

The Duntroon Bugle

for all your noteworthy blues

ISSUE 4

AUGUST 2007

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Website update
- We love your feedback!
- We want your photos
- Get your tickets!

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Busy Times

Hello Friends, old and new! We hope you are enjoying each issue of The Duntroon Bugle as it comes to you. This issue is jam-packed with Blues News. We are currently so busy that it's a miracle the newsletter has made it out on time!

A number of big events are imminent. Namely Army in Concert on August 15, a must-not-miss, and Beating Retreat/1812 on September 27 and 28. Both events are featured in this issue to give you a taste of what to look forward to! And, of course, we'll see you at next week's Music at Midday, which has a few surprises and keeps a few promises!

Meet our 500th Friend!

Soon after our last Music at Midday concert in June we reached (and surpassed) our target number of 500 Friends. As promised, the lucky person to become our 500th Friend was invited in to visit the RMC Band, chat to us, and enjoy a special feature in this issue of The Duntroon Bugle. You get to know us each issue, so why don't we get to know you, our Friends, too? Our lucky 500th Friend is a lovely lady by the name of Marie Newell. Get to know Marie on page 3!

Website Launched

The week following the June issue of our Newsletter saw the successful launch of our Website. If you have not yet visited the site and would like to, the address is www.army.gov.au/rmcband.

We have put a lot of effort into getting it 'just right'. As those of you who come back regularly would note, there has already been one major upgrade to the website since its launch in early June. We cleaned up a few 'teething' problems and also added some new photos (East Timor '99), new pages in the Band History section and generally more information about the band. While we aim to keep the content fresh and up to date, the process of updating is involved. However we expect to have monthly updates, so check back often to see what we are doing!

To give you a taste of what's to come, we are investigating the addition of musical clips of the band so you can hear us even when you can't see us! Lastly, if you have a great photo of the band, we'd love to see it, and maybe include it on the website, so please send your photos to rmcband.publicaffairs@defence.gov.au

Thomas Manley, Website Coordinator

'From the Podium'

Welcome back, loyal friends. There is so much happening in the RMC Band world currently I'm not sure we can cover it all in this issue, but the team will give it a good crack.

We've gone live with the website, finally. We're very proud of this as it simply is so difficult to find the time to achieve much beyond our regular engagements. The tireless efforts of Sergeant Graeme Reynolds and Musician Tom Manley have ensured the past, present and future of the Band is accessible to the world. www.army.gov.au/rmcband
Tell all your friends.

Speaking of cheap segues; we achieved our goal of 500 *Friends of the Band* in June, so I now extend a new challenge to you all. As we attained the mark six months early I submit 1,000 *Friends* before Christmas as the new grade. The Public Affairs team think I've gone loco but if all current *Friends* enrol just one person each, we're there! It may be true you can now find the 'Duntroon Bugle' on the website, but only *Friends* receive special updates and timely reminders. The ideal Christmas gift! I can't wait to announce the news of your success in passing this milestone in the February issue.

All Band members extend our heartiest congratulations to David Whitney on his appointment as Director artsACT and wish him every success for the challenges ahead. We'd like to thank the outgoing Director of the Canberra Theatre Centre for his steadfast support of the band and, in particular, the Music at MIDDAY concerts during his eight year tenure at the helm. We are now close to 100 concerts in this long running series, raising \$200,000 for local charities. Without ongoing support from the wonderful theatre staff this most worthwhile collaboration would simply not be possible. We also send a big welcome to Bruce Carmichael who is filling the breach for the next six months. Bruce knows the CTC better than anyone, so we're all in very good hands.

Finally, the annual Army in Concert is selling fast, so don't miss out. All profits go to Legacy and I guarantee a fantastic night of entertainment with the combined talents of the Australian Army Band Sydney, your very own Band of the Royal Military College and the incredible Silvie Paladino. Be assured this is a show you won't want to be hearing about after the event.

See you at the show,



Major Geoff Grey CSM

Officer Commanding and Music Director

Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon



Major Geoff Grey astounds the Music at MIDDAY audience with a fine rendition of "Polly Put the Kettle On"

"We achieved our goal of 500 *Friends* in June, so I now extend a new challenge to you all. As we attained the mark six months early I submit 1,000 *Friends* before Christmas as the new grade."

- Major Geoff Grey

Hot off the Press!

The Dim-Sim-eating record has been long held by Lance Corporal Andrea Clifford for eating a total of 14 in 10 minutes! It was contested at a recent barbeque by 3 other band members, however the record could not be broken. Who else will challenge Andrea?

Don't Leave Me This Way

It's that time where we find out who we are losing at the end of the year and who we are gaining. The end of the year is fast approaching and we'd hate for you miss out on getting to know the members who will be leaving us, so special efforts will be made to feature those people in the ensuing months.

Singer Angie Currington, who joined us at the ripe age of 18 three years ago, will be heading up to the Band of the 1st Battalion in Townsville. The lovely Susan Waterman, long-time Band Corps member and horn player-extraordinaire will become a new asset to Army Band Brisbane.

If you have been anxious to get to know our two tuba players, Corporal David Saunders and Musician Angus Charlton, be anxious no more! Both of them had intended to leave us, and now both of them have changed their minds. So instead you miss out on getting to know the guy who was meant to replace them.

Finally, there's clarinetist and style-king Sergeant Ray Hingston. Ray will be leaving us to take a posting at the Army Band Kapooka in Wagga Wagga. Ray is our featured member this issue, so hurry! Read ahead and get to know His Royal Rayness!

Time for Marie Newell

Get to know Sergeant Ray Hingston on page 4!

The band will use any excuse to put on a spread of morning tea, and what better than one as a welcome for our special 500th Friend of the Band, Marie Newell. Marie, a vision in lavender, enjoyed a welcome from our eccentric boss and brief tour of the building before settling into an interview, accompanied by a fine spread of tasty morsels which the band polished off like vultures. Marie, with a Dim-Sim held politely in one hand, said she first experienced the RMC Band in the Senior Citizens Concert at the Vikings Club late last year. She joined the Friends of the Band on the internet recently through another enthusiastic friend.

Marie Newell turned out to be the perfect Friend to feature in our Newsletter. She grew up in Sydney playing the piano-accordion, a pursuit encouraged by her father. Three of Marie's teenage years were spent in a marching group called the "Kingfishers" who toured and competed with marching displays to live music. Marie lived for many years in Bathurst where she ran a pub. She moved from Sydney to Canberra in 1998 for a lifestyle change. She lives (just around the corner from me!) on Drake-Brockman Drive in Holt, where she enjoys the open spaces, scenic views of vineyards and the snow-capped Brindabellas walking her dog and the odd stint of golf. Marie returns to Sydney every second week on the bus, complete with dog, to look after her two grandsons from Tuesday to Sunday.

In keeping with her love of the outdoors, Marie loves the music of Vangelis, particularly the film score "Chariots of Fire". Also a ballroom dancer, Marie loves the Viennese Waltz, as well as Mozart and Elvis. We look forward to seeing Marie at our Chamber Music Series, as this is her favourite genre of music.

Marie is excited to become a Friend of the Band and loves receiving the Duntroon Bugle. When asked which character in the band she finds the most fun and interesting she replied "Oh, Major Grey". That's what they all say!

Just like our 500th Friend Marie, our 1000th Friend can look forward to an interview and feature article in the Duntroon Bugle!



Meet Ray Hingston

Sgt Ray Hingston was born in Perth, and led a childhood destined for fame until he began playing Clarinet at the age of nine.

Perhaps in an attempt to blend in, Ray joined the Wanneroo City Concert Band during high school., and was also a member of the '51 Regional Cadet Unit'.

Ray moved to Melbourne in 1994 after enlisting into the Army in 1993. To do this he had to turn down the opportunity to host his very own "Sunrise with Ray Hingston" show on WIN television. He spent twelve months at the Defence Force School of Music studying clarinet with Marla Swift, before a first unit posting to the Australian Army Band Kapooka. After a short two-year second posting to the Band of the 1st Battalion Townsville, he then moved to the Australian Army Band Melbourne in 2000.

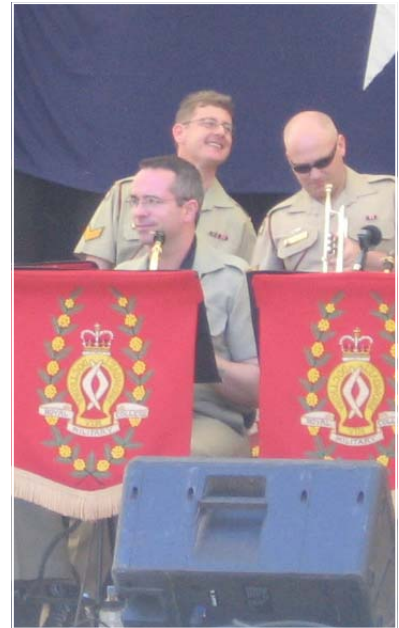
Ray was promoted to Sergeant in 2004 and was posted to the Band of the Royal Military College mid-way through 2005. He has led a quiet existence in that time.

Ray, however, is a closet-performer. Career highlights include a successful tour of North Queensland in drag-costume with the Band of the 1st Battalion in 1999, performing favourites from "Priscilla Queen of the Desert", "The Full Monty" and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". Also a visit from the Princess Royal in 2002, a trip to East Timor as a vocalist in 2003, playing the didgeridoo in Tokyo for the 'Japanese Self Defense Force' Marching Festival in 2004, part of the drill team for Army in Concert 2006, and Trafalgar night at HMAS Harman.

Ray is posted to the Australian Army Band Kapooka in Jan of 2008, and will be accompanied by his lovely wife Sue and their two charming children Vivienne and Maxwell.

Ray is an 'old Holden' enthusiast and loves driving his HT Brougham. He is also known for his keen sense of style, particularly when it comes to caps, knit-wear and shoes.

His favourite beer is Carlton Draught, and he is also rather partial to a single malt.



Ray, a closet-performer, hides shyly behind his sax, aching to take to the stage.



Ray (centre) performs with his clarinet section at Music at Midday in the Canberra Theatre

Army in Concert

Masters of tradition and exponents of precision, Australian Army Bands are amongst the most sought after performing arts groups in this country. Canberra Legacy is proud to present Army in Concert 2007, featuring the combined forces of the Australian Army Band Sydney and Canberra's own Band of the Royal Military College.

Army in Concert 2007 will showcase the Australian Army's world class entertainers performing a range of music from traditional ceremonial, to stage and screen. The bands will be joined on stage by one of Australia's most versatile and talented entertainers, Silvie Paladino, who has appeared with both the Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras and is a regular performer at Carols by Candlelight at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

We look forward to seeing you at this fabulous one-night-only event. Tickets are selling fast! For all enquiries and purchases contact:

www.canberraticketing.com.au or Canberra Theatre on (02) 62752700



Beating Retreat 2007

Beating Retreat is a traditional ceremony incorporating a number of military customs. The modern ceremony has its origins in the 16th century, when it was known as "watch setting".

The first of these ceremonies took place at sunset in the field, garrisons, and castles. A single round, known as the evening gun, was fired and a drummer would "beat retreat" to alert skirmishers and outlying troops of the day's end.

The ceremony was formalised with drummers gathering on the ramparts to march back and forth, with drums beating, to signal the commencement of the evening "watch" or guard.

Field workers and soldiers would know the gates were about to close for the night and it was time to return to

safety within the walls.

The modern interpretation of the ceremony, in which the evening gun is fired and drummers march, re-creates the old ritual.

The stylised ceremony evolved to include fifes, pipes, and bugles. It preceded a regiment's daily trooping of the colours and soldiers were not permitted to retire to quarters before the ceremony was completed.

In earlier days, fighting would nominally cease at sunset and, following the beating of retreat and trooping of colours, the watch would fire three musket volleys "to put flight to the evil spirits of the enemy dead". A hymn would then be sung to honour members of the regiment who had fallen in battle during the day.

In the modern ceremony the guards likewise advance in slow time and fire three volleys. After the evening hymn, a band plays a harmonised version of the "Retreat" call, during which the national flag is lowered. The flag-lowering replaces the daily ceremony of trooping the colour.

Beating Retreat 2007 will return to the recently re-surfaced Duntroon Parade Ground. Following the parade is a concert of varied and exciting works performed by the RMC Band under Major Geoff Grey. The night concludes with the annual playing of Tchaikowsky's 1812 Overture complete with guns and fireworks. This spectacular event is not to be missed! So rug up and come along to enjoy Beating Retreat/1812 2007. Entry is by donation and numbers are limited! See page 6 for details.



"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! If you know someone who would like to become one also, then here's what they should do:

Simply email us at

RMCband.publicaffairs@defence.gov.au

Or fill in one of our yellow flyers when you come to
Music at Midday!

**Don't forget our new target is 1000 friends by
Christmas, so get recruiting current friends!**

'Down the Track'

A large number of the Band's 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.

AUGUST 7

Music at Midday

11am and 12.30pm
Canberra Theatre

AUGUST 15

Army in Concert

7.30pm
Canberra Theatre

SEPTEMBER 27 and 28

Beating Retreat/1812

6pm
Royal Military College
Parade Ground

OCTOBER 2

Music at Midday

11am and 12.30pm
Canberra Theatre

NOVEMBER 8

Brass, Voice and Percussion Chamber Concert

12.30pm
Church of St. Andrew

NOVEMBER 11

Remembrance Day

11am
Australian War Memorial

NOVEMBER 15

Woodwind Concert

12.30pm
Church of St. Andrew

NOVEMBER 27

Music at Midday

11am and 12.30pm
Canberra Theatre

DECEMBER 12

Carols by Candlelight

Stage 88, Commonwealth Park