

# Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.

## **MINUTES**

Of the Annual General Meeting of the Association, held at the Avoca Hotel on Sunday 6th August 2023

	Topic	MINUTE		
1	Opening	The meeting was declared open by the President at 1120 hrs. He then recited the Ode of Remembrance. The Secretary then proposed a toast to Fallen Comrades LTCOL Geoff Chittleborough, Capt Lee Rossetti and LTCOL Max Sanderson.		
2	Attendance	41 Members. See Attendance Register. 3 members who registered did not attend.		
3	Apologies	21 Members. See Attendance Register.		
4	Previous Minutes	The Minutes of the previous AGM Sunday 7th August 2022 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 Des Hawkins. Carried.		
5	Matters Arising	Mid Year luncheon again voted for.     Change in membership fees well accepted     Proposed category of Life Membership (Posthumous) was discussed and read out. Committee voted against.		
6	REPORTS	Presidents Report: Is at Annex A.  Moved R. Beames. Seconded D. Laing. Carried.  A Standing Ovation lasting 2 minutes was carried out by the members in tribute of the service the retiring President had given the Association, the Regiment and his colleagues. David Laing said RB had given 110% to the Association in his 10 years as President, and he would be very hard to replace. DL said we all owed RB a debt of gratitude for the distinguished way he had carried out his tasks, as he taken the Association into a new era by supporting the Regiment to the nth degree. DL assured RB we would all stand with him in his battles with his health.  Secretaries Report. Is at Annex B.  Moved D. Laing. Seconded R. Beames. Carried.  Treasurers Report Is at Annex C.  Moved C. Bennett. Seconded L. Gaborit. Carried  Band Report from D. Portakiewicz Is at Annex D.  Moved D. Portakiewicz. Seconded R. Beames. Carried  Serving Members Report from M. Blondell. Is at Annex E  Moved M. Blondell. Seconded H. Parslow. Carried  Padre's Report from Chaplain P. Ghanem Is at Annex F.  Moved P. Ghanem. 2nd D. Laing  No report was presented by the Webmaster but is at Annex J		

		<b>Motion</b> : To set Annual Fees for 2023. D. Laing proposed Annual Fees stay at \$30 and \$15 for the coming year. 2 <sup>nd</sup> B. Johnson. Carried
		and \$10 for the conning year. 2 B. connicon. Carried
		Election of Officer Bearers
		Rodney Beames for President.  Accept Nemination?  NO.
		<ul><li>Accept Nomination?</li><li>Any other nominations?</li><li>NO</li></ul>
		<ul><li>Any other nominations? NO</li><li>Position now vacant.</li></ul>
		Des Hawkins for Vice President.
		o 2 <sup>nd</sup> M. Blondell
		o Carried
		David Laing for Secretary
		o 2 <sup>nd</sup> R. Beames
		o Carried
		Corey Skapin for Assistant Secretary
	General Business	o 2 <sup>nd</sup> D. Portakiewicz
		Carried     Christian Bases # for Transpurer
		<ul> <li>Christian Bennett for Treasurer.</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> R. Beames</li> </ul>
7		○ 2 <sup>nd</sup> R. Beames ○ Carried
		Jesse Humphrys for Webmaster.
		o 2 <sup>nd</sup> D. Hawkins
		Carried / Defeated
		David Portakiewicz for Band Liaison.
		○ 2 <sup>nd</sup> M. Blondell
		<ul> <li>Carried</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Michael Abraham for Serving Members</li> </ul>
		o 2 <sup>nd</sup> M. Blondell
		o Carried
		Chaplain P. Ghanem for Bn Liaison. (Non-voting position)  2nd P. Leiner
		<ul> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> D. Laing</li> <li>Carried</li> </ul>
		M. Blondell for Serving Members liaison
		o 2 <sup>nd</sup> H. Parslow
		o Carried
		There were no further nominations from the floor.
		DL explained that we would like more Serving Members to be on the committee,
		and they could join at any time during the year.
	Any Other	Col Abel said conducting a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Mile End could
8		reap up to \$3,000 for a weekend. Members agreed to "give it a go" and
	Business	CA said he would make enquiries with Bunnings. At least 8 pers would
		be required for the exercise.
9	Future functions	COM meeting Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> August @1200 hrs Keswick Barracks
		EOY BBQ 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 @ 1100 Keswick Barracks
10	Next AGM	Next AGM Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 @ Avoca
11	Closure	The President thanked all those attending and declared the meeting closed at 1210 hrs.
		Members adjourned for lunch.

Signed Computer copy digitally signed

# **Rodney Beames**

President

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Date: 6th August 2023

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

Serving Members Report is at Annex E

Padre's Report is at Annex F

Attendees & Apologies is at Annex G

Auditors Report is at Annex H

Historical Officers Report is at Annex I

Webmasters Report is at Annex J

#### Annex A

#### RSARA President's report for AGM August, 2023.

### Presidents Report for RSAR Association AGM, 6th August 2023.

My report will be short.

Clubs and associations are formed and exist for 4 main reasons.

Education, and there's not a lot here, Sporting or competition, entertainment, (have you heard me try to sing?) or social interaction, and that's where we excel.

Our prime thread for existence is to support the Regiment and to this end I wish to thank all those who help with the BBQs, look after the historical collection, send off the care packages, fix up things here and there, march behind our banner on ANZAC Day, and attend our meetings and social gatherings. Its you people who keep this organisation running. THANKYOU ALL.

We wouldn't get far without the communication and behind the scenes work from our secretary, David Laing. Thank you, David.

We gather under the group heading of social interaction. We admire our successes, we cringe at our cockups, and we laugh at the inadequacies of our acquaintances. We remember the good times and dismiss the bad as just another military experience. And I am proud to be president of such a crew.

However, I have to inform you that I received some not so good news from my oncologist last Tuesday. My cancer has returned with gusto. I am full of it. And therefore, I won't be seeking reelection. I will continue to support the committee for as long as I can and I have enjoyed the journey.

Rodney Beames President RSARA 2013-2023

#### Annex B

#### 2023 RSARA Secretary's Report

As we age we lose some friends along the way and this year we bade farewell to two of our most respected Commanding Officers when we said goodbye to LTCOL Jeff Chittleborough, the last Commanding Officer of 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion RSAR on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, and to LTCOL Max Sanderson RFD ED, the last CO of 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion RSAR on 31<sup>st</sup> June.

Only 10 family and close friends attended Jeff's private service.

I was privileged with a number of colleagues from the Regiment to be invited to attend the private service to celebrate Max's life, and his wife Lorraine and son Wayne read inspiring tributes to the man they loved and admired dearly. Alan Hook, Geoff Laurie and Tex Ranger read the eulogy of Max's Service career, including his stint in Vietnam. Max is now at peace.

We also attended the funeral service for Lee Rossetti from Broken Hill who died suddenly on 4<sup>th</sup> April this year. Lee was a Captain in the CMF and served with 10 RSAR at Broken Hill after transferring from the Engineers.

On a lighter note, our membership has increased from 153 at this time last year to 170, and that is due to two factors. Firstly Rod attended a meeting of the Regimental Council and provided them with Application Forms, and we gained 4 new members there, and secondly we passed out Application Forms at a Battalion Training exercise and gained a further 11 new Serving members there. Out of those I expect to retain at least half after the first year.

As Secretary I have now been in this role since 2010 when Alan Hook presented me with 3 Woolworths shopping bags full of paper clippings and a stapler and said "It's just for 3 years, It'll be fun" he said! So, earlier this year I asked my Assistant Secretary Corey Skapin to take over the printing and distribution of our hard copy newsletters, and he has carried out this task with vigour. I think ©

This has saved me heaps of time and I can now concentrate on other things in my life, like drinking Single Malt whiskeys and doing not much else.

Having said that, I would like to ask ALL members, ALL members, to consider nominating for a place on the committee. If you have a couple of hours to spare each month, then you have what it takes to help us support the Battalion and achieve our goals. There are 3 of us over 70 years of age on the committee, and we can't keep going forever. When we fall off the perch, if we don't have replacements, this association will fail! Ideally the committee should be predominantly made up of Serving Members of the Battalion, but this doesn't have to be the case. Please consider it.

I think our newsletter "Sitrep, Over!" is still being received and read, as I constantly receive emails of congratulation from readers, so I shall keep up that work. I have reprinted some stories I published 10 years ago, but because you're all getting older, no one seems to have noticed!

Living on the River Murray has its highlights but also its pitfalls, and that included the recent floods which inundated our marina to a level of 1½ metres above pool depth. Apart from having to move our houseboat to higher moorings, and walking through ankle deep water to get to our cars we fared far better than others upstream, who lost everything. I thank those of you who enquired about our welfare, and also the many offers of accommodation should they be needed.

To the Serving Members who are on the committee, I thank you for your support. I know you are juggling your full time jobs, plus private lives and your association work, but guys, we've all been there and done that. It's not impossible, but thank you anyway. Thanks to Jesse Humphrys for his work as Webmaster, Chris Bennett for his work as Treasurer, Corey Skapin as Assistant Secretary, Des Hawkins as Vice President and Historical Officer. Mark Blondell, Michael Abraham and David Portakiewicz for the work with

their groups, and of course, Padre Paul Ghanem for keeping us all dry and bulletproof. Final thanks go to our President Rodney, who has once again fought gigantic health problems to put this Association first. He deserves more medals!

Rod has been very busy, as he will tell you, and he has organised 3 catering functions for the Battalion this year so far, with the fantastic help of Chief Baitlayer Col Abel, and they have all been well received by the soldiers. We still need more help carrying out this task.

Finally I would like to thank you, the members who keep turning up for training exercises to help out; to AGMs to cast your vote; and to the 10<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Battalion OPS staff who have such faith in us to do what we do.

Thank you to the CO LTCOL Sam Benveniste and the RSM WO1 Scott Hannan and the soldiers of the Battalion for your support throughout the year, and we look forward to liaising with you again in the future.

Questions? No? Good.

Thank you

David Laing
Secretary/Editor

7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### Annex C

Treasurers Report

#### Royal South Australia Regiment - Treasurer's Report 2023 AGM

Treasurer's Report – AGM 2023

Good morning members of the RSAR Association,

I would firstly like to thank both our President, Rod Beams, and Secretary, David Laing for their hard work with the Association which has made my task as Treasurer more manageable. I truly wouldn't be able to do my role as effectively if it wasn't for their assistance and support.

We had a very busy last 12 months coming out of the effects of COVID and with the impact of the River Murray floods. Both have affected most of us personally and it was great to see the Association continue its work and support each other.

I note that some of our members continue to pay the association by cheque, and while we will continue to accept these forms of payment, the Australian Government has announced that it will 'wind down' the cheque system in Australia by no later than 2030. Please consider doing an electronic bank transfer of your payment directly to our account. Our bank details are published in every SITREP, on our website or are available upon request.

I have also changed my address since moving house earlier in the year and have a PO Box for you to direct your financial mail to. If you are sending me cash or cheques by mail, please use the updated address or else I won't receive your money.

Our General Account recorded a deficit of \$810.44, which has eventuated due to our website costs being 2 yearly payments, increase in insurance premiums. While a deficit, this is off a very strong surplus of \$2,894.36 for the previous financial year.

The Band Account recorded a deficit of \$1,175.50 which was largely due to the purchase of a mixing desk. Outside of the mixing desk the band was relatively neutral in terms of costs and revenue.

I commend the Treasurer's report to you the members of the RSAR Association.

Christian Bennett
Treasurer RSAR Association Inc.

#### Annex D

Band Masters Report 2023 AGM

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

#### The RSARA AGM report 2023 - BAND

The Band in 2023 hit the ground running, not only supporting its traditional tasks like ANZAC Day dawn services and March, Officer and Junior NCO course graduations, commemorative services and Mess dinners, we also had time to hold a concert on ANZAC day eve. The Band was also fortunate enough to put on a Concert at the Battalion's old stomping Ground, the Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall. The crowd was so large that we had to organise a further 50 chairs from Keswick just to seat everyone.

The Band has several more events and tasks to support but the 2 most significant will be the Battalion exercising its rights to the city with a Freedom of Entry march outside the Adelaide Town hall next Saturday and the Band Concert on15 October at Saint Peters Girls School. I encourage you all to come along to both events. Next Saturday morning will be a significant exercising of the Battalions Freedom of Entry of the City of Adelaide, as this will be the last time the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion colours will be paraded as they will be laid up next year.

The second being the Concert at the St Peter's Girls Concert Hall on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm and will perform music from some of the best performances from Stage and Screen including music from some of the greatest composers like John Williams and Andrew Lloyd Webber. If you would like to attend, please see Christian Bennett after the meeting who has tickets you can purchase at a discounted rate.

The Band has also continued its strong push to recruit new members. The Band has enlisted 2 new members, one, Sebastian Angus marches out of Kapooka next weekend. We also have 2 further members booked in to enlist at the end of the month. We have also employed the Parent – Son rule to our recruiting tactics, with Jonathan Heath having a son in March (unfortunately he can't be here today as he is performing at a Service this morning in Elizabeth).

Jonathan has also had a big month as he was promoted to full CPL last week giving him just enough time to sort his uniform before the Freedom of Entry this Saturday. Also, Nicole Weepers our drummer is due to give birth to a little boy next week.

A highlight for me this year was receiving 2 New Banner boxes from Rod Beames and the Association, as the 40 year old box the Band had unfortunately had a slight accident and didn't fare to well against Gravity as it fell off the back of the truck at the start of the year.

The Band will continue to remain extremely busy until the end of the year. The Band already has 12 tasks booked until the battalion Stand down period, with more coming in every week.

The Band, I believe, continues to be one of the best Military Bands in the country and our great work would not be possible without the continued support of the Association, especially its committee members. It has been the Association's support that has allowed the Band to continue its fantastic work. The Association supports the Band in several ways including the maintenance of the Band's instruments.

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

WO1 David Portakiewicz

Band Master 10<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Battalion Band

#### Annex E

#### Serving Members Report

- The end of 2022 saw 10/27 again deploying on Transit Security Element 107 in Darwin
- 15 members supported Operation Flood in December during the stand down period.
- Jan 2023 Reshuffle of Coy and Battalion HQ with myself joining A Coy as CSM
- Feb RASRA Supported approximately 150 soldiers with a BBQ at RAAF Edinburgh
- RAT PL and Triple 3s were established by the Battalion.
  - RATs Shortened fulltime service contract enabling members to attend full time specialist courses in addition to supporting 7RAR)
    4 members have completed a 6 week full time service to become PESW qualifications.
    - 4 members have completed a 6 week full time course to become DFSW qualified.
  - Triple 3s (An accelerated training continuum to train a soldier from recruit to rifleman in a reduced time of 9 weeks)
- Mar 23 DFSW PI raised by A Coy (Training is continuing)
- Mar/Apr 23 Battalion has conducted 2 URBAN style exercises in RAAF Edinburgh using Air-soft EF88 (This enables soldiers to conduct effective training against a live adversary with non-lethal ammunition)
- May 23 1st PMV Bushmaster course ran by Battalion (16 PMV Drivers now qualified) with 5 PMVS located at Warradale 4 Troop and 1 command variant. First stage of making 10/27 at motorized Battalion.
- June Ex Ironside HE Weekend at MUTA. 35 Members qualified on new Claymore and FNVD (Latest night vision equipment)
- Other events have also been supported such as local community events at Mount Gambier and Cadet units close to regional depots. As well as the Borneo Malaysia remembrance to be held at Torrens 11 Aug 23
- July 23 LF ranges at MUTA as a prerequisite to Ex Super Garuda (Malaysia Ex supporting 1ARMD in Sept 23) (Ex Rhino Run Cultana supporting 7RARA)
- Aug 23 -Yesterday members of the Battalion conducted rehearsals for next Saturdays 12
   Aug FOE of Adelaide City which I invite you all to come to watch

Warrant Officer Class 2 Mark Blondell

#### Annex F

Padre's Report

### **RSAR Association AGM 2023**

# Chaplains Points

#### An Observation.

An Association that is well run makes the life of the CO & RSM immeasurable easier and adds to the esprit de corps. An Association that is not well run is simply an added pain in the bum for the CO & RSM and will soon become irrelevant.

The RSAR Association is both well run and relevant.

#### I have sought to support the work of the Association by.

Increasing membership. Physically placing membership forms in the hands of prospective members and by placing the forms where they can be seen – in the brew room and in the boozer. My aim was ten new members, I think I did it?

Responding promptly to requests for assistance – pastoral or practical.

Being 'on hand' to support as needed.

Contributing to the newsletter.

#### For me to consider.

How do I turn those ten new members into five active members? Should we look at imbedding DVA Advocates into the Association?

Padre Paul Ghanem OFM Chaplain 10/27 RSAR

# Annex G 2023 AGM Attendees & Apologies

0000 444 15	0000 4 1 1	
2023 Attending	2023 Apologies	Numbers
David Laing	Chook Wilson	1
June Laing	Mike Hudson	2
Rod Beames	Phil Brookes	3
Des Hawkins	Joe Vella	4
Lynn Hawkins	Corey Skapin	5
Hank Ramm	John Harrison	6
Margaret Ramm	Robin Marlin	7
Barry Pollard	Mike Meredith	8
Kay Pollard	Denis Ranger	9
Wayne Burns	Alan Orrock	10
Max Hill	Bruce Lakin	11
Heather Hill	Colin Phillips	12
Graham Elliott	George Wood	13
Julie Elliott	Robert Dunn	14
Tony Demosani	Aaron Jackson	15
Brian Preece	Bill Matchett	16
Padre Paul Ghanem	Chris Acton	17
Barry Johnson	Ian Carnachan	18
Marg Johnson	Jim Thomson	19
Lyndon Gaborit	Jonathon Heath	20
Howard Parslow	Anthony Portakiewicz	21
Barry Mitchell		22
Lorraine Sanderson		23
Shirley Field		24
Heather Phillips		25
Ray Burton		26
Sam Benveniste		27
David Portakiewicz		28
Nat Cooke		29
Grant James		30
Col Abel		31
Scott Hannan		32
Kirstin Hannan		33
Neil Wilson		34
Michael Bampton		35
Leslie Bampton		36
Mark Blondell		37
Alan Hook		38
Phillipa Hook		39
Christian Bennett		40

Members who said they were attending but didn't.

Late apology Renee Groffen

David Hope Ian Carnachan Late apology

John Genovese

# Income and Expenditure Statement for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

## **General Operations**

2024/22	Contract of Strategic		2022/23
2021/22			\$
\$			¥.
	Income		
2,560.00	Membership		2,443.00
1,279.00	Merchandise sales		585.00
2,167.00	Donations, grants & financial support received		462.12
199.94	Social function revenue		865.31
89.68	Bank interest		34.32
6,295.62	Total Income		4,389.75
	Expenditure		
250.00	Bereavement notices, flowers, wreaths, gifts etc.		703.70
1,134.00	Merchandise purchases		1,408.00
54.83	Donations, grants & financial support provided		=
1,084.43	Social function costs		1,296.33
120	Website costs		356.90
217.00	Stationery, printing & postage		631.15
661.00	Insurance		804.11
3,401.26	Total Expenditure		5,200.19
2,894.36	Surplus/-Deficit for the year		810.44
14,238.05	Bank balance at July 1		17,132.41
17,132.41	Bank balance at June 30		16,321.97
		a a	
	Band Account		
	Income		
10,000.00	Donation		
:2€0	Ticket Sales		245.00
0.70	Bank interest	5	83.50
10,000.70	Total Income		328.50
	Expenditure		4 400 00
-	Instrument purchases		1,192.00
S <b>₹</b>	Instrument repairs		312.00
	Total Expenditure		1,504.00
10,000.70	Surplus/-Deficit for the year		- 1,175.50
7 <del>-</del>	Bank balance at July 1	ă	10,000.70
10,000.70	Bank balance at June 30		8,825.20
	Represented by:		
	General operations funds		
5,883.54	Bendigo Bank General Account	5,039.35	
11,248.87	Bendigo Bank Term Investment	11,282.62	16,321.97
,	Band account	<u> </u>	
10,000.70	Bendigo Bank Band Savings Account		8,825.20
27,133.11	Total Funds		25,147.17
			1

Christian Bennett

Treasurer

Hayden Edwards Honorary Auditor

#### Annex I

Historical Officers Report 2023

#### For RSARA AGM 6 Aug. 2023

Hopefully the majority of you will know that not only am I the Historical Officer for the Association, but also as Curator of the RSAR Historical Collection after taking over from Jeff Ayles some 5 years ago.

There is a fair bit of work involved, but both positions do complement each other and allows me access to more wide ranging resources in regards to undertaking research.

But, firstly as curator for the Historical Collection, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the help and valuable assistance of my fellow team members:-

- Heather Phillips who has had to put up with typical teething problems the installation of any new software always seems to present, in this case associated with the Museums new Mosaic Data base.
- To Martin Forsyth and Bob Cotton who, without their dedication we would be nowhere near to the 10,000 Object Data Records which are required by the museum to be written up for every single item in both the Gray & RSAR Collections.
- The same can be said of Jim Thomson who sadly due to ill health is unable now to make it into the museum.
- And finally to my wife Lynn for putting up with the countless hours I spend working at home on either Museum stuff or research queries.

This year the RSAR team have spent several months assisting with the audit of every artefact that is on display in the main museum building at Keswick. It's something that Jeff Ayle's and I were about to start before his untimely passing early last year, the result of which is now we have the almost impossible task of trying to establish who owns what.

One success story is that we have managed to see our WW1 10<sup>th</sup>. Bn. War trophy – the 77mm German Field Artillery piece finally placed on display at the front of the present 10/27 BHQ. During the course of the year I have received numerous e-mails and phone calls requesting assistance with some form of RSAR research. Recently a Russell Mehan from WA currently researching a story that was published in the AWM book 'Stand Easy 1945'. There is a story that recounts an incident involving two 2/10 Bn. Soldiers at the Old Buna airstrip late December 1942. Together we have hopefully finally identified the individuals concerned.

The latest was from a family friend of assoc. member Barry Mitchell who after many years wished to re-establish contact. Two days later another e-mail requesting if I had any further info on a 2/27<sup>th.</sup> Bn. Cpl. MID who later served in Korea.

Also thanks to the secretary, we now have the medals of SX1716 Cpl. Stephen Jefferys 2/10<sup>th</sup> Bn. in our collection which otherwise may have ended up being discarded.

Given we are not sure what the future holds for the Museum or the RSAR collection at this point in time we will continue to help preserve and document what we can of our history. Finally and most importantly since none of us are getting any younger, we need to start looking for someone to understudy my role as curator for the Historical Collection at the Museum.

Des Hawkins Historical Officer

#### Annex J

Webmasters Report 2022/23

#### **RSARA Website Report 2022/23**

The backend software/framework has been updated to ensure that the website continues to be secure, reliable and this has also given it a boost in speed loading pages, images etc.

All the recent newsletters have been uploaded

I have scheduled (June) an audit to ensure that the members list is correct.

A YouTube channel has been created to host video content from the association.

Our Monday.com form for updates has now become inactive. Please send all updates to jesse.humphrys@icloud.com

Jesse Humphrys Webmaster RSARA