

"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Editor - David Laing 0407 791 822

October 2017

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Assistance Required to feed the Battalion



Hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the office of Tony Pasin MP, Federal Member for Barker
Thanks Tony & staff

ANNUAL FEES ARE DUE NOW.

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID SINCE AUGUST LAST YEAR, YOU ARE OVERDUE.

Contact the Secretary for payment details

On Sunday 26th November the RSAR Association has been tasked by the Battalion to provide a plan to feed between 90 and 100 ravenous soldiers returning from the last training exercise of the year.

It'll be a BBQ lunch with salads etc, and we're seeking at least 10 Association members to help.

The Battalion may supply the meat, so all we have to do is make up some salads, get a couple of dozen loaves of bread, a bag of onions, and "voila, lunch!"

We already have about 5 expressions of interest (including yours truly and his missus,) so let's get some more helpers to make this final exercise a good one.

We'll have 2 BBQs to cook the meat and need 2 helpers for each, plus people to butter the bread and serve the salads etc.

Set up time at Keswick Barracks is around 1030 hrs with a lunch time delivery being 1200 hrs. Knock off after clean up will be around 1330 hrs, with a couple of beers to wash down the dust.

This is the day after the RSARA Formal Dinner, so will be a good chance for you to work off what you drank the night before.

Expressions of interest please to the undersigned ASAP.

David Laing

Secretary

Introduction

The violence that accompanied the plebiscite in East Timor in 1999 was a strategic shock for the Australian Government—and the Australian Army. After the Vietnam War many believed that the Army was not likely to be committed overseas again in a major way—its mission was the 'defence of Australia'. The repercussions of the so-called 'peace dividend' created an Army that was too light, overly dependent on wheeled vehicles and was organisationally hollowed out. In response to the escalating violence and very real humanitarian crisis overwhelming the people of East Timor, the United Nations called on Australia to lead the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET). After years of being on the strategic sidelines, the Australian Army was now immersed in what the then Chief of the Defence Force, Admiral Chris Barrie considered, 'the most significant military undertaking we have had since World War II'.

Leading the INTERFET coalition was as much about diplomacy for Australian forces as it was about security. Australia's strong ties with Indonesia required that forces maintain a professional relationship with members of the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) even as it curbed the activities of the pro-Jakarta militia and demobilised the guerrilla Timorese forces, the Falintil. INTERFET also tested the new abilities of the new Headquarters Deployable Joint Task Force and joint operations concept. In May 2002, East Timor became Timor-Leste, a fully independent country with a parliamentary government. It remains one of the poorest countries in the world, but ten years after independence there is hope that government and legal institutions are stabilising. The country remains fragile and political rivalries extending back into its guerrilla past have required the help of the Australian Army again in 2006 and 2009, but its future is hopeful. Australian soldiers and police officers from the Australian Federal Police continue to work with its fledgling security forces.

Four Australian soldiers have died in over ten years of Australian deployment to Timor-Leste. None of these deaths has been due to enemy actions.

Background

East Timor was colonised by the Portuguese in the seventeenth century. The Portuguese withdrew from the colony in 1974. In 1975, concerned that the guerrillas who had opposed Portuguese forces would expand their sphere of influence into their territory, Indonesia invaded and absorbed East Timor. Forças da Libertação Nacional de Timor-Leste (Falintil), the guerrilla wing of the Fretilin political movement continued to fight for independence until Indonesian President B J Habibie allowed a plebiscite. Intimidation by pro-Jakarta militia failed to sway voters with 78.5% choosing independence. Violence by militia escalated—homes and infrastructure were destroyed, people were killed in the streets and over 300,000 people were forcibly relocated to West Timor.

On 14 September 1999 Australia agreed to lead a multi-nation stabilisation force and the next day the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1264 established INTERFET.



INTERFET soldiers and a UN Police Officer in a Timorese village

The success of INTERFET relied on more than security on the ground; regional consensus was essential. Major commitments from Thailand, Singapore and Philippines were negotiated and Malaysia provided a smaller contribution. Major General Sonkitti Jaggabattrra of Thailand was also INTERFET's deputy commander. In all, twenty-two countries contributed to the mission—Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States. Japan offered significant funding.

In 2002, the United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor (UNTAET) succeeded INTERFET. By 2005 the follow-on United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) was closed with final Australian troops withdrawing from Moleana on 13 June. Australian support in the form of advisors and members of the Defence Cooperation Program—East Timor continued and members of the Australian Federal Police also remained.

In 2006, simmering tensions in the security forces came to a head. Breakdown of both the Falintil–Forças Defesa Timor Lo-

rasae (F-FDTL) and the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) led to violence throughout the streets of Dili. The Timor-Leste Government declared a state of emergency and negotiated the help of an Australian-led International Stabilisation Force, with Operation ASTUTE the Australian component, through the United Nations and the Australian Government. At the end of the crisis approximately 150,000 people were internally displaced and 1650 houses were destroyed.

On 26 May 2006, Australia deployed Combined Joint Task Force 631 to conduct evacuation and stabilisation operations in Dili. The International Stabilisation Force did not operate under a United Nations mandate though. In August 2006 the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1704 created a mandate for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

Conclusion

When the Special Air Service Response Force Group and 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment entered East Timor in 1999, there was no government, little remaining infrastructure, the Indonesian TNI were still in the country and pro-Jakarta militia intimidated and harassed locals. Some towns were completely destroyed and their populations had disappeared.

Major General Cosgrove focused Australia's Operation STABILISE on a four-phase plan: negotiate with the TNI to ensure safe entry; rapidly deploy as many combat forces as possible; secure Dili first and then extend into the countryside; and transition IN-



F-FDTL. Timor Defence Force soldiers

TERFET to a United Nations peacekeeping mission. Cosgrove used an 'oil spot' method to gain the confidence of the East Timorese—rapidly deploying troops to stabilise and permanently secure an area before moving on to the next. By the end of the second day of deployment 3000 troops were on the ground and by the end of first week this had increased to 4300. In mid-November INTERFET peaked at nearly 11,500 personnel; 9300 were ground troops. Australia's commitment reached 5500.

Three of Australia's four battalions were deployed to East Timor, placing an enormous strain on resources, logistics and inter-service coordination.

The situation was very different in 2006. By this time East Timor had become independent Timor-Leste, formed government and public service infrastructure (including legal institutions), and created a defence and police force. The

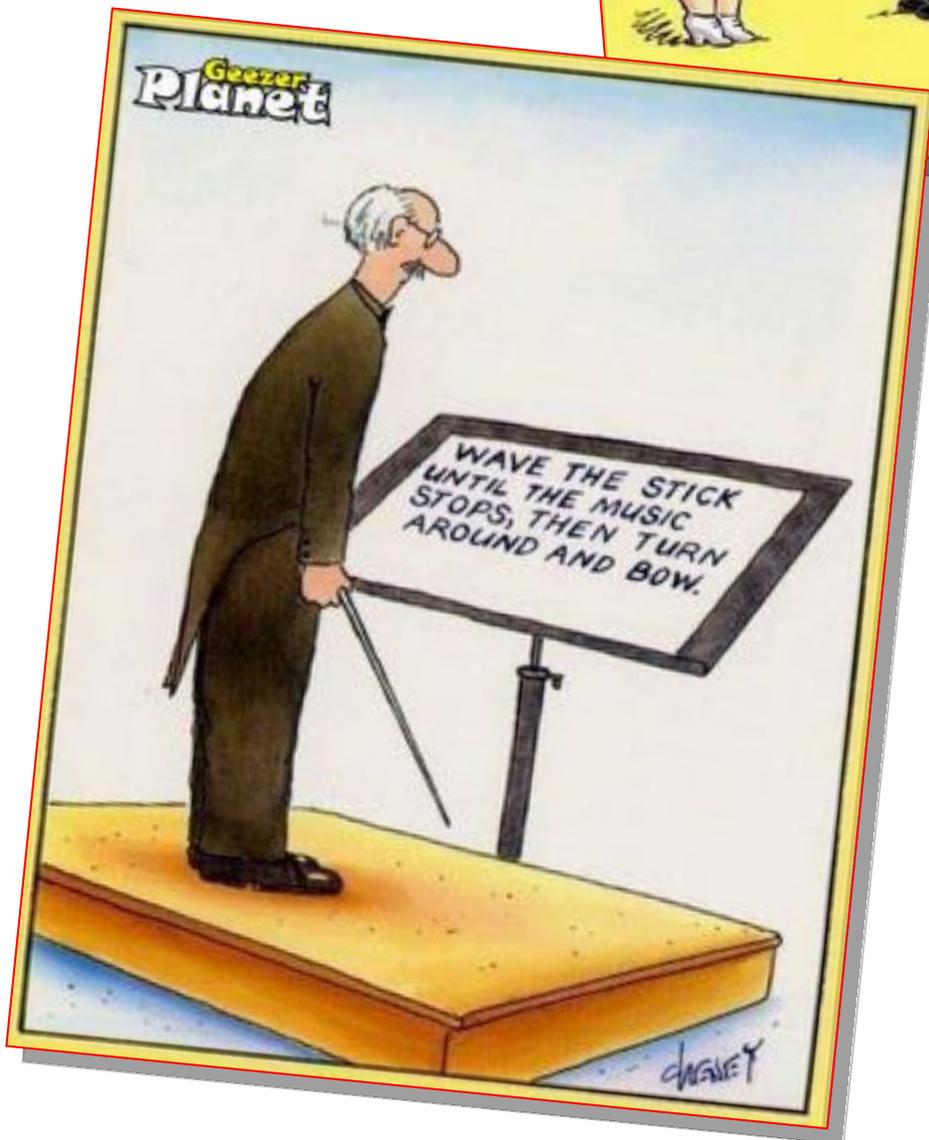
building of the nation was proceeding but it remained extremely fragile. Tensions within the F-FDTL sparked a crisis in security, and made the weaknesses in both this and the PNTL extremely evident.

When the 4th Battalion (Commando), Royal Australian Regiment arrived in Dili they faced a very different mission to 1999. Anti-state actors and criminal gangs took advantage of tensions among different interest groups, inciting riots and violence against government and security forces. Stabilisation of the fragile government became the chief task of the operation. A two-pronged approach—combining a strong presence on the streets during the early stabilisation effort with engaging the assistance of religious leaders in reassuring displaced people—gave the government breathing space, allowing it to regroup and re-establish law and order.

The Australian Army learnt a great deal from its stabilisation and peacekeeping missions in Timor-Leste. Maintaining and managing a multi-national coalition composed of contingents

with vastly differing capabilities and rules of engagement required a great deal of skill. Gaining the trust of the people was also extremely important. Creating a secure environment was important, but more essential was maintaining and extending this security. Enlisting locals, particularly Catholic priests, helped build confidence in peace and encouraged the spread of the rule of law in both 1999 and in 2006.





Members of the Association were recently invited (with 10 minutes notice) to attend a 10/27 Bn Field Exercise, and watch members of the Battalion Task Group, conduct Battle Formations, etc. President Rod Beames and members David Hope, Norm Tregenza, Graham Elliott and Nat Cooke put their names down and went to Keswick Barracks. We gathered at Keswick at 12.15 hrs on Saturday 23rd and were taken by the Adjt 10/27 Battalion (Captain John Moulton) to a training area called Glenthorn Farm, O'Halloran Hill. This was the site used by the 9th Light Horse in WW1. (The original stables are still there but are out-of-bounds.)

There are many sheds and buildings, not unlike an Asian Village. We were met and welcomed on site by the CO, LtCol Trent Burnard (in cams and glasses ...I didn't even recognise him at first) and the RSM and Company Commander B coy. We were "inducted to site" by WO2 David Nicholas (who, by the way, had done a lot of work in selecting a suitable training location.) The Adjt introduced us to the new Soldiers field dress including the body armour and snazzy helmets. They pulled it all apart so we could see each part then showed us the intricacies of making it fit each individual etc.

You get knee pads, adjustable webbing pouches , rechargeable batteries, field dressing pockets and so on, Everything a soldier carries must be able to be used to engage the enemy in milliseconds so there's no time for undoing pockets or pouches. The CO commented that the turn out of soldiers for this training weekend had exceeded their expectation (which, to me, shows that if you put on realistic and productive training the troops will attend.... no more of this jungle training stuff at places like Cultana).

We had unlimited access to the troops and their "quarters". Saw the new stretchers, unloading of trucks using their hydraulic lift platforms, etc, etc. You still have to be able to shoot to kill but your chances of stuffing up your back, knees or ankles has been severely reduced. We "sat in " on a lesson (see photo) and the standard of instruction by the Cadre staff was absolutely first class. This urban stuff is fast and furious with no standing around, but team work is still the key (about the only similarity to our training but I suppose ours was heaps different to what soldiers would have done in Korea etc.)

We watched the 10/27 soldiers do their "rehearsals". At 1400 hrs, The Commander of 2 Division, Brigadier Mick Burgess visited the training and specifically welcomed our members and involvement with 10/27 as an Association. He said he had read in the training scope that we would be present. (showed me that he's got his finger on the pulse).

We then said our goodbyes and returned to Keswick by just after 15.00 hrs.

Rod Beames



RSARA members President Rod Beames, David Hope, Norm Tregenza (looking like a Nigerian mercenary,) Graham Elliott and Nat Cooke, with 10/27 Battalion soldiers.

**ABOVE.**

RSARA Treasurer David Hope helps Norm Tregenza fit his body armour and webbing.

RSARA members were impressed with the new gear, as it was a far cry from some of the c#*p we carried in the 1960's and 70's.

**LEFT.**

Soldiers from 10/27 Bn and RSARA members listen to an Orders Group at Glenthorn Farm near O'Halloran Hill.

There is a chance of another visit next year, so we'll give you plenty of time to decide if you want to go.

Watch this space!

A judge was interviewing a South Carolina woman regarding her pending divorce and asks, "What are the grounds for your divorce?"

"About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by."

"No," he said, "I mean what is the foundation of this case?"

"It is made of concrete, brick, and mortar," she responded.

"I mean," he continued, "what are your relations like?"

"I have an aunt and uncle and 12 cousins living here in town, as well as my husband's parents."

The judge took a deep breath and asked, "Do you have a real grudge?"

"No, we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one cuz we don't have a car."

"Please," he tried again, "is there any infidelity in your marriage?"

"Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music - all that hip hop and rap trap -but we can't seem to do anything about it."

"Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?"

"Yes, he gets up every morning before I do and makes the coffee."

The judge asked, "Is your husband a nagger?"

"Oh, hell no, he's as white as you and me!"

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked,

"Lady, why in hell do you want a divorce?"

"Oh, I don't want a divorce," she replied. "I've never wanted a divorce, my husband does."

The damn fool says he can't communicate with me."



CPL Daves' Page

God visited a woman and told her she must give up smoking, drinking and sex - if she wanted to get into Heaven.

The woman said she would try her best.

God visited the woman a week later to see how she was getting on.

"Not bad," said the woman, "I've given up smoking and drinking but then I bent over to get some stuff out of the freezer and my boyfriend caught sight of my long slender legs, he pulled up my skirt, pulled my knickers to one side and made love to me right then and there."

"They don't like that in Heaven," said God.

The woman replied: "They're not too happy about it at Woolworth's either !!"



RSARA 2017 FORMAL DINNER**"Sitrep, Over!"****CONTACT US!-**

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

0407 791 822

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

Payment for the 2017 RSARA Formal Dinner can be made by cheque or money order to the following.

- David Laing, address at the left.
- David Hope 20 Katoomba Ave Beaumont 5066
- Denis Ranger Unit 87/26 East Parkway, Lights View 5085
- or EFT to BSB 015 211

Account 482441406 In the name of RSAR Association Inc.

Payment **MUST** be made before attending. No money will be taken on the night.

*Please remember to include an identifier such as **your surname**, so the payment can be matched to you*



The RSAR Association is to conduct a Formal Dinner on Saturday November 25th at the Col Light Gardens RSL commencing at 1815 hrs, seated by 1900 hrs. Dress is suit and black tie. (Mess Dress for serving members).

The evening will commemorate:

- the Battles involving the Battalions of the Regiment in WW1 in France 100 years ago,
- the raising of 43 Battalion RSAR in 1967 (50 years ago), and
- the linking parade between the 10th and 27th Battalions RSAR on this very day in 1987, 30 years ago.
- Partners are invited.

Cost will be **\$40 per head** and will include 3 course meal (alternate drop) and beer, wine and soft drink at the table.

The Band of the 10/27 Battalion RSAR will provide music during the pre dinner drinks and to get the dinner started.

The evening should conclude by 2230hrs.

Payment to the Treasurer David Hope, Secretary David Laing or Tex Ranger **must** be made prior to the Saturday 25th and the seating plan will confirm your payment. Payment details at top of page

This will be the first formal dinner conducted by the Association for some time and is a significant event in the 2017 calendar.

LIMITED SEATS

2017 FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE RSAR ASSOCIATION INC

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.

Income and Expenditure Statement
for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

2015/16		2016/17
\$		\$
	Receipts	
1,640.00	Membership	2,170.00
154.00	Merchandise Sales	371.00
1,020.00	Donations, grants & financial support received	5,804.00
-	Social function revenue	1,379.00
36.60	Bank interest	150.00
2,850.60	Total Receipts	9,874.00
	Expenditure	
860.30	Bereavement Notices, flowers, wreaths, gifts etc.	520.35
39.60	Merchandise Purchases	787.60
1,623.52	Donations, grants & financial support provided	1,547.13
794.06	Social function costs	645.72
-	Website costs	129.80
111.50	Stationery, printing and postage	413.33
67.50	Bank fees	105.00
3,496.48	Total Expenditure	4,148.93
(645.88)	Surplus/(Deficit)	5,725.07
6,678.25	Bank balance at July 1	6,032.37
6,032.37	Bank balance at June 30	11,757.44
	Represented by:	
3,003.34	ANZ Business Cash Management Account	11,757.44
3,029.03	ANZ Business Premium Account	-
6,032.37		11,757.44



David Hope
Treasurer



Hayden Edwards
Honorary Auditor

MEMBERS LIST

Abareh, Wadi **SM**
 Abel, Colin
 Acton, Chris
 Adams, Aaron **SM**
 Apostolides, Chris
 Attenborough, Geoff
 Ayles, Jeff
 Baldwin, Bob
 Bampton, Michael **BAND**
 Barnaart, Philip
 Bates, Allan
 Beames, Rod **CoM**
 Beckett, David **LM SM**
 Bennet, Graham
 Benveniste, Sam **SM**
 Bilsborow, Jason **SM**
 Blackmore, William
 Blake, Sam **SM**
 Blondell, Mark **SM CoM**
 Bloomfield, Max
 Bourne, Ian **SM**
 Boath, Ian
 Boothroyd, Lincoln **SM**
 Boscence, Bob
 Bras, Riley **SM**
 Broadbent, Robert **SM**
 Brookes, Phil
 Brown, Bruce
 Brown, Harry
 Burnard, Trent **SM CO**
 Burton, Ray
 Buttars, Erik
 Campbell, Wenona **BAND**
 Carnachan, Ian
 Chittleborough, Jeff
 Clyne, Lachlan **SM**
 Cooke, Nat **CoM**
 Contibas, Nikolaus **SM**
 Cotton, Bob
 Cram, Kevin
 Dart, John
 Davey, John (Jack)
 Davey, Trevor
 Dawson, Trevor **BAND**
 Del Vecchio, Victor
 Demasi, Nathan **SM**
 Demosani, Tony
 Dew, Trevor
 Domanski, Glenn
 Dubsky, Eddie
 Dunn, Peter
 Dunn, Bob
 Dunn, Jeff
 Durrant, Chris
 Edson, Roger
 Elliott, Graham
 Elliss, Scott **SM**
 Eva, Keith
 Ewens, Mimi **SM**
 Ferguson, Shane **BAND**
 Field, Don
 Flanagan, Ted
 Fortune, Nigel **BAND**

Gaborit, Lyndon **LM**
 Gallagher, Erin **BAND**
 Genovese, John
 Gibson, Lindsay
 Giles, John
 Gill, Graham
 Gilmore, Graham
 Goodwin, Graham **SM**
 Gordon, Frank
 Hardy, Robert **SM**
 Harley, Peter
 Harrington, Malcolm
 Harrison, John
 Hawking, Don
 Hawkins, Des
 Heath, Jonathon **BAND**
 Haynes, Malcolm **SM**
 Haynes, Scott
 Hewitt, Emily **BAND**
 Hogan, Mark **LM**
 Hook, Alan **LM CoM**
 Hope, David **CoM**
 Horseman, Ian **LM**
 Hudson, Mick
 Hudson, Rick
 Humphrys, Jesse **SM CoM**
 James, Grant **SM**
 Jeffrey, Scott **SM**
 Johnson, Barry **LM**
 Johnston, Robert
 Jolly, David
 Jones, Brett
 Keenan, Alan
 Kilford, Brian
 Klopff, Alex **LM**
 Klopff, Paul
 Koop, Joshua **BAND**
 Laing, David **LM CoM**
 Lakin, Bruce **LM**
 Lampard, Ross
 Lee, Bob
 Lee, Pat
 Lloyd, Elmer
 Longstaff, Paul
 Loveder, Peter
 Main, Brian
 Marcus, Ray
 Marlin, Robin **LM**
 Martin, Bob
 Matchett, Bill
 Mau, Mark
 McCulloch, Don
 McGree, Barry
 McLachlan, Joshua **SM**
 McMahan, Tyler **SM**
 McMullin, Jim
 Meissner, Terry **SM**
 Milde, Peter **SM**
 Mitchell, Barry
 Mitchell, David
 Morony, Frank
 Moore, Jeffrey
 Moore, Terry **LM**
 Moschis, James **SM**
 Munro, Ron

Oliver, Peter
 Orrock, Alan
 Ockenden, Marc
 Oswald, John
 Pach, Chol **SM**
 Paul, John
 Perkins, Bob
 Pexton, Timothy **SM**
 Pollard, Barry
 Portakiewicz, Anthony **BAND**
 Portakiewicz, David **BAND CoM**
 Phillips, Colin
 Phillips, Trevor
 Payne, Bob
 Parslow, Howard
 Parsonage, James
 Preece, Brian
 Rado, Stephen
 Ranger, Denis
 Rathmann, John
 Rathmann, Norm **CoM**
 Rijken, Paul
 Ramm, Hank
 Robertson, Jim
 Rorie, Graham **SM**
 Rossetti, Lee
 Russack, Jon
 Sage, Andrew
 Salamon, Peter
 Sanders, Ashley **SM**
 Sanderson, Max
 Sands, Mike
 Sexton, Mark **SM**
 Slater, Ian
 Slattery, Kimberly **BAND**
 Sniedze, Julie **BAND**
 Sprigg, Rob
 Staker, Cameron **SM**
 Standing, Michael **CoM**
 Stone, Eddie
 Strain, Doug
 Steer, Phil
 Stewart, Rob **LM**
 Stewien, Peter **LM**
 Stuart, Matthew **SM**
 Tiller, Garth
 Thomson, Jim
 Tolotta, Tarrant **SM**
 Tompkins, Ian
 Tregenza, Norm **CoM**
 Trezise, George
 Tucker, Belinda **BAND**
 Ullrich, Andreas **SM**
 Vella, Joe
 Wake, Stephen
 Warren, Chad **SM**
 Waters, Ian **LM**
 Weepers, Nicole **BAND**
 Weightman, Aidan **SM**
 Westover, Rhys
 Wheeler, Chris
 Williams, Darrian **SM**
 Wilson, Graham **LM**
 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
 Klopff, Josie
 Laing, June
 Lampard, Kay
 Main, Raelene
 Marcus, Yvonne
 Lee, Anne
 Mitchell, Roma
 Parkin, Audrey
 Phillips, Heather
 Sanderson, Lorraine
 Tregenza, Lyn
 Winger, Kathleen

HONORARY MEMBERS

T. Burnard CO 10/27 RSAR
 J. Moulton ADJT 10/27 RSAR
 B. Lipman RSM 10/27 RSAR

LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**
BAND denotes serving 10/27
 Band member
 # Denotes **NEW MEMBER**

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davidlaing49@bigpond.com