Official Monthly Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

JULY 2022

Patron - Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing 0407 791 822

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



All Members plus wives & partners are invited to attend the AGM and mix with friends whilst voting on changes to the Constitution.

Please arrive by NLT 1030 hrs to order and pay for your meals, to be served at the conclusion of the AGM at 12 noon.

This is the MAIN event for the year so it is imperative for all members to attend and vote.

Dress Neat, Casual.

Please join us after the AGM for a couple of drinks and a chat. Get to know the other members.

SUNDAY 7th August 10.30 hrs

AVOCA HOTEL, South Rd Clarence Gardens

Reservations Required for Seating & Catering Purposes NLT 30th July to davidlaing49@bigpond.com or 0407 791 822

ITEMS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

- VALE Mick Standing Page 2
 CPL Numbnutz Page 3,4,5
 Editorial Page 6
 Merchandise Page 7
 Kapooka Tragedy Page 8-11
 Letters Page 12
 Padre's Ponderings Page 13
- Financial Members Page 15
 - Application Form Page 16

VALE Mick Standing



Apart from being a good bloke, Mick was always up for a good conversation at the Bar

Our past Vice President and all round good guy Mick Standing passed away suddenly on 16th May 2022 after a heart attack as a result of COVID 19 and chemotherapy treatment. At the wishes of Mick he had a private cremation with a small group of family attending. Mick's family and the RSAR Association all agree that there wouldn't have been a hall large enough to cater for all of Micks friends and colleagues who would have

attended a wake, had one been planned, so maybe

Mick knew this.

The Adelaide Advertiser contained glowing tributes from the Retired Police Officers Association, the SA Police Association, and SAPOL itself.

A number of letters to the Editor about Mick are contained on Page 12 of this newsletter.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, with the exception of the hardened criminals he helped to lock up during his long and fruitful career as a Detective Sergeant with SAPOL.

Rest In Peace mate.





Corporal Numbnutz Funnies.

I can't believe I'm living in a world that is reassigning the gender of a plastic potato.

Did you know that 14 muscles are activated when opening a bottle of wine? Fitness is my passion & If the current power grid can't handle a few days of over 40 degree heat without rolling blackouts, how are they going to power 20 million electric cars up at night?

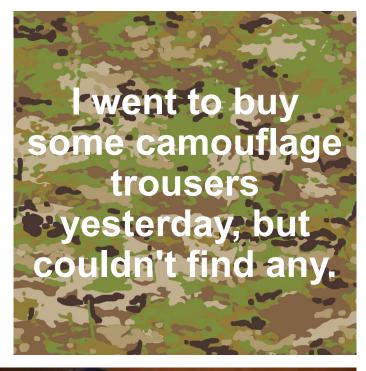
MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE HOUSE. I SAID I WAS AFRAID MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS LISTENING! SHE LAUGHED. I LAUGHED. ALEXA LAUGHED. SIRI LAUGHED.

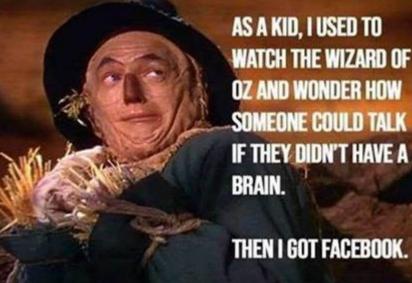




Without Freedom of Speech we wouldn't know who the idiots were!

YOU KNOW YOU'RE
GETTING OLD
WHEN A RECLINER
AND A HEATING
PAD IS YOUR IDEA
OF A HOT DATE





The longer I look at this the more I understand why aliens don't visit us anymore.

Campons

Chicken Flattour

Chicken Flattour

Chicken Flattour

Chicken Flattour

Chicken Flattour

"I find, these days, that most of my conversations start out with: Did I tell you this already? or What was I going to say?"

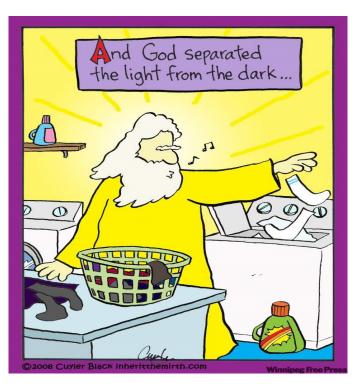


I'm fairly certain that the person who put the first r in February also decided how to spell Wednesday.

Grammarly Cards ©

The adult version of "head, shoulders, knees and toes" is "wallet, glasses, keys and phone."

I accidentally went food shopping on an empty stomach. Now I'm the proud owner of Aisle 7.







very now and then I think "What am I going to put into the next Newsletter?" so I start trolling the into next Newsletter?" so I start trolling the internet for stories of interest. Then out of the blue pops an article from old mate Dave Mercer of the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association (SAMRA) which has been passed on by former 3/9th soldier Bon Jordan. It's the "forgotten" story of a terrible military tragedy that occurred in Australia just before the end of the war in Kapooka, when 26 young soldiers died in a training accident. Never heard of it? It's on Page 8,9,10 and 11. Thanks Dave and Bon.

o say our Association is "bleeding" cash is way from the truth, and the facts are we are always looking at ways to make some money to enable us to carry on the work we do supporting the Battalion. Providing Catering Support, Awards, Prizes, Maintenance of Honour Boards and Band Equipment and instruments all costs money, so we sell merchandise and charge membership fees. Every now and again a benefactor feels generous and pops some money into our account, and last month, that's exactly what Life Member Alex Klopf did. (You can see his letter on Page 14. Klopfy, thanks for your generosity mate. If any of our other members feel generous, feel free to follow Alex's kind gesture.

iving in a rural region is great for retirees like myself, although there isn't much to occupy oneself with, unless you're into gardening or working at Bunnings! Some areas DO have Men's Sheds, and I'm fortunate to be a member of the local Murraylands Community Men's Shed. Led by a small but dedicated bunch of veterans and retirees, they have found a niche in life which otherwise would be lonely and sad. The men (and some women) occupy a group of small prefab buildings on a parcel of land gifted by the Rural City of Murray Bridge Council. These guys have built their own premises from scratch, thanks to Local, State and Federal government grants, and a whole lot of fund raising, and they're now classed as one of the biggest and best Men's Sheds in Australia. Apart from the money they regularly donate to local charities, they also make quite a bit of merchandise for our Association, including the new "laser-engraved" shields on Page 7. To all the Men's Shed members, from us to you....Thank you!

hen former members slip under the radar we sometimes lose touch with them. This is what happened with Elmer Lloyd who passed away in May. Rod Beames writes..."Pte Elmore Lloyd was born in 1935 and passed away in May, 2022. He was a member of the Association for a couple of years and let it lapse when he moved to Toowoomba in Qld where he lived in a retirement village until his death. He is survived by his wife Rae and 3 daughters, He did his 90 day Nasho at Woodside in the 1950s and joined 43 Battalion RSAR in 1969. I can see from the Bushman's Rifles newsletter that he did a camp in 1972 under Lt G Castle in Mortars and went to Canungra with 2 Plt (probably with Lt P Stewein. He de-enlisted when 43 Battalion reduced in size to a Company in 1975. Vale Elmer.

David Laing - Editor





Contact Us

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davidlaing49@bigpond.com

Visit us on the web at www.rsara.asn.au

PAYMENTS FOR SUBS & MERCHANDISE

Fees and Merchandise can be paid by EFT through the following 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** 5 Ashwin Parade **Torrensville SA 5031**

christianbennett95@gmail.com

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

RSARA Regimental Tie

\$25.00

RSARA Lapel Badge

\$15.00

RSARA Nameplate

\$25.00

Above items all attract a \$6 postage fee





Laser engraved timber shield with RSAR Logo and engraved Brass Plaque with your Regimental details





*Both items attract a \$10 postage charge unless picked up.

On 21 May 1945, in a single blinding flash of gelignite, 26 young lives were snuffed out in an underground bunker. When they buried the victims three days later, half of the population of Wagga Wagga – 7,000 men, women and children lined the streets to bow their heads at the passing of the coffins. It remains to this day the Nation's largest military funeral. But then something strange happened. Australia forgot.'



In an un-assuming paddock on the outskirts of Wagga Wagga, five Bailey panels rest in place, encircled by 26 saplings for company. Unless you had taken a wrong turn enroute to Kapooka, The Home of the Soldier, you would most likely be unaware of this site. Yet the fact remains that on this site a humble memorial exists in memoriam of the Australian Army's worst peacetime accident that claimed the lives of 26 soldiers, including two who died of wounds in hospital.

All of those lost had a common hat badge and at some stage would have responded to 'Sapper'. Like many of the Sappers currently serving at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, I felt a wave of guilt to my ignorance of this event as the memorial service came and went this year.

The incident, or the 'Kapooka Tragedy' as it is referred, was in essence a training incident occurring during a demolitions practice. It occurred during a time when the country was at war, 21 May 1945. The gravity of the loss likely compounded by the fact that World War II was drawing to a close, the Germans had surrendered and momentum was with the Allies in the Pacific.

'It was the Australian Army's worst accident, a tragedy so grim and gruesome it tore the heart out of a country town'

Wagga township has for over 70 years had a close relationship with the Australian Army, with the majority of soldier ab-initio training being conducted at Kapooka, the Home of the Soldier since 1951.

In 1942 Sappers conducted their field engineer training at what was then termed the Royal Australian Engineer Training Centre (RAETC). Wagga was chosen as the site to centralise six of the seven engineer training depots due to its proximity to both Sydney and Melbourne.

By July 1942, headquarters and accommodation had been established to provide for four engineer training battalions and also to accommodate for reinforcement training to Australian and United States Engineer units. The method of training conducted at the RAETC at the time was viewed as radical, today it is the norm. The training continuum had evolved to a stage were it was believed trainees would retain more knowledge if training on a given subject area was concentrated over a number of weeks. As such, training focused on demolitions, minefields, field defences and machines, camouflage, roads, airfields, saw-milling, cement construction and bridging. In order to progress in training, each Sapper had to be deemed satisfactory in each area. The parallels for the IET of today are obvious. This concentration of training concept also extended to instructors with subject matter experts being utilised based on module. A number of these instructors now have a plaque beneath one of the 26 trees on site.



The day of the tragedy was like any other, week 4 of training, 0630h reveille, 0730h breakfast in the mess, 0825h morning parade, 0840h training begins. At 1415h Lance Sergeant Kendal and three trainees entered the dugout (bunker as known today) to prepare fuses for the night practices. This included affixing matches to lengths of fuse cord, attaching electric leads and binding with detonator cord. At 1430h Sergeant Pomeroy, Corporal Cousins and twenty-two trainees entered the dugout for an explanation on the night practice and how to develop hand charges. In addition to the complement of trainees and staff, detonator cord, fuse wire and ignition sources; the dugout also contained over 50kg of high explosive including gelignite and monobel. At approximately 1445h, as members were counting detonators with safety fuses it is believed the explosion occurred. The dug out collapsed and smoke and debris filled the air. As Sappers, it is clear that this description is benign, and the scene confronting first responders would have been horrific. In the chaos that followed, both the military and community responded as best they could to the incident site, triaging survivors and identifying the deceased. By 2000h all bodies had been identified and a nominal roll of the deceased produced. Telegrams were then dispatched to the members next of kin.



The funeral service conducted on 24 May 1945 saw four flat bed trucks carry the 26 flagged draped coffins to the Wagga Wagga war cemetery. As much as half the town turned out and lined the main streets in respect, with 200 returned servicemen forming a guard of honour. The

service had a profound and lasting impact on the region and emotion overcame a number of people during the service as the coffins were simultaneously lowered to the sound of a squad of buglers playing the Last Post.

As the Second World War ended, the Royal Australian Engineer Training Centre closed and all functions were absorbed into the School of Military Engineering that had been established at Casula in Sydney in 1939.

Annually, and only since 1995, the Army Recruit Training Centre conducts the Kapooka Tragedy Memorial on 21 May each year. Although a small and intimate service, it provides a forum for those that still reside within the local community an opportunity to silently reflect on the tragedy and costs of service. At the time of the incident, a prevailing social strategy existed of not talking about the difficult issues, rather focusing on moving on after the war. Consequently the memories of these fallen had long only been held by families and friends, many who are clearly carrying the burden of age.

As I reflected on a simple handshake with a member who was, as fate would have it, attending an appointment at the time of the blast, I found myself compelled to strike this article driven by the sense that it needed increased awareness as an integral aspect of Corps history. I was shocked that as a member of the Corps for a decade and as a past Adjutant of the School of Military Engineering, I was unaware of the magnitude of such an event. As age will continue to claim those that remember that day, I believe it is fitting the Sappers that continue to serve make effort to remember those that have given their lives, not simply in conflict, but also through training for it.

As an Army we continue to learn how to manage those that suffer following a traumatic event and perhaps the lessons associated with the past at times have not been fully learnt, as I am sure mates and commanders of those Sappers lost in recent operations can relate to the comments below:

'Fellow instructors and Sappers were devastated by the explosion, particularly those who had to pack up the belongings of their mates. Paddy Cranswick was particularly distressed he was left alone in the six-man tent he had shared with Sappers killed in the explosion for several days. Paddy still has nightmares which, he says, are like repeatedly watching the accident unfold 'as if watching it on TV'.

Perhaps we as a Corps owe elements of our Demolition Range Safety practices to these members and that the tragic loss has in some way contributed to the safety of all Sappers hence forth, and for that, Lest We Forget.

By Lt Col Kieran Jackel

Lieutenant Colonel Jackel is a Royal Australian Engineer who has served with the 2nd and 8th Combat Engineer Regiments, the Special Operations Engineer Regiment, the School of Military Engineering, the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, and the Combined Arms Training Centre. He is currently a member of the Army Joint Staff. He has an interest in the concepts around countering violent extremism and holds Masters Degrees in Terrorism and Security Studies, Military and Defence Studies, and Management.



Re: Mick Standing

OFFICIAL

David thanks for sending this out to the members. Mick was a friend and close colleague on many high profile criminal cases within the state. His skills were such that we always got a positive result!

Always larger than life and never short of expressing his opinion. He lived life to the full and he will be sorely missed.

regards

Graham Goodwin csc

Brigadier Commander 9BDE & JTG629.4 OP C19A Keswick Barracks | ANZAC Highway | Keswick SA 5035



Hello David,

So sorry to hear of Micks passing, I met him and his wife some time ago up here in Darwin. They were up for the N.T. Police Association Annual Conference, of which I was one of the NTPA officials. Very pleasant folk, I was unaware that Mick was a 43 & 27 RSAR member, VALE Mick.

Hope you and the family are keeping well, all okay here.

Regards,

Bill Matchett

From Mick's daughter Monique re: the Wake

Hi David

We discussed with some people in SAPOL during the week the possibility of having some sort a memorial service for him. After going back and fourth it was soon clear. There would be no venue, COVID safe enough apart from a big oval or something similar, to accommodate everyone that wanted to come. And his clear wishes in his will did not want it.

We hope people are not too disappointed and we hope they still talk fondly of him when they have the opportunity to get together safely. Raise a Coopers and remember the good times.

Thanks again,

Monique

By Chaplain Paul Ghanem

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is held annually between 27 May and 3 June. It commemorates two significant milestones in Australia's Reconciliation journey, the 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The 1967 Referendum gave our First Nations people Constitutional Recognition and the Mabo Decision was a legal recognition that this land was inhabited prior to European settlement.

NRW acknowledges the importance of learning about our united shared Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non Indigenous histories, cultures, and achievements and to explore how we can all contribute to achieving Reconciliation in Australia.

This year's theme of 'Be brave. Make change.' is a challenge for us to be brave and tackle the continuing path of Reconciliation so we can make change to benefit all Australians. 10/27 marked the occasion by organising a visit from 3 Murray Bridge Elders on 31 May who addressed the Battalion.

SGT Jamie Couch, who is the 10/27 Indigenous Liaison Officer, along the with the CO and RSM met with the elders and discussed possibilities of ongoing engagement. This was also an opportunity to honour Defence's long and proud history of Indigenous service and for BN members to enhance their cultural awareness and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and achievements. Progress through engagement.



And the Lord said unto John, "Come forth and you will receive eternal life."

But John tripped and came fifth, and he got hell.



To The Honourable Chairman of the Central Committee Of the Murray River Protection Society Murray-Bridge to Monteith, including all Fish & Yabbies!!

Hi David!!

Thought I'll drop You a Line, my verbose way of saying, G'DAY!

On Anzac Day my Heart swelled with Pride watching the Old and Bold Striding it out with the previous and current CO's marching with them!!

Sitting on my Favorite chair, Mug of Tea with Rum, along side!

At my age having COPD.and a Bilateral Knee replacement 2001, its as good as it gets. I also attended the Concert of our teriffic Band at St. Peters College recently. My Grandson Christian, top Soldier and Musician (and our Treasurer) on Stage!

It got to "THINKING" Yes I know it's a strange past-time for me!

My Longevity has caused me to outlive my Life Membership of the Association! The Old & Bold are doing a tremendous Job!!! And in Order to continue we need Money!!

So I paid \$100.00 into our Bank-Account, to help remedy the situation!

I also paid a \$100.00 into our Band Account to help our Pride and Joy, our Band.

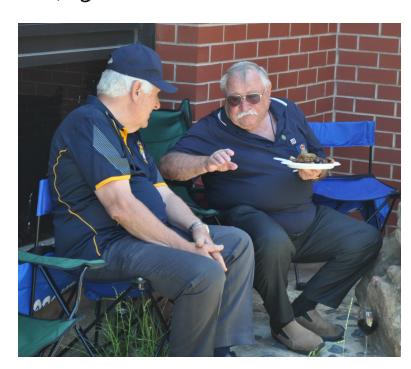
Should any of my old Mates and Compatriots think like wise FEEL FREE to JOIN ME!!!!

David feel free to correct any of my Spelling mistakes!! This English Language, "IT'S A MONGRAL

And I am too Dopy to use Spellcheck.

Chirio

KLOPFY (Alex Klopf)





Life Members			Members A-S			Honorary Members	
Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name	Serving	Last Name	First Name
Acton	Chris		Abel	Colin		Read WO1	Ben
Beckett	David	SM	Abraham	Michael	SM	Benveniste LTCOL	Sam
Benveniste	Sam	SM	Attenborough	Geoff		Wilson MAJGEN	Neil
Blackmore	Bill		Bampton	Michael	SM		
Boscence	Bob		Bennett	Christian	SM	Honorary Member for Life	
Brookes	Philip		Blondell	Mark	SM	Beames	Rodney
Burnard	Trent	SM	Brown	Bruce			
Burns	Wayne		Burnard	Saxon	SM	Associate Life Members	- : () (
Carnachan	lan		Burton	Ray		Last Name	First Name
Carpenter	lan		Buttars	Erik	CM Z	Elliott Field	Julie
Cotton Dart	Bob John		Carlisle Cooke	Lesley-Ann Nat	SM ∑	Johnson	Shirley Sally
Davey	Trevor		Cram	Kevin	7	Laing	June
Elliott	Graham		Demosani	Tony		Phillips	Heather
Gaborit	Lyndon		Dew	Trevor		Sanderson	Lorraine
Harris	Lachlan		Domanski	Glenn		Associate Members	Lorranio
Hawking	Don		Dunn	Bob		Last Name	First Name
Haynes	Malcolm	SM	Dunn	Peter		Abel	Karen
Higgins	Jonathon	SM	Eva	Keith		Brown	Jenni
Hogan	Mark		Ewens	Mimi	SM	Carnachan	Dom ∑
Hook	Alan		Faquiri	Reshad	SM	Dunn	Trish
Норе	David		Faunt	Joshua	SM	Hudson	Margaret
Horseman	lan		Foy	Erin	SM	Johnson	Margaret
Hudson	Mike		Gatley	Graham	A	Parsonage	Yvonne
Jackson	Aaron	SM	Ghanem	Paul	SM	Pollard	Kay
James	Grant	SM	Gibson	Lindsay		Toy	Jill
Jeffrey	Scott		Gill	Graham		Tregenza	Lyn
Johnson	Paul		Goodwin	Graham	SM	Winger	Kathleen
Johnson	Barry		Gordon	Frank		Honorary Member for Life	1
Klopf	Alex		Groffen	Renee		Honorary Members	3
Laing	David		Harrington	Malcolm		Life Members	48
Lakin	Bruce	CM	Harrison	John		Serving Life Members	12
Marlin	Robin	SM SM	Harrison	Keith		Members	77
Meredith Miller	Michael Nick	SIVI	Harrison Hawkins	Nigel Des		Serving Members Associate Life Members	41 5
Moore	Terry		Higgins	Kevin		Associate Members	11
Moore	Thomas	SM	Hill	Max		Total financial members	154
Paul	John	Olvi	Hudson	Rick			104
Pollard	Barry		Hume	Matthew	SM	Prepaid Members	
Richter	Sean	SM	Humphrys	Jesse	SM ∑		> 2021/22
		Olvi			SIVI Z		_
Salamon	Piotr		Jones	Brett	CM		▲ 2022/23
Sanderson Stewart	Max Robin		Koop Loveder	Joshua Peter	SM		
Stewart	Peter		Matchett	William		All Members and	their wives
Vella	Joe		McCulloch	Don			
Waters	lan		McIver	Bill		and partners (bu	
Watters	Matthew	SM	Mitchell	Barry		are invited to a	ttend the
Westover	Rhys	O.III	Moroney	Frank		2022 AGM to be	e held on
Wilson	Graham		Mulroney	Dennis			
Yorke-Simpkin	Reg		Normadale	Zachary	SM	Sunday 7th Augu	
Members	S-Z		Oakley	Andrew		hrs at the Avo	ca Hotel.
Last Name	First Name	Serving	O'Daly	Ryan	SM		
Sanders	Ashley	SM ∑	Orrock	Alan		PLEASE NOTE	THE NEW
Schuh	Simon	SM	Parslow	Howard	Σ		
Scott	Rhys	SM	Parsonage	James		STARTING TIME	
Skapin	Corey	SM	Pascoe	Michael		HRS. DON'T E	E LATE
Smith	Ryan	SM	Payne	Bob			
Sniedze	Julie	SM	Pexton	Timothy	SM	(You're soldie	· •
Tasker	David		Phillips	Colin Rex		can do th	is!)
Thomas	David		Portakiewicz	Anthony	SM ∑		
Thomson	Jim		Portakiewicz	David	SM	Order and p	ay for your
Tregenza	Norm		Powell	Gary		lunch at the	
Trezise	George		Preece	Brian			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Tsoulakis	Christos	SM	Rado	Steven		the A	GM
Tucker	Belinda	SM	Ramm	Hank	V	7)	
Vozelj	Blaz	SM	Ranger	Denis		See you	therel
Weepers	Nicole	SM	Robertson	James		occ you	tiloro:
Wheeler	Chris		Rossetti	Lee			



Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc



Membership Category	Date of Application / /			
Full Membership	Current Serving Military Member			
\$20 (Former member of the RSAR)	Must have served with the RSAR or a sub			
Non Voting Associate Member	Life Membership (Once only payment)			
\$10 (Spouses, non former members of RSAR)	FULL Member \$200 ASSOCIATE Member \$100			
My Details - Please print clearly				
Full Name:	Postal Address:			
Date of Birth:	Email:			
Mobile No:	How did you hear about the Association?			
Regt No. or PMKeys No.				
Period of Service / / to / /	Current Serving Member of the RSAR or Sub Unit			
Spouse/Partners name.	Have you been a member since then? YES NO			
Method of Payment				
Cheque or Money Order - Payable to The Treasurer Christian Bennett RSAR Association Inc 5 Ashwin Parade Torrensville SA 5031	Electronic Funds Transfer Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc BSB 633 000 Account 1616 585 88 Include your <u>name</u> as an identifier			
CASH (In person to the Committee)	I have paid my Fees by <u>Cheque</u> to the Association Account listed below and posted to The Secretary RSAR Association PO Box 5218 Murray Bridge South SA 5253			
	Account Name: RSAR Association Inc			
	Bank: Bendigo Bank			
	BSB: 633 000			
	Acct # 1616 585 88			

I understand that receipt of this application constitutes my acceptance of the Associations Rules as set down in the Constitution found at the website address below. I also authorise the processing of my preferred method of payment and acknowledge that I may be required to provide proof of past or current military service as required.



Website: **www.rsara.asn.au**