

TRANSCRIPT OF EMAILS BETWEEN JUSTIN McCOY AND JOHN VINCENT

Reproduced for interest with Justin's consent.

Friday, 17th August, 2018

Hi John,

Thank you for your update, and links to the seniority lists. It was very interesting to recognise some names there from the distant past.

Glad to hear that you had a successful reunion at the pub.

My ongoing work on cruise ships, currently averaging two weeks on, two weeks shore leave, limits my availability. However I do enjoy getting the updates, so please keep me on the list.

SDO was very much a part of my formative years, and was my first full time job, starting at age 18. I did enjoy the work, the social club events, (including my first ever snow trip, to Thredbo, organised by a lady whose name I think was Margaret, and who looked after us young ratbags very well...we used to call her Mother) and the general camaraderie.

The offer of a gig on a cruise ship, the P&O Arcadia, prompted my resignation from the SDO, and was to be the start of my career as a professional musician. Coincidentally, I subsequently went to live in Arcadia, and am now back working on P&O Australia cruise ships!

The band comprises myself, my wife Bernadette, our daughter Stella and my sister Mary.

<https://m.facebook.com/highlystrungrockandrollorchestra/>

We are currently on the Pacific Aria en route from Singapore to Brisbane via Bali, Dili, Penang and other exotic ports.

Cheers

Justin

highlystrungmusic.com.au

Sent from my iPad

Sunday, 19th August, 2018

Hi Justin

This is exactly the sort of info I think many of us would be interested in i.e. what we have all finished up doing since we left stamps.

I took a look at the links to your Facebook and web page – not hard to see why you've been successful. Well done!

Now firstly, can you let me know how many and which years were you at Stamps (I'd like to include that info on the list for as many as we can) and, secondly, can I have your permission to

copy you email text to a link on the web site for others to see. I'll also put the links on there to you web page and Facebook if you would like – never know where that may lead.

Your chosen career is very different to many of us from those days – seems most of us did law or accountancy etc and finished up pushing a pen for most of our working lives. Great to see someone did something different and good to hear from you.

Regards.....

Monday, 20th August, 2018

Hi John,

Thanks for your email yesterday.

Would you mind re-sending?

I received it while sitting in a cafe in Bali, and for some reason it has disappeared.

Perhaps it vanished last night at about 11pm when we experienced the latest Lombok earthquake during a performance...we almost brought the house down...it lasted for about 10 or 15 seconds. We were at sea at the time, but only a few miles off shore.

Tonight we might include Ring of Fire in the set.

Cheers,

Justin.

Sent from my iPad

Monday, 20th August, 2018

Exciting times eh Justin - at least at sea during an earthquake you were not at risk of a building falling on you I guess.

Regards.....

Monday, 20th August, 2018

Thanks John,

Exciting times indeed!

Feel free to post up the info and links.

I was at SDO from around January 1969 till February 1973, so a total of four years, which spends like a very long time looking back.

These years were divided between Philip St SDO and Pitt St Receipt Duties.

During that time I was playing in bands around Sydney, which involved mid-week rehearsals and gigs. This frequently resulted in my being;

1 Late for work (and signing in under Fred Delaney's ruled-off red line in the Pitt St office, with some lame excuse).

2 Falling asleep in the toilets, situated between floors. The call was "I'm going half-way". I suppose someone would come to look for me and wake me up if I was missing for more than half an hour or so.

I was a, or perhaps the bank clerk. This involved adding up on an electro-mechanical adding machine all the cheques brought in each day from various agencies. I had absolutely no idea of the concept of Stamp Duty, and my work was performed completely by rote. It was probably explained to me at some time, but perhaps my brain was too sleep-deprived to absorb the info. Not knowing the concepts didn't seem to affect my performance...as far as I was concerned anyway!

In the afternoons I was dispatched with a small suitcase containing stacks of cheques to the Westpac bank in George St opposite Martin Place. I would go to a special counter on an upstairs floor, deposit the cheques with my printouts of the totals, to the same teller who I got to know, accept a receipt, and then head back to work via Hyde Park, taking advantage of my freedom for as long as I reasonably could.

I don't know whether my totals were ever checked, and if necessary corrected at the bank, or if my adding-up was sublimely flawless every day; in any case I never heard of any issues of totals not balancing. Maybe there was an allowable margin of error!

For a while I joined the jazz/rock band Sun, which had featured Renee Geyer. I had moved to Annandale and shared a house with her replacement, Starlee Ford.

The drummer was a mate of mine, and he worked as a train cleaner at the railway stables behind Luna Park. At lunchtimes I would rush down to the Quay, catch a ferry to Lavender Bay, explore the driver's cabs of the red rattlers with him, then hope to get a ferry back in time to be not noticeably late back from lunch.

Fun times!

Cheers

Justin.

Tuesday, 21st August, 2018

Thanks Justin – I'll copy your emails into a doc I can link on the web site for general info. We are hoping some others will do something similar to add a bit of interest and colour to the project.

Keep your eye on emails for updates and maybe you'll be able to squeeze the reunion in between commitments.

Regards.....