

THE SIGNAL

RSL SOUTH AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY & BROKEN HILL
MARCH 2021 EDITION



FEDERATION GUARD - ADELAIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020



Air Force Centenary 2021 Calendar

South Australia

February

- Nil

March

- 29 Mar—02 Apr: Air Force Week at TPG
- 31 Mar: Air Force Centenary Commemorative Ceremony (National War Memorial)
- 31 Mar: Air Force Centenary Reception (TPG)

April

- 25 Apr: Air Force Centenary integrated into ANZAC Day March and Dawn Service (Various)

May

- 7 May: 24SQN Freedom of Entry in Adelaide
- 21 / 22 May: AF2021 Richard Williams Display at Cornish Festival (Moonta/Kadina)

June

- 5 Jun: Bomber Command Ceremony (TPG)
- 16 Jun: Port Pirie Commemorative Service

July

- 4-10 Jul: NAIDOC Week activities
- 29 Jul: Defence Teaming Centre Dinner

August

- 13 Aug: Air Force Centenary Thanksgiving Service at St Peters Cathedral
- 29 Aug: Sir Richard Williams Celebration (Moonta)

September

- 7 Sep: Mallala Commemorative Service
- 18 Sep: Battle of Britain Commemorative Ceremony

October

- 24 Oct: Vehicle Museum Open Day

November

- 5 Nov: 92WG Freedom of Entry (Salisbury)
- 11 Nov: Remembrance Day Commemorations
- TBD Nov: Air Force Centenary Display (Salisbury)
- 19 Nov: Salisbury Commemorative Ceremony
- TBD Nov: Honourable Company of Air Pilots Dinner

December

- TBD Dec: RAeS AF2021 Dinner

Throughout 2021

- AF2021 display at South Australian Aviation Museum



RSL
South Australia
Northern Territory

THE SIGNAL MARCH 2021 EDITION

- ANZAC DAY
- RAAF CENTENARY 2021
- STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- REMEMBRANCE DAY ADDRESS 2020
- COMMEMORATIONS & AWARDS
- MEDAL COMPLIANCE
- RSL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
- BOOK REVIEWS

CALENDAR

2021	RAAF Centenary Activities	15th August	Victory in the Pacific Day
24th April	Kapyong Day	18th August	Vietnam Day
25th April	Anzac Day	31st August	Malaya Borneo Day
8th May	Victory in Europe Day	3rd September	Merchant Navy Day
12th May	FSB Coral Balmoral	6th September	Dardanelles Commemoration
28th May	Aboriginal Veterans Commemoration	11th November	Remembrance Day
6th June	D Day		
27th July	Korea Day		

Editorial

The Signal publication was the primary communication method between RSL SA State Branch and members for several decades. Over the years, as technology and members' expectations changed, it evolved from newspaper print to glossy magazine, to a combination of print and digital, to solely digital.

After time in abeyance The Signal was reinstated during Winter 2020. Editions are now produced in-house by staff and are intended to be seasonal in a digital form.

Sub-Branch and member contributions are encouraged, email material to Signal@rslsa.org.au.

Considerations:

- Contributions should be interesting and relevant
- Written in the third person unless to be attributed to the author
- Creative, well composed, high resolution photographs
- Editorial team's discretion to amend or omit material

Hyperlinks work only on the digital version. For a higher resolution edition contact Signal@rslsa.org.au

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STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the March Edition of The Signal

Happy New Year to one and all, albeit here we are in March of 2021. I trust you and yours had a wonderful Christmas break, under the conditions that we have endured and been placed under since March 2020. Let us hope that 2021 is a better year for us all.

2020 was an extremely difficult year – tough for local businesses, for those who lost their work, for our local sport and community clubs and also tough for families separated by border closures and lockdowns. I am proud of how well South Australians and in particular, our Sub-Branches did throughout this time. We pulled together as a veteran community and we looked out for each other. We can only hope that as restrictions ease over the coming months, that we can get back to some sort of normality and continuing in carrying out the Objects of the League and in particular, looking after our veterans.

COVID-19

This is still a dreaded word in our society and although many restrictions have and are lifting, we need to be cognisant of the fact that they could change at any time.

Honours and Awards

The League congratulated Mrs June Hanley OAM of McLaren Vale RSL Sub-Branch on her Award of the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to war widows and their families, and her community work in the Australia Day Honours. An Australian Day Medallion was also presented to Mr Ron Green who has volunteered for many years in assisting Keith Harrison with the Anzac and Remembrance Day Appeals. We also acknowledge Mr Adam Weinert, President of the Lobethal RSL Sub-Branch in receiving the Inaugural State Australia Day Award for Active Citizenship by His Excellency The Hon Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia for his efforts in the 2019/2020 Bushfires. Adam was also acknowledged in the Woodside Australia Day festivities in receiving Citizen of the Year for the Adelaide Hills Council. Congratulations to those three amazing people for their efforts and they have been duly recognised.

ANZAC of the Year Awards

The ANZAC of the Year Awards are made annually 'to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.' The award recipients exemplify the Spirit of Anzac with

in the community through their dedication and commitment to the benefit of others. They are exemplars of community service and an inspiration to all Australians. There have been no nominations in South Australia for 2021.

Commemoration

A Commemorative Service to mark the 75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific was held on 15th August at the State War Memorial. This was a successful Commemoration and in conjunction with Veterans SA we were able to bring this to the public and those World War Two Veterans who are unable to attend due to their age and fragility. The service was live streamed and wonderful stories told by some of our veterans. In conjunction with the State Premier and Minister for Veterans Affairs, we were able to produce certificates to commemorate this significant event, which were given to many of these veterans and was well received. The Department of Veterans Affairs also had a medallion and certificate struck to give to those veterans who were able to apply for them.



Premier Marshall presented a 75th VP Anniversary Certificate to former RAAF WW2 serviceman Fred Sharon

Our Remembrance Day Service, although down on numbers because of restrictions, was able to go ahead on a smaller scale. We thank Ian Smith for delivering a very meaningful address on the day and Keith Harrison and his volunteers for the setting up and provision of programs. We were very fortunate to have the Federation Guard as the Catafalque Party on the day.

Veteran Services

Advocacy. Our Advocates right across the board continue to work tirelessly to meet the needs of our Veterans. The load is shared between too few however, training is in place for some more advocates and I trust when they have finished their formal training they will be out there in the space to relieve some of the workload of those currently carrying out this service. We are conducting a review of Advocacy capabil-

STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ity with the initial reviewing of files and will continue to progress on this review. Wesley Woulleman has been appointed for three days a week as an Advocate to support Steve Ceissman and commenced on the week 15th January. Our Advocate Administrator, Chloe Arbuckle is currently on maternity leave after bringing into the world a beautiful baby boy, Oliver on 20th January – well done Chloe. We look forward to welcoming Chloe back in a part-time capacity in June.

Wellbeing

This is also being reviewed as part of the Advocacy Review however, we are thankful that the Plympton Veterans Centre is providing support to Steve. We have applied for funding with the Catalyst Foundation to deliver facilitators for the roll out of their 'Vets on the Net' Program that, if successful, will be delivered from our Sub-Branch network and the Veterans Wellbeing Centre. We will continue to work with RSL Victoria and local providers to develop wellbeing programs to assist our veterans and their families to lead fulfilling lives.

Employment Program

Lauren Martin, our inaugural Case Navigator, finished in February and Hayley Kovacic has been appointed to the position. Michael McWhinney, appointed as our Case Navigator in the Northern Territory, has managed the SA clients in the interim which will fast track his development, as there are low numbers in the initial start-up phase in Darwin. A comprehensive handover from Lauren and the foundations she laid has given confidence that the RSL Employment Program will continue to deliver on expectations.



Avoca Hotel

The Avoca Hotel continues to trade and indeed, under the restrictions of the last 12 months, has surprised us all and traded very well. We have appointed a very experienced Venue Manager, Kym Zammit, who commenced on 1st March 2021 and are confident that he will continue to drive the business plan for the hotel. The Board of the Avoca made up of Trevor Whitelaw, Robert Gillies, Steve Larkins and myself have worked tirelessly and with the experience and advice from the CEO and Finance and Administration Manager has seen us get to where we are today. Some Ex-Service Organisations continue to patronise the hotel with their

Association gatherings on a regular basis which we appreciate enormously. If you are in the area at any time, pay the crew a visit. RSL Members obtain a generous discount on meals and beverages.

State Branch Staff

We are down to minimal paid staff with very few volunteers. Under the leadership of the CEO David Grenvold, both the Board and Staff are working toward our Strategic Priorities – Board, People & Culture, Veterans Services, Membership, Commemoration and Fundraising. I thank the staff and volunteers most sincerely for their efforts.

Membership

While it is understood that many Sub-Branches are low in membership, I sincerely thank you all for 'soldiering' on to keep yourselves relevant. We, at State Branch, are trying to forge better relationships with the Sub-Branches and I would hope that they can also do that with us. It is the responsibility of the RSL SA/NT State Branch to work with the Sub-Branches to ensure their sustainability and we intend to ensure that this is carried out. Pleasingly, our membership numbers and revenue has experienced a 20% increase for the first two months of 2021 compared to 2020 which was pre COVID. This will mean an increased return to Sub-Branches via the current capitation funding model.

Annual Sub-Branch Conference (ASBC)

Our ASBC is scheduled for Saturday 10th July to be conducted in the Drill Hall at Torrens Parade Ground. Planning is underway and a Calendar of dates has been forwarded to Sub-Branches. It is anticipated that the ASBC will go ahead in its normal way, with COVID conditions applied.

State Board

Our State Board continues to work tirelessly with issues that have arisen and continue to arise. Since we have last written, we have welcomed a new appointed Board Member in Jo Hanrahan and look forward to working with her moving forward.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the hard-working staff and volunteers at the State Branch. This also goes for all our Regional Coordinators and Sub-Branch Volunteers who put in many a long hour to keep what has been built up by our forebears. I also ask that we all continue to assist in restoring the image of the RSL. We have all done and continue to do many wonderful things and we look forward to future opportunities that we hope will come our way.

Cheryl Cates

ANZAC DAY 2021

As a result of the Covid-19 threat Anzac Day 2020 was unlike anything we had experienced before in regard to formal activities. Commemorations were cancelled and some conducted in revised, limited formats.

At this stage the 2021 Anzac Day commemorations may proceed, with conditions applying to gathering sizes, spacing and hygiene regulations. Our traditional ways to commemorate are affected and adaptations made.

The Light Up The Dawn concept (LUTD) encouraged Australians to observe dawn commemorations from home last year. It was tremendously well received and supported. RSL encourages LUTD again as an option for those unable to attend a public service.

RSL SA issued several bulletins to RSL Sub-Branches and community organisations recommending that if they choose to they may conduct commemorations, providing they have approved Covid plans and are confident that they can manage an audience and still meet all regulations. Options include holding a closed or ticketed event; limiting invited guests and not implying public attendance; promoting Light Up The Dawn home commemorations; encouraging a visit to war memorials and the RSL clubrooms later in the day.

RSL volunteers and community groups will work within their capabilities and resources to commemorate and pay respects, please be understanding that circumstances are very different to what we have traditionally enjoyed. RSL SA manages the Adelaide CBD events, metropolitan and regional events are organised independently, generally by volunteer groups with finite resources and budgets.

Lists of services will not be made available to the media and public due to the changeability of events. Check with local organisers to see if commemorations are to be conducted and if the public are permitted to attend.

Adelaide Commemorations

The Adelaide Anzac Day activities are managed by a dedicated, long-standing committee under the chairmanship of Ian Smith. Several months of hard work and planning have structured an ANZAC Day that will proceed with a limited ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil, controlled Dawn Service, an adapted CBD March and controlled Cross of Sacrifice service. The services will be fenced and bookings required to attend. Booking information will be on RSL SA social media and website when available <https://rslsa.org.au/anzac-day-2/>.

The Adelaide Anzac March will be for eligible veterans only, with extra spacing between marchers. This extra distancing requires more space in the March Assembly Areas and as a result the Descendants (Relatives) Group cannot take part this year. Permitting Descendants to take part in marches was a privilege, not a right, we expect those who are disappointed with this condition will understand the importance of priority being given to veteran marchers.

Public spectators are not permitted to view the March; only relatives of Marchers and veterans choosing not to march may attend. ABC SA Television will broadcast these commemorations.

As information is updated it will be posted to social media and the Anzac Day section of the RSL SA website <https://rslsa.org.au/anzac-day-2/>. This site contains the Adelaide March Guide with the Order of March, assembly areas, route and dispersals. The site also gives general Anzac Day information, major sporting activities and a guide to conducting a home service, with links to bugle calls and national anthems.

Conditions are fluid and may change further. What matters is **We Will Remember Them.**



ANZAC APPEAL



The RSL Veterans Services department depends heavily upon public contributions to offer well-being, programs and emergency assistance to veterans and families.

The ANZAC APPEAL runs year around but is most prominent during April. Volunteer collectors RSLs and businesses play valuable roles in the fundraising.

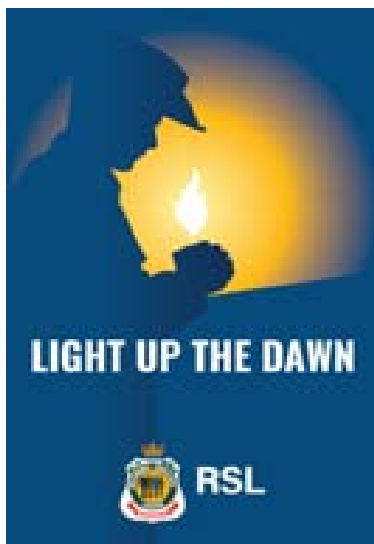
Please help by buying official ANZAC APPEAL items or donate securely online with the symbol link (left) or at www.rlsa.org.au.



LIGHT UP THE DAWN MERCHANDISE

To enhance your Light Up The Dawn experience the RSL has engaged the Military Shop to develop a range of commemorative items. For convenience, these are available separately, or as two ready-to-go packs. Items include Candle Tumbler, LED Candle, Flag, Signs, Neighbourhood Invitations, Stickers, Fridge Magnet. All items in the range will financially assist the RSL to support our veterans.

<https://militaryshop.com.au/light-up-the-dawn-2021/>



Be Part of the Air Force Centenary Commemorations in South Australia in 2021

In 2021, the Air Force will be commemorating its 100th anniversary of serving Australia. It is a significant occasion for an Air Force that is the second oldest Air Force in the world – second only to the Royal Air Force that was formed in 1918. For 100 years, the Royal Australian Air Force has been serving Australia protecting its people and interests. From modest beginnings between the wars, the Air Force grew to be the fourth largest Air Force during World War 2 and has since grown into a potent, world class force which Australia relies upon in both conflict and peace. The Centenary provides an opportunity for Australia to reflect on the Air Force's important and enduring contribution to our nation's security and acknowledge the support of the Australian people over the last 100 years.

South Australia's proud contribution to the Air Force

South Australia has a proud history with military aviation dating back to its earliest days, with South Australians serving and distinguishing themselves in the Australian Flying Corps in World War One and the development of the RAAF between the wars. Almost 350 South Australians served in either the Australian Flying Corps or the Royal Flying Corps during World War 1.

Some South Australians became distinguished and decorated air aces such as Captain Ross Smith, Captain Thomas Charles Richmond Baker and Captain John Rutherford Gordon.

Sir Richard Williams KBE CB DSO, born and raised in Moonta, was Australia's first military-trained pilot and commanded No 1 Squadron (AFC) and No 40 Wing (RAF) in the Middle East, to become probably Australia's foremost air commander. He was later instrumental in the establishment and the development of the Royal Australian Air Force between the wars becoming its first Chief of Air Staff and widely regarded as the 'Father' of the RAAF.



Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams

During World War II, major RAAF bases at Port Pirie, Mt Gambier, Mallala and units at Parafield and Victor Harbor trained thousands of airmen as South Australians served across the world and in Australia. Many became aces such as Les Clisby, Robert Bungey and Bob Cowper. Many served in Bomber Command, such as Squadron Leader Dave Shannon and Squadron Leader David Leicester. Tragically, many made the ultimate sacrifice and did not return.



Post-war, South Australians continued to serve in the Air Force around the world. Many served in Korea and Vietnam and other post war conflicts. Meanwhile, the Air Force presence in South Australia focused on RAAF Base Edinburgh and Woomera supporting research and development and space in the 1950s and 1960s.

The move of the RAAF P3-B Orion aircraft to RAAF Edinburgh in the late 1960s made Edinburgh and South Australia the home of the RAAF's maritime and surveillance capability and gradually its intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability. An icon of South Australia's skies, the AP-3C Orion has been based at RAAF Edinburgh for over 50 years, with this multi-role workhorse handing over the baton to the P-8A Poseidon, now operating with No 11 Squadron.



RAAF P-3B Orion A9-300 on RAAF Edinburgh Flight line 979 (N Daws)

Today, RAAF Edinburgh is one of the Australia's largest and most important air bases, and the wider precinct operates as the Australian Defence Force's major intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and electronic warfare hub. Its role has broadened with new Air Force capabilities such as ground defence with No 3 Security Forces Squadron and the Air Force's most recent Force Element Group, the Air Warfare Centre.

Commemorating the Centenary in South Australia

In 2021, RAAF Edinburgh is joining with the wider South Australian community to commemorate the Air Force Centenary and South Australia's proud involvement, in line with South Australian Government COVID requirements at the time. A community based approach has been involving representatives from the veterans community, the heritage community, aviation groups, local and state government and local community groups in a program of events and activities to commemorate the centenary across South Australia throughout 2021.

The RSL SA is a supporter of the centenary and participating on the South Australian planning committee.

Be Part of the Air Force Centenary Commemorations in South Australia in 2021

Key events will include:

- **March.** The 100th anniversary of the formation of the RAAF will be commemorated with an Air Force Centenary Commemorative Ceremony at National War Memorial, Adelaide on the 31 March. There will be an Air Force Centenary Exhibition at Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall, Adelaide from 29 March – 2 April.
- **April.** Air Force Centenary commemorations will be integrated into ANZAC Day commemorations.
- **May.** On 7 May, No 24 Squadron (City of Adelaide Squadron) will exercise its Freedom of Entry in Adelaide. On 21-22 May, a Sir Richard Williams Display at Kadina and Moonta will be part of the Cornish Festival.



24 SQN (City of Adelaide) exercising its Freedom of Entry in Adelaide 2017

- **June.** On 5 June, RAAF Edinburgh and Air Force Association (SA) will host the Bomber Command Commemorative Service at Torrens Parade Ground. On 16 June, a Commemorative Service will be held at Port Pirie to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the formation of RAAF Station Port Pirie and those who perished while training from 1941 to 1945 at the airfield.
- **July.** In July RAAF Edinburgh will celebrate NAIDOC Week commemorating the Indigenous South Australians who have served in the RAAF over the last 100 years.
- **August.** On 13 August, a very special Air Force Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide. On 29 August, Moonta will celebrate Sir Richard Williams with a one day festival.
- **September.** On 7 September, Mallala will commemorate its contribution to the Air Force and those who served at its RAAF base with a commemorative service. On 16 September, RAAF Edinburgh and the Air Force Association (SA) will hold the annual Battle of Britain Commemorative Service.
- **November.** The commemorations will focus on Salisbury where 92 Wing will exercise a Freedom of Entry Parade and a Commemorative Service.

RAAF Edinburgh have teamed up with the South Australian Aviation Museum to produce a fantastic ten piece pull-up banner exhibition that tells the story of South Australia's contribution to the Air Force over 100 years. This will be on display throughout the year in various locations.

Lastly, several new publications on South Australian airmen (Greg Weller) and the Air Force in South Australia during World War 2 (Peter Ingman) will be released in 2021.

It will be a special year and one where you can join in the commemorations in a variety of ways. Watch out for regular updates on the RSL SA and Air Force Association (SA) Facebook pages. For more information on the Centenary and the events you can participate in, visit the RSL SA website RAAF Centenary Page, the Veterans SA Calendar and the AF2021 website: www.airforce.gov.au/100

Meanwhile, if you would like to participate in the Air Force Centenary events or do something at your RSL, then please get in touch with Keith Harrison, RSL SA (marketing@rslsa.org.au) or RAAF Group Captain Greg Weller (greg.weller@defence.gov.au).



Moonta's Sir Richard Williams Park Sculpture

Noting 2021 is the Centenary of the RAAF and the importance of Sir Richard Williams, a Moonta boy, key groups from Moonta have come together forming a co-operative Committee approach to celebrate the Air Force Centenary. The groups represented on the Sir Richard Williams RAAF Centenary Celebrations Committee are National Trust of South Australia Moonta Branch, Moonta RSL Sub-Branch, Moonta and District Progress Association, Vietnam Veterans' Association Copper Coast Branch and Copper Coast Council. The committee is also joined by a former RAAF member as well as a Group Captain from RAAF Edinburgh. The Moonta Committee has joined the South Australia, Air Force Centenary 2021 Committee which is coordinating a program of events to commemorate the Air Force Centenary in South Australia during 2021.

A key element being pursued by the Moonta Committee is the unveiling of a bronze park sculpture of Sir Richard Williams in an open area in Moonta's Queen Square. The sculpture will be seated on the side of a granite bench facing up the street towards the Town Centre, with the other side of the bench available for the general public, especially children, to sit with Sir Richard Williams for photographs, as if they are talking with Sir Richard and viewing the sky for aircraft with him. Beside the bench will be a Bronze Plaque mounted on a Copper Mine Rock (reflecting his Cornish mining heritage) providing the history of Sir Richard's professional life. The sculptor is Tim Thomson who created the South Australian aviator Harry Butler sculpture at Minlaton.

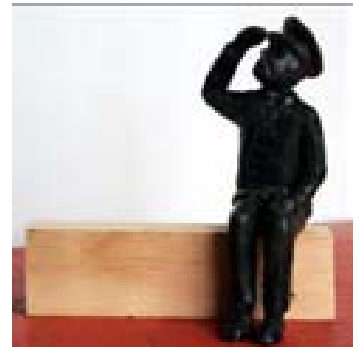
The sculpture will be unveiled on 29 August as the keynote event of a special day's activities celebrating the Air Force Centenary and the life of Sir Richard Williams, which RAAF Edinburgh and the South Australian Aviation Museum will be supporting.

This exciting venture is being funded by a variety of sources. The State Government is supporting the venture but the Committee also needs support from the public and private enterprise.

To contribute to the initiative to honour one of the most significant figures in the RAAF's history by having a Sir Richard Williams Park Sculpture emplaced at Queen Square, Moonta, you can contact Robyn Knight, Chair of the Sir Richard Williams Air Force Centenary Committee, on 0409 007 054 or by going to: <http://bit.ly/3jGLRGo>

Donations above \$2 are tax deductible. If you make a donation via the website, please ensure you specify a donation to the Moonta Heritage Foundation. Robyn Knight, Vice Chair, National Trust, Moonta PO Box 23, Moonta SA 5558
P: 0409 007 054; E: srwraafccc@adam.com.au
Facebook: <http://bit.ly/3aYXQeu>

Proposed Sculpture Model



Veterans SA

Veterans SA is the state government department with responsibilities for:

- supporting the special needs of the veteran community resulting from the unique nature of military service
- promoting the wellbeing of all members of the veteran community in SA
- encouraging co-operation across all ex-service organisations in SA
- providing the link for the veteran community to communicate directly to the highest levels of state government
- monitoring and providing advice about matters relating to recognition and commemoration of the service of veterans
- promoting Australia's wartime history and the significance of national commemorative events

Veterans SA works closely with the Veterans' Advisory Council to provide advice to the Premier about matters relating to South Australia's veteran community. The Director is Ms Catherine Walsh.

Contact Veterans SA on (08) 8463 7140; veteranssa@sa.gov.au; www.veteranssa.sa.gov.au

BLANCHETOWN RSL REDEVELOPMENT

The Blanchetown RSL Sub Branch has recently completed a \$30,000 renovation following a successful bid for a grant from the DVA. This is the second grant after the completion of a new kitchen a few years ago.

The renovation included the replacement of all the old wood panelling walls with gyprock, the addition of a Tindo 6.6 kW 21 panel solar system, another much needed reverse cycle air conditioner and purchase of a Defibrillator. This also meant a large amount of electrical work removing all switches, power points and fittings to allow this to happen and then replacing them.

The club was closed for 2 weeks for these works and the committee were not idle during this period as all memorabilia and furniture had to be taken down or moved and a number of coats of paint had to be applied after gyprocking and before the electrical fittings were replaced.

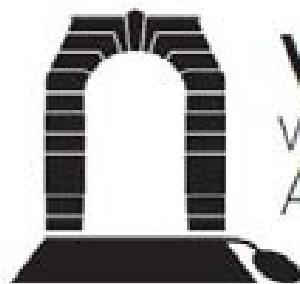


The committee led by project manager Rick Kessner should be commended coming in on budget and completing this renovation on time during the Covid pandemic and subsequent restrictions that have been in place.

We now have the task of putting the memorabilia back on the walls and in the display cabinets. This will take some time as we want to name and put a semblance of order into the displays. We have asked the state branch if any plaques (all services) are available around the state as this is one area we are lacking.

We certainly as a committee would recommend any RSL in need of equipment or renovation that improves the ambience and outlook of their sub branch to consider applying for a DVA grant. A comfortable and clean environment only encourages and assists in the advocacy and welfare of veterans and members. Get your local federal/state member involved. Our federal member for Barker, Tony Pasin, has encouraged us every step of the way and has offered any assistance should we run into any hurdles.

If you are travelling through the Riverland, drop in, you will find a friendly bunch and there is always a few warries to be told. We are open on weekends Saturday 4pm 'til close, Sunday and public holidays 2pm 'til close, on Merivale Street, Blanchetown. Ph: 8540 5212; Blanchetown@rslsa.org.au
President Kym Parry
Blanchetown RSL Sub-Branch



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Commemorating service and sacrifice.
Preserving the stories of family heroes for the nation.
vwma.org.au

COMMEMORATIONS & AWARDS

A wreath placing ceremony was conducted at the State War Memorial on Wednesday 28th October 2020 for the visit of the newly appointed Defence Attaché to Italy, Colonel Salvatore Trincone, by the Carabinieri National Association in South Australia. The Carabinieri are Italy's military police focussing on maintaining harmony at home and through peacekeeping missions abroad.

As a result of the easing of restrictions at interstate borders, the Defence Attaché to Italy who was appointed earlier in the year, visited Adelaide as their first city travelling around Australia where they can. It also gave Colonel Trincone a chance to meet with the consul of Italy in Adelaide, Presidents of Italian and Armed Forces Association and importantly, local authorities. Pictured left Carabinieri Guards. Group Photo: Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor, RSL President Cheryl Cates, Adriano Stendardo Consul of Italy, Colonel Salvatore Trincone Defence Attaché for Italy, RAAF Group Captain Greg Weller, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs Joe Szakacs.



Robe RSL WW2 veterans Gilbert (Brian) Nankivell and Victor Dawson were presented with Federal Government Certificates and State Government & RSL SA Certificates by the Member for MacKillop Nick McBride MP and Robe Mayor Alison Nunan.

Originally known as Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League, the Upper Torrens Sub-Branch was established on 3 July 1920. In 1930, Mount Pleasant seceded to form its own sub branch and, after World War 2, the body was rechartered as the RSL Gumeracha Sub-Branch. To acknowledge the centenary of the Gumeracha RSL, the Minister for Education the Hon John Gardner presented a certificate of Service to the Secretary Mr Bob Brooksby OAM and Treasurer Malcolm Herrmann JP in the presence of Dan Cregan, Member for Kavel.



2020 REMEMBRANCE DAY ADDRESS

On 11 November 1918, in the hours between midnight and 11am when the Armistice came into effect, fighting continued, with 2,738 men dying on the last day of the war. Most Australian troops were out of the line on 11 November 1918, resting after the Hundred Days' Offensive, so no Australians were killed in action on that day. Despite this, 15 Australians died of wounds and illness that day, including the Spanish flu, something that echoes to the present day with the challenges we face with coronavirus.

I thought I would share the story of one of those 15 men that died on this day in 1918. 2029 Private Richard Williams, 51st Infantry Battalion, of Kapunda, SA, took his own life by jumping overboard from the troopship SS Runic as it approached the Gage Roads off Fremantle, WA, aged 41. He has no known grave, and is commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

Richard was born in Kapunda, youngest son of William Williams. He attended Kapunda Public School and was an ironmonger when he enlisted in Perth in February 1916. He joined the 51st Battalion in France on 21 June 1917, and fought with them during the Battle of Polygon Wood later that year.

In March and April 1918, the 51st Battalion played an important part in defeating the German Spring Offensive. Richard was diagnosed with shell shock and trench foot in April, and evacuated first to the UK and then returned to Australia.

We don't know what drove Richard to take his own life, whether it was the shellshock, now known as post-traumatic stress disorder, a personal crisis, bad news or something else. What we do know is that veterans continue to take their own lives.

Since the start of the War in Afghanistan in 2001, 419 serving and former serving members of the Australian Defence Force who have served during that time have taken their own lives. To them are added veterans who served before 2001 and have also taken their own lives since then. This is nearly as many Australians as died in the Vietnam War.

We must take this extremely seriously. We must do what we can to examine why these veterans take their own lives, to support those at risk of suicide, and do whatever we can to reduce these numbers. Every one leaves behind a family grieving for a life not lived to its full measure and often baffled, seeking answers as to why their loved one has died.

Richard was one of 102,000 Australian men and women who have died in the service of our nation and who we remember today. The undying debt we owe them is one that demands that we properly care for and support the families of those who have made the supreme sacrifice. Those that have died because of their service to the nation. It is also a debt that demands that we properly care for and support those that carry wounds from their service, whether those wounds are in mind, body or spirit.

Lest we forget.

Ian Smith
Chair, Adelaide Anzac Day Committee



STOLEN MEDALS RETURNED

Late in 2020 Peter Schwartz contacted RSL SA regarding two sets of medals found in his South Plympton front garden by Wally Sluga, during routine maintenance in October. Peter hoped the medals could be returned to the owner.

Sydney Smith served with the 27th Battalion in WW1 <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/68872>. His son Grant Smith served in the Navy during WW2 <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/504136>.

Peter Schwartz phoned a lot of Smiths, before contacting VWMA researcher Bob Kearney for assistance. Bob determined the servicemen's details and Keith Harrison RSL SA suggested that Peter begin

with the AIF section of the West Terrace Cemetery which led him to the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority, then to Alfred James Funerals.

Through his ingenuity he was able to contact Grant Smith's daughter Dianne Chamberlain to give her the good news. The medals had been stolen over twenty years ago in a break-in and the story of where they have been all this time will likely remain a mystery.

On 4th November 2020 all involved met in the RSL SA boardroom for return of the medals to the family.

Pictured L-R: Wally Sluga, Peter Schwartz, Dianne and Dennis Chamberlain, Keith Harrison, Bob Kearney.



We remember those on ANZAC Day....

In the early morning, just before sun-up and while the sky is still grey, we silently remember the fallen and the wounded on ANZAC Day. Those who fought for our allied countries, both here and on foreign shores – those killed, wounded and all returned service personnel in all the world wars; service men and women of every distinction and all ranks... we give you all our heartfelt gratitude and our sincere thanks.

ANZAC Day is a day to remember the mates who were left behind, all service personnel who returned home injured, shell shocked or blind, and also those psychologically scarred by the bloody battlefield – their experiences are too horrific to be discussed or revealed....

As a nation we are united by tragedies and terrible loss, and each year we stand together under the Great Southern Cross.

The tragic loss of so many lives – soldiers, sailors, airmen and nurses, causing broken hearts and grief that time never reimburses... all leaving behind a bereaved mother, father, a distraught husband or wife, forever destined to mourn the terrible loss of their precious one's life.

They perished on our home shores and across the vast sea and allowed us to live in this great land of the lucky and free.

They are not forgotten, or overlooked by the passing of the years... silently we stand and remember them as the sun slowly appears. And as the bugle plays "The Last Post" and we humbly watch the dawn break, we appreciate how courageous they were when our freedom was at stake. They were people – much loved and full of life when they answered the call, on April 25th each and every year, we will remember them all.

(c)Trish Reeves 2021

BOOK REVIEWS

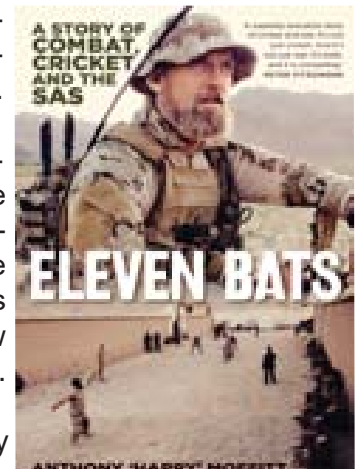
ELEVEN BATS – A story about combat, cricket and the SAS.

Anthony 'Harry' Moffitt spent more than twenty years in the Special Air Service (SAS). His decades of service and his multiple tours in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan made him one of the regiment's most experienced and recognised figures. Harry's other lifetime love is cricket. An improvised game of cricket was often the circuit-breaker Harry and his team needed after the tension of operations. He began a tradition of organising matches wherever he was sent, whether it was East Timor, Baghdad, or Afghanistan. Soldiers, locals and even visiting politicians played in these spontaneous yet often bridge-building games.

Harry also took a cricket bat with him on operational tours, eleven of them in total. They'd often go outside the wire with him and end up signed by those he met or fought alongside. These eleven bats form the basis for Harry's extraordinary memoir. It's a book about combat, and what it takes to serve in one of the world's most elite formations. It's a book about the toll that war takes on soldiers and their loved ones. And it's a book about the healing power of cricket, and how a game can break down borders in even the most desperate of circumstances.

Harry Moffitt recently retired from the Australian Defence Force after almost thirty years, most of which was spent with Australia's elite SAS Regiment as a Team Commander and Team Specialist. Harry completed his time with the SAS as its Human Performance Manager. He's a Registered Psychologist and runs a human performance consultancy, Stotan Group, working with sports teams, the military and industry. He remains a cricket tragic.

Publisher: Allen & Unwin. Available from Booktopia, book sellers and chain stores. Paperback, 384 page, RRP \$34.99.



OUR SPIRIT is a new book featuring creative works of Australian Defence Force Women from 1960s onward. It is a collection of stories, essays, poems, letters, emails, photos and artwork as a representation of their service and offering a valuable insight into their personal experiences. Edited by Melanie Bird CSC and Jennifer Crane, supported by Women Veterans Network Australia.

Cost \$20 includes postage in Australia, orders and enquiries to: ourspiritcollection@hotmail.com



DANIEL KEIGHRAN VC - Courage Under Fire

On 24 August 2010, in battle in Afghanistan, Corporal Daniel Keighran risked his life in a hail of gunfire to save his fellow soldiers. His actions saw him awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia, making him the 99th Australian to receive our country's highest award for bravery.

This story tells of Daniel's unlikely journey to become one of Australia's most celebrated soldiers. An outstanding military memoir, packed with tales of multiple tours, accounts of extraordinary camaraderie, and a reflection on the unseen cost of service. Most of all it is a testament to the idea that anything is possible if you know what you stand for.

'One of Australia's most reluctant heroes. A raw, honest, humorous and inspirational story of a modern soldier and the burden of heroism.' Mark Donaldson VC

Published by Pan Macmillan.



Reviews provided by publishers. Books are not available from RSL SA.

MEDAL COMPLIANCE GUIDE

MEDALS

Military service to your country is a proud achievement. The Australian Government awards medals and honours to signify service and contribution to the nation. Most people wear their medals appropriately, knowing that they have earned them. A minority embellish their service with lies and trinket medals, thinking it will earn them respect. It does not; it diminishes the worth of their real awards. In some cases individuals who have little or no military service infiltrate ex-service organisations with false claims.

WEARING MEDALS

When the situation is appropriate, medals awarded to you are worn on your left breast. These include medals issued by the Australian Government and foreign awards authorised by the Governor-General for wearing. They should be worn in the correct order of precedence and not include unauthorised medals. Official state and territory issued medals are worn on the right breast unless authorised by the Governor-General to be included within an approved medal set.

Medals issued to another person, worn in commemoration of their service, are worn on the right breast.

UNOFFICIAL MEDALS

Purchased or unofficial commemorative medals, known as tinnies, must not be included with approved medals and not worn on your left breast at public ceremonial or commemorative events. This also applies to unofficial medals issued by organisations and non-approved foreign medals. A small number of society and organisation issued medals are approved.

Examples of purchased, unofficial medals include:

Regular Forces Medal

Citizens Military Forces Medal

Commemorative Peace Medal

Active Service Medal

Conscripted Service Medal

General Service Cross

Atomic Test Medal

Volunteer Service Medal

Vietnam Veterans Medal

RSL members with unauthorised and non-compliant medals or clasps in their awarded medal group must remove them from the group.

BADGES

Defence issued badges including the Returned from Active Service Badge, Infantry Combat Badge, Army Combat Badge, Army Individual Readiness Notification Badge, ADF Commendation Badges, Instructor Badges and Unit Citations are worn only by the person entitled to wear them and only when appropriate. Some may only be worn whilst serving and only on ceremonial uniform. Relatives should not wear them.

FALSE CLAIMS

If you have given false written and/or verbal statements about your military service you should advise your RSL Sub-Branch committee of the false claims so that records can be corrected.

This may be embarrassing but is preferable to being found guilty of a federal offence and fined, or being exposed in the media.

OFFENCES

It is a federal offence to falsely represent as, or impersonate, a member of the ADF or to falsely wear medals. It is also immoral and an insult to serving and ex-service personnel to misrepresent service. It is not an offence to wear uniforms or medals as part of a dramatic portrayal, such as a film or play, or artistic representation.

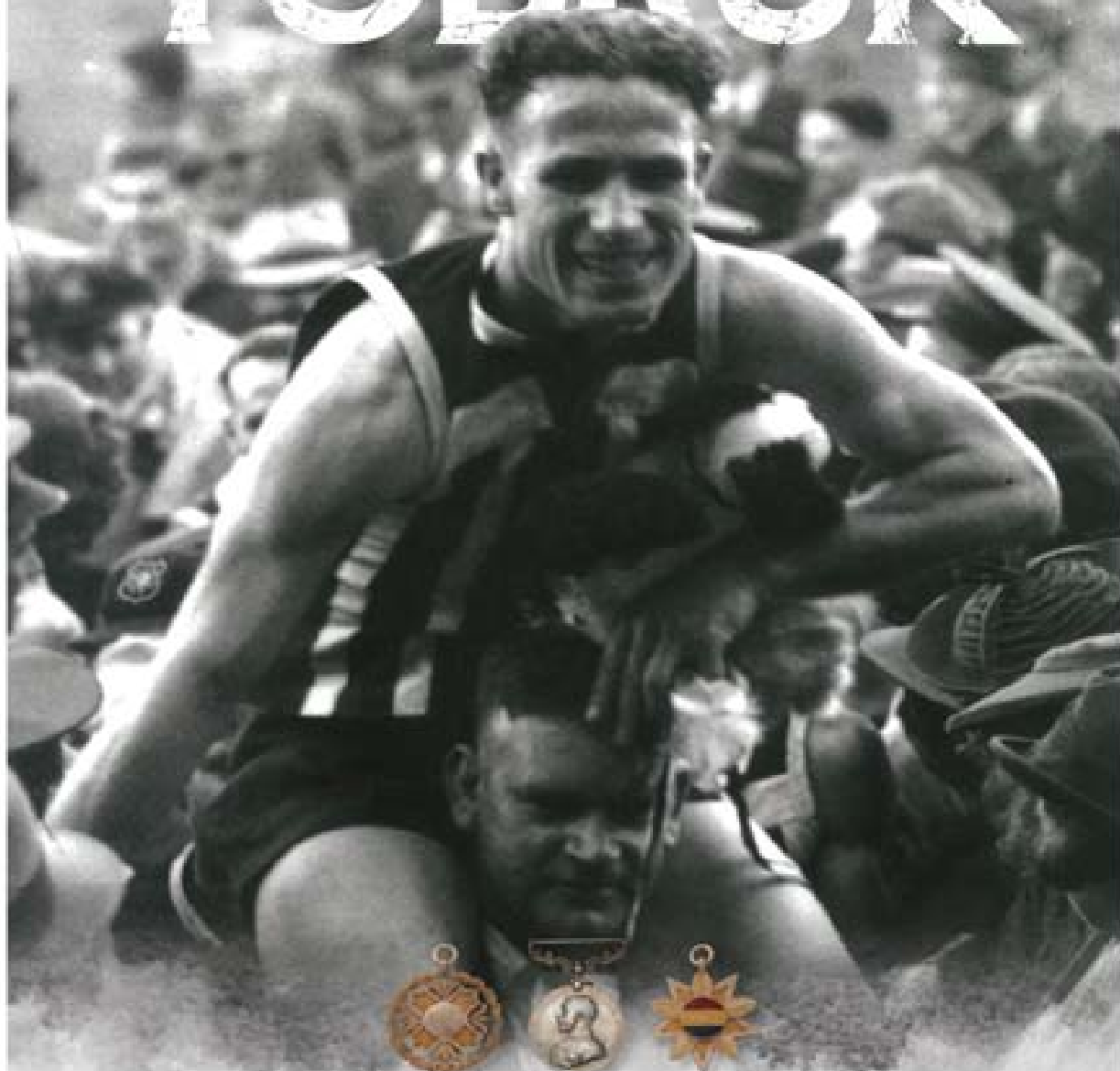
FURTHER INFORMATION

Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
Defence Honours & Awards

Developed by the Returned & Services League (South Australia Branch) Inc.



THE ROVER OF TOBRUK



THEY WERE ALL HEROES

ARTERIAL FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH KANE MCKAY PRESENTS THE ROVER OF TOBRUK PRODUCED BY KANE MCKAY AND CHLOE GARDNER WRITTEN BY KANE MCKAY
DIRECTED BY STEPHEN DE VILLIERS CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL TESSARI EDITED BY SAM MATTHEWS SOUND DESIGN BY FAZZ FARELL

**BOB QUINN MILITARY MEDAL
THE ROVER OF TOBRUK
A DOCUMENTARY PRODUCED BY KANE MCKAY
Coming Soon**



RSL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

RSL SA is proud to introduce the RSL Employment Program to the South Australian Defence family. This program supports our ex-serving members and Defence partners in their search for meaningful and sustainable employment.

Veteran wellbeing is at the core of everything we do, so when we began the journey to introduce this program to South Australian Veterans, we wanted to make sure that it would fundamentally improve the quality of life for them and their families. Underpinning this program is the knowledge that establishing a fulfilling career is essential to making the successful transition from active service to post-service life.

The months and years following transition from service can be a challenging time. Finding the right role gives every individual purpose, direction, and stability. Sometimes, it can be difficult to know where to start when looking for new employment opportunities and it can be even more difficult knowing how to explain your skills and qualifications to a civilian employer. The help you will receive from our motivated and skilled Employment Team will focus on developing an individualised case plan to support your path to employment. Whether you are looking to start work immediately and need a resume update or have more complex issues preventing employment, such as housing instability, mental health challenges, managing service-related injuries or long-term unemployment, the RSL Employment Program will help you develop the skills and resources you need to be employment ready.

The types of support you can expect to receive include:

- Assistance translating your skills for the civilian job market
- Assistance interpreting selection criteria, writing CVs and cover letters and developing social media profiles
- Interview coaching
- Career counselling to assist with identifying industries and roles to fit your individual circumstances, skills, qualifications, and interests.
- Connections to employers
- Non-vocational assistance such as links to housing support, mental health support, financial guidance, and social connection

To be eligible for employment assistance through the RSL Employment Program you must be a resident of South Australia and be either:

- an ex-ADF member not in regular employment or a current ADF member with a confirmed discharge date
- who has exhausted all DFTP entitlements
- and is not currently eligible for a DVA work program
- the partner of a current ADF member who has used their PEAP entitlement
- the partner of a former ADF member.

To register your interest or to find out more head to rslemployment.com.au/

Funding for RSL Employment Program in South Australia is through DVA's Enhanced Employment Service for Veterans program.

ANNUAL OP-K9 LAWN BOWLING CHALLENGE 2021



**Sunday 11th April 2021
at Semaphore Bowling Club**

9am for 9.30am start

Get a team together of 4 friends/family/workmates

Cost \$100 a team, includes BBQ lunch

Prizes throughout the day, plus raffles and Op K9 Port sales

Monies raised helps train assistance dogs to support veterans

**To book email Joanna on vicepresident@largsbayrsl.com.au or ring
042296842**



ESO & VETERAN HOSTED LOCAL RADIO PROGRAMS

RSL Today	Vision Australia Radio 1197AM and online
Service Voices with Helen Meyer	Radio Adelaide 101.5FM, Monday 6pm and online
Music with Bert & Margaret Newell	PBA FM 89.7, Friday 9am
Vietnam Vets with Haydn Madigan	Port Pirie Trax FM 105.1, Monday 6pm - 8pm
Conversations with Cornesy	5AA 1395AM
Veteran of the Month with Peter Goers	ABC Adelaide 891 First Monday of the month 8:05pm
VVF Vets On Air	Coast FM 88.7, Tuesday 6pm - 8pm
The Chocolate Box	Coast FM 88.7, Tuesday 12am- 3am Dave Gabel
The Roadhouse	Coast FM 88.7, Saturday 2pm - 4pm Phil Davis
The Harmony Street Café	Coast FM 88.7, Tuesday 12pm - 2pm Geoff Groth



Guitars for Vets

*"where words fail,
music speaks"*

Are you a Veteran from any war, conflict or policing action and, like many veterans, have struggled with PTSD?

Would you like to learn how to play the guitar?

Don't have a guitar, don't worry, we'll give you one.

.....and we'll give you ten free lessons to start with

.....with a teacher who understands your situation

*Contact: Jim Mavromatis 0438843254 or
mick.mavromatis@inet.net.au*



www.guitarsforvetsaustralia.com