



# THE SALVATION ARMY

## Melbourne Red Shield Band

### Newsletter



Summer, 2019

#### THE WINTER BREAK CAME—AND QUICKLY WENT!



### This year of 2019

What a year this has been! Where has that time gone?

The first year under Bandmaster Graham Roper has been pleasing in every way, certainly busy, but a most fulfilling and enjoyable time of serving and entertaining the communities around us, and sharing fellowship together. We don't have to be told that 2020 is fast approaching—a short break in January for the band, and then we'll be back together again for more challenges and service together.

New members have been welcomed into the band in this past six months — John Jessup, and more recently, Daryl McMillin. We have also warmly welcomed Retired Bandmaster Noel Jones (OF), back into the band – this time as part of the cornet section (and he has also blessed us by his playing on the piano). It is pleasing to see that Ray Leavy is now well enough to again take his place in the tenor horn section but at the same time so sorry that Wal Woods has been missing due to ill health. We are so thankful that God can use God-given talents for service through the Melbourne Red Shield Band, bringing great pleasure and joy to so many people.

Thank you everyone, for your participation, hard work (lots of practice) and support throughout the year. Both the Executive Officer and Bandmaster are most grateful. You've worked hard, and now deserve a break until Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 1pm when we meet again at the current Manningham Corps premises for the first rehearsal of 2020. In the meantime we wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. May you and your families know the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ especially at this season.

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



The final engagement before the winter break was a concert at Box Hill Chats (Box Hill Corps). It was here that James Allen was conscripted to join the baritone section, and retired bandsman Arthur Withers graced us by his playing, accompanied by the band.



In all, three retired Veterans' Band/MRSB bandsmen (Mac Wynne, John Harding & Arthur Withers) were in attendance on this occasion, and duly welcomed and acknowledged by Bandmaster Graham.



Thank you for your graciousness and contributions Arthur and James.



Thank you too, to all of the Corps and centres we've visited this year, for your welcome and kindest hospitality.

Peter Allen's music, arranged by Barrie Gott, "I still call Australia Home" has been one of the most popular pieces included in the repertoire this year and has caused Australian flags to appear on more and more stands each time it was played—and thoroughly well received.

On the first Sunday in September and November the band has continued to support the monthly Melbourne Salvos @4pm (at Waverley Temple Corps) - and more are on the calendar for 2020.

Following return from the winter break, the first engagement (after Melbourne Salvos) was a joint effort with the Melbourne Staff Songsters (under the leadership of Merryn Steel) and the Melbourne Red Shield Band (Bandmaster Graham Roper) - Tea and Tunes was held at Box Hill Corps on a Saturday afternoon. Afternoon tea and fellowship together were followed by a concert involving both groups.

A concert during seniors' week held at Deakin Edge in Federation Square was a great success (the photograph on the front page was taken by Band Secretary, Major Graham Maxfield, on this occasion).

Also during seniors' week, the band shared an afternoon concert at Greensborough Corps together with soprano soloist Suzanne Shakespeare, then the following week the band journeyed to Geelong.

### Appreciation!

No names are mentioned, but thank you so very much to the 'retired' MRSB bandsmen, 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, and on two occasions when the Bandmaster himself was unavailable.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to have you join with the band on these occasions. Thankyou!

## *From the Band Sergeant, Major Kevin Grigsbey (A time in history)*



The Melbourne Red Shield Band was formed, under the name of the Melbourne Veterans' Band in March 1982 (at the request of the then Chief Secretary, Colonel Wesley Harris) to provide music for a Senior Citizens Congress Rally organised by the Australia Southern Territory under the leadership of Envoy Richard Collett (OF). The event was to be a one off, but the band's performance proved popular and immediate requests to accept engagements commenced. In the early days, the band consisted of more than 50 members and 37 years later, still has an active schedule of events throughout the year.

It is of interest to note that 2 foundation bandsmen who performed in the Seniors Congress Rally, namely Bandmaster Fred Davies and Bandmaster Leslie Grigsbey's sons have been active bandsmen and executive band members of the MRSB for a number of years.

Bandsmen enjoy the fellowship brass banding offers and the focus is primarily missional, committed to spreading the Gospel message through the medium of sacred and inspired music under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The aim of the bands' activity and endeavour is to bring the light of hope and God's love into people's lives.

What a great privilege and ministry! All members of the band consider themselves honoured! (Ed.)



Des Rundle has been involved in Salvation Army banding for 88 years.

He commenced playing at the age of eight years and was a member of the Brunswick Corps band under the leadership of his father and then Arthur Gullidge. He is the longest serving member of the MRSB (previously known as the Melbourne Veterans' Band). Des tells us that he has been a member of this band for about 20 years.

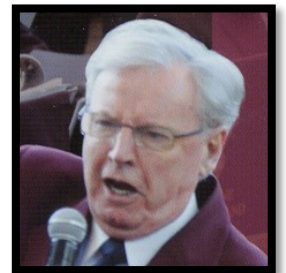
At the conclusion of this year, Des will, at over 96 years of age, be retiring from the band. Congratulations, Des! You will be greatly missed. Thank you for all that you have given to the band. God bless!

Lionel Wood has been known as an outstanding vocalist in Salvation Army circles for many decades.

He was appointed as Male Chorus Leader twenty years ago and this group was featured on four cd's produced by the Veterans' Band.

A compilation of all these songs was released by the MRSB a year or so ago, on a cd under the title 'Simply Trusting'.

Prior to his retirement in January of this year, Lionel was often compering programmes presented by the MRSB. *(Thankyou, Lionel for your valued contribution to the band. We trust that you, with Joan, are enjoying your 'retirement'). Ed.*



Don Turner has been a faithful member of this band for many years. Originally a tenor horn player who later transferred to the cornet section.

Don also gave excellent service to the band as Treasurer and was a valuable member of the band executive.

Sadly, Don suffered a stroke some years ago, but amazingly, he kept playing his cornet for the Lord. We were sorry when Don had to make the decision earlier this year to retire from the band due to his health. We will continue to uphold Don and his family in prayer.

*Thank you to Retired Bandmaster Noel Jones (OF) - who is again a current serving bandsman of the MRSB - for providing the information on these three gentlemen. (Ed.)*



## Coming events

While we've mentioned about the year coming to a close ... that's true, but we're not quite finished yet—because at the time of preparing this newsletter, there are still four engagements remaining in 2019 following Friday's final rehearsal for the year, then we visit Tudor Village at Lilydale, Japara Millward Aged Care Home, BlueCross Ivanhoe and the Epworth Freemasons Hospital.



## Notes in brief

*If you have had a special celebration or significant milestone, and are not named here, please accept our apologies.*



Lieut-Colonel Denis Lorimer and Rex Harvey have both recently celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Congratulations! Octogenarians!

Doss Lane passed away a couple of months ago. (Doss helped Karen with afternoon tea on rehearsal days and is being greatly missed).

Please continue to pray for Doss's family.



Allan O'Brien and Martin Rowden have both concluded their service with the band. (Added to this, Martin has moved home to live closer to family).

Gil Moore has retired from work after many years with the same company.

Congratulations, Gil! Enjoy your well deserved retirement!

Note though that he's most certainly NOT retiring from the MRSB.



At the conclusion of this year, Ron Sanderson will be concluding as Quartermaster. Sometimes a thankless task, but Ron has done it well and his efforts have been very much appreciated. Thank you so much, Ron. (We are pleased to say that Ron will be continuing to be a playing member of the cornet section).



Some bandsmen do feel the need to retire from the band after many years of selfless service and will be duly recognised in the near future.

Lyn Cooper has willingly and ably helped with catering (specifically for Tea & Tunes with the MSS, and more recently on some rehearsal days). Thank you so much, Lyn.

Major Gwyn Rowe is continuing to work on the website and has uploaded photos in video format, of various events and places we've visited. Have you checked it out?

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



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