

# "Sitrep, Over!"

Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc



Editor - David Laing 0407 791 822

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## Editorial:

## ANZAC Day charities lose out.

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I'm a member of the RSL, and I wear two hats for them. The 1st is as a Regional Coordinator for the RSL Sub Branches in the Murraylands, and the 2nd is as the Vice President of the Murray Bridge RSL. My allegiances are to the veterans who have served before us, those who continue to serve, and those who will serve in the future. And to their families.

**Background:** Years after I served as a soldier with the 10th Battalion, RSAR, I volunteered as an Officer of Cadets in the then Australian Army Cadet Corps. I spent 15 years instructing young people in the finer details of military life, a most rewarding experience. Army Cadets have been associated with the RSL for years, carrying banners, unit markers and flags, and assisting older veterans make the long march on ANZAC Day. The Cadets themselves also carry out various duties as members of Catafalque Parties at many suburban and rural ANZAC Day services. In 2004 I was commanding an Army Cadet Unit at Keswick Barracks, when I received a call from an old friend from my A Company days, Major Tex Ranger.

After talking silly for 10 minutes we settled into a good conversation. Tex had been tasked by John Spencer, the then RSL State President, to provide alcohol and drinks services, plus sausage sizzles and food vans for ANZAC Day at Torrens Parade Ground. He asked if my unit would like to run a BBQ stand for ANZAC Day, and sell soft drinks supplied by the RSL. He said we could make a few dollars profit if we planned our operation correctly. I spoke to my fellow Officers, and to the parents of the 80 Cadets at the unit, and in no time at all we formulated a plan to do some serious fund raising on ANZAC

Day. We would be working in conjunction with the Adelaide Universities Regiment Association, the 10th Battalion AIF Association,

and 10th/27th Battalion, our current serving battalion, who would all use the day to support the RSL and the veterans of the many conflicts Australia has been involved in. (I should add that the Army Cadet system, like the RAN and Air Force Cadets, are given very little by the ADF, apart from essential uniforms and equipment, some training support and a 7 day annual camp per year. Anything a Cadet Unit requires outside of that, must be paid for themselves. That is why they fund raise throughout the year. 10/27 Battalion are in a similar situation, in that Defence provide only the essentials, and anything required outside of that is provided by the soldiers and their various messes.)

The Army Cadet unit hired 3 commercial BBQs, and purchased enough sausages, bread and onions to feed 3,000 people. With sauces and serviettes, tables and chairs, plus sufficient cooking implements and 5 bottles of gas, 3 trailers were needed to move all the gear to Torrens Parade Ground at 0700 hrs on 25th April 2004. The day came and went, with Officers of Cadets and parents of the Cadets doing all the cooking and serving, and the Cadets themselves keeping the ice boxes full of soft drinks, chopping more onions and just generally helping out. (For OHS



Army Cadets from 47 ACU at the Payneham/St Peters ANZAC Day Dawn Service in 2006. Four of these Cadets are now members of the ADF.

## Editorial:

continued.....

reasons, the Cadets weren't allowed to actually cook any food.)

After running out of snags and bread at about 1600 hrs that day, we packed up and headed back to Keswick Barracks to recondition stores, clean and return the BBQs to Kennards Hire and count our takings. After all expenses were acquitted, we counted just under \$5,000 profit for the day. This meant we didn't have to fund raise anymore after that, and could get on with the job of training the young people in the important things.

This situation carried on until this year, when I was made aware of a letter to the Commanding Officer of 10/27 Battalion from the RSL - SA HQ. The letter stated QUOTE.....

*"Dear LTCOL Burnard,*

*Over the past years, the RSL-SA, ANZAC Day held on Torrens Parade Ground has included a number of associations and groups selling beverages under the RSL temporary liquor licence, to raise funds for their relative social clubs and associations.*

*In 2016 RSL - SA has overhauled the parade ground activity, and I am sorry to advise that the opportunity for your group to raise funds at this event is no longer available. However there is still a possibility for your group to assist the RSL with four volunteers to assist on the day, and in return RSL - SA will make a donation to your group. Should you give consideration to take up this offer.....etc, etc, etc."*  
UNQUOTE

ANZAC Day this year came and went, and not too much difference was noticed by the majority of veterans and personnel who attended the after-march activities at the Torrens Parade Ground. But I noticed. The Cadet Unit noticed, AUR noticed, and certainly 10/27 Battalion noticed, and I dare say the "old and bold" of the 10th Bn AIF Association noticed too. I personally think a "travesty of justice" has been carried out by RSL SA, and I aim to take my objections to RSL State Branch at the earliest opportunity. I have support, as Major Tex Ranger OAM, RFD (Retd) adds.....

David, a snapshot on the history of the current After March Activities at Torrens Parade Ground.

*The Army moved out of TTD and the RSL and others moved in, Anzac Day belonged and belongs to the RSL. It was and never has been promoted as a "Fairground for All", but rather where Ex Servicemen and women gather after the Anzac Day March for many reasons and is as important as the march itself.*

*The 10/27RSAR and AUR operated a bar on alternate years and a two up ring operated, it was a "Pseudo Mess" for all who gathered post march, predominantly Ex Service personnel.*

*The RSL, through the Combined Mess ran the first "Post Army" Post March Activity and the attempt was to make it bigger than Ben Hur and regrettably it lost much money, too much. A quick glance at the produce purchased against the products sold and remaining stock revealed a huge "shrinkage", plenty of enthusiasm, little governance.*

*The then RSL CEO, John Spencer asked if it could be rejigged in line with  
What the Army had done*

*That it was kept simple*

*That it was not to make excessive profits, but was not to make a loss.*

*Where possible, prices were to be as near as possible to "Mess Prices"*

*It should involve and engage with not only the Ex Service Community, but with the Current Serving Community*



Army Cadets with their Colours prior to the march  
on ANZAC Day 2005

## New Printing Benefactor found

The last October newsletter had a request for someone to do our monthly printing of the newsletter hard copies. After a couple of false starts I approached the office of Federal Member for Barker, Tony Pasin MP. Tony responded instantly to my request and said his staff would gladly print our newsletters for as long as we required this service. So far I have emailed completed Sitreps twice to Tony's office and picked them up (collated and stapled) the very next day. Brilliant service.

The RSAR Association wishes to thank Tony Pasin MP and his Murray Bridge office for their unselfish support. Without it, the veteran world would be a much harder place.

Thanks Tony Pasin and Staff.



Tony Pasin MP

## Editorial:

## Continued.....

*We could make use of assistance from companies who had previously assisted, eg TOLL TRANSPORT, SABC etc. The simple answer was yes and so it started.*

*I approached 10/27RSAR, AUR, 10<sup>th</sup> BN AIF Assn and 47 Army Cadet Unit, who were eager to assist, the concept was that the RSL would "Bankroll" the function by purchasing drinks etc and "Issue" cartons at an agreed price plus an agreed sales price and at the days end, a cash reconciliation was done, with the assistance of Wally Watt, the RSL accountant that that time. I gathered a small team of helpers, known to be solid people.*

*I applied for the Liquor licence in my name, and at that time it only involved the Parade Ground*

*I organised a coffee van, known to the RSL and approached organisations, eg DVA to provide information booths and kept the CEO and the ANZAC DAY Committee advised through my membership of the committee.*

*I worked up a pricing model, having it checked by Wally Watt, it at that time include the drinks, delivery, ice and margins, etc.*

*The first two years were OK, returning good money to all, the third year saw the anti-defence opinions of the Spotless Site Manager, who took it upon himself to write to the Liquor Licencing Commissioner, alleging all manner of issues. Keith Harrison (RSL) and I attended the hearing and were able to show that this Site Manager had in fact been directed to absent himself on leave by Spotless and his complaints were fictitious. That year the Licence was in the name of the RSL, Keith and I headed off the requirement for fencing and we undertook to engage Security (by this stage parking was too much for me) from 0400 hrs onward. The cost of Security was also factored in to the model; we still managed good returns.*

*I also gained the use of the State Bank Marquis and by then I'd organised TOLL, who delivered Fosters products, to deliver the order in a cooler van and that was done from then on, including in one year where ANZAC Day fell on the Tuesday after Easter, the van was delivered full of diesel and ran all the time. Goodwill abounded, including close liaison with Adelaide City Council and SAPOL. Shrinkage was minimal.*

*This model was extremely successful, but the baby has been thrown out with the bathwater. Volunteers, (all RSL Members) have been alienated and suppliers have had scant loyalty for things like the use of the TOLL Van and Fosters giving the RSL 3 cartons of beer for every 10 ordered, plus the ability to return unsold stock, they did require the 3 carton in 10 returned.*

*The model could have easily been rejigged and returns and support and good will maintained. Commercial pay rates will eat any better returns and prices could be maintained at excellent levels and not escalated*

*It could be further enhanced by utilising RSL Sub Branches as well as serving Army and Cadet units. The Day of the Volunteer is not dead, it would appear that the willingness to appropriately manage them may be waning, the answer, I'd suggest is not to be*



## Editorial: Continued.....

*found in employing more Full Time Employees at RSL HQ and seek to fund by destroying the strong culture of Post March Activities developed over many years."*

Major Ranger has told of the evolution of what has now become ANZAC Day in Adelaide. Have RSL - SA "plucked the plum from the mouth of the babe" just because the babe gained so much from it, or.....?

I know the charter of the RSL Australia wide is to predominantly "care for veterans and their families," but are they overstepping their own mark by taking from future prospective members, their own right of existence?

I have broad shoulders (in more than one sense) and I welcome readers responses. I also welcome the response of the RSL-SA hierarchy, some of whom are on our email addressee list.

Our fight has only just begun. We will seek a conclusion which will benefit all parties, but we won't be beaten by the "quest for the Holy dollar!"

RSL- SA President Brigadier Tim Hanna AO has previously stated that *"to survive, we must change."* The old boys RSL of the past is no more. We must embrace the community, and our younger veterans in order to survive. This is NOT a good start.

*David Laing* - Editor

## Kabul Kronicle - Part 2

This month I will leave you with an article written by former politician David Miliband-just a filler for my lack of writing-enjoy! **Graham Goodwin.**

*The civil war in Afghanistan is raging again. After almost 40 years of near-consecutive conflict -- from the Soviet invasion to the US-led war against the Taliban for its sheltering of Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda post-9/11 -- Afghanistan is once again on the international emergency watch list.*

*As we mark 15 years since that tragic morning in Manhattan, it's right to ask what international efforts have achieved in Afghanistan and what challenges lie ahead.*

*Violence is escalating across the country at an alarming rate. The Taliban, at their strongest since the start of the US invasion in 2001, are leading a renewed insurgency in Helmand, Kunduz and beyond.*

*ISIS, a new foe, is securing its presence and honing the gruesome tactics employed in Syria and Iraq -- including the suicide bomb that killed 80 in the capital, Kabul, only a few weeks ago.*

*In 2015, there were 11,000 civilian casualties in Afghanistan -- a record only set to be eclipsed this year, as the United Nations Assistance Mission confirms new extremes of violence. One in four of these casualties have been children.*

*Violations of international humanitarian law continue by various parties to the conflict, making Afghanistan not only the world's most dangerous setting for humanitarian and medical workers, but perpetuating the suffering of a population that has suffered enough. Already one of the world's poorest nations, worsening security and dwindling international investment have brought the Afghan economy to its knees.*

*Rising tides of violence have forced a rethink of foreign military presence in Afghanistan. NATO has committed to maintaining support to Afghan security forces through 2020, helping sustain a struggling Afghan security force. This must signal and demand a parallel, unyielding humanitarian commitment to Afghanistan. The announcement of*



## Kabul Kronicle - Part 2 - contined

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*military support without amplified humanitarian support puts the fragile and hard-won gains of the past 15 years at peril -- and risks repeating its mistakes.*



*While news of increased violence and ever-greater humanitarian need is met with predictable fatigue from the American public, it should not obscure the hard-fought gains since 2001 that need to be preserved in Afghanistan.*

*Nine times more children are attending school. Thanks to the spread of basic health services, less than half as many mothers are dying in childbirth. The mortality of children under five has been cut by a third. Access to safe drinking water has nearly doubled.*

*Millions of Afghan men and women cast their ballots in the first democratic handover in their country's history in 2014, resulting in the inauguration of President Ashraf Ghani.*

*Since the fall of the Taliban, nearly 6 million Afghan refugees -- the vast majority in exile for decades -- voluntarily returned to Afghanistan.*

*But what could have been a watershed return has now slowed to little more than a trickle, thinning out as families lack the safety and support to return, and rebuild, at home.*

*Faced with insurmountable threats to their lives and livelihoods, it is no surprise that a thousand Afghans a day, on average, have fled their homes since the beginning of the year. A staggering 1.2 million people are currently internally displaced, the highest number since the fall of the Taliban.*

*Afghanistan's 2.7 million refugees mostly reside in neighbouring Iran and Pakistan, with hundreds of thousands -- possibly millions -- more residing there unregistered. Hosts to Afghan refugees for decades, these two nations -- which have consistently ranked as top refugee-hosting countries as a result -- are exerting increasing pressure to return Afghans to their homeland.*

*Unsurprisingly, Afghan families are undertaking the desperate trek towards Europe, making up a quarter of all arrivals in Greece -- but are amongst the first to be restricted entry into Europe as a flailing asylum and resettlement*

system teeters under pressure.

Today, the Afghan refugee population is the second-largest in the world, a dire accolade only recently surpassed by the mass flight from the horrors in Syria, and the single largest protracted refugee situation of our time.

At the time of writing, 8 million Afghans are in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance, lacking enough food to feed their families, enough money to buy clothes or medicine, safe water to drink, and a secure place to sleep.

It is not enough to say that everything depends on a political settlement, and that can only be hammered out locally and regionally. Both points are true, but do not absolve the international community of the responsibility to sustain hope and dignity to some of the most beleaguered people in the world.

Three points are vital.

### **Afghanistan needs more money**

We must, firstly and as a point of urgency, increase the sheer amount of humanitarian aid directed at Afghanistan to meet immediate and overwhelming need. This year's UN appeal, a modest figure of \$339 million, is barely 40% funded.



While the problem of underfunding extends beyond Afghanistan -- UN appeals are halfway funded on average, putting lifesaving assistance the world round at risk -- at the current level of financing, we are delivering \$16 in humanitarian assistance to each Afghan in need for the entire year. Even if fully funded, the appeal would deliver just over \$40 in assistance per person. This level of investment is inadequate not only to meet the immediate needs of 8 million people, but to prevent the subsequent deterioration in humanitarian conditions. A concerted boost in humanitarian assistance inside Afghanistan is of pressing importance .

### **More aid; better aid**

Second, more aid needs to be allied to an agenda for better aid. Afghans need the different parts of the international system to target what UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called

"collective outcomes" for health, education, protection and income, crossing the divide between humanitarian and development programs. Programs need to be based on evidence of what works. This is a clarion call for working more strategically with limited resources.



One example is the use of cash. Just a few days ago, the IRC launched a cash transfer program for internally-displaced and vulnerable host communities in some of Af-

ghanistan's most inaccessible provinces, recognizing that cash is uniquely positioned to deliver flexible, cost-efficient and dignified relief. This helps families avoid the impossible choices they are forced to make in emergencies -- pulling their children out of school, buying less nutritious food, selling the little they own -- helping ease the unforgiving cycle of crisis and poverty. It also recognizes that those caught in crisis know what they need, and don't need aid agencies to tell them.



*Another, and a fundamental effective intervention, is locally-led programming. The World Bank-funded National Solidarity Program is such an example.*

*For over a decade, the NSP has empowered Afghans to identify, and meet, their needs by awarding small grants to a national network of over 30,000 locally-elected Community Development Councils. These Councils have been responsible for thousands of local development projects, implemented with the help of NGOs like the IRC.*

*From rehabilitating roads to building new schools, these projects have changed the lives of 24 million people, ushering in a new era of trust between the government and its constituents across the country. Widely lauded as one of the most successful community-driven reconstruction programs in the world, the NSP is the perfect example of the kind of strategic, cost-efficient partnership that is paving the way for sustainable and lasting reconstruction in Afghanistan -- and is empowering Afghans to drive their own goals for the future.*

*Breaking the cycle of displacement will necessarily involve Europe, too. EU member states must come to terms with what is realistically, and morally, needed to deal with the continuing exodus towards its shores.*

## **Proper resettlement across Europe**



*The third key step is for Europe to ensure a fair, thorough and effective asylum process for refugees -- Syrians and Afghans alike -- avoiding discrimination based on nationality and in support of international legal norms. In addition, EU member states must commit to a meaningful and long term resettlement scheme*

*that includes refugees from protracted situations.*

*The IRC is calling on the EU to commit to resettling 540,000 refugees over the next five years, a demonstration that Europe can take on a leadership role in this global displacement crisis and share responsibility for refugees in need. The United States must also increase its commitments to resettlement, doubling its current commitment and resettling 140,000 refugees in 2017. Resettlement is a life-saving activity, and more of it is urgently needed.*

*September marks an important moment for global leadership. Both President Obama and the United Nations General Assembly have convened landmark summits to galvanize concerted action in response to the unparalleled displacement crisis we face worldwide.*

*A new American president and a new United Nations secretary-general will need to forge ahead, carrying the torch of indispensable and invigorated solidarity with the Afghan people. Bold, practical, long-term solutions are needed for Afghanistan -- and beyond. Only then can we ensure the past 15 years, a grim anniversary we mark in September, are a foundation on which to build.*

*LTCOL Graham Goodwin - Kabul, Afghanistan*

Hugo Throssell was awarded the Victoria Cross for his “most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty” at Hill 60 on the Gallipoli Peninsula on August 29-30, 1915. His story of courage and heartache is highlighted in Peter Fitzsimons’ brilliant book *Gallipoli*. In late 1933, Throssell committed suicide, leaving a note explaining that he had never recovered from his experiences during the Great War.

One hundred years ago military psychiatry was in its infancy. We believed that soldiers suffered from shell shock – literally a concussion to the brain from exploding shells. Australia’s Unknown Soldier was perhaps the most well documented case at the time. So badly affected by his experience of war, he returned home in 1916 and for 12 years had absolutely no recollection of his own identity.

Freud talked about “war neuroses” and, even as psychiatrists began making links with soldiers’ emotional experiences, they still characterised anyone suffering from psychological disturbances as weak.

Next came the terms “battle fatigue” and “combat exhaustion” with the realisation that all soldiers were susceptible to mental suffering. In World War 2 the American Army adopted the slogan “every man has his breaking point”. Soldiers were treated with rest, barbiturates, and liquor.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was finally formally recognised in 1980, well after the Vietnam War, with its inclusion in the American Psychiatry Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (commonly referred to as the DSM).

Finally, the blame began to move away from the individual and on to the external trauma. However the years of stigma still leave a shadow for some people.

Thankfully, our knowledge and treatment continues to improve.

The mental wellbeing of our veterans is a true focus for me, as South Australia’s Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, but also personally.

I grew up with my grandfather, a Wing Commander in the 30 Squadron of the RAAF, who didn’t talk about his service very much. I maintain a strong sense of connection with the RSL and the veteran community. I feel privileged to have worked at two repatriation hospitals, and now to have the Edinburgh RAAF base in my electorate of Taylor.

The threads of military association through my life have fostered a personal passion and commitment to ensuring our veterans receive the best possible care while acknowledging their sacrifice, service and unique traditions.

The latest version of the DSM includes a whole chapter on trauma related disorders, describing a broad range of symptoms and features. It is clear that the experience, suffering, and life impact is unique to every individual.

In order to best care for these individual needs, the South Australian Government has created the Framework for Veterans’ Health Care 2016-2020. This was developed through a collaborative partnership between SA Health and the Veterans’ Health Advisory Council, and I had the honour of launching it in August this year.

The Framework recognises that, in South Australia, the largest age group of veterans remains the 90 and over group, with more than 4000 receiving some form of treatment. At the same time, we are seeing an increase in younger and female veterans.

The Framework recognises the impact service can have on the lives of families and dependants, as well as the common inter-generational patterns of military life.

Most importantly, it recognises the bond between veterans and the critical role of the veteran community in an individual’s wellbeing.

It brings together health providers, research, policy, funding, and links to emergency services, and makes numerous specific guarantees to veterans around their care.

One of these guarantees is the new \$15 million Veterans’ Mental Health Precinct at Glenside, with construction to begin in the coming weeks. The precinct will include a 24-bed inpatient facility in addition to outpatient services, memorial gardens, and a separate building for ex-service organisations that provide advocacy and support services to veterans and their families.

**Veterans deserve health care that not only meets their needs but truly honours the sacrifices they have made in serving our nation.**



## A Love Story



I will seek and find you.  
I shall take you to bed and have my way with you.  
I will make you ache, shake & sweat until you moan & groan.  
I will make you beg for mercy, beg for me to stop.  
I will exhaust you to the point that you will be relieved when I'm finished with you.  
And, when I am finished, you will be weak for days.

All my love,  
signed: *The Flu*



Now, quit thinking about sex and go get your flu shot!



Private Gomad reckons.....

## THE CLOCK!



*A man died and went to Heaven.*

*As he stood in front of the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him. He asked, "What are all those clocks for?"*

*St. Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone who has ever been on earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock move."*

*"Oh", said the man. "Whose clock is that?"*

*"That's Mother Teresa's", replied St. Peter. "The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie."*

*"Incredible", said the man. "And whose clock is that one?"*

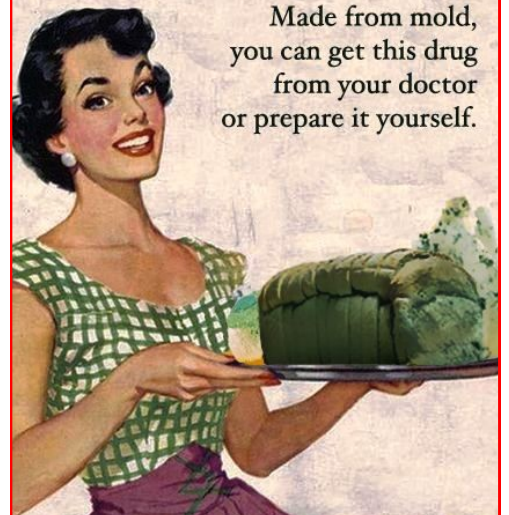
*St. Peter responded, "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abraham told only two lies in his entire life."*

*"Where's Donald Trump's clock?" asked the man.*

*St. Peter replied, "That one we're using as a ceiling fan!!!"*

## TRY PENICILLIN

Made from mold,  
you can get this drug  
from your doctor  
or prepare it yourself.



**Middle Age is when  
you still think you're  
gonna feel better in the  
morning!!!**



**I drink wine,  
because I  
don't like to  
keep things  
bottled up.**

Coffee keeps me busy until  
it's acceptable to drink  
wine.



# "Sitrep, Over!"

## MEMBERS LIST

### CONTACT US!-

The Editor David Laing,  
RSAR Association Inc  
Riverglen Marina, RSD 3152A  
White Sands SA 5253

☎ 0407 791 822

[davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)

We're on the Web!

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Wilson, Neil  
Wood, George  
Woore, Phillip  
Yorke-Simpkin Reg **LM**

Zuromski, Paul **SM**

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Abel, Karen  
Ayles, Denise  
Beames, Cheryl  
Carnachan, Dom  
Dart, Caroline  
Demosani, Gail  
Elliott, Julie  
Eva, Gail  
Field, Shirley  
Gatley, Graeme  
Gill, Maureen  
Gilmour, Helen  
Hawking, Lorraine  
Hook, Phillipa  
Hudson, Margaret  
Jolly, Sandra  
Klopf, Josie  
Laing, June  
Lampard, Kay  
Main, Raelene  
Marcus, Yvonne  
Lee, Anne  
Mitchell, Roma **HON LIFE**  
Parkin, Audrey **HON LIFE**  
Phillips, Heather  
Sanderson, Lorraine  
Tregenza, Lyn  
Winger, Kathleen

### HONORARY MEMBERS

T. Burnard CO 10/27  
RSAR  
J. Moulton ADJT 10/27  
RSAR  
M. Reyne RSM 10/27  
RSAR

**LM denotes LIFE MEMBER**

**SM denotes SERVING ADF MEMBER**

**BAND denotes serving 10/27 Band member**

**# Denotes NEW MEMBER**

## 225 members

As at 2 Nov 2016