

The Communicator

*The Official Newsletter of the
Royal Australian Signals Association (Queensland)*

February 2010

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EDITORIAL:

As you can see there is a new secretary/treasurer/editor of our association. It's me. So here is my first go at a newsletter for the association. I hope to provide a mix of content and keep you up to date with the happenings going on and reports of how the different events turned out.

I have delayed this newsletter so that we have the correct information to disseminate about the ANZAC Day events, in particular the march in Brisbane. (Also items about dawn services, and after march activities.) We've also done this by snail mail so as to include the tickets for the raffle that our President has organised.

If you have any items that you would like me to include in the next newsletter please send them to me by any means available to you. I cannot guarantee that they will all get used but I will endeavor to do my best as space allows.

Finally Thank You to all of the outgoing committee who had worked so hard over the last few years for keeping the association alive and to Ron Auburn for his dedication to keeping things in order.

The 'RSL Salute'

Returned and Services League of Australia

In London on Armistice Day 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall, a funeral procession accompanying the remains of The Unknown Soldier, which had arrived from France the previous day, was to halt at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment.

The official party included the Empire's senior soldiers, sailors and politicians and as many Victoria Cross winners as could be assembled. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guards Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including the Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that "*No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are as nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice*".

The RSL maintains that tradition to honour the dead by placing the right hand over medals (not our heart, our medals) during a march-past at a ceremonial occasion, or at a wreath laying ceremony

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR MONEY/RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE
MARCH AS WE WILL DRAW THE PRIZES AT THE TANK HOTEL
SIGS ASSON RAFFLE TO BE
DRAWN 25TH APRIL 2010**

There is a raffle being run as per the committee notes and it will be drawn at the after march function at the Tank Hotel 371 Queens St City. Please help by returning your money and ticket stubs early. Thanks

RASIGS ASSN (SE QLD) Minutes

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Gaythorne
RSL
on Monday 18th Jan 2010

Meeting opened at 11am with Shady Lane, Bill Van Roosmalen, Ken North, Al King and Chris Mitchelson present.

Correspondence In:

Returned letters from the membership, including a \$20 donation from John Melandri after as a followup by Shady
Emails from SA branch re website
Emails from RSL re Anzac Day March
Various club newsletters

Correspondence Out:

Emails to RSL re Anzac Day

The Secretary moved the acceptance of the inwards correspondence and that the outwards be endorsed. Seconded by Ken North carried by all.

Reports:

Treasurer:

Chris detailed the financial position of the assn as follows as at 31 Dec 09

Online saver a/c	\$7030.49
Cheque a/c	\$222.30
Total	\$7252.79

This is after all the transactions were sorted out from the last 6 months and the Christmas function. He also reported that the signatures are all in place now for the committee. There are 5 cheques in an old book that need to be cancelled at the building society. He then moved his report be accepted, seconded

Bill, carried by all.

Badges:

Bill reported on sales of 9 badges and their nameplates and handed over the details and monies to the treasurer. (Bill gets the plates made and affixes the assn badges.) There are still 15 badges left with the secretary. They are available for \$8 each from the Secretary/Treasurer plus postage if applicable.

ANZAC Day:

- Chris has been in contact with RSL and the next meeting that he will attend is on 9th February. He has forms to fill in re transport, etc. See details in the newsletter.
 - Chris to check on who will lead the parade for us
 - The banner is being updated courtesy of Ian Willoughby as we meet.
 - The next newsletter will be published after the 9th Feb meeting so as to include all the relevant details
 - the only person we know of requiring a taxi is Chris Morrow
 - Chris will check with 139 Sig Sqn about hosting the assn after the parade. Suggest that people could park at Enoggera and use the free train to the city for the march and back. He will check with the unit and report in the newsletter.
 - Also suggested TATTS club and ringing Ian W. Al also will check with his contacts for venues.
- Ken moved that \$100 be spent on the wreath for the 1 Sig Regt dawn service. Seconded by Bill and carried. Chris to liaise with Ian Willoughby on this matter.

Raffle:

Shady bought up the suggestion of running a raffle to boost our funds. He is looking at a weekend away on the Sunshine Coast as first prize. The meeting decided to offer tickets at \$2 each in a book of 5 to each member. To be drawn on ANZAC Day.

Functions:

Shady suggested that as there are about 20 members in the Toowoomba area that maybe we should look at having the luncheon in the area. After further discussion Chris will email those in the area and ask if anyone in the area is willing to help organise this to happen on the 11th of July as long as it doesn't clash with anything else. It was also decided to have the Christmas function on the Gold Coast.

Membership:

There are quite a few members that have paid for life. (ie the \$30 payment before it was discontinued in the early 90's.) However over the last few years the assn has been asking one and all for donations to cover our operating expenses to which a few of these lifers willing give. After some discussion on the pros and cons of this it was decided that Chris will check on the wordings and meanings in the Justice Dept set of model rules and see about raising the forum in the

newsletter for debate and also the bestowing of honorary membership.

Website:

Chris has been in contact with Bruce Long in SA about the joining them on the "National Website" for around the \$80 per annum. This will provide an improved visibility of our assn as well as being a place for notices and the like to be posted. Chris moved a motion to follow this through, seconded by AI and carried by all

General Business:

Chris will check re the usage of the RAR memorial walk area for a BYO BBQ one day later in the year to be followed by visits to the 2/14 QMI and 9RQR musuems around Sept/Oct.

Next meeting to be organised for early April, same venue and probably Mon 12th

Meeting Closed at 12:25pm

Chris Mitchelson, Secretary

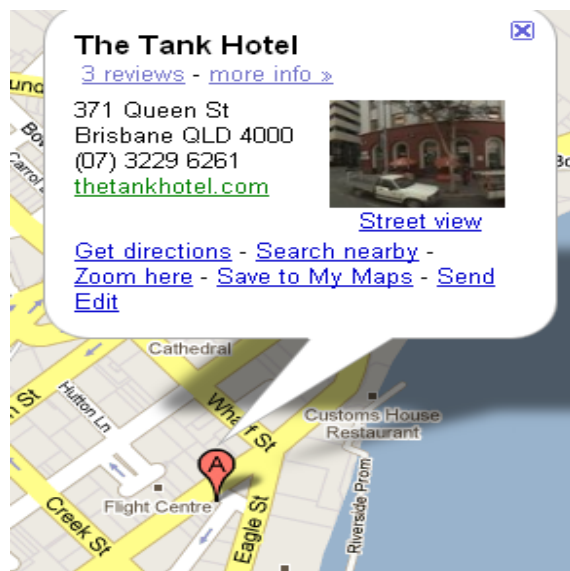
ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES (as @ 15th Feb 10)

Dawn Service @ 1 Sig Regt or 139 Sig Sqn

MARCH DETAILS

If any of you have the need to for transport for the march please contact the secretary as above to organise. Older members are requested to march at the head of the march in column of blob.

We have been allocated position number 76 in the parade. There will be girl guides with small



batons/paddles with the number painted on it. The exact position of where we will be is determined by how many people turn up and fill the ranks in the march before us. However it will more than likely be in Charlotte St as before. After the march we have space provided for us at the Tank Hotel, 371 Queen St, just a short walk from the end of the march in Creek St. Meals and a cleansing liquid refreshment will be on sale to those that need it. Don't forget to bring in the money and/or your unsold tickets butts

for the raffle. What a great prize for some lucky person to win at Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast. We will only be drawing the prizes from the returned ticket butts that have been presented to the Treasurer on or before the drawing.

104 SIGNAL SQUADRON NATIONAL REUNION

4 to 6 November 2011

WEEKEND ON THE GOLD COAST

At Twin Towns Services Club (Coolangatta/Tweed Heads)

The 104 Reunion is being hosted by Twin Towns Services Club and Resort on the Gold Coast, celebrating 40 years since the unit returned from war service in Vietnam. This reunion is for 104 Signal Squadron *past* and *present* members, their families plus Veterans who supported the Squadron, drank with a Squadron member or would have liked to have been a Squadron member. It would be great to have the guys who worked with us and supported us in Vietnam attend, especially from 110 Signal Squadron, 547 Signal Troop and other Vietnam Signals including the 103 Signal Squadron guys that dug our original Nui Dat holes. Also the *new* 104 and 1CSR Veterans that have and are still serving our country.

Cost is \$125 per person for the three functions which includes administration costs.

Reunion Shirts available via registration form only.

Other merchandise at Reunion by SVVA (Qld).

See Reunion Web Site at <http://2011.au104.org>

All Correspondence:

104 Sig Sqn Reunion

PO Box 115

Glass House Mountains Q 4518

Email: reunion2011@au104.org

Changi Cartoonist George Sprod

George Sprod was 20 when he signed up, still under the legal age of **21**. He had come to Sydney from Adelaide, but hadn't had much luck finding steady work.

The army meant a change of scene and a chance to do something for King and Country.

He was assigned to the Artillery and became Gunner Sprod. George didn't have a background in drawing when he became a POW in Changi. But he needed something to fill in the hours and managed to find some paper on which to doodle. He was trying to capture what he saw as 'the lighter side' of Changi. He began publishing a journal of his cartoons called "Smoke-Oh", which was distributed to men in sick bays. George admits that Changi changed his life. When he returned to Australia he got a job as a cartoonist on the Daily Telegraph and Sydney Morning Herald before a 20 year stint on Punch. He has written a number of books about his experience in Changi.

George Napier Sprod (1919—2003) died in Sydney.

Thanks to A Field Bty Assn newsletter Jan 10 for this



Can I scrape out the pots Cookie as its me Birthday today?



LAWYER'S ADVICE (NSW) - NO CHARGE

1. Next time you order cheques, have only your initials (instead of your first name) and surname put on them. If someone takes your cheque book, they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.
2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".
3. When you are writing cheques to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won't have access to it.
4. Place your work phone number on your cheques instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address.

Never have your Centrelink

Number printed on your cheques. You can add it if it is necessary, but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

5. Run the contents of your wallet through a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each licence, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place (not your wallet). I also carry a photocopy of my passport when travelling either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards.

Unfortunately I, an attorney, have first-hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly mobile phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit

line approved to buy a Dell computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information on-line, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you now whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

3. But here's what is perhaps most important of all: (I never even thought to do this.)

Call the three national credit reporting organisations immediately to place a fraud alert on your Tax File Number your Passport number and Driver's licence number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorise new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend someone handed it in. It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Now, here are some numbers which you might need to contact if your wallet etc has been stolen:

1. Visa Card Australia: 1800 621 199
2. Visa Card International: 1800 450 346
3. Lost Travellers' Cheques: 1800 127 477
4. MasterCard Australia: (02) 9466 3700
5. MasterCard International: 1800 120 113
6. Bankcard Australia: (02) 9281 6633
7. Medicare: 132 011
8. Centrelink Fraud: 137 230
9. Seniors Card: 1300 364 758
10. Passport: 131 232

If your own bank or card organisation isn't included in this list make the effort to find it out before any crime/fraud is committed and you fall victim to these unscrupulous criminals.

ANZ Bank: 1800 033 844

BankWest: 131 718

Citibank: 132 484

Coles/Myer Source 2340: 1300 306 397

Commonwealth Bank: 132 221

CUSCAL- MyCard: 1300 135 538

GE Capital: 1300 369 904

Members Equity: 1300 654 998

National Bank: 132 265
 St George Bank: 1800 028 208
 SydneyVirgin 2000: 1800 080 000
 Westpac Bank: 1800 230 144
 Woolworths Ezy Banking: 137 288

ADF - Service Records & Medical Records

Copies of your Service and Medical records are available. Some fees may be involved; check with the contacts below.

For copies of your or your ancestor's service records:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/footer/contacts.htm#04>

Service Records

Proof of identity or Next-of-Kin relationship is required and all requests require a signature. Due to privacy restrictions, specific regulations apply to the distribution of confidential personnel records.

Contact	Contact Details	Postal
Navy - Personnel Records RAN	Phone: +61 2 6266 5962 Fax: +61 2 6266 5851	Queanbeyan Annex 2, Department of Defence Canberra ACT 2600
Army - Central Army Records Office	Phone: +61 3 9282 5393 or +61 3 9282 6235 Fax: +61 3 9282 5434 E-mail: caro.hq@defence.gov.au	GPO Box 393 Melbourne VIC 3001
Air Force - Personnel Records RAAF	Phone: +61 2 6266 5965 Fax: +61 2 6266 5851	Queanbeyan Annex 2, Department of Defence Canberra ACT 2600
Historical service records – WWI and WW2 National Archives of Australia	Phone: 1300 886 881 E-mail: ww1prs@naa.gov.au http://www.naa.gov.au	

For copies of your or your ancestor's medical records:

http://www.defence.gov.au/Army/CARO/HealthMedical_Records.asp

Health/Medical records

World War II: Contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs – 1800 555 254.

For details Post 1947:

Australian Defence Force Health Records - Army (ADFHR-A)

GPO Box 1932

MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Telephone Number: (03) 9282 4911

Facsimile Number: (03) 9282 5978

THE DUKE

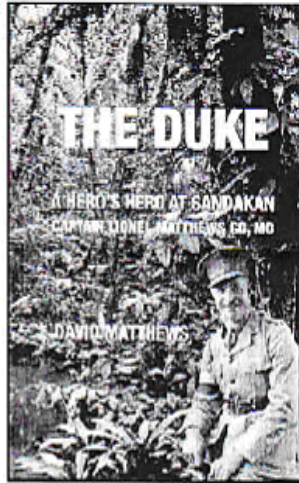
Captain Lionel Mathews GC, MC by his son David Mathews

*The Royal Australian Signals Museum has some copies of
The Duke, the book about Captain Lionel Mathews GC, MC
written by his son David Mathews.*

*Copies of the book can be bought from museum for \$35
plus postage*

The book's contents are:

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*Cover of The Duke the life of Captain Lionel
Mathews GC, MC told by his son David
Mathews*

RAFFLE

The President did a great job in organising the prizes, printing the tickets and generally running around to get this raffle happening. It would be good if you could return the money and the ticket stubs, (if not the tickets) to me before the drawing at the After March function at Tank Hotel on the 25th April. Please support the association and sell all your tickets and return the money promptly to Chris Mitchelson (Treasurer) RA Sigs Association 5 Morgan Rd Albany Creek Qld 4035 ASAP.

Thanks