

# From Little Pattie to the Screaming Jets a tradition continues

**The spirit of Australian entertainers supporting Australian police and military personnel overseas during times of war, peacekeeping and capacity building is alive and rocking as the latest Tour de Force performances captivate audiences based in Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands**

For one week in late November, a group of young Australian performers hit the road and performed seven concerts in locations across Timor-Leste. AFP and Australian Defence Force (ADF) members partied away to the country sounds of The McClymonts and Amber Lawrence as well as listening to comedian Troy Kinne and musician and actor Daniel Lissing.

In Honiara, a few weeks earlier the sounds of the seventies rocked the stage at Harry's Bar, Guadalcanal Beach Resort, during the third Tour de Force gig held in the Solomon Islands this year. Police and military personnel on deployment with the Royal Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) heard from Australian artists including contemporary didgeridoo artist Adrian Ross, music icons Russell Morris and Darryl Cotton, and rock music guru Glenn A. Baker.

The National Manager for the International Deployment Group, Assistant Commissioner Paul Jevtovic, is a member of the Forces Advisory Council on Entertainment (FACE). He explained these artists followed a long line of Australian acts that have been entertaining Australian forces on deployment for more than 40 years.

"As far back as the Vietnam War, legendary Australian entertainers like Little Pattie have provided Australian troops with uplifting songs and a reminder of home," Assistant Commissioner Jevtovic said. "FACE has been integral in managing the morale of Australian forces and providing a valuable service for operations based around the world."

Tours are managed by Forces Entertainment on behalf of FACE. The council consists of high profile performers, notable industry operators, and senior ADF and AFP representatives.

FACE was originally formed in 1966 to provide concerts for military personnel serving in Vietnam. While Australian troops left Vietnam in 1972, FACE was not disbanded until 1985. It re-formed after Australian troops were sent to East Timor in 1999.

Assistant Commissioner Jevtovic has been a member of the council since 2006 and actively supports the work managed by council members, Forces Entertainment and the AFP liaison officers who continue to deliver first class performances to those serving overseas.

"Maintaining morale in an overseas mission is crucial for any disciplined organisation," Assistant Commissioner Jevtovic said. "Since the AFP has been involved with Forces Entertainment and FACE, our people in Cyprus, Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands have experienced some outstanding performances. In fact, there have been nine successful tours

held since our first one nearly two years ago."

The first cooperative ADF-AFP concert was held in Honiara in July 2005, when AFP members formed the band Short Notice and performed in an impressive line up of Australian artists including Yothu Yindi, the ADF Navy rock band and jazz band. More than 20,000 attended and celebrated the second anniversary of RAMSI through song and dance.

Australian entertainers volunteer their time to perform for those serving their country overseas. Guitarist Scott Kingman from the Screaming Jets said at the end of a Tour de Force held in July: "Having been fortunate enough to have played in some boisterous crowds in my 20-year career, I don't think I've ever felt such pride as I did during the shows we performed for the Australian police and troops based in the Solomon Islands last month ...hopefully we managed to put a smile on the faces of our men and women as they perform their duties day in and out on behalf of the country..."

The following page reflects a few of the many Australian bands, comedians and dancers who have travelled to the tropics of the Pacific region and as far as the Sinai desert in Egypt and continued the tradition of entertaining AFP and ADF personnel.

For more information on FACE visit:

< [www.forcesentertainment.org.au](http://www.forcesentertainment.org.au) >

