

"SITREP, OVER!"

Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

AUGUST 2021

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing

0407 791 822

The Blackhawk Disaster. 25 years on.



The Australian Army's 5th Aviation Regiment has commemorated the 25th anniversary of the 1996 Black Hawk accident in Townsville, with a service at The Palmetum in Townsville, including a helicopter formation flypast.

During training for counter-terrorism operations on the night of June 12, 1996, two Australian Army Black Hawk helicopters collided in the Townsville Field Training Area.

As a result of the accident, there were 18 fatalities in total; 15 from the Special Air Service Regiment and three from the 5th Aviation Regiment.

At the service, Chief of Army Lieutenant General Rick Burr acknowledged those who lost their lives and were injured, their families, and the brave efforts of those who responded to the accident.

"Today we remember our fallen who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country and those who still live with the injuries from that day," Lieutenant General Burr said.

"We recall the sadness and shock we felt when we heard about the accident at Fire Support Base Barbara in the Townsville Field Training Area on June 12, 1996.

"We must not forget heroic acts undertaken by personnel at the scene, who despite the confusion, acted bravely and quickly to evacuate the injured."

Lieutenant General Burr said the professionalism of ADF personnel, Townsville General Hospital staff and Queensland Emergency Services prevented any further loss of life.

Continued Page 3,4 & 5.

Lest We Forget



ITEMS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

- **A Little Quiz** Page 2
- **Blackhawk Disaster - 25 years on.** Page 3, 4 & 5
- **CPL Numbnutz** Page 6,7 & 8
- **Editorial / Contact Us** Page 9
- **Secretaries Report** Page 10
- **Presidents Report** Page 11
- **WW1 Aug Offensive** Page 12
- **Battle of Long Tan** Page 13,14,15
- **Letters to Editor** Page 16
- **From the Padre** Page 17,18
- **Financial Members** Page 19
- **Application to Join** Page 20

Annual Fees for Current Serving ADF members are: FREE for 1st year, and \$10 every year after, whilst still serving.

If you are a serving member named on Page 19 and haven't as yet paid yearly fees, your \$10 subs MAY be due now.

You can check your status by contacting the Treasurer Christian Bennett via the details on Page 20

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

A LITTLE QUIZ TO TEST YOUR SMARTS

New Senior's Exam, you only need 4 correct out of 10 questions to pass.

- 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 Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Remember, you need only 4 correct answers to pass.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 8.

THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA

The **Victoria Cross for Australia** is the highest award in the Australian Honours System, superseding the Victoria Cross for issue to Australians. The Victoria Cross for Australia is the "decoration for according recognition to persons who in the presence of the enemy, perform acts of the most conspicuous gallantry, or daring or pre-eminent acts of valour or self-sacrifice or display extreme devotion to duty."

The Victoria Cross for Australia was created by letters patent signed by Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, on 15 January 1991. As the highest Australian award, it is listed first on the Australian Order of Wear with precedence in Australia over all orders, decorations and medals. The decoration may be awarded to members of the Australian Defence Force and to other persons determined by the Australian Minister for Defence. A person to whom the Victoria Cross for Australia has been awarded is entitled to the post nominals **VC** placed after the person's name.

The Governor-General of Australia awards the Victoria Cross for Australia, with the approval of the Sovereign, on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence. The first medal was awarded on 16 January 2009 to Trooper Mark Donaldson, for the rescue of a coalition forces interpreter from heavy fire in Oruzgan Province in Afghanistan. Donaldson's award came almost 40 years after Warrant Officer Keith Payne became the last Australian to be awarded the (original) Victoria Cross for gallantry on 24 May 1969 during the Vietnam War. Original VCs awarded to Australians were usually presented either by the Governor-General or the reigning monarch. The first VC for Australia was presented to Trooper Donaldson by the Governor-General, and on a subsequent visit to the United Kingdom he was received at Windsor Castle by the Queen. As with the original VC, recipients are entitled to an annuity from the government.



The Blackhawk Disaster - A Survivor Remembers

3



Twenty five years ago Australia experienced its worst peacetime military aviation disaster when a Black Hawk training exercise went wrong, killing 18 men.

In June 1996, during a Black Hawk training exercise near Townsville, 18 men died when two helicopters collided mid-air and crashed.

The Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment and Army Aviation Corps involved were carrying out a night-time counter-terrorism training operation, in preparation for the upcoming 2000 Sydney Olympics.

The incident significantly changed Australian Army and SAS training protocols.

It also deeply affected survivors, including helicopter pilot Major Matthew Barker, who watched the accident unfold just metres in front of his aircraft.

Now retired from active service, Major Barker recalled just how close to death he came that night.

[At Left: Major Matthew Baker](#)

He was piloting "Black 4" in the six-helicopter formation training exercise, and was directly behind Black 1 and 2

which collided.



"In that last moment, number 1 has seen number 2 and he's taken avoiding action trying to get out of the way," said Major Barker.

"His main rotor blades have contacted number 2 and unfortunately for him those main rotor blades came off and he went underneath my nose only by 10 or 20 feet. He's just missed me."

"I saw number 1 going under my nose upside down. I watched number 2's tail removed by the rotor blade contact and I basically, as I was trying to get up and over the top of them, I watched him the whole way to his impact. Because he's just lost his tail rotor and he basically spun two or three times prior to contacting the ground."



Major Barker recalls 'desperate' rescue

Fifteen men from the SAS and three from the Army's 5th Aviation Regiment died.

Fourteen men were later awarded bravery decorations for their rescue efforts.

Major Barker said the rescue operation was extremely difficult. It was night, and fires from the two downed

The crash site of the two Black Hawk helicopters near Townsville.

Mike Bowers

helicopters made landing almost impossible.

"There was a big issue because of the fires and trying to land in that impact area, because the fires were shutting my night vision goggles down. But before I'd landed, all of the SAS in the back of my aircraft had gone — they'd probably jumped at 10 or 15 feet, desperately keen to help their friends and colleagues."

"I just remember [the] injured being loaded onto my aircraft and people jumping on, and then the flight back to Townsville, desperately trying to get there as quick as we could with these guys in the back working on their friends which was very difficult time because you could hear everything going on.

"Even with the noise of the Black Hawk and your helmets on and radios on you could definitely hear what was going on and it was quite a difficult time to stay focussed on getting them back to the hospital."

The Inquiry 'changed the way we do business'

In 1997 ABC's Four Corners program investigated the tragedy, and the consequent controversial inquiry into the accident which blamed errors of judgement as well as organisational, training and command deficiencies.

Charges were laid against three senior officers, but all were later dropped.

Major Barker participated in the inquiry, and believes the right outcome was reached.

"They came to the right conclusions. But I do believe that it's one of those accidents that is, it's the entire system is to blame and it's not one guy in an instant where maybe a mistake is made," he said.

"These sort of accidents are very complex and there are layers from political, senior military all the way down to the people who were flying that night."

In fact, Major Barker believes the Black Hawk disaster changed the Army and SAS for the better.

"The '96 crash was the change that has changed the way we do business. And I stayed in it for another 18 years of flying and I stayed in that squadron until the end of the following year doing exactly the same job, but putting in place all of the changes that probably needed to occur.

"From risk management, to spare parts that gave us more flying hours, to developing a singular role for one of those squadrons of pure anti-terrorist roles, where that's all they do and they get very very good at it," he said.

Commemoration ceremonies for the 1996 Black Hawk accident are being held in Perth, and Townsville tomorrow.

Major Matthew Barker said it would be a time to remember the men that died, as well as catch up with old mates.

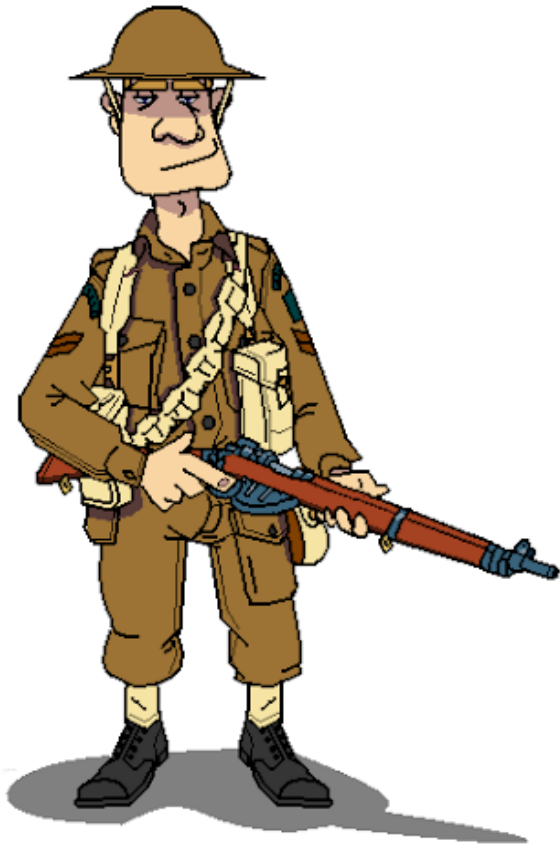


The commemorative service for the victims of the Black Hawk helicopters crash :MIKE BOWERS

"I think if I was to sit back and reflect on that accident that day, on Sunday afternoon coming up, I would rather be sitting with friends of mine who were there who fully understand how we all feel," he said.

"And I think we'll share a beer and raise a glass to all 18 of those guys who lost their lives."

Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.



Are you drinking more alcohol than usual during quarantine?

Yes ☐

No ☐

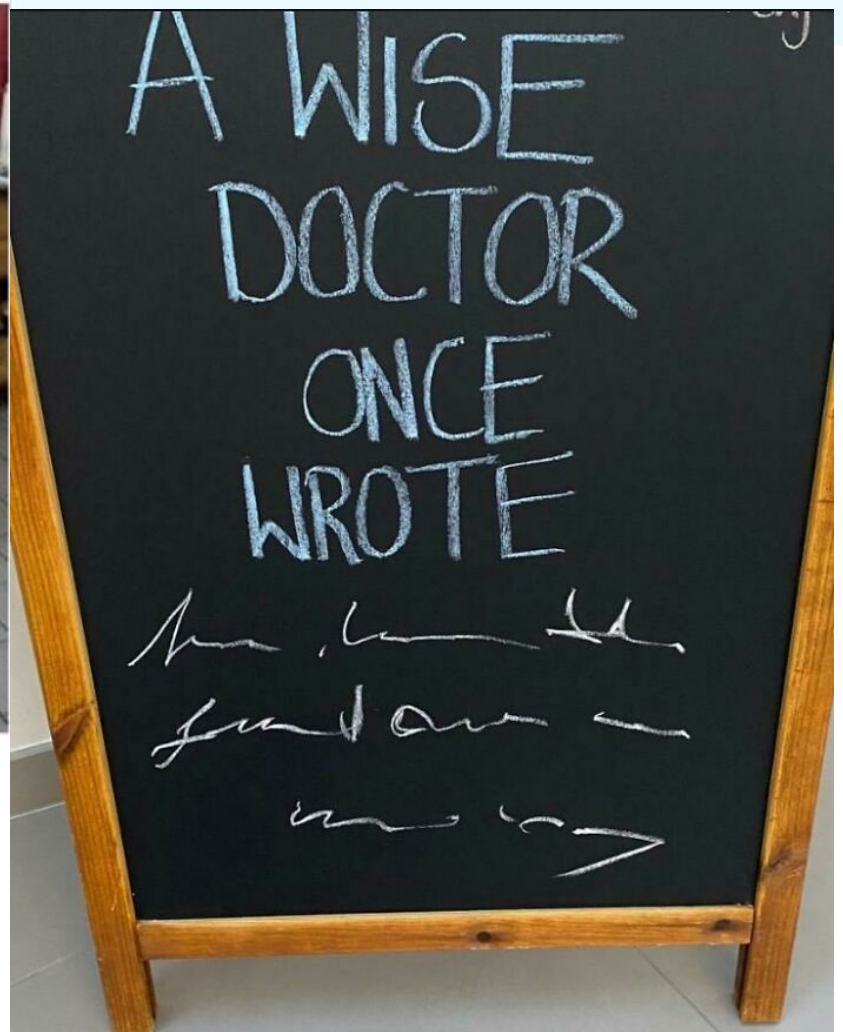
X

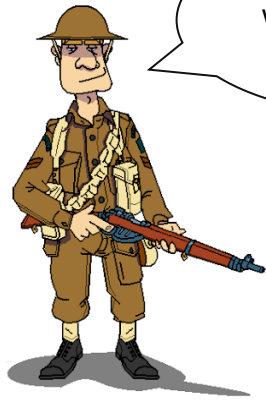


A police officer called the station on his radio. "I have an interesting case here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."

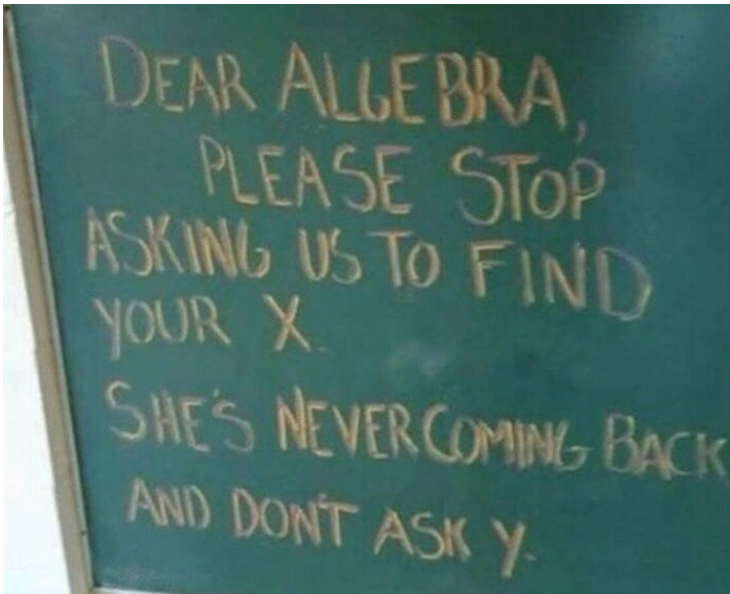
"Have you arrested the woman?"

"Not yet. The floor's still wet."



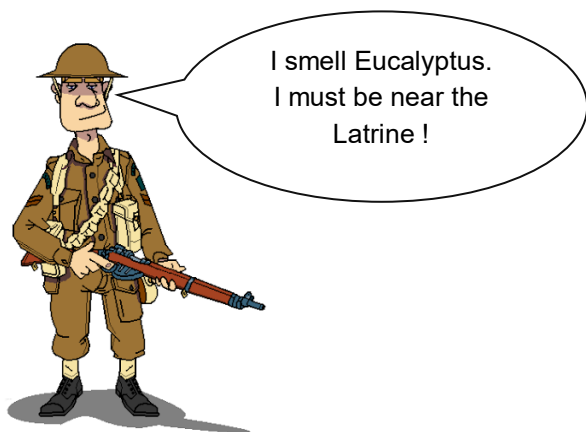


Toilet Paper? What's wrong with the good old Gum Leaf?



If you see me talking
to myself,

I'm having
a staff meeting.



Brad lives in the exclusive Melbourne suburb of Toorak. He was sick of the World, of Covid-19, China phobia, global warming, species extinction, racial tension and all the rest of the disturbing stories that occupy the media headlines.

Brad drove his car into his garage at home, carefully sealed up around the windows and doorways of his garage, selected his favourite ABC current affairs program and left his car at a slow idle.

Two days later, his neighbour realising she had seen no sign of Brad for a while, peered thru the garage window to see Brad at the wheel of his car. Immediately she phoned emergency services. Police, fires and the ambulance arrived promptly. After pulling Brad from his car and giving him a sip of water, he seemed as good as gold.

Brad drives a Tesla - it now has a flat battery..... He also votes Green.

Two women were sitting next to each other in a bar.

After a while, one looks at the other and says, 'I can't help but think, from listening to you, that you're from Ireland.'

The other woman responds proudly, 'Yes, I sure am!' The first one says, 'So am I!'

And whereabouts in Ireland are ya from?' The other woman answers, 'I'm from Dublin, I am.'

The first one responds, 'So, am I!! And what street did you live on in Dublin?'

The other woman says, 'A lovely little area. It was in the west end. I lived on Warbury Street in the old central part of town.'

The first one says, 'Faith, and it's a small world. So did I! So did I! And what school did ya go to?'

The other woman answers, 'Well now, I went to Holy Heart of Mary, of course..' The first one gets really excited and says, 'And so did I!'

Tell me, what year did you graduate?' The other woman answers, 'Well, now, let's see. I graduated in 1964.' The first woman exclaims,

'The Good Lord must be smiling down upon us! I can hardly believe our good luck at winding up in the same pub tonight!'

Can you believe it? I graduated from Holy Heart of Mary in 1964 meself!'

About this time, Michael walks into the bar, sits down, and orders a beer.

Brian, the bartender, walks over to Michael shaking his head and mutters, 'It's going to be a long night tonight.'

Michael asks, 'Why do you say that, Brian?'

Brian answers, 'The Murphy twins are pissed again'.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

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 Horse

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 color is a purple finch? Crimson

9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? New Zealand

10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane? Orange (of course)

What do you mean, you failed?

Okay, repeat after me..... 1 plus 1 is TWO! Two plus two is.....?

EDITORIAL

So many anniversaries of important military events occur in August, that it's hard to fit them all in. One of those is the 55th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in SVN on 18th August 1966. That story is on Pages 15, 16 & 17 of this issue. Its interesting to note that of the 18 members of Delta Company from 6 RAR killed during the battle, 11 of them were National Servicemen, including the Platoon Commander 2LT Gordon Sharp. A movie "Danger Close" was made a couple of years ago depicting the battle, although historians would say a great deal of the detail was for cinematic effect, and not exactly true to fact. Major Harry Smith, the actual D Coy Commander, was an advisor to the movie, and he said he had allowed some leniency to the director, to depict more exciting scenes. As if they needed more excitement than the actual battle?

The 2021 AGM has been postponed until further notice due to the SA Health restrictions surrounding the latest COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdowns. Once we liaise with the Avoca Hotel and set a new date, everyone will be advised by email and via Facebook. For those who have reserved a seat, thank you for your understanding and patience. It's a shame, as we had over 50 members and partners attending. The RSARA 2021 Presidents and Secretary's Reports can be found on the two following pages.

With the current state of affairs brought on by COVID 19 it's hard to make any travel plans at all concerning interstate travel. The Cook and I were planning to travel interstate at the end of July for a relatives 80th birthday bash. Understanding that most airports are excellent places to pick up infections, and bus and train stations come in a close 2nd and 3rd, we decided to drive to Queensland, and look at some sites along the way. Applying for entry permits to Victoria, NSW and Queensland was horrendous, but achievable, until..... Yep! Lockdowns in NSW and border closures everywhere. Changing daily. We decided the last thing we wanted was to be forced into self isolation in some interstate motel, so we cancelled our trip and attended the party via WhatsApp! Oh, the wonders of technology! At least we can still travel around SA without too many restrictions. Just have to make sure we have enough toilet paper before we leave!

Take care and stay safe!

David Laing - Secretary / Editor

Disclaimer. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the RSAR Association, its Committee or Members.



Contact Us, via

**The Secretary
David Laing**

**Royal South Australia
Regiment Association Inc.
PO Box 5218 Murray Bridge
South SA 5253**

0407 791 822



davidlaing49@bigpond.com

Visit us on the web at

www.rsara.asn.au

PAYMENTS FOR SUBS & MERCHANDISE

Fees and Merchandise can be paid
by EFT through the following
Bendigo Bank account:

RSAR Association Inc
BSB 633 000
Acc. 1616 585 88

Cheques etc can be mailed to

**The Treasurer
Christian Bennett
RSAR Association
5 Ashwin Parade
Torrensville SA 5031**

christianbennett95@gmail.com

Secretaries 2021 AGM Report

Thanks to the COVID pandemic, the past year has been very quiet from my perspective, although we continue to increase the size of our membership steadily each year, thanks to our website, our Facebook page, but more importantly by word of mouth of our Serving Members.

I thank Webmaster Jesse Humphrys for his constant updates of our website, and it's his efforts that manage to keep us in the public face. Thanks Jesse.

I also thank those committee members who have gone above and beyond what is normally expected of them, especially Norm Tregenza with his ANZAC Day poster initiative, and Des Hawkins in his role as Association Historian. Thanks Norm & Des.

Bravo Company of 10/27 Battalion and the Regimental Band are our main source of recruiting, and the soldiers are starting to see the value of supporting the Association that supports the Battalion.

A number of the Old & Bold supported our former A Company 10 Battalion CSM Ian Carnachan and helped him celebrate his milestone 80th birthday in June at the Republic Hotel in Norwood. It was great to see so many old faces again and recount the lies that we told 50 years ago.

It's great to see Rod Beames out of his moon boot and out of his arm cast. For a bloke who spent most of his life working with electricity I'm surprised he hasn't killed himself way before now. He has assured me the next time he goes to "The Shack" to do some renovations, he'll take me along to hold the ladder and dial Triple 0 as required.

Rod and I had the honour of attending an Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony for former Battalion member, the late Captain Paul McKay, which was live streamed to the Keswick Barracks Officers Mess in July. It was attended by about 50 friends and family members, and the Battalion was well represented by CO LTCOL Sam Benveniste, Captain Mitch Wyatt, RSM WO1 Ben Read, Padre Paul Ghanem and Brigade Commander Brigadier Graham Goodwin. The moving ceremony ended at Keswick with each attendee laying a Poppy of Remembrance in place before a photo of Captain McKay. Paul's parents Angela and John were present at the Canberra Service.

I also attended a service at the Two Wells RSL in July which saw the unveiling of a memorial plaque in the Middle East Conflicts Memorial Garden commemorating the service of Captain McKay, and I was given the great honour of reciting The Ode of Remembrance during that service, with LTCOL David Beckett reading a personal eulogy.

Ask your colleagues. Do you need a reason to join the RSAR Association? We provide funding to pay for the purchase and maintenance of Regimental Band musical instruments and equipment. The Association also funds the purchase of the Bands' Mess Dress white uniforms for performances throughout the year.

Do you need a reason to join the RSAR Association? We purchase, prepare, pack and post Christmas Care Packages for Battalion members serving overseas during the Christmas period. Fruit and nut packages from local producers are sent to our soldiers who are away from home at Christmas, to make them aware that we all thank them for their service, and wish them seasons tidings.

Do you need a reason to join the RSAR Association? One of the many ways we support the Regiment is by the upkeep and maintenance of Battalion Honour Boards throughout the year. We have the names of high achievers added each year, so visitors and serving members can see who has been awarded the highest honours by the Battle Group.

If anyone wishes to know what we do, tell them this. We Perpetuate the Regiment.

See you all next year. Thank you

David Laing - Secretary/Editor

Presidents 2021 AGM Report

Ladies and Gentlemen.

There is a reason why I follow the Secretary with my President's Annual report, and that is to keep it short. Most of the "thank yous" have already been said and rightly so.

ANZAC Day was a COVID 19 event again this year, not that I could have marched in a wheel chair. Des Hawkins and 14 others marched behind the banner with honour.

We are always calling for volunteers for this and that, and I appreciate all the positive responses.

We again fed the troops at Edinburgh in February and we will need a hand to construct the shelter at Keswick Barracks HQ for the restored WW1 German cannon captured by 10 Battalion soldiers in that conflict.

I am often called upon to represent the Association and I am honoured to be able to do this. There is a Defence Reserves Association conference being held in Adelaide in August and I will be attending.

I recently visited the Army Museum of SA work squad. These volunteer men and women are cataloguing all our historical collection pieces. I was impressed with the dedication, accuracy and neatness of the output from this group.

As the Secretary has alerted, I'm due for a change of luck. My friends say I must have run over a Chinaman. I say I must have hit the whole damn tribe or whatever the collective noun for Chinaman is.

The Battalion can sometimes use our support with a spare pair of hands or two and therefore we need to be ready. So far this year I haven't exactly ticked that box, but I'm now looking forward to doing my bit.

My thanks again, to our Secretary and Editor of Sitrep. David and I (believe it or not) are a good working team. Now its his turn to front up at the hospital for surgery and I wish him God's speed to a healthy recovery.

I close with the words of any winning coach at quarter time, Keep doing the good work and we will win in the end.

Rod Beames

President

Centenary of the August 1915 Offensive

On 6 August 2015, Australia commemorated the centenary of the August Offensive, pausing to reflect on the entire Gallipoli campaign and, particularly, the sacrifice of those Anzacs at the battles of Lone Pine and the Nek.

With the stalling of the British and French operations at Helles, the commander in chief, General Sir Ian Hamilton, began to cast around for a place to mount another offensive. The northern sector of the Anzac position, where the defences were more open, was chosen. Simultaneously, a British landing would take place at Suvla Bay to the north.

The assault would proceed from the Anzac positions up to the Sari Bair ridge, which included the three high points of Chunuk Bair, Hill 971 and Hill Q. After taking these heights, the troops were to move along the ridge towards the original Anzac positions. A simultaneous attack from Anzac would threaten the Turkish positions on Baby 700, Battleship Hill and the Nek from two directions. When these pincers closed, the Allies would control Sari Bair and could use it as base to mount an assault on the Narrows.

The operation commenced on the night of 6 August 1915. To support the assault on the heights, diversionary attacks were made at Quinn's Post and Lone Pine. The Lone Pine attack on 6 August by 1st Brigade reached the Turkish lines to find that they were covered in logs and earth. Savage fighting took place in the trenches, costing over 2000 lives. Seven Victoria Crosses would eventually be awarded during this action – only nine Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross during the entire Gallipoli campaign. As a feint it was unsuccessful.



The main assault soon ran into trouble. The confusion of manoeuvring in darkness over extremely difficult terrain with poor maps caused the assault to fall behind schedule. Some gains were made and Chunuk Bair nearly reached, but the troops were exhausted by their efforts. Attacking from Anzac, the Australian 4th Brigade, intended to take Hill 971, became hopelessly lost in the difficult terrain and did not reach their objectives. The assault was renewed on 8 August. Hill Q and Chunuk Bair were occupied by New Zealand and British troops, but the gains could not be consolidated and both features were regained by the Turks and they continued to hold the ridge.

An attack by Light Horse, fighting as infantry, was planned at the Nek. It was to be coordinated with an attack from the ridge and covered by naval gunfire. With the reverses at Chunuk Bair and Hill Q, the attack from the ridge failed to materialise. Nevertheless, it was hoped that a diversion here would draw the attention of the Turkish forces from the assault on the ridge, so the Light Horse charged. The naval gunfire lifted early. With no cover at all the Australians were mowed down 'like corn before a scythe'. Four times the Light Horse went over, acts of futility that cost 234 dead.

Further north at Suvla the assault had also failed to achieve its objective and the August offensive ground to a halt. Its aims were unrealised, although the perimeter had been expanded considerably with the occupation of Suvla and the expansion of Anzac. On 21 August, an attack was put in at Hill 60 to improve communications between Anzac and Suvla. This attack, and a later one on 27 August, was unsuccessful and the casualties heavy. It was the last Allied offensive on Gallipoli. Extract with permission from Richard Pelvin's book ANZAC: An illustrated history 1914–18, available from Hardie Grant Publishers.

AUGUST 18th 1966

The Battle of Long Tan

On 18 August 1966 Delta Company of 6 Battalion, The Royal Australia Regiment (6RAR) was patrolling in the area of the Long Tan rubber plantation when, at about 3.15pm, the lead platoon (11 Platoon, commanded by 2Lt Gordon Sharp, a national serviceman) encountered a small group of Viet Cong who fled leaving one of their number killed by the Australians. The aggressive patrolling continued until, at about



4.08pm, the main body of the Viet Cong 275 Regiment was encountered. The Viet Cong attacked vigorously with mortars, rifle and machine gun fire.

In pouring rain, the Australians returned fire with platoon weapons and artillery which was firing from the Nui Dat base, some five kilometres to the west. Close air support was also called for but couldn't be used because the target was unable to be identified accurately in the conditions.

At 5pm D Company's commander, Major Harry Smith, radioed for ammunition resupply. Two RAAF *Iroquois* helicopters which happened to be at Nui Dat to transport a concert party were tasked and flew at tree top level into the battle area where they successfully delivered the sorely needed boxes of ammunition. The combination of aggressive fire from D Company soldiers plus devastating artillery fire from Nui Dat had swung the battle in the Australians' favour but the Viet Cong continued to manoeuvre to gain the upper hand. Meanwhile, A Company of 6RAR had been ordered to move to the support of the beleaguered D Company.

They did so mounted in armoured personnel carriers (M113A1) from 1st APC Squadron which forded a flooded stream and then shortly afterward encountered a substantial enemy force. 2 Platoon of A Company dismounted and advanced on the enemy who fled.

Although the Viet Cong could still be seen massing in failing light at 6.55pm as the relief force arrived in the D Company area, the enemy force melted away as darkness descended. The battle of Long Tan was over. The Australians consolidated their position for the night and then commenced evacuation of their wounded using the lights from APCs to guide in helicopters. During the night the Viet Cong cleared many of their wounded and dead from the battle field. A number of the wounded Australians lay there all through the long terrifying night, as the Viet Cong moved around them.

Morning revealed that the Viet Cong force, estimated at 2,500, had been badly mauled. 245 Viet Cong bodies were found in the battle area. It was apparent that the Viet Cong commanders had failed to appreciate the effectiveness of artillery fire and had paid dearly as a result.

The Australians had lost 18 killed, 17 from D Company (including the young platoon commander of 11 platoon) and one from 1st APC Squadron, and 24 wounded.



The Rubber Plantation at Long Tan in 2000. It has since been bulldozed for pasture

ROLL OF HONOUR – BATTLE OF LONG TAN

<i>Number</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>ARA/NS</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of death</i>
2781465	2 Lt	G.C. Sharp	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
2781847	L/Cpl	J. Jewry	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
1730993	Pte	A.F. McCormack	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
1730994	Pte	D.J. McCormack	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
3787607	Pte	C.J. Whiston	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
1731040	Pte	D.J. Salveron	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
38712	Pte	D.J. Thomas	6RAR	ARA	21	18 Aug 1966
3411673	Pte	E.F. Grant	6RAR	ARA	20	18 Aug 1966
1200265	Pte	F.B. Topp	6RAR	ARA	19	18 Aug 1966
1730929	Pte	G.A. Drabble	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
43893	Pte	J.M. Houston	6RAR	ARA	22	18 Aug 1966
1730941	Pte	K.H. Gant	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
216559	Pte	M.R. Wales	6RAR	ARA	22	18 Aug 1966
2781704	Pte	P.A. Large	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
55120	Pte	R.A. Aldersea	6RAR	ARA	20	18 Aug 1966
1730947	Pte	V.R. Grice	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
1731013	Pte	W.D. Mitchell	6RAR	NS	21	18 Aug 1966
54570	T/Cpl	P.E. Clements*	1 APC Sqn	ARA	21	27 Aug 1966

* Died of wounds



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

FOR/66/0667/VN

Members of D Coy collect enemy weapons the day after the battle.



**IN MEMORY OF THOSE
MEMBERS OF D COY AND
31 TP 1 APC SQN WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES NEAR THIS
SPOT DURING THE BATTLE
OF LONG TAN ON 18TH AUGUST
1966**

**ERECTED BY 6RAR/NZ
(ANZAC) BN 18 AUG 69**

The Cross erected by members of 6 RAR at Long Tan, and the inscription on the cross.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Dave,

Yet again a great read, I feel vey humbled that you chose to put my Service Bio in your Associations newsletter. Along with you and Beamsey I have served alongside many of your Old & Bold and hold fond memories of our times during AFXs at Cultana.

One particular time springs immediately to mind was when I was a Tp CPL in 3 Tp and it was pouring down with rain, we were cooking up our meal, and hot brew in the back of our APC, nice and dry so we passed out a dixie full of hot tea for your blokes who were stuck out in the rain.

Of course there were times when we deliberately showed off to your grunts by having a hot shower on the ramp of our APCs. Many good times and memories.

Yours in Armour

David Mercer

Secretary SAMRA

Our 10/27 Battalion Padre, Captain Paul Ghanem has been doing "tough soldier stuff" at Canungra QLD. He and I have been swapping brief but meaningful emails. Editor

Dear David,

Wherever you're going I'll see you there!

Keep Well,
The Padre

PS. Greetings from Kokoda Barracks Canungra

† † † † † † †

Dear David.

The SI is busting our chops. I barely have time for a Our Father, let alone a Hail Mary!!!!

Your turn to repay the favour and pray for me.

The Padre

† † † † † † †

I replied that my prayers don't normally amount to much, but I would say a word for him. Editor

Dear David

You're a bloody gem. I reckon it's working.

I got to bed last night by 0130, that's the earliest night I've had since day 2. Thank you.

The Padre



See following 2 pages

From the Padre @ the Battle Front (Almost)

The very mention of Kokoda Barracks can strike fear into the heart of many a battle hardened woman or man who has ever worn the green uniform. This is true, even for a Padre.

What follows is an email exchange between myself and David Laing during my recent 17 day All Corps Captains Course (Operations) held on this hallowed Canungra turf.

Me to David:

"One more pain filled week to go, I'm then back to ADL for two weeks of quarantine. Fortunately I'm Catholic and so I reckon that's my purgatory done!"

David back to me:

"Well said, now you're "nearly" a soldier."

David went on to suggest that "SITREP, OVER!" readers might like to know my thoughts on the recently updated course for ARes Majors and Captains.

While the battle remains the same the battle operating space has changed. The knowledge and expertise required to mount a successful operation demands considered input from a range of subject matter experts and at all levels of the battle space. The colocation and partial integration of the Majors and Captains course has addressed this modern need. The first phase of the course ensured all members were up to speed on the ADF's new training space, **DATE** (Decisive Action Training Environment). The second half involved applying these skills in the design, planning, execution and review of the battle space from the Brigade down to the Section level.

The core skills are still taught, with map overlays and the importance of the various avenues of approach reviewed in great detail. These were plotted onto a matrix allowing the best course of action to emerge. All this was presented in a modern educational facility designed to mimic the feel of the battlespace. The highly experienced and professional staff of Queensland University Regiment, drawn from around the country, taught and mentored us along the way.

Thankfully the old khaki tents, loved and loathed by so many of you, were nowhere to be found but the days were equally as long and demanding. The Mess became the venue where new friendships were forged and concepts finally understood.

What impressed me greatly was the expertise and proficiency of the 5 females on course, one Captain and 4



From the Padre @ the Battle Front

Lieutenants drawn from RA Sigs, RACT, RAE and RAAC. This included our very own LT Lisa Kennedy from 3/9 LH SAMR. To the credit of those on the Majors course these up and coming officers were able to use their considerable skills to help shape the battle field and to advise with great confidence and insight the Chain of Command. They were impressive, to say the least.

On a personal level I experienced moments where I felt out of my depth and I struggled with the concepts, terminology and expected output level. I consoled myself in the knowledge that were I ever captured and interrogated I would have absolutely no intel whatsoever to divulge to the enemy!

One final point for those avid "SITREP, OVER" readers who battled the Musorians; they've finally been defeated but sadly we are now facing a smarter and better adversary!!! The stated mission continues.

Keep Well,

The Padre – now "nearly" a soldier.

For anyone who has ever done an ADF Officers Course you will know how intensive it is, with any hours not spent learning taken up with after-hours homework and planning for the next lesson, whether it be written, practical or instructional. This is what we train for, and this is why we wear the uniform, so imagine how hard it is for a "man of the cloth" to suddenly be thrust into a world of "death by Powerpoint" and lessons in "forced power eating!" Our Padre, Captain Paul Ghanem has grabbed it and run the full 17 days to learn exactly what makes a soldier tick. I think he has excelled and should be congratulated on his enthusiasm, commitment and humour. Well done Padre. Editor.



Life Members			Members A-S			Honorary Members		
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name	
Acton	Chris		Abel	Colin		Read WO1	Ben	
Ayles	Jeff		Abraham	Michael	SM	Benveniste LTCOL	Sam	
Beckett	David	SM	Attenborough	Geoff		Wilson MAJGEN	Neil	
Benveniste	Sam	SM	Bampton	Michael	SM	Honorary Member for Life		
Blackmore	Bill		Bennett	Christian	SM	Beames	Rodney	
Boscence	Bob		Blondell	Mark	SM	Associate Life Members		
Bourne	Colin	SM	Brown	Bruce		Last Name	First Name	
Brookes	Philip		Burnard	Saxon	SM	Elliott	Julie	
Burnard	Trent	SM	Burton	Ray		Field	Shirley	
Burns	Wayne		Buttars	Erik		Johnson	Sally	
Carnachan	Ian		Carlisle	Lesley-Ann	SM ∑	Laing	June	
Carpenter	Ian		Cooke	Nat		Phillips	Heather	
Cotton	Bob		Cram	Kevin	∑	Sanderson	Lorraine	
Dart	John		Demosani	Tony				
Davey	Trevor		Dew	Trevor				
Elliott	Graham		Domanski	Glenn				
Gaborit	Lyndon		Dunn	Bob				
Harris	Lachlan		Dunn	Peter				
Hawking	Don		Eva	Keith		Associate Members		
Haynes	Malcolm	SM	Ewens	Mimi	SM	Last Name	First Name	
Higgins	Jonathon	SM	Faquiri	Reshad	SM	Abel	Karen	
Higgins	Jonathon		Faunt	Joshua	SM	Carnachan	Dom ∑	
Hogan	Mark		Foy	Erin	SM	Collins	Peter	
Hook	Alan		Gatley	Graham	▲	Dunn	Trish	
Hope	David		Gibson	Lindsay		Hudson	Margaret	
Horseman	Ian		Gill	Graham		Johnson	Margaret	
Hudson	Mike		Goodwin	Graham	SM	Parsonage	Yvonne	
Jackson	Aaron	SM	Gordon	Frank		Toy	Jill	
James	Grant	SM	Harrington	Malcolm		Tregenza	Lyn	
Johnson	Paul		Harrison	John		Winger	Kathleen	
Johnson	Barry		Harrison	Keith				
Klopf	Alex		Harrison	Nigel		Honourary Member for Life 1		
Laing	David		Hawkins	Des		Honorary Members 3		
Lakin	Bruce		Hill	Max		Life Members 48		
Marlin	Robin	SM	Hudson	Rick		Serving Life Members 11		
Meredith	Michael	SM	Hume	Matthew	SM	Members 76		
Moore	Terry		Humphrys	Jesse	SM ∑	Serving Members 39		
Moore	Thomas	SM	Jones	Brett		Associate Life Members 5		
Paul	John		Koop	Joshua	SM	Associate Members 9		
Pollard	Barry		Loveder	Peter		Total financial members 151		
Salamon	Piotr		Matchett	William		Prepaid Members		
Sanderson	Max		McCulloch	Don		∑ 2021/22		
Standing	Michael		McIver	Bill		▲ 2022/23		
Stewart	Robin		Mitchell	Barry				
Stewien	Peter		Moroney	Frank				
Vella	Joe		Mulroney	Dennis		NEW MEMBER		
Waters	Ian		Normadale	Zachary	SM	This Month we welcome life member		
Westover	Rhys		Oakley	Andrew		Paul Johnson		
Wilson	Graham		O'Daly	Ryan	SM	and Associate Life Member		
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg		Orrock	Alan		Sally Johnson		
			Parslow	Howard	∑			
			Parsonage	James				
Members S - Z			Pascoe	Michael		YOUR SUBS Yearly Subs are due on or shortly after the Annual General Meeting. If you haven't paid this year, please do so ASAP. You can contact the Treasurer Christian Bennett via the details on Page 20.		
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Payne	Bob				
Sanders	Ashley	SM ∑	Pexton	Timothy	SM			
Schuh	Simon	SM	Phillips	Colin Rex				
Scott	Rhys	SM	Portakiewicz	Anthony	SM ∑			
Skapin	Corey	SM	Portakiewicz	David	SM ∑			
Smith	Ryan	SM	Powell	Gary				
Sniedze	Julie	SM	Preece	Brian				
Tasker	David		Rado	Steven				
Thomas	David		Ramm	Hank				
Thomson	Jim		Ranger	Denis				
Tregenza	Norm		Robertson	James				
Trezise	George		Rossetti	Lee				
Tsoulakis	Christos	SM	Sage	Andrew				
Tucker	Belinda	SM						
Weepers	Nicole	SM						
Wheeler	Chris							



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



Membership Category

Date of Application / /

<input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership \$20 (Former member of the RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Military Member Must have served with the RSAR or a sub unit. FREE 1st year. \$10 thereafter while still serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Voting Associate Member \$10 (Spouses, non former members of RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Once only payment) <input type="checkbox"/> FULL Member \$200 <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE Member \$100

My Details - Please print clearly

Full Name:	Postal Address:
Date of Birth:	Email:
Mobile No:	How did you hear about the Association?
Period of Service / / to / /	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Member of the RSAR or Sub Unit
Spouse/Partners name.	Have you been a member since then? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Method of Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or Money Order - Payable to The Treasurer RSAR Association Christian Bennett 5 Ashwin Parade Torrensville SA 5031	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Funds Transfer Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc BSB 633 000 Account 1616 585 88 Include your name as an identifier								
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH (In person to the Committee)	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (The Fire & Forget option) <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Account Name:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSB:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acct #</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Funds will be deducted at the start of each financial year and can be ceased on written notification to the Secretary or Treasurer</p>	Account Name:		Bank:		BSB:		Acct #	
Account Name:									
Bank:									
BSB:									
Acct #									

☐ I understand that receipt of this application constitutes my acceptance of the Associations Rules as set down in the Constitution found at the website address below. I also authorise the processing of my preferred method of payment and acknowledge that I may be required to provide proof of past or current military service as required.



Website: www.rsara.asn.au



Please send this completed application, with any proof of service to the RSAR Association Secretary at davidlaing49@bigpond.com