



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.

MINUTES

Of the Annual General Meeting of the Association,
held at the Avoca Hotel
on Sunday 30th August 2020.

	Topic	MINUTE	Action
1	Opening	The meeting was declared open by the President at 1110 hrs after allowing for latecomers. He then recited the Ode of Remembrance.	
2	Attendance	38 Members. See Attendance Register	
3	Apologies	24 Members. See Attendance Register.	
4	Previous Minutes	The Minutes of the previous meeting Sunday 4 th August 2019 were read by Secretary David Laing RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved D. Laing; Seconded R. Beames. Carried.	
5	Matters Arising	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Location to hold future AGMs and Luncheons. May be at the Avoca. COM to decide. 2. Letter to RSL Gen Mgr. re: ANZAC on Torrens. Reply and apology had been received by DL. 3. A lot of interest in our website and Facebook page had been observed, and a number of new members had joined after seeing our social media profiles. R. Beames said he wasn't on Facebook but was working on it. 	
6	REPORTS	<p><u>Presidents Report:</u> Is at Annex A. Moved R. Beames. Seconded D. Laing. Carried.</p> <p><u>Secretaries Report .</u> Is at Annex B. Moved D. Laing. Seconded R. Beames. Carried.</p> <p><u>Treasurers Report</u> Is at Annex C. Moved D. Hope. Seconded R. Beames R. Beames said we had been given a grant from Bendigo Bank for \$250 which was well received.</p> <p><u>Band Report from D. Portakiewicz.</u> Is at Annex D. Moved D. Portakiewicz. Seconded D. Laing. Carried</p>	

7	General Business	<p>Annual Fees D. Laing moved that fees remain unchanged for 2019/20. That is \$20 for full members and \$10 for associates. 2nd H. Parslow. Carried.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DL said the last meal at the 2019 AGM at the SASRS was below standard and of poor quality, with the fish being undercooked. 14 complaints from members had also been received. He had written a letter to the SASRS Board complaining about this but was still to receive a reply. 2. Christmas Care Packages will still be sent this year but in a more defined way. Mark Blondell said we still had some deployments planned for around Christmas. Trent Burnard said the operational aspects had completely changed and there would be fewer deployments due to COVID-19. 3. The EOY Awards would still be supported by the RSARA in whatever format was used. 4. DL said he was waiting for more interest in the 4th October Luncheon. Reservations to him ASAP. 5. RB said a video of the Association had still not been signed off by the CO, and was only awaiting this before it could be realised. 6. DL said we were paying for COVID-19 shields to be presented by 10/27 to civilians who had helped out during the COVID-19 border closures. RB said our 10/27 soldiers were doing what the regular army couldn't, and this was a plus for us. 7. DL said a vote of thanks should be passed to Barry Pollard for his stellar support organising the AGM venues for the past 6 years at the SASRS. A round of applause was given to Barry. 8. RB Suggested all Committee Members positions be declared vacant. He then asked the members to re-elect as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rod Beames for President. Carried • Des Hawkins for Vice President. Carried • David Laing for Secretary. Carried. • Christian Bennett for Treasurer. Carried • Norm Tregenza for CoM. Carried • Colin Phillips for CoM. Carried • Chap Derek Crozier for Bn Liaison. Carried • Jesse Humphrys for Webmaster. Carried • David Portakiewicz for Band Liaison. Carried • Mark Blondell for Serving Members. Carried. 9. Corey Skapin was later elected by the CoM to join as Assistant Secretary. 10. All positions valid for a further 12 months. 	
8	Future functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COM meeting 18th September • Avoca Luncheon 4th October at Avoca • EOY BBQ 20th December – Possibly at the Hampstead RSL. TBA 	
9	Next AGM	1 st August 2021 @ Avoca Hotel	Secret ary
10	Closure	The President thanked all those attending and declared the meeting closed at 1216 hrs. Members adjourned for lunch.	

Signed ***Computer copy digitally signed***

Rodney Beames

President

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Date: **30th August 2019**

Presidents Report is at Annex A

Secretary's Report is at Annex B

Treasurers Report is at Annex C

Bandmasters Report is at Annex D

Attendees & Apologies is at Annex E

Annex A

RSARA Presidents Report for AGM, August, 2020.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Once again, I have great pleasure and honour to present my Annual Presidents Report. Our secretary has already provided a good coverage of events so I won't go over these parts again.

After my brush with cancer in 2019, I found our last AGM to be a real boost in confidence from the number of serving members, the band, and the words of support from 2 former COs in Graham Goodwin and Trent Burnard. The support I get from you all, keeps me going.

We continued to support the Band and they provided some fabulous performances around town.

The question was raised..."What does the Association actually do?" We always say we're busy, but doing what?. So with some help from Signaller Foote, a channel 7 cameraman, we put together 2 short videos with interviews from the Band and also showing the committee packing and sending the Christmas packs for the deployed troops on Christmas Day. You would have read about it in Sitrep Over. We also featured our Christmas BBQ in the videos.

In January, the new RSM, John Craig, marched in. I met with him briefly before he departed to Kangaroo Island to meet the CO, and familiarise himself with the Battalion and their mission. His introduction to the Battle Group was literally an induction by fire. He has been a great supporter of the Association.

As David reported, we combined with the other Battle Group Associations and served a Friday BBQ to the families and those assigned to the Adelaide Hills fires. This ran very smoothly until the clean-up was almost complete. My wife noticed the young lady who brought the farm animals for the children to feed and pat, was packing up on her own and needed a hand. I offered and it was gratefully accepted.

All the animals were in a temporary enclosure on the lawn outside the Sergeants mess and secured by one gate. The ducks, chooks and rabbits were first, carried by me and a couple of soldiers, while the young lady methodically packed them in the horse float. My wife became the gate steward, opening and closing as we ferried the animals to the trailer. What could possibly go wrong with that? Little did she know that the piglet and baby goats were quite up with this packing up routine and when they saw an inch gap in the gate, they bolted, leaving the gate steward, flabbergasted. What happened next was the funniest military exercise I think I have seen, 3 soldiers in cams trying to catch a pig, a goat and a lamb, they can be slippery critters when they want to be.

Anzac 2020 was different. Norm Tregenza came up with a good idea for promoting private dawn vigils at home on April 25th when in coronavirus lock-down. The committee will work on this further. We didn't march on Anzac Day this year but my doctor has given me the all clear for next year so I hope he's right.

There has been a lot of work done in the Battalion Headquarters at Keswick. Painting inside and out, rooms refurbished, and a new front fence. The RSM has plans to move the memorial garden we helped build and I support him with this. Any plans to privatise Keswick Barracks by Greek developers has gone out the window.

Coming up in the later part of the year, I understand that if circumstances permit, the Battlegroup will return to Kangaroo Island for a "Thankyou March" through the streets of Kingscote. The Association will be invited to witness this parade. There will be more in Sitrep when it comes around.

In closing, I wish to thanks all the volunteers who help the Association with its activities, I refer to Colin Abel, Graham and Julie Elliot, Norm and Lyn Tregenza and many more. Also the committee, for all their support, and in particular, our secretary/editor David Laing and his wife June. It's been a trying year for all of us.

Thank you.

Rod Beames

Annex B

Secretary's Report for 2020 AGM

I start this report with one word. WOW!

- So many things have happened since last August, it's hard to know just where to begin.
- We started with a bang as bushfires engulfed NSW, Victoria and South Australia, devastating parts of the Adelaide Hills and almost wiping Kangaroo Island from the world map. Our gallant firefighters, professional and volunteers, supported by soldiers from our own Battle Group fought the fires and then supported communities with the very daunting clean-up task. Our own Sgt Mark Blondell had so many photos and videos taken of his rugged looks his family had to buy a larger screen TV to watch them.
- One man was on television more than any other, and that was Mark Jones, the head of our Country Fire Service. He led a team of dedicated and brave volunteers putting their own lives in danger so that many homes would be saved. Tragically, lives were lost, but the toll would have been much higher without our emergency services.
- Mark Jones is to be our guest speaker at our October 4th luncheon. I urge you all to attend what promises to be a very interesting talk. If you wish to reserve your seat for that event, please see me after the AGM.
- The Association responded by hosting a BBQ at Keswick for the families and friends of the Battle Group soldiers who had deployed to the fire grounds, and later another BBQ at Keswick to support a Battle Group training weekend. The Battalion asks, and we do. On time. Every time.
- I recently visited Kangaroo Island to see how they were coping after the Fires and the ongoing Corona Virus. They are hurting big time. There are many shops and businesses closed, and some will not reopen. However, the KI residents are optimistic that they will bounce back, and the island will be better than before. We travelled from one end to the other, and the differences in the landscape are like chalk and cheese. In the East there is little to show of the bushfires, but from Parndana to the West a lot of the vegetation has still to grow back. The welcome we received everywhere we went was above reproach, and the folk are so friendly and accommodating that I recommend a trip to the island by everyone. In more than one shop window, we saw a sign that said,

**“A Star in my backyard”
Australian Army Reservists 9th Brigade**

**You cleared our roads, cared for our wildlife, repaired fences and
our water treatment plant giving us hope when we had little.
All this done with compassion, honour and dignity.
Forever in our hearts, we can't thank you enough.**

- The people of Kangaroo Island need your support now more than ever. If you want to help out a community that has suffered immensely, take a trip to KI and

enjoy some time with some lovely people.

- No sooner had the fires been quelled, a dangerous virus escaped from Wuhan in China and invaded the world. The Coronavirus has killed nearly a million people worldwide, with America now being the epicentre, thanks to fantastic guidance by their President. We are still under certain restrictions, and the experts say it will be years before we are back to any sense of normality. We still live in fear of a 2nd wave hitting SA, but are optimistic that we can do better than some other states.
- We have recently provided “plaques of gratitude” (once again made by those marvellous guys at the Murraylands Men’s Shed) to be presented by the soldiers of the Battle Group to individual people and groups who have helped the soldiers on the COVID-19 front line. People like the motel owner who allowed groups of soldiers to use his motel rooms free of charge, rather than sleep under canvas in the field, with temperatures around freezing. People like a local farmer who bought load after load of free firewood to the soldiers manning some of the lonelier checkpoints, and a rural coffee shop delivering free latte to the troops at the front. We support the communities who support our soldiers who support SA Health. A win, win situation by all accounts.
- And during these uncertain times we lost some dear loved ones, including Cheryl Beames, who succumbed to cancer after a long battle. The RSAR family has closed ranks around Rod and family and given as much support as they can, all appreciated by the Beames family. Rest in Peace dear Cheryl.
- Before I go into the last part I’d like to thank Rod Beames for his sterling efforts in maintaining our status quo. Rod has been through some extremely tough times over the past 18 months, and it is only due to his commitment and efforts that he has maintained his role as our President and our relationship with the Battle Group. Thank you Rod.
- And to finish off this report, despite the Coronavirus, our membership has been steadily growing, including a number from serving ADF members with our number now standing at 137, compared to 87 in August 2019. Amongst that number is LTCOL Sam Benveniste who is to take up the posting of Commanding Officer of the 10/27 Battalion Group in 2021. Sam is our newest Life Member, which shows the commitment of the Serving Members to the Association. In closing I’d like to thank the soldiers who have provided articles and photos for “Sitrep, Over!” this past year, including PTE Zach Normandale, and SGT Mark Blondell. It’s these stories which keep the newsletter going.

See you all next year.



David Laing
Secretary/Editor
30th August 2020

Annex C

Treasurers Report

Royal South Australia Regiment Association – Treasurer’s Report 2020 AGM

Dear Members

This is my final report to you as Treasurer. Last AGM you appointed Chris Bennett as Assistant Treasurer to understudy my role and Chris, who is a serving member, is now ready to take on the responsibility of Treasurer

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve you for the last five years. When I took over as Treasurer we had total funds of approximately \$6,700. You will see from the attached update of our financial position, as of today’s date, that we now have \$3,809.53 in our current account and \$11,000 in our investment account, which is a slight improvement on the audited position at 30 June 2020.

My goals when I became Treasurer were to:

- Ensure the Association was in a financially sustainable position.
- Modernise the banking and financial reporting.
- Provide sound financial advice to the Committee of Management.
- Work with the Committee of Management to further the roles of the association.

Passing the baton to a serving member meets the goal of getting serving members more involved in the Association. They are the future.

The Association now has:

- Electronic banking, providing a higher level of access to financial information and security of managing the funds.
- Interest bearing bank accounts, both current and investment.
- Financial records held electronically, making for ease of update and timely financial reporting.

I commend the audited financial statements for the 2019/20 financial year for your approval and the appointment of Chris Bennett as your next Treasurer.



David Hope

Treasurer

30 August 2020

Annex D

Bandmasters Report for 2020 AGM

10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment Band

The Band AGM report 2020

To say the Band has had a very interesting year would be an understatement! With the COVID restrictions in place, the Band has had a large reduction in tasks. On average the Band would have supported approximately 30 tasks by this time, including Concerts, the ANZAC Day dawn services and March, Junior Leaders Course graduation parades, and several commemorative services and Mess dinners.

The Band has still supported some of its normal tasks, but has also provided operational support. Including Bushfire Assist, which involved approximately 85% of the Band, COVID Border protection, and Op Resolute in the Northern Territory.

The Band has also continued its strong push to recruit new members. The Band has enlisted 2 new members with a further 2 new members passing their auditions and awaiting enlistment dates. We have also had 2 members transfer from the NSW Lancers band increasing the Band's numbers by approximately 15%.

The Band continues to improve and grow in leaps and bounds and our great work would not be possible without the continued support of the Association, especially its committee members. It has been the Associations support that has allowed the Band to continue its fantastic work. The Association helps with the maintenance of the Band's instruments and uniforms.

Myself and the Band would specifically like to recognise the hard work of Rod Beames and David Laing in support of the Band.

David Portakiewicz
WO2
Bandmaster
10th27th Battalion

6th September 2020

Annex E

2020 AGM Attendees & Apologies

2020 ATTENDEES	2020 APOLOGIES	
David Laing	Derek Crosier	1
June Laing	Nigel Harrison	2
Julie Elliott	Bruce Lakin	3
Graham Elliott	Graham Goodwin	4
Trent Burnard	Ian Waters	5
Ray Burton	Phil Brookes	6
David Hope	Neil Wilson	7
Des Hawkins	Alan Hook	8
Norm Tregenza	Tex Ranger	9
Lyn Tregenza	Trevor Dew	10
Heather Phillips	Joe Vella	11
Don McCulloch	Jim Thomson	12
Howard Parslow	John Genovese	13
Rod Beames	Alex Klopf	14
Bob Dunn	Kathleen Winger	15
Barry Pollard	Brian Preece	16
Kay Pollard	Reg Yorke-Simpkin	17
Mark Blondell	Max Sanderson	18
David Portakiewicz	Lorraine Sanderson	19
Michael Bampton	Barry Mitchell	20
Leslie Bampton	Mimi Ewens	21
Chris Acton	Dave Tasker	22
Wayne Burns	Jillian Toy	23
Alan Orrock	Jesse Humphrys	24
Harley Ewing		25
Selena Ewing		26
Grant James		27
Julie Sneider		28
Tom Sniedze		29
Christian Bennett		30
Erin Foy		31
Hank Ramm		32
Corey Skapin		33
Max Hill		34
Heather Hill		35
Nat Cooke		36
Colin Phillips		37
Philippa Hook		38