

I am extremely honoured to be appointed as the Honorary Colonel of the Australian Army Band Corps. I feel particularly privileged to follow in the footsteps of two marvellous predecessors in Jim Shelton and Ian Hearn; two fellow Infantrymen who recognise the criticality of Army bands to the spirit of those who serve, and to the community to whom we serve. I hope that I am able to achieve at least a fraction of what Jim and Ian have achieved during their respective tenures.

As many of you know, I come to the appointment without any musical skill! I do however have a passion for the cause and will dedicate my service to the men and women of the Corps and to ensuring that the Army and the community recognise how important you are as a force multiplier. For me, this is the biggest challenge we face as we move forward.

I see my priorities being:

- To assist the Director of Music in the leadership of the Corps
- To represent your interests to the leadership of the Army, particularly as it relates to rebalancing and restructuring
- To assist in the fight to secure adequate resources for you to do your job to the level of competence required to be unreservedly called professional
- To facilitate the cultural change necessary to ensure you are able to be versatile in delivery of either concert, military or show performances depending on your audience
- To ensure you remain relevant to the internal audience and meet their needs as well as relevant to the external audience.

I look forward to meeting those of you I don't already know and to hearing and seeing you do what you do best. I also eagerly seek your views on how we can do better and what ideas you may have for developing the Corps. It is absolutely my pleasure to be your Honorary Colonel.



BRIGADIER M.D. BORNHOLT, AM
HONORARY COLONEL - AUSTRALIAN ARMY
BAND CORPS

Brigadier Mark Bornholt was born in the New South Wales town of Leeton and educated locally. He graduated from the Officer Cadet School Portsea in December 1978 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. As a junior officer he had a series of regimental appointments with 3rd and 6th Battalions, The Royal Australian Regiment, 41st Battalion the Royal New South Wales Regiment, the 1st Recruit Training Battalion and was the Australian Exchange Officer at the British Army's School of Infantry at Warminster.

He was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on 5 December 1997 and commanded the Battalion for two years including the lead up to Australia's commitment to operations in East Timor in 1999. In June 2000 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his leadership of the 1st Battalion.

In 2003 Brigadier Bornholt deployed to the Middle East during Operation Falconer, the War against Iraq and served in Baghdad as the Chief of Staff of the Australian Joint Task Force during Operation Catalyst, the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq. He received a Commendation for Distinguished Service in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2004 for distinguished performance during these operations.

His senior appointments included Commander of the Defence Force Recruiting Organisation, Director of Studies – Land at the Australian Command and Staff College, Commander of the Land Warfare Centre at Canungra and Chief of Staff Land Headquarters. Brigadier Bornholt became the first Portsea graduate to be appointed as the Commandant, Royal Military College of Australia on 3 October 2006.

In 2009 he formed "Sharpe Solutions Pty Ltd", a management and leadership consultancy business and retired from the Army to run this company. His major consultancy work has been the business planning for the start up of a Biotechnology Company called **renew**TM - Nutrition, Energy, Water. This Company is developing a range of leading edge biological technologies into commercial products and services for distribution to the Australian and global market in late 2010.

A passionate supporter of Army bands and musicians, Brigadier Bornholt was appointed as the Honorary Colonel of the Australian Army Band Corps in March 2010.

He and his wife Karen have two boys, James aged eighteen who is studying science at the Australian National University, and Michael aged fifteen who is at High School. Mark is a capable single figure golfer and enjoys rugby, cricket and collecting red wine. He spends his spare time trading on the share market and remains a Chief of Army delegate for Redress of Grievance issues.