



"The Messenger"



(Of The Gods.)

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

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in articles in the "Messenger" are those of the writers/contributors and not necessarily those of the "Committee" or "General Membership" of the Royal Australian Signal Association (SA) Inc.

A belated Happy New Year to All from the Committee. The delay has been caused in part by the necessity to fully check the current Financial Membership List & all names and addresses. Also inadequate information regarding various matters that had to be clarified prior to publishing! Including Ministerial "guff – ups".

Annual General Meeting

The year 2006 commenced with the AGM being held at the Gilles Plains & Hampstead RSL on Sunday the 5th of February at 1600 for 1630 hrs. Listed below are the "Returns" received from Members in relation to attendance !

Present: The following members were present: -

I.Adamson, N.Bergin, D.Bolton, W.Boots, R.Brightwell, P.Cope, W.R.M Dunkley, J.Erwin, I.Fletcher, A.Graves, I.Hart, T.Hart, D.Hudson, F.Jones, B.Long, G.Patrick, M.Southern, B.Stevens, G.Williams, G.Winton. (10 Proxies were held.)

Apologies: Written apologies had been received from the following members: -

P.Anderson, P.W.Arthur, L.Bourne, J.Brazel, J.Browne, D.Coconis, J.Doidge, D.Erwin, K.Forbes, C.R.Fromm, G.Fry, C.Gameau, G.Giebel, J.Gray, P.Goodchild, N.Harris, J.Heard, J.Higgs, A.Hinton, C.Ireland, A.Jantzen, A.Lane, N.Lane, M.Lemon, R.Materna, D.Matthews, W.McKeough, P.Meaney, B.Melville, K.Moralee, E.M.Oates, D.Pankhurst, A.Peters, G.Phillips, G.Quayle, P.Reeve, D.Reid, A.Simmonds, H.Snewin, L.Sumner, B.Trott, G.Walsh, W.Watt,

No Response: The following members did not formally respond to the Notice of Meeting:-

A.J.Adam, E.Ashton, K.Bleechmore, J.S.Chaplin, W.Dale, E.Doyle, R.Eckert, M.Ferguson, J.Gibson, P.Hasse, J.Hendrickson, C.Hetzel, F.Hiatt, R.Hicks, J.Higgs, D.Hughes, S.Jarvinen, W.Keightley, G.Kennedy, S.Letton, C.Mack, W.Millar, P.Molineux, K.O'Leary, J.Richards-Pugh, R.Rountree, A.Small, P.Stock, R.Taylor, A.Thompson, H.Van Baar, I.Wallace, A.J.White, I.H.Wilson.

(Some of this group may have only paid their subscription for 2006 without tendering a response re meeting or responded since this was produced.) The above results alerted Committee to the fact that there needed to be a complete review of Membership!

With some members being accompanied to the meeting approximately 25 persons were present and most remained for light refreshments afterwards!

Major points from the meeting were the Treasurers comments relating to his report in which he was critical of the fact that for the second year in a row the account ran at a loss. In the case of 2005 the loss was close to \$790 with a loss of \$400 + related to the Annual Dinner & \$200+ in respect of the AGM. He restated that all functions must be run on a "Cost Neutral" basis. This in fact is stated in the Constitution! A motion was put to the meeting that membership subscriptions commencing 1st January 2007 be \$20. This was carried!

The President had stated whilst addressing his report that it had been very difficult to form a quorum of five to hold committee meetings for various reasons. This had affected the administrative side of the Assn. This was addressed by an interim Motion recommending that the requirement for a quorum be three (3). Membership decline & "lack of support" relating to functions, was as usual a topic raised! General consensus was that this was inevitable and was not restricted to our Assn. Even RSL "Clubs" were feeling the pinch. It was agreed that we should endeavour to carry on until such time as it became quite obvious that the time had come!

Election of Committee.

The President, Bruce Long, thanked the retiring committee members for their efforts, declared all positions vacant and handed the meeting over to the Acting Minute Secretary for the election.

President Nominations were received for Bruce Long & Neville Bergin. Both declined in the light of business commitments they already had.

Vice President No nomination was received

Secretary No nomination was received

Treasurer No nomination was received

General Committee – Nominations had been received for Andrew Graves, Wally Boots, Dean Coclonis, Peter Cope, Dean Hudson & Jim Erwin.

Dean Hudson agreed to carry out the function of Secretary and was appointed

Peter Cope agreed to carry out the function of Treasurer and was appointed

Andrew Graves, Wally Boots & Dean Coclonis were appointed.

Jim Erwin said that he no desire to be appointed to the position of President again but offered to carry out the duties simply to allow a full Committee to be formed. He was appointed.

Neville Bergin speaking from the floor gave his opinion that changes must be made in respect of those older longstanding members having to offer their services to fill "executive" positions to allow a committee to be formed. In particular he spoke in relation to Jim Erwin stating it was "unfair" given the years of service and effort put in by him. He stated committee must go out of its way to find a replacement to be appointed as President.

The Secretary of the RSL , Graham Castle, must be thanked for opening the rooms on a day that they are not normally open and for allowing the bar to remain open until around 1830 hrs. His actions allowed the day to finish off pleasantly with our members being able to engage in discussions and small talk with all and sundry.

COMMITTEE

The new Committee met at the RSL on 17th February!

To avoid the problems of last year Committee Members agreed to meet on the following fixed dates at the RSL. 19th May, 1st September and 1st December! In the event of circumstances necessitating a special meeting, members agreed to make every endeavour to attend at short notice! **Assn Members** should note these fixed dates & should they wish matters to be brought to Committees attention advise the Secretary as early as possible prior to the projected meeting! **Members are welcome to attend any of these meetings!** The projected meetings are all on Friday evenings when the RSL makes a meal available at minimal cost from 1800hrs. Meetings are scheduled to commence at 1830hrs.

It is essential that all Members completely understand the position regarding the formation of a Committee! The above sets out what the new committee (made up from old members) consider the best method of organising the meetings considered essential during the year! Date / Time and place are set after consideration by the members who were given the opportunity to consider what dates would be unsuitable due to “Family occasions such as Birthdays/Anniversaries” etc clashing! (this was hammered for the whole of 2005 to no avail). Of course there will be the need for members to intercommunicate by phone /fax or email during the year but all in all **what has been decided upon can not be considered to be overly intrusive or demanding!** You all well know that there are unfilled positions NOW so let us not think about “next year” please do something about it! Jim Erwin, President.

Anticipated Activities 2006.

Anzac Day Re-union at RSL from 1200hrs – see later comments

Annual Dinner – projected & confirmed date 19th August – further detail to follow.

Remembrance Day – 11th November –further advice to follow.

Corps Day – 144 Sig. Sqn is exercising its Right to the Freedom of Entry to the City of Burnside on Sunday 5th November. This is considered by the Unit to be “Corps Day”– Further advice to follow.

Annual General Meeting 2007 – Projected date to be advised. – 1st or 2nd Sunday in February.

Public Liability Insurance

At the time of the AGM the premium payable for 2006 /2007 was not known! It had been indicated, not unexpectedly, that an increase of 7 to 10% was likely. Last years premium was \$694.01! Committee was pleased to find when the renewal notice arrived that the premium had in fact gone DOWN by a whole \$6.06 to \$587.95.

VALE.

The passing of Mildred Grace COLLINGS on 9th March 2006, at the age of 90years, in Alice Springs has been noted! (Advertiser notices 10th March 2006.)

Grace was the wife of long time member Murray COLLINGS who passed away last year!

Grace and Murray are known as “Territory Pioneers” having established Ringwood Station in 1953. May they rest in peace.Our condolences to the families they have left behind!

Our condolences also to Dean Hudson whose sister Evelene passed away on 24th March 2006 after her health declined over a long period of worrying time for the Hudson family! Evelene passed away peacefully in hospital, May she rest in peace.

ANZAC COMMEMORATION 2006.

- 21st April RSL ANZAC street appeal – City of Adelaide – Buy a badge.
- 22nd April RSL ANZAC HARNESS RACE MEETING, 1930hrs Globe Derby Park.
- 23rd April RSL – Invitation – ANZAC Commemorative Service to be observed in the Cathedral Church of St.Peter, King William Road, North Adelaide. 1900hrs.
- 25th April ANZAC DAWN SERVICE State National War Memorial, North Terrace.0600hrs.
- 25th April KESWICK BARRACKS DAWN SERVICE – Main Flag Station – 0600hrs
To be followed with a Gun Fire Breakfast in the OR's Mess. All Members welcome.
(A Gold Coin Donation would be appreciated.)
- 25th April RASigs Corps Memorial Service , Keswick Barracks (North end Parade ground) 0830hrs.
- 25th April ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE MARCH. See detail below.
- 25th April RASigs (All) Re-Union from 1200hrs , Gilles Plains & Hampstead RSL Club Rooms.

The March GROUP 10 POST WW2

Grenfell Street East / Head on Pulteney Street.

BCOF, Korea/SE Asia. WRAAC, Malaya & Bornio Vets.

BAND – MARION CITY

FESR, RAN Vietnam, HMAS Perth II

TRANSPORT POD 1 - Gp 10

AATTV, RAAC (Vietnam), RAA (Vietnam), 105 Fd Bty

BAND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS PIPES & DRUMS

RAE (Vietnam), R.A.SIGNALS(All), 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 Bns RAR (Head of Signals just East of Hotel)

BAND – ELIZABETH & SCOTCH COLLEGE PIPES & DRUMS

Back to remainder Group 10.

All Signals Personnel - Guide Jim Erwin.

0925 Leader Max Lemon & Three Banner Bearers take position on roadway.

0930. Main body form up on roadway with frontage of ten (10)

+ Remain in position ready to step off

Salutes

1) National War Memorial. 2) South African War Memorial. 3) V.I.P. Saluting Base. Unit Banners, Flags & Roundels are to be lowered for all Salutes.

Dispersal Units are to dismiss on Sir Edwin Smith Avenue as directed by Marshalls & **immediately clear the roadway.**

SALUTING THEIR SERVICE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL



Australia will recognise the service of more than one million current and former Defence Force personnel with the Australian Defence Medal (ADM), Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Bruce Billson, announced today.30/3/06 (exactly the same announcement was made in 2004 with Medals to be presented mid 2005.)

"Her Majesty the Queen has approved the official regulations and design for the award **that aims to recognise current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) Regular and Reserve personnel, and volunteer and National Servicemen, who have served since the end of World War II,**" Mr Billson said.

"The Australian Government is committed to recognising the outstanding contribution to our proud military history made by Australian men and women in uniform.

"After extensive consultation with veterans' organisations and the wider community, the government has decided to broaden the eligibility criteria to include former ADF members who completed their initial enlistment period, or four years service, whichever is the lesser," Mr Billson said.

"The criteria also recognises National Servicemen and those who could not serve the four-year qualifying period because of the ADF's workplace and enlistment policies of the time.

"The expanded criteria also includes those who die in service or are medically discharged due to permanent injury and unable to reach four years or complete their initial period of enlistment," Mr Billson said.

"Although creating any new medal is an extensive process which includes consultation, design and testing, Royal approval and manufacturing, the medal is an important tribute to those who have given so much for our country. Presentation ceremonies by senior military officers and Federal parliamentarians are expected to commence in mid-2006 as the medals become available. I encourage all those eligible to submit applications and supporting evidence as soon as possible to receive the recognition they deserve," Mr Billson said.

For further information, a special application form for the ADM is available from the Defence website at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/ and from RSL's and other ex-service organisations or by calling 1800 111 321.

Note : The application form and other information relating to eligibility does not show any dates that apply to "eligible service". The Ministers release above loosely indicates the award only applies to those who have served "since the end of WW II" which can be taken as "not inclusive of WW II service". However I have just (1014hrs) received advice from the Minister's Office that the applicable date will be **"from 3rd September 1945" onward.**

This saga has been ongoing since it was a "pre-election promise" before the last Federal Election ! As soon as this advice came to my knowledge I sent a "Group" email to all known "email members". This included an attachment within which was all documentation necessary for an application to be lodged! Unfortunately numerous "emails" came back unable to be delivered for one reason or another! The obvious was, you must have changed ISP. It is essential that the Secretary is kept informed of any email or snail mail change of address if you wish us to provide a service to you! With an estimated one million being eligible for this award don't hold your breath! Although I am not surprised by the "Application Form" and what you have to go through to satisfy it's requirements it really is ridiculous as in many, many cases if you haven't got the required information or documentation you are going to have to go to the Department handling the applications to get it. Or take a punt and submit it with what information you can provide! All of those who have received the ANSM (Anniversary of National Service Medal) could be / should be dealt with quickly /or even automatically, as that group satisfied the requirements for "the new medal" by being granted the other! Serving Members should be easily & automatically dealt with! For those of you who did receive the application form via email please, as I am sure you will, pass it on by email or print out a copy for someone who does not have the facility. If any Member can not easily obtain a copy contact the Secretary and we will get one to you! **Jim Erwin, President**

Exercise Black Swan. Perth 2005

All reports coming from various sources indicate that the re-union held in October 2005 was a great success! Without having time to go into any detail a good indication of the heights that it reached is the fact that over 700 members attended the final dinner held in the Perth Entertainment Centre!

Some members from SA were that excited by the whole event that, as a group, they started discussing when and where the next one should be held! They settled for SA in 2008! Committee has been asked to consider this "proposal". With the difficulties we have forming a Committee for the Association each year

(and it gets more difficult each year) there can be no doubt that we could not handle such a proposal at this time! However there is no reason committee cannot meet with those involved and discuss it further. It is possible that such a venture (on a smaller scale) may revitalise the Association here, as we know that there are a considerable number of former Sigs. out there in SA who for whatever reason have shown no interest in the Association whatsoever in the past. That includes some who are proposing the re-union. If you as a current member have a view on such a re-union please let committee know by email, snail mail, telephone or whatever! If current members are not interested there would appear to be little value in pursuing it much further!

Freedom of the City

You will note from “Anticipated Activities 2006” that 144 Sig Sqn is to Exercise its Right to the Freedom of Entry to the City of Burnside on 5th November! It was granted this Right in 1987! We have been advised that the OC 144 will be inviting Association Members to attend and view the occasion.

The SSM of the Sqn has asked that we advise all past and present members of 144 that it is intended to hold a re-union on Friday 3rd November at the Squadron commencing at 1930 hrs! Accordingly please note this date / time in your diary and pass this message on to all ex members of the Sqn you know or may happen to come in contact with! This would appear to be a good start to what could be an impressive weekend! We will keep you informed as and when further information comes to hand.

Sale of Memorabilia

We currently have in stock the following items that we wish to replace with Money!

Corps Ties	Jimmy Pattern 1 only	Diagonal Striped Corps Colours 1 only	\$25 each.
Vietnam 2003	Canberra Memorial Package, with Mint One Dollar coin	10 only	\$10.00 each
Korean War 2003	Anniversary Package, with Mint One Dollar coin	1 only	\$5.00

***Items for Sale on behalf of Members* (15% Profit to Assn.)**

One off Items – New – No longer available

Corps Tie – Certa Cito 75	1 only	\$30.00
Cap, Corps Colours Certa Cito 75	1 only	\$15.00
Cuff Links Gold, Gold Jimmy on Black background	1 pair	\$25.00
Jimmy Lapel Badge, Gold Jimmy on Black oval background	1 only	\$20.00
Gold Jimmy Lapel Stick Pin	1 only	\$7.50
Gold Tie Bar, Gold miniature Jimmy centred	1 only	\$15.00
Gold & Silver Bullion embroidered Jimmies	2 only	\$30.00 each
Embroidered Multi Colour Jimmy on circular blue cloth background	1 only	\$22.00
Pewter Silver Key Ring	1 only	\$15.00

Association Badged Tie

1 only \$35.00

All items plus \$2.50 Postage & Handling where necessary! Email mercury34@tpg.com.au / phone 08 8264 5502 to discuss /order. View or pick up from RSL Anzac Day

All Members who have items of Memorabilia such as the above are invited to dispose of any they no longer require through this avenue by contacting the Secretary. Items should be in good condition! Some items are becoming rare and it appears the Corps Shop will not be handling like items in the future! Ties etc should not have been worn. If there is a particular item not advertised that you would like to find let the Secretary know and we will put that into the Messenger as well.

Some items below

Pewter Jimmy Key Ring, Gold on Black Lapel Badge , Corps Ties , Bullion Embroidered Jimmy. (Cuff Links not shown, Gold Jimmy on Black Square similar to Lapel Badge) **E&OE.**



Lapel Badge,



