



Sitrep, Over



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

FEBRUARY 2014



Points of interest

- Cast your mind back to your younger days. Were you GREEN? Page 2
- **LUNCHEON** Feb 16th Sunday @ Royal Hotel Kent Town. Guest Speaker Major Jeff Ayles - **NOT TO BE MISSED** Page 4
- Need to catch up with old mates who are RSARA members? Contact the Editor for details. See story Page 8.

Newsletter Edited by David Laing

0407 791 822

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Don't forget! All luncheons this year have been moved to **SUNDAYS!**

Murray Bridge Army Range – The Early Days

Murray Bridge Rifle Club – Early Days

Murray Bridge Rifle Corps (later Murray Bridge Rifle Club) came into existence on March 1st 1900. It is believed that the idea of such a group originated in the mind of Mr C.E. Jarvis. He had drilled riflemen at Murray Bridge who had enlisted for the Boer War. First elected members of the club were: President C.E. Jarvis; Vice President V.L. Grudge; Secretary W.J. Edwards; Treasurer W. Miller; Committee B.A. Preece, S. Haines, H. Cummings and H. Baldock.



Rifle shooters assembled in front of Brooks Cycle Depot, to ride to the Rifle Range. If they didn't ride they were unable to take part in the 'Cyclist Trophy Day' 1938
Residents of Murray Bridge

Five shillings per man was paid by the Commonwealth to the club for working expenses.

Nineteen Club members enlisted for World War 1. Three were killed. They were S. R. Megaw, E. S. Patterson and A. Mugford. Other members who enlisted were H Shepherd, A Phillips, H Hall, J Stanyer, A. Harding, J. Cowan, F. Redman, F. Brown, F. Scott, G. Robbie, J. Porteous, R. Porteous, P. Morris, T James, J. Ellis and T. Longhurst.

Later, during the 1930's C.C. Castine was a name which stood out in Rifle Club circles. He was apparently an expert shooter, winning many trophies.

Residents of Murray Bridge had become accustomed to the sound and vibration of exploding ammunition.

In the 1930's the Army used the Bremer Range near Monarto as a target for their 18 pounders. Plenty of spent shells and shrapnel have been found around Bondleigh. During War years of 1939 – 1945 lots of practice shooting was done on Joe Downings property. Guns were set up near the Rockleigh Methodist Church and fired in a South Easterly direction landing on the properties of Law, Brown and J & W Downing. An old house (known as Graber's) on Joe Downing's property was shot to pieces. When the American troops arrived (after the bombing of Darwin) they used much larger shells which caused damage to trees and fencing.

How come you weren't GREEN back in the "old days"?

Checking out at the supermarket, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this "green thing" back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, lemonade bottles and beer bottles to the deli. The deli sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household rubbish bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every large store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go 100 yards.

But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the disposable kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 240 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then, some families had a TV, or a small radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Tasmania. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a water fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the tram or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off !!!

Sound familiar to a lot of the older readers??

Member Alex Klopf sent in this "trip down memory lane!"

Just Soldiers

Lance Corporal Charles Bunney

Part 2

During his hospital stay, Bunney was granted day leave. The combination of having been wounded, the recurring nightmares and his over indulgence in French wine, led him to run foul of the law. He was arrested after getting into a fist fight with a French soldier. He faced a general court-martial and was found guilty of 'Drunkenness whilst on active service' but not guilty of an 'Offence against an inhabitant of the country in which he was serving'. He was sentenced to 28 days Number One Field Punishment.

In September 1916, he rejoined his battalion. He remained with them through the winter of 1916-17, said to be the worst in 30 years. During actions at Passchendaele, the Hindenburg Line and Broodseinde Ridge, Bunney did his country proud. Behind the lines he was a member of the 5th Battalion Band and at the front he doubled as a stretcher-bearer. He participated in actions to halt the German Spring offensive during March and April 1918. In June 1918, he was sent on 'Blighty' leave.

Bunney's health was deteriorating. The nightmares and sleepless nights that had disturbed him since the cave in on Gallipoli persisted, driving him to consume more and more alcohol. He was admitted to hospital suffering from a nervous disorder, where on examination doctors found that: his heartbeat and breathing were irregular, he suffered with lower back pain, that he often trembled and his hands were frequently cold and clammy.

A decision was made to repatriate Bunney to Australia. He was assigned special duty on a transport as a submarine guard. Another guard on the same ship was Private Billy Sing DCM, the ace Australian sniper, nicknamed the 'assassin of Gallipoli'.

On his return to Australia, Bunney was discharged as medically unfit. His health and his drinking habit did not improve. He was often in trouble with the law for being drunk and disorderly and he was regularly in and out of the repatriation hospital, fighting an endless battle to have his injuries recognised and so make him eligible for a pension.

In 1928, Bunney could no longer cope and placed a .22 calibre rifle to his stomach and pulled the trigger. His wife returned from shopping to find her husband lying on the kitchen floor in a pool of blood. He was rushed to the Caulfield Military Hospital for emergency surgery. After he recovered from his wound, he was admitted to an asylum where he was treated for acute alcoholism.

In the wake of the Great Depression, which began in October 1929 when the value of stocks and shares tumbled, the unemployment rate jumped dramatically. By the end of 1930, 20 percent of the Australian workforce were jobless—by 1932, this figure had risen to 29 percent. Charles Bunney was one of the casualties of these hard times. He drifted around the countryside looking for



AWM E01810. The 5th Battalion Band, 1918. Charles Bunney, back row, second from the left.

whatever work he could find and like so many of the Great War veterans, he was forced to sell his British War Medal—of value due to its high silver content.

In 1937, following the death of his wife from cancer, Bunney moved to the central Victorian town of Dunolly.

On a pension of two pounds and two shillings a week he took up residence in a de-licensed hotel, the Windsor Castle, with his mate Robert Gray—a retired prospector. At the same time, living at the hotel but on the floor below Bunney was a stockily-built man aged around forty, named Thomas Johnson.

Final Part Next Month

By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 47 to 54

Murray Bridge Army Range - the early days

...continued

Property owners removed their stock from the area. In the Hundred of Monarto, shells landed on Sections 434, 436, 435, 378, 377, 365, 438, 347, 354, 348, 349, 359, 360, and an occasional one or two on 447 and 342. (Murray Bridge residents will know exactly where those locations are.)

After the War the exercises were moved a bit further north along the range towards Tungkillo and plans were being formed to install a permanent range there. So hostile did the local residents become and so powerful was their protest that the Army moved right away from the district.

Although Murray Bridge and surrounding area's residents near the sound and vibration of Army activity it comes from the safe modern camp established on Sections 460 and 578, Hundred of Burdett (now the present site of the Murray Bridge Army Range, or as known by Defence, MUTA, Murray Bridge Training Area.)

From an article sent in by member Bob Perkins

GUEST SPEAKER AT FEBRUARY 16th LUNCHEON

As indicated in previous newsletters, all Association Luncheons in 2014 will be held on **SUNDAYS**, at the Royal Hotel Kent Town. This move is designed to make our functions more accessible to members who still work, and to those who are still serving in the ADF.



The first Guest Speaker this year is to be **Major Jeff Ayles (Retd)** who will provide an informative insight into some of the more unknown military operations that occurred in Borneo in the 1960's during Australia's involvement in that conflict.

Jeff was a member of the elite Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) during this period, and will talk about the repatriation to Australia of two Missing In Action (MIA) soldiers who went missing after a confrontation with Indonesian troops. Jeff is now the Curator of the Army Museum of South Australia (AMOSA) and is a member of the RSAR Association.

For catering and seating purposes, those who wish to attend this function are directed to reserve their seats prior to January 31st 2014 to avoid disappointment.

Members (and NON members) attending are asked to contact Norm Rathmann on his email of normgeelong@yahoo.com or his mobile of 0448 460 884 ASAP

BLUEY & CURLEY by Alex Gurney

CIVILISED AT HEART!



Dear David,

I have just received a copy of your Association Newsletter, via David Mercer the Secretary of SAMRA. (South Australian Mounted Rifles Association)

Now I realise that as an ex-RAAC soldier I am taking a considerable risk to my health and wellbeing by addressing your august body, but I felt I couldn't let the opportunity pass, and perhaps the Festive Season will soften your hearts!

First, may I congratulate you on the excellent Newsletter, it provided some interesting reading for an ex-South Australian. Second, I was delighted to see some of my old comrades in arms mentioned. Alan Hook and I were at OCTU 1 with Barry Mitchell and John Oswald, and I'm sorry if I missed any of the others. Don Field was, of course, well known to all of us at OCTU 1 as one of the instructors – yes he's to blame!! Mind you I have to share some of the blame as I recently discovered while chatting to Don, that my father taught him at Goodwood Tech. back in the Stone Age – just kidding Don!

Anyway if you are in contact with any of the aforementioned please pass on my regards, and best wishes to all of them. One small thing I would ask. It was mentioned to me that John Oswald may be in less than robust form, if anyone knows of his state of health perhaps they could let me know.

With my best wishes to all RSARA for a Very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2014, Best regards,

Mike Phillips

Honorary Secretary,
RAAC Corporation Ltd.,
Bldg.97, Victoria Barracks,
Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021.E.
mike.phillips2@defence.gov.au

Hi David,

Greetings, Merry Christmas, and all that sort of stuff.

At long last I received the January 2014 edition of Sitrep Over (yesterday), must have been the Christmas mail that slowed the email down.

As well as wishing you and your family a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and a real good year ahead in 2014 I would at this time like to express my thanks for a job well done as secretary of our association and a really excellent job as editor of the newsletter, it helps me keep up with what is going on, news etc as well as I am finding it very informative. I really look forward to it each month

All the best

Rob (Stewy) Stewart

Hello David from the N.T.,

Just read your Christmas Thoughts and I agree with you Brother, as we age we see things in a different light. A lot of folks do not understand us and belittle us !!, which annoys me some what.

We have the benefit of a reasonably long life so far in good enough health and have had wisdom given to us by our parents and people we have met along the way of our life.

Could go on mate but dreaded time constraints.

All the Very Best for Our Members for 2014

Best Regards,

Bill Matchett

Driver, NT

G'day David

Seeking a bit of information from your members please.

I have a battle dress jacket dated 1950 with "Hindmarsh Regiment" shoulder flashes, and 3rd Division sleeve patches.

As the HR is an (ex) South Australian unit and the 3rd Division is Victorian, would the HR come under the auspice of Victoria divisional command if it was a border unit which encompasses both Victoria and South Australia? ... perhaps they both don't go together?

As well, what colour lanyard was worn on the Hindmarsh Regiment battle dress?

(I did post this on your Facebook page)

Regards

Rod Chandler

rnc49@hotmail.com

Oakey

Queensland





Some interesting facts about the RSAR Association

“Sitrep, Over!”

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HOW TO CONTACT US

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Murray Bridge SA 5253
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0407 791 822



Find us on
FACEBOOK

www.rsara.asn.au

1989(?) First formed in Adelaide.
 1990(?) 21 members.
 1997 South East Branch raised.
 1999. Adelaide wound up due to falling numbers and apparent lack of interest. SE Branch continues.
 2006. RSARA reformed in Adelaide.
 2007. 44 members in Metro Branch.
 2010. July "Sitrep, Over!" published.
 2010. August 53 members.
 2010. December 62 members.
 2011. January. Facebook site set up.
 2012. February 100 members.
 2012. May. First serving ADF members join. Scott Jeffrey, Mimi Ewings, Ian Boath, Grant James
 2012. September 123 members.

2013. January. Website up and running
 2013. April 135 members.
 2013. ANZAC Day. 77 on Parade, including 34 members of 10/27 RSAR.
 2013. July 7th. 150 members.
 2013. August 168 members including 34 Serving ADF Members.
 2013. December 173 members.
 2014. February 176 members.

We're obviously doing everything right, and we've bought together a large group of people who all have one thing in common. A goal to "Perpetuate the Regiment!" **PRO PATRIA**

Starting next month..... How to speak KIWI.

Our friends across the "Big Ditch" in New Zealand have been a part of our culture as far back as the origins of ANZAC, however since that time, we, the stoical Aussies have had trouble understanding their particular brand of the English language. Starting next month is a comprehensive guide of "How to Understand and Speak KIWI." Apologies to any Kiwis who may be offended, but..... You started it!!!

"An Experience of War" by Major Geoff Jones Starts next month

Major Geoff Jones enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 15 January 1964. He trained as a Medical Assistant and subsequently as a Clerk Admin. He served in Vietnam in 1966 as a Medic in C Company 6 RAR and in 1970-71 as Chief Clerk in the office of the Assistant Director Medical Services, Headquarters Australian Force, Vietnam.

In 1975 he was commissioned as an Administrative and Technical Officer and in 1980 was categorised as a General Service Officer. He was promoted to Major in 1984.

In 1986 Major Jones attended long term schooling at the US Army Academy of Health Sciences in San Antonio, Texas USA and the Canadian Forces Medical Services School in Borden, Ontario. He retired from the Regular Army in 1989 as Senior Instructor Advanced Training at the School of Army Health, Portsea, Victoria.

Since 1989 Major Jones has held a variety of appointments as a General Reservist including Staff Officer to the RAAMC Head of Corps.

In 2001 Major Jones was admitted in the Order of St John of Jerusalem and in 2003 he was Queensland's Colonel John Thomson Oration and Medal winner. In civilian life, Major Jones is the Queensland Manager of Medical Indemnity Protection Society Ltd.

In 1967, Corporal Jones married Private Pamela Brown and they have three sons, all of whom served in the Australian Army as infantrymen.



**CPL Geoff Jones
C Coy 6 RAR Medic**

Geoff Jones' intriguing story "An Experience of War" tells of his experiences as a young soldier sent to South Vietnam as an Infantry Medic with 6 Battalion, RAR.

This story, in his own words, will be presented in 13 Parts over the next 13 editions of "Sitrep, Over!"

Sitrep, Over

The Association welcomes new member Chris Acton**MEMBERS LIST**

Abareh, Wadi	SM	Hawking, Don		Rorie, Graham	SM
#Acton, Chris		Hawkins, Des		Rossetti, Lee	
Adams, Aaron	SM	Hogan, Mark	LM	Sage, Andrew	
Apostolides, Chris		Hook, Alan	LM	Salamon, Peter	
Attenborough, Geoff		Hope, David		Sanders, Ashley	SM
Ayles, Jeff		Hudson, Rick		Sanderson, Max	
Baldwin, Bob		Humphrys, Jesse	SM	Sands, Mike	
Barrass, Mark		James, Grant	SM CoM	Sexton, Mark	SM
Bates, Allan		Jeffrey, Scott	SM	Sprigg, Bob	
Beames, Rod	CoM	Johnson, Barry	LM	Staker, Cameron	SM
Bennet, Graham		Jolly, David		Standing, Michael	
Bilsborow, Jason	SM	Jones, Brett		Stone, Eddie	
Blake, Sam	SM	Keenan, Alan		Strain, Doug	
Blondell, Mark	SM	Kilford, Brian		Steer, Phil	
Bourne, Ian	SM	Klopf, Alex	LM CoM	Stewart, Rob	
Boath, Ian		Klopf, Paul		Stuart, Matthew	SM
Boothroyd, Lincoln	SM	Laing, David	LM CoM	Tiller, Garth	
Boscence, Bob		Loveder, Peter		Thomson, Jim	
Bras, Riley	SM	Lockett, John		Tolotta, Tarrant	SM
Broadbent, Robert	SM	Lampard, Ross		Tregenza, Norm	CoM
Brookes, Phil		Lee, Bob		Treize, George	
Brown, Bruce		Lee, Pat		Ullrich, Andreas	SM
Brown, Harry		Longstaff, Paul		Vella, Joe	
Burton, Ray		Main, Brian		Wake, Stephen	
Carnachan, Ian		Marcus, Ray		Waters, Ian	LM
Chittleborough, Jeff		Martin, Bob		Weightman, Aidan	SM
Clyne, Lachlan	SM	Matchett, Bill		Westover, Rhys	
Cooke, Nat	CoM	Mau, Mark		Wheeler, Chris	
Contibas, Nikolaus	SM	McCulloch, Don		Williams, Darrian	SM
Cotton, Bob		McLachlan, Joshua	SM	Wilson, Neil	
Dart, John		McMahon, Tyler	SM	Wood, George	
Davey, John		McMullin, Jim		Woore, Phillip	
Davey, Trevor		Meissner, Terry	SM	Yorke-Simpkin Reg	LM
Davey, Jack		Milde, Peter	SM	Zuromski, Paul	SM
Del Vecchio, Victor		Mitchell, Barry			
Demasi, Nathan	SM	Mitchell, David			
Demosani, Tony		Morony, Frank	CoM		
Dubsky, Eddie		Moore, Jeffrey			
Dunn, Peter		Moore, Terry	LM		
Dunn, Bob		Moschis, James	SM		
Dunn, Jeff		Munro, Ron			
Durbin, Russell		Oliver, Peter			
Durrant, Chris		Orrock, Alan	CoM		
Elliott, Graham		Ockenden, Marc			
Elliss, Scott	SM	Oswald, John			
Eva, Keith		Pach, Chol	SM		
Ewens, Mimi	SM	Paul, John			
Field, Don		Perkins, Bob			
Flanagan, Ted		Pollard, Barry			
Friday, Ross		Phillips, Don			
Gaborit, Lyndon		Phillips, Trevor			
Genovese, John		Payne, Bob			
Gibson, Lindsay		Parslow, Howard			
Giles, John		Preece, Brian			
Gill, Alan		Ranger, Denis			
Gilmore, Graham	CoM	Rathmann, John			
Gordon, Frank		Rathmann, Norm	CoM		
Hardy, Robert	SM	Ramm, Hank			
Harrison, John		Robertson, Jim			

Phillips, Heather
Sanderson, Lorraine
Tregenza, LynLM denotes LIFE MEMBER
SM denotes SERVING ADF MEMBER
Denotes NEW MEMBER

176 members as at 20/1/14

HOW TO JOIN

Membership to the RSAR Association is open to anyone who has served with or been attached to the Royal South Australia Regiment or any of its' affiliates, and who can identify and support the goals and objectives of the Association.

To join, simply click the link below, and download the Application Form;

<http://rsara.asn.au/membership/>

Or contact the Secretary at davidlaing49@bigpond.com or phone 0407 791 822.

Applications can be posted to the address below with a cheque or money order:

The Secretary, David Laing
RSAR Association
Riverglen Marina RSD 3152A
Murray Bridge SA 5253

Joining fees and subs can be paid via EFT to:

BSB 015 211
Account 482 441 406

In the name of RSAR
Association Inc.
Remember to include your name as an identifier.



Private Gomad reckons.....

I just booked a table for Valentine's Day for me and the wife. Bound to end in tears though - she's crap at snooker!!

Got a new Jack Russell pup today, he's mainly yellow and brown with just a small white area so I've called him Pennington.

They say that sex is the best form of exercise. Now correct me if I'm wrong but I don't think 2 minutes and 15 seconds every 3 months is going to shift this beer belly.

When I was a kid people used to cover me in chocolate and cream and put a cherry on my head. Yeah, life was tough in the gateau.

My mate Paddy says, "Norman, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador . "Really, I says? Have you seen how many of their owners go blind?"

*Geez, ya gotta larf.....
Catchya next month.....*

OLD MATES CATCH UP

by David Laing

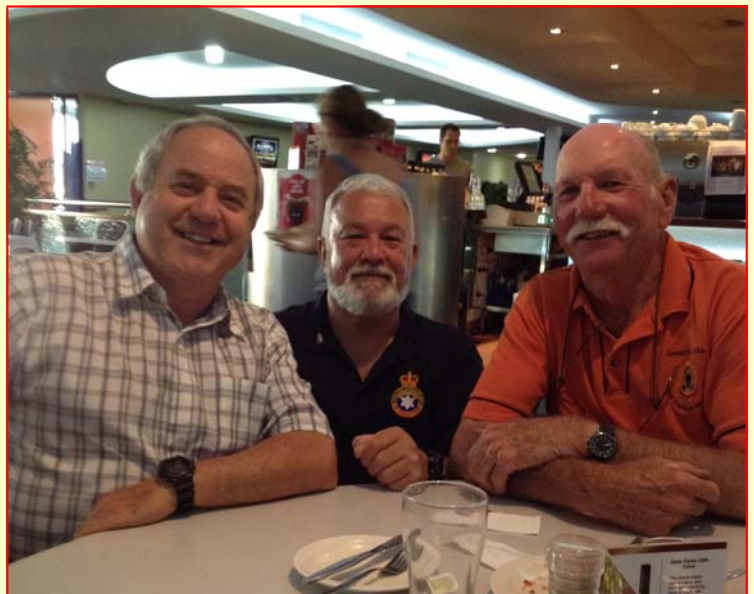
On a recent business trip to Mount Gambier I caught up with two local ex - Army mates who I hadn't seen for a few years. We all served at one time within the Regiment and again in the Australian Army Cadet Corps.

Barry Ward served with 1 RSAR, 10 RSAR and 27 RSAR in Mount Gambier and retired in 2000 as a WO2 only to transfer to the Australian Army Cadets as an OOC (Officer of Cadets) with 48 Army Cadet Unit (ACU)

Lyndon Manser was a National Serviceman, serving out his time in Mount Gambier, and also joined the Army Cadets, and in his later years served as the Officer Commanding 48 ACU with the rank of Captain.

I served with 10 RSAR in the 70's, and later as an Officer Of Cadets with Army Cadet HQ at Keswick Barracks between 1992 and 2007, and regularly spent time with Barry and Lyndon on Annual Field Exercises and Promotions Courses. We had some great times together, both in the real Army and the Army Cadets, and it was great to catch up with them over a few beers at the Mount Gambier RSL, accompanied by our wives June Laing, Joanne Ward and Trish Manser.

Barry and Lyndon both stated that if any old Army mates were heading through Mount Gambier at any time, they would love to catch up with them. (Their details can be obtained by contacting the Secretary



L-R: Lyndon Manser, David Laing and Barry Ward

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