-keeping of the three Services in relation to where exactly a person had been posted during conflicts, causing great anxiety for the Veteran when he claimed a pension/medal many years down the track.....**Surely the responsibility for ascertaining the precise whereabouts of its people during conflicts both past & present, lies with each of the Services. This responsibility should not be transferred to the Veteran who may not have the knowledge or capacity to access official records to ensure the appropriate information is elicited, nor be aware at the time that a record of his activities was not being maintained.** (during the hearing in Brisbane, a former sailor complained that his records showed he was at PENGUIN in 1957 when, in fact, he was on board ANZAC in the FESR. He had to apply to the Poms for proof that he had been arrested by the 'Redcaps' in Singapore and put in the 'slammer' before Canberra would believe him!)

Judge Mohr had a shot at previous Inquiries (remember the 'sham' Mrs Bishop presided over?) and said...**It seemed to me that this material had not been previously researched or, if it had, it had not been carefully analysed, before past decisions were taken.** One of the most critical comments was about the Services in general....**It is axiomatic that one must get the facts right in an area as sensitive as Honours and Awards. This, however, was not always the case. A prominent example is the official distribution of a flawed table of ships allotted to the Far East during the Indonesian Confrontation. This flawed list has, until now, denied some personnel being awarded campaign medals and repatriation benefits. It behoves the Services to get it right the first time, an error such as this is indefensible.**
Failure to conduct proper research and analysis of the background issues has led to some personnel being given incomplete or flawed information or advice. Each and every time the suspect information was regurgitated to a new claimant, it took on a more enhanced authority. (my emphasis)

For those 40 or so Ex's who were involved in the Malayan Campaign 1955-60, you can purchase a copy of Judge Mohr's report **"Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in Respect of South-East Asian Service"** from **AusInfo** bookshops (the old Commonwealth Govt. Bookstore) in each major city for $14.95 plus $5 postage if required. I got the Brisbane phone number from Directory Assistance.

I believe a vote of thanks is owed to **Noel Payne, Federal President FESR Assoc., Vice Admiral Sir Richard Peek, Bob Gibbs, Roger DeLisle and last but not least, Admiral Mike Hudson, Federal President of the Naval Association of Australia.**
They have worked very hard to achieve this result, against great odds (many in certain Government departments went out of their way to put insurmountable obstacles in their path), and in the case of Vice Admiral Peek, a very elderly gentleman who put his health on the line to take on these bloody bureaucrats to right a huge 'wrong'.

I would suggest those who think they qualify should apply now to **Staff Officer (Navy Medals), Queanbeyan Annex, Department of Defence, Canberra ACT 2600** and don't delay your application!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PO Box 482
YARRA GLEN VIC 3775

RAN Band Association,

On 26th February the Victoria Police Band 'Code One' had a gig at Heywood in Victoria for their annual festival. There at the Heywood Oval next to the Police Band was the Show Band of the Royal Australian Navy.
I decided to stay behind during our break and listen to their programme. I was not disappointed. The calibre of their musicianship was something else...they were really superb, and in my opinion, they are amongst the best that this country has to offer. They were under the leadership of Lieutenant Paul Cottier who should be congratulated for bringing this fine group of Musicians to the high standard they are now enjoying. This also makes me very proud to have served in the Royal Australian Navy Band.
All the best to all members of the RAN Band Association.

Paul Farrugia
29.2.00

(this letter was forwarded on to the DOM Commander Greedy. Only one question, though.....how does a small country town such as Heywood, Victoria, qualify for the services of two first-class Bands at the same time when other country areas of Australia on requesting Police or Service Bands keep getting the standard reply....."**Due to financial constraints, your request etc etc**" ?
Heywood must have Australia's best Public Relations person, or the Victoria Police Commissioner and the CERBERUS Commodore come from there originally!,
As John Laws and Alan Jones (Sydney radio personalities) would say....."**I have to declare an interest in this subject'.** I did approach the DOM last year and gained the services of the Queensland Naval Band for an R&SL function here in Lismore...but we do have 60,000 people in the Lismore district!

Did you hear about the two blokes talking about Heywood some time back?
One said...."Bloody Heywood...only footballers and prostitutes come from there!"
The other fellow said..."Hang on a minute....my daughter was born in Heywood"
First bloke...."Exactly what position did she play in the local team?"

HE'S NOT SKINT...REALLY

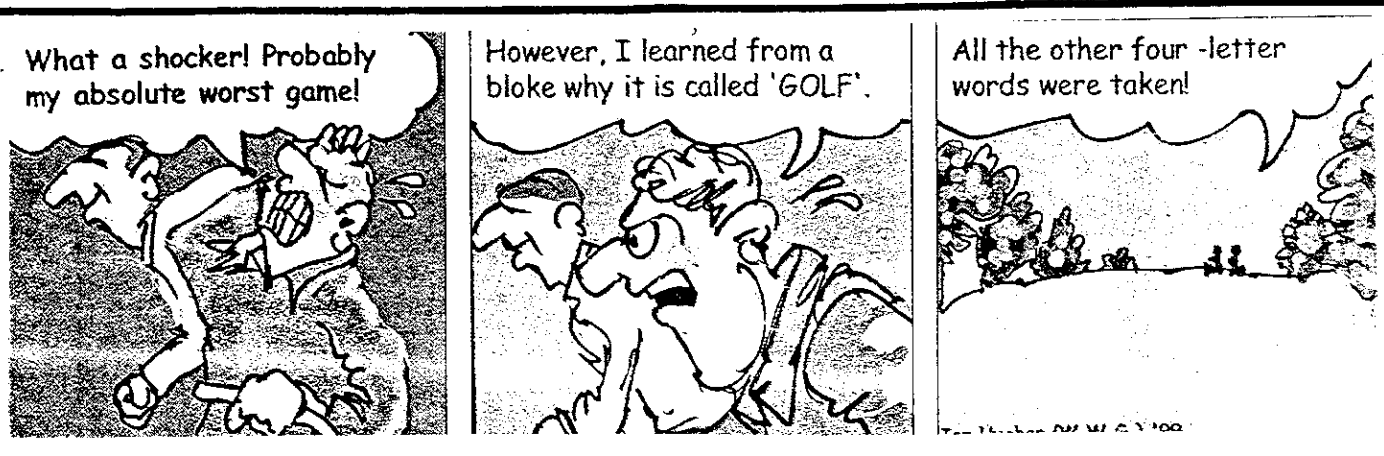
Our Tasmanian rep. Michael Wheldon (03) 6331 8602 wrote a letter of apology for the Sydney 2000 Anzac Reunion saying (in part).....

23 Tudor Ave
NEWSTEAD TAS 7250

"Due to financial restraints caused by an unexpected expense which drained the coffers, we won't be able to make it to the reunion in April.
Please pass on my best wishes to all and sundry.
One day (he says with a sigh), I'll manage to make an appearance at a reunion. Keep your fingers and toes crossed!!
All the best to the Committee arranging the reunion, and to the Committee for the next one.

Yours,

Michael (Asp) Wheldon
23 FEB 2000



FINED FOR FAKE MEDAL

Remember we brought you a story about 'Baggy' Lester and a few questionable medals a while back?
Well, we did hear that 'Baggy' reckoned he had been 'set up' by the Melbourne newspaper, so I thought you may be interested in how the courts treat people who wear medals they are not entitled to.
From the **Townsville Bulletin** 19/1/00.....

High-profile Vietnam Veteran Ted Miskiewicz has been fined $300 for wearing a phony war medal. Miskiewicz was yesterday convicted on three charges of wearing the Australian Service Medal 45-75 which had not been conferred upon him. He wore an imitation of the prestigious war medal on Remembrance Day 1996 and Anzac Day 1997. He wore a miniature of the medal on December 9, 1996. The prominent 51 year old former Army Lance Corporal was President of the 1997 Vietnam Veterans Townsville reunion committee.

Commonwealth prosecutor Michelle Sewell said Miskiewicz had shown 'disrespect' for the medal by wearing it without permission. Townsville Magistrate John Brennan fined Miskiewicz $100 on each charge and recorded a conviction against him. He was ordered to pay $2193 in court costs. In sentencing, Mr Brennan said that wearing fake medals jeopardised the Military award system and lessened the honour for those who won the right to wear them. He said Miskiewicz had not been a credible witness in the drawn-out trial. Miskiewicz said outside the court he would appeal the conviction and sentence. "I want to clear my name and my family's name" he said. Miskiewicz claimed he had been victimised by other Veterans.
Defence lawyer Ted Lindsay said Miskiewicz had suffered heart and psychiatric problems since 1996. Mr Lindsay said Miskiewicz's trouble with the law began when he fell ill four years ago. Mr Brennan said he took into account Miskiewicz's previous criminal history and financial situation in sentencing.

Well, there it is folks. This bloke wore the ASM 45-75 with his (then) other two medals he actually earned for Vietnam service (now entitled to three) and copped fines and charges totalling $2493 for the one medal.
I wonder how this Magistrate would have treated the wearing of **three** medals not issued to the wearer as was the case in the Melbourne newspaper story about 'Baggy', who was photographed with six court-mounted medals including two that are never issued to the same person?

By the way, for all his problems, Ted Miskiewicz as Chairman of the organising committee of the Townsville Vietnam Veterans reunion in 1997 did a great job, and those of us who attended thought it was a beauty.
What a silly man!

A GREAT WEEKEND

I know I keep singing their praises, but the Queensland Naval Band under the musical direction of CPOMUSN Ken 'Dubbo' Lincoln attended a 'Cadet Awareness' Day here in my home town of Lismore NSW on 25/3/00 and performed admirably.
They travelled from Brisbane in the morning some 4 hours drive down, set up at the RSL Club for the evening dinner-dance, got changed into ceremonials, paraded along the main street, performed a 'Beat-to-Quarters' marching display, Ceremonial Sunset, changed once again to evening attire, had a quick meal, then played from 7pm until midnight for the enjoyment of the Ex-Service community, senior Cadets and their parents/friends. The next morning it was out of bed early, back to the club to retrieve all the gear (safer than leaving it in the bus), and away from Lismore by 8.45am!
The band sounded great as usual, and we had the company of Warrant Officer Barry 'Hacker' Lawrence (Emergency Reserve) on trumpet, CPO Gary Sander (bass), CPO Paul O'Hara (trom) and LSMUSN Linda O'Hara (sax/vocals) who are all Emergancy Reserve, plus Ex Jeff McGuiness on kit, along with his mate and special guest Royden Ainsworth, reeds, a former member of Geoff Harveys 'Midday Show' band.
Of course another Ex and full-time member of the RANR CPOMUSN Ken McCallum is Drum Major and on sax during the dance band segment.
The Queensland Naval Band are a great advertisement for Naval Reserve Bands.
B.A. Lawrence was on his best behaviour, and had his lip in for this weekend. Blue McNally, Geoff Shew and Ron Henry came up from Ballina to join in the fun. With B.A., Geoff, Gary, 'Dubbo', Blue, Paul and Ken McCallum all having spent time at sea together, the after-concert stories over a beer were worth listening to!
For those within the age limit who still have their musical skills, you could do a lot worse than consider a hobby of playing in Reserve Bands for both the comradeship and monetary benefits, not to mention the visits to places such as we went to on band tours of the past.
Ken McCallum won one of the raffle prizes, and it was related to the prizes won at the 'Rockers' years ago.
He is now the proud owner of a new bag!

From 'The Melbourne Weekly'. 2nd WW Bandsman Tony Ceff is still earning a quid playing. Thanks Len Western for the article.

(Funny.....no mention of the Navy Band!)

Sax symbol

At 83, Tony Ceff still hits the high notes

Like his saxophone, Tony Ceff is far from polished. But he's mesmerising nonetheless, able to morph swing standards into a style which mirrors his 83 years: resigned, slow, with lengthy pauses for breath. And reflection.

It's interesting to watch the effect of his music on people. It stops some in their tracks and gives them a gentle hug before draining their pockets of spare change.

When Ceff is in form, he's backed by a percussion of steadily falling coins. Most people give for the music, some "to shut (him) up", some because they think he's a vagrant hard on his luck. Think again. Your average vagrant doesn't spend winters in Queensland with his daughter or spend his takings on two month holidays to the US and Canada – a lifelong dream. No, Tony Ceff is doing just fine, thank you.

"The wife doesn't like flying overseas, so I went on my own," says the La Trobe Street resident, "the Rockies in Canada (he climbed a bit), Victoria Island (he busked a bit), New York, Niagra Falls, Disneyland."

Ceff is a relative newcomer to the busking game. The former railway signalman was 18 years into retirement and living on a "modest" pension when he decided to give busking a go. "I used to amuse myself in the living room blowing away, then one day I was in Bourke Street and I saw people dropping coins into a hat and I thought 'Geez, I can do that'," says Ceff, who has bounced between the Bourke and Little Bourke Street Myer entrances ever since. "It was being able to afford bacon and eggs in the morning, let me tell you."

He and his wife Doreen live a simple life. She does volunteer work. He usually plays in the morning, pops "home for some dinner and a nap" and returns for a few more tunes in the late afternoon. Takings vary. Some days there's little gold amid the silver. Some days he really hits the high notes. "Christmas is crazy," he says. "I've had $10 and $20 put in my case at Christmas."

Ceff grew up in West Melbourne, the first of five children born to Russian immigrant parents, his father a communist, his mother a democrat. He remembers a childhood where everything was either red or white. "They used to argue about politics, but they got on okay," recalls Ceff, who changed his name from Cekansek at 17, partly to ward off anti-communist hysteria, partly to prevent annoying nick names. "I used to get called 'chicken sharp', and all sorts of chicken names."

The Depression hit the family hard, but there was always a roof over their heads. Ceff used to make money with his saxophone at local dancehalls, but eventually got a "real job" at 19 with the Railways. He spent the rest of his working life in signal houses around the state. He and his wife take advantage of free rail travel provided after such long service. "Yeah, we'll wake up one morning and think 'Let's go to Ballarat, or Bendigo. We can be back in time for tea."

As long as Ceff can hold a tune – and journey from La Trobe to Bourke Street each day – he sees no reason to retire twice. Wild horses couldn't drag him to a retirement village. "Nah, Doreen and I had a look and all these people had walking sticks and were limping and she said, 'If I went into them I'd feel as though I was old'."

Like the old standards, Tony Ceff just keeps on going. ◻

DOSSIER

NAME Tony Ceff

AGE 83

LIVES City

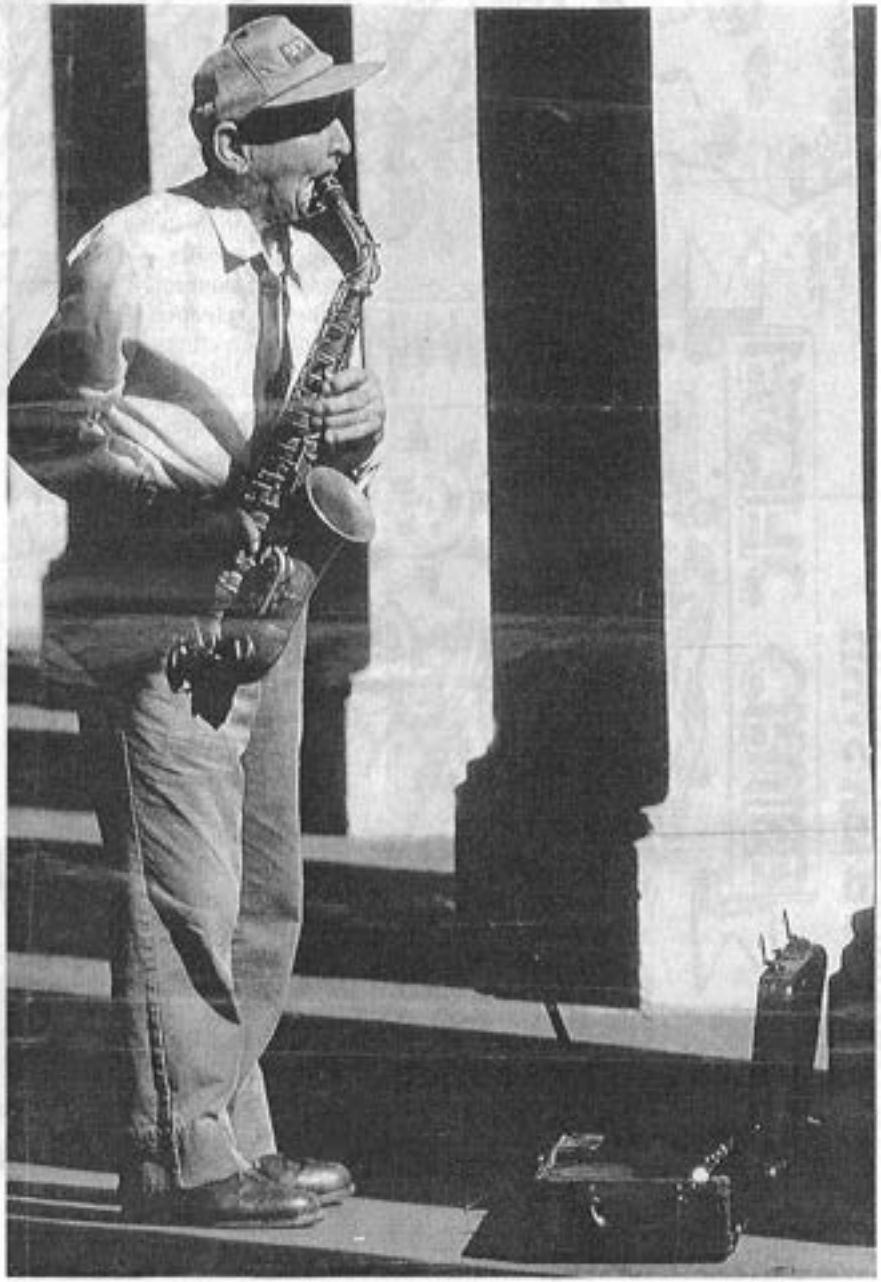
FAMILY Married with four children "only three grandchildren"

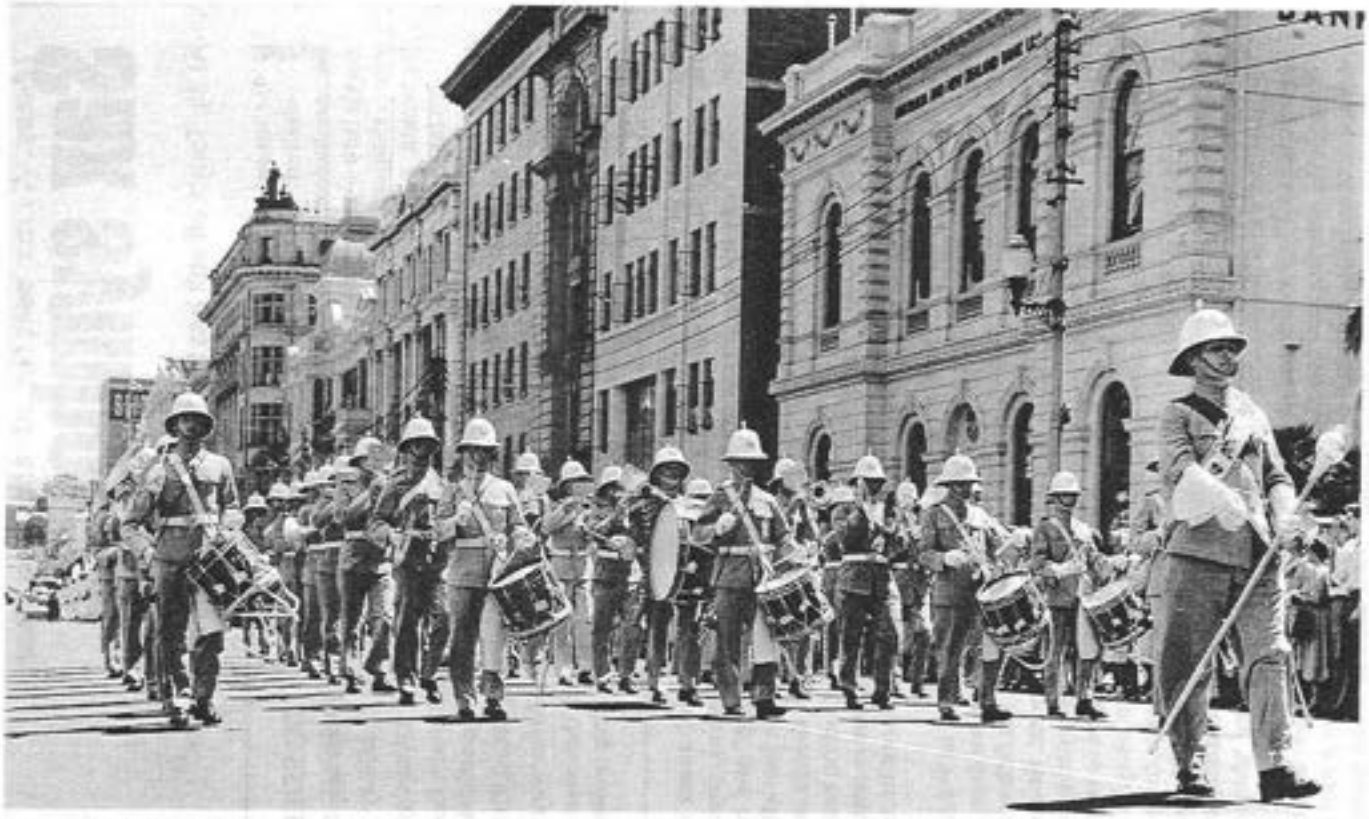
CAREER HIGHLIGHT Busking

LIKES The old standards, entertaining

DISLIKES Dishonest people, the drug problem

Story by ***Stephen McKenzie***
Photograph by ***Jaime Murcia***



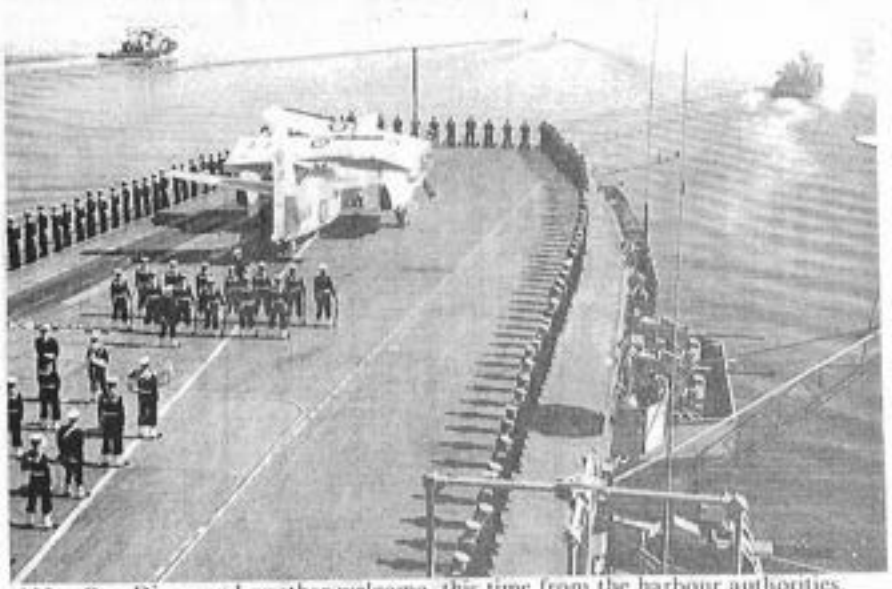


HMAS MELBOURNE BAND 1958 *pictured marching in Perth. (looks like Norm Gullick as D/M)*

According to Gordon Crompton who kindly sent in these photos, those in the band included;

Ross MacNamara, Des Fay, Dan Carty, Tony Webber, Nobby Clarke, 'Doh Doh' Saunders, Bill Tyrie, Doc Newby, Hector McCaskill, Nev Jones, Phil Jones, Jim McDonough, Tony Buddle, Ned Kellas and Buggsy Sparkes.
The tour included Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and the Hawaiian Islands.

122. The Review of the Fleet in Spithead by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a splendid and spectacular occasion, with over 150 ships in attendance. Above, MELBOURNE's complement show their admiration as H.M.S. BRITANNIA glides from view.



116. San Diego and another welcome, this time from the harbour authorities.

Scenes on board the Flagship MELBOURNE.

Top, left, 1977 Review at Spithead.

Top, right, March 1977 San Diego

Photos this page from HMAS MELBOURNE-25 Years Ross Gillett

Left, 1967, Jim McDonough in 'mufti' conducts music for crossing the line ceremony. Looks like Col Harkin (bass), Ashley Greedy (horn) and the leg of Jesse Watson.

Right, Opening of new cafeteria on board 1979. (stop 'tootling', that clarinet player!)

Programme

****

1145 High Commissioner and Lady White leave General Offices (Vickers-Armstrongs) for ship.

1205-1215 Guests not mentioned below leave General Offices for ship, and will be received onboard by High Commissioner and Lady White, the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Gatacre.

Thereafter proceed to Flight Deck via the forward lift.

1217 Sir Ronald and Lady Weeks and General and Mrs. Dunphie leave General Offices.

1219 Air Vice Marshall Hancock leaves General Offices.

"Alert" on arrival.

1220 Deputy Engineer-in-Chief and Deputy Controller of the Navy leave General Offices.

"Alert" on arrival.

1221 Flag Officer Flying Training leaves General Offices.

"Alert and Pipe" on arrival.

1223 Board of Admiralty leave General Offices.

"Alert and Pipe" on arrival.

Received by the High Commissioner and the Commanding Officer.

Proceed to Flight Deck by Admiral's Cabin and Sternwalk.

Received by Guard and Band. Inspect Guard.

On completion Guard and Band turn forward.

1235 Address by Second Sea Lord.

Address by the High Commissioner.

Guard comes to the Slope and Ship's Company to attention.

Commanding Officer invites Lady White to name the ship.

Lady White names the ship and unveils the ship's badge and commemorative plaque on the Island screen.

"Alert."

Guard, Band and Divisions turn aft. Commanding Officer orders—"Commission Her Majesty's Australian Ship MELBOURNE."

Commission ship. White Ensign and Australian Jack hoisted.

Admiralty Flag broken, National Anthem played.

"Carry On" sounded.

Divisions, Guard and Band turn inboard and forward respectively.

Prayers will be said by Ship's Chaplains.

Address by Representative of Messrs. Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd.

Concluding address by Commanding Officer.

Guests invited to lunch in 'C' Hangar proceed below by forward lift.

Divisions fall out.

1315 Luncheon in 'C' Hangar.

1445 Guests commence leaving by after gangway.

1455-1457 Air Vice Marshall Hancock, Deputy Engineer-in-Chief and Deputy Controller, and Flag Officer Flying Training depart.

1500 Board of Admiralty leave by after gangway.

(London train leaves 1523).

NOTES (i) In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the Hanger to the same schedule.

(ii) Where applicable, officers' wives will arrive with their husbands.

From "HMAS MELBOURNE-25 YEARS" (Ross Gillett)

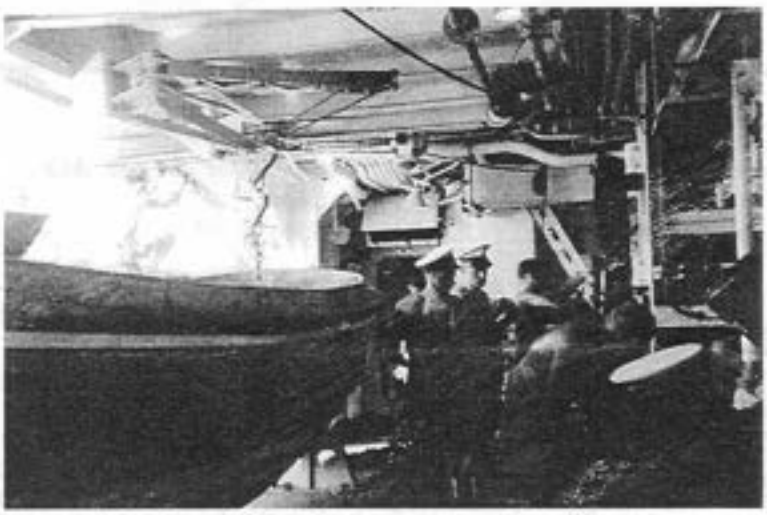
(left) Programme for Commissioning 28/10/55. The wet weather routine was adopted and the ceremony took place in the hangar.

(right) Ship's programme for 1956.

SHIP'S MOVEMENTS

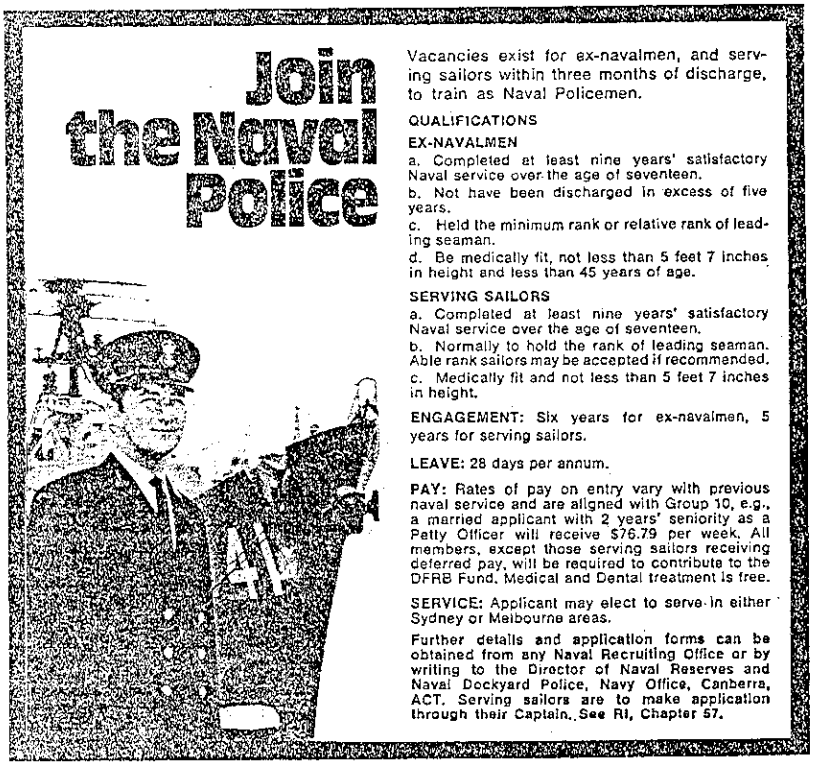
YEAR	FROM	TO	REMARKS
1956	9 Jan.	20 Jan.	Flying trials — Portsmouth area.
	20 Jan.	21 Jan.	Passage to Le Havre.
	21 Jan.	24 Jan.	At Le Havre.
	24 Jan.	24 Jan.	Le Havre to Portland.
	25 Jan.	27 Jan.	Portland D.G. and Noise Ranging.
	27 Jan.	27 Jan.	Passage to Portsmouth.
	27 Jan.	4 Mar.	Portsmouth — Deperming, catapult examination, storing, free freight, visit by Duke of Edinburgh.
	5 Mar.	8 Mar.	Portsmouth to Glasgow — Replenishment at sea trial. D.G. Ranging.
	8 Mar.	11 Mar.	K.G. V. dock Glasgow embarking aircraft.
	11 Mar.	12 Mar.	At Tail of the Bank.
	12 Mar.	17 Mar.	Greenock to Gibraltar.
	17 Mar.	18 Mar.	At Gibraltar.
	19 Mar.	22 Mar.	Gibraltar to Naples.
	22 Mar.	25 Mar.	At Naples.
	25 Mar.	26 Mar.	Naples to Malta.
	26 Mar.	27 Mar.	At Malta.
	27 Mar.	30 Mar.	Malta to Port Said.
	30 Mar.	31 Mar.	Transit of Suez Canal.
	31 Mar.	4 Apr.	Suez Canal to Aden.
	4 Apr.	10 Apr.	Aden to Colombo.
	10 Apr.	14 Apr.	At Colombo.
	14 Apr.	23 Apr.	Colombo to Fremantle.
	23 Apr.	26 Apr.	At Fremantle.
	26 Apr.	2 May	Fremantle to Melbourne.
	2 May	5 May	At Melbourne.
	5 May	7 May	Melbourne to Jervis Bay.
	7 May	8 May	At Jervis Bay — Disembark aircraft.
	8 May	9 May	Passage to Sydney i/c with H.M.A. Fleet.
	9 May	23 Jul.	At Sydney — docking and refit. FOCAF transferred flag 14 May (R. Adm. H.M. Burrell.) R. Adm. D.H. Harries hoisted flag 7 June.
	23 Jul.	31 Jul.	Work up Jervis Bay area.
	1 Aug.	7 Aug.	Squadrons work up Sydney/Jervis Bay area. Squadrons embarked 6th Aug.
	7 Aug.	7 Aug.	Sydney replenishment.
	7 Aug.	11 Aug.	Sydney to Palm Is. Anchorage.
	11 Aug.	14 Aug.	Palm Is. Anchorage.
	14 Aug.	17 Aug.	Palm Is. to Jervis Bay disembark Sea Venoms (808) then to Sydney.
	18 Aug.	21 Aug.	Sydney to Brisbane Flying training.
	21 Aug.	25 Aug.	At Brisbane.
	25 Aug.	31 Aug.	Hervey Bay area A/S Flying training.
	1 Sep.	3 Sep.	Hervey Bay area. Visit by 1 N.M.
	3 Sep.	4 Sep.	Passage to Jervis Bay.
	5 Sep.	7 Sep.	Jervis Bay Re-embark Sea Venom (808) Squadron.
	7 Sep.	11 Sep.	Replenishment at Sydney.
	11 Sep.	20 Sep.	Passage Sydney to Darwin prepare for Exercie "ALBATROSS". Flying training.
	20 Sep.	21 Sep.	At Darwin — Replenish.
	21 Sep.	28 Sep.	Darwin to Singapore — Exercise "ALBATROSS".
	28 Sep.	2 Oct.	Singapore Roads.
	2 Oct.	12 Oct.	Singapore — Gulf of Thailand — Hong Kong Exercise "ALBATROSS".
	12 Oct.	17 Oct.	At Hong Kong Replenish.
	17 Oct.	22 Oct.	Hong Kong — Sulu Sea — Manila — "ALBATROSS".
	22 Oct.	26 Oct.	At Manila.
	26 Oct.		Demonstration for President Magsaysay.
	26 Oct.	1 Nov.	Manila to Manus.
	1 Nov.	4 Nov.	At Manus — Tropical trials Mk 30 torpedo.
	4 Nov.	11 Nov.	Manus to Sydney — via Rabaul.
	11 Nov.	17 Nov.	At Sydney Replenishing.
	17 Nov.	19 Nov.	Sydney to Melbourne (Port Phillip)
	19 Nov.	7 Dec.	At Melbourne (Port Phillip)
	7 Dec.	10 Dec.	Passage to Sydney and Jervis Bay.
	10 Dec.	29 Jan.	At Sydney, docking and leave.

(above) Phil Hopkins & Gordon Crompton recently. (right) ALBATROSS Birdies Ball 1954, Nev Nixon bass, Harry Towson piano, Norm Gullick & Sonny Locke saxes, Bungy Williams trumpet and Phil Hopkins trombone. Photos courtesy Phil Hopkins. (no name given for the guitarist)



(above) 1958 Fleet Band on the 'uppers'

(below) L/R Doc Newby and Gordon Crompton. 2ND LT Jimmy Jemmett Royal Marines. Photos courtesy Gordon Crompton.



And didn't plenty of Bandies? (left)

Yes, $4000 per year wasn't a bad salary in 1970.

Those who took advantage of this and similar offers included;

Vic Slim, Jim Stathis, Richie Watson Ron Kirkwood and Karl Torrens.

Were there any others?

Back to today's Navy.....
My, we have gone up-market, with a standard beer issue now two bottles of Crown Lager.
Grog and females at sea sure does equal huge problems.

(the PO was demoted to Leading Hand and fined)

Sailor guilty of misconduct

By BRAD CLIFTON

AN AUSTRALIAN Navy sailor who accidentally dropped a colleague into the ocean while dangling her over the side of a warship was "grossly intoxicated" on duty-free rum, his court martial hearing was told yesterday.

Petty officer Nicholas Lowe was "skylarking" with able seaman Melissa Gibbons when he held her from the flight deck of HMAS Newcastle as the guided missile frigate headed home from deployment in East Timor.

Lowe, 29, lost his grip on AB Gibbons, who fell into the sea about 12.30am as the ship sailed eight nautical miles off the NSW central coast on February 4.

"I held her over the side, stumbled ... one minute she was there and one minute she wasn't," Lowe was heard to exclaim soon after.

"I remember having her in my arms and then she was gone. For some reason I just let her go, I don't know why I did it. If I could do it again 100 times I would not have dropped her."

An immediate "man overboard" alert was sounded and the frigate was forced to turn and trace its course before the 27-year-old sailor was recovered, unhurt, in the ship's wake.

The first public details of the incident emerged at Sydney's Garden Island naval base yesterday when Lowe pleaded guilty to charges of prejudicial conduct and failing to comply with a lawful general order.

Prosecuting officer, Commander Tim Hoyle, told the three-member court martial that a group of sailors, including Lowe and AB Gibbons, had defied orders by exceeding their daily 750ml alcohol limit on the night in question.

After drinking his allowance of two Crown Lager beers, Lowe retrieved a duty-free bottle of rum from his mess, which he then took to a flight deck "party".

By his own admission he drank "at least half the bottle", first with cola then straight, over a period of several hours.

An expert pharmacologist yesterday estimated Lowe's blood-alcohol level would have been about 0.40 — eight times the legal driving limit.

Lowe, a combat systems supervisor and the most senior sailor among the group, was observed to throw AB Gibbons' boots overboard just before the incident.

The pair was then seen "skylarking" and "laughing, wrestling and pushing each other", Cdr Hoyle said.

"On one occasion he appeared to have her in a headlock. He then picked up able seaman Gibbons, cradling her in his arms."

About 12.30am Lowe began dangling his colleague — who was clad only in underpants and a T-shirt — over the starboard side of the ship's stern.

"At this point in time, petty officer Lowe lost his grip on able seaman Gibbons, causing her to fall over the side," Cdr Hoyle said.

The ship made an immediate "Williamson turn" and AB Gibbons was rescued by a boat crew about 12 minutes after her plunge. She was not injured.

Cdr Hoyle said Lowe later conceded he had been drunk and "offered no excuses except for stupidity".

"But he did acknowledge he was experiencing marital difficulties whilst on deployment and had a drinking problem," Cdr Hoyle said.

In his evidence yesterday, Lowe said he expected to lose rank as a result of his actions, admitting he had a "binge drinking problem".

"It was irresponsible, immature and reckless and I realise I'm setting a terrible example for my subordinates and peers," Lowe told the panel.

"I realise that it was inexcusable and stupid, I know I brought the navy and myself into disrepute in the eyes of the public and brought a great deal of harm to public relations."

Lowe's penalty — which will be handed down today — will range from a reprimand to six months' imprisonment.

(below) from 'Slipstream' Official journal of Fleet Air Arm Association. (thanks Hoppy)

NEIL ARMSTRONG'S SECRET

An urban myth from cyberspace...?

When Apollo Mission Astronaut, Neil Armstrong, first walked on the moon, he not only gave his famous 'one step for man, one giant leap for mankind' statement, but followed it by several remarks and the usual communication traffic between him, the other astronauts and Mission Control.

Just before he re-entered the 'lander', however, he made the enigmatic remark, 'Good luck, Mr Gorsky.'

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet Cosmonaut, however, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programmes. Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the 'Good luck, Mr Gorsky' statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

Finally, (on July 5, 1995 in Tampa Bay FL) while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26 year old question to Armstrong.

This time he finally responded. Mr Gorsky had finally died and so Armstrong felt he could answer the question. When he was a kid, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit a fly ball that landed outside his neighbour's bedroom window. His neighbours were Mr and Mrs Gorsky.

As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs Gorsky shouting at Mr Gorsky, 'Oral Sex?! You'll get oral sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!'

The RAN Band-Melbourne performed at Beaumaris RSL on 6th March and former CPOQMG John de Cruz Douglas passed on several pages from previous issues of Navy News. This page is from March 6 1970 and features our Patron. Check out the ads!

—Thanks CPOMUSN Bill Bekendam

FAREWELL TO RAN's 'MR. MUSIC'

The man who was instrumental in bringing the Bands of the Royal Australian Navy into the world's spotlight, was farewelled at an impressive ceremonial parade at HMAS Cerberus recently.

After 34 years in the RAN, the Director of Music LCDR George Hooker, MBE, LRAM, AMUA, has moved out of the Service to take up the position of Head of the Music Section with the South Australian Education Department.

His popular wife, Rae, and son, Timothy (who was a student at Peninsular Grammar School until this year) watched proudly as Dad was accorded the honour of taking the salute at the March Past of the Band.

Daughter Sue, who has been teaching deaf and dumb children in England, unfortunately missed the parade but will soon be reunited with her family.

LCDR GEORGE HOOKER (left foreground) listens as Commodore Purvis addresses the ship's company at Cerberus on the occasion of LCDR Hooker's farewell. LCDR Hooker took the salute at the March Past of the Band.

"THE BOYS" say farewell their own way. This group includes LMUS Bill Thompson, MUS Lindsay Mungovan, LMUS Clive Smith and MUS Kim Rushworth.

The Superintendent of Training, Commodore Ian Purvis ADC RAN, paid a glowing tribute to the career of LCDR Hooker during an address to the 2000 sailors and WRANS on parade.

George Hooker of The Boulevarde, Somers, Victoria, is known throughout Australian music circles for the way in which he has developed the RAN band and the RAN School Of Music at Cerberus, which is unique in the Services.

Since LCDR Hooker became the RAN Director of Music in August, 1954, he has watched the branch grow from 96 to 160 men, with bands in HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Sydney, and at the shore establishments HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Albatross and HMAS Penguin.

As well as these bands, the musicians have built up a bluejacket band among the apprentices at HMAS Nirimba at Quakers Hill in NSW, and a drum and bugle band at the Junior Recruits Training Establishment, HMAS Leeuwin at Fremantle, WA.

LCDR Hooker can justifiably be proud of the arrangements with EMI to make one LP record a year — the latest "Naval Sounds" makes a total of 12 excellent selections of band music available over the record counters.

Talking to his "boys", as he called them, one gets the impression that his greatest achievement was his negotiations with the Australian Music Examination Board, which resulted in his musicians (who are trained in the Navy by the Navy) covering the AMEB syllabus and the Chief Petty Officers Qualifying T MUS A, which is equivalent to a B-certificate.

George, himself, is a senior examiner with AMEB and was well known to matriculation music students throughout Victoria from whom he expected the same high standard as he did from Navy musicians.

A man who believed in the optimum effort, he worked hard to achieve the best possible conditions for his sailors and they, over the years, have rewarded him and the Navy with performances which equal those of the world best "military" bands.

Ask those proud Australians who watched George and the band perform at the Melbourne Olympics, and the Perth Empire Games — the 200,000 audience who attended The Stokers concert at the Myer Music Bowl — the devotees who participated in the 1969 Adelaide Festival of Arts.

His crowning glory would have been at Osaka this year where, the RAN band are performing at Expo 70 but a man of his vast experience and service background of management and discipline, is in great demand.

This he had been snapped-up by the South Australian Education Department as the head of the music section of the adult education branch.

Everyone who knows him, wishes him well but are in agreement that the Navy's loss is South Australia's gain.

BIOGRAPHY:— LCDR Hooker studied violin at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide, for 12 years and was awarded the coveted Elder Scholarship in 1930.

He was an associate of the University of Adelaide when he joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1936.

LCDR Hooker saw service in most theatres of the war.

He served in HMAS Canberra, HMAS Australia (when it was subjected to Kamikaze bombing for a period of five days) and in HMAS Hobart when it was torpedoed while returning to Australia from the Treasury Islands.

He visited England in 1946 to participate in the Victory March through London and attended the Royal Academy of Music in 1948, during which time he conducted some of the world's leading military bands.

He also was a representative at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952.

The MBE was awarded to Lieutenant Commander Hooker in 1957 for services to music in the Royal Australian Navy.

LCDR Hooker took up his appointment as Director of Music for the Royal Australian Navy in 1954.

A BANDY SAYS "THANKS, GEORGE"!

When one looks back at his service in the Navy, there is always that nagging thought in one's mind that someday a good friend and mate will pay off from the service and go into H.M.A.S. Citizenship.

Oh yes, it's happened to me before, and no doubt will happen again, but I feel not to such a great extent as occured when Lt. Cdr. George Hooker, Director of Music of the R.A.N. for the past 16 years and "opus magnus" of the Band Branch, walked through the gates of "Cerberus" for the last time in February as a serving officer.

Affectionately known as George, Uncle George, "Sir", the "boss", the DOM (no relation to that well-known beverage, and many other names, he has towered over the ranks of Navy Musicians for nearly two decades and has been instrumental in putting the RAN Band on the map.

With him at the helm, we have weathered through numerous Royal and V.I.P. visits, and Olympic and Empire Games, and many other engagements equally as important such as Band tours throughout Australia, TV shows, radio programmes and record sessions.

I shall always remember him in an off moment on a South Australian visit, playing golf in a force 8 gale—or so it seemed, and just as he hit a 2-wood to a 120 yard hole, the wind dropped necessitating a 4 wood back to the green!

Or on the same trip eating fish and chips out of a newspaper, because we were late back for an evening concert, after another round of golf!

And always lurking in the background was his charming wife, Rae, who was always the ever present guardian angel of the Band, helping and giving advice. Yes, I got some of that too!

Now they are gone—to Adelaide from where George joined up in the mid-1930's, gone I'm sure with a ton of memories that I'm sure will live with them for life.

May I humbly and sincerely say thank you George and Rae for being such good mates to so many and especially to a few I know—you will both be sadly missed.

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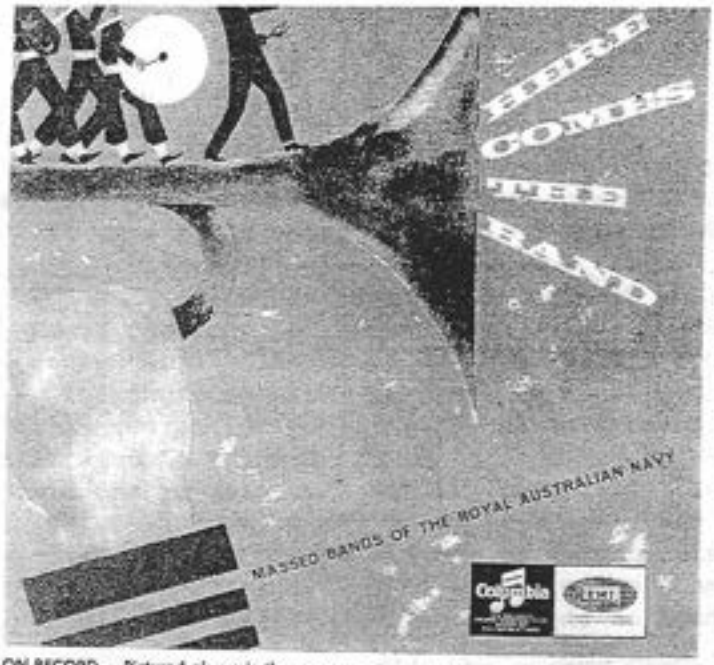


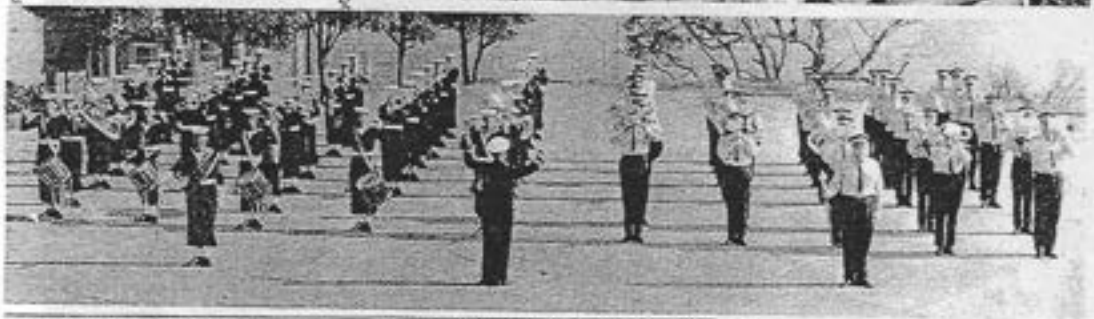
ON RECORD — Pictured above is the cover of Columbia's latest release of the Massed Bands of the RAN.

The bands are under the baton of Lt. Cdr. G. Hooker, Director of Music RAN, and play 12 bright and breezy marches in strict tempo of 120 paces to the minute.

The record is available in both stereo and mono.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW

A unique occasion in the musical world was the recent combining of the E.A.A. Royal Australian Band and the N.S.W. Police Band at HMAS PENGUIN. In this picture, the two bands rehearse under the baton of Sub-Lieutenant Norm Gullick.



MUSICAL MOMENTS

The Bandies at HMAS CERBERUS have been walking with heads held high since the Basketball team won the Summer Cup from the Chiefs and PO's, 34-14.

The Chiefs and PO's had several substitutes throughout the game and their team at the end was almost entirely different from the one they fielded at the commencement.

The game was fast and open and the Chiefs and PO's said after the finish .. "the better team won". Well done the Band!

We turned out for the first Inter-part Aussie Rules game of the season against the Communicators. After leading by four goals at half-time, they went away from us to win by four points.

The Bandies were by no means disgraced and the Communicators will have to be on their toes at the next meeting.

BELOW: CERBERUS DEPOT BASKETBALL PREMIERS, 1966 — Back Row: Lt. Cdr Hooker (Director of Music), ABPTI Smith, ORD MUSN's Gledhill and Greedy. Front Row: ORD MUSN's Ellis and Martin, L/MUSN Hawkins. (Absent team member J/MUSN. Arnold).

Congratulations are in order for Petty Officers Musicians Webber and Woodhouse on confirmation of promotion.

The largest dance band seen in CERBERUS for many years played under the leadership of POMUSN Phil Hopkins for the WRANS Anniversary Ball on April 29.

Also at the Ball to keep the music continuous, was the regular Depot quartette, led by Leading Musician Charles Tumath (string bass and vocals).

The CERBERUS Military Band was split in two for ANZAC Day. One band, under the baton of Lieutenant Coxon, led the Ex-Naval contingent through Melbourne and on completion, played the "Diggers" past the saluting base.

The RANR Band from H.M.A.S. LONSDALE, under the baton of Lieutenant Thorne, RANR, supplemented by 20 musicians from CERBERUS, participated in the march and led the merchant Navy contingent.

Many familiar faces were seen when the Southern Command Band and the RAAF Central Command Band played alongside the CERBERUS Band.

On Sunday, May 1, the H.M.A.S. VOYAGER Memorial Service was held in the CERBERUS Chapel. The music was supplied by the Depot Band. On completion of this Service the band embussed for the Frankston Annual RSL March and Service. Musician Lawrence played the "Last Post" at both ceremonies.

Petty Officer Musician Woodhouse, who arrived at CERBERUS in January, was so impressed by the "new" Frankston that he decided to purchase a block of land at Karingal, he intends to build there in the near future.

Congratulations to the young Ordinary Musicians who have been chosen to augment the E.A.A. Band on the forthcoming tour of Northern New South Wales and Queensland. The experience they will gain on this tour should be invaluable to them.

All the Bandies at CERBERUS wish Chief Petty Officer Musician Ian Williams a speedy recovery after his recent operation.

Whilst Chief Williams is absent Petty Officer Musician Ted Lincoln is running the Depot musical routine.

One of our ex-bandies has re-entered the Service. Welcome, Ordinary Musician Max Hassell. Welcome also, Leading Musician Frank Charles, RANR, here to complete his Petty Officer Musicians course at CERBERUS.

"Happy" blowing everywhere.

G.H.

1960 FLASHBACK

DO YOU recognise the musician on the left? You may say: "If it's the bloke I think it is, then what the hell's he doing in that rig!"

Well his name IS Knowles and since this picture of the change of uniform (that's Terry Nicholls wearing the Band Corporal chevrons) was taken, "Musa" Knowles has reached Petty Officer status (promoted about three weeks ago).

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The Secretary,

Since reading the series of articles written by Cedric Ashton of his memoirs of Naval life during WW2, I have intended to send you the enclosed photographs. I was fortunate enough to have spent most of my Naval life also on SHROPSHIRE between 1942-45 during which time its contribution to the American 7th Fleet and the Pacific Conflict are well documented. SHROPSHIRE Band was a group of excellent musicians from top bands and orchestras around Australia. We think of Cedric from the Sydney Symph., Alec Rule, wonderful clarinet from Perth, George Burgess (10 instruments including a trumpet duet with himself!) from Sydney, Alan Wood, trumpet, State Theatre Melbourne, Bobby Johnson, clarinet, Princes nightclub Sydney, Stan James & George Dudley, alto sax players from Capitol Theatre Melbourne, Jimmy Allen, flute and alto sax, later with Channel 9 'In Melbourne Tonight' Band. I often wonder who of these excellent muso's are still with us. They played all the jazz hits of the big band era every lunch time for an hour or so to the great delight of the crew. SHROPSHIRE was a very happy and efficient ship under Captain Nichols RN and the band guys must have also done a great job in the Gunnery TS department to bring her back un-scratched!
I would be interested to hear from any of the band of the 43-45 era who, like I are lucky enough to be still around to enjoy the rewards.

Albert J. Wastell PHC, MPS RAN (Rtd)

(below...HMAS HOBART marching in Hobart on a victory cruise in 1945. I'm not sure of the personnel, but 'Curly' Ball is Bandmaster in front, Bert Wastell is tenor sax behind bass on the left. Lead drummer is probably John Gist, also in band..J Lancaster, Bert Philips, George Mossop and Brian Naulty.

(thanks, Bert for the wonderful photos here and on the following two pages...ED)

FLINDERS NAVAL DEPOT BAND (year not known...circa 1942-45)

Drum Major Bill Morna leading band across Swanston St bridge. Lead drummer Murray Hunter. Eddie Weldon bass drum. Band L/R
Mick Davies, Bert Wastell, Tony Briglia, Vic Trotman,
Frank Herbert, Kevin Watford, Bluey Redpath, David ?,
Jack Trimble, Max Woodfine, Alan Wood,
Bill Hogan, Jack Steele, Bert Guy and Jack Hayes.

Seamen/Drummers and Buglers names not given.

(courtesy Albert Wastell)

Top, left: L/R Brian Naulty, George (Possum) Mossop, 'Curly' Ball, Bert (Jock) Wastell, Bert Philips. Top right: Armistice Day March 1942 Melbourne, Bill Morna D/M, Eddie Weldon & Sticks Heywood bass drums, others: Mick Davies, FRank Graham, Tony Briglia, Vic Trotman, Stan James, Bill Redpath, Bert Wastell, Frank Herbert, Alan Redding, Kev Watford, Alan Wood, Bill Hogan, Jack Steele, Jack Hayes, Alan Rule. Bottom, left L/R Bert Wastell tenor sax, Jimmy Allen fl/sax, Jack Coughlan bass, Norm Harris trumpet, Rob Cummings trombone, Bert Philips clarinet...on Q/Deck of SHROPSHIRE on way home from Tokyo 1945. Bottom, right, Bert & brother Jim at 2nd Aust. Army H/Q 1942.

from Navy News 6.3.70, courtesy CPOMUSN Bill Bekendam.

ROLF'S BEARDED BAND—Australian entertainer Rolf Harris shows the finer points of clarinet playing to a bearded quintet from the combined band that will be appearing at Expo 70. L. to R. LMUSN Wally Handyfield, LMUSN Eric Crost, LMUSN Gerry Foster (partly obscured) POMUSN Tony Webber and MUSN Max Hassall, with Maestro Rolf giving the lesson. Rolf will be appearing with the band at Expo in the "Waltzing Matilda Revue".

Navy band rehearse (with Rolf) for Expo

With the opening of Expo 70 only a few days away, the Band of the Royal Australian Navy, which will be appearing in an official capacity at Expo, has spent the past few days rehearsing in Penguin under Lt. Don Coxon, Director of Music of the R.A.N.

Sixty musicians from HMAS Melbourne, Sydney, Penguin, Albatross and Cerberus, assembled in Penguin for the rehearsals.

As well as concert music to be rehearsed, there was also the opening marching display which culminates in the formation of the letters EXPO 70, in English, not Japanese.

This display was worked out by PO Musns, Tony Webber and Vic Knowles from Cerberus and it was this pair who bludgeoned the display into shape.

At the final dress rehearsal on Thursday, February 26, their efforts were well rewarded by a near faultless display by the band.

Concertwise, the band was rehearsed by LEUT Coxon and it was very noticeable that previous massed band efforts had greatly assisted the band into moulding very quickly to the desired effect.

New arrangements by well-known musicians were tried, these arrangements having been specially done for the Expo Band and younger members of the combination soon realised that it wasn't all going to be a bed of roses!

Rolf Harris arrived on February 21 to rehearse a number with the band and we spent quite an enjoyable afternoon with this famous Australian entertainer.

More rehearsals are set down for late April when Melbourne's band will be "up top" but on May 6, in Osaka, the full team gets together again for two final days rehearsal before the "Waltzing Matilda Revue" goes on show at Expo 70 on May 8.

A bloke has locked his car keys inside his vehicle. He stands by the side of the car looking completely fed up when a chap walks up and asks him what the problem is.

"I've locked my car keys in my car and can't get in"

"No problem mate." says the new arrival. "Stand to one side and I'll get you in."

The driver does as he's asked and stands to one side. The second chap moves in front of the door handle, turns around, and rubs his backside against the door lock.
Almost instantly the car door unlocks.

Strewth!" says the driver, "How did you manage that?"

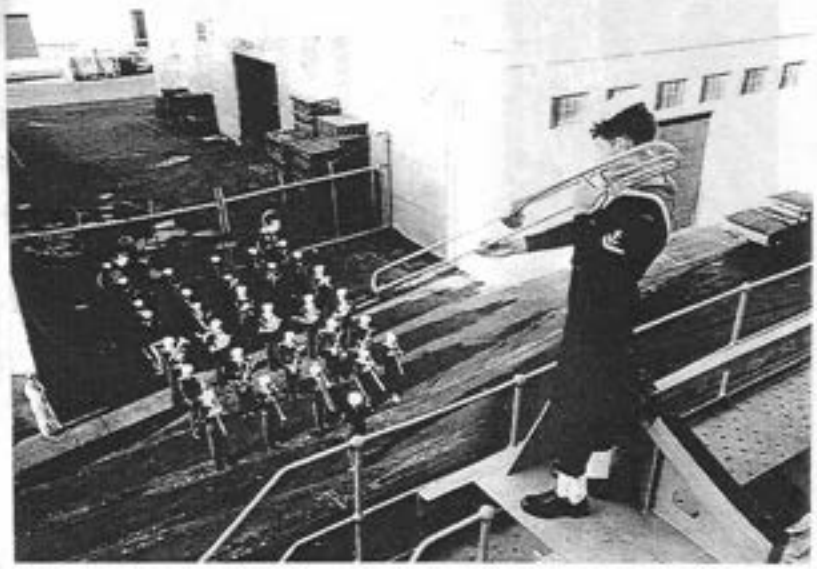
"Easy," says the second bloke, "I'm wearing my Khaki trousers."

(above) Actor 'Chips' Rafferty & PO Bungy Williams during Band tour of Victoria 1964.

(below) Barry Jenkins serenades a US Navy Band at San Francisco during visit of MELBOURNE 1967. (photos courtesy Barry)

(above) Brian Ellis, Chris Marshall, 'Robbo' Robinson, Barry Jenkins, Jim Anderson.

Sydney hotel, 1966



ANOTHER BLAST FROM THE PAST

I have mentioned before that one of the benefits of being the Secretary of this Association is the occasional phone call that heralds the arrival of another 'lost Ex'.
In March, a call was received from Bob Thompson. With the usual "You won't know me, but I served in the 1960's" the voice was not familiar, but the name rang a bell, and I asked "Clarinet player?"
"Got it in one' said Bob, who is now the Principal of **Thompson Realty Pty Ltd**, Port MacQuarie NSW, and has been for many years. Bob is on (02) 6584 3355 (working hours). He immediately joined the Association, and made a booking for he and his wife Brenda to attend Sydney Anzac 2000.
Welcome aboard, Bob!

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Forgotten heroes

VETERANS of some near-forgotten South-East Asian campaigns of the past 50 years should have their service recognised so they can receive awards and pensions, a new report recommends.

The report found anomalies which meant some veterans and civilians were denied recognition for service in such conflicts as the Malayan emergency, confrontation with Indonesia, Vietnam and Timor.

Veterans Affairs Minister Bruce Scott said the review heard new evidence not available to previous inquiries and expected it would take something like three to four months for a detailed analysis.

PEARLY GATES

The photo (below) was sent in by member June Bowling (Edwards) who was walking in London on 11/11 last year and found the road blocked because of a parade. Her path was blocked by the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines who were about to step off for the Remembrance Day Parade and Service attended by HM QE2.

Howard's salute to veterans

RON Perkins served in the Third Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in Korea for a year until October 1951. Last October, certainly more in anger than in sorrow, he took up his pen to write to the Prime Minister.

"Dear Sir," his letter said. "We have received the Australian National Korean War Memorial Committee arrangements for the dedication of the memorial in April 2000. We were pleased to note an official reception is to be held in the Great Hall of Parliament House on the evening of April 17 to honour surviving veterans.

"However, I was horrified to find these veterans, and their guests, are expected to pay $30-$35 per head for the privilege of attending this reception, allegedly being held to honour their service on behalf of their country. Many veterans of the Korean War from overseas are making a special effort to be in Canberra for this dedication. They may also wish to attend this reception. Are they also to pay $30 plus?

"I feel sure this 'pay for our own reception' is the result of some bureaucratic bungle. No government, no matter of what political persuasion, would wish to be embarrassed when news of this fiasco leaks out. Most of the veterans in Canberra for the dedication of our long-awaited memorial will feel insulted by this treatment, and it is my belief they may choose to boycott this reception once the pay-as-you-go concept is known to them.

"All veterans would wish to be present on this memorable occasion unsullied by the thought a pay-for-your-own reception is the best a grateful government can come up with. I hope to hear this situation has been corrected in the near future.

Yours sincerely,
Ron Perkins, major (ret)
President, 3rd RAR Association."

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 25/3/00

John Howard did not reply. Rear-Admiral (ret) Ian Crawford, chairman of the Korean War Memorial Committee, did. "Dear Ron", Crawford wrote. "... It is important I address immediately the disappointment you have expressed about the cost of the reception ...

"The Federal Government has contributed $700,000 to the memorial project and has given support in many aspects of fundraising, design, construction and dedication planning. In addition, the Government's contribution to dedication costs outside the scope of the project [military bands, flyover etc] will be in the order of $100,000. I know in some countries these costs would have been met entirely by the national government, but in those countries whose cultural and political structures are similar to [ours] the costs have been met in roughly the same way ...

"I agree with you it would be unfortunate if the purpose of the memorial and its dedication were marred, but I assure you that, within the committee, there is a humble but determined commitment to achieve the balance between the purpose and the resources available. Yours, ..."

The memorial's total cost is $1.7 million. You'll be surprised to know our Government doesn't meet all memorial costs, and never has. It donates to individual memorials, and the rest must be raised by the respective veterans' organisations. Serving wartime nurses, for example, have just built their memorial on Anzac Parade, the avenue of memorials running from the National War Memorial to Lake Burley Griffin. The Vietnam veterans did the same some years ago. Ian Crawford's committee has had to raise $1 million, of which $263,000 has come from government and industry in South Korea. There's no such thing as a free memorial.

Nor a free reception. Crawford's committee managed to get the cost of the Great Hall reception down to $20 a head. Crawford believes it a modest amount most veterans have willingly paid. "We have pride in ourselves," he says. "Government cannot pay everything. Please do not introduce divisiveness." No, but think of the 200-plus politicians at the Great Hall parliamentary lunch a few weeks ago for selected members of the East Timor force. They didn't pay a bean.

**** see next page for outcome.....

Medal for cadet staff

DEDICATED officers and instructors of the Australian Cadet Forces are to be recognised with a new long-service medal, the Federal Government announced yesterday.

Veterans Affairs Minister Bruce Scott and parliamentary secretary Eric Abetz said the Queen had approved the creation of the new Australian Cadet Forces Service Medal.

It would recognise 15 years' service by cadet officers and instructors, with a clasp for each additional five years.

"The service of officers and instructors of cadets has been unrecognised since 1975 when Australia ceased issuing imperial awards," he said.

Arrests at protest

FOUR demonstrators were arrested after a rowdy welcome for Prime Minister John Howard at a St Patrick's Eve dinner last night.

Chanting slogans opposing the men-only dinner as being sexist, about 50 demonstrators lined the footpath outside the Queensland Irish Association headquarters in Brisbane.

But the event's organisers sent a pipe band into the street to effectively drown out the chants.

For those who enjoy a good 'read' you might wish to get hold of a book called "Betrayal In High Places" by James Mackay (Tasman Archives NZ, NSMC Auckland 10, New Zealand) first published 1996.
This non-fiction book is about a New Zealander, formerly a Naval Aircraft Pilot and POW of the Japanese in Japan, turned War Crimes investigator with the Australian Army based in Tokyo from late 1945 until the early 50's because of his Japanese language skills.
His diaries are an eye-opener, and the facts exposed will never be published by the US, British, Australian, New Zealand or Dutch Governments.
Suffice to say, former Captain James Godwin traces many War Crimes back to cousins of the Emperor of Japan, and Allied Governments hushed up the goings-on for fear of embarrassing the Emperor when Japan was re-building and a possible recruit for communism.
A 'must read' for Second WW and BCOF personnel, and anyone else interested in (real) conspiracy.

China Night

Bar, Restaurant and Night Club

342, King's Road,

Hong Kong

DINNER PARTY

18 April 1958

1. Assorted Cold Cuts
2. Fried Shrimps with Green Peas
3. Sweet Sour Pork
4. Dice Chicken with Walnuts
5. Fried Mushroom & Bamboo Shorts
6. Roast Chicken in Deep Oil
7. Roast Duck
8. Sweet Sour Fish
9. Tiensien Cabbage with Chicken Oil
10. Fried Rice with Meat

The menu (left), sent in by Gordon Crompton was for the Fleet Band (HMAS MELBOURNE) 1958 party to celebrate their last night in Hong Kong during that deployment.

Compare this to a Chinese menu available in Australia and you can see how far we have come in our culinary tastes.

The last item (10) 'Fried Rice with Meat' reminds me of a visit to a restaurant at Kowloon in the early 60's when, on entering, there was a dead cat in the gutter, and on leaving, it was gone. Someone said "That was probably the Chop Suey".

Either that, or Hong Kong had late working street sweepers!

Courtesy Sandgate Sub-Section newsletter.

What a Short Day!

One morning a young woman . . .

Got out of bed,
Stepped into her robe,
Raised the shade,
Uncovered the parrot,
Put on the coffee pot,
Answered the Phone,
And heard a male voice say:
"Hello Honey . . .
I just got off the ship . . .
I'm coming right up."

So the young lady . . .
Took off the coffee pot,
Covered the parrot,
Pulled down the shade,
Slipped off the robe,
Stepped out of her slippers,
Got into bed,
And heard the parrot mumble:

"Kee-rist! . . .
What a short day that was!"

(below) A letter to the Editor of Queensland RSL News.

This is one RSL publication not frightened to print letters that are critical of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Check out your State publication!

THEY HEAR WHAT THEY WANT

Dear Sir,

If anybody, particularly a veteran with any disabilities, a war widow making a claim for recognition of a spouse's death or indeed any matter which may cost the government some dollars expect to get any sympathy from DVA then they surely must believe in the tooth fairy!

On the bottom of the departmental letters is the statement "we serve the men and women who served in defence of the nation". If you believe this line, then you are the greatest bunch of dumb so and sos walking around with sticks, being pushed around in wheel-chairs, or coughing your insides out from smoke caused complaints, from starting smoking in the services, or from gunfire or being in places you were not meant to be.

This great organisation, which is supposed to serve those who served this country, will go far out of its way to find non-service caused disabilities to account for the service caused problems. Have a look at the 'Statements of Principles' that can be produced ad infinitum by the Veterans' Review Board at any old time.

Do veterans realise, that DVA will shop around among the medical profession for a diagnosis which they want to hear, ie, until a doctor agrees with them? I was examined by four doctors for the department, who all stated that I had chronic bronchitis, and this was accepted by the department. Then one of them mentioned something called bronchiecstasis and this became my complaint. Of course, seeing that I had not died, nor had pneumonia, nor had a lung removed it was not caused by my service.

The department does not apparently recognise passive smoking. Of course, being in quarters with 30 to 40 smokers for many months would have no effect. I sometimes wonder what effects the breathing of cannon or rifle fire would be? Not to mention petrol and diesel fumes.

How many veterans realise, that as we get older, the degree of pensionable pain and suffering gets less. When it comes to determining the degree of incapacity, there is a deduction for age and can reduce the degree up to and in excess of 50%. This, of course, means that as you get more incapacitated from your disabilities you get better.

Further to this, of course, that once you have ceased work all of your problems get less compensible, and all applications get based upon how hard you are able to work!

Another thing is that you should never express yourself in layman terms. My doctor told me to see about having chronic bronchitis recognised and as part of my explanation I mentioned 'shortage of breath' and after having chronic bronchitis accepted, the hunt for shortage of breath started, resulting in a diagnosis of the aforementioned bronchiecstasis. The department then redetermined my chronic bronchitis to bronchiecstasis.

I wonder how many lung or heart transplants took place before 1960 or so. The amazing part of the investigation was that the department sent me to my own GP for a specialist report on the other three specialists.

How many veterans have taken notice of the proviso that you cannot have a lawyer represent you but they have a solicitor on the board to represent them and that all matters are looked at as a part of the law or legislation. All of the matters before them are, in fact, cases not matters and all statements made are evidence – of course, to be used against you including the material which you may stupid enough to send in, in advance. In fact I don't think that there are doctors now sitting on VRB hearings. They seem to be determined by clerical staff.

It is my view, that there should be an additional line to the 'motto' on the departmental stationary to the effect that "as long as it will not cost the government anything and you don't expect to get anything from us".

Might I say best of luck for your application for an increase in pension!

J Cameron
Robina

From previous page..

you really have to wonder about the people who advise the Government when for a lousy $40,000 all this embarrassment could have been avoided.

Sydney Morning Herald....1/4/00

A mean, penny-pinching Government was refusing to fund a reception for Korean War veterans at Parliament House later this month. Vets gathered in Canberra to dedicate a memorial to their comrades would have to pay $20 a head for a cuppa and a sandwich in the Great Hall, in sorry contrast to Federal politicians, who are never asked to fork out for their browsing and sluicing at this sort of public knees-up.

Finding myself with a hole in my 2UE radio program on Monday, I mentioned the story almost in passing and was practically trampled in the rush. The switchboard went nuclear. I cannot recall an issue which aroused such disgust and indignation in my listeners, some of them Korean War diggers, others who began with the words, "My Dad was in Korea."

I gave the story another push on Tuesday and that evening *A Current Affair* had picked it up for television. By Wednesday morning, John Howard was promising to look into the matter, and by Wednesday afternoon his Minister for Veterans Affairs, Bruce Scott, was on my show with an offer of $40,000 to pay for the reception.

Justice done. These can be the small satisfactions of a media job, as even the crusty but lovable Ramsey would agree.

That's it folks for another four months. I hope you have enjoyed the newsletter as much as I have in putting it together. Thanks to all who have contributed, including those who kindly sent in photos from the reunion. I will publish more in our October newsletter for your perusal. I am looking forward to our **Reunion 2000 Video** as many of you are.

At the General Meeting on 23/4 discussion took place regarding the internet. There is a web-site where members can have links, email addresses, photos or any other items of interest added for those who have access to the internet. The address is **www.tac.com.au/~bedwell/ranba**

Thanks Past President Rob Bedwell for taking the trouble in putting this together.

The Government have announced that Naval Veterans of the Malayan Emergency who have waited a minimum of 40 years for recognition can now wait until 1st JAN next before the Service Pension and medals are available (medals around Anzac Day 2001 in fact), which I think is a disgrace. Their excuse? It will take at least 7 months for leglislation to be implemented, yet they only took 8 weeks to implement legislation following the **DAVIS & DOESSEL** Federal Court cases a few years back when those decisions went against the Government which would have given these very same Veterans their full entitlements! It is no wonder Veterans cringe when they see a politician 'sucking up' to the Veteran community on Anzac Day.

For those who missed out, Parade Band 2000 shirts can be ordered (see below) **PLUS** a casual short sleeve version available in three colours. Order soon please, as orders close on 1st September **at the latest.**

See you in October all being well,

Happy Jack

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.....RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP.....MERCHANDISE REQUIREMENTS

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.....Ships/Depots.....

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Assn. patch, embroidered, suitable for shirts/jackets etc $6.50 postage paid ($5 if other items ordered) *(encl).....*

Assn. lapel badge, metal. $6.50 postage paid. ($5 if other items ordered) *(encl).....*

Assn. cap with patch, good quality @ $17 postage paid *(encl).....*

Anzac Reunion commemorative shirt, white with black embroidery, long sleeve, high quality, $44 post paid. Please circle size required

(circle) SM MED LGE XLGE XXLGE *(encl).....*

Do you want the words "Parade Band" (circle) YES NO

Anzac Reunion casual King Gee Polo Neck shirt, with black embroidery (as per long sleeve) $35 post paid. Three colours avail., White, Red, Sky Blue (same embroidery on all)

(circle) White Red Sky Blue (circle) SM M L XL XXL XXXL XXXXL

Do you want the words "Parade Band" (circle) YES NO (encl).....

Total cheque/money order (no cash thanks) *(encl).....*

(please allow 3-4 weeks for shirt orders)