



“SITREP, OVER!”



Official Newsletter of The Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

JUNE 2013

Editor—David Laing 0407 791 822

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UPCOMING EVENT DATES

LUNCH

28th June

Guest Speaker

25th October

Special Guest Speaker

AGM

4th August

CoM MEETING

27th September

End Of Year BBQ

15th December

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10th Battalion Inventor

Lancelot de Mole



Lancelot Eldin de Mole (1880-1950), engineer and inventor, was born on 13 March 1880 in Adelaide, son of William Frederick de Mole, architect and surveyor, and his wife Emily, née Moulden. He was reputedly a great-grandson of Henry Maudslay (1771-1831), the noted British engineer and inventor. When he was 7 the family moved to Victoria where Lancelot attended Melbourne Church of England Grammar School until 1891 and completed his education at Berwick Grammar School. He became a draftsman and before World War I worked on mining, surveying and engineering projects in several States. His early inventions were claimed to include an automatic telephone, designed three years before a similar type was introduced into the United States of America, which the Australian Postal Department declined to test.

While surveying in difficult country near Geraldton, Western Australia, in 1911, de Mole hit upon an idea for a tracked armoured vehicle and next year sent sketches of his design to the British War Office. He described the principle of his vehicle as follows:

It can be steered to the right or left, when proceeding forwards, by altering the direction that the chain-rail is laid in by screwing the front portions to one side or the other ...; or steered, when proceeding backwards, by pressing the bogie nearest the rear end of the tank to one side by means of the screw gear ... or a hydraulic ram controlled by the steersman, thereby causing the body of the vehicle to be thrown to the right or left as required so that, as the vehicle proceeds, the links of the chain will be laid to the right or left of the line that the vehicle has been proceeding on and so form a curve, which as the vehicle proceeds will alter the direction of travel.

He was notified in June 1913 that his idea had been rejected, though only some of his drawings were returned. He resisted urging from friends to sell the design to the German consul in Perth. On 21 July 1915, at St Matthew's Church, Kensington, Adelaide, de Mole married Harriett Josephine Walter; at the time he was employed as a draftsman in the Engineering Department of the South Australian Public Service. That year he resubmitted drawings of his design to the War Office but was told that a working model must be provided before the invention could be considered. He then attempted to interest the Australian Inventions Board, but failed. He had a model constructed and, being without means to travel to England, tried to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force but was rejected as medically unfit.

When the first crude British tanks took the field in 1916, de Mole realized that his idea had been ignored and held that his design was superior. With the encouragement and assistance of Sir Harold Boyce, then a lieutenant in the 10th Battalion, he was accepted for active service on 26 September 1917. He embarked for England, taking his model with him, and was able to demonstrate it to the British Inventions Committee, which recommended it to the Tank Board. However, it was misplaced for six weeks, and before it could be demonstrated to the board Private de Mole was sent to France in March 1918 with reinforcements for the 10th Battalion. In January 1919 he was attached, as a temporary corporal, to the ammunition workers' depot at A.I.F. Headquarters, London.

Part 2 next month.



CPL Ernest Corey MM

One of a kind

JUST SOLDIERS

The stretcher-bearer crawled to the wounded Digger. Assessing the situation, he grabbed the man's thumb and rammed it into the gaping bullet hole in his leg to stem the bleeding while he ripped open a shell dressing.

The whistle of the incoming round pierced the air. Both men instinctively flattened their faces into the ground as the projectile exploded nearby, showering them with mud and debris. The stretcher-bearer slowly raised his upper body and shook his head as he took stock of his surroundings. He had survived unscathed, but the explosion had been too close for his patient. Without further ado, he collected his medical haversack and crawled away in search of another man in need of help. Ernest Albert Corey was born in December 1891 at Green Hills, a small town nestled in the shadow of the



AWM A05109. Australia c. 1915. Studio portrait of Private Ernest Albert Corey, 55th Battalion AIF. Corey is the only man in the British Commonwealth to be awarded the Military Medal and three bars.

Snowy Mountains. A lively lad, he grew up as one of eight children born to the family. On leaving school, he sought employment as a labourer in the surrounding district. He was a hard worker and, although short in stature, he soon developed a powerful, muscular physique. In early 1916, Corey read with interest the reports of the heroic accomplishments of the Australian soldiers at Gallipoli and their successful withdrawal from the Peninsula some eight months later. However, what caught his interest the most emanated from the pubs and shops that were abuzz with talk of a recruiting march to Goulburn. Here was his opportunity to be part of the action. Corey looked proudly at the banner emblazoned with the words 'Men from Snowy River' under which the volunteers would march. As they wound their way through the Southern Tablelands, more and more recruits swelled their ranks as they passed through one small country town after another.

On enlistment, Corey was allocated to the 55th Battalion as a rifleman. The battalion had been raised in Egypt in February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF—half the recruits were Gallipoli veterans, the other half were fresh reinforcements from Australia. Most of the new recruits, like Ernie, were from New South Wales. The training was tough and demanding, but Ernie was more than equal to the task and it was a fit, keen soldier who strode up the gangway of the troopship Port Sydney en route to England.

Corey's first eight weeks in England were spent at the training camp on Salisbury Plain. The local towns and villages accepted the cocky Diggers

with open arms when short leave from the camp was either granted or taken. Then one night, the platoon sergeant gave the order they'd all been waiting for. 'Pack your kit, lads. We leave for France tomorrow.'

On his arrival at the battalion position on the Western Front in early 1917, Ernie was allocated to C Company where he learnt of the forthcoming attack on the fortified village of Doignies, a key outpost of the Hindenburg Line.

Creeping forward in the predawn darkness, the Australians succeeded in taking the Germans by surprise. As the 56th Battalion stormed the village, the 55th took up their planned positions beyond the eastern and southern outskirts—ready to cut the Germans down as they tried to effect their withdrawal. The town fell, the Australians suffering very few casualties. As he sat in the trenches that night, Ernie contemplated his first taste of action. He was rather surprised at how easy it had been and not at all what he had expected. But his view of armed conflict would soon change, as the horrors of war became a reality the next time he went into action. In May, his brigade was in the thick of fighting around Queant. Casualties were heavy and the stretcher-bearers were pushed to the limit. Volunteers were called to assist with the retrieval of the wounded, and without hesitation Ernie put up his hand. For 17 hours nonstop he roamed no man's land, bringing in one wounded man after another.

On one of these forays, he encountered two Germans who were treating an Australian casualty. The startled Germans stood back in amazement as the tough little Digger approached them without a hint of fear or hesitation. Then, under their very noses, he gathered up the wounded Australian and headed back towards his own lines, while the confounded Germans simply looked on in bewilderment.

Part 2 next month



TEN Shortest Wars in History

No. 6 - Sino / Vietnamese War - 27 Days

Year Fought: 1979

Between: China vs Vietnam

Outcome: Both sides claim victory

The Sino-Vietnamese War or Third Indochina War was a brief but bloody border war fought in 1979 between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The PRC launched the offensive largely in response to Vietnam's invasion and subsequent occupation of Cambodia, a war which ended the reign of PRC-backed Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. After a brief incursion into Northern Vietnam, PRC troops withdrew about a month later. Both sides claimed victory. The legacy of the war is lasting, especially in Vietnam. The Chinese implemented an effective "scorched-earth policy" while retreating back to China. They caused extensive damage to the Vietnamese countryside and infrastructure, through destruction of Vietnamese villages, roads, and railroads.

Next month:- Georgian / Armenian War.



GUEST SPEAKER AT 28th JUNE LUNCHEON



CPL Selina Laing

The idea of inviting Guest Speakers to talk at Association lunches has long been talked about at Committee of Management meetings, as a way to enhance the interest in these functions. This is the first occasion when the Association has presented a guest speaker during our lunch, and members are urged to book and attend to ensure a reasonable audience is present.

Implementation of a regular speaker program hinges on the patronage of this initial event.

Guest Speaker at the 28th June luncheon will be **CPL Selina Laing** (daughter of Secretary David) She is a 16 year career soldier, having served in the Regular Army and Army Reserve since she was 17 years of age.

Selina took leave from the ADF in 2008, when she accepted a position with the United Nations, working as a Security Officer in Lebanon as part of **UNIFIL**. (United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon) She was deployed to the Security Operations Forward Base at Naqura in the south of Lebanon near the Israeli border.

In 2009 she volunteered for UN duty in Afghanistan working as Close Protection Security, and was there during the historic, but violent elections which saw Hamid Karzai elected to the office of Afghanistan President.

Returning to Australia in 2010, Selina took a full time posting at 3 Health Services Battalion (3HSB) as the Transport Supervisor, based at Keswick Barracks.

She will talk about her role with UNIFIL, and her experiences in Lebanon and Afghanistan, and her memories of the countries she has visited.

The luncheon will be held at the Royal Hotel, 2 North Tce, Kent Town at 12 noon on Friday 28th June. Anyone (non-members included) wishing to book seats for the lunch is asked to contact **Norm Rathmann** on 0448 460 884 by 22nd June at the latest.



Members Survey 2013 Responses

All members were invited to participate in a survey in the March Sitrep. The results, which are displayed below, will be used to enhance the services we provide. The responses are in **BOLD**.

1. Would you attend an association lunch if we met:-

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Once a month | 2 Once every 2 months | 16 Once a quarter. |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
2. Should we patronise a local RSL for our lunches and CoM meetings?

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 17 YES | 3 NO |
|---------------|-------------|
3. Do we need more than 3 weekend functions per year?

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 12 YES | 8 NO |
|---------------|-------------|
4. Are you happy with the Annual Membership Fees of \$20?

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 20 YES | 0 NO |
|---------------|-------------|
5. Could we be doing more for our members?

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 2 YES | 18 NO |
|--------------|--------------|
6. Should we seek more interaction with our serving battalion, 10/27 Battalion RSAR?

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 15 YES | 5 NO |
|---------------|-------------|
7. Should we include our Associate Members in our day-to-day running of the association?

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 14 YES | 6 NO |
|---------------|-------------|
8. Do you enjoy this newsletter every month, or prefer not to receive it?

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 19 Enjoy | 0 Don't enjoy |
|-----------------|----------------------|

Thank you for your time in completing this survey. *Editor*

LCPL Knuckles says.....



I parked the CO's Land Rover outside the pub, and when I returned I found the headlights broken and considerable damage done to the front panels.

There's no sign of the offending vehicle but I was relieved to see that there's a note stuck under the windscreen wiper.

"Sorry. I just backed into your Land Rover! The witnesses who saw the accident are nodding and smiling at me because they think I'm leaving my name, address and other particulars. But I'm not."

Bugger!!!!

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS

SCORE 5 OUT OF 10 TO PASS!

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last ? | 116 years |
| 2) Which country makes Panama hats ? | Ecuador |
| 3) From which animal do we get cat gut ? | Sheep and Horses |
| 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution ? | November |
| 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of ? | Squirrel fur |
| 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal ? | Dogs |
| 7) What was King George VI's first name ? | Albert |
| 8) What colour is a purple finch ? | Crimson |
| 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from ? | New Zealand |
| 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial aeroplane ? | Orange (of course!) |

What do you mean you didn't pass??? OK! I only got 3 answers correct the first time too!!!





Editorial

Look at us now! Approaching 150 members!!!

In case you haven't noticed how strong we have become, take a quick look at the Members List on Page 7. We now total 143 members in Metro Branch. I have been going back through some of the old newsletters that Alan Hook so diligently produced in 2009 and 2010, and they have our ranks as being 53 strong, including Associates. That is a staggering growth of over 115% in just 3 years! We defy the national average for Ex-Serving Military Associations, where most of the "old & bold" are closing down and hanging up their banners due to natural attrition. Some associations in South Australia number in the low teens, and don't look like increasing in size due to lack of numbers.

"Why is it so?" I hear you ask! Why are we growing? The answer is because of the following reasons!

1. Widespread advertising via word of mouth, especially to serving ADF members,
2. Widespread advertising due to our Facebook page.
3. Widespread advertising due to our Website,
4. Widespread advertising by this newsletter, and
5. Co-operation and liaison with 10/27 Battalion RSAR.

In 2012 the RSARA Committee of Management (CoM) voted to offer discounted membership to Serving Members of the ADF, and in particular 10/27 Battalion, RSAR. This decision has paid off in spades, with Metro Branch now counting 12 serving ADF members in our ranks. Last year at this time we had only 2!

On ANZAC Day 2013 we had 34 serving ADF members march alongside those of us who had served many years ago. This trend appears to be gaining popularity as the Army Reserve are usually forbidden to march with their units due to "lack of funding" and "budgetary constraints!" The young soldiers of today ARE the Association of tomorrow!

The servicemen and women of today have as much right to march and honour the fallen as any other past soldier, sailor or airman or woman. If we, the RSAR Association can provide that means for them to pay their respects, then so be it!

These same servicemen and women of the ADF are our future, and they will eventually outnumber Ex-Serving members, as we who are old and grey (and in some cases bald) eventually wander off to those great pastures in the sky to reap daffodils and chase butterflies!

We can be thankful that we still have a serving battalion of our Regiment from which we may gain support and numbers. Not many ex-serving associations have that luxury! We are seeing our Government looking at taxing our superannuation in order to pay off the debts they have incurred whilst representing us! The Australian Army Reserve (read Defence) is looking at funding cuts just as brutal, which will now only pay a soldier for about 20 days per year to maintain his efficiency!

Can a soldier be fully trained in just 20 days? I'll let you answer that question. I can recall an article I published about 3 years ago which stated that in 1972 a CMF soldier could earn "as much as \$300 per year!" PER YEAR!!! But, it *was* all tax free! Thankfully our Army Reserve personnel are now paid much closer to what they are worth, and although it is still tax free not many of them get rich on the pay.

Our Association is a member of the **Defence Reserves Association (SA)** and as such we have a say in how our Reserve service men & women go about their business. The DRA is a powerful platform throughout Australia that is listened to by the higher echelons of Defence. As "old soldiers" we just don't go away and die, and we now have an obligation to ensure the soldiers of today, tomorrow and yesteryear receive a "fair go!" Our increasing numbers will give us more strength to back our views, and the stronger we become, the more our voice will be heard in the corridors of the powerful.

We can sit on our laurels and watch the world go by without our valuable contribution, or we can keep on passing the word about the Royal South Australia Regiment Association, and its' trend at increasing numbers in the face of diversity. These are *my* views! The rest is up to you!

David Laing - Editor

VALE - DOUG MCDUGALL

Long time member Doug McDougall passed away on 10th April after a short illness. Doug had lived in an aged care facility since becoming unwell in 2012, but still enjoyed catching up with mates via the "Sitrep" newsletter. Doug was a WO2 Caterer, and a member of the original 10th Battalion, later transferring to ADMIN COY 1 RSAR. He joined the CMF, then known as the Militia, in 1951 and went onto to serve for over 18 years. His funeral service was conducted on 18th April and was attended by his many family, friends, and members of the RSAR Association, who also represented 10/27 Bn RSAR.

Rest In Peace Doug.



Aboriginal Australians at War



Part 3

Leonard Waters

Leonard Waters, a childhood admirer of Charles Kingsford-Smith and Amy Johnson, joined the RAAF in 1942. After lengthy and highly competitive training he was selected as a pilot and assigned to 78 Squadron, stationed in Dutch New Guinea and later in Borneo. The squadron flew Kittyhawk fighters like the one on display in the Memorial's Aircraft Hall.

Waters named his Kittyhawk "Black Magic" and flew ninety-five operational sorties. After the war he hoped to find a career in civilian flying but bureaucratic delays and lack of financial backing forced him to go back to shearing. Like many others, he found civilian life did not allow him to use the skills that he had gained during the war.

RAN

As well as an unknown number of formally enlisted Indigenous Australians and Islanders, the RAN also employed some informal units. For example, John Gribble, a coast watcher on Melville Island, formed a unit of thirty-six Indigenous Australians which patrolled a large area of coast and islands. The men were never formally enlisted and remained unpaid throughout the war, despite the promise of otherwise.

Kamuel Abednego

The United States Army recruited about twenty Torres Strait Islanders as crewmen on its small ships operating in the Torres Strait and around Papua New Guinea. Kamuel Abednego was given the rank of lieutenant, at a time when no Indigenous Australian or Islander had served as a commissioned officer with the Australian forces.

Life on the home front

The war brought greater contact than ever before between the Whites of southern Australia and the Indigenous Australians and Islanders of the north. For the Whites it was a chance to learn about Aboriginal culture and see the poor conditions imposed on Indigenous Australians. For the Indigenous Australians the war accelerated the process of cultural change and, in the long term, ensured a position of greater equality in Australian society.

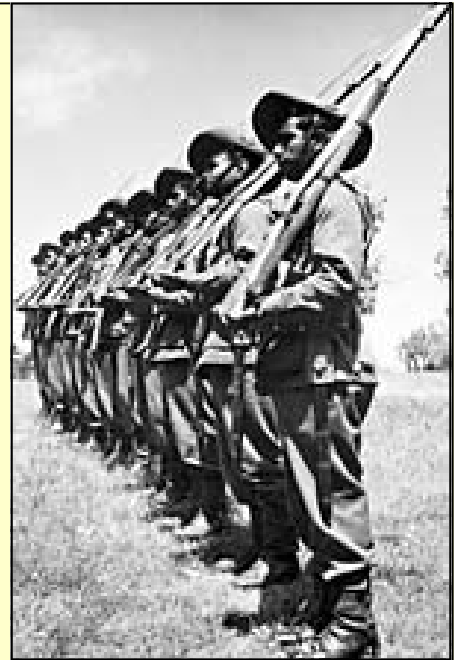
Labour units

During the Second World War the army and RAAF depended heavily on Aboriginal labour in northern Australia. Indigenous Australians worked on construction sites, in army butcheries, and on army farms. They also drove trucks, handled cargo, and provided general labour around camps. The RAAF sited airfields and radar stations near missions that could provide Aboriginal labour. At a time when Australia was drawing on all its reserves of men and women to support the war effort, the contribution of Indigenous Australians was vital.

The army began to employ Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory in 1933, on conditions similar to those endured by Aboriginal workers on pastoral stations: long hours, poor housing and diet, and low pay. But as the army took over control of settlements from the Native Affairs Branch during the war conditions improved greatly. For the first time Indigenous Australians were given adequate housing and sanitation, fixed working hours, proper rations, and access to medical treatment in army hospitals.

Pay rates remained low. The army tried to increase pay above the standard 5 shillings a week and at one stage the RAAF was paying Indigenous Australians 5 shillings a day. But pressure from the civilian administration and pastoralists forced pay back to the standard rate.

In some areas the war caused great hardship. In the islands of Torres Strait, the pearling luggers that provided most of the local income were confiscated in case they fell into Japanese hands. The Islanders enlisted in units such as the Torres Strait Light Infantry, in which their pay was much lower than Whites and often not enough to send home to feed their family.



Aboriginal soldiers from their special all volunteer platoon at No 9 camp, Wangarratta, Victoria, December 1940. Major Joseph Albert (Bert) Wright, a World War 1 Light Horse veteran, was in charge of this platoon, the only Aboriginal squad in the Australian Military Forces at that time.

Letters to the Editor



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment
Building 198. Keswick Barracks, KESWICK, S.A 5035

The Secretary, David Laing
The RSAR Association

I would like to express my thanks for the support provided to the 10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment, by Rodney Beames and his team who provided the barbeque on Sunday morning, 21 April. This barbecue breakfast was greatly appreciated by the Battalion members who had returned from Exercise Rhino Wanat the previous evening.

Secondly, I am pleased to accept your offer of Honorary Membership of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association. I look forward to continuing the strong bonds between the Association and the currently serving Royal South Australia Regiment members.

Please pass on my gratitude to all the staff involved in the barbeque. Their support was certainly appreciated by all the staff within the Battalion.

G. M. GOODWIN
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
10th/ 27th Battalion
The Royal South Australia Regiment

27 April 2013

2013 Annual General Meeting & Luncheon

The 2013 Annual General Meeting will be held at **1100 hrs SUNDAY 4th August** at the SA Sea Rescue Squadron HQ, Barcoo Rd West Beach, in the downstairs dining room.

A Roast Beef and Vegetables Lunch and Dessert will be served at 1200 hrs after the AGM for \$15 per head. Bar Facilities Available.

Associate Members are also permitted to attend the meeting. Tea and coffee available prior to the AGM.

All members are urged to attend and enjoy the camaraderie of the day.

Acceptances and apologies **NOT LATER THAN Friday 19th July** to Secretary David Laing on 0407 791 822 or by email to:- davidlaing49@bigpond.com

See you there!!!





METRO MEMBERS

Apostolides, Chris
 Attenborough, Geoff
 Ayles, Jeff
 Baldwin, Bob
 Bates, Allan
 Beames, Rod **CoM**
 Bourne, Ian **SM**
 Boath, Ian
 Boscence, Bob
 # Broadbent, Robert **SM**
 Brookes, Phil
 Brown, Bruce
 Brown, Harry
 Carnachan, Ian
 Chittleborough, Jeff
 # Clyne, Lachlan **SM**
 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
 Fridday, 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, Bob
 Lee, Pat
 Longstaff, Paul
 Main, Brian
 Marcus, Ray
 Morony, Frank **CoM**
 Martin, Bob
 Matchett, Bill
 Mau, Mark
 McCulloch, Don
 McMullin, Jim
 Mitchell, Barry
 Mitchell, David

Moore, Jeffrey
 Moore, Terry **LM**
 Munro, Ron
 Oliver, Peter
 Orrock, Alan **CoM**
 Ockenden, Marc
 Oswald, John
 # Paul, 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
 # Rorie, Graham **SM**
 Rossetti, Lee
 Sage, Andrew
 Salamon, Peter
 Sanderson, Max
 Sexton, Mark **SM**
 Sprigg, Rob
 Standing, Michael
 Steer, Phil
 Stewart, Rob
 # Stuart, Matthew **SM**
 Tiller, Garth
 Thomson, Jim **CoM**
 Tregenza, Norm **CoM**
 Trezise, George
 # Ullrich, Andreas **SM**
 Vella, Joe
 Wake, Stephen
 Waters, Ian
 # Weightman, Aidan **SM**

Westover, Rhys
 Wheeler, Chris
 # Williams, Darrian **SM**
 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
 Tregenza, Lyn

Denotes **NEW MEMBER**
 LM denotes **LIFE MEMBER**
 SM denotes **SERVING ADF MEMBER**
 CoM denotes **Member of COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**
 143 Members 17/5/2013

HOW TO CONTACT US

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