



## Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

### CHANGES TO THIS NEWSLETTER

### WHO ARE THEY?

## EDITION 10. 2020

For the past 10 years I have sent out newsletters every month, with some special editions thrown in for good measure. Sometimes, just after I have published an edition, important information comes through that needs to be urgently disseminated. For that reason all newsletters from now on will have an "edition number" instead of a month on the front page. You may receive two newsletters per month or when stories are few and far between, one newsletter every two months. This newsletter would have been October 2020. Instead, it is now Edition 10. 2020. If any readers have alternate ideas, I would love to hear them. Until then....Believe it, or not!

### Inside this issue:



These two photos appear on the front page of our website [www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au) and yet no one seems to know who they are! The photo at LEFT has soldiers wearing the old WW2 Pattern webbing, yet they are carrying SLRs. The pic at RIGHT shows the digger carrying a Steyr of the old type. If you can identify them, contact the Secretary.

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### New Money Cruncher

We have a NEW Treasurer in Christian Bennett, a serving member of 10/27 Battalion. Chris takes over from David Hope and will apply his skills in keeping us in the Black for the future. A new address is at the left, to which any cheques or money orders can be posted for Subs or Merchandise. The bank account and BSB are unchanged.

Welcome Christian and farewell David. You've done the deed and done it well, and we applaud you for your efforts! Thanks mate!



### NEW ADDRESS FOR TREASURER

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

**RSAR Association**

**BSB 633 000**

**Acc. 1616 585 88**

Cheques etc can be mailed to Christian Bennett at: **The Treasurer**  
**RSAR Association**  
**Christian Bennett**  
**5 Ashwin Parade**  
**Torrensville SA 5031**

## The Battle for Milne Bay Part 3

With two brigades now at Milne Bay, Major General Cyril Clowes was appointed to command Milne Force, which was placed under the control of New Guinea Force, now commanded by Lieutenant General Sydney Rowell, on 12 August. Clowes' headquarters was formed in Sydney at the end of July and was flown up to Milne Bay. He arrived with some of his staff on 13 August, but had to wait until the rest arrived before he could formally assume command of Milne Force on 22 August. By this time there were 7,459 Australian and 1,365 US Army personnel at Milne Bay, of whom about 4,500 were infantry. There were also about 600 RAAF personnel.

Clowes assigned the inexperienced 7th Infantry Brigade a defensive role, guarding key points around Milne Bay from seaborne or airborne attack, and kept the veteran 18th Infantry Brigade in reserve, ready to counterattack. Lacking accurate maps and finding that their signals equipment was unreliable in the conditions, the Australian command and control system consisted largely of cable telephones, or where there was not enough line available, runners. The soft ground made movement by road and even on foot difficult.

### Japanese

Japanese aircraft soon discovered the Allied presence at Milne Bay, which was appreciated as a clear threat to Japanese plans for another seaborne advance on Port Moresby, which was to start with a landing at Samarai Island in the China Strait, not far from Milne Bay. On 31 July the commander of the Japanese XVII Army, Lieutenant General Harukichi Hyakutake, requested that Vice Admiral Gunichi Mikawa's 8th Fleet capture the new Allied base at Milne Bay instead. Mikawa therefore altered his plans for the Samarai operation, and substituted the capture of Milne Bay, which was codenamed Operation *RE*, and scheduled for the middle of August. Operation *RE* received a high priority after aircraft from the 25th Air Flotilla discovered the new Milne Bay airfields on 4 August, but was then postponed due to the American landings on Guadalcanal on 7 August.



One of the Japanese barges after the battle. The fluted bottom allows the barge to retract from the beach easily.

Under the misconception that the airfields were defended by only two or three companies of Australian infantry (300–600 men), the initial Japanese assault force consisted of only about 1,250 personnel. The Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) was unwilling to conduct the operation as it feared that landing barges sent to the area would be attacked by Allied aircraft. Following an argument between IJA and Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) officers, it was agreed that the Navy would have responsibility for the landing. As a result, the assault force was drawn from the Japanese naval infantry, known as *Kaigun Rikusentai* (Special Naval Landing Forces). Some 612 naval troops from the 5th Kure Special Naval Landing Force (SNLF), led by Commander Masajiro Hayashi, were scheduled to land on the east coast near a point identified by the Japanese as "Rabi", along with 197 men from the 5th Sasebo

SNLF, led by Lieutenant Fujikawa. It was planned that a further 350 personnel from the 10th Naval Landing Force, along with 100 men from the 2nd Air Advance Party, would land via barge on the northern coast of the peninsula at Taupota, in Goodenough Bay, from where it would strike out over the Stirling Ranges to attack the Australians from behind. Following the battle, the chief of staff of the Japanese Combined

# The Battle for Milne Bay

## Part 3

Fleet, Vice Admiral Matome Ugaki, assessed that the landing force was not of a high calibre as it contained many 30- to 35-year-old soldiers who were not fully fit and had "inferior fighting spirit".<sup>[4]</sup> Naval support was to be provided by the 18th Cruiser Division under the command of Rear Admiral Mitsuharu Matsuyama. The Japanese enjoyed some initial advantage in the form of possessing two Type-95 light tanks. After an initial attack, however, these tanks became marooned in the mud and abandoned. They also had control of the sea during the night, allowing reinforcement and evacuation.

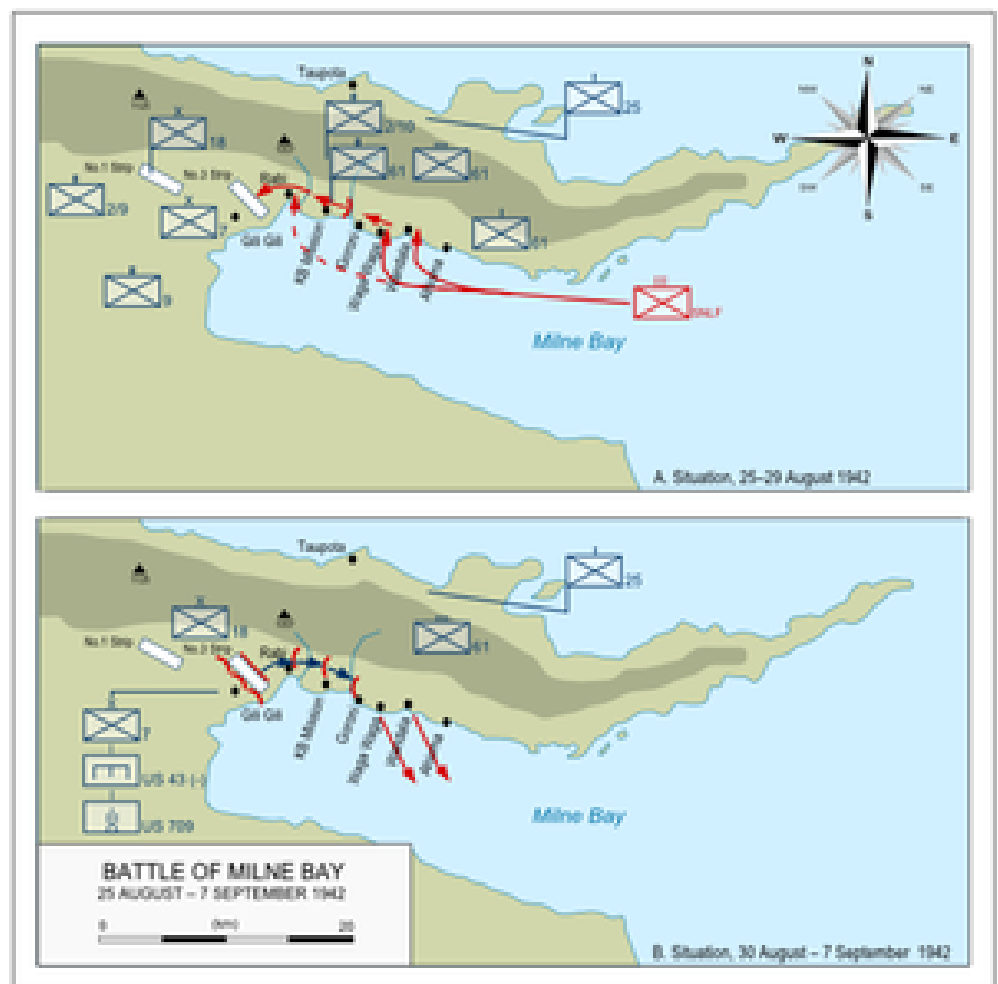
### Allied intelligence advantage

Countering these Japanese tactical advantages, the Allies enjoyed the strategic advantage of possessing superior intelligence about Japanese plans. The Japanese knew very little about Allied forces at Milne Bay, while the Allies received advance warning that the Japanese were planning an invasion. In mid-July codebreakers under the command of Commander Eric Nave informed MacArthur that toward the end of August the Japanese planned to attack Milne Bay. They provided detailed information about the numbers of soldiers to expect, which units would be involved, their standard of training, and the names of the ships that the Japanese had allocated to the operation. MacArthur's Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Brigadier General Charles A. Willoughby, had anticipated a Japanese reaction against Milne Force, and interpreted the Japanese reconnaissance on 4 August as foreshadowing an operation. After Allied Naval Forces Ultra decrypted a message that disclosed that a Japanese submarine picquet line had been established to cover the approaches to Milne Bay, Willoughby predicted that an attack was imminent. In response, MacArthur rushed the 18th Infantry Brigade to Milne Bay. Major General George Kenney, the commander of the Allied Air Forces, ordered air patrols stepped up over the likely Japanese invasion routes. He also ordered pre-emptive air strikes against the Japanese airfields at Buna on 24 and 25 August, which reduced the number of Japanese fighters available to support the attack on Milne Bay to just six.

### The Battle

#### Initial landing

Battle of Milne Bay 25 August – 7 September 1942



Continued next month



# ADF Holiday Accommodation - Goolwa

*The Australian Amenities Fund (AAF) provides holiday accommodation to ADF members Australia wide, and some lovely units are available for hire at Goolwa. Very reasonable rates and excellent facilities for your getaway. Defence was in the process of closing these units down, but after intervention from ADF members and the RSAR Association, they will now be available until March 2021, when a new review will be undertaken. If you don't use it, you lose it!*

The AAF Company provides discounted holiday options to Australian Defence Force (ADF) members.

## Are you eligible?

You can use AAF holiday facilities if you are:

- a member of the Australian Army (including Army Reserve)
- a member of the Navy and Air Force (including Reserves)
- retired from the ADF
- serving as a member of overseas forces
- an ADF civilians
- an ADF contractor or emergency service or an employee with Defence Bank or Military Bank.



## Location

Goolwa is located 83km south of Adelaide on the Murray River, 11km from the Murray mouth and 2km from the Southern Ocean.

The holiday homes are located on Bristow-Smith Avenue adjacent to the first fairway of the South Lakes Golf Course. The course is a 5,735m, 18 hole, par 70 course with a rating of 68 and has fully grassed greens and fairways. Four memberships are available so the occupants of the home can access the full facilities for the club, except entry to club competitions. Other guests may play by paying green fees. The clubhouse is fully licensed with excellent bar facilities and meals.

## Facilities

Located on large grassed blocks, three modern air-conditioned holiday homes each feature:

- three bedrooms, designed to accommodate a family of six
- queen bed in main bedroom
- two single beds in the second and third bedrooms
- large living and dining areas

# ADF Holiday Accommodation - Goolwa

- tiled bathrooms and separate toilet
- a laundry complete with washing machine
- a large kitchen with electric stove, microwave oven and refrigerator containing a large freezer compartment
- a colour TV, DVD players and reverse cycle air-conditioning
- a spacious carport under the roofline of the house
- blankets and pillows for all beds (guests are required to bring their own sheets and towels).

Cooking utensils, crockery, cutlery, toaster, electric kettle and electric frypan are provided. There is a community playground and electric barbecue for use by guests

## Rates

### For Army members

**High Season | 1 Oct – 30 Apr**

\$85 per night | \$510 per week

**Low Season | 1 May – 30 Sep**

\$68 per night | \$408 per week

### For all other eligible members

**High Season | 1 Oct – 30 Apr**

\$90 per night | \$540 per week

**Low Season | 1 May – 30 Sep**

\$73 per night | \$438 per week

## Bookings

Bookings can be made through:

Ms Deborah Edgerton

Phone: (08) 8555 0662 (9am to 5pm)

Fax: (08) 8555 0662

Email: [deborah.edgerton@bigpond.com](mailto:deborah.edgerton@bigpond.com)

Booking inquiries are preferred via email

You will need to provide:

evidence of your eligibility

- your postal address, mobile number and email address
- the number of people in your party
- your preferred dates.

Confirmation of bookings, subject to vacancies, will be given:

- 12 months in advance (Army)
- six months in advance (other eligible members)

10 days prior to arrival date for short stays (less than a week).

*Use It Or Lose It!*

## Letters to the Editor

Hi David,

At the AGM Don (Jock) McCulloch and I were discussing some of our early days in the CMF. We were looking back to the late 50s and around 1961 when the 1 RSAR was formed. I had transferred from the 10th Btn on formation of 1 RSAR and was posted to the Anti Tank Platoon and Jock and I trained there. Now I don't know why we remembered songs that I think the "old soldiers" sung around the campfire but we both recalled a ditty that went like this;

*A soldier came home on 14 days leave  
And up stepped a Provo and said pardon me please  
But there's blood on your shirt and guts on your sleeve  
I think I will cancel your 14 days leave*

*The soldier turned round with a murderous look  
Said "look here you bastard I am back from Tobruk  
Where wizz bangs are flying and pleasures are few  
And brave men are dying for bastards like you"*

*Now women have babies and have them with ease  
Harlots have bastards and call them MPs  
You can go and get stuffed and do as you please  
You are a whole mob of bastards you bloody MPs*

Now remember a lot of the "old soldiers" back then were WW2 and Korean veterans. They were the staff that ran the 10th Btn and I guess the formation of 1 RSAR so some of us young blokes were exposed to the entertainment and humour of these fellows. For some reason that particular song stuck with Jock and myself but there were a lot of others that were pretty ribald. So I wonder if anyone else who came from that late 50s early 60s can recall some of the songs from the old regiments.

Regards,

*Chris Acton*

Mr President

Mr Secretary

May I extend my hearty congratulations to you both on the occasion of your re-election to your respective Offices - well done!

In regard to the venue for the AGM I must say we were quite impressed, again well done.

Cheers

*Norm Tregenza*

Thanks David,

Your report on Kangaroo Island was appreciated and the Reserve Soldiers who worked there should certainly be proud of the work they did. The work carried out in other areas of Australia during that period of time and currently by Reserve Soldiers is also worthy of note.

Well done to all

*Peter Stewien*



## 2020 AGM @ the AVOCA

37 loyal RSARA members and partners attended the 2020 AGM at the Avoca Hotel on Sunday 30th August, which saw the Committee re-elected, and new Treasurer Christian Bennett take over from outgoing Treasurer David Hope. After the reports and admin were over, members enjoyed some drinks and camaraderie over lunch, which was gratefully consumed. The Avoca Hotel was a great venue, and we'll use it again for our Luncheon on October 4th with CFS Chief Officer Mark Jones.



**Above to Clockwise:** The Secretary reads his report. Norm Tregenza, Mark Blondell, Graham Elliott and Trent Burnard discuss politics. Wayne Burns, Nat Cooke, Alan Orrock and Ian Carnachan together, and Howard Parslow and Philippa Hooke pose for the photographer.





## 2020 AGM @ the AVOCA

Clockwise from RIGHT: David Laing, Corey Skapin and Rodney Beames.

Ian Carnachan, Howard Parslow, Des Hawking (seated) and Colin Phillips.

Bandmaster David Portakiewicz reads his AGM Report.

Max Hill chats to Grant James.





# 2020 AGM @ the AVOCA





## PRIVATE TED'S HUMOUR



In 1912, Kaiser Wilhelm II, German emperor, visited Switzerland.

As most of us know, he was very much preparing to wage the Great War (later called World War I) at that time. So, he decided to joke a bit with the Swiss Army. The Swiss Confederacy had a very tiny military back then but a populace of riflemen.

He asked, "What will the 250,000 strong Swiss Army do if Germany attacks with 500,000 troops?"

The soldiers replied, **"Shoot twice and go home."** I don't know about you but I think that is pretty savage.

*Sent in by member Lyndon Gaborit*

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers.

The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!"

The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!"

The priest said, "Here comes the greens-keeper. Let's have a word with him."

He said, "Hello George, What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?"

The greens-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime!"

The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight."

The doctor said, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything she can do for them."

The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"





## PRIVATE TED'S HUMOUR

I was shopping at the local supermarket where I selected:

A litre of 2% milk

A carton of eggs

A litre of orange juice

A head of lettuce

A 500 gram can of coffee

A 1 kilo. Package of bacon

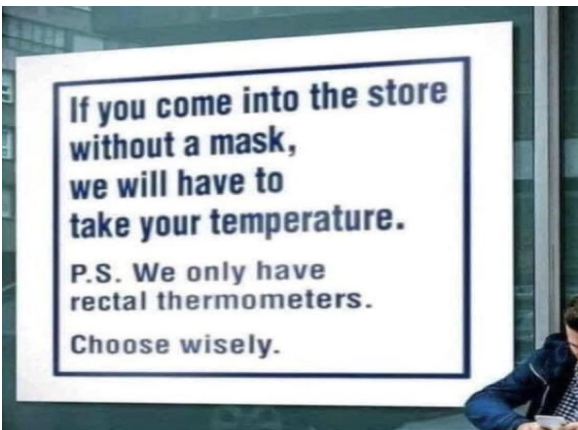
As I was unloading my items on the conveyor belt to check out, a drunk standing behind me watched as I placed the items in front of the cashier. While the cashier was ringing up the purchases, the drunk calmly Stated, 'You must be single.'

I was a bit startled by this proclamation, but I was intrigued by the derelict's intuition, since I indeed had never found Mr. Right.

I looked at the six items on the belt and saw nothing particularly unusual about my selections that could have tipped off the drunk to my marital status..

Curiosity getting the better of me, I said , 'Yes you are correct. But how on earth did you know that?'

The drunk replied, 'Cause you're bloody ugly.



Self Isolation Chair



Here's Debbie.

Debbie is 31 years old and has been home schooling her kids for the past 4 hours.

Great job Debbie, keep it up!

**Royal South Australia  
Regiment Association Inc.**



**Pro Patria**

*All correspondence to:*

**The Secretary David Laing  
Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.  
PO Box 5218 Murray Bridge South SA 5253**

Email: [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)

Phone: 0407 791 822



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**[www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au)**

Hard copies of this newsletter are kindly printed by the office of the Member for Barker, the Honourable Tony Pasin MP, in Murray Bridge.

Some members don't have internet access or email, therefore the only way we can keep them informed is by snail mail hard copies. This is made much easier thanks to Tony and his hard working staff.

*Thank you Tony Pasin MP and Staff.*

## **EDITORIAL CONTENT DISCLAIMER**

Any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter are personal and belong to the Editor and do not represent those people, institutions or organizations that the Editor may or may not be associated with in any professional capacity, unless explicitly stated

Any views or opinions are not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, club, organisation, company or individual.

## **EDITORIAL**

Last month saw our Annual General Meeting carried out at the Avoca Hotel in Clarence Gardens. The Avoca staff went out of their way to ensure we were given an exclusive area to meet our needs, and the meeting went off without a hitch, followed by some fantastic meals and drinks, all attributing to the camaraderie we are known for. We did, however have a wee problem as my good lady and myself were about to leave. I was approached by hotel staff and advised that 3 meals hadn't been paid for! I offered to pay the outstanding amount myself, but the staff were very understanding and said they could wait until I did some research to find the "culprits!" By the time I arrived home I had an email from one member owning up to his forgetfulness and offering to pay straightaway. I sent an email to a number of members and within a half a day had identified the others. One had paid cash, which wasn't recorded, and the other also went back and fixed up his tab. Not bad for a bunch of oldies, eh? To those concerned, thanks for your honesty.

We had some members make observations about the meal ordering process, and how it took some time for some to get fed, so next year we'll order our meals BEFORE the AGM and ask for them to be served from midday onwards, after the formalities. How does that sound?

*Our next visit to the Avoca will be for the October 4th Luncheon, featuring Guest Speaker Mark Jones from the Country Fire Service. Mark will talk about his role in the CFS and about his "baptism of fire" in December 2019 when the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island fires took hold and threatened to get out of control. A number of members have already reserved their seats, but we still have large spaces left to fill. The talk will start at 1100 hrs At 1200 hrs members can then dine (as per the AGM) or adjourn to the bar for a drink. Please contact me ASAP to reserve your seat for what promises to be a great day.*

At the AGM a number of members paid their annual subs, and we thank you for that. On Page 13 is the latest list of Financial members. The total is down 40 members since July, therefore a number of members still need to renew their subs. If your name isn't on this list and you have already paid, please contact the Secretary for confirmation. If you are still to pay, please do so soon.

Cheers

*David Laing* Secretary / Editor



## RSAR Association - Financial Members as at August 30, 2020

### Honorary Members

Craig	John
Morgenthaler	Peter
Wilson	Neil

### Life Members

Acton	Chris
Ayles	Jeff
Beckett	David
Benveniste	Sam
Blackmore	Bill
Boscence	Bob
Bourne	Colin
Brookes	Philip
Burnard	Trent
Burns	Wayne
Carnachan	Ian
Carpenter	Ian
Cotton	Bob
Dart	John
Davey	Trevor
Elliott	Graham
Gaborit	Lyndon
Hawking	Don
Haynes	Malcolm
Higgins	Jonathon
Hogan	Mark
Hook	Alan
Hope	David
Horseman	Ian
Jackson	Aaron
James	Grant
Johnson	Barry
Klopf	Alex
Laing	David
Lakin	Bruce
Marlin	Robin
Meredith	Michael
Moore	Terry
Paul	John
Pollard	Barry
Salamon	Piotr
Sanderson	Max
Stewart	Robin
Stewien	Peter
Vella	Joe
Waters	Ian
Westover	Rhys
Wilson	Graham
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg

### Members

Abraham	Michael
Attenborough	Geoff
Bampton	Michael
Beames	Rodney
Bennett	Christian
Brown	Bruce
Burton	Ray
Carlisle	Lesley-Ann
Cooke	Nat
Dew	Trevor
Dunn	Bob
Dunn	Peter
Ewens	Mimi
Faunt	Joshua
Foy	Erin
Gatley	Graham
Goodwin	Graham
Gordon	Frank
Harrington	Malcolm
Harrison	John
Hawkins	Des
Hill	Max
Hudson	Rick
Humphrys	Jesse
Loveder	Peter
McCulloch	Don
McIver	Bill
Mitchell	Barry
Oakley	Andrew
O'Daly	Ryan
Orrock	Alan
Parslow	Howard
Payne	Bob
Phillips	Colin Rex
Portakiewicz	Anthony
Portakiewicz	David
Ramm	Hank
Rossetti	Lee
Sanders	Ashley
Skapin	Corey
Smith	Ryan
Sniedze	Julie
Thomas	David
Thomson	Jim
Tregenza	Norm
Wheeler	Chris

### Associate Life Members

Elliott	Julie
Field	Shirley
Laing	June
Phillips	Heather
Sanderson	Lorraine

### Associate Members

Carnachan	Dom
Collins	Peter
Dunn	Trish
Hudson	Margaret
Toy	Jill
Tregenza	Lyn

Honorary Members	3
Life Members	35
Serving Life Members	9
Associate Life Members	5
Members	31
Serving Members	15
Associate Members	6
<b>Total financial members</b>	<b>104</b>

### Prepaid Members

2021/22	Σ
2022/23	^

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP***Membership Category*

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

*My Details*

Full Name:	Postal Address:
Date of Birth:	Email:
Mobile No:	How did you hear about the Association?
Spouse/partners name	
Period of Service     /     /     to     /     /	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Member of the RSAR or Sub Unit
What date did you first join the RSARA     /     /	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  <b>The Treasurer</b> <b>RSAR Association</b> <b>Christian Bennett</b> <b>5 Ashwin Parade</b> <b>Torrensville SA 5031</b>	<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</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](http://www.rsara.asn.au)Please send this completed application, with any proof of service to the RSAR Association Secretary at [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)