

“SITREP, OVER!”

Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

MARCH 2021

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing

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FEEDING THE MASSES. AGAIN!

2020 was a strange year that knocked us all for 6, but like the true Aussies we are, we picked ourselves up and started all over again, all the while hoping 2021 would be better. And healthier.

Just when we were starting to take it easy we received a request from 10/27 Ops to provide catering support to a Training Weekend to be held at RAAF Base Edinburgh. We had two questions. When and How Many?

Our stalwart volunteers once again answered the call, and after a couple of emails back and forth, we had 14 names to send through to Bn HQ for security clearances. That was taken care of, and we loaded our aprons and cooking irons up and headed for the “Land of the Blue Orchid.” Preparing the food for the Sunday lunch was done with military precision, as expected, and all stops were pulled out to feed 250 hungry mouths in just over an hour.

Supporting the Battalion is what we do, and when we do it we do it well. The soldiers showed their appreciation by offering gold coin donations to help pay for the rations, and I don't think anyone went away hungry. Bring on the next support exercise.

The rest is history and the photos are on Pages 2 through to 10.



ITEMS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

- Catering Support Exercise
Pages 2, 3 & 4
- CPL Numbnutz jokes Page 5
- War Dogs Page 6 & 7
- Laingy's Book Review Page 8
- Editorial Page 11
- Merchandise For Sale Page 12
- ...and much, much more.



ANZAC Day this year will be back to normal, with members marching in Adelaide and regions if they so wish. Those who can't may conduct their own “driveway services” as per last year. If the RSAR Association offered 1200 x 300 mm Corflute posters similar to the one above for around \$30, would you buy one? If we get enough interest we'll get our sign maker to roll some out and we'll have them available before ANZAC Day. Responses to the editor ASAP please.

Sunday 7th Feb 2021



2

Just before the Exercise began, I came down with "stay-away-from-work-itis" so the rest of our Support Team did the business without me. I am happy to say, had I been there, I would have been in the way. Here's what Rod Beames had to say! Editor.

Report from the President.

First, I wish to personally thank all the volunteers who helped at today's lunch for 10/27 Battalion. In particular, our WO caterer, Col Abel, better known as the "Bait Layer", did a splendid job in not only providing an extensive menu, but also had organisational skills on show way beyond any previous bait layer I know. Thanks, Colin.

Weather was almost perfect. Our previous hot and dusty BBQ plates were nowhere to be seen, but the shelters requested by Colin were provided and the whole exercise looked very professional. We all arrived on time in the car park, got our passes and were led to the Monash Centre.

We quickly unloaded and everyone had a job. When the new RSM (WO1 Ben Read) came down to see what we were doing, he must have been comforted by the "The Association work team" dressed with RSARA aprons, in top gear..

Right on 12.00 hours the Commanding Officer Lt Col Sam Benveniste addressed the troops assembled, presented several well deserved awards, and lunch was ready to go.

The reception by the Officers and soldiers of the Battalion was gratitude enough for me. I felt we had achieved what we set out to do and the whole demeanour of the troops was pleasing to see. They are a credit to the ADF.

I also acknowledge the assistance of WO2 Josh Raward and his team. Watches carefully, doesn't interfere and responds quickly when required.

I get the feeling, after today's success, that we might get invited again to be involved with some of the Battalion's training activities. Here's hoping.

Your very proud President,

Rod Beames



FEEDING THE MASSES. AGAIN!



Below:

The RSM addresses the troops before they descend on lunch



From Above anti-clockwise

"Do you want watermelon or grapes?
Dave Tasker and Jill Toy sort out the
dessert.

Unpacking the food crates. Graham
and Julie Elliott and Lyn Tregenza.

Rod Beames and Col Abel (Caterer
Extraordinaire) unload on arrival at
the Monash Centre.

Unpacking and putting on PPE. Gra-
ham Elliott leads the way.

FEEDING THE MASSES. AGAIN!



FEEDING THE MASSES. AGAIN!



FEEDING THE MASSES. AGAIN!

RIGHT: The most important person in any military operation is the WO Caterer, and the RSAR Association prides itself in having one of the best Bait Layers in the business.

Old mate Col Abel did a magnificent job at RAAF Base Edinburgh, and we have a unique shot here of him colouring in one of the menus.

BELOW: CO LTCOL Benveniste, supported by RSM WO1 Ben Read addresses the troops



AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS



ABOVE: LTCOL Benveniste Presents CPL Bell with an ADF Bronze Commendation Sect Comd during Bush Fire Assist

RIGHT: LTCOL Benveniste presents WO2 Gosling with an Australia Day Award 2021 – Noteworthy commitment to B Company and the unit. “You led by example and set the highest possible standards in your appointment as Company Sergeant Major of Combat Team Charlie, Battlegroup Jacka. Your knowledge, enthusiasm and professional conduct, along with your outstanding management and coordination skills, has been a decisive factor in allowing Bravo Company and the Unit to achieve outstanding results. Your dedication and commitment to duty have been of the highest order.”



AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS



LEFT: LTCOL Benveniste presents WO2 Paul Dabinett with Australia Day award 2021 - "Over the last four years your noteworthy commitment as the Training Warrant Officer has ensured the Unit was well prepared to organise and conduct directed outcomes in a rapidly evolving Australian Army. Your ability to understand new doctrine and procedures and your organisation and implementation of achieving successful qualifications to new training, equipment and weapon systems has led to mission success within the organisation."

RIGHT: LTCOL Benveniste presents LCPL Smith with an ADF Bronze Commendation Sect 2IC during Bush Fire Assist



FEEDING THE MASSES. AGAIN!



FEEDING THE MASSES.

“THE TEAM”



When the call came from WO2 Josh Raward, I only sent out 3 emails to the members I knew could be relied on to assist cater, prepare and serve a Sunday lunch for up to 250 soldiers from 10/27 Battalion for the Skills Weekend at RAAF Base Edinburgh. Within a couple of hours I had enough personnel to make up a good team, and these are those volunteers above.

FROM LEFT: Colin Phillips, WO Caterer Col Abel, Lyn Tregenza, Rod Beames, Julie Elliott, David Hope, Dave Tasker, Des Hawkins and Jill Toy. Photographer Norm Tregenza.

By all accounts the skills weekend went well and it was topped off by a lovely cold meat and salad lunch followed by a fresh fruit dessert on the Sunday.

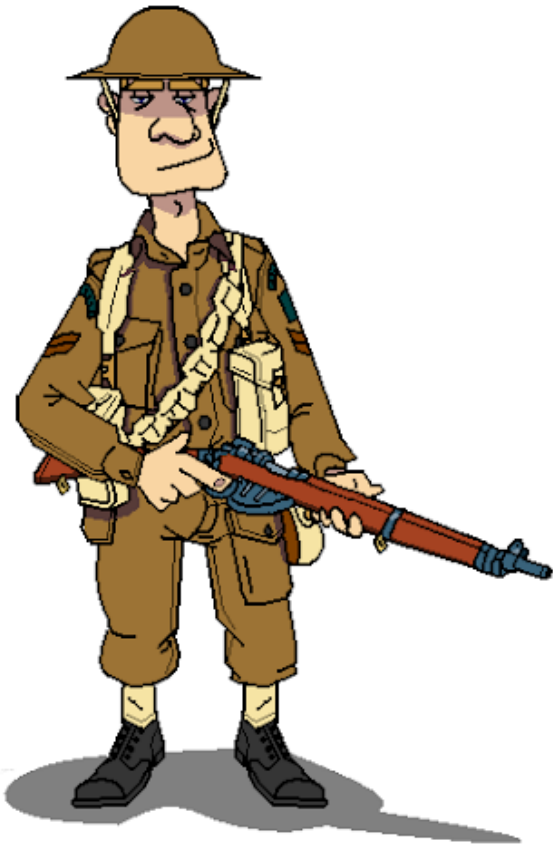
If anyone has any comments about the lunch I'd love to hear them. If there are any complaints about the food, you're probably in the wrong Army.

My thanks to Des Hawkins for taking up the photographic duties normally carried out by myself, but I was busy keeping the medical and pharmaceutical industries in the manner to which they are accustomed.

(I was crook!)

Editor David Laing

Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.

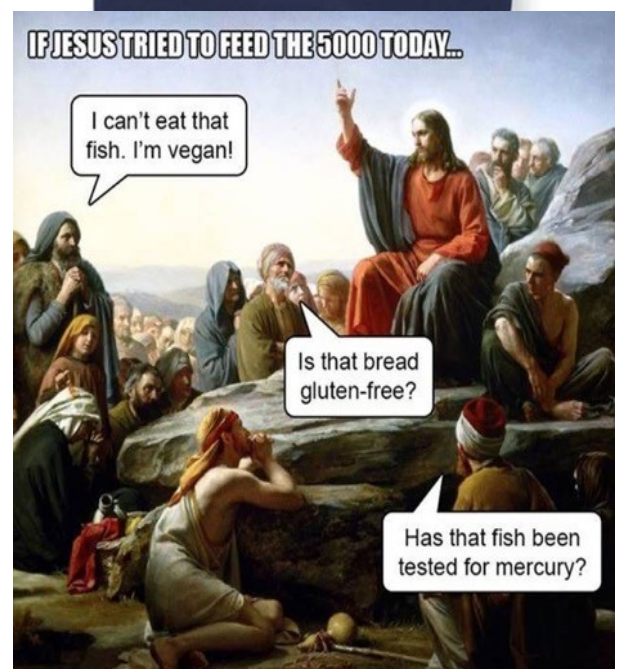


Have faith in the Pfizer vaccine. Don't forget they make Viagra.

If they can raise the dead.... they can save the living!



**MY BODY IS A TEMPLE.
ANCIENT & CRUM-
BLING. PROBABLY
CURSED & HAUNTED**



HORRIE - The WW2 Dog of the Desert

Horrie, a male terrier puppy, was found starving in a Libyan desert in 1941 by Private Jim Moody. He soon became the mascot of the 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion, providing companionship and relief to thousands of Aussie Diggers.

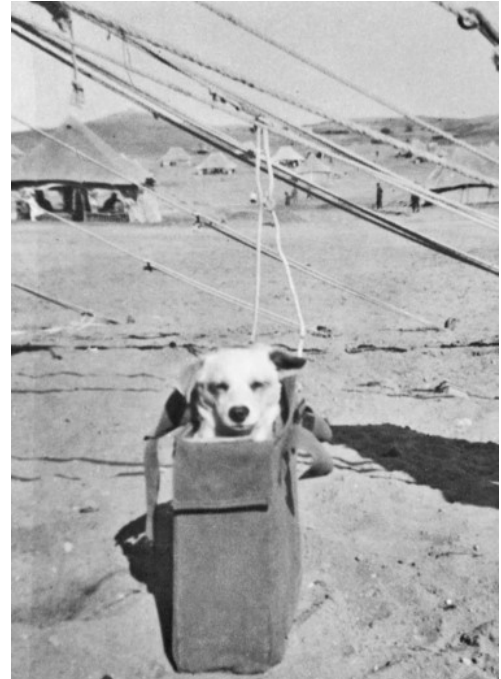
When the soldiers rescued Horrie, they were unaware of his extraordinary capabilities. During the war, Horrie saved hundreds of Australian soldiers with his sharp sense of sound – he could detect the sound of Nazi aircraft flying overhead well before they were seen by the troops.

The dog would sit and face the sky, and let out his distinct, guttural growl to warn the troops to hurry to the trenches. Horrie survived a bomb splinter injury in his leg, and he even endured through Syria's cold winter, wrapped up in a cloth cut from a soldier's tunic.

Horrie was successfully smuggled back into Australia despite the strict quarantine regulations stating all animals on board returning to Australia must be destroyed. Horrie and Private Moody lived a peaceful life together after the war finished, but not for long.

Horrie gained publicity around Australia as a famous war hero, which caught the attention of Ron Wardle, Commonwealth Director of Veterinary Hygiene. Wardle eventually euthanized Horrie with a dose of cyanide on 12 March 1945. However, some rumours claim Moody handed over a Horrie-look-a-like instead.

After news spread of Horrie's death, protests around Australia erupted, and Wardle received death threats from the public.



Horrie in the traveling pack troops used to smuggle him through Libya, Egypt, Greece, Crete, Palestine, Syria, and eventually back to Australia.

The Four Legged Angels

Tank, an Australian Rottweiler, and Muck, a Staffordshire terrier, are two canine heroes that saved two-year-old Max Hillier's life. This incident occurred when the Hillier family was visiting a neighbour at Andergrove near Mackay, Queensland, in 2008. They brought their dog Tank, who they had rescued after being abandoned in a box in front of a local school.

According to the *Brisbane Times* report, Max was playing in the backyard with Tank and the neighbour's dog, Muck, when the three of them wandered into the woods near a dam. Max stepped too close to the edge and fell into the dam, leading to what could've been a devastating tragedy for the Hillier family. The two dogs leaped to the rescue and dragged Max out of the water. The neighbour heard loud and frantic barking and rushed to the scene.

She found Tank guarding Max, and Muck pacing back and forth between the boy and the dam's ledge. The police confirmed the drag marks on Max's wet shirt signified that he was pulled out of the dam by the dogs.

To honour their bravery, Tank and Muck were awarded the Purple Cross.

Small But Mighty Smoky

Yesterday at the Brisbane RSPCA Animal Care Campus, the RSPCA's most prestigious animal bravery award was bestowed upon Smoky, a tiny Yorkshire Terrier who served in New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II. Smoky not only performed numerous acts of bravery in the field, but she also became what was probably the first post-traumatic stress canine. RSPCA rescue dog Barkley (pictured) represents just how small Smoky was when serving in the war.



RSPCA rescue dog Barkley wears Smoky's Purple Cross

The RSPCA Australia Purple Cross Award was established in 1993 to recognise the deeds of animals who have shown outstanding service to humans, particularly where they have demonstrated exceptional courage by risking their own safety or life to save a person from injury or death. Since its inception, only nine animals have been awarded the prestigious award.

At 1.81 kg (4 lbs.), 180 mm high (7" tall) Smoky was found on March 1944 in a foxhole in the jungles of New Guinea by an American soldier. The soldier was not fond of dogs, and eventually she was sold to Corporal William (Bill) Wynne for two Australian pounds. She

spent the next 18 months backpacking and going on combat flights with Corporal Wynne. She also learnt to parachute.

Smoky became a hero in January, 1945 when, on Luzon Island in the Philippines, she helped engineers to lay a teletype wire beneath the 70 foot wide airstrip. She was put into an 8 inch diameter pipe with a kite string tied to her collar so that a telephone line could be attached to it and delivered to the opposite side of the airstrip. Corporal Wynne called the tiny dog from the far end of the pipe, and despite darkness and many blockages of sand and soil which left her with only a few inches of headroom, she was able to achieve this feat within two minutes. Her efforts turned what would have otherwise been a three day dangerous exercise into a only several minutes, enabling the airfield to remain open so that 40 planes and 250 ground crew personnel were not exposed to enemy fire.

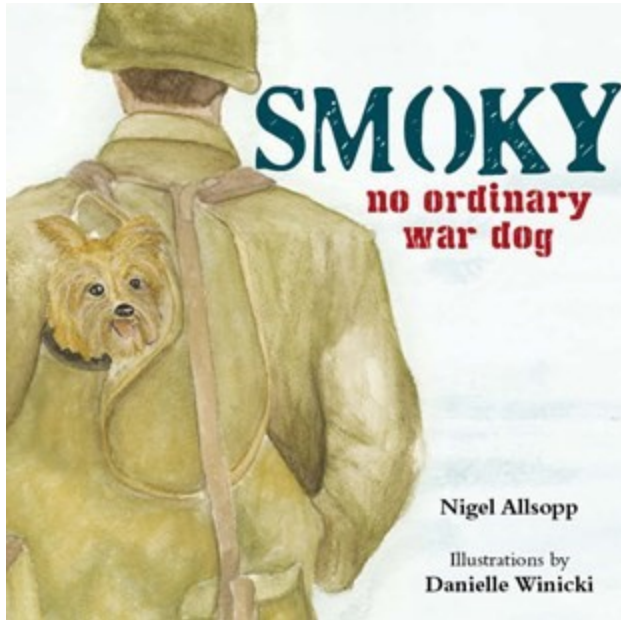
At one point during his service, Corporal Wynne ended up in a New Guinea hospital with Dengue Fever. It was here that nurses took Smoky on their rounds with them. It was during this time Smoky became the first 'therapy dog' of record. Her work with wounded soldiers helped many to cope with the terrible injuries they received, and the horrific sights they had seen. Smoky served at the U.S. 109th Fleet Hospital and at the 42nd General Hospital in Brisbane, Australia.

Smoky was credited with 12 combat missions and awarded eight battle stars. She was smuggled back into the United States in a specially designed flight oxygen mask carrying case, and went to live and work with Bill in Cleveland, Ohio.

Often known as "Yorkie Doodle Dandy" Smoky spent the rest of her life as a medical therapy dog, being the first dog to visit hospitals, nursing homes and orphanages. She also entertained on a weekly local television show with Bill Wynne, performing new tricks on every show. Smoky has six monuments dedicated to her in the USA, and two in Australia. Smoky passed away in 1957 at the age of 14, and was laid to rest in the Cleveland, Ohio Metroparks. Her owner Bill Wynne, age 93 and still residing in Mansfield, Ohio, is thrilled that Smoky has now been awarded the RSPCA's most prestigious award.

RSPCA Queensland President Andrew Tribe presented the award to Nigel Allsopp, author of *Smoky the War Dog* and a close friend of Bill Wynne.

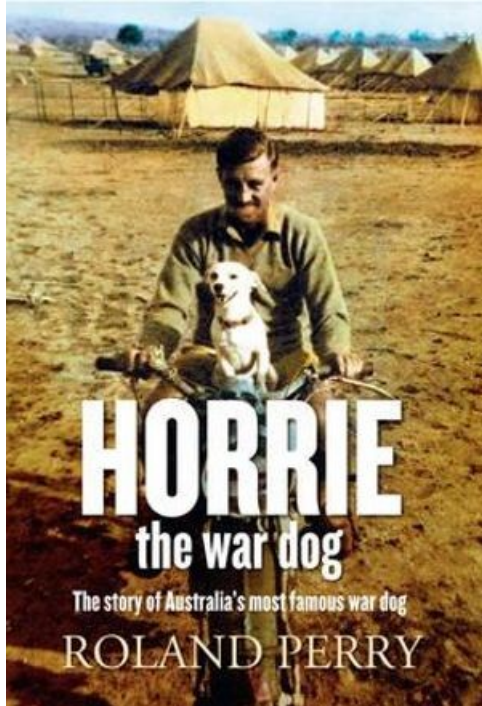
LAINGY'S BOOK REVIEWS



In March 1944, deep in the New Guinean jungle, a little Yorkshire Terrier was found hiding in a foxhole. Her presence there was a mystery, but American soldier Bill Wynne became her new owner. He named her Smoky, never dreaming that his little mate would turn out to be quite so extraordinary. When he fell ill with dengue fever, Bill asked to have Smoky by his side and she was soon visiting other soldiers on the ward, bringing happiness to the sick and wounded. This experience inspired Bill to visit injured soldiers with Smoky while on leave in Australia and she is recognised today as the first therapy dog of record. She performed other daring deeds as part of her war effort, including laying wire to take over a Japanese-held airfield, and went on to become a beloved performer on children's television. In *Smoky the War Dog*, historian and former military dog handler Nigel Allsopp tells the story of Smoky and Bill, long forgotten in Australia, and chronicles his own efforts to see Smoky formally recognised for her war work. He interweaves Smoky's story with remarkable tales of other mili-

tary dogs, past and present, and the vital roles they play in wartime.

Horrie The War Dog



In the harsh Libyan desert in the middle of the second world war, Private Jim Moody, a signaller with the First Australian Machine Gun Battalion, found a starving puppy on a sand dune. Moody called the dog Horrie. Much more than a mascot, Horrie's exceptional hearing picked up the whine of enemy aircraft two minutes before his human counterparts and repeatedly saved the lives of the thousand-strong contingent. The little Egyptian Terrier's ritual of sitting, barking, then dashing for the trenches, had the gunners running for cover before their camp was strafed and bombed.

Where Moody went, Horrie went too, through the battle zones of the Middle East and far beyond. As the Japanese forces began their assault in Asia Moody and his soldier mates joined the fight, but not before they had smuggled Horrie onto a troop ship and a harrowing journey back to Australia where they thought their little friend would be safe. The war over, Moody brought Horrie out of hiding to raise money for the Red Cross, and the brave little dog's story became widely known. When quarantine officers pounced and demanded that the dog be put down there was a huge public outcry. Horrie had saved a thousand lives. How could a cruel bureaucracy

heartlessly kill him? But defying the authorities would mean gaol for Moody and certain death for Horrie. Was Horrie, the gunner's hero, condemned to die or could Moody devise a scheme to save him? In the finest ANZAC tradition, *Horrie the War Dog* is a story of intrigue and illusion, and of sacrifice, courage and loyalty. Best-selling author, Roland Perry, tells this remarkable true story for the first time.

BOTH BOOKS AVAILABLE AT GOOD RETAILERS

RSAR ASSOCIATION GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

Our Story

The Royal South Australia Regiment Association was formed in 1999 by former members of the Regiment who wished to carry on the traditions and camaraderie of friendship formed during service.

Due to lack of promotion and advertising, the Association was wound up in 2001, having only 19 members, and no one willing to take on committee positions. A sub branch in Mt Gambier, (RSAR Association South East Branch) continued to operate with about 30 local members.

In 2006 previous members decided to try again, and a new Association was formed with about 30 members. This new group advertised by way of a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Royal-South-Australia-Regiment-Association>, a website, www.rsara.asn.au and monthly newsletter called "Sitrep, Over!" and what was 53 members in 2006 steadily grew in the following years.

The Association was incorporated in 2007 and now holds an Official Corporation Seal.

The goal of the Association is "To Perpetuate the Regiment."

The main function of the group at that time was to arrange social outings for its members, and there was little if any interaction with the current serving Battalion, 10th/27th Battalion RSAR.

A request to the then CO of 10/27 Bn (LTCOL Werner Lausberg) by Association President Alan Hook in 2010 saw 20 members attend a 10/27 Bn range practice at the Murray Bridge Army Range, and fire the F88 Steyr rifle, under supervision by trained Bn personnel.



The Association continued to grow and in 2012 recorded 125 financial members. That number continued to increase steadily through the next 5 years, and now stands at 180 financial members from every state of Australia, the UK and one in the US.



In 2013 the founding President Alan Hook handed the reigns to Rodney Beames, and he has continued in that role up to the present time.

In 2015 the Association made a push to sign up current serving members of the 10/27th Battalion, and with 10 members of the Regimental Band joining up, the way was now open for other serving soldiers to join, and currently 40 serving soldiers are members, with 5 filling committee positions.

Interaction with the past three CO's (LTCOL Graham Goodwin, LTCOL Trent Burnard and LTCOL Peter Morgenthaler

and their staff) has proven very fruitful for both the Association and the Battalion, and in 2015 the Association undertook to start financially supporting the 10/27 RSAR Band with items that were not supplied by Defence. These included purchase of new instruments, maintenance of existing instruments, replacement of Band uniforms, purchase of amplifying equipment and other sundries.

(It is known that the Royal South Australia Regiment Band is the oldest serving Army band in Australia, and draws its lineage from 1860 when the precedent unit, the Adelaide Volunteer Rifles was formed. Their musical prowess is considered to be of world class standard.)

Band members had previously paid for a lot of their own equipment, and this was deemed as unacceptable by the RSARA members

Other support to the Battalion in recent years has included:

- Rations support for soldiers by way of cooked breakfasts and/or lunches at the end of Battalion exercises (at Association expense.)
- Funding and building a Commemorative Garden within the 10/27 Bn precinct at Keswick Barracks, entirely funded by Defence Bank and the RSAR Association with all manual labour being performed by RSARA members
- Fundraising for the Band by way of supporting concerts
- Prizes and awards for high achieving soldiers at end of year ceremonies (Best Soldier, Best NCO, Best Officer)
- Maintenance and constant upgrade of Honour Boards at Keswick Barracks to reflect Best Soldier etc
- Hosting a Platoon of UK soldiers from 4 YORKS on an exchange to Adelaide in 2016. RSARA members provided tours to SA places of interest, including to the ANZAC Centenary Exhibition at the Adelaide Showgrounds. At the end of the exchange UK members were presented with shields manufactured in SA, with engraved plaques detailing their visit.
- Providing catering support for a Thank You Day at Keswick Barracks, for the families of the soldiers who provided support on the fire front, during the devastating 2019/20 bushfires.

The RSARA currently has 5 serving Battalion members on its committee, and they have proven a worthwhile addition to the former serving members of the executive committee.

The cooperation between the Battalion and the RSAR Association has never been greater, and if the RSARA can help the Battalion and its band continue into the future, we will consider our goals achieved. PRO PATRIA



David Laing - Secretary RSAR Association Inc

MEET YOUR PADRE

Padre Paul Ghanem has recently been posted as Chaplain for 10th/27th Battalion, and I asked him for a brief introduction about himself. Here's his reply.

Padre Ponders

Seventy-Six years separates our Commissioning but, as if by design and not by chance, CHAP Brendan Rogers and my lives crossed paths. Brendan served in the Malaya campaign and became a POW in Changi. After my Commissioning in 2017 I took a much easier path, benefiting from a thorough Special Service Officer (SSO) course before marching in to 8th Signal Regiment, and now to the 10th/27th Battalion Royal South Australia Regiment

In 2000, and after being ordained a Roman Catholic Priest in the Order of Friars Minor (more commonly known as the 'Franciscans') I found myself seated at every dinner with this grumpy old ex- Padre, if for no other reason that no one else sat opposite him! I was interested in his story and where his life had taken him. There we sat, he at the end of his life and me at the start of mine. He astounded me when he gave me one of his army issued mass chalices.



Although both of us are of the Franciscan Order, Brendan's stories and mine are worlds apart. I grew up as the fourth child of five to Lebanese migrants. My parents came from a small Maronite Christian village in northern Lebanon that had been colonised by the French in the wake of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire post WWI. I was born in the western suburbs of Sydney and I remain an ARL Bulldogs fan.

After graduating from university, I was a social worker treating drug and alcohol abuse. I've worked in churches, schools, universities, and social service chaplaincies around Australia. I had a term as parish assistant in Nazareth, Israel. The Middle East is a part of the world that I have returned to many times as a guide and pilgrimage chaplain.

Until recently my day job was as a Parish Priest in the inner city of Sydney. With my move to Adelaide I am helping out in parishes where there is a need and progressing with my ADF duties.

Brendan died before I was commissioned. I like to think that I am following him in the line of Franciscans serving as Military chaplains. I value the opportunity to give pastoral care and practical support to the Association and to our members, all of whom who are prepared to put their own lives on the line in the service of our country. Every Soldier and Officer has a family, my hope is to extend that care into the home as and when needed. Finally, my last performance review highlighted a deficiency in my Defence Writing, here's hoping for a miracle!!!!

The Padre

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POSTSCRIPT: For all you military history buffs here is a little more on Brendan. VX3087 Chaplain John Brendan Rogers Sailed for Singapore on Good Friday 1941 with the 2/2nd Convalescent Depot. He subsequently became a prisoner-of-war in Singapore and Kuching. In recognition of his service to veterans and their families CHAP Rogers, in 1999, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. He died on 27 May 2001 at age 87, exactly one year after my own priestly ordination.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

and others.

President Rod Beames meets with a group of old mates every week for coffee (or similar) and they chat about how good they used to be, and who can drink the most. Last week Rod didn't turn up, with no explanation, so his mates were wondering where he was. Only 3 weeks ago Rod had a mishap where he badly sprained his wrist and was forced to wear a cast for a while. Here's Rod's excuse.

Hi Guys,

I wish to apologise for last Wednesday's lunch no show. I spoke with Col the Baitlayer today and he told me there were several persons slightly concerned about my no show. This is a worry in itself because I'm now on level pegging with Howard. The good news is my arm/wrist is back to normal and the "wrapping" has been removed. The not so good news is that everything was going to plan last Monday morning and I was starting to pack up after staying at the shack on my own. I climbed up one of those stupid step stools to put on an electrical cover. Obviously while trying to do a pirouette or some similar dance step on top of the stool, it gave way and left me on the floor unable to walk, hop skip or jump. I managed to do some infantry snake like manoeuvres to reach my phone in the other room and call for help. My brother took me to the Pt Lincoln hospital where they did CT scans, x rays etc and came to the conclusion nothing was broken, just severely sprained. I cant walk or drive. I left my car over there and flew home in a wheel chair on Tuesday. I haven't been thinking straight, since and neglected to tell Frank (coffee mate). SORRY. To-day I managed to stand on one leg to pee (instead of sitting) which was an amazing achievement.

Hopefully I can make it next week. Please squash all the applications for transfer to WRAAC school. They won't want me either.

I should be good for Buzza's memorial service (if I don't join him beforehand)

Regards,

Rod Beames

[Open letter to our readers](#)

G'day all

There comes a time when one must sit back and contemplate one's future, or not. I choose to sit back and relax and let the future take care of itself. About a month ago I got some news from one of my doctors (I have many) that a part of my body had developed a lump that needed further investigation. So, I got booked into the FMC for a procedure that I prefer not to go into at the moment. Or ever, in fact!

I was anxiously awaiting my date with the knife when my wife decided to do a somersault in our daughter's front yard and badly dislocate her shoulder. To cut a long story short, an ambulance trip to hospital, ramping, relocation of shoulder, which made me wince, and the carer suddenly became the cared.

We had to cancel a number of other appointments, including an RSAR Association committee meeting that had been planned for months, and a hair appointment. Mine, not hers!

In that time I received a number of emails and phone calls from mates and members which made me think of the value of friendship, and the need to stay in touch with your mates. I know I've made a few calls in my time to mates who have done it hard, but when it came down to me being on the receiving end it made a big difference to my mindset and to my recovery. Thank you to all who made the effort, especially Norm and Des. I'll repay the favour one day.

Regards

David Laing

The Future of the Army Reserves - continued from last month

The significant focus on domestic operations does not detract from the DCNG's ability to support the permanent (active duty) force by augmenting overseas deployments. In 2019, two Detachments of the DCNG's General Support Aviation Battalions returned from deployments in Afghanistan where they provided relief capabilities whilst attached the 101st Airborne Division. Numerous individuals and small teams of specialists from the DCNG's aviation and maintenance capabilities also deployed, complementing larger organisations drawn from the permanent forces.

But, being a broad utility force means the DCNG can also provide value in other ways:

- Under the auspices of the State Partnership Program (SPP) the DCNG builds partner capability with the Jamaican Defence Force and the Burkina Faso Armed Forces. The SPP leverages the nature of Reserve service, (specifically that members of the Guard spend the majority of their careers in the same wing or unit) to develop enduring, trusted partnerships in some cases over the entire career of a member of the Guard. Through subject matter expert (SME) exchanges, and participation in combat exercises, the DCNG has built partner capability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response, Operations, Planning, Medical, Aviation and Legal and Chaplaincy fields (amongst others). Perhaps more importantly, the DCNG has built enduring, trusted relationships.
- By partnering with District and federal law enforcement agencies the DCNG helps counter illicit drug and transnational threats to the Homeland. The DCNG assists civil organisations in delivering community education, supporting intelligence analysis and by supporting arrest operations, aerial reconnaissance and surveillance. According to the DCNG the program has assisted law enforcement agencies to seize illicit drugs and assets valued at over \$10 million for each year that the program has run.

Through ongoing work alongside community groups, charitable organisations and local authorities the DCNG helps build social cohesion and counter discrimination. Since 1968, the DCNG has conducted an annual Youth Leaders Camp, building social cohesion and youth engagement (alongside a likely recruiting benefit). A separate program for high-school dropouts and disengaged youth provides one of the Nation's most effective and cost efficient programs for at-risk youth. Finally the DCNG's 'Family Readiness' program sees members of the DCNG supporting Yellow Ribbon, Food & Pharmacy and other charitable organisations for over 600 hours a year.

But could initiatives like these work in the Australian context?

Of course they could. In fact the Reserve's 'highlights reel' shows progress towards some of these initiatives already – such as proactive support to civil organisations, and the well documented reactive operations in response to recent crises. But how do we maximise value from the Reserve in the non-crisis, non-wartime periods?

An additional task for the broad utility Reserve, could be international engagement, modelled off the National Guard's SPP, to leverage the nature of reserve service when thinking about Defence's contributions to the Pacific Step Up. Last year the Chief of Army described Australia's role in the Indo-Pacific as that of a 'neighbour, friend and partner', noting that 'friendships are not just built on work; most friends work and socialise together. Our Army, our people, strengthen relationships through sport, cultural events, music and religion.

With the focus clearly on the 'human factors' of relationship building in the Pacific, there is a unique opportunity to leverage our part time force. Like the DCNG, most Australian Army Reservists spend the majority of their career in a single Brigade or State/Territory – unlike their full time counterparts, whose postings often involve interstate moves. An habitual relationship between an Army Reserve Unit, or Brigade and a partner in the Pacific could see the same soldiers and officers interacting over an entire career. To build on the Chief of Army's speech: 'friendships are not just built on work; most friends work and socialise together...' *over a series of years, or even a career*.

For the DCNG, their partnerships with Burkina Faso is relatively new, but they've worked alongside the

Jamaican Defence Force (JDF) since 1999. Some of the junior officers and NCOs who participated in the first SME exchanges in the early 2000s, now hold senior positions within the DCNG and so too do their counterparts in the JDF. With trusted relationships, built over two decades between 'friends and neighbours', the human factor of relationship building could have strategic diplomatic significance. The relationships fostered through the SPP routinely endure much longer than the tenure of a Foreign Service Officer from the Department of State, or an embed from a combatant command who is posted for a single assignment/tour. But the SPP is not the only lesson we can learn from our American mates.

Whilst the Australian Reserves are unlikely to support Law Enforcement efforts to counter transnational crime in Australia, we could work more routinely with our domestic partners – an option already suggested as a means of enhancing Reserve capability within the existing organisation. Proactively engaging, then supporting planning alongside civilian agencies could form another component of the Reserve's value proposition. Routine domestic operations, like those undertaken by the DCNG do not always involve soldiers in the streets. Rather, planning alongside government agencies and even the organisers of large events, would not only increase interoperability but render contingency responses more effective and timely.



Routine domestic operations where Reservists are highly visible have significant benefits too. They provide Reservists with an opportunity to contribute to the community in which they live – driving recruitment, retention and very positive public relations content, like that generated during OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST. For the DCNG, whose routine domestic operations focus on assisting law enforcement during protected 'First Amendment activity,' this has seen manning focus on relevant military trades (such as Military Police, and staff officers for manning situational awareness capabilities). For the Australian Reserves, whose routine domestic operations will almost certainly focus on natural disaster responses, a manning focus on relevant military trades (such as engineers, logistics and supply) would likely assist in enhancing response capabilities.

Conclusion

The Reserves' highlight reel, features a broadening of utility over the last two decades that is increasing in speed. Defence's Strategic Update features increasing uncertainty and changes in Australia's strategic environment that have accelerated since 2016. It is difficult to imagine a future where a 'narrower-utility' reserve is required. With the 2020 Force Structure showing little change to the capability and role of the Reserve until a 'recapitalisation' in 2030-2040, now is the time to look forward and get our value proposition right. Now is the time to invest in learning not just what our American mates are doing, but other like-minded countries too.

Author

Dustin Gold

Captain

Dustin is an Army Reserve Captain within 9 Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. He is currently undertaking a Reserve Forces Foreign Exchange with the District of Columbia National Guard whilst posted to Washington DC in his civilian role with the Australian Public Service. As an Army Officer, Dustin has completed multiple periods of full time service, including deployments on border security operations and Defence Assistance to the Civil Community.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Australian Army, the Department of Defence, the Australian Government or the RSAR Association.

EDITORIAL

Thank you to all the members who took the time to send in jokes and stories for inclusion in this newsletter. I can't do everything on my own, so your contributions are very welcome. Please keep them coming!

COVID 19. That's all we've heard for the last 18 months, but I'm glad someone is doing the hard yards and looking out for us. I thank all the frontline emergency services and health workers who are doing their utmost to ensure our safety and longevity. Thank you all!

And while we're on that subject, have you had a Coronavirus test? I avoided it as long as possible, until I caught a bad cold from my darling granddaughter, and had an important RAH appointment coming up. It was either get tested or miss the important appointment, and THEN get tested anyway. So, I presented myself at the testing clinic in Murray Bridge like a good boy, and after 10 minutes was invited in by what I presume was a female doctor the size of a small child. Actually, it could have been a small child! She asked me various questions in a muffled dialect that I couldn't understand because of the multiple layers of PPE she was wearing, including an industrial cloth mask, a Perspex face shield and a suit left over from the Apollo 13 mission. She indicated for me to stand and face a spot marked with an X on the wall. She then muffled something that sounded like "This may not be pleasant!" MAY NOT BE PLEASANT? Did General George Armstrong Custer say when he saw the thousands of Indians facing his 300 troopers at the Little Big Horn "This may not be pleasant!" Did Captain John Smith of the SS Titanic say, when his ship headed full steam sideways into a mammoth iceberg "This may not be pleasant?" Did Greg Chappell, when instructing his brother Trevor to bowl an underarm delivery at the Kiwis to save the game say "This may not be pleasant?"

NO! None of them said that, and my mystery Doctor shouldn't have said that either. She SHOULD have said "This is going hurt like hell, and more!" Two seconds after she'd shoved a sharpened kebab stick into the dark cavities of the back of my throat, she shoved another sharpened kebab stick up my right nasal passage until I felt it poke through the back of my spine! Along with excruciating pain, came the blood. Yep, my nose was bleeding for the first time since I fell from my pushbike face first onto the footpath when I was 9. This must have been a regular occurrence, as the Doc handed me a box of tissues and showed me out via the back door. Presumably so no other pending kebab target saw me bleeding like a stuck pig as I left.

I've done my bit for the pandemic. I've had my test. Now it's time to have yours. And It MAY not be pleasant!

That's what I think!

David Laing - Editor (PS My test came back NEGATIVE. Phew!)



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PAYMENTS FOR SUBS & MERCHANDISE

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

RSAR Association Inc
BSB 633 000
Acc. 1616 585 88

Cheques etc can be mailed to

**The Treasurer
Christian Bennett
RSAR Association
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Torrensville SA 5031**

christianbennett95@gmail.com

RSARA MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Due to increasing costs of manufacturing almost everything we purchase, we are unable to retain the costs of our Association Merchandise without a very small price rise. We HAVE managed to keep the costs of our Annual Fees down to \$20, the same as it was when the Association was first formed. Please see below for current prices.



Association Lapel Badge \$15 plus \$4 postage

Made in Adelaide and Sydney

Association Name Plate \$25 plus \$4 postage

Made in Adelaide and Sydney

Regimental Tie \$25 plus \$4 postage

Designed in Adelaide and NOT made in China.

RSARA Baseball Cap

\$20 plus \$4 postage



RSARA Stubby Holders \$6 plus \$4 postage.

OR 6 for \$30 plus \$8 postage

Neoprene with sewn base. Great quality
Designed and made in Adelaide SA



Association Polo Top \$45 plus \$10 postage

100% BIZCOOL Micro Polyester

Designed and embroidered in SA
(Mannequin not included)

These are our most popular and fastest selling product.
Sizes available from S to 6XL. Please ensure to order
CORRECT size, as returns are not possible.



*All prices correct at time of publication. A slight delay may
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