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The Duntroon Bugle

for all your noteworthy blues

ISSUE 8

MARCH 2008

Welcome to 2008

Hello Friends, old and new! We are back and into the swing of things without the time to look back and remember what we did over Christmas leave! We were warned at the end of 2007 that this year we would have to hit the ground running, and that has proven true so far, although perhaps we have hit the parade ground running as we have spent most of our days marching up and down the square.

This issue of the Duntroon Bugle will give you an idea of what we've been up to over these first couple of months as well as what we've got coming up. You'll also meet our new members and unfortunately farewell some of those who you have come to know and love.

Meet the New Players

As it's the start of the year we inevitably have some new members in the band from across the countryside so turn to page 4 to meet these three strapping young lads and learn more about them and where they fit into the band.



The RMC Band wishing the crowd at the Australian War Memorial a Merry Christmas to end 2007

'From the Podium'

Welcome back. We're off to a flying start already and can't wait to continue on our path of serving the nation through our ceremonial duties, live music and charity work.

In addition to our core activities this year there will be several other projects running. We plan to consolidate the efforts of late last year by supporting and encouraging youth musicians to explore the professional world of music creation. We'll play a more significant role in the magnificent *Canberra International Music Festival*. We're scheduling another 'Army in Concert', featuring two full bands and a nationally known artist. We have commenced scripting a new show to engage with younger audiences and we have held preliminary discussions with the National Library of Australia to present a performance around Remembrance Day of works held by the Library, penned by Prisoners of War.

2008 will also see the formation of the 'RMC Band Community Council'. While our Military roles are well established in Public Affairs and Esprit de Corps, this advisory body of a broad cross-section of invited community leaders will examine the impact of our art form to the broader population: in a way, to do a 'stocktake' of our relevance.



Geoff and Mariam on the big day

In the second half of last year, following a rush of excitement, I set the lofty challenge of 1,000 subscribers to the 'Duntroon Bugle' by the New Year. (How close are we Reyno?) The Public Affairs team have been very quiet around me lately so I guess we're not quite there. Keep at your friends and family. Remember, it's the only way to receive special updates on band engagements.

I'll take this opportunity to send congratulations to Bruce Carmichael for being confirmed as the Director of the Canberra Theatre Centre. With the venues in such demand from local and touring acts, we continue to be blessed by their generosity in supporting the 'Music at Midday' series. We've already kicked off the year with a beauty on January the 29th and really look forward to the whole series, including showcasing the magnificent marches of Alex Lithgow, songs from the shows and plenty of surprises. If you didn't make the first one, you missed the bold (or foolish) new entertainment spectacle of the band presenting a number they haven't rehearsed. For those who were there, I'm sure you'll delight in hearing the polished version in March!

And finally, congratulations to two very dear and long serving friends of mine for their awards in the Australian Day Honours List. Warrant Officer Laurie Case CSM received a Conspicuous Service Medal and Warrant Officer Rod Mason OAM became a Member of the Order of Australia. Two more deserving recipients I have not met.

Cheers,

Geoff

Major Geoff Grey CSM

Officer Commanding and Music Director

Baby Love!

Congratulations to Sergeant Andrew 'Rock' Heron and his wife Kirrily who have welcomed their new baby Gabriella into the world on Wednesday 27th February.

Super Puppy to the Rescue!

Last year the band was given a monetary donation from the Canberra Jazz Club and after much deliberation it was decided that we would use it to sponsor a Super Puppy through Assistance Dogs Australia.

Our PR team has been working hard to raise more funds to enable us to sponsor not 1 but 3 Super Puppies, and our money will go towards their food, heart-worm and flea preventative treatment, vet care, collars, leads, basic and advanced training, as well as many other aspects that are a part of the expensive process of training an Assistance Dog.

Stay tuned for more updates on our Super Puppies Willow, Wilson, and Wallace.

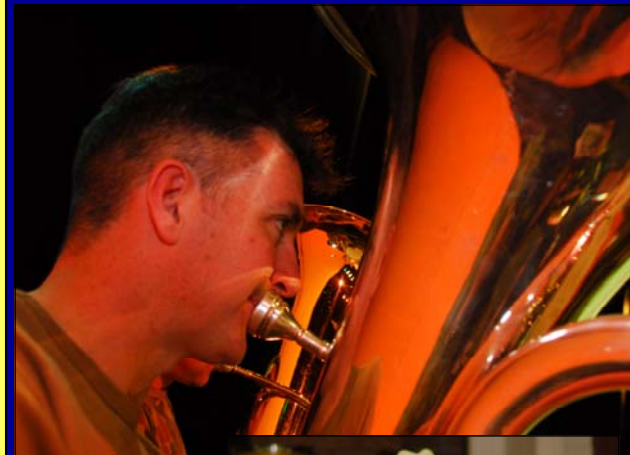
Fare thee Well

Being the first issue of the Duntroon Bugle for 2008 you wouldn't expect to see a farewell article right? Unfortunately that is not the case for us this year as we have two sad goodbyes to announce already.

We are losing from the bass end Corporal David Saunders who has been gracing our stages since December 1993 and who will be very sorely missed. David is known for inflicting pain on the band during his physical training sessions and likes to hide in the confines of the library where he can keep an eye on his precious music and make sure that none of us are putting any of it out of order. David is discharging from the Regular Army and plans on transferring to the Reserves while keeping up his fitness training.

Our other departee is your much loved editor-in-chief Musician Zoey Pepper who has been posted to Australian Army Band Melbourne. She will take her bassoon and her partner Andrew and dog Bella to head south at the end of March. Zoey has been in RMC since 2003 and has been heard not only playing screaming bassoon solos but also screaming solos (as featured in the music from Jaws in 2007) as well singing her heart out in the rock band and big band at various gigs around Canberra. Zoey is a Canberra girl and will be sad to leave but who knows, we might see her back here in the future.

We wish them both the best of luck in their future travels and endeavours and hope to see them around the traps!



Hard at work; Corporal David Saunders and Musician Zoey Pepper

The Replacements Have Arrived!

2008 has seen some changes to our daily roll call with 3 new members being added to the list. Our clarinet section has a new friend in Lance Corporal Tony Barker from the Australian Army Band Brisbane, and also from Brisbane gracing the horn section with his presence is Musician Michael Bermingham (no relation to our second-in-command). And finally from the Australian Army Band Kapooka is Lance Corporal Adam 'Muppet' Corning on bass guitar.

Our new members have also taken on more than just their primary instruments, with Adam being our new 'Q Corporal' and likes to lurk in the depths of the Quarter Master Store with Sgt Norman 'Smokie' Dawson and Musician Simon 'tic-toc' Watch. Part of the Q Store qualification is obviously to have a nickname.

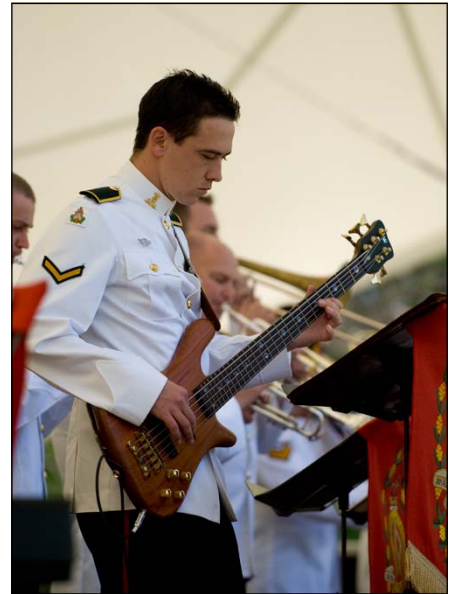
Tony has been thrown into other areas such as singing with the Rock Band and playing sax in the Big Band and is often seen dancing around the bandroom with an i-pod attached to his ears learning song lyrics, although he's not singing his favourite song Frosty the Snowman just yet, but we might hear that one closer to Christmas.

Michael is the newest addition to our Woodwind Quintet and is the only male to have entered the 'Hornssoon' room (the French Horn and Bassoon studio) for a few years now. Michael is rumoured to enjoy walks in the rain and sipping on Pina Colodas.

The three boys have fit in very well and are quickly becoming part of the furniture, and someone else who has blended in too well is Musician Darren Ormsby who seems to have slipped through the cracks and hasn't been properly introduced to our Friends.

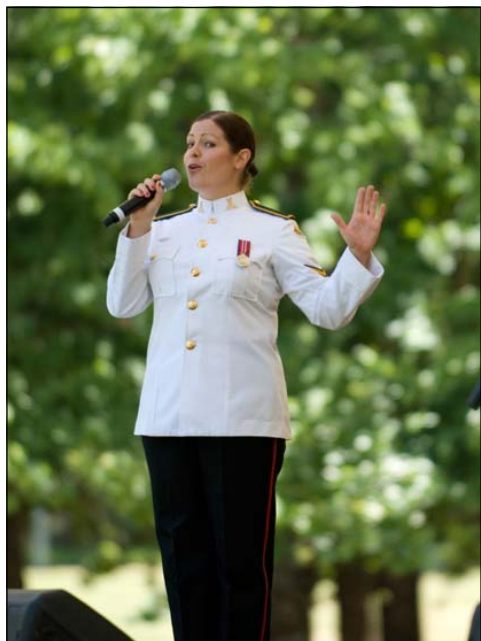
Darren joined our trombone section in August 2007 and has also been seen in the ranks of the brass quintet on both trombone and tuba. Darren was previously in the Regular Army but decided to have a break for a while and transferred to the Army Reserve Band in Adelaide. He didn't learn the first time however, and is back with the full-time Band and has joined the merry bunch at the RMC Band.

So now that you're up to date with the personnel in the band you can come up and say hi to us all when you bump into us in the street or after concerts. We're very friendly and don't bite and we always appreciate hearing your feedback.



Lance Corporal Adam Corning carving it up at Stage 88 on Australia Day

Happy Australia Day!



Here are just a few photos from our Big Band concert at Stage 88 on Australia Day



Friends Update

As you know we are given quests by the boss to have as many friends as humanly possible, because we all like having lots of friends don't we? We surpassed the original target of 500 Friends half way through last year, 6 months ahead of schedule. The boss seemed to think that we are good at getting Friends and has given us a new quest; we must reach 1000 Friends this year and we don't get a choice whether we accept this mission or not.

We currently have around 650 Friends of the Band but this just isn't good enough, so please help us with this task and sign up all of your friends and family to receive the Bugle and other updates on what the Band is up to during the year. There will be a special prize for the 1000th Friend so make sure you let everyone you know with an email address in on the secret that is the RMC Band and the Duntroon Bugle!



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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 in 2008,
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 for a variety of organisations in the Canberra region. Our Public program for 2008 is below.

MARCH 18

Music at Midday

11am and 12:30pm
Canberra Theatre

APRIL 9

ACT Senior's Week Concerts

Tuggeranong Vikings Club
10am and 2pm

APRIL 13

Legacy Widow's Concert

Royal Theatre

APRIL 24

Beijing Olympic Torch Relay

Location TBC

APRIL 25

ANZAC Day

Dawn Service
Australian War Memorial

APRIL 29

Music at Midday

11am and 12:30pm
Canberra Theatre

MAY 11

Canberra International

Music Festival

Old Parliament House
11am
Featuring the New RMC
Steamboat Stompers

MAY 17

Canberra International

Music Festival

Canberra Cantata

Llewellyn Hall
Featuring the RMC Big Band

JUNE 7

Queen's Birthday Parade

RMC Parade Ground
10:15am

JUNE 7-8

Merimbula Jazz Festival

Featuring the New RMC
Steamboat Stompers