

# "SITREP, OVER!"

Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

JANUARY 2021

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing

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## LOOKING AROUND: THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY RESERVES

The future of the Australian Army Reserve (Reserves) is a topic hotly contested in messes, around barbeques and in the comments section found under thought-provoking articles on the *The Cove*. Times are changing, and so is Army.

An increasing role for Army's 2nd Division, comprising mostly Reservists, in domestic operations (DOMOPS) is now broadly accepted. As the latest change in the role of the Reserves, thinking about how we got here can be interpreted in two ways:

- Either the Reserve is a flexible, constantly changing and adaptable force, employed in various operational settings, in different forms – and ready to take on this most important responsibility.

Or the Reserve is a "disproportionately expensive" capability that, even after significant reforms, remains a "stranded capability" with a confused value proposition – training for war, but delivering versatile and adaptive teams to support civil organisations in times of crisis too. Continued Page 18



### ITEMS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

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## Meet the new CO. LTCOL Sam Benveniste



Lieutenant Colonel Sam Benveniste

Photo by CPL Brenton Kwaterski

In World War II, Winston Churchill described Army reservists as "twice the citizen", which is what South Australian local Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Benveniste is in the war against the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a combat engineer, Lieutenant Colonel Benveniste didn't hesitate to offer his specialist planning skills to support the ADF's Operation COVID-19 Assist and one of its teams embedded with South Australia Health.

"The opportunity to serve domestically, providing support to the state in this crisis, is particularly important to me," Lieutenant Colonel Benveniste said.

In his civilian role, Lieutenant Colonel Benveniste is an orthopaedic and trauma surgeon at the Royal Adelaide and Calvary Adelaide hospitals, which gives him a unique set of transferrable planning skills to help fight COVID-19.

"With a reduction in the number of elective surgeries and a significant decrease in trauma surgeries as a result of people doing the right thing and staying at home, I can use my skills in other ways during this crisis," Lieutenant Colonel Benveniste said.

Along with his valued civilian skills, his reservist role will now be as Commanding Officer of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR based at Keswick Barracks, and he takes up that role in 2021.

Lieutenant Colonel Benveniste's skills accompanied by his 'insider's' understanding of the implications of a potentially strained health system is a valued combination during this time of crisis.

He has served with the Army Reserves for 18 years.

Story by Lieut Commander Ben Robinson



## Meet the new RSM. WO1 Ben Read

Warrant Officer Class Two Read was born in NSW, educated in QLD and enlisted into the Army in 2000. Since then, his service has been spent in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and he is currently appointed as a career manager 343 RAINF PTE - LCPL at Directorate Soldier Career Management – Army.

On completion of Initial Employment Training, Warrant Officer Class Two Read was posted to the 5th/7th Battalion (Mechanised), the Royal Australian Regiment. Warrant Officer Class Two Read has broad range of regimental experience having served in all ranks through rifleman, and within mechanised and motorised positions within the 5th/7th, 5th and 8th/9th Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment. Warrant Officer Class Two Read has been posted to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka where he served as a Recruit Instructor in A Company and Marksmanship Training Section. Warrant Officer Class Two Read was promoted to sergeant and extended his tenure at Kapooka in order to undertake the position of platoon sergeant in C Company. He returned to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion in 2018 where he was appointed as CSM of both C and Training Support Companies.

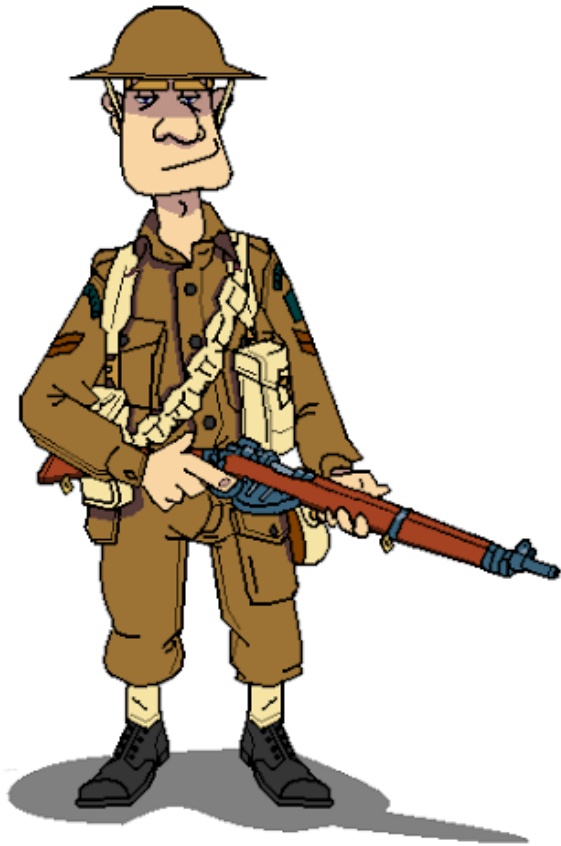


On promotion to Warrant Officer Class Two, he was appointed as a Training Warrant Officer within the 4th/3rd Battalion, the Royal New South Wales Regiment. He enjoyed the challenges and the autonomy that the posting provided, and it made for a rewarding two years. In 2015 Warrant Officer Class Two Read returned to the 8th/9th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, as the Battalion Motorised Warrant Officer. He completed his Company Sergeant Major appointment within A Company and in 2016 deployed in the dual role of CSM and Operations Warrant Officer within Force Protection Element 5 and Australian Headquarters based in Kabul, Afghanistan. On return from operations, he completed the year as CSM A Company before moving to the Battalion S7 Training Warrant Officer in 2017.

Warrant Officer Class Two Read has an extensive operational history. He has deployed to East Timor, OP CITADEL (2002-03), Iraq, OP CATALYST (SECEDT 4B 2004, AMTG 2 2005/06 and OWBG-W 3 2007) and Afghanistan OP SLIPPER (MTF 4 2012) and OP HIGHROAD (FPE 5 2016). Warrant Officer Class Two Read's honours and awards include the Return from Active Service Badge, the Infantry Combat Badge, the Australian Active Service Medal (East Timor, Iraq 2003 and ICAT Clasps), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Operation Service Medal - Middle East, Australian Defence Force Long Service Medal with 1st clasp, Australian Defence Medal, the United Nations Medal in Support of East Timor Medal, the NATO Non- Article 5 Medal (ISAF Clasp) and the NATO Non- Article 5 Medal (Afghanistan Clasp).

Warrant Officer Class Two Read is engaged to Hayley and they have one son. His interests include spending time with his family, teaching his son new things and watching sports (NRL) as his rugby days are now behind him. He is currently studying the Bachelor of Organisational Leadership which he completed in 2020.

WO2 Read is posted, on promotion to Warrant Officer Class One to the 10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment in 2021. The RSAR Association looks forward to working with WO1 Read.

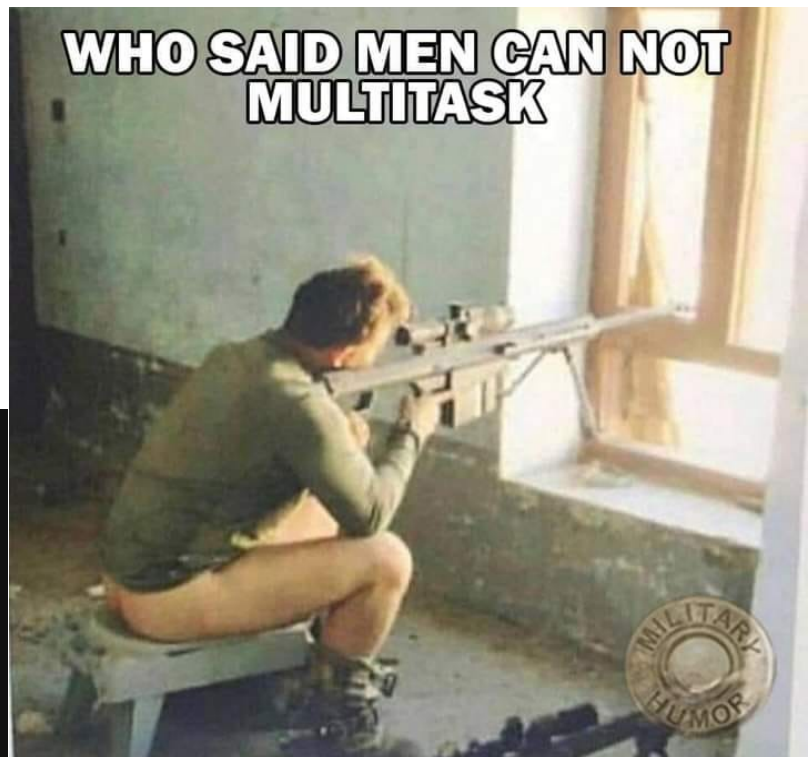


## Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.

Our new Joke Bloke has been identified as CPL Ivor Numbnutz. I don't know if anyone actually read the last edition of "Sitrep, Over!" but I had no suggestions (apart from a couple of nasty ones) for a new name for our Jokester. So, I named him myself.

The prize was to be a Stubby Cooler and a free beer, but I've awarded those to myself. I love your work!

Having some states in lockdown and some states not in lockdown is like having a Peeing Section in the swimming pool.







Says it all, eh?



AFTER ALL THE  
STUPID, STUPID  
THINGS I'VE DONE  
IN MY LIFE...IF I  
DIE BECAUSE I  
TOUCHED MY  
FACE, I AM GOING  
TO BE SERIOUSLY  
PISSSED.

Guy: I broke my arm in three places

Doctor: Well, don't go to those places



*This morning I was beaten up by a very buxom lady in an elevator. I was staring at her boobs when she said "Would you please press ONE for me?" So I did!*

*I don't remember much after that.*

## 2020 End of Year Get Together

At the final function for 2020 the RSAR Association recognised and rewarded individuals for service above and beyond what is normally required.

Sgt Mark Blondell was presented with a Certificate of Gratitude for his exemplary liaison work between the Association and the 10th/27th Battalion Battle Group. He was also presented with a Shield for Outstanding Service to the Association. He leaves to take up a posting in Training with Adelaide Universities Regiment.

Departing RSM WO1 Johnny Craig was presented with a Shield of Appreciation for his unselfish support of the Association during 2019/20. He leaves to take up a prime posting with 7 RAR as RSM.

RSARA President Rod Beames was presented with a Certificate of Gratitude, and conferred with Honorary Membership for Life, becoming the first ever member to receive such an honour. Rod has lead by example through a very trying year, not only withstanding the COVID-10 pandemic but also through personal health issues and family loss. Rod was left "speechless" for the first time, which is also a first.





## 2020 End of Year G2G



Happy New Year



## 2020 End of Year G2G



Happy New Year



## 2020 End of Year G2G





## 2020 End of Year G2G

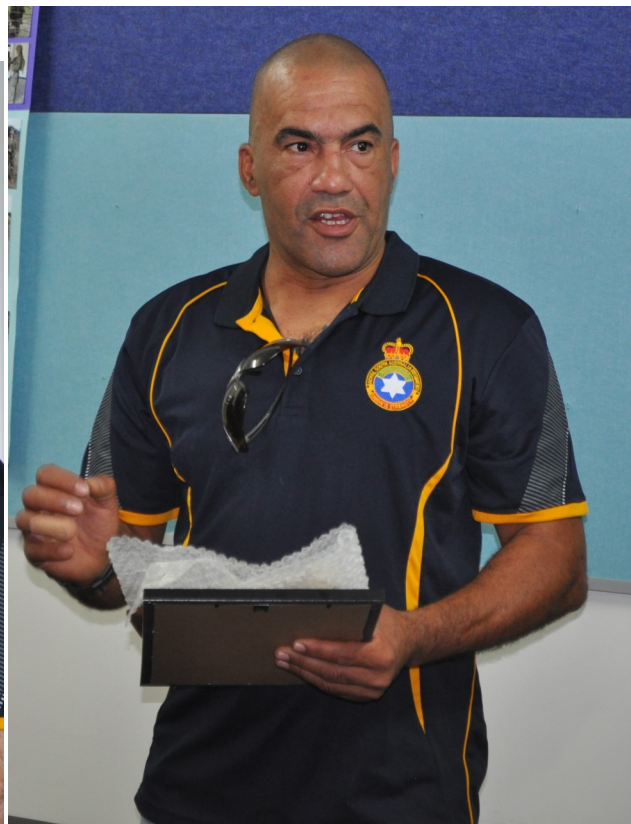


Now who would put a LIVE Smoke Grenade  
in their ammo pouch, WITHOUT THE  
SAFETY PIN IN IT?? Blondie???





## 2020 End of Year BBQ



 **Happy New Year** 

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

G'day Dave

The story of the HMAS Banks (2020 Christmas Edition) exercise brings back some memories. Mate I just wish more photo's were taken back then.

And I hope Peter Salamon passes onto Chris Moore this article. (He was a "star!")  
Firing the SLR with "Blanks" at balloons off the stern of the ship. – Looked good, not many balloons hit though, managed to carry out the correct I.A's even with all the pitching and tossing.

Embarking at the wharf, if you mistimed you could have been crushed under the wharf or dropped several metres back down again as the swell was sooo strong.

Diesel fumes from the engine room took its toll.

Unknown to me at that time the engineer was, excusing rank, one "NIGEL HAYES", who apparently lost his false teeth overboard.

Fast forward some 30 years, it ends up that I married his ex-wife who was an old school sweetheart.

Rope burns from the toggle ropes didn't help and the issued "AB" boots with leather soles just did not hold on the slopes as we tried to scale the cliffs – GP's were still some way off to be issued as all stocks had been sent to Vietnam

To finally get off the beach & up the cliffs was a relief.

Then to find some WO2 Cadre Staff checking our SLR's for illegal doctoring. (someone who shall remain nameless placed plastic under the trigger sear of the SLR rifle to make it fire as if an automatic wpn.)

As usual once back at the old depot, 'A' Coy Alberton concluded the exercise with the traditional family BBQ and post exercise activity.

"Remember all our yesterdays"

Regards

*Des Hawkins*

### *Editor replies:*

*Thanks again Des, your memory is better than mine, but I prefer to "forget" the incident when some blighter "tampered" with mine and Mick Hudson's SLRs to make them fire full auto. The culprit was never found, so Mick and I were absolved of all charges. (Phew!)*

*It was rather strange firing blank ammo at a weather balloon being towed behind the ship though, and no one could really see the point in wasting ammo.*

*I do recall a number of the ships crew, including the Captain making "deposits" over the side, but not many soldiers were sick, although a few of us came close.*

*The ascent of the cliffs was not only dangerous, it was foolish with the lack of proper equipment, but at least no one was hurt, only our pride in the eyes of the locals. I'm interested if any readers have comments on this little known episode from back in the old A Coy Alberton days?*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

David

I would just like to say again that it has been an honour serving on the association committee. I'd also like to express my appreciation for the awards bestowed on me and the speech which you gave .

It was a massive but great shock to find out the effort you went to .

Have a safe and happy Christmas

Again thank you

Blondie

Mark Blondell SGT

~~~~~

David,

I had a wonderful day at Keswick with the Association. The company was excellent; the lunch was excellent and I was very impressed with the gesture you chaps organised for Rod Beames.

Just talking over old times with some of the chaps there today was great, and it appears to be a unanimous sentiment that no matter how old we are or eventually get to as individuals we all need to 'belong', and I would say our **RSAR Association** is like a family with our past service being our common bond.

Thank you and the committee again for a lovely day.

Best wishes to you and yours for a safe and Happy Christmas. Hope to catch up in the new year.

Lee

**Lee ROSSETTI (Reg. No: 434514)**

~~~~~

***From RSAR Association Facebook page.***

***Ian D'Arcy***

Congratulations Johnny Craig, fantastic recognition. Great to see the RSAR Association stronger and better than ever.

***Johnny Craig***

Thanks Ian,, also the support the Association gives the men and women of the Battalion is absolutely remarkable.

***Mark Blondell***

A great day with good friends . Sorry to leave the association but not for good . As Arnie once said "I'll be back"

## EDITORIAL

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to 2021, after a very trying year in our lives. For years we've seen sci-fi movies about plagues and diseases that threatened to wipe out the human race, and yet until the end of 2019 they were just science fiction. Who, apart from the most dedicated scientists could have foreseen what could have been the end of humanity as we know it? And that could have happened. Just look at the US and Europe to see how the pandemic is running riot there. Some society's locked down within weeks, and some didn't lock down at all, and they are now suffering the consequences. From time to time I have included jokes about the virus and how the world has handled it, but the graphic truth is, we are all still in danger, unless we follow the Health Dept. guidelines. I'm not going to tell you what they are, suffice to say, if you're reading this you're probably one of those who have listened to the professionals. Well done. Keep it up!

This year we have a new Commanding Officer AND a new RSM of the Battalion. LTCOL Sam Benveniste was a previous member of the Association when he was OC at 3 Fd Sqdn, and he has shown his loyalty by becoming a Life Member of the RSARA this time round. Welcome back Sir! (Page 2)

The new RSM is WO1 Ben Read, formerly a Career Advisor at DSCM-A for Infantry. You can see his profile on Page 3.

As well, the incoming Officer Commanding Bravo Coy 10/27 Bn RSAR, MAJ Tom Moore has also thrown his allegiance behind the Association by becoming a Life Member. We welcome all three gentlemen and look forward to long beneficial partnerships.

In the mean time we farewell the outgoing CO LTCOL Peter Morgenthaler, and outgoing RSM WO1 John Craig (who has picked up the prime role in SA as RSM 7 RAR.) thanks for your support and friendship and we wish you the best in the future.

Finally, in light of the findings of the Brereton Report into alleged war crimes carried out by ADF personnel in AFG, we must, as an ESO remain unbiased and focus on the true nature of the ADF "animal." Such labels as "fog of war" and "in the heat of battle" have been used to summarize the extent of some actions, but regardless what the findings of the report are, we must support our soldiers to the nth degree, as not all are tarred with the same brush. The majority should not pay for the sins of a few.

That's what I think!

*David Laing* - Editor



## Contact Us

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David Laing**

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.rsara.asn.au](http://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](mailto:christianbennett95@gmail.com)



## After Your Army Service

Some of our members have seen 30 plus years with the ADF, and others may have served for 12 months with the Regiment. We leave and then what?

I spent time working in the Security Industry for nearly 30 years, and then running my own business until I retired at 67 years of age, at which time I gave all my spare hours over 7 years to the local RSL. My only vice was this Association. I gave what I could. Others joined bank boards, aka Rod Beames, and others worked for external organisations. A few chose to support sporting clubs, and give of their time freely and regularly. One of these was former 10 RSAR Sergeant Barry Pollard, who not only volunteered at the SA Sea Rescue Squadron for many, many years, but put in countless hours supporting his beloved SANFL team, the South Adelaide Panthers. Barry has now been conferred Life Membership of the South Adelaide Football Club for his extensive voluntary work with that club. Well done Bazza!



## WARNING ORDER



The RSAR Association has “eyes on every corner,” and these eyes tell us the 10/27 Battalion Battle Group are planning a Training Weekend at RAAF Base Edinburgh in the first weekend of February 2021, being the 2nd and 3rd.

No word has been forthcoming from BN HQ at this stage, but we believe there may be a requirement for “Association feet on the ground” to prepare, cook and serve a BBQ lunch to around 120 personnel on the Sunday.

Anyone available to lend a hand is asked to contact the Secretary on the usual means ASAP for registration and security purposes. Should dates and/or timings changed you will be updated immediately.

## WAITING. OUT!

Life Members			Members A-S			Honorary Members	
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name
Acton	Chris		Abraham	Michael	SM	Craig WO1	John
Ayles	Jeff		Attenborough	Geoff		Morgenthaler LTCOL	Peter
Beckett	David	SM	Bampton	Michael	SM	Wilson MAJGEN	Neil
Benveniste	Sam	SM	Bennett	Christian	SM		
Blackmore	Bill		Blondell	Mark	SM	Honorary Member for Life	
Boscence	Bob		Brown	Bruce		Beames	Rodney
Bourne	Colin	SM	Burnard	Saxon	SM		
Brookes	Philip		Burton	Ray		Associate Life Members	
Burnard	Trent	SM	Carlisle	Lesley-Ann	SM ∑	Last Name	First Name
Burns	Wayne		Cooke	Nat		Elliott	Julie
Carnachan	Ian		Cram	Kevin	∑	Field	Shirley
Carpenter	Ian		Demosani	Tony		Laing	June
Cotton	Bob		Dew	Trevor		Phillips	Heather
Dart	John		Domanski	Glenn		Sanderson	Lorraine
Davey	Trevor		Dunn	Bob			
Elliott	Graham		Dunn	Peter			
Gaborit	Lyndon		Ewens	Mimi	SM		
Harris	Lachlan		Faquiri	Reshad	SM		
Hawking	Don		Faunt	Joshua	SM	Associate Members	
Haynes	Malcolm	SM	Foy	Erin	SM	Last Name	First Name
Higgins	Jonathon	SM	Gatley	Graham	▲	Carnachan	Dom ∑
Higgins	Jonathon		Gibson	Lindsay		Collins	Peter
Hogan	Mark		Gill	Graham		Dunn	Trish
Hook	Alan		Goodwin	Graham	SM	Hudson	Margaret
Hope	David		Gordon	Frank		Johnson	Margaret
Horseman	Ian		Harrington	Malcolm		Parsonage	Yvonne
Jackson	Aaron	SM	Harrison	John		Toy	Jill
James	Grant	SM	Harrison	Keith		Trogenza	Lyn
Johnson	Barry		Harrison	Nigel		Winger	Kathleen
Klopf	Alex		Hawkins	Des			
Laing	David		Hill	Max			
Lakin	Bruce		Hudson	Rick		Honourary Member for Life	
Marlin	Robin	SM	Humphrys	Jesse	SM ∑	Honorary Members	
Meredith	Michael	SM	Jones	Brett		Life Members	
Moore	Terry		Koop	Joshua	SM	Serving Life Members	
Moore	Thomas	SM	Loveder	Peter		Members	
Paul	John		Matchett	William		Serving Members	
Pollard	Barry		McCulloch	Don		Associate Life Members	
Salamon	Piotr		McIver	Bill		Associate Members	
Sanderson	Max		Mitchell	Barry		Total financial members	
Standing	Michael		Moroney	Frank			185
Stewart	Robin		Mulroney	Dennis		Prepaid Members	
Stewien	Peter		Normadale	Zachary	SM		∑ 2021/22
Vella	Joe		Oakley	Andrew			▲ 2022/23
Waters	Ian		O'Daly	Ryan	SM		
Westover	Rhys		Orrock	Alan			
Wilson	Graham		Parslow	Howard	∑		
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg		Parsonage	James			
			Pascoe	Michael			
Members T - Z			Payne	Bob			
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Pexton	Timothy	SM		
Tasker	David		Phillips	Colin Rex			
Thomas	David		Portakiewicz	Anthony	SM ∑		
Thomson	Jim		Portakiewicz	David	SM ∑		
Trogenza	Norm		Preece	Brian			
Trezise	George	SM	Rado	Steven			
Tsoulakis	Christos	SM	Ramm	Hank			
Tucker	Belinda	SM	Ranger	Denis			
Weepers	Nicole	SM	Robertson	James			
Wheeler	Chris		Rossetti	Lee			
			Sage	Andrew			
			Sanders	Ashley	SM ∑		
			Schuh	Simon	SM		
			Scott	Rhys	SM		
			Skapin	Corey	SM		
			Smith	Ryan	SM		
			Sniedze	Julie	SM		





# Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



Membership Category

Date of Application / /

<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) <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 Christian Bennett RSAR Association Inc 8 Lomond Ave Kensington Park SA 5068	<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](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)

Continued from Page 1

Regardless of how you frame it, in the post-bushfires, post-COVID economic climate, the belt will tighten on Government – including the Reserves. Already, the question is being asked whether the Reserves can continue to do both – maintain responsibility and capability for DOMOPS and train for Foundation Warfighting.

Looking backwards at a two decade 'highlights reel' suggests that the Reserve can do both – but doing so comes at a cost. Looking sideways at what our American mates do suggests the Reserve can indeed do both, but doing so means maximising the value of the Reserve during non-crisis, non-war-time periods and finding new roles and tasks to ensure value for money. By looking backwards and sideways, we can work out where the Reserve stands in order to then look forward as to how the Reserve might create value in the future.

Looking backwards: A flexible and adaptable force

For the Reserves, a two-decade long 'highlights reel' shows constant change, and several different approaches to extracting value from the part time force.

Between 2004 and 2014, around 2,400 Reserve soldiers deployed on operations, the majority of which were part of collective capabilities on peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

Between 2014 and 2017, the majority of deployed reservists were individual reinforcements and small teams, as well as embeds to coalition headquarters, niche specialist capabilities and senior officer appointments. Drawing on the conclusions of the Defence White Paper in 2000, by 2017 the notion that the Reserve will maintain collective capabilities and structures for mobilisation in response to strategic warning had become a distant memory.

In February 2017 the Chief of Army's '*Total Force Approach for Operational Deployments*' directive set the scene for the new status quo, with some positions on all operations to be made available to Reservists. To some, it might have appeared that the future of the Reserves was to train collectively but to deploy as individuals, (or at best small teams) amongst a larger force drawn substantially from the permanent forces. But the role of the Reservist would quickly become much more varied.

Today, the view that the Reservist's domain is exclusively low-to-medium risk stabilisation, border protection and humanitarian operations is quickly vanishing. Rather, the relevance and necessity of concepts like *One Army*, and the *Total Workforce System*, are reinforced – if not proven – by recent events.

In October 2018, a mostly Reserve force quietly established Joint Task Force 646 to support the Invictus Games with ceremonial, security and general support. Planning alongside civil authorities and the Games' organisers – proving a collective capability to proactively support civil organisations.

In October 2019 Defence sought in a submission to Government, "to normalise and practice the 'Call Out' arrangements [for Reservists] which, to date, had never been used." Three months later on 04 January 2020 the Governor General called out the Reserves for the first time in history as part of OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST – proving a collective capability to reactively respond to a civil organisations' request for support.

Continued next month.