



"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of The Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

DECEMBER 2013

Editor—David Laing 0407 791 822

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UPCOMING FUNCTION DATES

Sunday 15th December Christmas BBQ

Sturt Reserve Murray Bridge
FREE BUS FROM
KESWICK BARRACKS

CoM Meeting

Friday 31st Jan TTD

LUNCHEON

Sunday 16th Feb Noon

Royal Hotel Kent Town

Guest Speaker

Maj Jeff Ayles JP

"Returning our Missing In
Action soldiers to Australia."

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A Christmas Message From the President (Metro)

Merry Christmas to all members and friends of the RSAR Association, and to the members of 10/27 Battalion, RSAR.

This is my first Christmas message as President, and with God and members willing, I trust it won't be my last.

The "Sitrep, Over!" is our main vehicle for communication and while I don't write regular bulletins, I support the Secretary's articles and, in particular, I commend to you, his Christmas message in this issue. It covers just about everything.

As in any organisation, you need many "do-ers" and a dedicated Committee of Management to point us in the right direction, and the RSAR Association has got this right.

As our Secretary has said, our membership has grown substantially, our functions are well attended and our activities are more numerous. This augers well for the Association and fills me with pride. If ever my mates say "Beamesy. Organise a reunion." I can now answer, "just come to our next function and you'll meet our old mates there."

I only served with three Battalions of the Regiment, but I am quickly learning of the identities and legends of many I may have missed. We only talk about the good times and "cock-ups" and quietly sigh with relief that no-one was hurt because of them. Oh, how things have changed!

Our growing membership knows no boundaries and spreads interstate and overseas. Our Christmas celebrations will be diverse to say the least and commenting on the type of weather you are likely to embrace or the potential temperature for the day is simply impractical, but one thing is always common. The camaraderie will be in no short supply.

"As a fellow member of the Regiment, I wish you a safe and happy Christmas where-ever you are, and a prosperous New Year"

Cheers

Rodney Beames

President - RSAR Association Inc (Metro)



CHANGE OF DAY FOR LUNCHEONS

A reminder that all Association Luncheons will now be held on **SUNDAYS**. This change is to give our working and serving members a chance to enjoy the camaraderie that the "Old & Bold" have been enjoying.

All luncheons will feature Guest Speakers.

All dates are in the 2014 RSARA Events Calendar on Page 8.



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www.rsara.asn.au



43 RSAR - A Brief History

This battalion was raised in 1967 as the Army's response to a growing Citizens Military Force as a result of the war in Vietnam and Universal National Service.

In keeping with the protocols of the day, the number of a famous AIF Battalion, the 43rd was used, just had been done for the 10th and 27th Battalions in 1965.

This unique battalion recruited many of its members from the country all over the State and was known as "The Bushman's Rifles".

Members paraded at two Annual Field Exercises (Camps) a year and did not have to parade on a week night for a couple of hours as did the other Units of the Task Force.

The home of the Unit was at Kilkenny, next to the Australian Glass Manufacturers bottle making factory on Port Road. As well as the usual parade ground and drill hall, there was a rifle range down the side of the hall next to the factory. In those days it was OK to take the Lee Enfield 303 rifle out with a Morris tube down the barrel to fire .22 calibre rounds into a sheet of steel. This way troops got some practice at shooting. (Could you imagine that happening today?) There was a range at the Alberton Depot on Sussex Street as well.

Camps were held at various locations including Deep Creek in the south. On one occasion the pioneers built a bridge for a local farmer to save him having to travel a great distance to get from one side to the other of his property. (A community project no doubt). One Alex Klopff was a member of the pioneers who built the bridge and yes, it did get to carry traffic and is probably still doing so today.

On another occasion at Murray Bridge in January, someone had hung a towel over the light bulb in the accommodation of the time (12 x 12 tents with fly). The towel caught fire and all hell broke loose as the members tried successfully to stop the fire spreading. The investigating officer discovered that the length of hose in the hydrant did not reach to all areas of the camp. That was quickly changed as a result of that experience.

The highlight of the Unit's activities was the Colours Presentation parade in 1972 at the Adelaide Oval, and the Commander of the parade was LTCOL Jeff Chittleborough. (In February 2012 a reunion was held at Keswick Barracks, and Jeff and Bob Charlson, the RSM and many other past members of the Unit enjoyed some camaraderie hosted by the RSAR Association.) Later the Colours were laid up in the Council Chambers at the Adelaide Town Hall and are still there today.

Following the disbandment of the Unit in 1975, the three CMF battalions were amalgamated within 10 RSAR. LTCOL Doug Creten read the feeling of the members of each Unit very well and prudently named the Companies 10, 27 and 43 Companies.

In 1987, the CMF infantry units in SA were again reorganised and the 10 and 27 Battalions were chosen to be linked to form the new and still existing sole infantry battalion in SA, the 10th/27th Battalion. The linked battalion was commanded by LTCOL Neil Wilson, with Major Denis Ranger as 2IC, and based at Torrens Training Depot.

Members of the Royal South Australia Regiment can be proud of their heritage and the history that earlier members in both war and peace have created.

From an article by **Alan Hook**, Immediate Past President RSAR Association (Metro)

CHRISTMAS BBQ. The End Of Year Christmas BBQ will again be held at Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge on Sunday 15th December from 1100 hrs to 1500 hrs. A **FREE BUS** has been provided by the Association, and this will leave from Keswick Barracks (near the Army Museum) at 0930 hrs and return there at approximately 1530 hrs. Anyone wishing to take advantage of the free transport is asked to book their seat through **Norm Rathmann on 0448 460 884**, or contact him via email on normgeelong@yahoo.com. The bus can seat 20 passengers (and their eskies) so it's first come first served. Members wishing to take their own cars are advised there is ample car parking at Sturt Reserve, but you need to be there before 1100 hrs to get a spot. **BYO food, drinks and chairs.** This is the final function for the year, and a great chance to catch up with your mates and wish them and their families all the best for the holiday season. **Serving Members are encouraged to attend with their families and meet the Old & Bold.**

從編輯器的話

Ancient Chinese Proverb

Before telling secrets on the road, look in the bushes



Just Soldiers

Lance Corporal Charles Bunney

Part 1

Unmarked but not forgotten

It was a cold, overcast day with a low fog hugging the creek line as I walked between the headstones in the cemetery of the goldmining town in central Victoria. The council worker leading the way carried an old fabric map. We stopped before a depression in the ground and the worker looked around, oriented the map, then turned toward me and said, 'I think he's under here'.

As revellers at home ushered in the 20th century, young soldiers representing the various states of Australia were pitched in battle against the Dutch-Afrikaner settlers, thousands of miles away on the South African veldt.

After several defeats, the Boers had reorganised their fighting men into groups of highly mobile commandos, harassing the British at every opportunity. To counteract this type of guerrilla warfare, the British High Command became increasingly more reli-

ant on mounted troops, particularly those from Australia and New Zealand who coped very well in this type of conflict.

A competent horseman and keen for adventure, Charles Bunney enlisted in the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles, bound for the Boer War. The Left Wing, comprising four squadrons of horsemen, boarded a ship on 4 March 1901 and sailed two days later. When they disembarked at Port Elizabeth, they were dispatched to Pretoria by train.

Their initial sorties were confined to long range patrols and, even though the terrain was harsh, the tough Victorians acquitted themselves very well. The Wing was then placed under the command of Major Morris, an Imperial Army officer. As darkness fell on the evening of 12 June, the troopers were making camp at a place called Wilmanrust in the eastern Transvaal. As they settled down for the night, they were unaware that a hundred eyes watched them.



AWM A04428. Melbourne, Victoria. c. 1899. Victorian Bushmen parading through streets prior to embarkation for South Africa.

Under cover of darkness, the Boer commandos crawled toward the sleeping Victorians. Morris had posted his sentries too far out and some large gaps breached the perimeter. The Boers crawled forward silently bypassing each sentry in turn. The commandos, dressed in captured khaki uniforms and upturned hats—to cause maximum confusion in the fading light of the dying campfires—set upon the unsuspecting troopers.

Many of the Australians were shot as they slept, others who were able to reach their rifles were cut down before they could return fire. Most of the surviving Australians were rounded up, but about 80 managed to escape the carnage and hightailed it across the veldt on foot



AWM P01866.006. Pongola Bosch, Transvaal, South Africa, October 1901. Members of E Company, 5th Contingent, Victorian Mounted Rifles, in action against the Boers in front of the Pongola Bosch. The men have dismounted from their horses, which are being held at their rear, and have taken up position in a single line on the flat ground. From here, without the benefit of cover, they are firing their rifles at the enemy. The military column of which the Victorians formed a part captured 200 prisoners and 8,000 head of cattle in this operation.

Part 2 next month



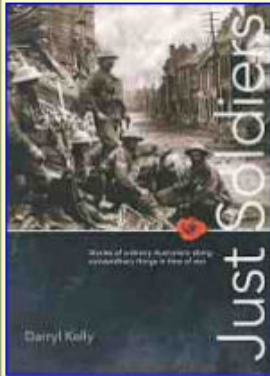
3 Christmas gift book suggestions

by David Laing

Number 1

"Just Soldiers" by Daryl Kelly

Over the past 12 months we have included some stories from Daryl Kelly's intriguing book **"Just Soldiers."** I have read the book myself from cover to cover and recommend it as a brilliant Christmas Gift to a friend or family member.



Just Soldiers contains stories of ordinary Australians doing extraordinary things in times of war. In 1914, Australia had a population of less than 5 million, yet 300,000 from all walks of life volunteered to fight. Of these, more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.

Through these stories, based on fact, the Daryl Kelly has endeavoured to capture the essence of those who served Australia as members of the 1st Australian Imperial Force in the Great War of 1914-1918. As in life, not all were heroes. The book is illustrated with black & white images to depict the conditions under which these Australians lived and fought.

Available from all good book stores and online.

Number 2

"The Crossroad" by Mark Donaldson VC

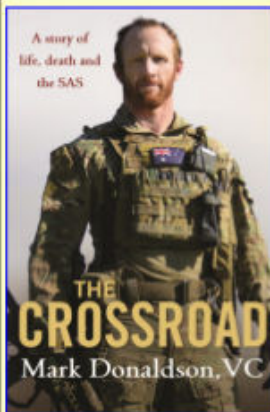
In 2 September 2008, in a valley in eastern Afghanistan, Trooper Mark Donaldson made a split-second decision that would change his life. His display of extraordinary courage that day saw him awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia, making him the first Australian to receive our highest award for bravery in wartime since Keith Payne in 1969. Yet Mark's journey to those crucial moments in Afghanistan was almost as exceptional as the acts that led to his VC.

He was a rebellious child and teenager, even before the death of his father - a Vietnam veteran - when Mark and his brother were in their mid-teens. A few years later, their mother disappeared, presumed murdered. Her body has never been found.

Mark's decisions could have easily led him down another path, to a life of self-destructiveness and petty crime. But he chose a different road: the army. It proved to be his salvation and he found himself a natural soldier, progressing unerringly to the SAS, the peak of the Australian military.

From his turbulent early years to the stark realities of combat in the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan, Mark's book is the frank and compelling story of a man who turned his life around by sheer determination and strength of mind.

A compelling read about a truly remarkable young man. Available online and in all good book stores.



Number 3

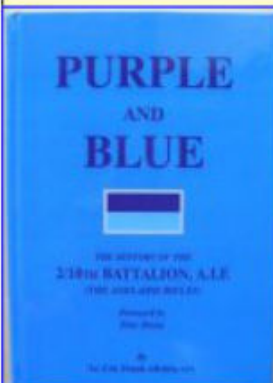
"Purple and Blue." A history of the 2/10th Battalion by Frank Allchin.

This is another book I have enjoyed reading, as my old battalion, the 10th, and our current serving battalion, the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR can trace their lineage back to it.

This book covers the history of this famous unit during its period of active service during The Second World War. Formed at Woodside, South Australia in October 1939; the Battalion had served as part of an anti-invasion force in the UK in the dark days of 1940. It was meant to support the British Expeditionary Force in France but reached the UK just after Dunkirk. As part of the 18th Brigade of the renowned 7th Division (The Silent Seventh) it moved to the Middle East, where in 1941, it played a significant part in stopping the German under Field Marshall Rommel holding Tobruk.

Then followed service until early 1942, on the Syrian-Turkish border, where another German attack threatened. The Battalion then returned to Australia after Japan entered the war; and so our country was at risk. After brief home leave and moves to Tenterfield and Kilcoy, in August 1942 it moved to Milne Bay, in Papua. With its' sister Battalions the 2/9th and 2/12th, they stopped the Japanese for the first time on land as the Japanese tried to take Milne Bay air base. The end of 1942 and early 1943 saw the Battalion help defeat the Japanese at Buna and Sanananda; but at great cost. 113 men killed and 205 wounded.

Available at RSL - SA and most good book stores, or online.





From the Secretary's Desk

David Laing

Hullo and Merry Christmas to all members and their families and friends, and to all the readers of this newsletter. I find myself saying the same thing year after year, and this year is no different! *Hasn't the year flown by?* It seems like only a couple of months ago we were sitting around the BBQ at Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge enjoying our Christmas get-together, yet in less than two weeks we'll be doing it all again!

The Festive Season means different things to different people, but I believe it brings us all a lot closer than we were before. For the first time in its existence the Association is looking like reaching 200 members some time in the near future, and this is great, not only for the old and bold, but the new Serving ADF Members as well! Our sole charter is "To Perpetuate the Regiment" and by increasing our numbers, we can give a lot more to the serving soldiers, not just in support but also in kindred spirit!

Our President Rodney Beames and the Committee of Management have had a busy year organising concerts, range practices, presentations and support to those who have requested it. This includes the fantastic effort provided by a group of members to support the Dedication of the 50th Battalion AIF Memorial in early August. Personnel from many associations and services came together to assist the 3 RAR Association (SA) who organised the event.

This time of year means that many of us can slow down and enjoy the company of family and friends, and reflect on the past 12 months, and what they have meant to us. At the same time we cast our thoughts back to those of our group who have "transferred to that great Regiment in the sky!" This year we bade farewell to comrades Rod Gaskin, Graham Castle, Doug McDougall, and Mollie, wife of Jim Thomson, and silently prayed there would be no more "transfers," at least not for a while!

Our social calendar is about to change as well, with our popular luncheons changing to Sundays next year. It's still to be seen if this is a move in the right direction, but if it is, we'll continue that trend into 2015 and beyond. The introduction of Guest Speakers to our luncheons has been a resounding success, with speakers like CPL Selina Laing and Brigadier Tim Hanna AM proving to be very capable at holding the audiences attention. Guest speakers will continue next year, and I can promise you some very interesting personnel with some very interesting stories.

Our Committee of Management has also been through some minor changes, seeing Jim Thomson and Brian Preece stepping down due to other priorities. We say thank you to you both for your efforts and support in the past. Alex Klopff has been elevated to the Vice Presidents' position, which was welcomed by the existing members.

In my role as Secretary of this fine group of people, I get to meet or correspond with nearly all the members from time to time, and this in itself makes my task all the more enjoyable. I'm sure between us we keep Telstra and its competitors rolling in money as a result of our telephone conversations. One such conversation was between myself and Jeff Chittleborough earlier in the year. Jeff phoned me to enquire about his annual fees, and once that was sorted out I was delighted to listen to some delightful stories about Jeff's early military career and his service at Murray Bridge. Also extremely interesting to me, was Jeff's story on the way the Murray Bridge Army Range came about, and the reason it has lasted so long. Our conversation lasted nearly an hour, with my phone losing signal twice. I phoned Jeff back each time just to continue the intriguing conversation.

Jeff is just one of the many interesting people I have communicated with during the year, and I'm looking forward to speaking to even more of you next year.

My wife June and I wish you all a great Festive Season and we look forward to catching up with you in 2014. Stay safe, stay happy and look after each other!

Cheers

David Laing - Secretary, RSAR Association Inc (Metro) / Editor "Sitrep, Over!"

CPL Knuckles
says.....



My wife and I had words,
but I didn't get to use
mine.

—oo00oo—

Frustration is trying to find
your glasses without your
glasses.

—oo00oo—

I was always taught to
respect my elders, but it
keeps getting harder to
find one.

—oo00oo—

The irony of life is that, by
the time you're old enough
to know your way around,
you're not going
anywhere.

—oo00oo—

I'm not a complete idiot,
some parts are missing.

—oo00oo—

Laugh alone and the
world thinks you're an
idiot.

—oo00oo—

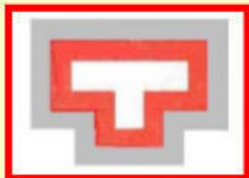
This would be really funny
if it wasn't happening to
me.

**It's been great
laughing with ya!!
See youse next year!**

**Forever was longer
yesterday**



Commemoration of the Battle Of El Alamein - 1942



On Sunday October 20th the President and Secretary of the RSAR Association attended a ceremony hosted by the 2/43rd Battalion AIF Club at Keswick Barracks to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein in 1942. This battle is etched in our history as a significant turning point of World War II when the Australian 9th Division played a major role in the beginning of the end of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and his Afrika Korps.

Mr Bill Corey, Vice President, 2/43rd Battalion AIF, gave an informative and emotional address of what the occasion meant to him and the few comrades who are left.

Wreaths were laid and guests were invited to place a poppy in one of these wreaths. Following the service all present adjourned to the Keswick Barracks Sergeants' Mess for lunch and refreshments.

Remembrance Day Service at West Tce Cemetery

The Adelaide Cemeteries Authority, the State Government and The RSL conducted a ceremony at the West Tce Cemetery on Monday 11th November to commemorate and honour the supreme sacrifice of all who have been lost in war.



Attended by over 300 guests, the service remembered the courage, stoicism and endurance of Australian prisoners of war, and was acknowledged with a commemorative address by Mr Bill Schmidt AM, who was a member of the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion, 2nd AIF.



A Catafalque Party of soldiers from Woodside based 16th Air Land Regiment at the ceremony

NEW POLO TOPS ARRIVE

We have taken delivery of the new Association Polo Tops with embroidered logo from Willunga Embroidery, and the first shipment of 15 ordered has been sent to their lucky owners. I'm certain everyone will be pleasantly surprised with the fine detail of the embroidered logo, and the style and quality of the top. We now have a number of different sizes in stock, so to order just advise the Secretary in the first instance. The tops are only \$30 each, with \$2 postage for each top.

Buy one for you and the missus, or give them as gifts at Christmas. I wore mine out to dinner (at a pub) the other night, and had favourable comments from a number of people.

Not only are we spreading the word about the RSARA, but we are supporting a LOCAL SA business. Winners all round!



Change of newsletter delivery technique

As of 2014 the Association will lose a valuable contributor to our freedom of speech. We lose the company who photo copies this newsletter for no charge!!!

Unless someone can come up with an organisation who will print out up to 350 colour pages per month FOR FREE, all those members who receive "snail mail" or hard copy newsletters will no longer have this luxury.

If a generous benefactor is not found, the only option is for all Snail Mail recipients to provide us with an email address that we can send their newsletters to. A family member or close friend, for instance.

**THE ASSOCIATION CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY
FOR THIS PRINTING SERVICE EVERY MONTH, SO
SNAIL MAIL IS NO LONGER AN OPTION!**

So, from March 2014, "Sitrep, Over!" will no longer be provided to members who don't have an email address, unless we can find an alternative printer.

The rest is up to you! If you know of an organisation or individual who can assist us, please notify the Editor as soon as practical, and we can then continue the newsletter in it's current forms!



MEMBERS LIST

Abareh, Wadi	SM
Adams, Aaron	SM
Apostolides, Chris	
Attenborough, Geoff	
Ayles, Jeff	
Baldwin, Bob	
# Barrass, Mark	
Bates, Allan	
Beames, Rod	CoM
Bennet, Graham	
Bilsborow, Jason	SM
Blake, Sam	SM
Blondell, Mark	SM
Bourne, Ian	SM
Boath, Ian	
Boothroyd, Lincoln	SM
Boscence, Bob	
Bras, Riley	SM
Broadbent, Robert	SM
Brookes, Phil	
Brown, Bruce	
Brown, Harry	
Burton, Ray	
Carnachan, Ian	
Chittleborough, Jeff	
Clyne, Lachlan	SM
Cooke, Nat	CoM
Contibas, Nikolaus	SM
Cotton, Bob	
Dart, John	
Davey, John	
Davey, Trevor	
Davey, Jack	
Del Vecchio, Victor	
Demasi, Nathan	SM
Demosani, Tony	
Dubsky, Eddie	
Dunn, Peter	
Dunn, Bob	
# Dunn, Jeff	
Durdin, Russell	
Durrant, Chris	
Elliott, Graham	
Elliss, Scott	SM
Eva, Keith	
Ewens, Mimi	SM
Field, Don	
Flanagan, Ted	
Friday, Ross	
Gaborit, Lyndon	
Genovese, John	
Gibson, Lindsay	

Giles, John	
Gill, Alan	
Gilmore, Graham	CoM
Gordon, Frank	
Guerin, Rob	
Hardy, Robert	SM
Harrison, John	
Hawking, Don	
Hawkins, Des	
Hogan, Mark	LM
Hook, Alan	LM
Hope, David	
Hudson, Rick	
Humphrys, Jesse	SM
James, Grant	SM CoM
Jeffrey, Scott	SM
Johnson, Barry	LM
Jolly, David	
Jones, Brett	
Keenan, Alan	
Kilford, Brian	
Klopf, Alex	LM CoM
Klopf, Paul	CoM
Laing, David	LM CoM
Loveder, Peter	
Lockett, John	
Lampard, Ross	
Lee, Bob	
Lee, Pat	
Longstaff, Paul	
Main, Brian	
Marcus, Ray	
Martin, Bob	
Matchett, Bill	
Mau, Mark	
McCulloch, Don	
McLachlan, Joshua	SM
McMahon, Tyler	SM
McMullin, Jim	
Meissner, Terry	SM
Milde, Peter	SM
Mitchell, Barry	
Mitchell, David	
Morony, Frank	CoM
Moore, Jeffrey	
Moore, Terry	LM
Moschis, James	SM
Munro, Ron	
Oliver, Peter	
Orrock, Alan	CoM
Ockenden, Marc	
Oswald, John	
Pach, Chol	SM
Paul, John	
Perkins, Bob	

Pollard, Barry	
Phillips, Don	
Phillips, Trevor	
Payne, Bob	
Parslow, Howard	
Preece, Brian	
Ranger, Denis	
Rathmann, John	
Rathmann, Norm	CoM
Ramm, Hank	
Robertson, Jim	
Rorie, Graham	SM
Rossetti, Lee	
Sage, Andrew	
Salamon, Peter	
Sanders, Ashley	SM
Sanderson, Max	
Sands, Mike	
Sexton, Mark	SM
Sprigg, Rob	
Staker, Cameron	SM
Standing, Michael	
# Stone, Eddie	
Strain, Doug	
Steer, Phil	
Stewart, Rob	
Stuart, Matthew	SM
Tiller, Garth	
Thomson, Jim	
Tolotta, Tarrant	SM
Tregenza, Norm	CoM
Trezise, George	
Ullrich, Andreas	SM
Vella, Joe	
Wake, Stephen	
Waters, Ian	
Weightman, Aidan	SM
Westover, Rhys	
Wheeler, Chris	
Williams, Darrian	SM
Wilson, Neil	
Wood, George	
Woore, Phillip	
Yorke-Simpkin Reg	LM
Zuromski, Paul	SM

The RSAR Association
welcomes new Members
**Mark Barrass, Jeff
Dunn and Eddie Stone**
and Associate Member
Taryn Beames.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Beames, Cheryl
#Beames, Taryn
Carnachan, Dom
Dart, Caroline
Demosani, Gail
Elliott, Julie
Eva, Gail
Field, Shirley
Gill, Maureen
Gilmour, Helen
Hawking, Lorraine
Hook, Phillipa
Hudson, Margaret
Jolly, Sandra
Klopf, Josie
Laing, June
Lampard, Kay
Main, Raelene
Marcus, Yvonne
McCullagh, Anne
Mitchell, Roma
Phillips, Heather
Sanderson, Lorraine
Tregenza, Lyn

LM denotes LIFE MEMBER

SM denotes SERVING ADF
MEMBER

Denotes NEW MEMBER

176 members
as at 14/11/13

HOW TO CONTACT US

All correspondence to

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Murray Bridge SA 5253

davidlaing49@bigpond.com

President 0428 356 828
Secretary 0407 791 822
Treasurer 0403 430 664



And website

www.rsara.asn.au

