

# "Sitrep, Over!"



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

Patron: MAJGEN Neil Wilson AM RFD

Secretary / Editor David Laing

November  
2024

## That One Day In November



On 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing to an end the First World War.

As a mark of respect to those who have died and suffered, Australians are encouraged to pause at 11 am to observe one minute's silence and remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

On November 11th this year, at 11 o'clock, throughout Australia and it's territories we will pause, stand silent and observe 1 minutes silence whilst a distant Bugler plays the Last Post.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

### Things I've learned!

**Being twenty in  
the 70's was  
much more fun  
than being 70 in  
the twenties.**

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**LEST WE FORGET.**



# EDITORIAL

**A**s featured on Page 1, Remembrance Day is observed by Commonwealth countries around the world although Armistice Day was observed in New Zealand between the World Wars, and it was always secondary to Anzac Day. As in other countries, New Zealand's Armistice Day was converted to Remembrance Day after World War II. However, by the mid-1950s, the day was virtually ignored, even by churches and veterans' organisations. As a result, New Zealand's national day of remembrance is Anzac Day, 25 April. Poppy Day usually occurs on the Friday before Anzac Day. The reason for New Zealand having their remembrance on Anzac Day happened in 1921. The paper Poppies for Armistice that year arrived by ship too late for 11 November 1921, so an RSA branch (The NZ version of our RSL) distributed them at the next commemoration date (25 April 1922, which happened to be Anzac Day) and that date stuck as the new Poppy Day in New Zealand. Lest We Forget.

**F**inal preparations are being made for our End Of Year Lunch at Warradale Barracks, and this year it will be conducted in the SGTs Mess, a much more appropriate venue. The dates, timings and location are on Pages 14 & 15. We'd love to see more serving members come along, and as always reservations are definitely required for catering and seating purposes to the Secretary via [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com) Not Later Than 1st December.

**T**he final report into veteran suicides has been released by the Royal Commission. You can read about the findings on Page 9, plus follow a link to see the complete results. Padre Albrecht follows up with his thoughts on the same subject at "Padres Ponderings" on Page 9. Keep well.

**A** number of old mates from the 10 Battalion RSAR "A" Company Alberton days reunited for Rod Beames funeral service, and afterwards at the Henley & Grange RSL. Some photos taken in 1974 when we were all still serving, compared to today. Mates for 50 years and will remain so for life. It was a fitting tribute from the RSL that the Ode Of Remembrance was recited in a pre-recorded message from Rod Beames himself. It was very touching. The story and pics are on Page 10.

**T**hanks to Steve Larkins (our Honourary Colonel), Robert Kearney (Virtual War Memorial) and the now disbanded 10th Battalion AIF Association we bring you the story of the 10th Battalion, the Adelaide Rifles, and the impact they made on the landings at Gallipoli and more. Pages 11-13 tell the story.

**I**f you have some photos of your Army days and a story to go with it, I'd love to hear from you. Our members are the source of our existence, and we'd love to recount the days when we all wore the Baggy Green Skin and Shiny Black Feet. (Although not so green or so shiny these days.) Send your stories to me via my email.

**A**nd a big thank you to Thomas Ghea who modified our Association logo to include the Pro Patria logo and change the colours slightly to bring us into line with the regimental badge. Check it out on Page 1 & 2. Thanks Tom. Great work!

Cheers and stay safe

*David Laing*  
Secretary / Editor



## Contact Us

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



**PAYMENTS FOR SUBS &  
MERCHANDISE**

All Merchandise Orders to:  
Selina Laing on 0418 822 874  
or [lebanonsel@live.com](mailto:lebanonsel@live.com)

**Fees and Merchandise can be  
paid by EFT through the follow-  
ing Bendigo Bank account**

**RSAR Association Inc**

**BSB 633 000**

**Acc. 1616 585 88**

**Cheques etc can be mailed to**

**The Treasurer  
Christian Bennett  
RSAR Association  
PO Box 1133  
Kensington Gardens  
SA 5068  
[christianbennett95@gmail.com](mailto:christianbennett95@gmail.com)**



# Exercise Southern Tiger

At the end of Exercise Southern Tiger a number of presentations were made to the Malaysian soldiers by the CO 10/27 Bn RSAR LTCOL Aaron Jackson, and to the Commander of the Malaysian contingent LTCOL Azllan. Gifts and certificates were also exchanged in appreciation of the Malaysian soldiers contributions.





# Exercise Southern Tiger





# Digger Wombats Humour



The most expensive vehicle to operate in 2024 is the Shopping Trolley



*When you're a child, you make funny faces at the mirror*  
*When we become adults, the mirror gets even*

Your call is important to us...  
please continue to hold



**Here's a tip:**  
**Ring your doorbell on your way to bed at night.**  
**This will clear the dogs off your bed long enough for you to get in and get comfortable.**

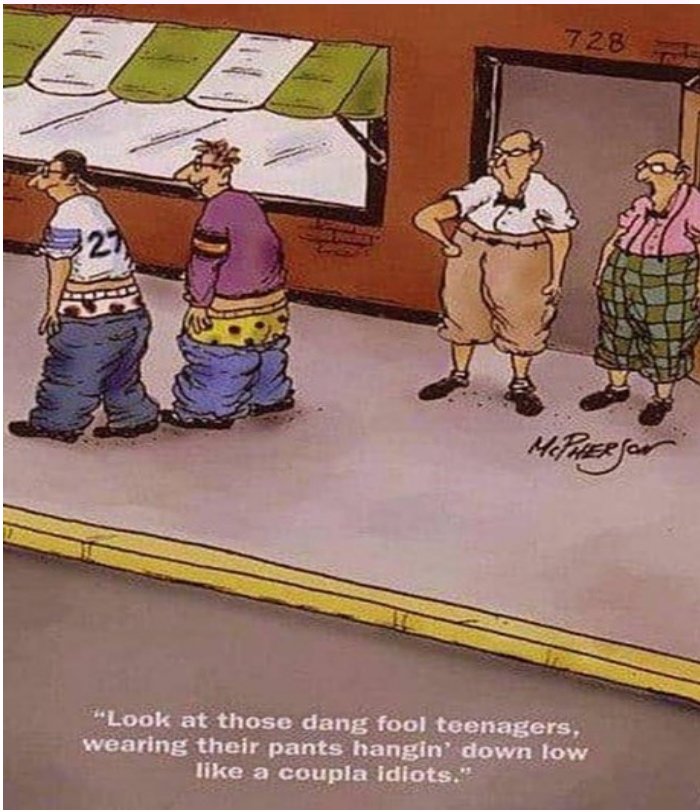




Coffee make brain work  
gooder!

**I don't get  
nearly enough  
credit in life for  
the things  
I manage not  
to say.**

— meg rosoff



**HOW COME THERES ENOUGH  
BITUMEN TO BUILD SPEED  
BUMPS, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO  
FILL POT HOLES?**

**My ex wife texted  
me, "Wish you were  
here."**

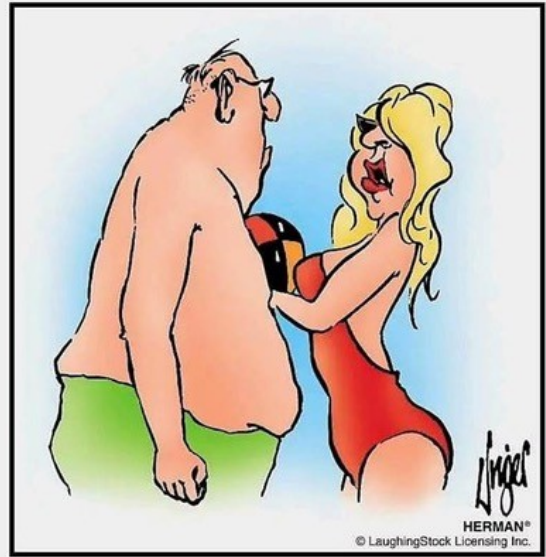
**She does that every  
time she walks  
through a  
cemetery.**





Yeah, I've tried  
shutting up! It's not  
for me!

**Being white  
doesn't make  
you a racist and  
being black  
doesn't make  
you a slave  
being an idiot  
however comes  
in both colors**



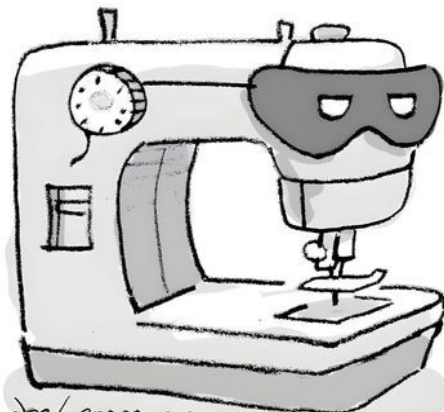
"Boy, Harry, you sure look different  
without your wallet!"

**Maybe I was  
raised  
wrong, but I  
was taught if  
you wanted  
something  
you worked  
for it.**



**I'M NEARLY CERTAIN THAT KIDS ARE INDESTRUCTIBLE  
IF YOU DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR PAIN.**

THE  
**MASKED SINGER**



Joe Lennon 9.22.12

# Royal Commission Final Report



## Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide Final Report has been delivered to the government and tabled in Parliament today.

Comprising seven volumes and nine parts the Final Report is the culmination of three years of inquiry into the suicide crisis in Australia's Defence and veteran population.

It includes 122 recommendations to government, which form the Royal Commission's blueprint for real, meaningful and long-lasting reform.

Commissioners Nick Kaldas, Peggy Brown and James Douglas delivered the Final Report to Governor-General Sam Mostyn at 11:00 am today.

The Report is an important body of work which marks the culmination of the most significant and comprehensive inquiry conducted into suicide and suicidality in the Defence and veteran communities.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles said that in August 2022, the Interim Report of the Royal Commission was delivered to government, which took swift action on all of its recommendations.

"Our priority is ensuring that those who pursue a career in the Australian Defence Force have a safe and inclusive workplace and are supported from the time they join, through transition, and after service," Mr Marles said.

"We welcome the Final Report and thank the Commissioners for a thorough and compassionate inquiry.

"I thank the members of our defence force, our veterans and their loved ones who bravely shared their stories with the Royal Commission.

"This has been a thorough inquiry, and we will take the time to carefully consider the recommendations of the Final Report."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Matt Keogh said the rate of veteran suicide was a national tragedy and the Royal Commission had played a vital role in learning what could be done better to improve the lives of Defence personnel, veterans and families.

"We've acted quickly on the recommendations from the Royal Commission's Interim Report and I'm pleased that legislation to simplify and harmonise the veteran compensation system is now before the Parliament," Mr Keogh said.

"I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, sharing their often harrowing stories in the interests of improving things for their mates, and those who will come after them."

The complete Report can be found by going to the following web page.

<https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report-all-volumes>



# Padres' Ponderings



From Padre Stephen Albrecht - Chaplain 10th/27th Battalion RSAR

The recent findings from the Royal Commission on Defence and Veteran Suicide within the Australian Defence Force (ADF) emphasize a pressing need for comprehensive mental health support for veterans and active service members.

The report reveals that ADF members, particularly those transitioning out of military life, face unique mental health challenges. The shift from military to civilian life can feel isolating and overwhelming for many veterans, with factors such as combat trauma, service-related injuries, and not forgetting the high demands of military life contributing to increased suicide risk.

These insights highlight the need for sustained, specialized support during and after service.

Considering these findings, resources are available to help ADF members and veterans manage the effects of their experiences. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) offers essential support programs, including Open Arms, a free, confidential mental health care service that provides 24/7 crisis support, group therapy, and specialized workshops in coping, anger management, and resilience.

The ADF also offers transition services to support members moving into civilian life, including practical resources, career counselling, and skill training to ease the transition.

As I mentioned in a recent article, no one should feel they have to face these challenges alone. It's crucial to know when to seek help and where to find it. Available supports include mental health professionals, chaplaincy services, peer support programs, and advocacy groups committed to reducing the stigma around anyone seeking help.

Supporting our active service members is a shared responsibility. ADF members can reach out through various channels, such as:

- ◆ All Hours Support Line at 1800 628 036,
- ◆ Defence Member and Family Helpline at 1800 624 608,
- ◆ Open Arms at 1800 011 046,
- ◆ or local chaplains (Chaplain Sexton - 0437 216 095, Chaplain Albrecht - 0410 423 545)
- ◆ and Lifeline - 13 11 14.

No one should fight alone, so let us develop a stronger culture of support for our mates. As a collective team we are stronger and can achieve so much more.

Chaplain *Stephen Albrecht*





# Warriors Reunite to Farewell a Mate



The above pics were taken in 1974 when "A" Company 10 Battalion took part in a "sea borne" invasion of Port Giles on the Yorke Peninsular, after a Gulf crossing on the HMAS Banks, and a "fire & movement" attack on a local farmhouse at the top of some cliffs. 50 years ago! I'd like to see us scale those cliffs today!!~!

**Graham Elliott**

**Des Hawkins**

**Dave Laing**

**Ian Carnachan**

**Mick Hudson**



A number of the A Company, 10th Battalion (Alberton Depot) lads reunited to farewell the President of the RSAR Association Rod Beames at his funeral service, and afterwards raised a glass or 5 at the Henley & Grange RSL. Still mates after all these years and will be for life. Pro Patria.



# The 10th Battalion, Adelaide Rifles

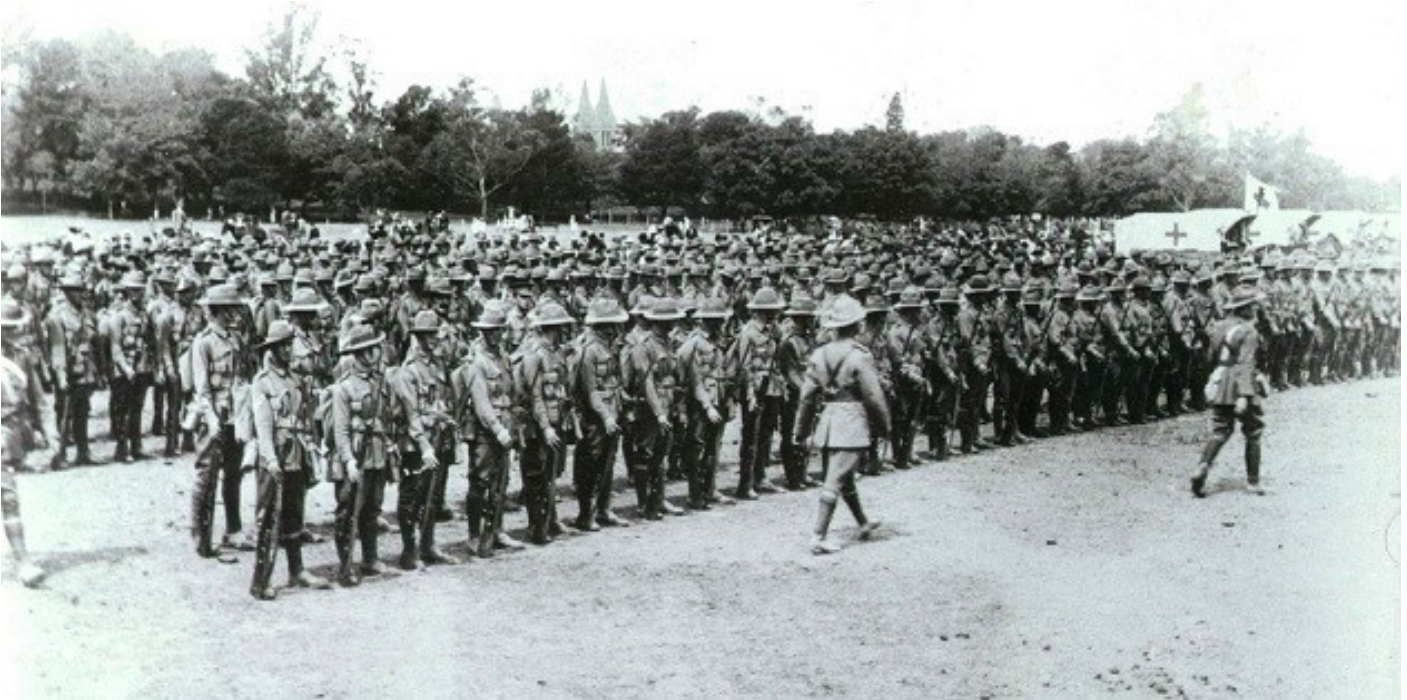
Colour Patches were the unique identifiers of the units of the First AIF. The shape and colour combinations of the patches correlated with the structure of the AIF. The rectangle shape indicates that it is a unit of the First Division. The light blue bar on the bottom signifies the third brigade of the Division. The purple upper bar indicates it is the second battalion of that Brigade.



**From the book "Pro Patria" by Steve Larkins, Bob Kearney and the 10th Battalion AIF Association.**

The 10th Battalion owes its origins to militia companies established in the Colony of South Australia as far back as 1860, whence the name "Adelaide Rifles" originated. The 10th Battalion AIF was among the first raised after the declaration of War on the 6th August 1914. It was formed in Adelaide as the first of several battalions raised in South Australia. It was allocated to the 3rd Brigade in the First Division together with the 9th (Queensland), 11th (Western Australia) and 12th (Tasmania) Battalions respectively.

On 12 August 1914, Colonel Ewen George Sinclair-Maclagan, the newly appointed commander of the 3rd Brigade, cabled Colonel Stanley Price-Weir, (a distinguished officer in the South Australian militia) asking him to consider becoming the first commanding officer of the 10th Infantry Battalion, soon to be raised.



The Tenth Battalion on parade at Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide. It is believed to have been taken in October 1914 just prior to the Battalion's embarking for the Middle East. Torrens Parade Ground is an icon of the State's military history. Having been a militia training area since the early days of the Colony, beginning with the Boer War, many South Australian military contingents have paraded at Torrens Parade Ground prior to embarkation. These days, Torrens Parade Ground is the home of ANZAC House RSL SA State Headquarters. Army Museum of South Australia RSAR Collection

Price-Weir accepted the brigade commander's offer on 16 August, and the following day was appointed the first commanding officer of the 10th Battalion AIF.

As commanding officer, one of Price-Weir's first tasks was to forward recommendations to military headquarters for key staff to fill the appointments in the battalion, that would assist him in raising its full strength of 31 officers and 974 other ranks as quickly as possible. He required, at the very least, a second in command, an adjutant, a quartermaster, eight company commanders and sixteen subalterns to command the platoons.



# The 10th Battalion, Adelaide Rifles

The Battalion formed and was steadily built up in strength during August and September 1914 while encamped at Morphetville Racecourse. It was to comprise 1,005 men organised in seven companies with two large platoons within each company.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01829

Troops of what is believed to be the 10th Battalion on the deck of the battleship Prince of Wales in Mudros Harbour. This ship was part of the fleet which transported Australian troops to the Gallipoli landing at Anzac Cove. The Battalion was embarked on the Prince of Wales before transferring to the fleet small craft that took them ashore at ANZAC to carry out the landing. AWM A01829

The Battalion embarked on the HMAT '*Ascanius*' on the 20th October 1914 and sailed with the ANZAC convoy for the Middle East. The soldiers recorded the excitement of the duel between HMAS *Sydney* and the German raider *Emden*, which could so easily have wrought havoc among the troopships. After a stopover in Colombo, the convoy disembarked in Port Said on 1 December 1914. After several months training based at Mena Camp in the shadow of the Pyramids, the Battalion once again embarked, on the 12th of March. This time, they were on the steamship '*Ionian*' for the island of Lemnos in the Aegean Sea.

After consolidation at Lemnos, the force embarked - this time the 10th Battalion were boarded on the battleship HMS *Prince of Wales*.

The 3rd Brigade was to be the covering force for the ANZAC landings (ie first ashore). The 10th Battalion had formed a Scout Company to lead the way and into this company went the ablest soldiers in the unit. The battalion suffered nearly 50% casualties in the first few days immediately after the landing, many among the Scouts, among whose number were Phil Robin (a former Norwood footballer) and Arthur Blackburn. They are credited by C.E.W. Bean, the Official Historian, as having made it farthest



# The 10th Battalion, Adelaide Rifles

inland of any Australian troops, to the 'Third Ridge'.

The 10th Battalion distinguished itself at the landing and throughout the remainder of the Gallipoli campaign. It played a key role in repelling a major Turkish counter attack on the 19th May. In August, the 3rd Brigade was the Division Reserve for the attack at Lone Pine mounted by the First Brigade.

By this time disease was taking its toll mainly due to poor sanitation and deteriorating hygiene. Dysentery and enteric fever (typhoid) were rife. LtCol Price Weir was one of many evacuated ill in September. The Battalion evacuated Gallipoli on the 21st November, part of the draw down prior to the main evacuation which took place on 19 December 1915. It returned to Egypt where on 26th February the 10th Battalion and the other then sixteen Battalions of the 1st Division were split in two to seed the newly raised Fourth Division with combat experienced men. The 10th spawned the 50th Battalion, which came to be known as "The Barrier Battalion" with the original 10th Battalion Second in Command, LtCol Hurcombe its inaugural CO.

From Egypt the Australians embarked for Europe arriving in Marseilles on 16th April 1916. After an initial period in "The Nursery" sector in Flanders, the 10th Battalion went on to serve with distinction at Pozieres, where it was engaged in sustained and unrelenting combat between 22-25 July, at a cost of 350 casualties. For his actions on 23rd July, Lt Arthur Blackburn (the same man who distinguished himself at Gallipoli) was awarded the Victoria Cross. Blackburn would go on to become one of the most distinguished citizen soldiers Australia has produced, serving with distinction in two World Wars and in public life.

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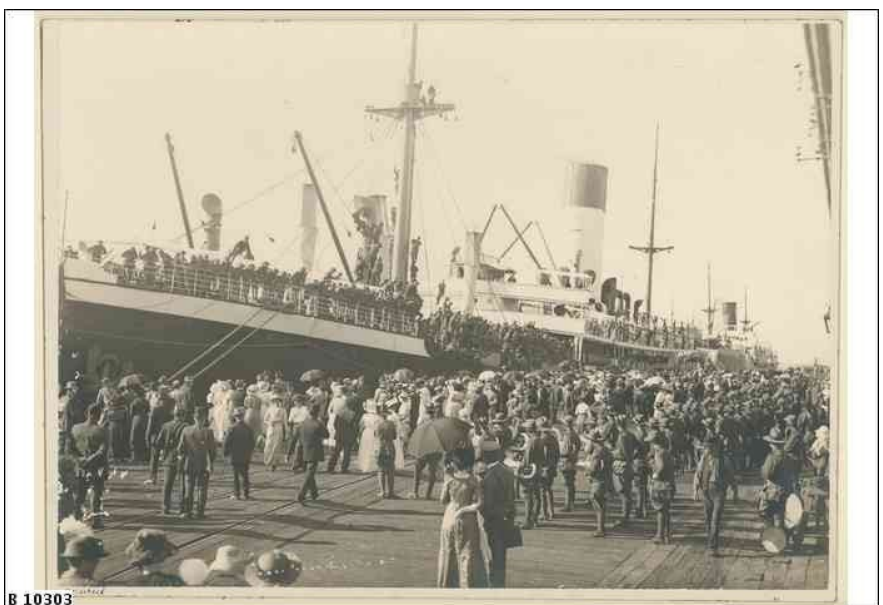
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B 10303

HMAT Ascanius at Outer Harbour embarking the 10th Battalion.  
State Library of SA B10303



# 2024 END OF YEAR LUNCH

## WARRADALE BARRACKS

Warradale Barracks Sergeants Mess

**SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER**

**1100 to 1500 hrs**



All food is provided **FREE OF CHARGE** by the Association.  
Wine, Beer, and Soft drinks available at generous bar prices.  
Lunch @ midday.

All fun with no business. Come and enjoy a few hours with the  
committee and members just before Christmas

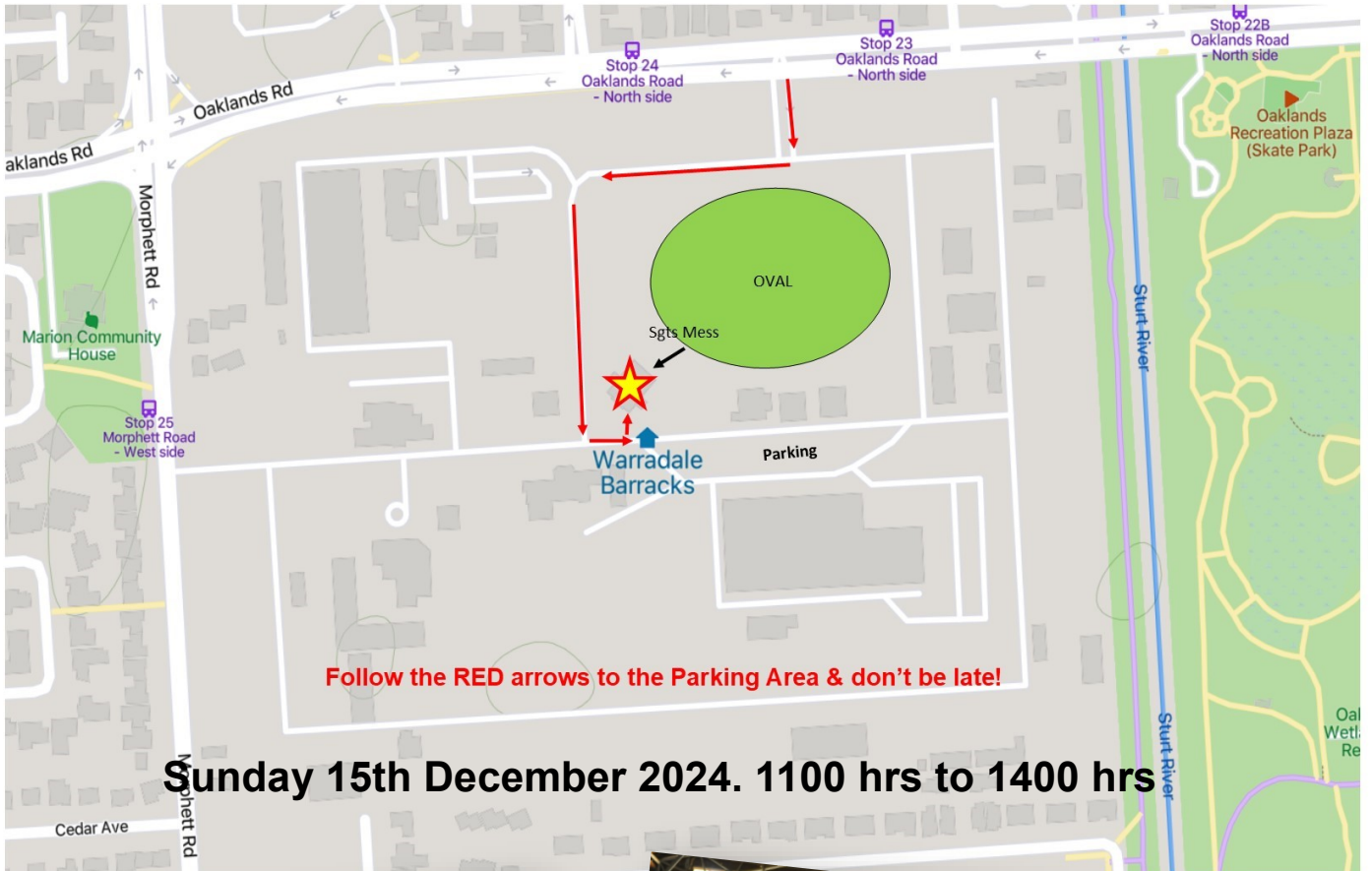
**RSVP required for catering purposes to the Secretary David Laing  
on [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com) or 0407 791 822**

**NLT Sunday 1st December**

**DIRECTIONS ON FOLLOWING PAGE**



# WARRADALE BARRACKS





# MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE



- A. Regimental Tie \$25
- B. Stubby Holders \$6 each or 6 for \$30
- C. RSARA Nameplate \$30
- D. RSARA Lapel Badge \$15
- E. Laser-engraved timber shield w/- brass look plaque \$55
- F. **NEW** Vinyl RSAR Sticker 70mm x 100mm  
**Only \$2 or 6 for \$10** FREE Postage.
- G. Hoodie w/- LOGO \$50
- H. Wine Cooler Bag \$25 plus postage

**Allow \$15 postage for each item**  
**Unless collected by member**



**POLO TOP \$45**





## 2024 RSARA Merchandise Order Form

**Each large item attracts a MINIMUM of \$15 postage. This is due to increases by Australia Post and is beyond our control. Please ensure you include this in your total.**

I WISH TO ORDER THE FOLLOWING:- (Please insert quantity)


NAME PLATE \$30 - POSTAGE \$10

RSARA LAPEL BADGE \$15 - POSTAGE \$10

RSARA TIE \$25 - POSTAGE \$10

STUBBY HOLDER \$6 - POSTAGE \$15

ENGRAVED SHIELD \$55 - POSTAGE \$15

RSARA POLO TOP \$45 - POSTAGE \$15 (Include size)

RSARA HOODIE \$50 - POSTAGE \$15 (Include size)

RSARA CAP \$15 - POSTAGE \$10

RSAR WINE COOLER BAG \$25 - POSTAGE \$15

RSAR VINYL STICKERS 6 FOR \$10. FREE POSTAGE

NAME.....(TO BE PLACED ON NAME PLATE)

ADDRESS.....

SUBURB.....PC.....

Members can order Association Merchandise by the following means.

Send your order to:-

**Selina Laing**  
**0418 822 874**

Or email the order form to [lebanonsel@live.com.au](mailto:lebanonsel@live.com.au)

And pay via EFT to:-

**RSAR Association Inc**  
**BSB 633 000**  
**Acc. 1616 585 88**

(Include your name as an identifier)

**Please be aware that clothing items are not returnable, so please ensure you order correct sizes.**



Life Members		Members	A - M	Members	N - Z
Acton	Chris	Abel	Colin	New	Anthony
Beckett	David	Abraham	Michael	Normandale	Zachary
Benveniste	Sam	Albrecht	Stephen	Oakley	Andrew
Blackmore	Bill	Allison	Robert	O'Daly	Ryan
Boscence	Bob	Angove	Derek	Orrock	Alan
Brookes	Phil	Angus	Sebastian	Parslow	Howard
Burnard	Trent	Attenborough	Geoff	Parsonage	James
Burns	Wayne	Baker	Craig	Pascoe	Michael
Carnachan	Ian	Bampton	Michael	Payne	Bob
Carpenter	Ian	Barry-Orcales	Dianeever	Pearce	Philip
Cotton	Bob	Beames	Paul	Pexton	Timothy
Dart	John	Bedford	Travis	Phillips	Colin Rex
Davey	Trevor	Bennett	Christian	Portakiewicz	Anthony
Elliott	Graham	Blondell	Mark	Portakiewicz	David
Gaborit	Lyndon	Bras	Riley	Powell	Gary
Goodwin	Graham	Brophy	Ryan	Preece	Brian
Harris	Lachlan	Brown	Bruce	Pritchard	Chantel
Hawking	Don	Burnard	Saxon	Rado	Steven
Haynes	Malcolm	Burton	Ray	Ramm	Hank
Higgins	Jonathan	Buttars	Erik	Ranger	Denis
Hogan	Mark	Carlisle	Lesley-Anne	Rijken	Paul
Hook	Alan	Cartwright	Harrison	Roberts	Tony
Hope	David	Chamberlain	David	Robertson	James
Horseman	Ian	Cooke	Nat	Sailes	Adrian
Hudson	Mick	Cram	Kevin	Sanders	Ashley
Jackson	Aaron	Dale	Andy	Sandhu	Zorawar
James	Grant	Demosani	Tony	Sando	Timothy
Jeffrey	Scott	Dennis	Emily	Schuh	Simon
Johnson	Paul	Dew	Trevor	Scott	Rhys
Johnson	Barry	Domanski	Glenn	Sexton	Mark
Klopf	Alex	Donald	Thomas	Shephard	Daniel
Laing	David	Duncan	Coen	Skapin	Corey
Lakin	Bruce	Dunn	Bob	Slater	Ian
Marlin	Robin	Dunn	Peter	Smith	Ryan
Meredith	Mike	Eva	Keith	Sniedze	Julie
Miller	Nick	Ewens	Mimi	Tasker	David
Moore	Peter	Faquiri	Reshad	Tattersall	Geoff
Moore	Terry	Faunt	Joshua	Thomas	David
Moore	Thomas	Flynn	Adrian	Thomas	Travis
Paul	John	Fortune	Nigel	Thomson	Jim
Pollard	Barry	Foy	Erin	Threlfall	Kev
Richter	Sean	Gatley	Graham	Tran	Andy
Salamon	Piotr	Genovese	John	Treguis	Izaak
Stewart	Robin	Ghanem	Paul	Trezise	George
Stewien	Peter	Gibson	Lindsay	Tsoulakis	Christos
Vella	Joe	Gill	Graham	Tucker	Belinda
Waters	Ian	Gordon	Frank	Tucker	Paul
Watters	Matthew	Groffen	Renee	Turner	Garry
Westover	Rhys	Hanson	Reece	Vozelj	Blaz
Wilson	Graham	Harrington	Malcolm	Weepers	Nicole
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg	Harrison	John	Wheeler	Chris
		Harrison	Keith	Wilkinson	Charles
<b>Associate Life Members</b>		Harrison	Nigel	Williams	Reg
Elliott	Julie	Hartshorne	Anthony	Williams	Janelle
Field	Shirley	Hawkins	Des	Williams	David
Johnson	Sally	Heath	Jonathon	Zuromski	Paul
Laing	June	Higgins	Kevin		
Parkin	Audrey	Hill	Max		
Phillips	Heather	Hudson	Rick		
Sanderson	Lorraine	Hume	Matthew		
Trogenza	Lyn	Humphrys	Jesse		
		Jones	Brett		
<b>Associate Members</b>		Justin	Trent		
Abel	Karen	Koop	Joshua		
Angove	Leisel	Kovacs	Philip		
Brown	Jenni	Laing	Selina		
Carnachan	Dom	Leach	Thomas		
Dunn	Trish	Lewis	James		
Eva	Gail	Loveder	Peter		
Hawkins	Lynn	Matchett	William		
Hook	Philippa	McCulloch	Don		
Hudson	Margaret	McIver	Bill	<b>Honorary Members</b>	
Johnson	Margaret	McKenzie	Kain	Wilson MAJGEN	Neil
Parsonage	Yvonne	McMahon	Tyler	Jackson LTCOL	Aaron
Pollard	Kay	Migali	Michael	Hannan WO1	Scott
Toy	Jill	Mitchell	Barry	Azllan LTCOL	
Winger	Kathleen	Morony	Frank		
		Mulroney	Dennis		

Please welcome our newest members.  
Tony Roberts who served with 10/27 RSAR at the Berri Depot, and WO1 Derek Angove who is still serving and his wife Leisel