

# The Duntroon Bugle

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first Spring edition of the Duntroon Bugle for 2010. The weather here in the Capital is already heating up and while it may still be too early for Canberrans to plant tomatoes, it's not too early to get into another great Music At Midday program next Tuesday! We are however in for a slightly shorter performance due to the Band of the Royal Military College's involvement in the Opening of Parliament that will see us departing the Canberra Theatre immediately after the second concert.

In this issue there are photos of our recent concert, The Big Band Sound, a few congratulations, a welcome from Second In Command, Captain Dave Thompson in 'From the Podium', and the latest, epic chapter in Musician Angus Charlton's 'The History of...' section where we learn about more than just his music. Please enjoy!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations go to Sergeant Stuart Jefferis and Lance Corporal Andrew Cassidy who were promoted during the Big Band Sound Concert on the evening of 28 August 2010. The Director of Music Army, Lieutenant Colonel Ian McLean AM CSC, promoted both members of the RMC Band in front of the Vice Chief of Defence Force, Director General Army Operations, three Honorary Colonels and a near capacity crowd in the Canberra Theatre.



Sergeant Stuart Jefferis and Lance Corporal Andrew Cassidy receiving their promotions from Lieutenant Colonel Ian McLean.

## FROM THE PODIUM

Welcome ladies and gentlemen to another installment of the Duntroon Bugle.

The Band of the Royal Military College Duntroon has managed to cram in a very busy couple of months to an already hectic year. The last two months have included everything from our continuing support to the various Defence and Government offices in the region through to our very successful Gala event, the Big Band Sound.

I would love to be able to give you a first hand account of the events of the past two months, especially the Big Band Sound concert, though I have been away for several weeks on a promotional course studying the fine art of military tactics nestled atop the hills of the Gold Coast hinterland in sunny Canungra. I can only surmise that the near capacity crowd had a fantastic time being entertained by the various acts from within the band, the special guest appearance by Canberra's very own Mr Music, Lieutenant Colonel Ian McLean, and the indoor 'canons' and fireworks of the 1812 Overture.

As you can imagine, having to be away from the unit during this period was quite difficult. But in saying that, I had a fantastic insight into the tactical capabilities of the Australian Army whilst also having the opportunity to meet many talented and very capable fellow officers.

This will be my last welcome to the Duntroon Bugle as I will be moving to take up the position of Officer Commanding of the Australian Army Band Newcastle. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of music within the ACT and the Australian Defence Force as a whole. My family, Kerrie, Georgia, Jessica and I, have had a fantastic time living amongst the Canberra community and would dearly love to experience the opportunity if offered again in the future. In saying that, I'm not sure that I will ever forgo my beloved Dragons for your Green Machine!

Cheers,

*Thomas*



***(Humorous captions suppressed by editor due to unsuitability and fear of retribution)***

# Big Band Sound

Here are a few photo highlights of the recent Big Band Sound Concert in the Canberra Theatre that coincided with the launch Legacy Badge Week and raised well in excess of \$20,000 for the appeal!



THE DUNTROON BUGLE

By Musician Angus Charlton

# The History of

## Arthur Gullidge, the Band of the 2/22nd Battalion and the Sinking of the Montevideo Maru

One of the fine marches featured in the Royal Military College Centenary CD - recorded mid-July this year by the RMC Band - is 'The Emblem of the Army' by Arthur Gullidge. The RMC Band plays more Alford marches, (featured in this section of the previous *Bugle*) but Gullidge certainly deserves to be featured - not only to recognise a talented but now lesser known Australian composer, but also to remember a tragic incident in Australia's Army Band and military history.



Born in 1909, Arthur Gullidge was the son of a Broken Hill miner. The two great passions of his youth were Christianity and music. He had his first composition published at 17, and went on to win two ABC and two Salvation Army competitions for composition. As an energetic and idealistic 20 year old, he turned to the Salvation Army; with its famous bands, and its mission statement, '...to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination'. In 1929 the great Depression would be just beginning, and the Salvos would have needed all the recruits they could get. At just 24 years of age he became leader of the Salvation Army's Brunswick Citadel Band. He is recognised as Australia's most prolific composer of brass band music in the years between the two world wars.

In July 1940, Gullidge and 25 other Salvationists enlisted together in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF). They formed the band of the 2/22 Battalion, and in doing so avoided compromising their non-combatant ethics as Salvationists - as Bandsmen they would perform the roles of medical orderlies and stretcher bearers. Rather than being sent to Europe or Africa as they might have expected, the band was sent to Rabaul, New Britain, as part of 'Lark Force', a forward defensive and observation line. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941 sparked an evacuation of women and children from Rabaul, leaving 1,400 men to defend their position. Six nurses bravely chose to stay.

The Japanese reached Rabaul in January, 1942, and despite a short battle, 'Lark Force' were easily outnumbered. The order 'Every Man for Himself' was relayed. A few hundred ran for the jungle, including one bandsman, Fred Kolmorgan. In his epic trek to safety along the New Britain south coast, he: walked 700 miles, canoed 60 miles, waded 25 miles and boated 80 miles; surviving Japanese aerial surveillance, malaria, malnutrition, crocodiles and the elements. He became the only bandsman to survive - and is still alive today.

On the 22nd of June 1942, Gullidge and 15 remaining bandsmen were amongst 1,053 prisoners of war from Rabaul herded onto the Japanese merchant vessel, the Montevideo Maru, and made way for

# The History of (continued...)

## Arthur Gullidge, the Band of the 2/22nd Battalion and the Sinking of the Montevideo Maru



Japan. On the 1st of July 1942, the U.S. submarine 'Sturgeon' spied the ship off the coast of the Philippines and, unaware that it was carrying Allied POWs, launched four torpedoes. Two torpedoes struck it amidships and the ship sank in a matter of minutes. A Japanese crewman who survived the sinking reported hearing 'Auld Lang Syne' being sung by those clinging to floating firewood from the deck.

The sinking of the Montevideo Maru remains the largest Maritime disaster in Australian history. Many questions around the circumstances of the 'Lark Force' capture remain unanswered.

The Band of the 2/22nd Battalion

The fact that in December 1941, the war cabinet in Australia

issued a written statement to say that there will be no re-supply, no reinforcement and no withdrawal – just for the sake of putting a fight up to the encroaching Japanese. In retrospect, this would have caused some embarrassment for the Government for many years to come. It was not until the 17th of July this year (nearly 70 years later) that the Australian Government officially recognised the disaster in a commemorative address headed by the (then) Minister for Veterans Affairs, Alan Griffin. The Montevideo Maru Foundation, the driving force behind gaining recognition for this incident, as well as seeking resolution for the survivors and the relatives of those who perished, is now working towards a memorial plaque within the grounds of the Australian War Memorial.

On hearing the lift, drive, and wit of the strains of Gullidge's 'The Emblem of the Army', time is transcended briefly and a link is forged to a musical talent and leader. In his short life Gullidge was a passionate musician and a prolific composer. His distinctive street marches continue to be played today – at least some tribute to his creativity, his commitment to both music and his Christian beliefs, and a chance is afforded to reflect on many lives lost under tragic circumstance.



Japanese merchant vessel, the Montevideo Maru

# THE BEST OF 2010

WITH

THE BAND  
OF THE  
ROYAL MILITARY  
COLLEGE

SUNDAY 17TH OCTOBER  
2PM  
QUEANBEYAN KANGAROOS RLFC

TICKETS \$25/15  
(02) 6297 6222

PROCEEDS DONATED  
TO MS AUSTRALIA  
ACT/NSW/VIC



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF AUSTRALIA



*"The enthusiastic applause*

*and standing ovation at the concert's end*

*demonstrated the great affection Canberrans feel*

*for the Duntroon Band"*

Jennifer Gall - Canberra Times



MS AUSTRALIA - ACT/NSW/VIC

## 5 KEY FACTS ABOUT MS

- Around 20,000 Australians have MS and it is the fastest growing neurological disease amongst young people
- There is no known cause or cure
- The average age of diagnosis is 30
- Three times as many women than men are affected
- MS is highly unpredictable. Symptoms vary greatly from person to person and no one can predict the future course for any individual

The Band of the Royal Military College Duntroon promises a thrilling afternoon of entertainment when it presents 'The Best of 2010' as a charity fundraising concert for MS Australia – ACT/NSW/VIC.

As chosen by our audience, the concert will feature a compilation of the most applauded pieces of music the Band has performed in 2010. This will include vocals by crowd-favourite Musician Dave Andrews, sizzling jazz by the RMC All-Stars Big Band, the Campbell Trumpeters Fanfare Team as well as soloists from the Band and much more.

Come along and support people with MS and enjoy an afternoon of spectacular music.



**Musician Dave Saunders**

## Where else but the 'City of Churches'?

Congratulations to Dave and Michelle Saunders who were married on Saturday, 18 September in their home town of Adelaide. Several members of the RMC Band were in attendance for the ceremony and reception but the invitation did not extend to the honeymoon and all guests have since returned to work. The newlyweds are currently in Vanuatu lapping up the sunshine before they will inevitably have to come home and work through the conundrum of where to put the second toaster and third kettle.

Congratulations, Mr and Mrs Saunders!

# THE RED COATS ARE COMING!



Photo courtesy of Robert Burns 2009

QUEANBEYAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE  
253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan

## HALL VILLAGE BRASS

*Presents*

an evening of

**Classical, Rhythm and Solos**

Guest Artist Bronwyn Douglass

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October  
7-30 pm

Tickets: \$25; Concession: \$20; Under 16: \$10  
available at Q box office:  
[www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au) (02) 6298 0290



RMC supports music in the wider Canberra community



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### **BECOME A FRIEND OF THE BAND**

If you have received this Newsletter then you probably already are one, but if you know someone else 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 come to Music at Middy.

If you no longer wish to receive these updates or if you are changing your email address please let us know so that we can amend our records.

## Down the Track

A large number of the Band's tasking include engagements at: Government House, Parliament House, The Royal Military College, Blamey Square and for a variety of organisations in the Canberra region. Our forecast public program is below.

**SEPTEMBER 28**

**Music at Middy**

**Canberra Theatre**

**11 am and 12.30 pm**

**OCTOBER 7**

**Chamber Music Concert**

**Church of St. Andrew**

**1 State Circle, Forrest**

**12.30 pm**

**OCTOBER 17**

**'Best of 2010'**

**MS Society Concert**

**Queanbeyan Rugby  
League Football Club**

**2 pm**

**Tickets \$25 (02) 6297 6222**

**NOVEMBER 19**

**Jazz on the Lawns**

**National Museum**

**Big Band**

**4 pm**

**NOVEMBER 30**

**Music at Middy**

**Canberra Theatre**

**11 am and 12.30 pm**

**DECEMBER 7**

**RMC Graduation Parade**

**RMC Parade Ground**

**10 am**