

# The Messenger

Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Signals Association (SA) Inc.

RASIGS Association, PO Box 881, Kent Town. South Australia. 5071. December 2019

Web site address [www.rasigs.com](http://www.rasigs.com)

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## RASigs Association Contact List

Position	Name	Contact Details	Email address
Patron	David Mathews	N/A	N/A
President	Bruce Long	N/A	<a href="mailto:president.sa@rasigs.com">president.sa@rasigs.com</a>
Vice President	David Bolton	0413 278 340	<a href="mailto:bolton@kern.com.au">bolton@kern.com.au</a>
Secretary	Michael Napper	0401 523 814	<a href="mailto:msnappa27@tpg.com.au">msnappa27@tpg.com.au</a>
Treasurer	Dale Sharpe	N/A	N/A
Lionel Mathews Award	Brian Melville	N/A	<a href="mailto:twobeeze@bigpond.com">twobeeze@bigpond.com</a>
Membership	Dean Hudson	0418637268	<a href="mailto:dean_hudson@bigpond.com">dean_hudson@bigpond.com</a>
Editor Messenger	Gerry Giebel	0417 849 960	<a href="mailto:gmebiebell@optusnet.com.au">gmebiebell@optusnet.com.au</a>
Historian	Andrew Graves	0423 020 234	N/A
144 <sup>th</sup> Sig Sqn. Rep	WO2 Louise Sumner	N/A	
Past President/Web	Sally Napper	0418 835 049	<a href="mailto:msnappa27@tpg.com.au">msnappa27@tpg.com.au</a>
Web/IT	Paul Arthur	N/A	<a href="mailto:prarthur3@bigpond.com">prarthur3@bigpond.com</a>
Web/IT	Colin Tresidder	N/A	N/A
Web site	<a href="http://www.rasigs.com">www.rasigs.com</a>	N/A	N/A

## PRESIDENTS REPORT December 2019

**Hello Members,**

Well another year is coming to an end and we now get ready for 2020. This year has seen our normal get together on Anzac Day with lunch at the Strathmore, once again a great day for all to spend time with friends and remember those that gave their lives. We have had our Corps Dining in Night in November, which was a great success. We held the dinner at 144 Sig Sqn, thanks to all the unit for the effort they put in setting up the event. A special note of thanks to WO2 Louise Sumner for her support of the event and association.



I would like to make a special note to thank Sally Napper who has continued her support of the association in many ways throughout the year, such a great asset to our association.

As we head into 2020, we are looking at holding our association AGM on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March at 144 Sig Sqn. The reason for this later AGM is we have had so many extremely hot days in early February, so hopefully this will encourage many more of you to come if the weather is better. Also, regarding the AGM, we are in need of a number of positions for the committee. We need new people to get involved and I ask that some of you consider helping out, even if it is just for one year, that will

help the association move forward. I too am looking at moving on, as I now live an hour and a half away from the city and it is becoming an issue in travelling a 3 hour turn around to meetings and other activities. I have been the President for over a combined time of 10 years, I think that is enough. Also, as most of you know, me and two others are organising the National RASigs Reunion in Townsville, 17-23 June 2020. The formal dinner for this event has already some 360 attendees and over 400 people in total, if not more coming to the Reunion. More information on the Reunion is on the Facebook page “RASigs National Reunion” and on [www.rasigs.com](http://www.rasigs.com) please try to come along. Also, we are selling the Reunion polo shirt at the moment which looks great, have a look at it on the website, even if you can't come, you might like to have memento.

Well that will do for this year, on behalf of myself and the committee I would like to wish you and your families all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope to see you all next year. Stay safe and drive carefully over the holiday period.

**“Certa Cito”**

**Regards**

**Bruce Long**

**President**

**RASigs Association (SA)**

### **The Lionel Matthews Trophy S.A.**

The recipient of the Lionel Matthews Trophy for 2019 is WO2 Gina Bond of 16 Royal Australian Artillery Regiment Woodside.

(Col Retd) Keith Bleechmore, David Matthews (Son of Lionel) and Brian Melville all attended the St. Barbara's Day Parade at Woodside on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December for the presentation. WO2 Bond was completely surprised when called out on the parade and she is to be commended for her service to the 16 RAA Regt which brings great credit to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. As well as the trophy she was also presented with a copy of David Matthew's book “The Duke” which is his father's story. Pics below from the presentation.



David Matthews presents WO2 Bond with (Col Retd) Keith Bleechmore

CO - LTCOL Mark Mankowski, WO2 Gina Bond, (Col Retd) Keith Bleechmore, David Matthews, Brian Melville



WO2 Bond, David Matthews & Capt Xin, Li

Brian Melville – Lionel Matthews Rep.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please be advised that the CA has signed, as approved, the schedule for the appointing of the HOC Designates for 2020.

These appointments will be WEF 20 Jan 20.

Incoming HOC are:

RAAC	BRIG Hayward, CSC
RASIGS	BRIG Novak (on promotion)
RAINF	BRIG Garraway (on promotion)
AUSTINT	BRIG Karotam
RAAMC	BRIG Schramm, CSC
RAEME	BRIG Ashurst
RAAPC	COL Fraser (on promotion)
AAPSYCH	LTCOL Bennett

Letters of appointment have been dispatched to the appointees.

COL Greg Novak is currently serving as Chief of Staff to the CDF and has been selected as Commander Defence Strategic Communications (PN: 124391, Chief Information Officer Group – HMAS Harman, ACT) on promotion to Brigadier, commencing from January 2020.

*Regards*

*Adam*

**A.T. HALL**

Lieutenant Colonel  
SO RASigs HOC



**VALE James Patrick Browne.**



Jim a Kangaroo Island icon and member of the RA Sigs Assn SA passed away at Kingscote KI on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2019. Jim joined the army at 17 years of age and trained at Sandy Creek and Gawler, on motor bikes as a dispatch rider with the D Sec, 12 Div. Signals. He was stationed in Darwin just after the first bombing in 1942. Jim was supportive of the after Anzac Day March BBQ's at 144 Sig Sqn going back some years. He used to bring his whole family (6 children) across for the march and the BBQ. Jim will be sadly missed by his family and mates at the RSL and the KI Racing Club.

RIP Jim.

**VALE Frederick Henry Roberts**



Passed away 27.10.19 – Aged 86

Fred served in Korea in 1952-53 as a Pte in the 1<sup>st</sup> Btn RAR. After returning to Australia he took his discharge but within 18 months he re-enlisted and was allocated RA Corps of Signals. He trained as an OWL (Operator Wireless and Line) and went onto to serve 21 years in various postings taking discharge as Warrant Officer. Although he was not a member of our Association I felt the need to acknowledge his service and extend condolence's to his family. I attended his Funeral Service at The Salvation Army Citadel Marion.. Fred's wife and family were surprised and appreciative of someone showing up on the day wearing a Sigs Badge and Tie.

RIP Fred.

Brian Melville.

**NATIONAL REUNION 17 - 23 JUNE 2020 IN TOWNSVILLE QUEENSLAND**

**SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

For all participants in this next RASigs national reunion 17 - 23 June 2020 in Townsville Queensland we have setup the RASigs website [www.rasigs.com](http://www.rasigs.com) (click on the red reunion sign top right of the home page) the reunion page has links to the proposed itinerary at the reunion, as well as an attendance list, accommodation and things to do with contact numbers.

Please check the attendance list for your name, if your name is not on it or you need to add or wish to be deleted, please email [info@rasigs.com](mailto:info@rasigs.com) and advise me.

We really need your help now to make this event a success. We have borrowed money to secure the hotel (the Ville, Townsville casino) for our formal dinner night, so **we need a deposit from everyone attending by 30 June 2019 of \$50.00.** We would then expect you to **make the final payment of \$75.00 by 1st of March 2020.**

This should help everyone to save up for the dinner and come and join us in a great night with friends you may not have seen for a long time. The total cost for the formal dinner is \$125.00 per head, this includes a great meal and a 5 (five) hour drink package.

You can pay the full amount if you are able, payment should be made to the account detailed at the bottom of the reunion page on the website.

Please use your surname and initial's as the reference. As we have so many planning to attend, first in gets a spot. We will have reunion polo shirts, caps and stubbie coolers available to buy prior to the event; the details will be posted in the next couple of months. Prices are shown of what we believe the cost will be, but that needs to be confirmed.

We ask you to please support this great event; it may be the last one for many of us and our friends.

Further information will be posted to the website and on Facebook as it comes to hand. Please remember we on the reunion committee are putting a lot of our time into organising this and need your support to make it a success. Looking forward to seeing you all up in Townsville.

Regards Bruce & the Reunion Committee

[Reunion itinerary as of 16 Jan 2019 click here](#)

[Current national reunion 2020 attendance list as of 18 Feb 2019 click here](#)

[Accommodation & things to do contact numbers click here](#)

[About Townsville & things to do](#)

#### **TO MAKE PAYMENTS FOR THE FORMAL DINNER DETAILS ARE:**

**Account Name: R.A. SIGS National Reunion 2020**

**BSB Number: 833-205**

**Account Number: 20436227**

**Your Reference is your Surname & Initials.**

#### **WARNING ORDER, AGM 2020**

Members please be advised, that the Associations **\*\*\*\*AGM will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020\*\*\*\***, more information in our next messenger.

#### **Membership**

**Please note: Your membership fall due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020**, please ensure you are financial before AGM.

## **Bit of Humour**

An airplane was about to crash. There were 4 passengers, but only 3 parachutes. The first passenger said, "I am Steph Curry, the best NBA basketball player. The Warriors and my millions of fans need me, and I can't afford to die". So he took the first pack and left the plane.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> passenger, Donald Trump, said, "I am Donald Trump the newly elected U.S. President, I am the smartest President in American history, so my people don't want me to die." He took the 2<sup>nd</sup> pack and jumped out of the plane.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> passenger, the Pope, said to the fourth passenger, a 10 year old schoolboy, "my son, I am old and don't have many years left, you have years ahead so I will sacrifice my life and let you have the last parachute."

The little boy said, "that's okay, your Holiness, there's a parachute left for you, America's smartest President took my school bag."

## **Looking For a new Corp Tie**

Those who are also looking for a new tie - this from the Signals Museum Manager, Maj Fiona Davis.

*There are 2 Jimmy ties:*

*One with multiple Jimmy's in gold and silver - \$20*

*Blue tie with subdued Jimmy's (self) all over with one Jimmy's in gold and silver - \$23*

*This doesn't include postage.*

*We don't have any striped ties as the last version had the stripe going the wrong way.*

*Fiona Davis*

*MAJ*

*Museum Manager*

The Museum now sells Corps related items (Ties, Tie Pins, Lapel badges, etc).

As they do not have a catalogue, it is a matter of sending an email request -

[signalsmuseum@yahoo.com.au](mailto:signalsmuseum@yahoo.com.au)

If they have the item that you are looking for they will provide prices (item and postage) and bank details.

The Corps shop no longer stocks this type of merchandise.

Take Care

Adam

## **NZDF tasked to recover volcano victims**

New Zealand Defence Force personnel today recovered the bodies of six people killed in Monday's eruption on Whakaari/White Island and will support efforts to recover the bodies of two others.

The recovery team included six NZDF explosive-ordnance disposal specialists and a ground commander, with medical staff on small boats nearby.

Working in pairs, the ground team moved the deceased to a central location, where a Royal New Zealand Air Force NH90 helicopter transported the bodies to HMNZS Wellington, which was stationed a short distance from the island.

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Rear Admiral Jim Gilmour said the recovery operation had been well planned but was not without risk and he acknowledged all those who had put themselves in danger to achieve this outcome for the families of the six deceased and the community.



**CAPTION:** *Two New Zealand Defence Force explosives-ordnance disposal experts in hazmat suits set out to recover bodies from the White Island volcano debris field. NZDF photo*

“The conditions and terrain on Whakaari/White Island were difficult and planning for today’s recovery operation had included minimising risks to personnel on the ground, including exit strategies in the event of another eruption,” Rear Admiral Gilmour said “We had go/no-go criteria before carrying out the recovery operation.

“We cannot downplay the risk involved in this operation and I acknowledge the efforts of all those who placed themselves potentially in danger to achieve a result for the families and community.”

Rear Admiral Gilmour said the thoughts of all those involved in the recovery operation today were with the victims and their loved ones.

“Our personnel feel a keen sense of duty and join to serve New Zealand.

“It is this sense of duty that sees them willing to undertake operations like this, understanding the risks involved.

“We are acutely aware that while there has been some resolution for the families of the six identified deceased on the island, the families of two others are still waiting to have their loved ones returned to them, and we will continue to support New Zealand Police efforts to recover the two deceased,” Rear Admiral Gilmour said.

Rear Admiral Gilmour said he acknowledge the leadership of the New Zealand Police and other agencies involved in the recovery operations to date, as well as the heroic efforts of medical staff across New Zealand treating survivors.

“A broad range of capabilities and personnel had been involved in the rescue and recovery operation since the eruption on Monday,” he said.

“This has ranged from personnel who specialise in imagery analysis, to those operating military assets as well as those who went on to the island today.”

Over the past week, support has included:

- Air surveillance by P3K2 Orion plus NH90 helicopter support, including for patient transfers on Monday night, and air transport including by A109 helicopter.
- HMNZS Wellington and the Royal New Zealand Navy’s SH2G Seasprite helicopters, which had carried out surveillance and support.
- Personnel from the New Zealand Army’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal squadron with their specialist hazardous-materials equipment and training.
- Mortuary affairs and disaster victim identification teams assisting civil authorities in Whakatane and Auckland.
- Personnel from the Deployable Joint Interagency Task Force who have performed command-and-control functions in support of recovery efforts.

### **Next generation show cyber skills (Courtesy AMY News Paper)**

**Cpl Julia Whitwell**

WITH an eye on technology and the future, 40 teenagers from around the country gathered for the inaugural Australian Army Cadets Cyber Camp in Canberra.

The workshop, from September 29 to October 5, was trialled as a way to deliver STEM topics to Army cadets, including skills and information they could apply to their own cyber security.

The cyber camp incorporated five modules: an introduction to cyber security, Windows administrator commands, Ubuntu programming, Linux programming and a cyber competition to consolidate the cadets’ learning. Cdt Priyal Panchal, of 306 ACU Monashin Victoria, said an interest in a cyber-related career with Army drew her to the course. “Robotics and technology are emerging fields so I think they would have a good future for me,” Cdt Panchal said.

“I wanted to get exposure to what Army would want in the future, from a cyber perspective, so I can build my skills towards that.” The course was designed for participants aged 14-17 years and catered to a broad range of cyber learning experiences.

The cadets started off learning how to set strong passwords and use administrator privileges to protect the security of an organisation, and then how to harden the defences of a computer network.

In the culminating cyber challenge, cadets used a simulated networked computer system to identify threats and protect the system from attack.

After the large number of nominations and the positive response from participants, the cyber camp will be run again next year.



A cadet listens during the inaugural Australian Army Cadets Cyber Camp in Canberra. (Photo: Cpl Julia Whitwell)

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 20120, the Editor