



# “SITREP, OVER!”



## Official Newsletter of The Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

MAY 2013

ANZAC EDITION

Editor—David Laing 0407 791 822

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### UPCOMING LUNCH DATES

Friday 24th May  
CoM Meeting @ TTD

Friday 28th June Lunch  
*Guest Speaker*

Sunday 4th August  
Annual General Meeting

Friday 27th Sept  
CoM Meeting @ TTD

Friday 25th Oct Lunch  
*Special Guest Speaker*

Sunday 17th December  
XMAS BBQ

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## Australia in the Vietnam War

## Final part

By late 1970 Australia had also begun to wind down its military effort in Vietnam. The 8th Battalion departed in November (and was not replaced), but, to make up for the decrease in troop numbers, the Team's strength was increased and its efforts became concentrated in Phuoc Tuy province.

The withdrawal of troops and all air units continued throughout 1971 – the last battalion left Nui Dat on 7 November, while a handful of advisers belonging to the Team remained in Vietnam the following year. In December 1972 they became the last Australian troops to come home, with their unit having seen continuous service in South Vietnam for ten and a half years.

Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973. The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon (this was withdrawn in June 1973). In early 1975 the communists launched a major offensive in the north of South Vietnam, resulting in the fall of Saigon on 30 April.

During April a RAAF detachment of 7–8 Hercules transports flew humanitarian missions to aid civilian refugees displaced by the fighting and carried out the evacuation of Vietnamese orphans (Operation Babylift), before finally taking out embassy staff on 25 April.



From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Team in 1962 almost 60,000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam; 521 died as a result of the war and over 3,000 were wounded. The war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World War. Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protesters were fined or gaoled, while most soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home.

Sourced from [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)



## Pte Edward Elart

## JUST SOLDIERS

## Part 3

The round hit Elart through one eye, travelled down his neck and exited through his shoulder, then continued its path through the face and shoulder of Morris. Freame dragged both soldiers to safety, but sadly for Elart, it was too late. His wound had proven fatal.

The commanding officer read Elart's letter with interest:

*Sir, It is my desire to present myself as a defaulter before you. I am a deserter from the Royal Australian Navy. I am known here as Edward Elart but my real name is Harry Hart. My rating was Stoker HMAS "Australia" when I cut the painter at the time when war was least expected. When war broke out I left my job in Portland and went to Sydney with the object of surrendering myself. But when I reached there I thought of the long term of punishment to be gone through, and the reception a man would get on the ship, so I took advantage of the other outlet for my services to my country, and came as a soldier. It was my intention to remain silent and be "Edward Elart" always. The reason why I do not remain so is the experience of that memorable Sunday and also the attack by the enemy a few mornings ago, when my mates were shot on both sides of me, and when I was also slightly wounded make me realise that the honour of death may now be any mans and I wish to go out with a clean bill. It is for my sister's sake. I know that the penalty for my crime is a severe one and to say the least of it I could lose everything. I have weighed it over in my mind for a few days. But I have also heard that a free pardon has been granted to offenders of my calibre. Perhaps the authorities in their clemency may pardon me and count this as part of my five years service in the Navy (about 8 more years) when we go home again. I am writing this statement so as not to take up your valuable time in talking. My next of kin is Mrs G Turner, 40 Bronte St, East Perth. If she could one morning get a note saying that I could use my name again, it would be the finest present in the world I could make her. Trusting that I may have the matter put before the authorities so soon as a favourable opportunity presents itself.*

*I am your obedient servant*

*103 Edward Elart*

*14 Platoon 'D' Coy 1st Battalion*

At the Australian War Memorial, in front of the Hall of Memory where the remains of the Unknown Australian Soldier have been laid to rest, and overlooking the tranquil Pool of Reflection, are stone cloisters overlaid with bronze panels known as the Roll of Honour. On these panels are engraved the names of more than one hundred thousand Australian service men and women who have died in wars. Private Harry Hart, alias Edward Elart, is one of them.

Author's note: An estimated 150 Australian sailors deserted in World War 1 to serve in the ranks of various armies of the British Empire.

**Next month..... Cpl Ernest Corey - One of a kind.**

*By courtesy Darryl Kelly and ADCC Publications. Kelly, Darryl 2004, Just Soldiers, ADCC Publications, Brisbane, pg 89 to 93*

## NEW GUEST SPEAKERS AT ASSOCIATION LUNCHESES

The RSAR Association lunch on Friday 28th June, will feature Guest Speaker Corporal Selina Laing, Royal Australian Corps of Transport, a veteran of deployments to the Middle East and Afghanistan. She will talk about her experiences working for United Nations Security in Lebanon with UNIFIL and Afghanistan with UNAMA, and the highlights of her 16 year ADF career.

The October 25th luncheon will feature **Special Guest Speaker Brigadier Tim Hanna**, President of RSL (SA). A distinguished soldier with 36 years service, and himself a veteran of overseas peacekeeping deployments, Brigadier Hanna will talk about his military career, his role as President of the RSL (SA) and his plans for the future of that organisation.

**All members AND NON MEMBERS are urged to book early to secure a seat.**

The luncheons will be held at the Royal Hotel, 2 North Tce, Kent Town at 12 noon on Friday 28th June and Friday 25th October. Personnel wishing to book seats for the lunch are asked to contact Norm Rathmann on 0448 460 884 at least ONE WEEK prior to the event.





## TEN Shortest Wars in History

No. 7 - Greco / Turkish War - 30 days



**Year Fought:** 1897

**Between:** Greece vs Ottoman Empire

**Outcome:** Greek defeat

The Greco-Turkish War of 1897, also called the Thirty Days' War, was a war between Greece and the Ottoman Empire, under its ruler Sultan Abdul Hamid. Its immediate cause was Greek concern over the situation in Crete, where the Greek population was still under Ottoman control. In late 1896 a rebellion broke out on Crete, and on January 21, 1897 a Greek army landed in Crete to unite the island with Greece. The European powers, however, intervened, and proclaimed Crete an international protectorate. The Ottomans defeated the Greeks within weeks. They were prevented from keeping their conquests by the European powers' intervention but Greece had to pay a large indemnity. This war was the only conflict between Greeks and Turks in the century where Greece was forced to cede land to Turkey. Some credit for the success of the Ottoman army in this war is given to the reforms put in place by the German Pasha Baron von der Goltz.

**Next month:-** Sino / Vietnamese War

Cpl Knuckles  
says.....



My missus saw an ad in the local newspaper which read:

"Purebred Police Dog \$25."

Thinking that to be a great bargain, Mrs. Knuckles ordered the dog to be delivered. The next day, a van pulled up, and left her the scrawniest, mangiest looking mongrel she had ever seen.

In a rage, she telephoned the man who had placed the ad. "What do you mean by calling that mangy mutt a purebred police dog?"

"Don't be deceived by his looks, Ma'am," he replied. "He's in the Secret Service."



### QUICK QUIZ

A simple quiz with easy answers. Yes? Answers next month.

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last ?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats ?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut ?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution ?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of ?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal ?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name ?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch ?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from ?
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane ?



## VALE - GRAHAM CASTLE

It is with great sadness that we advise of the sudden passing of member 426906 Graham Castle. Graham served with 27th Scottish Regiment, 1 RSAR, 10 RSAR, 43 RSAR and 10/27 RSAR, and died on 8th March at age 71 surrounded by his family.

Graham was farewelled at the Zion Lutheran Church, Glynde on Monday 18th March. The service was attended by his loving family, many friends, and members of the RSAR Association. A private cremation was carried out after the service. A wake for comrades and friends was held at the Gilles Plains RSL in the afternoon, and was attended by members of this association and members of the RSL where Graham worked tirelessly as Secretary.

David and Association Members,

Sincere condolences from all members of the Battalion.

A great man who will be sorely missed.

Pro Patria

*G.M. Goodwin*

LTCOL

Commanding Officer

10th/27th Battalion

The Royal South Australia Regiment



Hi David

So it was him.

I read his notice in the Advertiser and thought it might have been him. Wasn't too sure as no military service was mentioned..

"Mr Castle" .... I so remember him from my 43 RSAR days....

RIP Mate.

*Ron Munro*

Salisbury SA

Hi David

That's really very sad. Graham was one of my first Platoon Commanders when I joined up with 1 RSAR all those years ago!

He was a good soldier and a good man.

My condolences go to his family.

*Víctor (Vic) Paul Del Vecchio*

Hobart

Tasmania

Hullo David,

My thanks for the notification re Graham. I remember him very well as he was the CO's driver during the time that I commanded Transport Platoon, shortly after I had arrived in the Battalion from Western Australia. Always neat, tidy and highly efficient, he was, as they say, "a good hand" in every way.

With best wishes,

*Don Hawking*

Major (Ret)

## THE OLD BOYS NETWORK - It's all up to you!

Member Hank Ramm has written in about the passing of Graham Castle and has suggested we should instigate a form of "Old Boys Network" to advise others when someone is feeling "poorly" or otherwise unwell! He writes in part.....

*"I have reflected especially on the demise of Graham Castle and reckon it would be a good idea if we could be informed if a comrade is ill and would like visitors, or we could be afforded the opportunity of sending a card/note or making a phone call. I appreciate that not all members may want 'attention', however others may appreciate contact with friends and 'old' colleagues. (When I had cancer and 6 months of chemotherapy, contact and calls from friends were really helpful and greatly appreciated.) So I suggest the Committee consider setting up a contact and email advice register to alert us about members who would like some 'contact' when they are ill."*

The Committee of Management, led by President Rod Beames, are already in the process of formulating a Visitation Team, so Hank's suggestion on this issue is very timely. If you know of anyone (RSARA member or a family member) who is unwell and would benefit from contact with our Visitation Team, just drop us an email or call any member of the Committee with the details and we will do our best to get in touch with them. The rest is all up to you!

Thanks Hank!

*David Laing* - Editor





## ANZAC Day 2013 - RSARA On Parade

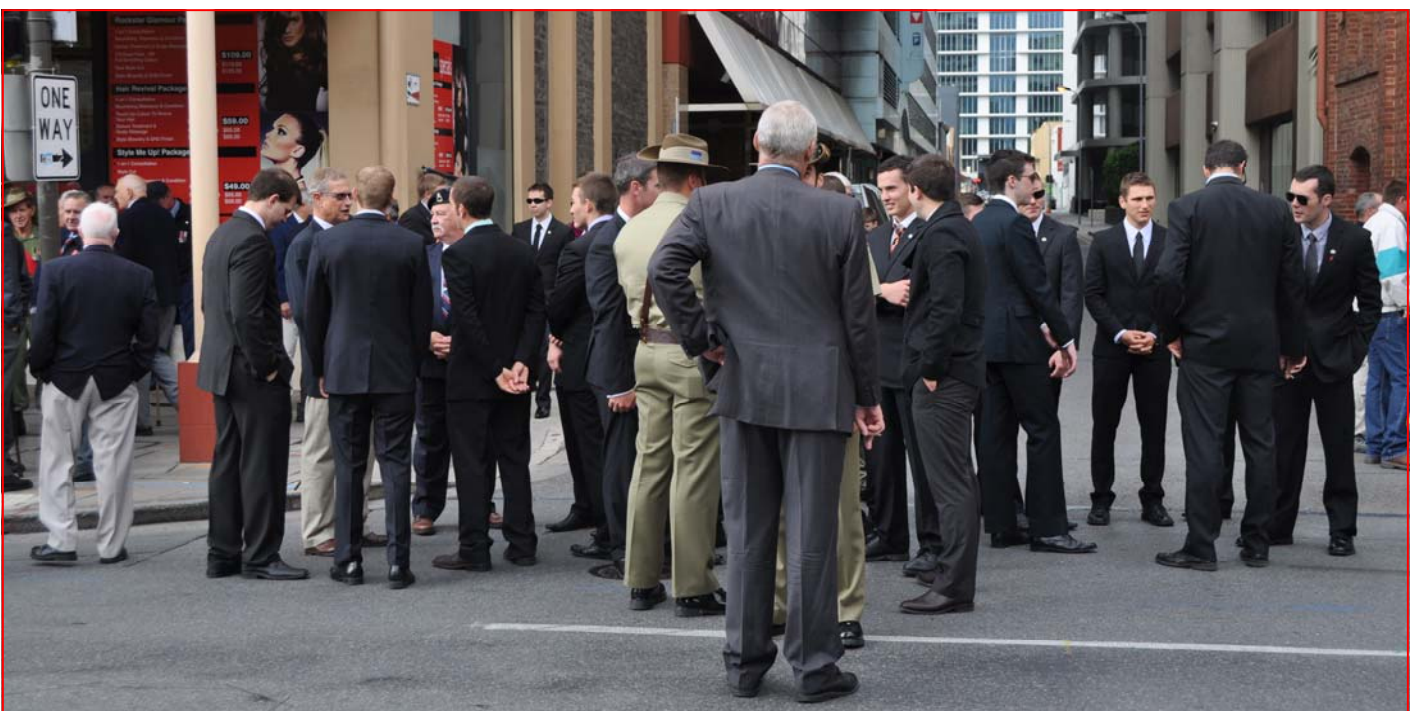
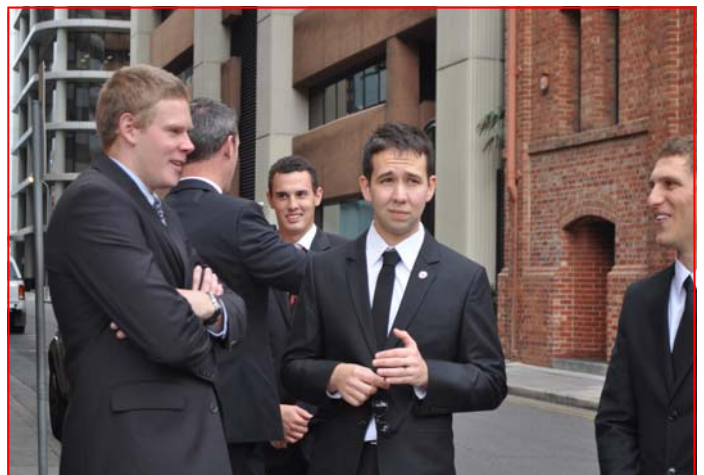
ANZAC Day 2013 saw the largest number of members and supporters of the RSAR Association marching than ever before.

Thanks to our ranks being swollen by 34 serving members of B Coy 10/27 Battalion, RSAR, we formed a formidable site as we marched proudly past the Torrens Parade Ground and the saluting dais.

Led for the first time by new President Rodney Beames, 77 personnel formed up on Grenfell Street and renewed acquaintances with mates not seen since previous years. Kept in step all the way by Stand In Association Sergeant Major David Laing the group marched proudly behind the Band of the 10/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment.

The weather was once again very kind to us, with the usual nervous glance to the heavens to keep the rain away. It worked, and we enjoyed a dry parade again. After the march about 38 members and their partners moved to the Queens Head Hotel in North Adelaide for a sumptuous lunch, where a few fibs about days gone by were told all over again.

The RSAR association wishes to thank the young men of B Coy 10/27 RSAR who did us the honour of joining our ranks on this special day.







## ANZAC Day 2013 - RSARA On Parade







## ANZAC Day 2013 - RSARA On Parade







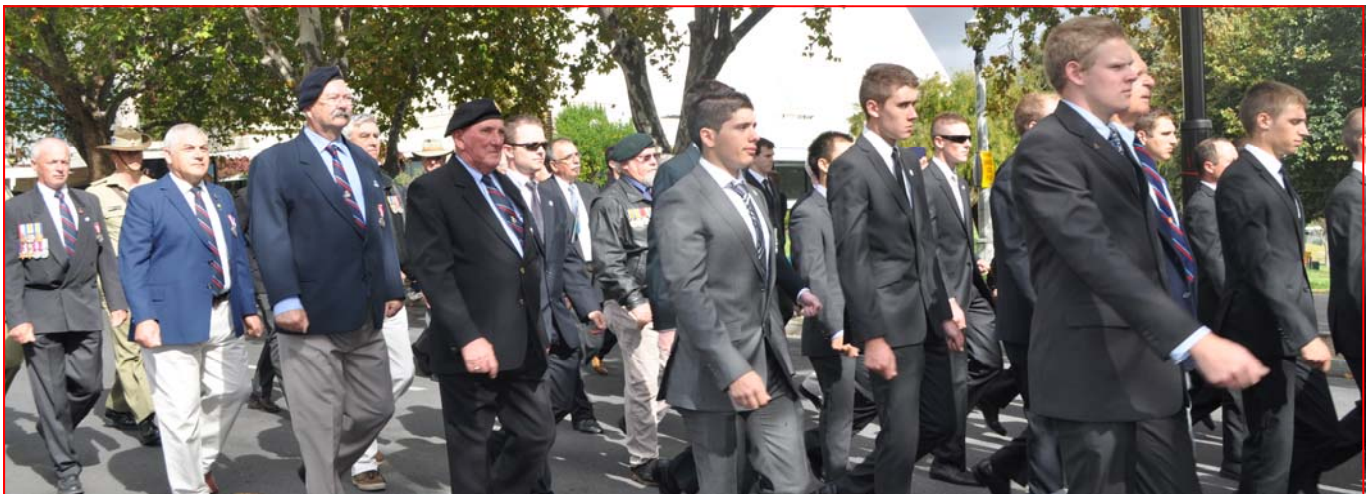
## ANZAC Day 2013 - RSARA On Parade







## ANZAC Day 2013 - RSARA On Parade







## RSARA Association and 10/27 Battalion, working together.

On Saturday 20th April the soldiers of 10/27 Battalion RSAR returned from exercise at Cultana and spent the day and night reconditioning stores, weapons and equipment before being stood down on the Sunday.

Last week President RSARA Association Inc (Metro) Rodney Beames received a request from 10/27 RSAR Ops Staff to provide a cooked breakfast for the troops on the Sunday, as they weren't rationed in and hadn't been fed since the night before.

Grabbing the "bull by the horns" Rod and RSARA support personnel, Ross Fridday, Frank Morony, Russ Durdin and Graham and Julie Elliott set up a "field kitchen" undercover due to the excess rain, and cooked a hearty breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, fried onions and toast for more than 80 soldiers, which was extremely well received by all present. (Who doesn't appreciate a good barbeque after time in the bush?)

Most of the soldiers slept at the Barracks over night and were well into their clean-up duties by the time our "caterers" arrived at 0900 hrs.

Rod Beames continues... *"We had 2 Army BBQs and these were moved to outside the main battalion store because of the rain (good soldiers weather but no good for cooking). Graham & Russell got stuck into BBQing the snags & bacon and Alan got into cutting up the onions. I "tried out" the belt toaster that I borrowed for the RSL's ANZAC Day breakfast at no additional cost to us (it toasts 6 slices a minute both sides) and we had an urn for tea & coffee. The Commanding Officer, LTCOL Graham Goodwin had a parade before breakfast and gave me the opportunity to present the book we provided as a prize for Musician of the Year to PTE M. K. Bampton. The CO then thanked us and promoted our bond with all the troops. It was then 2 slices of toast with butter, 1 egg, bacon & sausage with sauce & onion on a throw away plate. (I thought Frank had 4 arms the way he was dishing it up). This was all washed down with hot tea & coffee.*

*I was very proud to be part of this first "support role" between the Association and our only battalion in the Regiment.*

*I wish to thank all those who helped with the planning and execution of the event, and I know we will be asked to get involved again in the future as the BBQ was a great success."*

## B Coy 10/27 Bn Army Museum Visit



On the eve of ANZAC Day 2013 about 80 young soldiers from B Company 10/27 Battalion paid a timely visit to the Army Museum of SA at Keswick Barracks on Tuesday 23rd April.

They were given a very informative 60 minute précis of the 10th and 27th Battalions history in their involvement in the Gallipoli Campaign by Museum Director Jeff Ayles, (also an RSARA Association member). Jeff covered many bases during his talk, including details of the formation of the Battalions at Keswick Barracks and other Adelaide locations. At the conclusion of his talk Jeff handed over to Committee Members Rodney Beames, David Laing, Alan Orrock and Frank Morony who spoke briefly with the young diggers about the origins of the Association, and the heritage they carried as ex-serving members of the Regiment. Many of the soldiers took information leaflets and Application Forms away with them, and it is hoped that some may see fit to join the Association as Serving Members.







## B Coy 10/27 Bn Army Museum Visit



Jeff Ayles speaks with the men of B Coy 10/27 RSAR about the traditions of their unit and it's relevance to ANZAC Day.



Trying out a WW1 Rifle Periscope from Gallipoli



RSAR Association Members talk to the soldiers of B Coy 10/27 Bn about the history of the RSAR Association, and the important part it plays in the heritage of the Regiment. From l - r:- President Rodney Beames, Museum Director Jeff Ayles, Secretary David Laing and Treasurer Alan Orrock.



## METRO MEMBERS

#Apostolides, Chris  
Attenborough, Geoff  
Ayles, Jeff  
Baldwin, Bob  
Bates, Allan  
Beames, Rod CoM  
Boath, Ian  
#Bourne, Ian SM  
Boscence, Bob  
#Broadbent, Robert SM  
Brookes, Phil  
Brown, Bruce  
Brown, Harry  
Carnachan, Ian  
† VALE Castle, Graham  
Chittleborough, Jeff  
Cooke, Nat CoM  
Cotton, Bob  
#Dart, John  
Davey, John  
Davey, Trevor  
Davey, Jack  
Demosani, Tony  
Dubsky, Eddie  
Dunn, Peter  
Dunn, Bob  
Durdin, Russell  
#Durrant, Chris  
Elliott, Graham  
Eva, Keith  
Ewens, Mimi SM  
Field, Don  
Flanagan, Ted  
Friday, Ross  
Gaborit, Lyndon

#Genovese, John  
Gibson, Lindsay  
Giles, John  
Gill, Alan  
Gilmore, Graham CoM  
Gordon, Frank  
Guerin, Rob  
Hawking, Don  
Hawkins, Des  
Hogan, Mark #LM  
Hook, Alan LM  
Hope, David  
Hudson, Rick  
James, Grant SM CoM  
Jeffrey, Scott SM  
Johnson, Barry  
Jolly, David  
Jones, Brett  
Keenan, Alan  
Kilford, Brian  
Klopf, Alex LM CoM  
Klopf, Paul  
Laing, David LM CoM  
Loveder, Peter  
Lockett, John  
Lampard, Ross  
Lee, Pat  
Longstaff, Paul  
Main, Brian  
Marcus, Ray  
Morony, Frank CoM  
Martin, Bob  
Matchett, Bill  
Mau, Mark  
McCulloch, Don  
† VALE McDougall, Doug  
McMullin, Jim  
Mitchell, Barry  
Mitchell, David

Moore, Jeffrey  
Moore, Terry #LM  
Munro, Ron  
Oliver, Peter  
Orrock, Alan CoM  
Ockenden, Marc  
Oswald, John  
Pollard, Barry  
Phillips, Don  
Phillips, Trevor  
Payne, Bob  
Parslow, Howard  
Preece, Brian CoM  
Ranger, Denis  
Rathmann, John  
Rathmann, Norm CoM  
Ramm, Hank  
Robertson, Jim  
Rossetti, Lee  
Sage, Andrew  
Salamon, Peter  
Sanderson, Max  
Sexton, Mark SM  
Sprigg, Rob  
Standing, Michael  
Steer, Phil  
Stewart, Rob  
Tiller, Garth  
Thomson, Jim CoM  
Trogenza, Norm CoM  
Trezise, George  
#Ullrich, Andreas SM  
Vella, Joe  
Wake, Stephen  
Waters, Ian  
#Weightman, Aidan SM  
Westover, Rhys  
Wheeler, Chris  
Wilson, Neil

Wood, George  
Woore, Phillip  
Yorke-Simpkin Reg

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Carnachan, Dom  
#Dart, Caroline  
Demosani, Gail  
Elliott, Julie  
Eva, Gail  
Field, Shirley  
Gill, Maureen  
Gilmour, Helen  
Hawking, Lorraine  
Hook, Phillipa  
Hudson, Margaret  
Jolly, Sandra  
Klopf, Josie  
Laing, June  
Lampard, Kay  
Lockett, Mrs  
Main, Raelene  
Marcus, Yvonne  
McCullagh, Anne  
Mitchell, Roma  
Phillips, Heather  
Sanderson, Lorraine  
Trogenza, Lyn

LM denotes LIFE MEMBER  
SM denotes SERVING ADF MEMBER

# Denotes NEW MEMBER

137 members as at 25/04/13

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[www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au)



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