



"Sitrep, Over!"

Official Monthly Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson

Editor David Laing



CHRISTMAS EDITION



National Emergency Medal

BUSHFIRES 19–20

Those who performed service during the 2019–20 Australian bushfire season and met certain criteria are recognised by the "BUSHFIRES 19–20" clasp. Requirements include:

- Service must be in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response);
- Qualifying service must be in the geographical areas of Australia, in one of the nominated 108 local government areas in the States of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory;
- The qualifying period of service, specifically stipulated for each of the 108 local government areas, a period between 6 September 2019 to 20 February 2020;

Persons must have served 5 days during the qualifying period of service to qualify for award of the medal.



Recipients

As of May 2014 the number of recipients listed in the Australian Honours database has increased. It is well known that this medal has been awarded in far greater numbers than this, however the roll has not been updated for reasons unknown. Some recipients do choose, for privacy reasons, not to have their details added to the roll.

As of June 30, 2013, 6,186 National Emergency Medals have been awarded, including 84 for Significant Service. Five people have been recognised for service in both the Queensland and Victorian emergencies.

ADF personnel who served and provided support to any of the above locations are urged to make enquiries as to their eligibility through the accepted chain of command.

D. Laing

Secretary - Royal South Australia Regiment Association



President's Christmas Report

Many of you may not know how lucky I feel to be writing this report but I can assure you all that while I am able, this is a job that I love doing.

It was very quiet during the year...the occasional Regimental Council meeting or Defence Reserves Association committee meeting but compared to other years, fairly quiet.

Then we hit November and the wheels went into motion We were asked to provide assistance at the Simpson Trophy Shoot, followed by the Battalion end of year celebrations. I have thanked those who helped , personally, but I will do it again in the "Sitrep, Over!"

"I really appreciate your support when we help the serving members. THANKYOU"

Without a word being said, I knew we had made our mark. If there was one who deserved to be mentioned in despatches, it would have to be our baitlayer, Colin Abel. He really can turn crap into a meal fit for kings. (but it takes a lot of work and experience).

Other news which was pleasing to me:

Serving members are continuing to join.

I appreciated being invited to B Coys Walk in the hills.

LtCol Trent Bernard was promoted to full Colonel.

The Band performance at St Peters School was sensational.

Our new Padre has fitted in like a duck to water.

We were able to assist with the end of year awards albeit in a hurry.

I think we can say we achieved our objective and that makes me a very proud President indeed.

I look forward to seeing those who can make it to our Christmas Breakup. I will talk to you there, but for the Country and interstaters, I know you would if you could. A MERRY CHRISTMAS to you All.

Rod



10/27 Bn Battle Group Awards

Awards were presented to the Best of the Best of the 10/27 Bn Battle Group on Sunday 28th November, and the RSAR Association was proud to support this event by providing the individual trophies for presentation.

Awards went to the following:

Best Soldier – **PTE Conroy** (Admin Coy 10/27 Bn)
 Best JNCO – **CPL Majewski** (3/9 LH SAMR)
 Best SNCO – **SGT Maugueret** (3 Fd Sqn RAE)
 Best Officer – **LT Neagle** (3/9 LH SAMR)
 Best Musician – **MUSN Ghea** (10/27 Bn Band)
 Best at Fitness – **SPR Gaskin** (3 Fd Sqn RAE)
 Top Shot – **TPR Beelitz** (3/9 LH SAMR)

The Royal South Australia Regiment Association congratulates all the soldiers who won the awards, and hopes they go on to big and greater careers. Well done all.

Padres' Ponderings

By Padre Paul Ghanem

Christmas Care Packages – Still Needed?

For the first time in very many years the majority of Aussie Diggers will be home for Christmas. With no soldiers of the 10th/27th Battalion on overseas deployment no Christmas Care Packages were needed this year, or were they? You know that it's not too late!

Could I suggest that we all send ourselves a "Self Care Christmas Care Package". Here is what I suggest you include:

- It's ok to say no and only participate in activities that are significant to you
 - Reach out to a mate and give the gift of a phone call
 - Let your family love you, as frustrating as you may find them
 - Listen to calming music or watch your favourite movie (but don't expect your better half to watch Bridge Over The River Kwai with you for the 159th time)
 - Go to bed early and get a full 8-hours sleep (every night!)
 - Eat and drink in moderation and plan healthy meals for when you're not celebrating
 - Don't forget to move! Walk, run, swim, cycle, dance, roller-skate (the CO is a respected orthopaedic surgeon, he can put you back together again), – aim to be active for 30 minutes everyday
 - Find gratitude for small and simple things
 - For heavens' sake, reach out if you need a hand
 - Acknowledge that the festive season isn't a happy time for everyone – Christmas might be an upsetting or difficult time for yourself or someone close to you, and that's okay
- Remember to say your prayers, if not then no stress – the padre is doing it for you.



Let us start 2022 with a full cup by gifting ourselves a Christmas Care Package. Christmas Care Packages, definitely still needed!

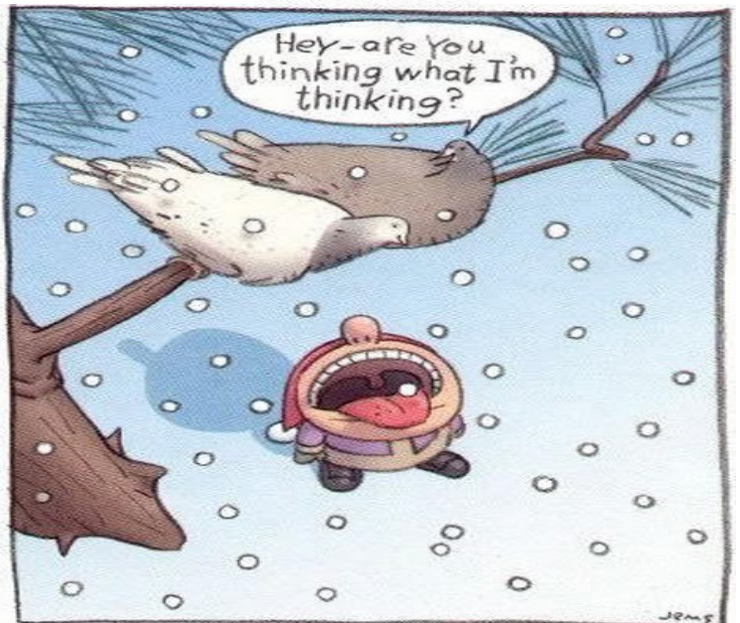
Padre any day, any time 0408 163 257



Out There



Santa on Facebook



Dear Santa,

BEFORE I EXPLAIN,
HOW MUCH DO YOU
KNOW ALREADY?



I am not paid enough
to watch my boss
wearing elf tights.



Santa sings "When I think
about you. I touch my elf!"



From the Secretary's Desk

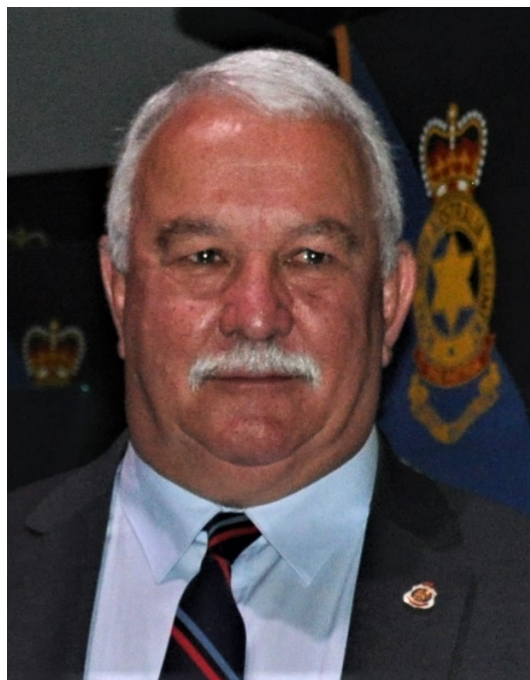
By now you've read the President's Christmas Report, so I won't double-up on any of his thoughts, apart from thanking the small loyal bunch of folk who put up their hands to help us support the Battalion.

Out of a membership close to 200 there are the usual 10 to 12 who give freely of their time to prepare, cook and serve meals to hundreds of hungry mouths when needed, and sometimes at very short notice. The work carried out by the Battalion is of vital importance to the security of the State and the country, and the operational requirements are such that sometimes certain items are overlooked until the last moment. And that's where we come in! Give us a task and we'll do it! Guaranteed! If there were medals available for our volunteers in the Association, they'd each get a couple. Enough said!

Rod made mention in his report that he was surprised to actually be around this year, after his bout with ill health over the past 2 years, and although he's not 21 again, he is positive about his outcome. And if he's happy, I'm happy!

We all have our health problems from time to time, and I don't like Rod to have all the limelight to himself, so I'll be taking some time off to get myself sorted out over the Christmas break and hopefully come back "renewed" in 2022.

Those of you who know me closely know that I've been juggling some personal and family health issues over the past 2 years, and now I have enough gold coins put away to pay for a ~~sorcerer~~ surgeon to earn their next holiday and put me back together again!



Throughout the year we've had more members leave the committee than we've had join, so that leaves some vacancies for new "blood!" We would like to see more current serving members of the Battalion join the committee, as they will definitely be the committee in the very near future. If you would like to assist the Association support the Battalion, and you have a couple of hours per month to spare, please drop me a line and I'll have a chat to you. All support is appreciated.

And finally, don't forget about our Facebook page and website to check out events as they happen. You don't have to contribute to Facebook to check out what other folk contribute. If you don't have it, try it, you may like it! www.rsara.asn.au

So that's it from me until 2022. Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones over the Christmas period, and if you're going to drink, have one for me and another for your non-drinking nominated driver!

Take care, stay safe and see you soon.

David

End of Year Lunch

Words by David Laing. Pics by June Laing

To finish off the year Certificates of Gratitude were presented to former committee members for their outstanding service. Norm Tregenza and Colin Phillips received certificates and thanks from the President at the End of Year Lunch held at Keswick Barracks on Sunday 19th December. Around 40 members and their partners attended the lunch in glorious weather and joined in celebrating another year of firm liaison and cooperation between the Association and the Battalion Battle Group. Chief Bait Layer Col Abel again excelled with his excellent choices of cold meats and assorted salads, which saw most members go back for seconds and thirds. Commanding Officer 10/27 Battalion Battle Group LTCOL Sam Benveniste addressed the gathering and thanked the Association members for their support of the Battalion throughout a very trying year, and said he had and continued to promote the Association to the Battalion members whenever he could. President Rod Beames said the Band would soon have their own bank account set up by the Association, and \$10,000 would soon be deposited for use by the Band to purchase necessary items. Our thanks go to Col Abel for his outstanding catering, SGT Michael Abraham for organising the facilities, and the 10/27 members who worked behind the bar. Thank you all.







Former RSARA Committee Members Colin Phillips and Norm Tregenza were presented with Certificates of Gratitude by President Rod Beames for their support and dedication as Committee Members. Colin had served 4 years and Norm completed over 9 years.

Congratulations and thank you for your service.



LTCOL Benveniste took time to highlight the work done by the RSAR Association to support the 10/27 Battalion Battle Group, and said he would promote their work every chance he had. He wished all members a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.



EDITORIAL

I've already had my say on Page 7, so I won't go over old ground again, but there are some important things that need to be said before I open my first bottle of Christmas cheer.

The RSAR Association has been operating in its current form since about 2008, and since that time we've only had 2 Presidents, 2 Secretaries and 3 Treasurers. Some Committee members move on when they no longer have anything to give, others move on due to ill health or changing personal reasons. Whatever the reason, those folk are the backbone of voluntary organisations like ours and should be thanked for their selfless support that enables us to keep supporting the Battalion. And that brings me to my next point!

As the current older committee members fade away, their places must be taken up by new, younger members to enable the Association to continue. And I say this as a matter of urgency, because over the next few weeks, months or years the remaining "elders" on the committee will no longer be around, and if they aren't replaced.....goodbye to the Association and its work! Goodbye to all support to the Band. Goodbye to all catering exercises! Goodbye to Battle Group Honour Boards! Goodbye to End of Year Awards and presentations! Without a good committee, the Association will disappear, so I ask you now, look at yourself and ask if you have a few hours per month to spare, and if you think you can make a difference please let me know ASAP and we'll have a chat! If you don't act now, next year may be too late!

That's what I think!

David Laing

Secretary/Editor

And if you just want to pay your subs, the Treasurers details are at right!



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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

Life Mem- bers			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	
Brookes	Philip		Brown	Bruce		Last Name	First Name
Burnard	Trent	SM	Burnard	Saxon	SM	Elliott	Julie
Burns	Wayne		Burton	Ray		Field	Shirley
Carnachan	Ian		Buttars	Erik		Johnson	Sally
Carpenter	Ian		Carlisle	Lesley-Ann	SM Σ	Laing	June
Cotton	Bob		Cooke	Nat		Phillips	Heather
Dart	John		Cram	Kevin	Σ	Sanderson	Lorraine
Davey	Trevor		Demosani	Tony		Associate Members	
Elliott	Graham		Dew	Trevor		Last Name	First Name
Gaborit	Lyndon		Domanski	Glenn		Abel	Karen
Harris	Lachlan		Dunn	Bob		Brown	Jenni
Hawking	Don		Dunn	Peter		Carnachan	Dom Σ
Haynes	Malcolm	SM	Eva	Keith		Dunn	Trish
Higgins	Jonathon	SM	Evens	Mimi	SM	Hudson	Margaret
Higgins	Jonathon		Faquiri	Reshad	SM	Johnson	Margaret
Hogan	Mark		Faunt	Joshua	SM	Parsonage	Yvonne
Hook	Alan		Foy	Erin	SM	Toy	Jill
Hope	David		Gatley	Graham	▲	Tregenza	Lyn
Horseman	Ian		Gibson	Lindsay		Winger	Kathleen
Hudson	Mike		Gill	Graham		Honourary Member for Life 1	
Jackson	Aaron	SM	Goodwin	Graham	SM	Honorary Members 3	
James	Grant	SM	Gordon	Frank		Life Members 49	
Jeffrey	Scott		Groffen	Renee		Serving Life Members 11	
Johnson	Paul		Harrington	Malcolm		Members 77	
Johnson	Barry		Harrison	John		Serving Members 39	
Klopf	Alex		Harrison	Keith		Associate Life Members 5	
Laing	David		Harrison	Nigel		Associate Members 10	
Lakin	Bruce		Hawkins	Des		Total financial members 27,896	
Marlin	Robin	SM	Hill	Max		Prepaid Members	
Meredith	Michael	SM	Hudson	Rick		Σ 2021/22	▲ 2022/23
Miller	Nick		Hume	Matthew	SM	<div>Please welcome new member Blaz Vozelj and new Life Member Matthew Watters from WA</div> 	
Moore	Terry		Humphrys	Jesse	SM Σ		
Moore	Thomas	SM	Jones	Brett			
Paul	John		Koop	Joshua	SM		
Pollard	Barry		Loveder	Peter			
Salamon	Piotr		Matchett	William			
Sanderson	Max		McCulloch	Don			
Standing	Michael		McIver	Bill			
Stewart	Robin		Mitchell	Barry			
Stewien	Peter		Moroney	Frank			
Vella	Joe		Mulroney	Dennis			
Waters	Ian		Normadale	Zachary	SM	<div>Merry Christmas to all members and their families!</div>	
Watters	Matthew	SM	Oakley	Andrew			
Westover	Rhys		O'Daly	Ryan	SM		
Wilson	Graham		Orrock	Alan			
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg		Parslow	Howard	Σ		
Members S - Z			Parsonage	James			
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Pascoe	Michael			
Sanders	Ashley	SM Σ	Payne	Bob			
Schuh	Simon	SM	Pexton	Timothy	SM		
Scott	Rhys	SM	Phillips	Colin Rex			
Skapin	Corey	SM	Portakiewicz	Anthony	SM Σ		
Smith	Ryan	SM	Portakiewicz	David	SM Σ		
Sniedze	Julie	SM	Powell	Gary			
Tasker	David		Preece	Brian			
Thomas	David		Rado	Steven			
Thomson	Jim		Ramm	Hank			
Tregenza	Norm		Ranger	Denis			
Trezise	George		Robertson	James			
Tsoulakis	Christos	SM	Rossetti	Lee			
Tucker	Belinda	SM	Sage	Andrew			
Vozelj	Blaz	SM					
Weepers	Nicole	SM					
Wheeler	Chris						