

# Friends of the Band Newsletter

ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2007

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Competition
- From the Podium
- Musician Williamson
- Back in the Swing
- Music @ Middy
- Chamber music notes
- Down the Track

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## We've Got Issues!

We've finally done it! Here is the launch issue of our Friends of the Band Newsletter !

You, valued friend, can look forward to an emailed issue every second month just prior to Music at Middy.

In each issue we will keep you up-to-date with events, inform you of noteworthy news and gossip, as well as provide you with simple reading pleasure.

Our Public Relations team is lead by Sergeant Graeme Reynolds (who enjoys quite a few mentions this first issue!). Our Media Liaison Officer is Lance Corporal Matthew O'Keeffe (also your smiling CD salesman at Music at Middy) and I, Musician Zoey Pepper, am your trusty Newsletter Editor in Chief.



**RMC Band Public Relations team**

### COMPETITION!

Simply email us between now and March 30th with your suggestion, and we will reveal the winner at the next Music at Middy concert. The prize will be an opportunity to conduct a Sousa March on April 3rd.

## Hello 2007!

Is it keeping busy that makes another year fly by? Or is it a bi-product of getting older?

Well, like every year, 2006 was a busy one for the Band of the Royal Military College Duntroon. And yes, we are all a little older and wiser, and ready for another busy year under the quirky and inspiring command of Major Geoff Grey!

Read on for words of welcome and wisdom from the man himself on page 2.

## FROM THE PODIUM



Did anyone see where 2006 went? It seems like only yesterday I returned to Canberra and 12 months on we have much to be proud of, coupled with some lessons learnt along the way. Let me assure you the women and men who make up this amazing entertainment unit are indeed very special. Their flexibility, enthusiasm, standards of excellence and passion are exactly the right ingredients required to fulfil the amazing myriad of tasks we complete in the Nation's Capital.

Charity concerts, ceremonial parades, remembrance ceremonies, guards of honour, state dinners, guest of government arrivals, chamber recitals, bugle calls, parliamentary luncheons, commissioning ceremonies, national sporting events, church services, fanfare teams, credential guards, mess dinners, award investitures, graduation balls, senior defence officer functions, school workshops... the list goes on. It is not unusual to complete many of these tasks in a week. Somehow we find time to rehearse! Suffice to say only a remarkable team of dedicated patriots can do this professionally in the fishbowl we live in, and all with good humour and a sense of pride in our uniform and our nation.

I'll give you one guess as to who has the best job in the world. There is no better feeling for musicians in this genre than to have an audience respond warmly to our efforts, see proud parents at a graduation parade or receive compliments from a visiting head of state on the rendition of their national anthem. We are truly blessed to be able to serve.

What will 2007 bring? More of the same, but better! We plan more variety in programming, more of what the people want, more public entertainment opportunities, more money raised for charity, more public accessibility, more exposure to students and even more outstanding service to government and defence. A special project I have in mind is to develop a concert specifically for the hearing impaired. We've a lot of research to do, with consultation among occupational therapists, acoustic engineers, theatre professionals, lighting designers and the recipients themselves commencing shortly.

In closing, I want to record our appreciation to you, our friends. Without your support our efforts would seem less meaningful. You give us the inspiration to want to achieve. I see this relationship as a two way street where everyone one wins. Hopefully we will meet your expectations this year, and have some fun along the way.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff

Major Geoff Grey, CSM

Officer Commanding and Music Director

Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon

## Farewells and Welcomes



**Corporal Amanda Asher**

At the end of 2006 we said goodbye to two of our prized sax-playing corporals, Marcus McCray and Amanda Asher.

Marcus and Amanda both came to us from Army Band Kapooka in 2004 and, after 3 years of braving Canberra winters, have now headed north

to join 1RAR band in Townsville. Not only do these two have instrument, rank, and postings in common, they were also recipients, in 2005 and 2006, of the Jack Silk Award. This is awarded to NCOs displaying exceptional soldierly and leadership qualities.

1RAR were kind enough to send us one of theirs'

in exchange, a gallant gentleman by the name of Corporal Adam Matthews. Adam is a born-and-bred Canberran who completed a bachelor of music at the Canberra School of Music Jazz School before joining the Army in 2002. We (especially the ladies) are glad to have him back in Canberra, as I'm sure are his parents!

## Love is in the Air

Love is in the air! There have been a number of engagements and weddings over the holidays.

We congratulate Sergeant Andrew Heron on his recent marriage to Kिरrily in the New Year. We also congratulate our youngest member (at heart) Sergeant 'Smokie' Dawson on his engagement to Jeannie, and none other than the Boss himself (Major Grey) on his engagement to the lovely Mariam. He says it was the best birthday present ever!

## Our Trainees

Quite a number of graduate trainees from the Defence Force School of Music have been posted to RMC Band in recent years. And, given the variety and number of tasks we perform in Canberra,

it is the ideal training ground for them!

2006 saw two of our trainees successfully progress to level 5 Musicians. Congratulations to Matthew Creek, trumpet, and Nerida McCorkell, oboe.

A trainee hoping to soon enjoy that same transition is Lorelei Williamson, our featured member in issue 1. Get to know Lorelei on Page 4!

**Geoff Grey**

**Smokie Dawson**

**and**

**Andrew Heron**

**Finally all settle**

**down**



**Musician Lorelei Williamson,  
French horn**

## Musician Lorelei Williamson

Born in Melbourne in 1983 into a family of musicians, there was little doubt that Lorelei would be forced down a musical path. The Williamson family moved to Darwin in 1985 where Lorelei would spend her next 20 years, and where she was really able to connect with her Aboriginal blood, spending most of her years there barefoot in the bush and loving it!

Lorelei was able to take her love for music to great heights in Darwin where she first picked up the French horn at the age of 16 and joined the Darwin Youth Orchestra, and then the Darwin Symphony Orchestra which has given her opportunities to accompany performers such as John Williams, Karen Schaupp, Anthony Warlow, Olivia Newton John, and John Farnham. The DSO also allowed her to play in such spectacular venues as Nourlangie Rock in Kakadu, the banks of Lake Kununurra, and floating on a pontoon in Katherine Gorge.

Living in such wide, open spaces gave Lorelei a passion for all things spacey, and so she became content on becoming an astronaut, until she realised that grade 12 subjects such as music, sport, and drama would not get her to NASA. So Lorelei reverted to her other passion and, despite her mother's objections, she attempted to enlist at the age of 17. Recruiting however, had other ideas and knocked back Lorelei's application, which was the start of a very expensive 2 year battle that finally ended with Lorelei being sworn into the army reserves at the age of 19.

On completing basic training in March 2003, Lorelei returned to Darwin where she spent the next 2 years as a member of Army Band Darwin. Lorelei worked 4 jobs at this time to put her through Clown and Animal Hairdressing School, but her passion remained with music, and so in December 2004 she was sworn into the regular army.

2005 was an exciting year in which Lorelei attended the Defence Force School of Music in Melbourne and on her eventual graduation in March 2006, Lorelei was posted to RMC where she has been having a ball ever since. The hardest thing about the job for her so far has been having to find a new church with each posting, and having to wear shoes every day, but Lorelei is adapting with ease. And don't worry; her mother is now very proud of what her little girl does for a living.



# Back into the Swing



**The RMC Big Band on Australia Day.**

Well, after a well-deserved 5 week break, we jumped straight back into the swing with Australia Day celebrations. We were treated to a milder and breezier Australia Day parade, helped by the fact that it was scheduled an hour earlier than in previous

years. Later the Big Band, led by Sergeant Graeme Reynolds, entertained the Aussie public with an hour of groovy instrumental and saucy vocal numbers at Stage 88.

# Parade Ground

In matters marching, a good portion of 2006 saw us banned from the Duntroon Parade Ground while it underwent some major surgery. Well now it is back, blacker and hotter than ever, ready for our boots to stomp. I look forward to seeing whether its propensity to hold heat will benefit us in the freezing winter months!

## Music at Midday

We hope you all made it to our first Music at Midday concert on Feb 6!

You may remember that instead of playing our National Anthem we, the band, sang. This was to get the ball rolling for a delightful new concept for the anthem this year,

which is to have a different school choir come to sing it with us at each M@M.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Sousa's death. And so we will be bringing one of his jaunty marches to life at each M@M this year. And, as mentioned on page

one, the lucky winner of our Newsletter-naming competition will be invited to conduct the featured Sousa march at our next M@M in April!

## Chamber Music in Canberra

Thanks to the inspiration and vision of Sergeant Graeme Reynolds over the past year, Chamber Music has come to play a vital role in our public entertainment.

Of course, our small groups are in constant use at official dinners and functions. But in

our now well-established Chamber Music Series the Church of St. Andrews we are able to present to the public some new sounds, hidden talents, and a sense of intimacy and ensemble that the performing of chamber music brings.

We will also be involved in the renowned Canberra

International Chamber Music Festival this year. See page 6 for details!



**RMC Woodwind Quintet**



**'Canberra's Own'**

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**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE BAND!**

**If you have received this Newsletter then you probably already are one!**

**In order for us to reach our target of 500 Friends by Dec 07, if you know someone who would like to become a Friend, then here's what they should do:**

**Simply email us at [RMCband.publicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:RMCband.publicaffairs@defence.gov.au)**

**Or fill in one of our yellow flyers when you see us perform next.**

## 'Down the Track'

A large number of the Bands tasking includes engagements at Government House, Parliament House, The Royal Military College, Blamey Square and a variety of organization in the Canberra region. Our Public program for 2007 is below.

**March 11**

**Jazz By the Lake**

National Museum of Australia  
 From 2pm—5pm  
 featuring our **Dixie** and **Jazz** groups, and the **RMC Big Band**.

**March 14**

**Senior Citizens Concert**

**11.00am and 1.30pm**  
 Vikings Club Auditorium  
 Erindale

**April 3**

**Music at Midday**

Canberra Theatre  
 11.00 and 12.30pm  
 Entry by Gold Coin Donation

**May 4**

**Canberra International Chamber Music Festival [www.cicmf.org](http://www.cicmf.org)**

Opening Fanfare—RMC Brass Quintet  
 Australasian Centre for Christianity and Culture,  
 corner Kings Ave and Blackall St Barton

**Tickets \$50 and \$45 (concession)**

**May 5**

RMC Band Brass Ensemble

**Venue—as above, Free admission**

**May 9**

RMC Band Saxophone Quartet

**Venue—to be advised (check website)**

**May 10**

RMC Band Woodwind Quintet

**Venue—to be advised (check website)**

**June 9**

**Queens Birthday Parade—Trooping the Color**

Duntroon Parade Ground

**June 8-11**

**Merimbula Jazz Festival**

New RMC Steamboat Stompers

**August 15**

**Army in Concert**

Canberra Theatre

**September 27-28**

**Beat the Retreat/1812**

Venue to be advised

**December 12**

**Carols by Candlelight**

Stage 88, Commonwealth Park