

# THE SALVATION ARMY

## Melbourne Red Shield Band

### Newsletter



Winter, 2019

#### NEW BEGINNINGS ... HANDING OVER THE BATON

### The Annual Dinner

Our outgoing Band Secretary, Ken Lomer welcomed bandsmen and their spouses, along with invited guests to our annual dinner, held at Box Hill Citadel, on Friday, 25 January. We are most grateful to Ken Lomer for his dedication and organisation of this special event. Thank you too, to Ken's wife Judith, and the many 'conscripted' helpers.

Despite extremely warm and uncomfortable weather, the evening was very well supported.

Entertainment for the evening provided by the Michael Harding trio was a real hit!

Major John Simmonds ably "compered" the great night. He acknowledged the band members who were retiring from the MRSB, and presented certificates of appreciation to Max Orchard, Ron Courtis, Lionel Wood and Dorothy Hill. Ron Creek was also presented with his certificate. These bandpersons have now become Melbourne Red Shield Band Reservists. A well-deserved honour!

A special feature of the evening was an interview by our Executive Officer, with retiring Bandmaster, Brian Davies. Brian is taking a short break, but plans to return as a playing member of the band later in the year.

The new band executive members were introduced by Major John Simmonds and continuing members acknowledged, with thanks.

Graham Roper—Bandmaster

Major Graham Maxfield—Band Secretary

Peter Griffiths—Band Treasurer

Major Margaret Maxfield—Multi Media Support

And Ken Lomer, who has changed roles and is now the Band Representative.

#### Continuing executive members

Major John Simmonds—Executive Officer

Major Kevin Grigsley—Band Sergeant

Colin Creek—Librarian

Ron Sanderson—Quartermaster

We acknowledge and thank the outgoing executive



Brian Davies—Bandmaster

Ken Lomer—Band Secretary

Don Turner—Band Treasurer

James Allen—Band Representative (who has needed to take some 'time out' from the MRSB, this year.)

Dorothy Hill—Multi Media Support/Newsletter Editor

Retiring Bandmaster

Brian Davies

New Bandmaster

Graham Roper



### First Rehearsal — 2019

Well the time quickly crept up on us, but, with a sense of renewed enthusiasm and expectations for new opportunities in 2019, our first rehearsal, under our new Bandmaster, Graham Roper was underway.

New members have been welcomed into the band this year—Major Brian Rowe, and more recently, John Cooper. We have also welcomed back John Anderson and Ray Watson. It is pleasing to see these men using their God-given talents for His glory in this way. What a great way of fellowship too! May this year be filled with His blessing.



### Message from the Bandmaster, Graham Roper

I accepted the position of Bandmaster of the MRSB in January this year. I have previously fulfilled the role of Bandmaster for many years, but not recently. Among other roles in those intervening years I have led the songsters at Box Hill. While my approach musically to both roles is similar, leadership of the songsters has given me a far greater understanding of words as they apply to a great deal of Salvation Army brass music. The MRSB has the privilege and opportunity to play Salvation Army music that is seldom heard today. One such number we have used in this first half of the year is Bramwell Coles selection "The Hill of Calvary" with its concluding song "The Place Called Calvary". The words are very personal, particularly as we reflect on the chorus:

Oh Calvary, Calvary, where Jesus died for me  
I love the place called Calvary, where Jesus, Jesus died for me!

Salvation Army bandsmen living the reality of these words in their own lives and understanding the sacrifice Christ made for us all, can authentically interpret the climax in the final chorus - "I love (love!) the place called Calvary" and through the prompting of the Spirit bring the listener to a new or reinforced understanding of that sacrifice.

Words associated with any instrumental music should be used to influence musical interpretation.

### Engagements ... .. Where have we been?

In early March the band was featured at **the Territorial Seniors Rally**—the first for Australia Territory (with the theme of "Imagine" — and featured music from the Joy Strings of the 1960's era)

The day was organised by Major Jennifer Cloke and held at Crossways Baptist Church.

Supporting the **Melbourne Salvos @4pm** (at Waverley Temple Corps) is a regular engagement which brings blessing to the monthly well-attended afternoon meeting. It is a thrill and honour to be a part of these meetings (which are live-streamed), organised by MRSB Bandsman Rex Harvey, and more than ably led by Commissioner Brian Morgan, and Lieut-Colonels Frank Daniels and Ian Hamilton.

Visits to **Burwood Terrace, Strathdon Uniting AgeWell, Millward Aged Care** (Anzac Service), **Greensborough LLLs, Aveo Freedom Aged Care**, and just this last Sunday, a country visit to **Delacombe Corps** - all of which have been extremely well received.



At Burwood Terrace, resident and past MRSB bandsman, **Roger Timberlake** joined the tenor horn section of the band for the day, and was visually surprised when asked to sing "Peace, perfect peace" with band vocal backing. (Some of the residents were surprised too). On the same day, Bandmaster Graham invited Retired Bandmaster of the Melbourne Staff Band, **Colin Woods**, to honour us by conducting the final march of the day!



**Thank you for your graciousness and contributions Colin and Roger!**

Ian Wright had a mishap just before the programme commenced at Aveo Freedom Aged Care. He missed the pleasure of the afternoon programme, as he was transported to hospital by ambulance, where he spent the night (with a bit of a headache no doubt). What a way to get out of playing your

BBb, Ian! His comment, with tongue in cheek and good humour "I could hear the music from the ambulance, and the basses need to 'pick up their game' ... .." (Ian thanks everyone for the support and care he received — and is now doing well. He plans to return to his place in the bass section very soon).



## Message from the Executive Officer, Major John Simmonds

### Is there a misunderstanding?

I often notice (particularly younger people) often moving or dancing around while listening to music on their phones. Their two major concerns are the quality of the sound that they hear and whether they have enough battery life to last for the day.

No doubt they think that the source of the music is their download or memory stick.

As Christian musicians we understand the source of our music. We know that the message of our music lasts longer than their battery life! May God bless the ministry of the Melbourne Red Shield Band and may we keep re-energised by the working of His Spirit in our lives!

**Support Matters ...** Dorothy Hill has been the Multi-Media Support person and editor of the MRSB newsletter for a considerable number of years. Thank you, Dorothy. What huge shoes to fill! (ed.)

Thank you to Major Gwyn Rowe for undertaking the responsibility of bringing up to date and maintaining the MRSB website. If you haven't already done so, check it out. The web address is:

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/melbourneredshieldband/>

We are currently looking at other mediums of publicity (Facebook? Instagram? etc) and ways of sharing the message and ministry in which MRSB is involved ... so ... **continue to watch this space.**

**Sickies ...** We can only mention those who we know of so please accept apologies if your name should be included. Brian Lynn, Ray Leavy, Major Kevin Grigsbey, Charles Allchin, Colin Creek, Ian Wright and Wal Woods have all had a stint in hospital this year. Alan Marsh is not well, and has had to discontinue his service with the band. Thoughts and prayers have been offered for you each, together with other bandsmen (and wives), who have not been well.

Neil Berry who was a long serving member of the Veterans Band (initially playing under the first bandmaster, Dick Collett) was Promoted to Glory on Sunday, 2 June. Lieut-Colonel Ian Southwell conducted a service to celebrate Neil's life. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. We are grateful for Neil's years of banding, and that he chose the Veterans Band in which to use his talent.

### Special occasions and celebrations (i.e. birthdays)



A number of bandsmen have enjoyed personal special celebrations during the first months of this year. A few candles have been blown out during this time! Of special note is our nonagenarian, Des Rundle, who will be celebrating yet another milestone in a week or so. This must be a record age for an active bandman. But Des is still playing his cornet, and enjoying the fellowship of fellow bandsmen. Congratulations! Very well done, Des! Enjoy your special day!

### Thankyou!

Thank you to the 'retired' MRSB bandsmen (MRSB Reservists), and other bandpersons who, at the invitation or request of Bandmaster Graham, have so willingly assisted the band on various occasions — helping out when sections are low in the number of desired players. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have you join with the band on these occasions.

Band Secretary (still in training) Graham, would like to express his sincere appreciation to Ken Lomer for his service as Band Secretary, his dedication to the task, and for the time and untiring effort spent in 'training' him. He wants to thank you too, everyone, for your welcome into the band and for your response to his many requests and emails.



## Further Retirements



During a later rehearsal, we were able to honour Owen Harris, who was unable to attend the Annual Dinner. Following some informative comments by Wal Woods, Major Howard Davies expressed words of appreciation to Owen and presented him with his certificate.

In May, due to ill health, Don Turner found it necessary to conclude his active service with the band and will be honoured in the near future.



**To all retiring bandsmen** — How blessed this band is for your many collective years of service and ministry, by using your God-given talents for His Kingdom. What a joy to have been able to make music — God's music — to bless our hearers. Thank you each for your contribution to the MRSB. God bless you each in your retirement from the MRSB! (But remember that you are all now MRSB Reservists!)

## Coming events

**We are rapidly heading to the July/August "Winter Break"!** We then return to rehearsal on **Friday, 30 August** with the first engagement being on **Sunday, 1 September** (which is Fathers' Day) at which the band will be supporting the Melbourne Salvos @ 4pm Meeting (at Waverley Temple).

**Enjoy the winter break!!! May it be a relaxing and refreshing time!**

(And preparation to return for the last 4 months of the year! ... .. Where's the year gone?)



A number of bandsmen were absent when these photos were taken. It is planned that we do a re-take at the earliest convenience (when individual photos will also be taken). Thank you for your co-operation.

**If you are a past bandsman reading this newsletter, and have, or know of any past bandsmen who may still have a red MRSB jacket, please contact Major Graham. Thankyou!**

### All correspondence to

Major Graham Maxfield

PO Box 529, Blackburn 3130

Mobile: 0418 135 291

Graham.Maxfield@aus.salvationarmy.org

### Newsletter contributions to

Major Margaret Maxfield

Margaret.Maxfield@aus.salvationarmy.org