



**November  
2023**

# "Sitrep, Over!"

**OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC**

**Patron Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD**

**Editor David Laing 0407 791 822**

## Remembrance Day



On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, a minute's silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation.

At 11am on 11 November 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

The conflict had mobilised over 70 million people, left between 9 and 13 million dead, and as many as one third of these with no grave.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. It became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war.

Originally known as Armistice Day, it was renamed Remembrance Day after World War Two to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars.

Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day.



**We will remember them. Lest we forget.**

*Editors Note: 12th November 2022 was the day old mate Norm Tregenza (former Committee Member) passed away. He is sadly missed by his mates.*

### Quick Picks

**I came. I saw.  
I..... forgot what I  
was doing!**

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# EDITORIAL

Every year on 11th November, at 1100 hrs, most of us pause, bow our heads and stand for a minutes silence to commemorate our soldiers, sailors and aviators who served and died in all wars and conflicts. Some folk attend services at war memorials, and others at local RSL's and the like, but others have to work, or can't make it to a service. I remember as a young Pommie kid, new to Australia, going to Brighton Primary School and my teacher was a Mr Hocking. He wore WW2 medals on his suit on 11th November and he took our class out to the assembly yard to form up with the other 100 kids in the school. At 11 o'clock the Australian flag was lowered to half mast, a young bugler played his version of The Last Post and Mr Hocking recited the Ode of Remembrance. Everyone bowed their heads for a minute and then we marched back to class to continue our schooling. That was 1959 and it was my introduction to the military heritage of Australia, and the reverence held by her people for those who had served and died. Since that year I am one of those who honour our fallen every year on 11th November and on ANZAC Day. My great grandfather served, my father served, I served and my daughter continues to serve. Lest We Forget.

Our End of Year Lunch is fast approaching (a month away) and it would be nice if our Chief Bait-Layer Col Abel knew exactly how many members were attending for catering purposes. All the wonderful food is FREE, so please, if you wish to attend, drop me a line or give me a call and I'll reserve you a seat. 17th December, 1100 to 1500 hrs. Free lunch. Drinks at Bar Prices, members expense. Wives, husbands, partners all welcome too. See you there.

This Association is made up from those who served with 1 RSAR, 10 RSAR, 27 RSAR, 43 RSAR, 10/27 RSAR and attached units. Therefore we are the ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC. We are NOT the "10/27 Battalion Association", as that would do a disservice to those who served with the other Battalions of the Regiment. Please refer to us as the RSAR Association only! Thank you.

Growing up in post War Britain I was fascinated by stories of the RAF and their daring exploits in the fantastic Supermarine Spitfire. This issue I have included a few facts about the Spitfire you may not know! Enjoy.



New to our Merchandise List are new Vinyl RSAR Stickers, ideal for your back car window or wherever you wish to place it. They're 70 mm x 100 mm. At only \$2 each they're a bargain, so why not buy 5 for only \$10 plus standard envelope postage?

Earlier this year I asked the incoming CO of 10/27 Battalion RSAR LTCOL Aaron Jackson (an Association Life Member) for an article about his service and what he hopes to achieve during his tenure. His story will be in the December newsletter. I also contacted our Honorary Colonel COL Steve Larkins about his service. His story is on Page 4.

Now that Defence and the Gummint have decided to move more than 1,000 Adelaide-based 7 RAR and 1 AR soldiers and their families to Darwin and Townsville, where does that leave our soldiers at 10/27 Bn RSAR? Watch this space!

Enjoy the read!

*David Laing*



## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at

[www.rsara.asn.au](http://www.rsara.asn.au)

**PAYMENTS FOR SUBS &  
MERCHANDISE**

**Fees and Merchandise can be paid  
by EFT through the following Ben-  
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**Cheques etc can be mailed to**

**The Treasurer**

**Christian Bennett**

**RSAR Association**

**PO Box 1133**

**Kensington Gardens**

**SA 5068**

[christianbennett95@gmail.com](mailto:christianbennett95@gmail.com)

Any complaints about this wonderful newsletter should directed to the Padre, cos he doesn't care either! He DOES care about your health and wellbeing though! Give him a call if you need a chat. His number is on Page 17.



# The Unknown Soldier

On 11 November 1920, the second anniversary of the Armistice, the commemoration became a funeral when the remains of an unknown soldier were returned from the battlefields of the Western Front.

The remains were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London. The entombment attracted over one million people who came to pay their respects.

In Australia, on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993, Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention.

The remains of an unknown Australian soldier exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Memory.

Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11.00am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence.

## WHY WE WEAR POPPIES ON REMEMBRANCE DAY

The poppy is the enduring symbol of remembrance of the First World War. It is strongly linked with Armistice Day (11 November), but the poppy's origin as a popular symbol of remembrance lies in the landscapes of the First World War.

Poppies were a common sight, especially on the Western Front. They flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling. The flower provided Canadian doctor John McCrae with inspiration for his poem 'In Flanders Fields', which he wrote whilst serving in Ypres in 1915.

It was first published in *Punch*, having been rejected by *The Spectator*. In 1918, in response to McCrae's poem, American humanitarian Moina Michael wrote 'And now the Torch and Poppy Red, we wear in honor of our dead...'. She campaigned to make the poppy a symbol of remembrance of those who had died in the war.

Artificial poppies were first sold in Britain in 1921 to raise money for the Earl Haig Fund in support of ex-servicemen and the families of those who had died in the conflict. They were supplied by Anna Guérin, who had been manufacturing the flowers in France to raise money for war orphans. Selling poppies proved so popular that in 1922 the British Legion founded a factory - staffed by disabled ex-servicemen - to produce its own. It continues to do so today.

Other charities sell poppies in different colours, each with their own meaning but all to commemorate the losses of war. White poppies, for example, symbolise peace without violence and purple poppies are worn to honour animals killed in conflict.

The poppy continues to be sold worldwide to raise money and to remember those who lost their lives in the First World War and in subsequent conflicts.



# MEET OUR HONORARY COLONEL

## **Colonel Steve Larkins, OAM (ret)** MBA, FAICD

Steve Larkins was born, raised and educated in Sydney.

He enlisted as soldier in the 4 RNSWR in 1972. He later transferred to the ARA and was commissioned through the Officer Cadet School Portsea in 1976. He first came to Adelaide as a newly commissioned Infantry 2LT serving with 3RAR, returning in 1985/6 as Cadre staff (QM) with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, beginning a long association with the Battalion. He returned to Adelaide again for his 'terminal posting' with his family to commence a new career outside Army.

He was quickly drawn back into the Reserve where he rendered a further 14 years service, culminating as Deputy Commander 9 Bde.

Key career highlights included long term schooling at the Royal Military College of Science in the UK, service with UNAMIR II in Rwanda in 1995, and as Guard Commander with a 10/27RSAR Honour Guard to France in 1998 which re-kindled his interest in Australian Military History. He was appointed CO of 9CSSB 2000/01, and Deputy Brigade Commander (Training) in 2008.

Since 1996-2017 he held a variety of senior business roles, as State Manager of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, General Manager of Clements Human Resources and CEO of the Construction Industry Training Board from 2003 until his retirement in 2017.

Steve is married to Gwenda and they have an adult son David who is a school teacher.

He has been 'semi-retired' since 2017 but is still very active in a range of arenas. Steve has a consulting entity through which he has been engaged in consulting / advisory tasks for interstate clients, in Defence-related work, based on his RMCS / technical background.

He has been actively involved with the following organisations:

- Rotary Club of Adelaide, Board Member and Director Fundraising 2018-20
- National Trust of SA Inc – Board Member
- RSL-SA&NT – Board Member 2011-16. Director of the Avoca Hotel (2014-23)
- RSL SA Peacekeepers Sub Branch President 2005-current.
- Naval Military & Airforce Club of SA Inc where he is currently President, having been a Board Member since 2020. He was the convener of a very popular Military History program of more than 60 events since 2016.
- Operation Flinders Foundation ( 'Wilderness Therapy' program for youth at risk)– Field staff 1997-2005 working with the legendary Bob 'Dogs' Kearney, OAM and with whom he continues a collaboration as a military history researcher.
- Adelaide University Regiment Rifle & Pistol Club - Clay target, rifle and pistol shooting. Steve has been very active in service rifle competition and more recently, as a handy clay target shot.
- He is the founder of the much-acclaimed Virtual War Memorial Australia and remains a content researcher and writer, and Ambassador Community and Commemoration.
- Steve has led Battlefield Tours to France, Belgium and Turkey (pre Covid!) and he is planning a repeat performance when he is a bit less busy.



*Editors Note: The RSAR Association warmly welcome Colonel Larkins and his extensive experience to the Regiment and look forward to working closely with him in the near future. Pro Patria*



# Our Battalion Overseas

Soldiers from 10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment demonstrated their expertise and skills during the infantry Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) phase of Super Garuda Shield 2023 at Dodiklatpur in East Java, Indonesia. A Platoon from 10th/27th Battalion RSAR left Adelaide in late August to train in Indonesia alongside US and Indonesian troops. The power of combined arms was on display during the Field Training Exercise phase. Indonesian Defence Force (TNI) Leopard 2A4 and Australian M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks from 1st Armoured Regiment joined infantry platoons from the 10th/27th Battalion, RSAR and the TNI's Infantry Battalion R 515/UTY to defeat a common enemy in East Java, Indonesia. They'll have some exciting memories when they come home.





# Our Battalion Overseas



## **EXERCISE SUPER GARUDA SHIELD 2023**

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has successfully concluded its role as a key participating nation on Exercise Super Garuda Shield 2023 in Indonesia.

This was the largest ever Super Garuda Shield exercise since the training activity began in 2009. This year, more than 5,000 troops from seven participating nations trained in and around East Java.

Host nations Indonesia and the United States were joined by Australia, France, Japan, Singapore, and the United Kingdom, with a further 12 nations also sending observers.

Commander of the Australian Army's 1st (Australian) Division, Major General Scott Winter, AM, said Australia's participation on this exercise was significant.

"Super Garuda Shield is what success looks like in terms of regional engagement and overseas training for our Army," Major General Winter said.

"It also demonstrated our ability to meet the most demanding land challenges in the future and to effectively deploy significant land forces, including armour, across the Indo Pacific region."

The contingent included 125 Australian Army personnel, a troop of M1A1 Abrams tanks and support vehicles from the 1st Armoured Regiment, a platoon of infantry from the 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment, a team from the Special Air Service Regiment, and medical and other specialists.

The exercise comprised of several training phases including a subject matter expert exchange, combined arms field training, amphibious operations, and a special operations military free fall jump.

The exercise culminated in live-fire training by multinational forces, including strikes by F-16, AH-64 Apache, UH-60 Black Hawk, AH-1 Super Cobra aircraft, 105mm artillery and HIMARS rocket systems, and by tanks, infantry and other weapons systems.



# Letters to the Editor

1

I recently received an email from the Honorary Colonel of the 2/4 Bn RNZIR seeking to re-establish links with our Battalion. I passed the email onto WO1 Scott Hannan and the result is below. Editor

*Dear Sir - I have recently been appointed as the Honorary Colonel of the 2nd/4th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/4 RNZIR) and I am anxious to maintain (or re-establish) contact with our allied regiments. I know that the Royal South Australia Regiment had an alliance with the former 4th (Otago and Southland) Battalion, although an amalgamation in 2012 saw both the South Island reserve battalions become one - 2/4 RNZIR.*

*I would appreciate it if you could provide me with contact details for your Regiment so that I can re-establish the link.*

*Yours aye - Paul Koorey*

*(Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) P.F. Koorey, RNZIR)*



## OFFICIAL

Good morning Paul,

David Laing our Regimental Association secretary forwarded on your email - thank you for reaching out and it is great to hear from you.

We would certainly like to re-establish contact and maintain/re-affirm our alliance with the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, noting the amalgamation in 2012.

I have copied in WO1 Scott Hannan (RSM ) and COL Steve Larkins (Colonel Commandant RSAR).

I look forward to strengthening the links between our units, and if you could provide a mailing address will also ensure that we forward a copy of our Regimental Journal when published later this year,

Kind regards,

**Sam Benveniste**

Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer  
10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment  
Keswick Barracks, Keswick, SA, 5035



**Pro Patria**

*Sam - many thanks for your prompt reply, and I shall strive to maintain the link during my term in office. The Battalion is headquartered in Burnham Camp, about 40 minutes south of Christchurch (where I live). The northern sub-units are based around Christchurch, while our southern sub-unit is based in Dunedin (and came from the former 4th Battalion (Otago and Southland), RNZIR .*

*I know that any of your members would be most welcome to visit if they find their way to the South Island, and I will do my best to maintain the alliance during my time as Honorary Colonel.*

*Yours aye - Paul Koorey*

*(Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) P.F. Koorey, RNZIR)*

# Letters to the Editor 2

Dear Editor

(to the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion)

Back in late May, the 10/27 Battalion Bandmaster, WO2 David Portakiewicz, had enough faith in me to ask for some help in providing a replacement storage box to house the Battalion band's music stand banners. The previous unit had been damaged after years of use and neglect. Little did he know that my hobby is tinkering in the shed at home..

I had a mandate to come up with 2 strong, light boxes with handles. I delivered them a week before I started my journey on chemo. They were well received by the band and the Bandmaster.

I now declare my conflict of interest. I love the Band, their music, their dedication and their team work. But when I got home on August 24<sup>th</sup> and found the gift (see photo) at my front door, I was overcome with emotion. The Bandmaster maintains he had little to do with it (he only plays with his baton they said) but regardless, my sincere thanks to you all.

As I face my 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of chemo next week, I will still be able to concentrate on all the positives my friends and family bestow on me. Mentally, this is very important..

THANKYOU AGAIN members of the 10th/27th Battalion Band.

*Rod Beames*



To RSAR Association and Battalion members

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 7 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment conducted the 2023 Simpson Trophy Shoot. 10/27 Battalion RSAR provided several teams but not all had a chance to shoot. However, they did come third in the teams behind Support and A Coy teams from 7 Battalion.

Lt Z Sandhu (RSAR) won Best Individual shot for the day. WELL DONE.

A comment was made that our B Coy team (rated by some as well above average) didn't get to shoot because the organisers ran out of time. Further, this was put down to the fact that all participants from non-infantry units were not equipped with the correct webbing/body armour etc.

In looking into the history of the Simpson Trophy and its connection to the South Australian military, it became clear that, while the museum at Keswick cared for the perpetual trophy, no particular unit / Commanding Officer took ownership.

Previously, 4 Military District inherited the role on behalf of the Trustees but with its demise, the continuity of the annual shoot was put in jeopardy.

The role of the different "Arms" in the ADF today are very unique and the emphasis of shooting fast and accurately does not necessarily fit well with all units. Therefore the tradition of the winning unit running the shoot until they lose, fell by the wayside and this could explain the gaps on the trophy over the past 10 years.

It was only the passionate perseverance of the 9 Brigade Commander, Brigadier Graham Goodwin, that saw the resurrection of the shoot in South Australia.

So, as it stands today, 9 Brigade will take ownership on behalf of the Trustees, but 10/27 Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment will be responsible for the operational aspects and implementation each year. It may well be an addition to their normal rifle training as required by the ADF.

*Rod Beames*



# The plane that won the war

## Design Team Led by Reginald Joseph Mitchell

Born in Talke, Staffordshire on the 20th May 1895, Reginald Joseph Mitchell joined Supermarine in 1916. During his time at Supermarine, many as chief designer, Mitchell would be involved in the design of twenty four aircraft. Although it is the Spitfire he is most remembered for he also played a role in the Walrus and Stranraer flying boats. Both of these aircraft would also serve during the Second World War (1939 – 1945). Reginald Joseph Mitchell died of cancer, at the age of 42, on the 11th June 1937.

## Supermarine Type 224

The Type 224 was designed in response to Specification F.7/30 which had been issued by the Air Ministry in October 1931. Featuring fixed undercarriage and gull wings the aircraft flew for the first time on the 19th February 1934. It proved unsuccessful and only one example was built, but the data and experience gained during the development of the aircraft helped in the design of the Spitfire.

## First Flight

The 5th March 1936 saw the Spitfire prototype (K5054), still known then as the Supermarine Type 300, fly for the first time. With a 900-hp Rolls-Royce Merlin 'C' engine powering the aircraft as it flew from what was then RAF Eastleigh, now Southampton Airport, with Vickers Supermarine test pilot Captain Joseph Summers at the controls for the eight minute flight.

## Don't Touch Myth

"Don't touch anything" was said by Captain Joseph Summers at the end of the prototype's first flight. This was not because the Spitfire was perfect but because he was to fly the prototype again later and it was set up how he wanted it.

## Joseph Smith

After the death of Reginald Joseph Mitchell, development of the Spitfire would be headed up by Joseph Smith. Born on the 25th May 1897, Smith, who had been working under Mitchell, would be involved with all variants of the type. Joseph Smith died on the 20th February 1956 aged 58



Spitfire Prototype (K5054) © ww2images.com

# The plane that won the war

## Entered Service

The Spitfire began to enter Royal Air Force service on the 4th August 1938 when No. 19 Squadron, RAF Duxford took delivery of the first Mk IA (K9789). These would be a fry cry from the Gloster Gauntlet bi-planes they were using at the time.

## High Speed Spitfire

A converted Mk I (K9834) fitted with a 2,160-hp Rolls-Royce Merlin 3M engine was to try and beat the air speed record of 440.68 mph set on the 23rd October 1934 by Francesco Agello in a Macchi M.C. 72. Known as the High Speed Spitfire (N.17) it would never make an attempt as before it was ready the Heinkel He 100 V8 reached 463.91 mph (30th March 1939) and then the Messerschmitt Me 209 V1 achieved a speed of 469.22 mph (28th April 1939) and put the record out of its reach. It would be converted to a PR Mk I then a PR Mk II serving in the photo reconnaissance role for the duration of the Second World War.

## First Aerial Victory Over Britain of the Second World War

No. 602 Squadron Spitfires flown by Flight Lieutenant George Pinkerton and Flying Officer Archie McKellar intercepted a Junkers Ju 88 over the Firth of Forth on the 16th October 1939 and although both pilots attacked the aircraft the victory was given to Flight Lieutenant Pinkerton. Nearby that same day a Spitfire of No. 603 Squadron flown by Flight Lieutenant Pat Gifford also shot down a Ju 88. These would be the first German aircraft shot down during the Second World War over Britain and to be shot down by the Spitfire.

## Spitfires in France During 1939

One Spitfire PR Mk IA would be sent to France during November 1939, followed by a Spitfire PR Mk IB. Both would only be used for reconnaissance duties as part of the 'Special Survey Flight'. They undertook their first successful operational sortie on the 22nd November 1939, when the Spitfire PR Mk IA, flown by Flight Lieutenant Maurice Longbottom, flying from Coulommiers, France, photographs Eupen-Elsenborn, Belgium. These would have the distinction of being the first Spitfires to serve overseas.

## Spitfire vs Messerschmitt Bf 109

The Spitfire Mk I and Bf 109E had their first combat engagement on the 23rd May 1940. This saw Nos. 54 and 74 Squadron engage Messerschmitt Bf 109Es of I./JG 27.





# The plane that won the war

## Presentation Spitfires

As the aircraft began to enter public consciousness, May 1940 saw the creation of 'Spitfire Funds'. From a single rivet costing sixpence to a whole aircraft at £5,000, although the true cost of a Spitfire was more. Everyone from the public to businesses could donate, and if you could afford a whole Spitfire, you could dedicate it, such as Lloyds Bank, who named theirs 'The Black Horse'. In total, around 13 million pounds was raised at the time.

## Highest Aerial Battle of the Second World War

Taking-off from RAF Northholt on the 12th September 1942 a Special Service (High Altitude) Flight Spitfire Mk IX (BS273) was vectored to the skies above Southampton. It would end up in an engagement with a Junkers Ju 86R at 43,000 ft, the highest aerial battle of the war.

## First Jet Aircraft Victory

When the Messerschmitt Me 262 entered service with the Luftwaffe during 1944 it was the first jet fighter to enter operational service. When a Spitfire Mk IX of No. 401 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force shot one down on the 5th October that same year it was the first aerial victory by an Allied piston-engined aircraft over a Luftwaffe jet aircraft.

## Top British RAF Ace of the Second World War

With 34 victories, 14 Messerschmitt Bf 109s and 20 Focke-Wulf Fw 190s, James Edgar 'Johnnie' Johnson would end the war as the Royal Air Force's top scoring British pilot. He would score all his victories in four different Spitfire variants. Mk I, Mk II, Mk V and Mk IX.

## Pink Spitfires

During the Second World War a number of photo reconnaissance Spitfires were painted in light pink. These would operate mainly at dawn and dusk to blend in with the clouds at this time, flying just underneath them. This colour made the aircraft harder to spot from the ground but had the opposite effect when looking down on the Spitfire from above, making it easier for enemy aircraft to spot it.



## Colour Sergeant Bournes' Humour



Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.



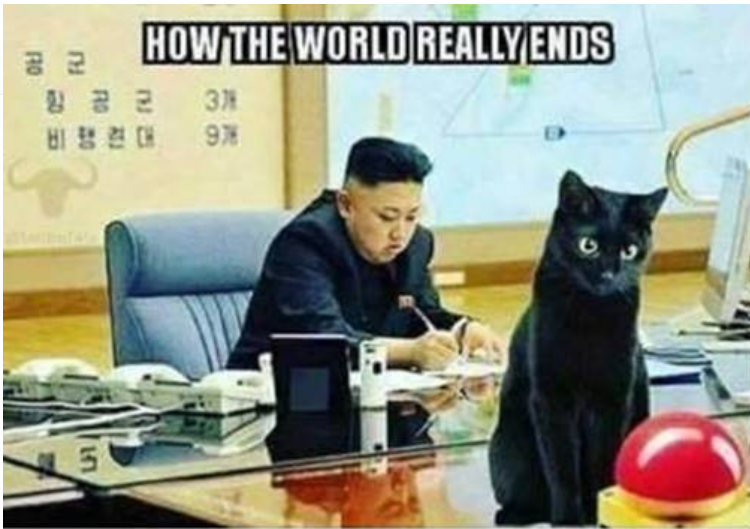
Instead of all the negative postings, here is a pic of some topless chicks in short skirts







As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: it will be misspelled and have no punctuation



I'm not sure what is more frightening, the car accident, grandma still in the car, or Grandpa's pants...

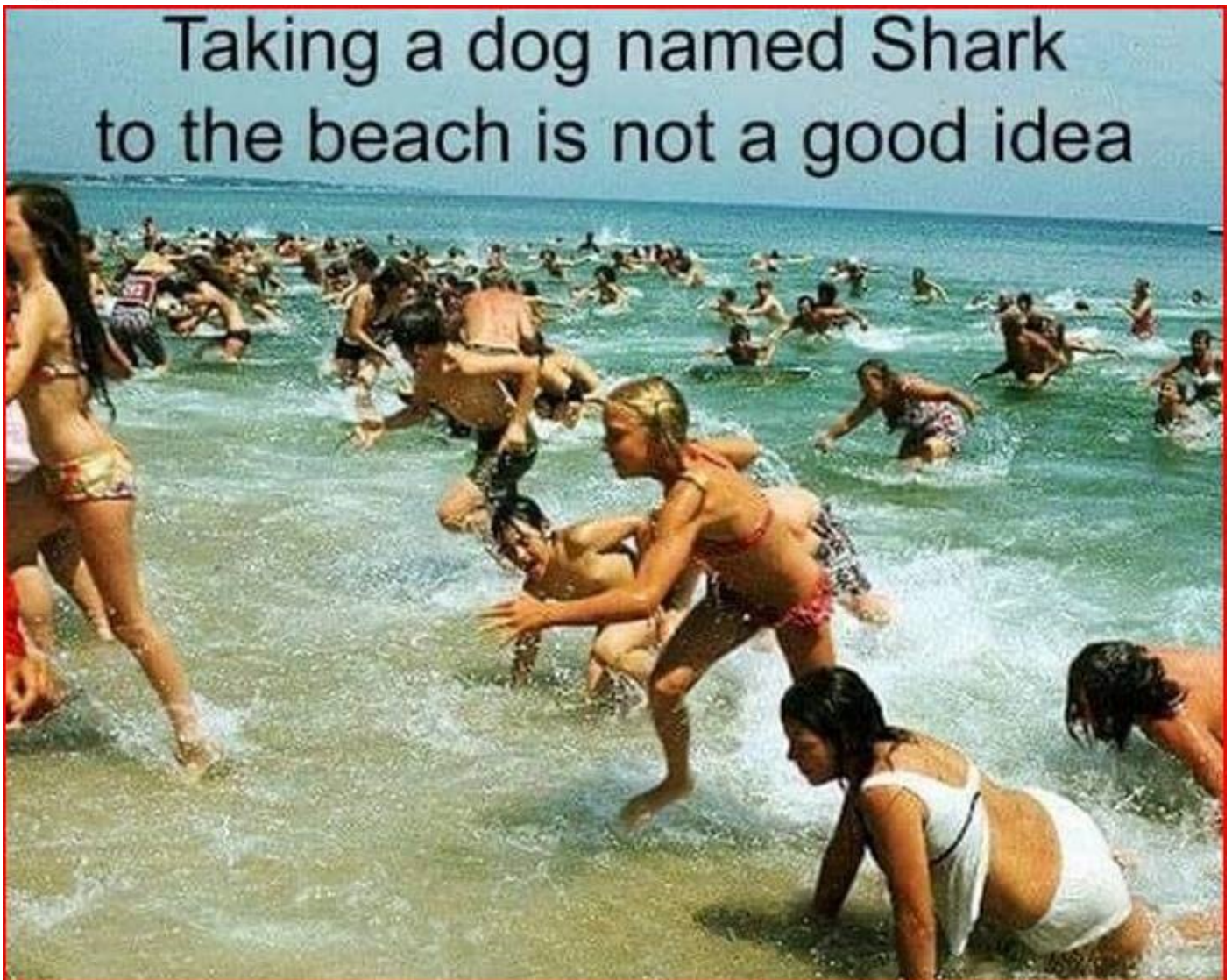


**Boy aged 4:** Dad, I've decided to get married.  
**Dad:** Wonderful; do you have a girl in mind?!  
**Boy:** Yes... grandma! She said she loves me, I love her, too....and she's the best cook & story teller in the whole world!!  
**Dad:** That's nice, but we have a small problem there!!  
**Boy:** What problem?!  
**Dad:** She happens to be my mother. How can you marry my mother!!  
**Boy:** Why not?! You married mine!!!!

Felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The gps blurted out you have reached your final destination. J

WHEN YOU GET TO MY AGE, "ONE FOR THE ROAD" MEANS HAVING A PEE BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME.

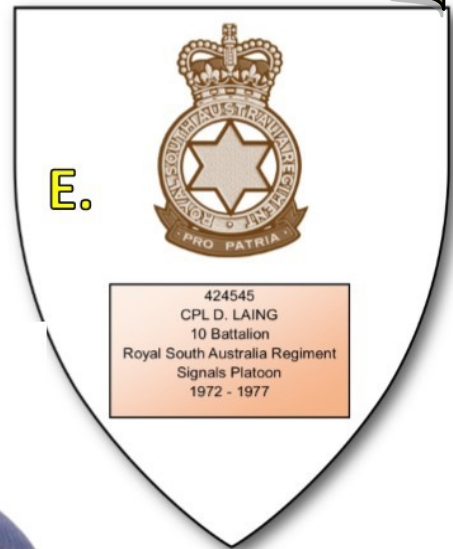




**I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes . . . so she hugged me.**



# RSARA MERCHANDISE



Baseball Cap  
ONLY \$15



NEW \$2

- A. Regimental Tie \$25
- B. Stubby Holders \$6 or 6 for \$30
- C. RSARA Nameplate \$25
- D. RSARA Lapel Badge \$15
- E. Laser-engraved timber shield w/- brass look plaque \$45
- F. **NEW** RSAR Sticker 70mm x 100mm Only \$2

**Allow \$10 postage for each item**  
**Unless collected by member**



**POLO TOP**  
**ONLY \$45**



# RSAR ASSOCIATION INC

## End of Year Lunch

**BOOK  
NOW**



**All Members of the RSAR Association, Serving  
Members of 10/27 Bn Battle Group and their families are  
invited to**

**THE END OF YEAR LUNCH**

**Sunday 17th December 2023**

**Keswick Barracks**

**Roy Inwood VC Club**

**1100 - 1500 hrs**

**All cold meat and salads provided  
FREE of charge**

**Drinks available at Bar Prices**

**Reservations definitely required.**

**Contact David Laing on 0407 791 822 or  
[davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com) for catering purposes**

**NLT Friday 8th December**



# PADRE PONDERERS

By Chaplain Paul Ghanem OFM

## The Ultimate Sacrifice in Wartime *and* Peacetime

Support Tasks are part and parcel of the life of an army chaplain. Remembrance Day will see me doing the 'padre thing' at the West Torrens Memorial Gardens in Hilton, 1030 hrs for those of you who might be interested.

On these occasions we seek to celebrate the lives and gallantry of ADF personnel who, in the act of defending our nation, pay the ultimate price. We are all familiar with the prayers that seek to comfort and console. But how do we remember those men and women who die in peacetime?

This year will be the 50th Anniversary of the tragic loss of Second Lieutenant Kevin Damian Joseph Shoppee, 1st Aviation Regiment, who died on 29 November 1973 when the helicopter he was flying crashed on Mount Wilhelm, the highest mountain in PNG, during the closing days of 4 Field Survey Squadron's *Operation Plastic Flagon*.

While helping to write his Commemoration Service I discovered that all the prayers listed on the ADF Chaplains website are for those who died fighting against the enemy. There was not a single prayer for a member who was killed in peacetime. We are all familiar with the Kapooka Tragedy where, on the afternoon of 21 May 1945, 26 soldiers were killed in an explosion while training for service. While this is the largest peacetime accident there are so many other soldiers and officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Surely their memory deserved to be honoured and their sacrifice remembered and celebrated.

Perhaps something I can do during the stand down period is to compose a few prayers that seek to honour these ADF heroes.

We will remember them ALL, Lest We Forget.

### *The Padre*

... any day, any time

**0408 163 257**

*With the help of the RSL SA, NT & Broken Hill, a small Commemoration Service is to be held at Kevin's graveside at Centennial Park, where you are invited to join Kevin's family and others for a brief service to reflect and remember him. This will be followed by drinks at the nearby Avoca Hotel, 893 South Road, Clarence Gardens, SA 5039, where a light snack or a meal can also be had if you require.*

*Come and join us at 11:00 am on Wednesday, 29 November 2023, at Derrick Gardens, Centennial Park Cemetery, 760 Goodwood Rd, Pasadena, SA 5042.*

*No wreaths will be laid during the ceremony. The family will lay flowers. Other guests will be invited to lay a sprig of rosemary on the grave from a basket provided.*

*Medals May Be Worn*

*Please RSVP to Gary Petts at [garypetts19@gmail.com](mailto:garypetts19@gmail.com)*





# RSAR Association Financial Members

Life Members		Members	A - P	Members	P - Z
Acton	Chris	Abel	Colin	Portakiewicz	Anthony
Beckett	David	Abraham	Michael	Portakiewicz	David
Benveniste	Sam	Attenborough	Geoff	Powell	Gary
Blackmore	Bill	Bampton	Michael	Preece	Brian
Boscence	Bob	Beames	Paul	Rado	Steven
Brookes	Phil	Bennett	Christian	Ramm	Hank
Burnard	Trent	Blondell	Mark	Ranger	Denis
Burns	Wayne	Brown	Bruce	Robertson	James
Carnachan	Ian	Burnard	Saxon	Sanders	Ashley
Carpenter	Ian	Burton	Ray	Schuh	Simon
Cotton	Bob	Buttars	Erik	Scott	Rhys
Dart	John	Carlisle	Lesley-Anne	Skapin	Corey
Davey	Trevor	Chamberlain	David	Smith	Ryan
Elliott	Graham	Cooke	Nat	Sniedze	Julie
Gaborit	Lyndon	Cram	Kevin	Tasker	David
Goodwin	Graham	Demosani	Tony	Tattersall	Geoff
Harris	Lachlan	Dew	Trevor	Thomas	Travis
Hawking	Don	Donald	Thomas	Thomas	David
Haynes	Malcolm	Domanski	Glenn	Thomson	Jim
Higgins	Jonathan	Duncan	Coen	Threlfall	Kev
Hogan	Mark	Dunn	Bob	Tran	Andy
Hook	Alan	Dunn	Peter	Trezise	George
Hope	David	Eva	Keith	Tsoulakis	Christos
Horseman	Ian	Ewens	Mimi	Tucker	Belinda
Hudson	Mike	Faquiri	Reshad	Turner	Garry
Jackson	Aaron	Faunt	Joshua	Vozelj	Blaz
James	Grant	Fortune	Nigel	Weepers	Nicole
Jeffrey	Scott	Foy	Erin	Wheeler	Chris
Johnson	Paul	Gatley	Graham	Williams	Reg
Johnson	Barry	Genovese	John		
Klopf	Alex	Ghanem	Paul	<b>Honorary Members</b>	
Laing	David	Gibson	Lindsay	Benveniste LTCOL	Sam
Lakin	Bruce	Gill	Graham	Wilson MAJGEN	Neil
Marlin	Robin	Gordon	Frank	Hannan WO1	Scott
Meredith	Mike	Groffen	Renee		
Miller	Nick	Harrington	Malcolm	<b>Hon Memb for Life</b>	
Moore	Peter	Harrison	John	Beames	Rodney
Moore	Terry	Harrison	Keith		
Moore	Thomas	Harrison	Nigel		
Paul	John	Hartshorne	Anthony	<b>Associate Life Members</b>	
Pollard	Barry	Hawkins	Des	Elliott	Julie
Richter	Sean	Higgins	Kevin	Field	Shirley
Salamon	Piotr	Hill	Max	Johnson	Sally
Stewart	Robin	Hudson	Rick	Laing	June
Stewien	Peter	Hume	Matthew	Phillips	Heather
Vella	Joe	Humphrys	Jesse	Sanderson	Lorraine
Waters	Ian	Jones	Brett	Tregenza	Lyn
Watters	Matthew	Koop	Joshua		
Westover	Rhys	Lewis	James		
Wilson	Graham	Loveder	Peter	<b>Associate Members</b>	
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg	Matchett	William	Abel	Karen
		McCulloch	Don	Brown	Jenni
		McIver	Bill	Carnachan	Dom
		McKenzie	Kain	Dunn	Trish
		Migali	Michael	Hudson	Margaret
		Mitchell	Barry	Johnson	Margaret
		Morony	Frank	Parsonage	Yvonne
		Mulroney	Dennis	Pollard	Kay
		Normandale	Zachary	Toy	Jill
		Oakley	Andrew	Winger	Kathleen
		O'Daly	Ryan		
		Orrock	Alan		
		Parslow	Howard		
		Parsonage	James		
		Pascoe	Michael		
		Payne	Bob		
		Pexton	Timothy		
		Phillips	Colin Rex		