



“Sitrep, Over!”

DECEMBER 2018

“Sitrep, Over!”

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

The Best of the Best

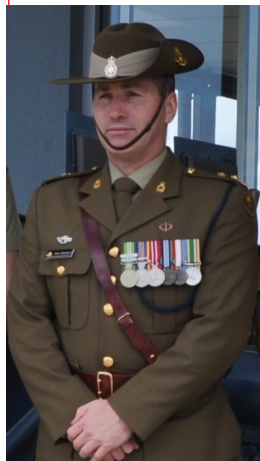
Over the past weeks members of the Battalion have been presented awards acknowledging their achievements throughout the training year. We are pleased to announce the names of those who put in maximum effort to achieve this status.

Top Soldier:	8614110	<u>SPR Thomas Jak</u>	(3FD)
Top NCO:	8512351	<u>CPL Craig Tanti</u>	(3/9th)
Top SNCO:	8269544	<u>SGT David Portakiewicz</u>	(Band)
Top Officer:	8607438	<u>LT Melissa Bracs</u>	(3FD)
Top Shot:	8622510	<u>PTE Benjamin Robins</u>	(B Coy)
Fittest Soldier:	8624631	<u>PTE Arthur Hall</u>	(A Coy)

The Association congratulates these soldiers for leading by example, and knows they will set a high standard for their mates and comrades. Well done all.

Farewell to a Nice Bloke

Commanding Officers come and Commanding Officers go, and that's a fact, but sometimes they make people happier when they leave than when they arrive. This is not the case here. LTCOL Trent Burnard is a soldiers soldier, and I know this because I've been told this by some of his diggers. I have not had the privilege of serving under him, but I have worked with him on numerous occasions to reach good outcomes for our association and the battalion. In my 12 years with the RSAR Association, and 10 years as secretary, I have



worked with, I think 5 CO's, and while all have done what they have been tasked to do, some have gone that extra mile to achieve their goals. Trent Burnard is one of those men. His friendship of the RSAR Association has been strong and fruitful, bringing benefits to not only his own troops, but also our members. He goes on to "greater" things, taking up a position of Senior Careers Advisor SA/WA/NT for DROCMA (Officer Career Management) We all wish him well in his new posting, and thank him for his time with "our" battalion. However, he is an RSARA Life Member, so we'll hopefully still see him in the future. His final parade will be at Keswick on December 4th at 2000 hrs. All members and friends are invited to attend to cheer him on.

See Page 8 for CO's response.

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Fees and Merchandise can be paid by EFT through the following *Bendigo Bank* account:

RSAR Association

BSB 633 000

Acc. 1616 585 88

Cheques etc can be mailed to David Hope at:

20 Katoomba Rd

Beaumont SA 5066

Presidents End of Year Report

The Editor has spoken. Its time for my end of year Christmas report and it will be shorter than usual, not because nothing is going on, but on the contrary, there's heaps happening but not requiring my input.



You would have seen the 10/27 Battalion Band performing in the Adelaide Christmas Pageant, a week after the Freedom of the City of Adelaide Parade and the following week they play at Edinburgh and then Mannum. It's almost non stop and makes me more determined to get them a new set of uniforms.

There is the changing of the COs at the end of this year. Lt-Col Trent Burnard leaves us, his success over the past 2 years has been recognised and he moves on up the command ladder. He has set the bar very high in the Battalion and personally, I will miss his friendship and excellent working relationship with the Association. He always attends our get-togethers when he can.

WO2 Nicholas, after a short but demanding stint in 10/27 has been posted to 3 Battalion, RAR. He is destined for greater things in the NCO command structure.

There were many other promotions announced at the Armistice Ball and they are all to be congratulated on their success.

And the Association is sending a Christmas parcel to those members of 10/27 Battalion who will be on deployment on Christmas Day, somewhere....you don't need to know where.. We wish them a particularly safe Christmas and a safe return in the near future.

For the metro members I trust you will enjoy our Christmas BBQ.

In closing once again, I wish you ALL a Merry Christmas and I hope you get what you wished for and not what you deserved.

Rod Beames

President RSAR Association

Treasurers Request



Secretary's End of Year Report

My job as Secretary is one which doesn't take up much time, outside of editing this newsletter and running our Facebook page, and I always marvel at how much Rod Beames gets done as our erstwhile President. I take my hat off to him, and wife Cheryl for allowing him to do it!

For the past 10 years around Christmas I have submitted a Secretary's Report to the members via this newsletter. No one asks me to do it, but I think Beamsey expects it and so do some of my mates. You may think it's hard to write about something each year and make it different, and some years seem to blend into others. But this year, the Armistice Year, things have been a little different, especially from my point of view.

We started the year flying out of the blocks with a Battalion Catering Exercise At Edinburgh, and about 15 of the old faithful's helped out by providing a nutritious lunch for about 150 soldiers from our Battalion. We normally do it for the love, but this year we were treated to a “shoot” at the WTTS facility by the CO Lt Col Burnard, and we rekindled new skills we thought we had lost. At another Battalion Field Exercise our Association members got to try on current war fighters kit and see how the Army of today trains. Sadly I missed out on that one as I was indisposed getting old body parts renewed.

Other “catering” jobs were to follow, along with the usual tasks like upgrading Honour Boards and manufacturing and presenting awards etc. This year was a little different as we neared November. The CO and his soldiers came to my adopted home town of Murray Bridge and helped us unveil a WW1 German artillery gun that was captured by 10th Battalion soldiers, including some from Murray Bridge, in 1918. The gun had been faithfully restored by men and veterans from the RSL and Murraylands Men's Shed, and is now pristine in “battlefield condition” at the front of the Murray Bridge RSL.

Then came our Association Formal Dinner, which although lacking numbers from previous years, still bought the old soldiers of the Regiment and the new together. Once again the marvelous Battalion Band, led by SGT David Portakiewicz, supported the dinner and once again proved how talented they are. Things were getting serious!

Along with others, we gathered at the Adelaide Town Hall to watch our soldiers exercise their right to a Freedom of the City of Adelaide. Seeing our “boys” march through the streets of Adelaide and then parade at Torrens Parade Ground was an awe inspiring sight, and in full view of the public, again did their Battalion proud. Sadly this was the last time that the Battalion Commanding Officer LTCOL Burnard would lead his soldiers in a Parade, and although we wish him success in his future postings, we also wish he wasn't going! He leaves BIG shoes to fill!

Then came the Armistice Week! I don't know about you, but I attended 3 engagements that week in Murray Bridge, and then conducted the Remembrance Day Service at the Murray Bridge Soldiers Memorial Hospital on behalf of the RSL.

Remembrance didn't end on the 11th. On Monday 12th November the Murray Bridge RSL hosted 200 students from Murray Bridge High School, after they walked across the road bridge under SAPOL escort in what was known as The “Peace March”. (See pic below) To see them marching proudly, carrying Australian flags and led by their school band playing Waltzing Matilda bought a tear to my eye, as I realized these were the young folk who would carry our ANZAC heritage into the future, long after we are gone!

Like my colleagues in the RSAR Association I have had a busy year, but we wouldn't do it if we didn't love it, and supported by all of you reading this newsletter, we'll be back next year to do it bigger and better.



To our wives and partners, thank you for supporting us in what we do.

To the members of the Association, thank you for helping us help the Regiment.

To the soldiers of the Regiment, you do what you do very well. Allow us to continue supporting your future, into the future.

I wish to thank Rod for his leadership and support throughout the year, and the Committee of Management for your assistance in keeping us going.

Drink moderately and drive soberly! Have a great Christmas and we'll see you next year.

Cheers

David Laing Secretary/Editor

Why We Do It!

By Rod Beames

We have just finished celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the “guns falling silent” in 1918.

I watched with interest the film footage of what was going on at home in Britain and Australia during the war and how the civilian population tried to get involved with the war effort. For example I saw some of the parcels which the Country Women’s Association (CWA) sent to Gallipoli and I saw the boy scouts collecting scrap metal to reuse to make armaments.

So what do people do now?

Well, after 20 or so years in the Regiment, many ex servicemen (us) realise that at their best, their ability to fight is but nuisance value. However, our roots and esprit de corps remain with Regiment and its current members, in particular the 10/27 Battalion. So it stands to reason that nearly 200, mainly aging men, should unite under the umbrella of an association and offer help to now serving members, where they can.

We can still do things like cook a BBQ, feed a company or so, recycle the empties for Legacy, arrange museum displays, make memorials, present trophies, provide Christmas packs to serving members away from home and keep Soldier of Merit boards up to date, to name but a few. We can marvel at the arms and equipment supplied to our soldiers of today. We love nothing better than to talk to the soldiers and share their experiences of spending a Saturday night in some god-forsaken dugout on a wind swept hill, with no rations, waiting for an enemy that never seems to come. And we respond in unison

“Nothing has changed”

We do take pride in seeing the Battalion perform, WTSS shoots, Freedom of the City Parades, etc and one day we hope, the baton will be handed down to the serving members as they join the “Old & the Bold” category and answer “that’s why we do it”.

Rod Beames

President

RSAR Association

VALE

Brian Kilford

Mark Mau

As this year draws to a close we see still more of our warriors join that Great Regiment in the Sky!

Sadly, we lost two former members on the same day, kilometers apart. Brian Kilford and Mark Mau probably never met each other, although serving within the same regiment, and they will both leave those of us left, with fond memories of their contribution to our lives. Both men served their country in the best way they knew how, and for that alone, we salute them



Brian Kilford lived on his own at Mannum and was “adopted” by the Mannum CFS Brigade, where he volunteered for over 20 years. He carried our Association banner for 8 years every ANZAC Day. Brian will be laid to rest in a private burial service in the RSL Section of the Mannum Cemetery. Date to be confirmed.

Mark Mau was an officer of the Regiment since 1957 when he received his commission. He went on to serve with OCTU and eventually became 2IC of 10th Battalion. He retired in 1976 after 20 years service in the Army.

The service to commemorate Marks life will be held at the SALT Church Northside Court, Evanston Park GAWLER at 1330 hrs on FRIDAY 30th November.

LEST WE FORGET

CPL Dave's Page

As a butcher is shooing a dog from his shop, he sees \$20 and a note in his mouth, reading: "10 lamb chops, please." Amazed, he takes the money, puts a bag of chops in the dog's mouth, and quickly closes the shop. He follows the dog and watches him wait for a green light, look both ways, then trots across the road to a bus-stop. The dog checks the timetable and sits on the bench. When a bus arrives, he walks around to the front and looks at the number, then boards the bus. The butcher follows, dumbstruck.

As the bus travels out into the suburbs, the dog takes in the scenery. After a while he stands on his back paws to push the "stop" bell, and then the butcher follows him off. The dog runs up to a house and drops his bag on the step.

He barks repeatedly. No answer. He goes back down the path, takes a big run, and throws himself (Whap!) against the door. He does this again and again. No answer. So he jumps on a wall, walks around the garden, barks repeatedly at a window, jumps off, and waits at the front door.

Eventually a small guy opens it and starts cursing and shouting at the dog.

The butcher runs up screams at the guy: "What the hell are you doing? This dog's a genius!"

The owner responds, "Genius, my arse. It's the second time this week he's forgotten his key!"

FEAR IS A REACTION. COURAGE IS A DECISION.

One evening, after the honeymoon, Tom was working on his motorcycle in the garage.

His new wife was standing there by the bench watching him.

After a long period of silence she finally said, "Honey, I've just been thinking, now that we are married, maybe it's time you quit spending so much of your time out here in your garage.

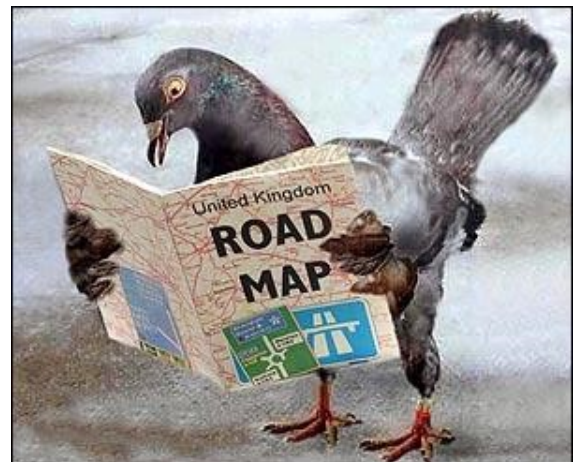
You probably should also consider selling your Harley and all your welding equipment along with your gun collection, your fishing gear, the boat and all those stupid model airplanes, plus dump that vintage hot rod sports car and your home brewing equipment."

Tom got a horrified look on his face. She said, "Darling, what's wrong?"

He replied, "There for a minute, you were starting to sound like my ex-wife!"

"Ex-wife!?" she screamed, "YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU WERE MARRIED BEFORE!"

Tom replied, "I wasn't."



I just sold my Homing Pigeon on EBay. For the 18th time!

But, a warning about eBay purchases, be careful of what you buy on eBay!

If you buy stuff on-line, check out the seller carefully.

I just spent \$295 on a penis enlarger. The bastards sent me a magnifying glass.

The only instructions were "Do not use in direct sunlight."

CONTACT US

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FACEBOOK

We're on the Web
www.rsara.asn.au

2019 FORMAL DINNER

The lucky members and their partners who attended the past 2 Association Formal Dinners keep asking, "When is the next dinner going to happen?"

Well, after a poor turnout in 2018 (only 28 places filled of 60) we thought long and hard about it, and have decided we'll give it another go in 2019. The cost will be kept to \$45 per head, and this will include all beer, wines and soft drinks, PLUS a fantastic 2 course meal. The venue will once again be the Colonel Light Gardens RSL, and you now have 10 months to put the date into your diary.

Saturday 12th October 2019

1830 for 1900 hrs

Dress: After 5. Mess Dress for serving members. Miniatures as awarded

Reserve your seats through the Secretary via the numbers at left.

RSVP NOT LATER THAN 24th MAY 2019

In the photo below are from left: LTCOL Trent Burnard, SAPOL Assistant Commissioner Linda Fellows, WO1 Ben Lipman and Astronaut Andy Thomas at Torrens Training Depot after the Freedom of Entry Parade.

Coincidentally LTCOL Burnards grandfather and Andy Thomas' father flew together in the RAAF during WW2.



Farewell to a Good Bloke



Letter to the Association



To the President, committee and members of RSARA

With my tenure as the Commanding Officer of 10/27 RSAR coming to a close I feel a sense of achievement about many of things that have occurred and been implemented during my time in command.

I have been surrounded by great, smart, dedicated and loyal people, without whom the unit would not be in the strong position it is and without the excellent reputation that it enjoys.

However, I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of RSARA on behalf of all of us at the 10/27 Battalion RSAR Battlegroup. Your ongoing dedication and commitment to supporting the Regiment has made you the envy of many around Australia.

Over the course of the past three years, RSARA (supported by the Men's shed at Murray Bridge) have produced plaques and presentations as well as serving lunches at a number of unit activities and assisting with many other projects including the 10/27 RSAR mural project, which is currently on hold.

Most importantly you continue to carry out the vital work that is keeping the band operational. Without all of your financial support and your volunteered time there would simply be too many challenges for those posted in the unit to manage. I particularly attribute the ongoing success of the 10/27 RSAR band not only to the strong and passionate leadership from within the band but also the unwavering administrative and logistics support provided by the association.

Your enduring love for the Regiment is evident by your passion and I remain honoured to have worked alongside many of you. Additionally, I have also had the opportunity on a couple of occasions to attend the RSARA dining in night, which had become a highlight for both myself and my wife Lou where we have had the opportunity to meet and socialise with many of you.

Obviously we will both still look forward to the association's dining in night and hope to see many more of you there. In the next few days I will be posted from the unit but you should know that I will still be looking after many in the Regiment through my role as the Senior Career Advisor for the Officers in SA, WA and NT this should allow for me to continue to meaningfully contribute to the unit by supporting the development of its officers and therefore the unit more broadly.

Once again I thank you for all that you have done and all that you have achieved on behalf of the Regiment. This is truly a shared duty and I have no doubt that you will continue to support LTCOL Peter Morgenthaler in the same steadfast manner as you have done during my tenure.

Pro Patria

Kind Regards

Trent Burnard

Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer

10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment



Officers and WOs after the Freedom of Entry Parade invited into the Mayoral Chambers of the Adelaide Town Hall

The 2019 RSAR Association Calendar is attached to this newsletter. There is no reason for missing a function or meeting.

**THE REGIMENTAL JOURNAL
“PRO PATRIA” WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON
IN PDF ONLINE FORMAT. WE WILL ADVISE
YOU WHEN AND WHERE YOU CAN
OBTAIN IT.**

Letters to the Editor

The RSARA Committee were asked if we needed to compensate country/rural/interstate members for their subscription fees, as the majority are unable to attend any of our functions or exercises. Here are one members thoughts.

Gentlemen

I am writing to you tonight as I have trouble accepting and am concerned with the suggestion that subscription fees be reduced for remote members and associates members because they are unable to attend functions etc.

I would ask you to consider the points outlined herein before making any firm decisions.

- First and foremost the annual membership fee for a full member is \$20 per annum or less than 5.5 cents a day, associate members are charged half that amount, it is hardly going to bankrupt anyone !
- How serious is the complaint of "not getting my monies worth" Does it justify a 50% reduction in fees - I think not.
- Membership fees account for the bulk of our income which in the main goes to supporting our Battalion, its Band and its soldiers as well as miscellaneous donations and grants to worthwhile ventures, all military related. Do we really want to take a voluntary reduction in our income?
- Members would understand that there is a personal cost to being part of this Organisation and, in the main, accept this despite a large number not being able to, or for any number of reasons including health issues, be directly involved in activities. It is the knowledge of knowing their financial contribution is helping out someone else that delivers the satisfaction, this is true for metropolitan, remote areas and overseas personnel. The pride of being part of this Association and its' ongoing work and effort is paramount and overrides the minimal personal cost.
- Suggesting that non involvement in activities deserves a discount is tantamount to saying I won't contribute to the Royal Flying Doctor Service because there is next to zero chance of me receiving a benefit or service from them.
- A move in this direction introduces yet another classification of membership (and fees) and carries with it the distinct possibility that it will cause anguish among metropolitan members who don't attend functions but are expected to pay full fees. This has the potential of being divisive issue, something to be avoided.

We are a united group and should remain as such - no them and us. We have been through the argument of country versus metro with the South East issues of the past. Surely we don't want to visit those issues again.

If the Committee of Management feels guilty about accepting full fees from "remote" members perhaps a small token of appreciation should be forwarded to these people by way of;

- A recognition certificate signed by the CoM Senior Office bearers thanking them for their contribution - sent on a bi-annual basis.
- Give aways - a lapel pin, cloth badge or stubble holder, again on a bi-annual basis

Some small token of gratitude recognising their membership, contribution and ongoing camaraderie.

Just my thoughts

Regards

Norm Tregenza

So sad to hear of Mark's passing, David.

Mark was CO of the Regiment's recruit training platoon in the mid sixties and I had the privilege of serving as his platoon Sergeant. He was highly regarded by all the troops under his command and turned what was a basic bunch of guys under basic training into an elite unit with even a sniper group with paratroop training.

I remember that we instructor NCO's had to polish everything down to the lace eyelets of our boots and chin strap buckles. Needless to say our jungle greens had razor sharp creases.

As a leader he was something special and he made his blokes feel the same.

I regret that I cannot attend the commemoration but I will be thinking of him.

RIP Major Mark- you were some soldier!

Don McCulloch