



"Sitrep, Over!"

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

PATRON: MAJGEN NEIL WILSON AM RFD

EDITOR DAVID LAING

JUNE 2025

D Day June 6th 1944

The Normandy landings were the landing operations and associated airborne operations on 6 June 1944 of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during the Second World War. Codenamed Operation Neptune and often referred to as D-Day (after the military term), it is the largest seaborne invasion in history.

The operation began the liberation of France, and the rest of Western Europe, and laid the foundations of the Allied victory on the Western Front. The invasion began shortly after midnight on the morning of 6 June with extensive aerial and naval bombardment as well as an airborne assault—the landing of 24,000

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American, British, and Canadian airborne troops. The early morning aerial assault was soon followed by Allied amphibious landings on the coast of France c. 06:30. The target 50-mile (80 km) stretch of the Normandy coast was divided into five sectors: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Strong winds blew the landing craft east of their intended positions, particularly at Utah and Omaha.

The men landed under heavy fire from gun emplacements overlooking the beaches, and the shore was mined and covered with obstacles such as wooden stakes, metal tripods, and barbed wire, making the work of the beach-clearing teams difficult and dangerous. The highest number of casualties was at Omaha, with its high cliffs. At Gold, Juno, and Sword, several fortified towns were cleared in house-to-house fighting, and two major gun emplacements at Gold were disabled using specialised tanks.



Editorial

Did we do the right thing by sending Care Packages to our soldiers on Border Protection duties?? You betcha!! I recently had a phone call from WO2 Tyrone Barnacle-Watts, known as "Barney" to his mates. He is a Team Leader on TSE 116 out of Darwin, and he phoned to thank the RSAR Association for their great care packages that were received with glee by our boys and girls on deployment. Barney said the soldiers from other units were extremely jealous as they had received nothing from their units, which goes to show that our dedication to supporting our soldiers really works! An article from one of the soldiers on TSE 116 will be featured in this newsletter soon.

Long time member Glenn Domanski, who now hails from WA called me and we had a chat recently, when he mentioned a story about a Syrian Bear who lived with some Polish soldiers during the Second World War. Intrigued, I researched it, and you can read the riveting story on Pages 9 to 11. Thanks Glenn!

Apparently some members are amazed at how quickly I sent out last month's newsletter, with all the ANZAC Day pics, just hours after the march finished! It's not "smoke and mirrors" really. The majority of the newsletter is finished way before the publishing date, so all I have to do is throw in the recent pics and complete the circle! I must also add thanks to my best photographer wife June, who takes most of the pics, but thanks also to Paul Tucker and Trent Burnard for their contributions.

It's that time of year with the AGM approaching that we remind all members that their annual dues are due on or around the AGM. Full Members are due \$30, whilst Serving Members who have been with our Association for more than 12 months are now due \$10. Our BSB and Account Number are in the right hand column. Please include your SURNAME and "2025/6 Membership" so we know what the funds are for. For those who have already updated their membership, thank you.

No institution looks after our older veterans better than the War Veterans Home at Myrtlebank, run by RSL Care (SA). Learn more about this great facility in an article researched by RSARA member Geoff Tattersall on Pages 16-18.

Garry Turner from 10/27 Bn Mt Gambier was awarded the inaugural Rodney Beames Perpetual Shield in 2023. Due to an admin error he wasn't presented with his personal "take home" shield, but this was rectified recently when the CO 10/27 Bn RSAR LTCOL Darrin Tyson and the RSM 10/27 Bn RSAR WO1 Mark Broadbent presented Garry with his long awaited shield in Mt Gambier on ANZAC Day 2025. Well done CO & RSM and congratulations again Pte Turner. Pics on Page 3.

That's it from me. Stay well and stay safe.

See you at the AGM!

David Laing



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www.rsara.asn.au

Or our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/1027RSARA/



Find us on
Facebook

**All Merchandise Orders to:
CPL Selina Laing on 0418 822 874
or lebanonsel@live.com**

**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 Inc
PO Box 1133
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christianbennett95@gmail.com

His Shield finally presented



Pte Garry Turner from 10/27 Bn Mt Gambier was awarded the inaugural Rodney Beames Perpetual Shield back in 2023 but due to an admin error he wasn't presented with his personal "take home" shield at the time. This was rectified recently when the CO 10/27 Bn RSAR LTCOL Darrin Tyson and the RSM 10/27 Bn RSAR WO1 Mark Broadbent travelled to Mt Gambier and presented Garry with his long awaited shield on ANZAC Day 2025. Well done CO & RSM and congratulations again Pte Turner.



Softies and Chockies for the Troops

Eight members of the RSAR Association attended Warradale Barracks on 25th May to welcome some of our soldiers back from a very vigorous training exercise. For their efforts we provided them with selected Soft Drinks, Potato Chips, Burger Rings, Cheezels and various Chocolate Bars **free of charge**! Our thanks go to Howard Parslow, Graham Elliott, CPL Selina Laing, David Laing, Mick Hudson, Graham & Julie Elliott and Des Hawkins for your valued assistance.

For our troubles we sold a few more Raffle Tickets and signed up **FOURTEEN** Serving Members into the Association.

We welcome the following, excusing rank:

Hayden Shrive
Joshua Knight
Charles Wilkinson
Nathan Samerski
Jay Eckermann
Caleb Dadd
Christopher Cannizzaro
Hugh Etteridge
Patrick Sperling
Isaac Osborne
Nathan Lee
David Waldon
Ben Hewett
Ronnie Andrews and
Jermaine Guglielmi

We also add our thanks to WO2 Phil Stuart, the CQMS of 10/27 Bn who kindly provided us with two large trunks for the soft drinks and 2 x FS tables for the goodies.

It's a shame so many returned from the exercise direct to Keswick and RAAF Base Edinburgh, as they missed out on our goodies, but we'll make it up to them next time. Cheers.





RSAR Association Inc



2025 Annual General Meeting

All Members, wives
& partners are
invited to attend the
AGM where all
Committee positions
will be declared
vacant.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS.

Please arrive by NLT
1100 hrs to order
and pay for your
meals, to be served
at the conclusion of
the AGM at 12 noon.

A CALL FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION



SUNDAY 3rd August
1100 hrs Avoca Hotel,
South Rd
Clarence Gardens

This is the MAIN event
for the year so it is
imperative for all
members to attend
and vote.

Dress Neat, Casual.

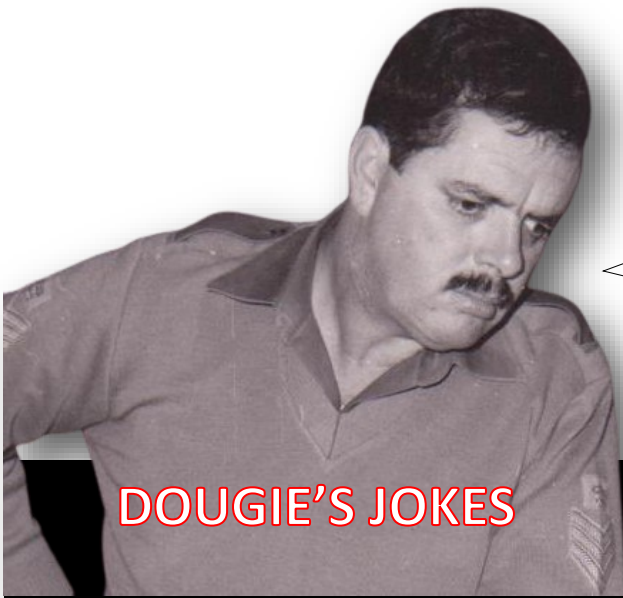
Guest Speaker will be
Mr Nathan Klinge, CEO
of RSL Care (SA)

Please join us after the
AGM for a couple of
drinks and a chat. Get
to know the other
members.

*The winning tickets
in the
Welcome Swallow Boat
House Raffle will be
drawn at midday*

Reservations Required
for Seating & Catering Purposes NLT 30 July to
davidlaing49@bigpond.com or 0407 791 822

See you there!



DOUGIE'S JOKES

**Never confuse
education with
intelligence**

**We live in a time where
intelligent people are
being silenced so that
stupid people won't be
offended.**

IF I REFUSE TO NAP....



IS THAT RESISTING A REST?

PAPER STRAW IN PLASTIC
WRAP.

The green movement in a
single photo.



**Common
sense is a
flower that
doesn't grow
in everyone's
garden.**

fb/sun gazing



YOU MEAN TO TELL ME



YOUR REAL NAME ISN'T GRANDMA

**Chemistry teacher:
"What is barium?"**

**Student: "It's what you
do after you killum."**

I was at lunch with an old friend & pointed at two elderly ladies across the room and said "That will be us in 10 years". She said "That's a mirror".

**WITHOUT FREEDOM OF
SPEECH, WE WOULDN'T
KNOW WHO THE IDIOTS
WERE!**

The Bear who was a Private in the Polish Army



A bear, famed for his love of beer, cigarettes and boxing and who was by the side of Allied troops in World War Two, has been made the subject of a play.

Wojtek was adopted by the 2nd Polish Corps in 1943, after his mother was shot by hunters.

The Syrian brown bear travelled with them from the Middle East as they were deployed to Italy. Allied soldiers described their shock at seeing Wojtek carrying artillery shells during the [Battle of Monte Cassino](#). The story of friendship and courage has been adapted for a production at Coventry's Albany Theatre by writer Alan Pollock from his children's book *The Bear Who Went To War*

Sue Butler's father was one of the soldiers in the war alongside Wojtek.

"Dad said he was a symbol that united the soldiers. He was much more than a bear, he thought he was one of them," she said.

Like many veterans, Cpl Andrzej Gasior did not talk much about his experiences of war as she was growing up, said Mrs Butler, from Solihull.

"When he started to tell me stories about this soldier who was actually a bear, I didn't believe him at first. I thought he was winding me up.

"But it was in a local Polish club that a friend of his brought a picture to show me of Wojtek."

Mrs Butler's father had been put in a Siberian labour camp aged 16 after being caught crossing the Polish border to trade boots and food.

He became ill and said the war had saved his life as the invasion of Poland prompted the Soviet Union to let the Poles go.

It was then that he joined the Polish Free Army, as he called it, and met Wojtek while in the Middle East.

The Bear who was a Private in the Polish Army

Wojtek was famed as a bear who liked beer and cigarettes but the truth may have been a little more prosaic. The bear was especially partial to dates, which her father would carry in his top pocket as a treat, Mrs Butler said. "If dad pretended to walk past Wojtek he knew that he'd got something and would make a beeline for him," she said. "He told me other soldiers wrestled with the bear, and although he is sometimes seen drinking bottles of beer, my dad said the beer was sometimes too precious and often it was just water." He would also ask for cigarettes, which he would eat.

Mrs Butler said the soldiers were very protective of their colleague, who served as a great morale booster. "He was a displaced bear and they were displaced people, and they were both without their families," she said. The animal was "very funny and quite mischievous," she added, but ultimately "thought he was one of them". She said: "They had all come out [of Siberia] emaciated, and been downtrodden by the Russian state for such a long time, and this bear suddenly comes into their lives who hasn't got his mom."

When the Polish forces were deployed to Europe, the only way to take the bear with them was to "enlist" him.

So he was given a name, rank and number and took part in the Italian campaign.

In one interview, a British veteran told how taken aback he was to see the 1.82m (6ft) bear carrying shells during the Battle of Monte Cassino.

The company emblem became a picture of Wojtek carrying a shell.

Mrs Butler said her father had told her, "I'm sure he kept us going" during that battle.

"He absolutely showed that he was scared by the explosions but he got used to it and was carting artillery around the place in big boxes," she said.

When the Polish soldiers were demobilised, Wojtek lived in Berwickshire in Scotland before being taken to Edinburgh Zoo where he eventually died in 1963.

Cpl Gasior travelled to England, first working at a colliery in Preston before joining a circus and ending up in the West Midlands.

He married Johanna O'Connel, a canteen worker he met at Gaydon Airfield in Warwickshire, before the couple settled in Birmingham.

Mrs Butler said her father had gone to visit Wojtek in Edinburgh before moving south.

"Polish men of his era were taught not to cry as it was seen as a sign of weakness," she said. "But he told me when he saw Wojtek at the zoo, he sobbed like a baby".



The 3522 Company emblem

The Bear who was a Private in the Polish Army



A statue of The Polish Bear and his mate can be seen in Princes Street Edinburgh Scotland. "Wojtek" spent his final years at the Edinburgh Zoo until he passed away peacefully in 1963 aged 22 years.



Wojtek's story is culturally significant as a symbol of camaraderie and unity between Poland and Scotland during a tumultuous period in history. His integration into the ranks of the Polish Army showcased the resilience and adaptability of both humans and animals. The statue erected in his honour in Princes St Gardens stands as a touching tribute to this exceptional bear and the enduring bond he shared with his fellow soldiers and the local population.

Story suggested by RSARA member Glenn Domanski

Story and pics from various sources including the BBC and Wikipedia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Requests for stories from your Army days have prompted member Max Hill to send this in. Editor

Hi David

I have two memories of past camps that may be remembered by others.

The first was AFX 1975 (5th to 18th April 75). The actual camp was nothing different than many others past and future, BUT, it was the only camp that was started by a dawn trip by vehicle to the Keswick railway station and we boarded the many carriages, old fashioned carriages probably 50 years old and the 15 to 20 cubicles held in each carriage held 6 personnel with all our marching packs, weapons, tools entrenching, bayonets etc.

We struggled down the narrow passages with our equipment and scratched the heck out of the insides - no wonder there has never been another troop transport to camp. Anyway, as i had only a couple of months earlier transferred to the Battalion from a transport unit, i had never seen an M60 machine gun and was issued one for the camp to defend Spt Coy HQ.

The number of hours was well used because the Coy CSM WO2 "Doc" Sobels taught me to strip and assemble, clean and maintain the weapon to a good standard.

The second camp (I believe May 86, but willing for the date to be corrected) when we were transported to Port Adelaide docks, to board HMAS Tobruk, and we sailed from there to Whyalla.

We docked and were picked up by trucks and transported to Woomera for a one week township blockade exercise, and then transported again for a very boring trip ending up at Leigh Creek for the second week of the camp.

The only item of interest was the convoy was halted because (obviously some big brass) traveling in a Pilatus light plane radioed to the convoy commander and arranged a conference. Conference over, he took off and the trip was finished without further ado.

Both portions were conducted without any great highlights in my memory.

Anyway mate, over to you thanks for the newsletters

Max Hill

Well done David with your latest newsletter, I particularly found the article on Conscription very interesting. Once again a great read.

Warm Regards

David Mercer OAM

SAMRA

G'day David, you are amazing, the dust raised by the people marching on ANZAC Day has only just settled & you have the newsletter out to one & all; very well done mate!
Cheers,

Geoff Laurie

Hi David

That was quick work. 2 hours after the Adelaide ANZAC march and the newsletter is out! Well done.

I'll work on getting to Adelaide for 2026 ANZAC Day to add a bit of class to the march.

Cheers

Phil Brookes

QLD



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/>

To transfer money for tickets, please deposit to: BSB 633 000 Acc: 1616 585 88
Include your Surname and "Raffle Tickets" as an identifier.

Padre's Ponderings

From Padre Stephen Albrecht—Chaplain 10/27 Bn RSAR

As the days shorten and the wind picks up, there is no denying that winter is on its way. In the military, we know what it means to operate in all conditions. Whether on a training weekend, on exercise, running through a Tuesday night program or staying warm enough to sleep, we press on.

Cold weather brings unique challenges. Equipment can take longer to prep. Movements are slower. Morale can dip. The chill in the air has a way of getting into our bones and, if we are not careful, our mindset. When the external environment turns harsh, it is vital to guard our internal climate: our thoughts, our attitudes, and our spirit.

Military life does not pause for comfort. And yet, even in the cold, we can find ways to build connection and maintain purpose. Definitely a hot cup of coffee. But how about a shared laugh on a cold range? A word of encouragement from a teammate? These can also bring warmth that no weather can take away.

Could I then suggest that cold weather does not weaken a soldier's resolve, it reveals it. It reveals discipline, endurance and grit that cannot be faked. Field conditions in winter push every soldier to their edge. But it is at that edge that real character reveals itself. Some shrink back; others step forward.

There is a spiritual parallel here, too. Harsh seasons, whether in the field or in life tend to reveal what is underneath. When everything gets stripped down to the essentials, what remains? Are we built on fleeting feelings, or on something unshakable?

This reminds me of Romans 5:3–4: "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Endurance. Character. Hope. That is what cold weather can reveal in a soldier who leans in, not out. So, when the cold creeps in and the wind cuts deep, remember this: it is not there to break you. Rather, it is there to show you what you are made of and even in what way God is shaping you.

Stay sharp. Stay ready. Stay rooted. The cold may come, but it will never define you. It will only reveal the soldier within.

Padre Stephen Albrecht



The ADF Reserve system is obsolete!! We need a dramatically expanded force

Australia needs to radically reorganise its reserves system to create a latent military force that is much larger, better trained and equipped and deployable within days—not decades.

Our current reserve system is not fit for purpose. It was designed many decades ago to support distant expeditionary operations, not the prospect of major war in our immediate region emphasised in the [2023 Defence Strategic Review \(DSR\)](#).

With doubts growing about the reliability of our major ally, we have no choice but to prepare to defend ourselves—if necessary, largely on our own. This requires whole-of-nation preparations that were described in the DSR. The driving needs are to deter and provide effective defence against an aggressive China.

But the [Review of the ADF Reserves](#), quietly released before Christmas, addresses none of this. At best, it is an administrative review that describes how management of the current system can be refined. It is an exercise in deck chair rearrangement, when we need a credible plan to build a far larger latent force that can be mobilised to carry much of the load if we must fight alone with little notice.



Commissioning this review of Australian Defence Force reserves was a key recommendation of the DSR. The DSR said:

The strategic risks we face require the implementation of a new approach to planning force posture, force structure, capability development and acquisition... It is clear that a business-as-usual approach is not appropriate.

The DSR said that the force structure was 'not fit for purpose' and that the country needed a larger defence force, greater war-fighting endurance and stronger national resilience.

The review of reserves doesn't address these issues at all but does describe the current reserve system. It states that in early 2024 some 41,000 people were registered as ADF reserves, but they included 10,000 who had never rendered service. Some of the remaining 31,000 provided specialist skills that were in short supply elsewhere in Defence, some filled gaps in permanent units, and a few served as a base for ADF force expansion in future emergencies.

At best, the reserves review performs a process-reform function, suggesting tweaking of current systems for efficiency and effectiveness. It recommends three categories of reserve service, accelerated entry pathways, adoption of an approach of providing minimal essential training, and a further review of conditions of service. However, the review proposes a recruitment target of only another 1000 personnel by 2030.

This is clearly not what the authors of the DSR had in mind.

There are limits on how many permanent ADF personnel can be recruited short of major

From the Australian Strategic Policy Institute

war. However, given our strategic circumstances, a steep increase in part-time personnel should be a priority.

Advanced democracies variously use three reserve force models. The first is an expeditionary one suitable for countries which are not directly threatened but whose militaries periodically deploy to fight in distant wars of choice. Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia use this model.

The second type is the homeland and theatre defence model. It is used by countries that face serious threats of direct attack with little warning and therefore need to be able to field a very large defence force to fight wars of necessity within a few hours or, at most, a few days.

Examples include: Finland which, with a population of 5.6 million, operates a force of 24,000 permanent military personnel and 254,000 trained and equipped reservists; Israel, which from a population of 9.8 million, fields 170,000 permanent force personnel and 465,000 active reservists; and Singapore, which, with a population of 6 million, can field 51,000 permanent force personnel and 253,000 trained and equipped reservists.

The third type is a hybrid, such as the US model. From a population of 340 million, the United States it has a permanent military force of 1.3 million supported by 807,000 well-trained and well-equipped reservists.

The reserves review should have asked which model was now most suitable. Our expeditionary model, inherited from forward commitments in Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam, is obsolete. It provides some operational capabilities but generates limited resilience and would require many years to expand the reserves to the size needed for major regional war, which we could face before the end of this decade.

We must rapidly transition to a homeland and theatre defence model or, possibly, some sort of hybrid model. We must quickly prepare a reserve force that is much stronger than what we have: better trained, equipped and organised, and much larger. It must be deployable within days.

We must simplify and accelerate the way we bring people into it and improve ADF access to the national skills pool. Many intelligence, cyber, transport, medical, maintenance and other roles can be filled by qualified civilians following short training periods.

This next-generation ADF reserves system demands big changes in leadership, culture and organisational habits. The government must explain the security challenges Australia faces, why major changes are needed and why people should enlist.

What's needed now is an action plan to quickly develop a much larger ADF reserve force. We needed it yesterday.

***Ross Babbage** is chief executive of Strategic Forum in Australia, a non-resident senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington DC and a former Australian Army reservist.*

Image of Australian Army reserves: [Cameron Pegg/Department of Defence](#).

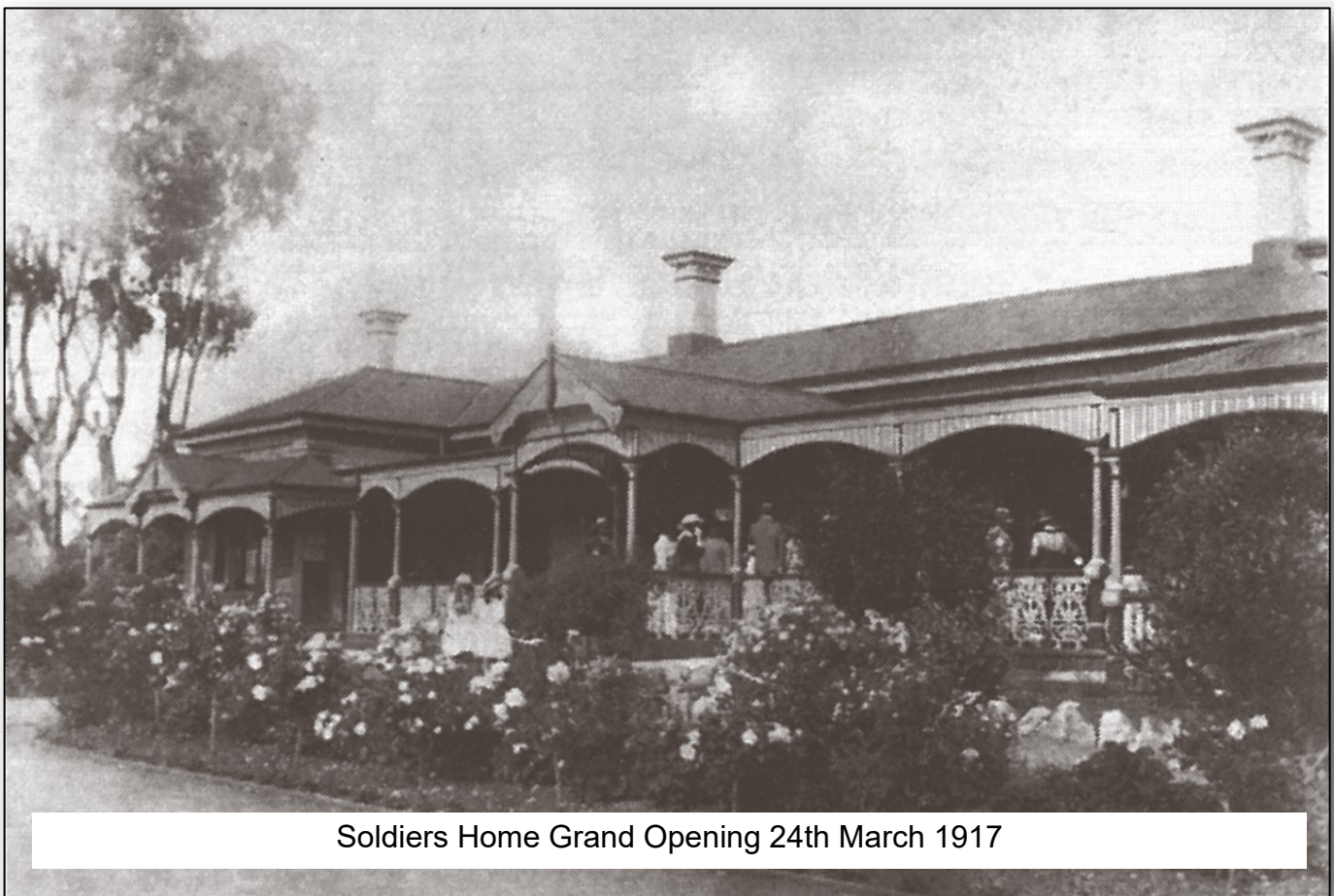
RSL CARE (SA) and the RSAR

RSL Care SA has a growing reputation amongst the veteran community for assisting veterans particularly through its Andrew Russell Veteran Living (ARVL) program. Less well known is that it has been doing so for over 100 years, and that it has historical links to the earlier battalions of the Royal South Australia Regiment.

RSL Care SA was previously known as the War Veterans' Home, Myrtle Bank Inc and before that, the Soldiers Home League. Its headquarters remain at the War Veterans Home (WVH) in Ferguson Ave, Myrtle Bank, but now operates from several regional and metropolitan locations. The origins of the WVH go back to 15 August 1915 when some community members met and formed what



RSL CARE SA



Soldiers Home Grand Opening 24th March 1917

subsequently became known as the Soldiers Home League. Their purpose was to raise funds for “the establishment and maintenance of a soldiers home”. They formed at a time when the community was experiencing the losses and repatriation of damaged soldiers from the Gallipoli campaign of which the 10th Battalion was a part, but it is probable that their first meeting was held prior to the terrible casualty lists from the August offensive (Lone Pine, The Nek etc) being published.

Fundraising continued through 1916 yielding about £2,000 and after approaches to the Lutheran community in late 1916, the Lutheran War Relief Fund donated another £500 together with a £2,000 loan (which subsequently became a donation). This support was despite the communities' anti-German sentiment of the time. The support from the Lutheran's enabled the League to acquire the 3-acre homestead from the Ferguson family, known as Myrtle Bank.

RSL CARE (SA) and the RSAR

The Home was officially opened on Saturday 24th March 1917 by Colonel Stanley Price Weir, the former CO of the 10th Battalion at the Gallipoli Landing and Pozieres. The Home commenced with 5 wards of 4 beds and another 3 beds on the veranda with “potential for more to be housed in tents”. The League became an incorporated body in 1918, and their first anniversary was celebrated with COL Price Weir unveiling a memorial to Lord Kitchener at the Home and a performance by the band of the 74th Regiment (a forerunner unit to RSAR). The records indicate that RSAR bands often performed at the home. Although the records of resident admissions have not survived, it is likely that the initial admissions included former members of the SA infantry AIF battalions. Subsequent admissions over the years certainly included infantry veterans from WW1 and WW2.

The Home was leased to the Repatriation Commission from 1920-1932 to operate as a TB hospital but thereafter it reverted to its original purpose of accommodating veterans unable to rejoin mainstream community. Residents were required to assist with farm duties to produce vegetables and maintain livestock. The records indicate that the behaviour of residents was often unruly, generally inspired by alcohol. Over the years, the Home underwent multiple renovations and expansions peaking at about 135 residents by the late 1960's. In the post WW2 years and particularly from the 1960's, as residents aged (WW2 residents did not outnumber WW1 veterans until October 1980), the Home gradually evolved into an aged care organisation as the federally funded aged care system became more robust creating opportunities for funding, expansion and better facilities. By the early 1990's, the League (now known as the WVH) was required by law to admit non-veterans into the aged care facilities, although preference continues to be given to veterans. At about this time females referred from Ex Servicewomen organisations were also admitted for the first time. In the late 1990's, retirement living accommodation options were introduced which have been expanded since. In 2000, the new Kapyong wing was opened at which Major Len Opie (retd) DCM, and well known to the Regiment, was a key-note speaker.

From about 2009, the boards of the WVH and the RSL State Branch formulated an agreement for the merger of RSL accommodation assets into the WVH. The merger took effect in January 2012, at which time the WVH changed its name to RSL Care SA. The assets transferred included the RSL affordable housing portfolio which became the foundation of today's ARVL program and in 2016 additional ARVL facilities were acquired specifically for homeless veterans. RSL Care SA now operates 3 residential aged care facilities in which there are numerous veterans and/or their partners, 4 retirement living villages and the ARVL program providing accommodation options across 5 locations. There are plans for further expansion.

A consistent feature of RSL Care SA since its origins has been the involvement of many notable South Australians on the governing body including those with links to the SA infantry battalions of the 1st and 2nd AIF. Some of these include:

- BRIG Stanley Price Weir, DSO. (1918 -1932)
- LTCOL W.J.F. (Bill) McCann, CMG, DSO, OBE, MC and Bar (1932-1957). He enlisted as a digger with 10 Bn, landing at Gallipoli as a SGT, becoming CSM of D Coy 4 days later and subsequently commissioned. He served with the Bn on the western front where he was awarded his first MC at Pozieres. He was invested with his MC by King George V on the same day Arthur Blackburn re-



Brigadier Stanley Price Weir

RSL CARE (SA) and the RSAR

ceived his VC (also 10 Bn). He was CO of 10 Bn when it was disbanded in March 1919. Post war he studied law and went into practice with Blackburn VC. He was State President of the RSL-SA (1924-31) and a founding member of Legacy (1928). He continued service in the CMF and was CO of 43 Bn (1927-30).

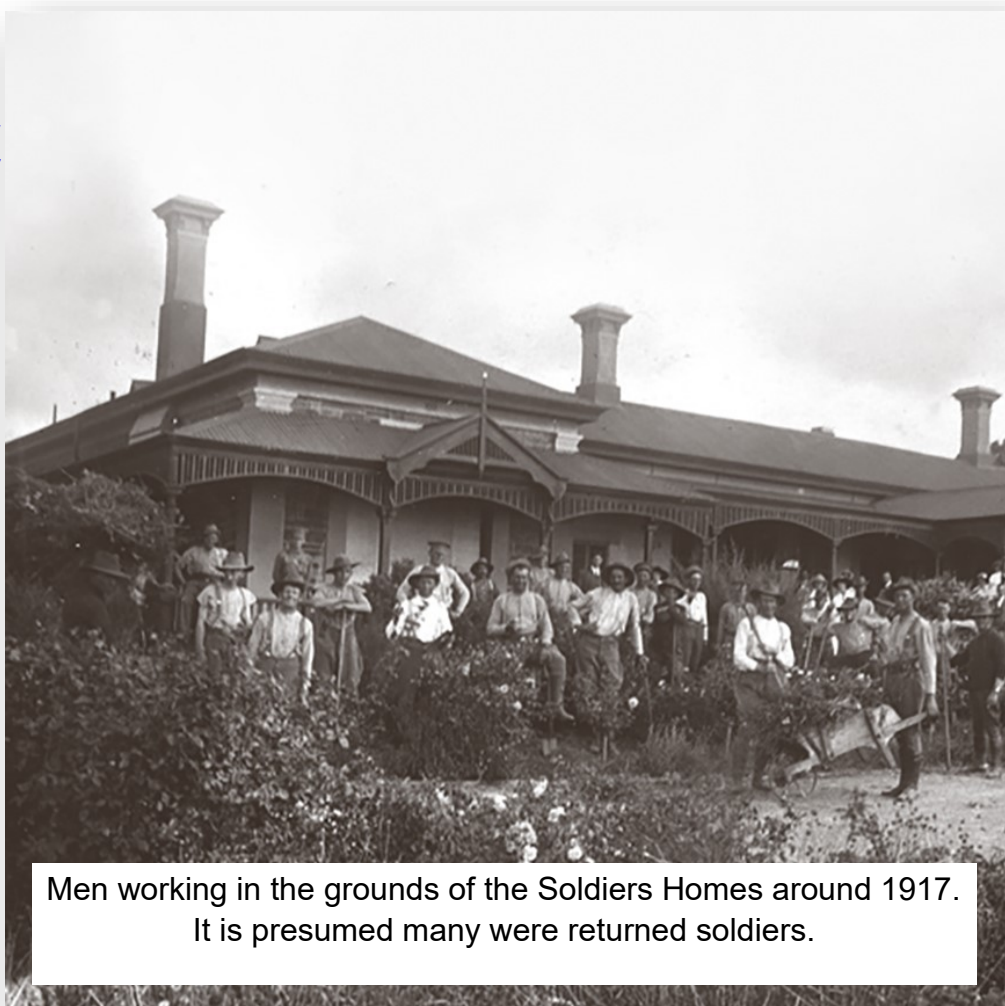
- LTCOL Arthur J Lee CBE, MC and Bar (1949-1991). Originally a digger with the Militia in 43/48 Bn then commissioned in 48 Bn before joining the 2/27th AIF. He was awarded his MC for action as OC B Coy in Damour and a Bar to his MC for action as OC of B Coy during the withdrawal from Brigade Hill in the Kokoda campaign. He later served with the 2/16 Bn and then became CO of 2/29 Bn. He too became State President of RSL-SA.
- BRIG John McKinna CMG, CBE, DSO (1973-1988). He initially served with 2/27 Bn in WW2 then 2/25 Bn. Post war he commanded 10 Bn in 1948-52 and then Commander 9 Bde 1952-55. He was also the SA Police Commissioner 1957-72.
- BRIG Laurie Lewis AM, MID (1997-2008). He was a Coy Comd with 9 RAR in Vietnam and later in his career, Commander 4th Military District.
- Jock Statton AO. (2008-2016). He was a national serviceman and saw service with 9 RAR in Vietnam. He was State President of RSL-SA and had a key role in the merger of RSL assets into the WVH which enabled the subsequent growth of RSL Care SA.

RSL Care SA has supported veterans from the Boer War through to recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the ARVL program taking it back to its original purpose whilst also caring for older veterans. The connection with Royal South Australia Regiment remains to this day with a number of former RSAR members now residents of RSL Care SA and others serving on the governing body.

Footnote: A reference for this article was "The War Veterans Home Myrtle Bank 1915-2005" written by Brian Dickey who also was a former RSAR member.

*Article researched by
RSAR Association member
Geoff Tattersall.*

Editors Note: Maybe we can persuade the most excellent Band of the 10th/27th Battalion to consider playing at the WVH and carry on the tradition.



Men working in the grounds of the Soldiers Homes around 1917.
It is presumed many were returned soldiers.

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Beckett	David	Abraham	Michael	Langtry	Paul	Tattersall	Geoff
Benveniste	Sam	Albrecht	Stephen	Larkins	Steve	Thomas	David
Blackmore	Bill	Allison	Robert	Leach	Thomas	Thomas	Travis
Boscence	Bob	Andrews	Ronnie	Lee	Nathan	Threlfall	Kev
Brookes	Phil	Angove	Derek	Lewis	James	Tiller	Damion
Burnard	Trent	Angus	Sebastian	Loveder	Peter	Tran	Andy
Burns	Wayne	Attenborough	Geoff	Matchett	William	Treguis	Izaak
Carnachan	Ian	Baker	Craig	McCulloch	Don	Treize	George
Carpenter	Ian	Bampton	Michael	McIver	Bill	Tsoulakis	Christos
Cotton	Bob	Barry-Orcales	Dianeever	McKenzie	Kain	Tucker	Belinda
Dart	John	Beames	Paul	McMahon	Tyler	Tucker	Paul
Davey	Trevor	Bedford	Travis	Migali	Michael	Turner	Garry
Elliott	Graham	Bennett	Christian	Mitchell	Barry	Vozelj	Blaz
Gaborit	Lyndon	Blondell	Mark	Morony	Frank	Waldon	David
Goodwin	Graham	Bras	Riley	Mulroney	Dennis	Weepers	Nicole
Harris	Lachlan	Brophy	Ryan	New	Anthony	Wheeler	Chris
Hawking	Don	Brown	Bruce	Normandale	Zachary	Wilkinson	Charles
Haynes	Malcolm	Burnard	Saxon	Oakley	Andrew	Wilkinson	Charles
Higgins	Jonathan	Burton	Ray	O'Daly	Ryan	Williams	Reg
Hogan	Mark	Buttars	Erik	Orrock	Alan	Williams	Janelle
Hook	Alan	Cannizzaro	Christopher	Osborne	Isaac	Williams	David
Hope	David	Carlisle	Lesley-Anne	Papps	Bernard	Zuromski	Paul
Horseman	Ian	Cartwright	Harrison	Parslow	Howard		
Hudson	Mick	Chamberlain	David	Parsonage	James	Honorary Mem- bers	
Jackson	Aaron	Cooke	Nat	Pascoe	Michael	MAJGEN Wilson	Neil
James	Grant	Cram	Kevin	Payne	Bob	LTCOL Tyson	Darrin
Jeffrey	Scott	Dadd	Caleb	Pearce	Philip	CAPT Jilbert	Charles
Johnson	Paul	Dale	Andy	Pexton	Timothy	WO1 Broadbent	Mark
Johnson	Barry	Demosani	Tony	Phillips	Colin Rex		
Klopf	Alex	Dennis	Emily	Portakiewicz	Anthony	Colour	Denotes
Laing	David	Dew	Trevor	Portakiewicz	David	Serving Member	Serving Member
Lakin	Bruce	Domanski	Glenn	Portakiewicz	Richard	Life Member	Life Member
Marlin	Robin	Donald	Thomas	Powell	Gary	Ordinary Member	Ordinary Member
Meredith	Mike	Drew	Anton	Preece	Brian		
Miller	Nick	Duncan	Coen	Pritchard	Chantel	Associate	Members
Moore	Peter	Dunn	Bob	Rado	Steven	Abel	Karen
Moore	Terry	Dunn	Peter	Ramm	Hank	Angove	Leisel
Moore	Thomas	Duras	Roman	Ranger	Denis	Brown	Jenni
Paul	John	Eckermann	Jay	Rijken	Paul	Carnachan	Dom
Pollard	Barry	Etteridge	Hugh	Roberts	Tony	Dunn	Trish
Richter	Sean	Eva	Keith	Robertson	James	Eva	Gail
Salamon	Piotr	Ewens	Mimi	Sailes	Adrian	Hawkins	Lynn
Stewart	Robin	Faquiri	Reshad	Samerski	Nathan	Hook	Philippa
Stewien	Peter	Faunt	Joshua	Sanders	Ashley	Hudson	Margaret
Vella	Joe	Flynn	Adrian	Sandhu	Zorawar	Johnson	Margaret
Waters	Ian	Fortune	Nigel	Sando	Timothy	Parsonage	Yvonne
Watters	Matthew	Foy	Erin	Schuh	Simon	Pollard	Kay
Westover	Rhys	Gatley	Graham	Scott	Rhys	Toy	Jill
Wilson	Graham	Genovese	John	Sexton	Mark	Winger	Kathleen
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg	Ghanem	Paul	Shephard	Daniel		
		Gibson	Lindsay	Shrive	Hayden		
		Gill	Graham	Skapin	Corey		
		Gordon	Frank	Slater	Ian		
Associate Life	Members	Groffen	Renee	Smith	Ryan		
Elliott	Julie	Guglielmi	Jermaine	Sniedze	Julie	NEW	MEMBERS
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		Hewett	Ben			Hewett	Ben
		Higgins	Kevin			Andrews	Ronnie
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		Hudson	Rick			Knight	Joshua
		Hume	Matthew			Wilkinson	Charles
		Humphrys	Jesse			Samerski	Nathan
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		Justin	Trent			Dadd	Caleb
		Knight	Joshua			Cannizzaro	Christopher
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