



“Sitrep, Over!”

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

PATRON: MAJGEN NEIL WILSON AM RFD

EDITOR DAVID LAING

JANUARY 2025

January 1-1901 Commonwealth of Australia Proclaimed

Australia became a nation on 1 January 1901 when 6 British colonies—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania—united to form the Commonwealth of Australia. This process is known as Federation.

Prior to Federation, the colonies were ill-equipped to defend themselves. Each colony had its own militia consisting of a small permanent force and volunteers, but they all relied on the British navy to periodically patrol the Australian coastline. People feared the colonies could be vulnerable to attack from other nations with larger populations and military forces.

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The colonies thought a united defence force could better protect Australia. This argument was strengthened by a report released in 1889 by British Major-General Sir J. Bevan Edwards. He found the colonies did not have enough soldiers, weapons or ammunition to adequately defend themselves. The report recommended a national defence force be established. The Commonwealth of Australia was declared on 1 January 1901 at a ceremony held in Centennial Park in Sydney. During the ceremony, the first Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, was sworn-in and Australia's first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, and federal ministers took the oath of office.

Many Australians welcomed nationhood. Up to 500,000 people lined the route of the Federation parade as it travelled from the Domain to Centennial Park and about 100,000 spectators witnessed the ceremony.

Across Australia people celebrated with parades, processions, school pageants, firework displays, sporting events, 'conversations' – discussion evenings – and special dinners. Elaborate Federation arches decorated main streets and buildings were lit up at night. In Sydney the celebrations continued for a week

Editorial

How much has changed since this Association was formed in 2008? We had about 30 loyal members, and gradually that grew to over 100 and then to 200. We lost a few old mates on the way, but they were replaced by younger members signing up. Just like in the Army. Now we stand as one of, if not THE largest ex-services organisation in South Australia, and our Serving Members nearly outweigh the Old & Bold. Let's pass the word and keep it going. There's an Application Form on Page 12.

A new sponsor has been selected to host our Jokes Pages. By the name of "Dougie," he's a throwback to the days when your first impression of the Army was through the Section Commander on your Recruit Course. My first CPL was dearly departed old mate Col Douglas, and the CSM was WO2 Joe Vella. The memories I have from that course could fill a book! As a tribute to SSGT Col Douglas please enjoy Dougie's Jokes.

At the end of this month we'll be preparing some Care Packages for our troops who are deployed on TS116 Border Protection duties, some for up to 6 months. Being away from home is always hard, so we send a little bit of home to our soldiers, just to make things a bit easier for them. The story and pics will be in the February edition.

As promised last year, our allied Regiment in New Zealand, the 2nd/4th Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment will provide articles from time to time, to share their experiences in the Army Reserve. The first article is from LCPL Patrick Read, and you can read it on Page 8 & 9.

We are joined this year by a new Commanding Officer LTCOL Darrin Tyson and a new RSM WO1 Mark Broadbent, both seasoned warriors. I have asked them for a little bit of information on themselves, and they have kindly responded with their histories which will be in the February edition.

Our Association relies on money from membership fees, merchandise sales and donations to help us achieve our goals to support the Battalion with catering exercises, awards presentations and band support. Every little bit helps, so if you haven't paid your annual fees for some time, please consider doing so. If you are a Serving Member who has been in the RSAR Association for more than 12 months, your \$10 annual fees are now due. Help us help you!

Page 16 and 17 come straight from the Defence Website, and they have published an article about our soldiers from 10/27 RSAR training within the newly raised Support Company. They have access to some serious firepower which would make any adversary think twice!

And finally, a BIG THANK YOU to all those who helped out at the End Of Year Lunch. A team works better when we have good supporters, and you have done yourselves proud by helping set up, prepare, serve and finally clean up. And take the photos as well. (Shout out to wife June) You all know who you are. Thank you!

That's it from me this month. Take care and stay safe.

Cheers

David

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**Fees and Merchandise can
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the following Bendigo Bank
account**

RSAR Association Inc

BSB 633 000

Acc. 1616 585 88



Visit our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/1027RSARA/

Or our Website @

www.rsara.asn.au

The History of Medals and Decorations

Military awards and decorations are distinctions given as a mark of honour for military heroism, meritorious or outstanding service or achievement. A decoration is often a medal consisting of a ribbon and a medallion.

Civil decorations awarded to military personnel should not be considered military decorations, although some orders of chivalry have civil and military divisions. Decorations received by police and fire brigade personnel may sometimes be considered alongside military decorations, on which they may be modelled, although they are strictly not military awards.

HISTORY

The I class of the Mannerheim Cross of the Order of the Cross of Liberty from 1941 (At right)

Decorations have been known since ancient times. The Egyptian Old Kingdom had the Order of the Golden Collar while the New Kingdom awarded the Order of the Golden Fly. Celts and Romans wore a torch or received other military decorations such as the *hasta pura*, a spear without a tip. Dayaks wore and still wear tattoos, etc. Necklaces and bracelets were given during the early Middle Ages, evolving into large, richly jewelled necklaces, often with a pendant (commonly a medal) attached.

The oldest military decorations still in use is Sweden's *För tapperhet i fält* ("For Valour in the Field") and *För tapperhet till sjöss* ("For Valour at Sea") awarded to officers and soldiers of the Swedish Armed Forces who have—as the medal names suggest—shown valour in the field or at sea in wartime. The medal was instituted by Swedish king Gustav III on 28 May 1789, during his war against Russia. Whilst technically it is still active, it is for practical purposes inactive, not having been awarded since 1915. The next oldest is the Austro-Hungarian *Tapferkeits Medaille* Honour Medal for Bravery 1789–1792. This medal was instituted on 19 July 1789, by the Emperor Joseph II.

Another of the oldest military decorations still in use is Poland's War Order of *Virtuti Militari* (Latin for "For Military Valour"). It was first awarded in 1792.

The **Australian honours and awards system** refers to all orders, decorations, and medals, as instituted by letters patent from the Monarch of Australia and countersigned by the Australian prime minister at the time, that have been progressively introduced since 14 February 1975. The Australian honours and awards system excludes all state and local government, and private, issued awards and medals (although a few can be recognised in the order of wearing, like those in the Order of St John).



Honours and awards have been present in Australia since pre-Federation, primarily from the Imperial honours and awards system. This Imperial system remained in place until its full phase out in 1994 (although the Monarch of Australia may still confer some of these honours to Australians in their personal capacity). Between 1975 and 1992, the Australian honours and awards system and the Imperial honours and awards system operated in parallel, although the last Imperial awards to be made were in June 1989.

The Australian honours and awards system consists of honours, which are appointments to orders of chivalry (namely the Order of Australia), and awards (which are decorations and medals – decorations are medals for valour, gallantry, bravery, and distinguished or conspicuous service). Medals include meritorious service medals, operational service medals, campaign medals, long service medals, commemorative medals, and the Champion Shots medal.

The History of Medals and Decorations

Both the Order of Australia, which has a General Division and Military Division (distinguished by gold banding on the edges of the ribbon), and the Australian Operational Service Medal, which has a special civilian ribbon for Defence civilians awarded it, are unique in the Australian honour and awards system in distinguishing between military and civilian awardees (although some awards in the Australian honours and awards system can only be earned by military personnel).

The Australian honours and awards system recognises the contributions of individuals, and for the Group Bravery Citation, Unit Citation for Gallantry, and Meritorious Unit Citation, the efforts of individuals as a group (the unit citations for meritorious service and gallantry also recognise members currently posted to those units, so long as they remain posted there, but without the display of the Federation Star device on those decorations that signifies personal contribution to the granting of that award). Most honours and awards are announced on Australia Day (26 January) and the King's Birthday holiday (June), with the exception of the bravery awards (typically announced in March and August), and the Australian Antarctic Medal (announced on 21 June), although some military medals are awarded all year round (as most are not gazetted).

Australia's most decorated soldier is arguably WO2 Keith Payne VC. AM.

Keith served in many conflicts, including Korea, Malaya, PNG, Pacific Islands, Vietnam and others.

Keith Payne (born 30 August 1933) is a retired Australian soldier and a recipient of the Victoria

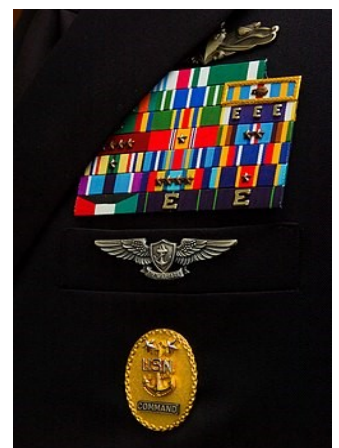


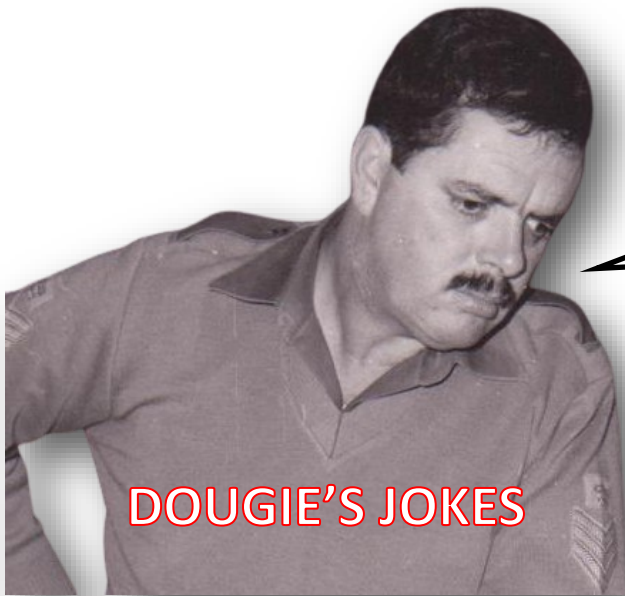
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL48055.001

Cross (VC), the highest decoration for gallantry "in the presence of the enemy" awarded to members of the British and Commonwealth armed forces. Payne's VC was awarded for his actions during the Vietnam War. Aged 90, he is the last living Australian recipient of the original Imperial Victoria Cross

The awards and decorations of the United States Armed Forces include various medals, service ribbons, ribbon devices, and specific badges which recognize military service and personal accomplishments of members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Such awards are a means to outwardly display the highlights of a service member's career. Whereby Australian and UK medals each have a corresponding ribbon, US medals and ribbons may be awarded for service in various bases, ships or posts, not necessarily in combat or warlike situations.





DOUGIE'S JOKES

If I say it's funny,
IT'S FUNNY!

Interview in an IT company



So, what makes you suitable for this job?



I hacked your computer and invited myself for this interview



Got home from work today to find my kids had been on eBay all day. If they are still there tomorrow, I will lower the price.



5-19 © LaughingStock International, Inc./dist. by United Media, 2003

"If you don't think you can make it into work tomorrow, give me a call."

I hate telling people I'm a taxidermist. When they ask what I do everyday, I say:

"Y'know. Stuff."



Before my surgery, the anesthesiologist offered to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle... It was an ether/oar situation.

Once I've had my coffee, I can use my big words.

Before coffee, I mostly use the ones with four letters.

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.



**AND SO ENDS
ANOTHER WEEK
WITHOUT ME
BECOMING
UNEXPECTEDLY
RICH.**

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



Bizwaremagic's Funny Quotes



SIGN OF THE TIMES



Always make sure your loved ones are buckled up.



NOAH WAS A BRAVE MAN TO SAIL IN A WOODEN BOAT WITH TWO TERMITES!

Apparently there's a third option between burial and cremation.



I could swear he is doing it wrong, but since I dont own a boat, Im going to keep my opinion to myself!



*When you're a child, you make funny faces at the mirror
When we become adults, the mirror gets even*

Trash Mama Bunny

Serving in the NZDF

LCPL Patrick Read

Serving the Southland community in two different uniforms, one with the New Zealand Police and the other as an Infantry soldier in the NZ Army Reserve Force is the norm for Lance Corporal Patrick Read.

“I’d wanted to join the Police straight from school, but they wanted recruits who had some more life experience behind them. I decided to study to fill the gap and while I was doing that, discovered the Army Reserves. I joined up with them and was able to train with 2nd/4th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment in Dunedin while I continued my studies.”

“This training through 2/4 developed work experience and valuable life skills that helped ensure my second application to join the Police in Invercargill was accepted. 2/4 has a strong presence in Southland so the transfer was seamless.”



Having that connection with the soldiers of 2/4 in Southland has not only given Lance Corporal Read networking opportunities within the community and reinforced both his Army and Police training, but it’s given him some good mates too.

“Our unit is particularly close knit, and we take advantage of catching up socially as often as we can.”

A recent Southland based exercise in Invercargill was a highlight for Lance Corporal Read. The training was based around developing the units’ operational skills. After a day of training

Lance Corporal Read (third from left) receives a Section Commanders brief prior to the night exercise.

in a round robin stand format, soldiers and officers were put to the test with simulated combat tasks.

“The training was designed to mirror how an operational environment might work if we were on deployment. The training taught, reinforced and then tested, tactics, techniques and procedures and our section got a lot out of the weekend.”

Earlier in the year, Lance Corporal Read attended Exercise Tuwharenikau, the largest combined Australian Army Reserve and New Zealand Army Reserve Force exercise in nearly 15 years, based at Waiouru



Lance Corporal Read (right) gives his section orders while out in the field during the morning exercise.

Military Training Area.

“This type of combined arms exercise is invaluable as a training opportunity. Working alongside all the New Zealand Infantry Reserve Force Battalions and Australian Reserve Force soldiers as well as utilising assets such as NH-90 helicopters and NZ LAVs ensures that we are more ready to integrate with Regular Force units both in training and on operations.



After a successful attack, Lance Corporal Read surveys the battlefield.

“The Reserve Force has prepared me well to operate as a member of a small high performing team and these skills have translated across to Police. In both roles, I often find myself in a position where I can add value based on skills, knowledge and experience that I have gained through the other role.”



Officer Commanding Otago Southland Company, Captain Dion Beker, says “The exercise was designed to help practice our soldiers in tactical operations by both day and night, and working alongside different Corps (groups with different capabilities/skill-sets) within our region was an important factor when planning the exercise too. We had medics, drivers and engineers attend and the intention is to continue doing this with future exercises so we can share and build knowledge of each other’s capabilities”.

LCPL Read gives direction to the Gunner



In early 2024 Lance Corporal Read attended Exercise Tuwharenikau, the largest combined Australian Army Reserve and NZ Army Reserve Force exercise in nearly 15 years, based at Waiouru Military Training Area. ABOVE: Soldiers from NZ and Australia patrol in front of Mt Ruapehu.

Battle for Shaggy Ridge 19-31 Jan 1944

Shaggy Ridge is a long ridge line which is the highest part of the Finisterre Ranges in what was then north-eastern New Guinea. It was steep and difficult terrain and during December 1943 and January 1944 it was the scene of intense fighting as the attacking Australians pushed towards the northeast coast attempting to wrest the Huon Peninsula from the Japanese. During the second half of January 1944 the 18th Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Frederick Chilton, took part in Operation Cuthroat. The aim of this operation was to capture the Kankiryo Saddle, at the northern end of the Ridge. The Japanese defenders contested this advance with great vigour. When the 18th had taken Kankiryo Saddle, the Japanese continued to fight from Crater Hill, which overlooked the saddle. By this time, they were all but surrounded, and by 31 January those who had not been killed or wounded, retreated. The 18th Brigade suffered 46 deaths and 147 casualties. The Japanese are thought to have suffered up to 500 casualties.



The feature is a six-and-a-half kilometre long razor-backed ridge that is the highest feature in the Finisterre Mountains in north-eastern New Guinea. The ridge rises between the valleys of the Mene and Faria Rivers and ends at Kankiryo Saddle - a bridge of land separating the Faria Valley from the Mindjim River Valley.



In 1943 Shaggy Ridge was the site of the main Japanese defensive position blocking access from the Ramu Valley to the track and road network that joined it with the north coast. Operations by the 7th Australian Division in September and October 1943 had caused the Japanese to withdraw from the Ramu Valley and the lower features of the Finisterres and consolidate their defences around Shaggy Ridge. The ridge was named after Captain Robert "Shaggy Bob" Clampett of the 2/27th Battalion whose company was the first to reconnoitre its approaches.

Initially, orders from II Australian Corps for 7th Division to limit its operations to a scale that could be maintained by the limited supplies available prevented action being taken to capture Shaggy Ridge, but by late December sufficient supplies were available to conduct a limited operation to secure a foothold on the southern end of the ridge around a knoll called the Pimple. B Company of the 2/16th Battalion attacked just after 9am, following an intensive aerial and artillery bombardment of the Japanese positions. Clambering up the precipitous slopes, still supported by artillery fire, the Australians quickly captured the Pimple and pushed on

for another 100 metres to capture the next knoll along the ridge. B Company was subsequently relieved by D Company, which renewed the attack the next day and captured the next two knolls along the ridge, the last being named McCaughey's Knoll after the commander of the leading platoon. The Japanese

Battle for Shaggy Ridge 19-31 Jan 1944

counter-attacked that afternoon but were beaten off and thereafter were content to shell the Australian's newly-won position with a mountain gun.

The next major assault along Shaggy Ridge - codenamed Operation Cutthroat - would be launched by the 18th Brigade with the aim of capturing the entire feature, including Kankiryo Saddle. The plan involved the brigade's three battalions converging on the saddle from three different directions. The 2/12th would advance from Canning's Saddle, east of Shaggy Ridge, and attack Kankiryo Saddle via two well-



defended knolls on the northern end of Shaggy Ridge known as Prothero 1 and 2; the 2/9th would attack northwards along Shaggy Ridge itself; and the 2/10th would advance along Faria Ridge, which lay to the east of Shaggy Ridge and joined it at Kankiryo Saddle. All three battalions would be supported by artillery and Allied aircraft.

The 2/10th and 2/12th Battalions commenced their approach marches on 19 January; the 2/12th in particular had a great deal of precipitous country to traverse and was not scheduled to attack for another two days. On the 20th the 2/10th attacked Japanese positions on Cam's Saddle in order to fight their way onto Faria Ridge but were held up by stubborn Japanese resistance. The operation began in earnest the next morning with the 2/12th clambering up the steep slopes below Prothero 1 and a Company of the 2/9th doing the same on the eastern side of Green Snipe's Pimple, the highest point on both McCaughey's Knoll and Shaggy Ridge. The unexpected direction of these attacks, up slopes the Japanese obviously regarded as almost impassable, allowed the Australians to quickly establish a foothold on both features and they were secured by the end of the day. The new occupants, however, had to withstand several counter-attacks and persistent and accurate artillery bombardment. The 2/10th's own artillery support had helped it to force its way onto Faria Ridge earlier in the day and by nightfall it had advanced to within a kilometre-and-a-half of Kankiryo Saddle. 22 January resulted in another day of hard fighting. The 2/12th Battalion pushed south along Shaggy Ridge to capture Prothero 2 while the 2/9th pushed north to take the rest of MacCaughey's Knoll. As the two battalions readied themselves to meet the inevitable night time counter-attacks, less than a kilometre separated them. Next morning patrols encountered little opposition and by midday the 2/12th and 2/9th had linked up; all of Shaggy Ridge was in Australian hands. The 2/10th had attacked both north and south along Faria Ridge on 22 January and continued to do so on the 23rd. In the north it was held by another strong Japanese position that was not occupied until late on the afternoon of 24 January.

By this time, the remaining Japanese stronghold in the area was atop a knoll north-east of Kankiryo Saddle known as Crater Hill. It was the former Japanese Regimental Headquarters and the defences were well-sited and constructed. It was decided that rather than attack this position the 18th Brigade would contain it with patrols and then pound it with bombs and artillery to inflict sufficient casualties so that a final assault could be conducted at minimal cost. This siege lasted until 1 February when a company from each of the 2/9th and 2/10th Battalions advanced up Crater Hill to find it devastated and unoccupied.

The capture of Shaggy Ridge cost the 18th Brigade 46 killed and 147 wounded and inflicted over 500 casualties on the Japanese, including 244 confirmed deaths. It cleared the way for an advance across the Finsterres to the northern New Guinea coast to link up with the Australian forces advancing from the east and thus complete the capture of the Huon Peninsula.

www.awm.gov.au/wartime/83/article-four



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2025



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

My Details - Please print clearly

Full Name:	Address:
Date of Birth:	Post Code:
Mobile No:	Email:
Regt No. or PMKeys No.	
Period of Service / / to / /	Can you assist the Committee? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Spouse/Partners name.	PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Method of Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or Money Order - Payable to The Treasurer Christian Bennett RSAR Association Inc PO Box 1133 Kensington Gardens 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"/> I have paid my Fees by Cheque to the Association Account listed below and posted Application to The Secretary RSAR Association PO Box 5218 Murray Bridge South SA 5253

Account Name:	RSAR Association Inc
Bank:	Bendigo Bank
BSB:	633 000
Acct #	1616 585 88

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@outlook.com

Padres' Ponderings

Padre Stephen Albrecht. Chaplain 10/27 Battalion RSAR

As the calendar turns once again and we step into a new year, let us take a moment to reflect on the journey we've travelled as a regiment in the past year and turn our focus to the new opportunities that lie before us. As each new year brings with it the promise of a fresh start, a chance to set new goals, overcome new challenges, and continue strengthening the bonds that unite us as a team.

Looking back at 2024, we can see a year filled with challenges, triumphs, and unforgettable moments that defined us. Every success was a result of our hard work, dedication, and resilience. Whether in the field, on a training weekend, or supporting a mate, you've demonstrated a commitment to service that is nothing short of inspiring and these efforts have made a difference not only in our mission, but in the lives of our ADF community.

As we embark into 2025, we face a new landscape of challenges. It will be a year to grow, to learn, and become stronger together. Whether it's pushing through tough training exercises, deploying in service, or having a chat at the boozier at the end of the day our strength lies in the bonds we share.

The start of a new year is also a time for personal reflection and growth. What new goals will you set for yourself? How can you continue to grow as a soldier, a teammate, and as an individual? Take a moment to consider the relationships you want to nurture, the challenges you want to tackle, and the ways you can contribute to the success of those around you.

Like I always say... your service, sacrifice, and dedication do not go unnoticed, and I am proud to stand alongside you as we face this new year together. Let's put 2024 behind us and here's to 2025. A year of new beginnings, fresh opportunities, and shared success.

Happy New Year, 10/27 RSAR from your Chaplain.

Padre *Stephen Albrecht*



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

FUND RAISER RAFFLE

The Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc is conducting a raffle, with the winning prize being 2 nights accommodation in the newly opened

Welcome Swallow Boat House

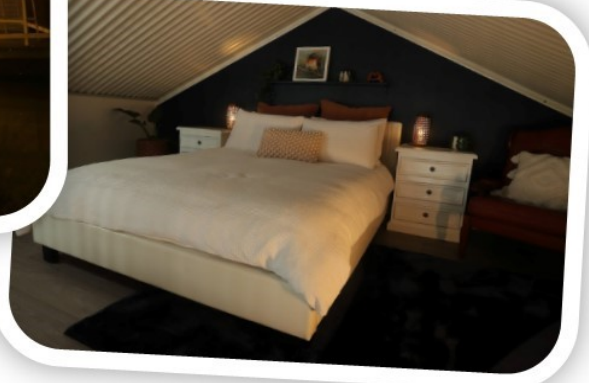
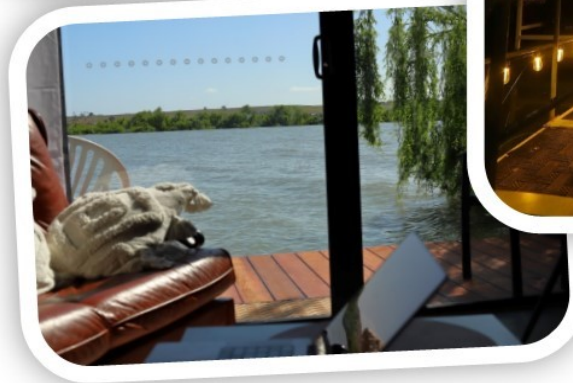
Located at White Sands on the River Murray.

Normally valued at over \$700, you can win this prize for only **\$5** per ticket.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the RSAR Association Annual General Meeting held at the Avoca Hotel, Clarence Gardens on 3rd August 2025 at Midday

The Winner will be contacted by mobile phone and announced in the monthly RSARA newsletter.

Tickets available by contacting Selina Laing on 0418 822 874 or lebanonsel@live.com.au



2nd Prize: Wallis Cinemas E Gift Card valued at \$120

3rd Prize: BCF Gift Card valued at \$50
and a Bunnings Gift Card valued at \$50. Total \$100.

Tickets on sale NOW

For more pics check out the website. <https://www.thewelcomeswallow.com/>

BOOKS OF 10 TICKETS AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED.

2nd July 2010

- Special points of interest:
- Name this Newsletter
- Have your say
- Not a NORMAL Range Practice
- Membership Registration & Details

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Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc NEWSLETTER

Name this Newsletter

This is to be the format of our new Association Newsletter in hard copy. The Newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis, (deadlines available overleaf) and will be available to all members and associate members. The Regimental Colours have been incorporated to give the publication a touch of tradition and history. As with all journals or publications, it is important to set them apart from other organisations to retain their

Have your say

The Secretary has been contacted by a number of members with ideas about how to improve the running of our Association. However some have "left their run too late" as events have come and gone without members issues being discussed or

individuality. The most logical name for our Newsletter should be Pro Patria, however **that** name has already been taken by the yearly journal of the 10/27 Battalion The Royal South Australia Regiment. So...we are asking members to don their thinking caps and come up with a name that is appropriate for this Association, it's history, and it's aims. The Association Committee asks that you send your selection to the Secretary

actioned. If you want to comment about an upcoming event, or if you wish to suggest changes about an event, then you **MUST** contact the Committee at least 30—40 days in advance. We will make all efforts to ensure your advice and/or suggestions

David Laing PO Box 222
Para Hills SA 5096 or
email to:-

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

A prize for the winner hasn't been finalized yet, but you will be advised of it's nature (and hopefully the winner) in the next newsletter.

This is YOUR newsletter.
Give it a name we can refer to with Pride!!!

are adhered to. We also ask that you send in articles or photos that you may wish to have published in the newsletter. We will scan them and return them to you ASAP. All info to the Secretary.

10/27 Bn Sharpen Firepower Skills



LEFT: *Soldiers fire a Javelin weapon system during the Direct Fire Support Weapons course. Photo by Sergeant Peng Zhang.*

Soldiers from across the 2nd (Australian) Division completed the direct fire support weapons training course at Cultana Training Area in September.

Run by 10th/27th Battalion, the Royal South Australia Regiment (10/27RSAR), it followed the reintroduction of support company capabilities to Reserve infantry battalions this year.

Participants used a range of support weapons, including mortars, machine guns and anti-tank systems, such as the Javelin.

Colonel Michael Kearns said bringing support company capabilities into the division was important.



LEFT:: *Soldiers from the 2nd (Australian) Division move to a position to conduct sustained fire machine gun training. Photo by Private Cassandra MacLeod.*

“It was the first time some part-time soldiers had fired Javelins, with the honour going to the two best-performing trainees at the end of the course,” he said.

“Seeing two rockets fired hit the target is a great outcome.”

Commanding Officer 10/27RSAR Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Jackson said it was a great opportunity for his unit to host the course.

10/27 Bn Sharpen Firepower Skills

This course will provide capability not just for our unit, but across the 2nd (Australian) Division,” Lieutenant Colonel Jackson said.

Commander of the 9th Brigade, Brigadier Tim Orders, said he was eager for the opportunity to leverage some of the capabilities in South Australia.

“This training provides significant capability uplift to the 9th Brigade and allows us to leverage the equipment and capability we have as an integrated brigade,” Brigadier Orders said.



ABOVE: Australian Army soldiers from 2nd (Australian) Division during the direct-fire support weapons training in Cultana training area, South Australia. Photo by Sergeant Peng Zhan



Operation Okra in Iraq officially ends



Operation Okra, the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the international coalition against Daesh in Iraq and Syria, has concluded with remaining ADF personnel returning home this month.

Established in 2014, Operation Okra was Australia's commitment to the US-led multinational Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, formed to secure a lasting defeat of the violent extremist group Daesh.

Operation Inherent Resolve officially transitioned from a combat role to an advise, assist, and enable role in 2024.

More than 4800 ADF personnel deployed to the Middle East as part of Operation Okra.

Over the past 10 years, Operation Okra has included deployments of an Air Task Group, Task Group Taji, a Special Operations Task Group, and a number of ADF personnel embedded in coalition positions and liaison roles.

The Air Task Group completed more than 2700 sorties against targets in Iraq and eastern Syria; flew more than 550 intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions; delivered more than 47.2 million kilograms of fuel by air-to-air refuelling; and supported numerous air transport sorties.

Task Group Taji, which concluded in 2020 after five years, trained more than 47,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) through the joint Australia-New Zealand Building Partner Capacity Program at the Taji Military Complex north of Baghdad.

ISF capability was further enhanced by the Special Operations Task Group which assisted with training for advanced combat tactics, military working dog training, combat casualty care, explosives identification and neutralisation, and facilitating access to coalition airpower.

Operation Okra tangibly enhanced the ISF's ability to independently undertake operations against Daesh, enabling Australia and other nations to reduce direct military support.

Chief of the Defence Force Admiral David Johnston said he was extremely proud of Australian Defence Force servicemen and women, and their families, for their dedicated service in helping Iraq fight for a unit-

Operation Okra in Iraq officially ends

ed and peaceful homeland.

“Operation Okra demonstrated Australia’s resolve to support international efforts against terrorism and violent extremism,” Admiral Johnston said.

“A stable Middle East is in Australia’s national interest, and the excellent work of our Australian Defence Force members has made a tangible and important contribution to global security.”

The Australian Government’s SmartTraveller web site continues to advise Australians not to travel to Iraq, or, if already there, leave immediately.

“The security situation remains volatile,” the web site says.

“Do not travel to Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, due to the volatile security situation and the threat of terrorism, armed conflict, kidnapping and violent crime.”

RIGHT: LTCOL Aaron Jackson, then a Major in Iraq during Operation OKRA.

BELOW: An Australian soldier mentors Iraqi soldiers during Operation OKRA



Life Members		Members	A - M	Members	N - Z
Acton	Chris	Abel	Colin	New	Anthony
Beckett	David	Abraham	Michael	Normandale	Zachary
Benveniste	Sam	Albrecht	Stephen	Oakley	Andrew
Blackmore	Bill	Allison	Robert	O'Daly	Ryan
Boscence	Bob	Angove	Derek	Orrock	Alan
Brookes	Phil	Angus	Sebastian	Parslow	Howard
Burnard	Trent	Attenborough	Geoff	Parsonage	James
Burns	Wayne	Baker	Craig	Pascoe	Michael
Carnachan	Ian	Bampton	Michael	Payne	Bob
Carpenter	Ian	Barry-Orcales	Dianeever	Pearce	Philip
Cotton	Bob	Beames	Paul	Pexton	Timothy
Dart	John	Bedford	Travis	Phillips	Colin Rex
Davey	Trevor	Bennett	Christian	Portakiewicz	Anthony
Elliott	Graham	Blondell	Mark	Portakiewicz	David
Gaborit	Lyndon	Bras	Riley	Portakiewicz	Richard
Goodwin	Graham	Brophy	Ryan	Powell	Gary
Harris	Lachlan	Brown	Bruce	Preece	Brian
Hawking	Don	Burnard	Saxon	Pritchard	Chantel
Haynes	Malcolm	Burton	Ray	Rado	Steven
Higgins	Jonathan	Buttars	Erik	Ramm	Hank
Hogan	Mark	Carlisle	Lesley-Anne	Ranger	Denis
Hook	Alan	Cartwright	Harrison	Rijken	Paul
Hope	David	Chamberlain	David	Roberts	Tony
Horseman	Ian	Cooke	Nat	Robertson	James
Hudson	Mick	Cram	Kevin	Sailes	Adrian
Jackson	Aaron	Dale	Andy	Sanders	Ashley
James	Grant	Demosani	Tony	Sandhu	Zorawar
Jeffrey	Scott	Dennis	Emily	Sando	Timothy
Johnson	Paul	Dew	Trevor	Schuh	Simon
Johnson	Barry	Domanski	Glenn	Scott	Rhys
Klopf	Alex	Donald	Thomas	Sexton	Mark
Laing	David	Duncan	Coen	Shephard	Daniel
Lakin	Bruce	Dunn	Bob	Skapin	Corey
Marlin	Robin	Dunn	Peter	Slater	Ian
Meredith	Mike	Eva	Keith	Smith	Ryan
Miller	Nick	Ewens	Mimi	Sniedze	Julie
Moore	Peter	Faquiri	Reshad	Tasker	David
Moore	Terry	Faunt	Joshua	Tattersall	Geoff
Moore	Thomas	Flynn	Adrian	Thomas	David
Paul	John	Fortune	Nigel	Thomas	Travis
Pollard	Barry	Foy	Erin	Thomson	Jim
Richter	Sean	Gatley	Graham	Threfall	Kevin
Salamon	Piotr	Genovese	John	Tran	Andy
Stewart	Robin	Ghanem	Paul	Treguis	Izaak
Stewien	Peter	Gibson	Lindsay	Trezise	George
Vella	Joe	Gill	Graham	Tsoulakis	Christos
Waters	Ian	Gordon	Frank	Tucker	Belinda
Watters	Matthew	Groffen	Renee	Tucker	Paul
Westover	Rhys	Hanson	Reece	Turner	Garry
Wilson	Graham	Harrington	Malcolm	Vozelj	Blaz
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg	Harrison	John	Weepers	Nicole
		Harrison	Keith	Wheeler	Chris
		Harrison	Nigel	Wilkinson	Charles
Associate Life Members		Hartshorne	Anthony	Williams	Reg
Elliott	Julie	Hawkins	Des	Williams	Janelle
Field	Shirley	Heath	Jonathon	Williams	David
Johnson	Sally	Higgins	Kevin	Zuromski	Paul
Laing	June	Hill	Max		
Parkin	Audrey	Hudson	Rick		
Phillips	Heather	Hume	Matthew		
Sanderson	Lorraine	Humphrys	Jesse		
Tregenza	Lyn	Jones	Brett		
		Justin	Trent		
Associate Members		Koop	Joshua		
Abel	Karen	Langtry	Paul		
Angove	Leisel	Kovacs	Philip		
Brown	Jenni	Laing	Selina		
Carnachan	Dom	Leach	Thomas		
Dunn	Trish	Lewis	James		
Eva	Gail	Loveder	Peter		
Hawkins	Lynn	Matchett	William		
Hook	Philippa	McCulloch	Don		
Hudson	Margaret	McIver	Bill	Honorary Members	
Johnson	Margaret	McKenzie	Kain	Wilson MAJGEN	Neil
Parsonage	Yvonne	McMahon	Tyler	Jackson LTCOL	Aaron
Pollard	Kay	Migali	Michael	Broadbent WO1	Mark
Toy	Jill	Mitchell	Barry		
Winger	Kathleen	Morony	Frank		
		Mulroney	Dennis		

Please welcome new
Honourary Member
WO1 Mark Broadbent