



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.

MINUTES

Of the Annual General Meeting of the Association,
held at the Avoca Hotel
on Sunday 3rd August 2025

	Topic	MINUTE
1	Opening	The meeting was declared open by the Acting President at 1118 hrs. He then recited the Ode of Remembrance. The Vice President then proposed a toast to Fallen Comrades, remembering Rod Beames and Jim Thomson..
2	Attendance	42 Members. See Annex H.
3	Apologies	25 Members. See Annex H.
4	Previous Minutes	The Minutes of the previous AGM Sunday 4 th August 2024 were emailed out to members prior to the meeting RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved D. Laing; Seconded Max Hill. Carried.
5	Matters Arising	1. Nil
6	REPORTS	<p><u>Acting Presidents Report;</u> Is at Annex A. Moved D. Laing. Seconded. D. Hope. Carried.</p> <p><u>Treasurers Report</u> Is at Annex B. Moved C. Bennett. Seconded D. Hawkins Carried</p> <p><u>Band Report from D. Portakiewicz</u> Is at Annex C. Moved D. Portakiewicz. Seconded M. Bampton. Carried</p> <p><u>Serving Members Report from M. Blondell.</u> Is at Annex D Moved M. Blondell. Seconded B. Preece. Carried</p> <p><u>Padre's Report from Chaplain S. Albrecht</u> Is at Annex E.(Not read out)</p> <p><u>Historical Officer</u> Is at Annex F. Moved Des Hawkins. 2nd C. P. Moore Carried</p> <p><u>Webmasters Report</u> Not available</p> <p><u>Commanding Officers Report from LTCOL D. Tyson</u> Is at Annex G. Moved LTCOL D. Tyson 2nd R. Burton Carried</p> <p>The Acting President then introduced the RSM WO1 Mark Broadbent who gave a brief outline of his service.</p>
7	General Business	Motion: To set Annual Fees for 2025/6. D. Laing proposed Annual Fees stay at \$30 and \$15 for the coming year. 2 nd B. Preece Carried

The Acting President then handed the chair to Alan Hook to conduct the election of Office Bearers.

Election of Officer Bearers

- David Laing for President.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Des Hawkins for Vice President.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Christian Bennett for Treasurer.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Padre Stephen Albrecht for Bn Welfare. (Non-voting position)
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Jesse Humphrys for Webmaster.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- David Portakiewicz for Band Liaison Officer.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Michael Abraham for Serving Members Liaison Officer.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Mark Blondell for Serving Members Liaison Officer.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Selina Laing for Merchandise/Marketing Officer.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Paul Tucker for Committee Support Officer.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried
- Mick Hudson for Committee Support officer.
 - Accept nomination? (Y) N
 - Carried

		Are there any further nominations for Committee Positions? I declare all positions filled and congratulate the committee. Chair handed back to President by A Hook. The President then thanked Alan Hook for his assistance.
8	Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
9	Future functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOY BBQ 14th December 2025 @ 1100 Keswick Barracks Location TBA
10	Next AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next AGM Sunday 2nd August 2026 @ Avoca Hotel
11	Closure	<p>The President then introduced Mr Nathan Klinge CEO RSL Care (SA) who gave an insight into the valuable work done by his organisation.</p> <p>D. Laing then presented Mr Klinge with an RSARA Wine Cooler Bag and a bottle of SA Coonawarra Cab Sav.</p> <p>The President thanked all those attending and declared the meeting closed at 1238 hrs.</p> <p>Members adjourned for lunch.</p>

Signed



President
Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Date: **3rd August 2025**

Annex A

Acting Presidents Report

Acting Presidents Report AGM 2025

Welcome and thank you for your attendance today. This time last year we sat and listened to Rod Beames present his Annual Report, and no one would have thought that within a month he would no longer be with us. He fought the brave battle for 5 years and left a legacy we will continue.

On this very day in 1962 the Australian Army Training Team arrived in Vietnam, on what was to become a 10 year campaign to rid the south of communism. We all know how that ended. That was 63 years ago today.

Australia and our allies have come a long way since then, but we still train to keep our country and our shores safe. The soldiers of our Battalion continue to put up their hands for dangerous deployments, and this year we have seen 21 of our soldiers deployed on Transit Security Element 116 Border Protection duties in January, some for up to 6 months.

The Committee had much pleasure in preparing and sending Care Packages to them, just to show that we care for their service and their sacrifices. We shall continue to provide this service as long as there is an RSAR Association. I have received a phone call from one of the deployment Team Leaders and he has thanked us immensely for the packages which were very well received by their personnel.

At the start of the year we welcomed a new Commanding Officer LTCOL Darrin Tyson and a new Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 Mark Broadbent, and I'm happy to say they have both responded very well to our training.

They are both seasoned warriors with very impressive CVs and they have hit the ground running with their support of the Association. We continue to have a great working relationship. Thank you for your service and your support gentlemen.

The Battalion has taken on a more exciting role and will step up to take a more active part in our defence. I'm sure the CO or RSM will fill us out on the details.

We are also blessed by welcoming a new Adjutant in Captain Charles Jilbert, who was instrumental in getting us through the gates of RAAF Base Edinburgh in February to feed the troops. Charles is now an Honourary Member of the Association.

We continue to support the Battalion every year by way of awards and prizes for high achievers, HQ honour board updates, catering provision, support for the wonderful Band and of course the camaraderie of the serving and former serving members and their partners.

Our AGM and End of Year Lunch are the highlights of our year and I'm pleased to see both becoming more popular.

We have one problem within our Association! We can't attract a big enough group of volunteers to support our Battalion catering exercises.

There are only TWO main catering support exercises per year. The Force Preservation Exercise at RAAF Base Edinburgh in February, and the Simpson Trophy Competition held later each year at Murray Bridge. We need between 10 and 12 volunteers, for what is usually a 4 hour stint of preparation, serving and clean up. Not a really hard task if the work is spread around. At the Force Preservation in February we struggled to get 8 volunteers, but we managed to pull it off with great results. The volunteers were fantastic, led by old faithful Col Abel, but they are always the same people who put up their hands. These exercises aren't reserved for retired Privates, Corporals and retired Warrant Officers. I'm certain the soldiers would be very impressed to see a couple of retired Lieutenant Colonels or Majors or even Brigadiers cooking a BBQ for them. It's not hard. It's not impossible, but it's up to you. If we can't provide this simple means of manual support, we may as well hang up our gloves and fade off into the sunset. It's up to you!

This year our membership numbers are at 232 and still steadily growing, making us one of the most progressive ex-services groups in the country.

Seven of our volunteers attended Warradale Barracks in May to welcome our soldiers back from a vigorous training exercise, and we provided them with soft drinks, bags of chips and some selected chocolate bars, all FREE OF CHARGE. To show their appreciation for our efforts 15 of the serving members signed up to join our Association. Well done to all concerned.

We always need more members, so if you know of a comrade who would benefit from joining us, please steer them in the right direction. We also need new members on the committee who are prepared to take over the work currently carried out by the older members as they "reach their use-by-dates". The future of this group is in their hands.

Also in May our Merchandising Officer Selina Laing came up with an idea to further support the Battalion. Our soldiers haven't worn Unit PT shirts for a number of years, therefore Selina suggested the Association fund the purchase of 50 specially designed PT shirts, and offer them to the Battalion to on-sell them to the soldiers. The CO accepted that offer and the Association paid the required \$1875 for the purchase of the PT shirts. A win-win situation for all concerned, and well done Selina

The Battalion produced a very informative and professional "Pro Patria 2024" journal late last year, and I have a few copies available, so if anyone wishes to have a copy please see me after the meeting.

This year we have instigated an Exchange Program with our allied battalion "over the ditch", the 2nd/4th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, which will see some of our soldiers travel to NZ for 2 weeks training, and some Kiwi soldiers come to SA for the same purpose. This is a good time to foster and build on the strength of the ANZAC tradition, and I can think of no better way to do it.

We had a very successful ANZAC Day, with 38 members marching the long road to the Cross of Sacrifice. We send our thanks to the two Banner Bearers PTE Reddin and PTE Dadd, and the 8 serving members from the Battalion who marched with us on the day, including former CO Colonel Trent Burnard and Adjutant Captain Charles Jilbert.

Our Fundraiser Raffle has raised an estimated \$2,000, which will help boost our coffers in the future, and I thank all those who purchased tickets, and those who took books of tickets to sell. The support we provide to the Battalion is not cheap, so having a fund raiser such as this helps us achieve our goals.

The lucky winner will be drawn at the conclusion of this meeting, and all winners will be notified by phone. Unless the winner is present!

I would like to thank my Vice President Des Hawkins for taking up some of the load, and the rest of our very supportive committee for spreading themselves out and "having my back!" Thanks to:

WO1 David Portakiewicz

WO2 Mark Blondell

SGT Michael Abraham

CPL Selina Laing

Musn Christian Bennett

Paul Tucker

Mick Hudson

Jesse Humphrys

And last but not least, our high flying Padre Stephen Albrecht. Please show your appreciation for their efforts.

And of course I would like to thank all of the faithful members, including those gathered here today, for your support of the Association and the Battalion over the past year. We can't do it without you, so please stay with us.

After the meeting we will hear from Nathan Klinge the CEO of RSL Care (SA). Nathan and his organisation very kindly donated \$2,700 to the RSAR Association earlier this year, and I'm certain you will all show your appreciation in the correct manner.

I look forward to seeing you all at the End of Year lunch at the Warradale Barracks Sergeants Mess on Sunday 14th December at 1100 hrs where some important presentations will be made.

I commend this report to you. Are there any questions?

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Laing', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Laing
Acting President

Annex B
Treasurers Report

Treasurer's Report – Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.

Good morning,

I am pleased to report that the Association recorded a surplus of \$1,504.94 for the 2024/25 financial year, a significant improvement compared to the previous year's deficit of \$2,725.43.

This positive result is largely due to the successful fundraising efforts led by David and the committee, including proceeds from raffle ticket sales and a generous donation from RSL Care. I extend my sincere thanks to all involved.

While our expenses have doubled compared to last year, the Association remains in a strong financial position as we look ahead.

I would also like to thank David Hope for auditing our financial records and for his ongoing support and mentorship as I continue to grow in the role of Treasurer.

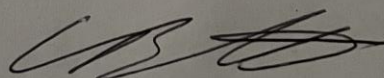
I commend the audited financial statements for the 2024/25 financial year to the members for approval.

Thank you.

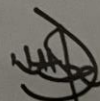
Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.

**Income and Expenditure Statement
for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025**

2023/24 \$		2024/25 \$
	Receipts	
2,180.00	Membership	1,827.00
506.00	Merchandise sales	785.44
521.00	Donations, grants & financial support received	5,176.92
1,458.99	Social function revenue	2,599.70
452.88	Bank interest	691.88
<u>5,118.87</u>	Total Receipts	<u>11,080.94</u>
	Expenditure	
608.20	Breavement notices, flowers, wreaths, gifts etc.	3,134.97
1,483.25	Merchandise purchases	510.50
3,951.42	Band expenses	2,895.74
535.71	Social function costs	1,195.83
-	Website costs	422.32
312.00	Stationery, printing and postage	491.64
913.98	Insurance	925.00
39.74	Bank fees	-
<u>7,844.30</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>9,576.00</u>
(2,725.43)	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,504.94
<u>25,147.17</u>	Bank balance at July 1	<u>22,421.74</u>
<u><u>22,421.74</u></u>	Bank balance at June 30	<u><u>23,926.68</u></u>
	Represented by Bendigo Bank accounts:	
4,730.01	Operating	6,018.61
5,318.63	Band	4,434.18
12,373.10	Term Investment	12,973.32
-	Debit Card	500.57
<u>22,421.74</u>		<u>23,926.68</u>



Christian Bennett
Treasurer



David Hope
Honorary Auditor

(Original signed)

Christian Bennett

Treasurer

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Incorporated

Annex C

Bandmaster's Report

The RSARA AGM report 2025 – BAND – TS 25 Edition

As most of you are aware Exercise Talisman Sabre 25 was held during last month. This involved Defence personnel from Australia and around the world involving 17 Countries and over 35,000 personnel. Your Band was also involved and was tasked to the Northern Territory for a 16 Day deployment of various tasks with its main focus being Community Engagement and winning the hearts of the locals.

The Band deployed 16 Members to the Northern Territory for the 16 days conducting 6 performances and 4 School performances and several student workshops. The Band had 2 members, Musicians Bampton and Pearce who were part of the Road move from Adelaide to Darwin involving over 35 vehicles and carrying the valuable Band equipment including instruments, audio gear and staging. Both Bampton and Pearce were deployed for over a month to ensure that the Band equipment was transported safely to the Northern Territory and back arriving safely back in Adelaide late last night.

The Band members not involved in the Road convoy, flew out on Saturday 12 July and once arriving in Darwin hit the Ground running. The first item of business was liaising with the OC of the Darwin Band to secure a rehearsal space for the Band and reconnaissance of the various venues the Band was to perform at.

The Band's first task was supporting the Exercise's Opening Ceremony and Welcome to Country Ceremony held on the wharf at Larrakeyah Barracks. The next Day the Band performed 2 concerts at Essington Middle school and then the High School to over 500 students and staff.

The following day the Band Performed a Big Band performance at the Rails Club in Darwin in support of Legacy. Over \$2500 was raised on the night for Legacy. However, the highlight of the night was seeing valuable RSARA members in the crowd including Mike Meredith in his Association Polo shirt (who attended every public event the Band performed at whilst in the NT), and the Battalion's former RSM WO1 Scott Hannan.

The next day the Band travelled to Katherine and RAAF Base Tindal to perform, including a performance at the Katherine show. The Band's performance at the Show went very well with the Mayor of Katherine already reaching out to Brigadier Orders to see if the Band can come back next year. After 2 nights in Katherine the Band returned to Darwin to perform at the Mindil Beach Markets on the Sunday Night.

The Mindil Beach Markets performance was a great experience performing a concert with a spectacular view of the Beach and surroundings. Again in the crowd was the Band's number 1 supporter Mike Meredith. Also in attendance was the AABC CO LTCOL Rachel Beeton and RSM WO1 Gary Cairn who I believe made a specific trip just to see your Band perform. Both the CO and RSM were very complimentary stating how brilliant the performance was.

The Band during the second week continued to conduct school visits including 3 more concerts and numerous student workshops. The Band also supported Exercise Boss Lift, which included representatives from various employees from around the country

visiting various sites and viewing the ADF in full swing. The Band played a significant role in the final night of Exercise Boss Lift performing at a dinner that not only included the Exercise Boss lift representatives, but several Senior Dignitaries both Civil and Military.

The Final night of the Band's deployment to the Northern Territory included a performance at the Darwin Show on the Friday night. The Band again performed well and then began the mammoth task of packing up to return to Adelaide with members flying out the next day, some members flying out as early as 330am.

The Band had several complimentary and positive reviews for its several performances and tasks throughout the exercise, being called the 'Combat Multiplier' by Brigadier Orders. One comment filtering back to myself, that the Band was the only Unit to achieve all its tasks and desired intent for the exercise.

Just before I conclude my report, I just have 2 more points of business. The first is that the Band's recruiting report, as we continued to employ the Parent – Son rule to our recruiting tactics, with Musician Rebecca Williams having a son in March, and he has already been pencilled in as a Trumpet player just like his Mum.

After an exciting time in the NT, the performance that the Band is most excited about, is the Band's Major concert supporting the Partners of Veterans Association and the RSAR Association. This year's concert is titled Around the World and will be held on Sunday 12 October at St Peters Girls School at Stonyfell. And of course the concert again will be featuring the infamous SGT Michael Abram as the MC.

If you are keen in going Christian Bennett has tickets to purchase. Normally \$25 each, but for Association members today they can purchase them today for \$20.

The Band, I believe, continues to be one of the best Military Bands in the country and our great work would not be possible without the continued support of the Association, especially its committee members. It has been the Association's support that has allowed the Band to continue its fantastic work. The Association supports the Band in several ways including the maintenance of the Band's instruments.

Myself and the Band would specifically like to thank you all for your support, and specifically recognise the hard work of David Laing and the RSARA committee in support of the Band.

(original signed)

WO1 David Portakiewicz

Bandmaster

10th/27th Battalion Band

Annex D

Serving Members Report

This year's report will be kept brief and general as I do not want a repeat of last year when I left the CO with nothing to talk about.

Quarter one began with a blank firing Coy Ex at Murray Bridge training area, It was a tough start to the year due to the extreme high temperatures we experienced but good training and outcomes were still achieved with the Exercise culminating in a Dawn Coy attack. A complicated mission so early in the training calendar but it was successfully executed.

The focus over the next 2 training weekends moved to live firing. This saw members progress from individual up to Section live fire attacks using both High explosive and Support weapon systems operated by Direct Fire Support Weapons PL (DFSW).

The Battalions 4th exercise will be conducted in 2 weeks, the final Scheme of manoeuvre is yet to be released but whatever it is we will be ready.

Additionally, to Battalion training, each Coy continues to plan and executed their own individual activities ranging from first aid/ Tactical care of a Combat Casualty, weapon ancillary courses and conducting Urban and jungle training scenarios using new training facilities located at RAAF Edinburgh which are now available to the Battalion. July saw the return of members from TSE 116 (Transit Support Element), A 6 month deployment to the Northern Territory supporting the Navy conducting patrols around Australia's Sea Borders

SP Coy's DFSW are currently qualifying members to use the various weapon systems that will be fired during a heavy weapons course which starts later this month.

Members of Alpha Bravo and SP Coy are due back in Adelaide this weekend after spending a month again in the NT as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre (an article by SGT Abraham who attended the exercise will be in the next sit-rep with more details). A Coy have conducted recruitment drives in both Metropolitan Adelaide and regional areas helping to boost numbers within 10/27 with more being held next weekend at Warradale barracks

September will see us take part in Rhino Run 25 again more details will appear in upcoming sit-reps. We then still have quarter 3 & 4 left of the training year with more weapon and vehicle courses planned to prepare us for any situation the Brigade or CO throws our way.

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End of serving members report

(Electronically signed)

WO2 Mark Blondell
CSM A Coy 10/27 Bn SAR

Padres Report
ANNEX E

Padre's Report

As I am currently on course, I was reminded that training is not a formality — it's a foundation that is built on. Whether you're a recruit or an experienced NCO guiding others, the expectation remains the same: it's important to be on top of your game. Did you know the way we train determines how we fight, how we lead, and how we support one another in times that truly matter?

We train with purpose, as we prepare for operational readiness, domestic tasking, and joint force cooperation. Being on top of your game means you're mentally and physically switched on, ready to respond when called upon.

If you treat training like a box to tick, you won't have the edge when it counts. Every soldier contributes to the culture of the Battalion. Showing up late, cutting corners, or drifting through drills affects the team, just as much as precision, discipline, and sharpness does. When you're on top of your game, you raise the bar. Others will notice, and often, they rise with you.

There is a saying, trust is built in the field — not just on paper. When you're in a contact scenario, on patrol, or managing a complex situation, you need to know the soldier next to you is switched on, trained well, and reliable.

Training is where that trust is formed. The more seriously you take your preparation, the more your section can trust you under stress.

It doesn't matter what your rank is, as leadership starts with a mindset. This truth echoes across all defence environments. In high-stakes moments, your performance won't magically lift, it will reflect your preparation.

What you do in the field, how you react under fatigue, and how you solve problems under pressure will always come back to how well you've trained.

10/27 RSAR carries a proud legacy and every soldier, from recruit to commander, is part of writing its future.

(Original signed)
Chaplain Stephen Albrecht

Annex F

Historical Officers Report

I'm pleased to say that 2025 has seen an increase in requests for assistance with Historical research in one way or another.

Thanks go to the CO, RSM who recently hosted the daughters of former 10Bn. Co LTCOL Tom Twible. They came down from Qld to visit Keswick and view the Battalion Commanding Officers' honor board and as well as the cricket trophy that their father instigated.

Former Regimental Colonel Ivor Wheaton's Granddaughter, Felicity Wheaton was seeking any photos or other memorabilia that we held relating to him. She was most thankful for what we were able to forward to her showing a number of items from the Historical Collection

Last week, I met with Collin & Russel Oxford who have done extensive research into the final resting places of relatives Sgt. William Faint MM, 10 Bn AIF. KIA 1917 and also two cousins, 6064 George & 6065 Norman Collins both of the 27th Bn. AIF both killed on the same day by the same artillery round in May 1917.

I am also expecting relatives of Lt. Reginald Forwood, another 27th Bn. AIF casualty to visit the museum and inspect a number of artefacts previously donated by the family & to add to the collection by presenting us with the Memorial plaque also known as the Dead Man's Penny.

Without the volunteers who assist with the Robert Grey & RSAR Collections we would be nowhere near where we are today. Again, my thanks go to Heather Phillips & Libby Kalatsis, Bob Cotton & Martin Forsyth for their assistance.

As to the relocation of the Museum, there is a strong possibility that a new purpose built building will be constructed for it at Warradale. Originally given 2027 as the first stage of the move, there is a potential extension now to 2030. Still waiting for that to be signed off

So, it's business as usual, as we continue to preserve & document both our collections.

(Original signed)
Des Hawkins
Historical Officer

Annex H

Webmasters Report

N/A

Annex G
CO's Report (PENDING)

Annex H
Attendees and Apologies

2025 Attendees	2025 Apologies
David Laing	Ian Carnachan
June Laing	Corey Skapin
Nathan Klinge	David Waldon
Selina Laing	Denis Ranger
David Hope	Bruce Lakin
Ian Waters	Geoff Tattersall
Julie Sniedze	Mimi Ewens
Graham Goodwin	Padre Albrecht
Howard Parslow	Paul Rijken
Alan Hook	Michael Abraham
Philippa Hook	Shirley Field
Paul Tucker	Steve Larkins
Belinda Tucker	Reg Williams
Barry Mitchell	Jesse Humphrys
Max Hill	Wayme Burns
Heather Hill	Hank Ramm
Lindsay Gibson	Colin Phillips
Kate Gibson	Peter Dunn
Graham Elliott	Trish Dunn
Julie Elliott	Tony Demosani
Trent Burnard	Mick Hudson
CJ Burnard	Rick Hudson
Christian Bennett	Col Abel
Livio Djakovic	Barry Johnson
Kathleen Winger	Marg Johnson
David Portakiewicz	
Mark Blondell	
LTCOL Tyson	
Brian Preece	
WO1 Mark Broadbent	
Lachlan Harris	
Heather Phillips	
Nat Cooke	
Lyndon Gaborit	
Ray Burton	
Peter Salamon	
Alex Klopff	

Des Hawkins
Janelle Williams
Michael Bampton
Lesley Bampton

The President and Committee wish to thank all those who have taken the time to prepare and present Reports for these Minutes, including the Commanding Officer 10th/27th Battalion RSAR LTCOL Darrin Tyson.

Communication with those members who are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting is foremost in our minds, and this is one of the many ways in which we keep everyone notified of the means in which we conduct our business “to perpetuate the regiment!”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Laing', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*David Laing – President
RSAR Association Inc.*