

"Sitrep, Over!"



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

Patron: MAJGEN Neil Wilson AM RFD

Secretary / Editor David Laing

**January
2024**

Happy Regimental Day to the Royal NZ Infantry Regiment

Kia Ora

The New Zealand Infantry Corps was formed January 1947, gaining Royal status later that same year, before the various regiments (regular and territorial) were amalgamated into the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment in April 1964.

As throughout their history (from Corps through to Regiment), the highly trained men and women of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment have been and always will be the backbone of the New Zealand Army, at the forefront of technology and tactics to keep the New Zealand Army an effective and relevant global force.

Training to operate in any weather, season, or terrain, an infantry soldier works in close-knit teams, learning combat skills such as weapon handling, navigation, first aid, field craft, marksmanship, and survival training, all while building physical fitness, strength, high levels of endurance, and stamina.

The role of an infantry soldier is varied, requiring mental agility and moral fortitude to operate at home or overseas on military training exercises, operational deployments in conflict areas of the world or in support of humanitarian aid, and disaster relief within New Zealand or overseas.

The front-line soldiers of our Infantry Regiment are at the core of what makes the New Zealand Army the modern, agile, and highly adaptive light combat force that it is, and live up to their motto: Onward.

From all of us here in the Royal South Australia Regiment Association we want to wish the men and women serving in the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (past and present) a happy Regimental Day and thank you for your service.

Things I've learned!

When your Recruit Platoon Sergeant asks "Who knows how to drive?" Never volunteer! I once drove a broom around Torrens Parade Ground for 3 hours! TWICE!

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to a New Year of Camaraderie, Communications and Cheers. We continue to support the 10th/27th Battalion by providing our services as required, and are proud to continue our liaison with the new CO LTCOL Aaron Jackson and his team.

The 2023 End Of Year Lunch in December was a great success with our largest gathering ever, with over 50 members and their partners attending to see the year out. After some terrible weather events and the flooding of the 10/27 Bn building at Keswick we had to hurriedly change the venue to the A Coy Mess at Warradale Barracks. Thank you to A Coy CSM WO2 Mark Blondell for organising the new venue and stocking the bar. Chief Baitlayer Col Abel once again excelled by providing a very sumptuous selection of cold meats, mouth watering seafood and various salads and side dishes. Well done Col and thanks to Graham and Julie Elliott for helping with the prep! It was also great to see Brigadier Graham Goodwin and wife Jenny, Brigadier Peter Moore, LTCOL Sam Benveniste and LTCOL Aaron Jackson all supporting the event. All the pics are on Pages 3,4,5 & 6. More pics are on our Facebook page.

During the lunch we were also advised of the promotions of two of our most revered members. Padre Paul Ghanem, outgoing Padre has been promoted to Major. Well done Padre. (Now even closer to God!) And WO2 David Portakiewicz, Bandmaster of the best bunch of musicians in the Defence Force has been deservedly promoted to Warrant Officer Class One. Well done WO1 Portakiewicz..

Abig thanks to the readers who took the time to respond to my question last December, "Should I keep publishing this newsletter?" The response was overwhelming, with a number of Old & Bold passing on their thanks for my efforts. I also received thanks from serving members as well, and they all expressed their desire to see this newsletter continue. Thank you all. I have listened!

Part 2 of our insight into our brethren "Over the Ditch" is on Page 14. Featuring Pte Danny McCarthy from 2nd/4th Battalion RNZIR and his start as a Reservist in NZ. Next month we'll feature the story of a WW2 NZ soldier who won the Victoria Cross. TWICE! Charles Upham VC & Bar was a real hero, in more ways than one!

As we enter a new year, we have a new host for our Jokes Pages. His name is "Digger Wombat" and he's the brainchild of a former serving member of the ADF Ian Coates, who is a brilliant illustrator and artist. I thank Ian for his permission to bring "Digger Wombat" on board, and I urge our readers to check out his fantastic art work at <https://iancoate.com/index.html> Cheers Ian, and thanks for your service.

That's it from me. Enjoy life and stay safe.

David Laing

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Contact Us

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And you can find us on Facebook

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2023 End of Year Lunch



2023 End of Year Lunch



2023 End of Year Lunch



2023 End of Year Lunch



Digger Wombats' Humour



My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously, there's a new strain out there.

I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare.

But he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B.

Shoutout to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday.

© I Might Be Funny

You are my people.

Before my surgery, the anesthesiologist offered to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle...

It was an ether/oar situation.

You're not fat, you're just... easier to see.



Bizwaremagic's Funny Quotes

I just paid for a 12 month gym membership. My bank called to see if my credit card was stolen.

OLDTIMERS

My truck load of antidepressants has arrived.





It's not my
age that bothers
me - it's the side
effects.



AND SO ENDS
ANOTHER WEEK
WITHOUT ME
BECOMING
UNEXPECTEDLY
RICH.



My wife said when I pass she would
go the extra mile to give me the burial
I deserve...

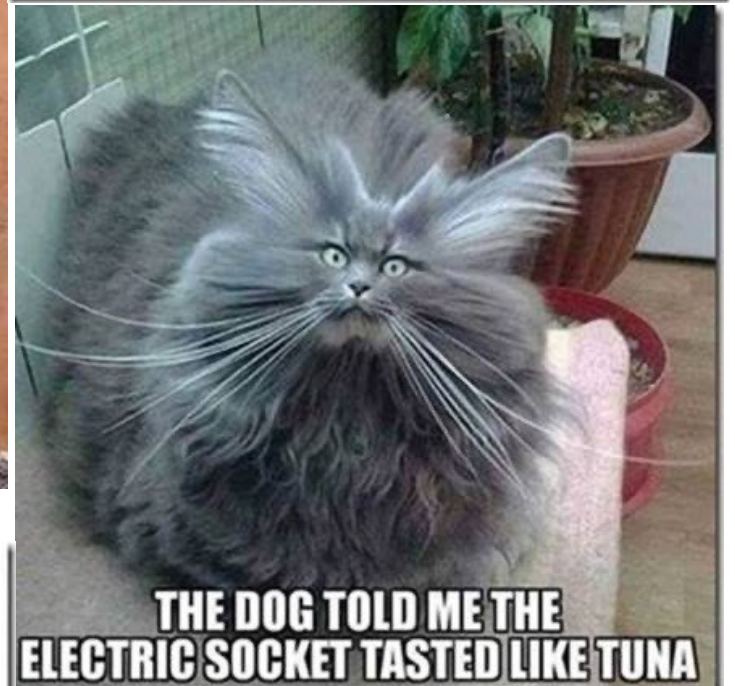




The officer said, "You drinking?" I said, "You buying?" We just laughed and laughed....I need bail money now.

The first million people to send me \$1 will get a copy of my guide on how to become a Millionaire using Facebook

Just ordered my new mask!



THE DOG TOLD ME THE ELECTRIC SOCKET TASTED LIKE TUNA

Did some financial planning and it looks like I can retire at 62 and live comfortably for eleven minutes.

There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think "THEY ARE GOING TO FIND ME NAKED."



For More Funny Quotes Visit:
www.bizwaremagic.com

A NEW Padres Ponderings

Chaplain 10th/27th Battalion RSAR - Father Mark Sexton

G'Day, my name is Fr Mark Sexton. I am following Padre Paul Ghanem as Padre to 10/27 Battalion.

Some of the "old and bold" – or should that be the "rugged and bugged" – may remember me from the '80's and '90's. Some of the younger members may remember meeting me from the RIC. I thought I might give you a potted biography so you know who I am.

I originally enlisted on 20 Jan 1976 in the ARA, going to what was then known as the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Immediately after the Vietnam War, not the best time to join the ADF! We were the only people with short hair!

1979, I was discharged from the ARA and enlisted in what was then 10 Bn, RSAR. (No transfers those days). After completing the Initial Employment Training, (at my own request so I knew more about how



the unit operated), I got RPL and was made a Corporal. After Annual Field Training in 1980, I was attached to D Coy, 6RAR as they did a 6 week exchange with the US Army (in Hawaii). On return I did some Full Time Service, before joining several other members as extras on the filming of "Gallipoli". (If you want to risk it, ask me about the photos from that!)

I was commissioned as a Lieutenant into the Battalion in December 1982, but transferred to 27 Bn as I got a job teaching in Millicent in the South-east. I went inactive in Jan 1996 to train as a priest, was brought back in as a Padre in March 2006, originally with 3/9 Light Horse SAMR.

I did a tour of Afghanistan in 2011, then 3 years with what was then 3 Health Services Battalion.

The last 8 years I have been at AUR. I am now finishing my service, coming full circle.

Father Mark Sexton

Editors Note: The RSAR Association welcomes Father Mark to "our flock" and look forward to working closely with him in the coming years.



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- F. **NEW** RSAR Sticker 70mm x 100mm
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- G. Hoodie w/- LOGO \$50

Allow \$10 postage for each item
Unless collected by member

POLO TOP \$45

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as returns are not always possible.

THE BATTLE AT CHONGJU - KOREA



From Sinuiju, the North Korea border town on the Yalu River, to Pakchon is only one hundred kilometres. The Eighth Army was on the last lap and the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade was still in the lead.

On the morning of 26 October 1950, D Coy of Three Battalion crossed the Tawnyong River at the ford adjacent to Pakchon. They had spent the night in defensive positions protecting the crossing while American engineers worked to make it trafficable. The company moved forward and occupied high ground three kilometres further west. Their position dominated the line of advance and secured the battalion's right flank.

Lieutenant Colonel Green pushed C Company across the Broken Bridge, through A and B Companies to take up a defensive position to the left of the road. Earlier, air strikes had been called in to brass up any enemy forces likely to block the brigade's line of advance, but the air observers had declared the way to be clear.

The Argylls followed D Coy across the Pakchon ford and they extended the defensive position taken up by the Australian battalion while the Middlesex took the lead, moving through the defended area on the road to Chongju. A North Korean AFV that offered resistance was despatched by tanks supporting the Diehards.

On Friday 27 October, the Middlesex regiment again took the lead and had travelled less than four kilometres before they met resistance from infantry supported by tanks. A lively fight ensued with the British regiment overcoming the defensive force and knocking out two tanks. The advance checked briefly when a force of AFVs was encountered, but these were derelict tanks, abandoned when the fuel ran out. They were destroyed by the guns of the American tanks supporting the Diehards.

On the Saturday the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders led off. As the force drew closer to the Manchurian border, it was expected that resistance would stiffen. Although bounds by the brigade of fifty kilometres a day had been common during the advance to date, Brigadier Coad now considered discretion to be the better part of valour. The seventy kilometres from Pakchon to Chongju was to take three days.

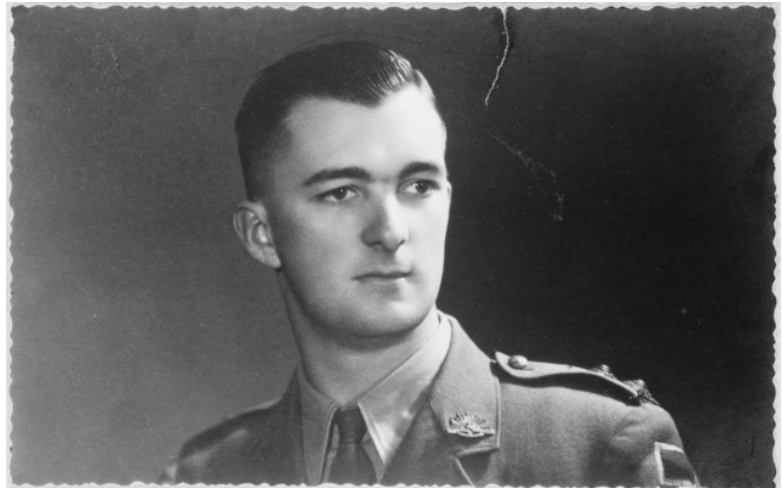
On Sunday, the Australians led the brigade. It was pure coincidence that major engagements which the British Commonwealth troops fought in North Korea seemed always to occur on Sundays, and inevitably it was the Australian battalion leading the advance at the time. Chongju was no exception.

Five kilometres from Chongju, the Australian advance was checked by a force of battalion strength with tank support. Where the road climbed a ridge and entered a cutting, well-entrenched infantry were supported by tanks which were also dug in and camouflaged. The position was well chosen and the defenders occupied the forward slope in well-sited defensive positions.

With plentiful air support available, Charlie Green did not hesitate to use it. From mid-morning, for a period of four hours, Shooting Stars bombarded the enemy positions. By 1400 hours the American pilots reported that nine AFVs had been knocked out.

With only a few hours of daylight left, Green quickly marked his map and called an O Group. He planned a battalion attack with two companies forward. With the road as the centre line of advance, he ordered D Coy to attack to the left of the road. Once they were on their objective, A Coy would attack the right.

With the support of a platoon of tanks, four Shermans, Lt David Mannett's 10 Platoon made a right flank-



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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LTCOL Charles Green. Commanding Officer 3 RAR 1950

THE BATTLE AT CHONGJU - KOREA



ing attack along the road while 11 Platoon and 12 Platoon advanced in extended line across the open paddy fields in a frontal assault on the position – up the guts again.

Ten Platoon discovered that the air support's claim of nine tanks destroyed was exaggerated when an AP shot fired from a tank on the objective knocked out one of the supporting American AFVs. The platoon encountered stiff resistance and had to fight hard to gain the high ground.

Meanwhile, the advance by 11 and 12 Platoons across the open paddy fields came under heavy fire from the high ground to their front and they took casualties. However once in place, forward on the right flank, 10 Platoon had the enemy in enfilade and was able to give supporting fire. This eased the pressure on the remainder of the company and the whole of the objective was secured. The ridgeline to the left of the road was clear of enemy by 1630. It was found that dug-in tanks had opposed D Coy, and most had been dealt with by the American AFVs in support. Contrary to earlier reports by US air support observers, none had been knocked out by the morning's airstrikes. David Mannett, in command of 10 Platoon, D Coy, was later awarded a Military Cross for the platoon's effort.

One very unlucky tank crew had its vehicle knocked out by Private Jack Stafford using his section Bren gun. At point blank range, he attacked a T34 which was firing on 11 Platoon and struck a long-range fuel tank which it still had strapped to its side. His bullets ignited the released fuel and the AFV burst into flames, its crew being cut down by the infantry as they evacuated the blazing vehicle. The Americans awarded Stafford a Silver Star.

D Coy were on their objective, but there remained the ridge on the right of the road, still held in strength by the enemy. Major Cyril Hall was OC

Support Company and was present when Charlie Green gave his orders:

When it was almost dark, Charlie Green asked Bill Chitts (commander of A Coy) if he thought he could 'grab that ridge before dark'. Bill answered yes and was told to go to it. Bill's company were actually sitting in trucks on the sheltered side of the road in the rear of Lt Nordstrom's American tank platoon. Bill ran back to his company and passed the word to the OC of the American tank company and invited him to the party. The Yank opined that it was no job for tanks and Bill told him to get the fornicating things out of the fornicating road and he'd do it himself, which he promptly did, and in the course of the exercise his company captured three or four enemy SP guns and the objective.

During the A Coy attack, the previously faulty rocket launchers proved their worth. Three of the North Korean T/34's dug in on the ridgeline fell victim to Bill Chitts's infants using these weapons at short range. According to Bill. "There was nothing wrong with our bazookas at Chongju. As we approached the objective, on the next ridge over there was a tank....This lad with the bazooka knocked out the tank....Then before we got to the top of the feature, they knocked out two more".

When the company commander reported his bag of AFVs, his commanding officer had doubts. "Charlie Green and some of his staff came up on the feature and I reported that we'd got these three tanks ... and he queried it... not only that, but General Gay queried it as well. So I showed Charlie Green where the three tanks were – he could see for himself how they were knocked out."

Green moved B Coy forward astride the road slightly to the rear of the assaulting companies and placed his Battalion Headquarters to the left of the line of advance, further to the rear and some four hundred me-



3 RAR soldiers move toward the area of conflict

THE BATTLE AT CHONGJU - KOREA



tres behind D Coy. Support Company and C Coy were sited to the rear of BHQ to offer protection against any attempt to outflank the battalion's position. Some sections of 11 Platoon were weakened by casualties. A section of infantry was hastily reinforced by the Signals Platoon and sent forward to reinforce D Coy.

The battalion was allowed just enough time for limited re-supply of the forward companies before the inevitable counterattack erupted with a furious onslaught of artillery, machine guns and mortars at 1900. Fresh troops in battalion strength attacked D Coy. With bugles sounding and loud choruses of "B'zai, B'zai", North Koreans in company strength attacked along the line of the road and struck 10 Platoon, the very platoon that had worked hardest and taken the most casualties in the advance.

David Mannett and his Diggers were up to the task. These K Force veterans and their young platoon commander were unimpressed by the charging, noisy North Koreans. They held their fire until the assaulting infantry were within three metres of the positions, then accurate and sustained fire from their automatic weapons wreaked havoc among the attackers.



Wounded in Action. PTE "Bomber" Brown. 3 RAR

At one point, North Korean infantry overran the D Coy position, passed through the Australian lines and brought BHQ under fire. Under the system put in place by Lt Col Green, Capt O'Dowd, HQ Coy Commander and Battle 21C, had organised a tight defensive perimeter at BHQ, well dug in and with plenty of automatic weapons. The attacking North Koreans, already mauled by D Coy, were stopped dead by this local defence and forced to withdraw along the route that they had come.

Unfortunately for them, they had failed to move the Diggers of D Coy from their weapon pits. The Diggers had simply stayed in their holes. As the North Koreans passed through their position the Diggers took toll of the enemy as they went by. Then, as the North Koreans straggled back from the attack on BHQ, they paid a second price. The litter of enemy bodies within the D Company perimeter told the tale next morning. They were in and around the platoon areas and in at least one case, Australians shared their pit with the body of a dead enemy.

For two hours, the battle raged. Counter attacks by 11 and 12 Platoons relieved pressure on David Mannett's men and by 2100 it was all over.

Half an hour later, a second assault was mounted, this time on A Coy to the right of the road. Bill Chitts and his men handled it easily. This second counterattack lasted for less than an hour before the North Koreans gave it rest. Desultory artillery fire harassed the Australians until morning, but the Battle of Chongju was over. It was well won by Three Battalion.

More than 150 North Korean dead were found in and around the battalion positions on Monday morning, most of them near the D Coy area and many of them within the confines of the 10 Platoon position.

The victory at Chongju was attained only after the hardest fighting which the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade had encountered since the arrival of the Australians. During the two weeks of the advance into North Korea, theirs had been a unique and proud record. With their brigade leading the advance of the whole of the Eighth Army, the Australians had been the spearhead of the brigade."

Continued next month.



Proud to wear the uniform: Reservist Private Danny McCarthy 2/4 RNZIR



A recent graduate of New Zealand Army's Reserve Force (ResF) recruit training Private Danny McCarthy from 2/4 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment shares his experiences of life in uniform so far.

Private (PTE) Danny McCarthy, 2/4 Battalion, RNZIR, returned to New Zealand after two years in the United Kingdom during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, and seeing New Zealand's response to the pandemic made him proud to be a Kiwi, igniting a spark to join the NZ Army. Shortly after arriving home a work colleague who had served in the ResF encouraged PTE McCarthy to attend a parade night in

Nelson, his home unit, and he hasn't looked back.

PTE McCarthy has a keen interest in military history so, although he felt "half terrified" arriving at Waiouru Military Camp, he also felt a real appreciation to be training at a location he had read so much about in history books.

Having the opportunity to regularly attend unit training in Nelson prior to arriving in Waiouru also gave him a valuable insight into what might be required on recruit training and really helped his preparation.

"I had an insight to how the Army operated and was structured, could see how their focus on discipline impacted, and how they built on your strengths as a person," he said.

"I start work at 0430h every morning so the early starts weren't hard for me, my greatest challenge was fitness. I went to all the Force Fit training nights at the Nelson recruiting office. We had an Ironman fitness person teaching us," says PTE McCarthy.

"I didn't struggle with fitness after attending Force Fit training which made everything else easier," he said.

A highlight for PTE McCarthy was learning 'He taua' from his Section Commander.

"On Corps training we sung this at our graduation. It's a very historical chant, it really brought us together and gave us a real sense of pride as we sung it," he said.

Marae Educator and Cultural Advisor, SSGT Royal Pita, says he adapted 'He taua' from Manene Waka specifically for soldiers to sing as they march.

"The meaning behind the chant is that if we are united in mind, spirit and body we can accomplish anything," said SSGT Pita.

PTE McCarthy trained as a chemical engineer at Waikato University and now works at a natural health product manufacturing company, Alaron Products Ltd, in Nelson where he is a Manufacturing Lead. PTE McCarthy has found his Army training has crossed over into his workplace.

"Army training teaches you how to build a team, identify strengths and weaknesses, and become more efficient. Even my Team Leader noticed an improvement in my communication towards our team at Alaron."

The day after arriving back from Reserve Infantry Corps training in January, PTE McCarthy was deployed to assist Westport residents when flooding hit the town.

"My parents live in Westport. It was fantastic to help and really rewarding to be able to serve my community," said PTE McCarthy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In the December 2023 newsletter I asked readers if I should continue publishing "Sitrep! Over?" I thankfully received many responses, and below are a few.

Merry Xmas David to you, your family and all RSARA Members,

Keep doing the SITREP Over because it is a vital link to our Members. For all Members, this is a constant reminder of good memories , good times and it is a current update on Bn activities and welfare of the Old and the Bold.

For absent Members, such as myself, it is the only connection back to the Bn and the Association.

I served in 10 RSAR in 1974-77 until moving to Brisbane and Sydney for non-military reasons. I served with 1 Training Group and 17 RNSWR for much longer but 10 RSAR was/is my Regiment!

This allegiance is maintained to a very large extent by SITREP OVER, through your diligent, nay outstanding, contribution and custody.

Keep doing the SITREP OVER!, knowing that your efforts are much appreciated.

With my best regards,

Bruce Lakin

Sydney NSW

_____000000_____

Hi David,

Please keep the good work going.

I have been a member for many years, and look forward to reading your efforts every month. I keep a copy of every one of them on file, the oldest of which is the Special Edition you put out in July 2010. I served with and well remember some 22 of the addressees listed in that edition, and sadly quite a few are no longer with us. I think the first meeting I attended was down at Semaphore RSL sometime in 1998 (I think)

I am unable to attend any of the functions throughout the year, but I enjoy the photographs that you include each month, along with the anecdotes and histories over the years. Keep up with your efforts. I for one appreciate what you do and marvel at the time it must take to put it all together.

I retired from the Reserve way back in 1998 after 30 years stating with what was the 43/48 Infantry Battalion through postings to the RSAR, 9TF HQ, AUR, OCTU, and 4TRG GP. The changes to the whole system since that time have been tremendous and I have been able to keep up in a small way by following the activities you report on in your newsletters.

Regards,

Geoff Attenborough

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Hi David

As a foundation member of the "Old and the Bold" I urge you to keep doing the " Sitrep over." Without this wonderful production I believe it would be hard to keep the association as strong as it is

I realize it is not an easy task and takes many, many hours The time and effort you put in I am sure is appreciated by the bulk of our members

Keep up the good work and keep smiling

Rob "Stewy" Stewart.



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2024

EST
2008

Membership Category

Date of Application / /

<input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership \$30 (Former member of the RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Serving Military Member Must be serving with the RSAR or a sub unit. FREE 1st year. \$10 thereafter while still serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Voting Associate Member \$15 (Spouses, non former members of RSAR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (By invitation Only) <input type="checkbox"/> FULL Member \$300 <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE Member \$150

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☐ 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 proof of service to the RSAR Association Secretary at davidlaing49@bigpond.com

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		Matchett	William	Associate Members	
		McCulloch	Don	Abel	Karen
		McIver	Bill	Brown	Jenni
		McKenzie	Kain	Carnachan	Dom
		Migali	Michael	Dunn	Trish
		Mitchell	Barry	Hawkins	Lynn
		Morony	Frank	Hudson	Margaret
		Mulrone	Dennis	Johnson	Margaret
		Normandale	Zachary	Parsonage	Yvonne
		Oakley	Andrew	Pollard	Kay
		O'Daly	Ryan	Toy	Jill
		Orrock	Alan	Winger	Kathleen
		Parslow	Howard		
		Parsonage	James		
		Pascoe	Michael		
		Payne	Bob		
		Pexton	Timothy		
		Phillips	Colin Rex		

Please welcome NEW Members Lynn Hawkins who is the wife of VP Des Hawkins, and Zorawar Sandhu, a Serving Member of 10/27 RSAR