

Representing the Royal Australian Armoured Corps  
Corporation Limited in South Australia



September 2023, Number 61

## 2023 COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

**PRESIDENT:**  
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**IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT**  
**Reg Williams AM, RFD**  
**Mobile: 0488 303 599**

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**Jim Kennelly RFD**  
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**SECRETARY,  
NEWSLETTER,  
WEBSITE, PUBLIC  
OFFICER:**  
**David Mercer OAM**  
**Mobile: 0439 843 897**

**TREASURER:**  
**Peter Byass RFD**  
**Mobile: 0418 841 680**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Bill McKeough**  
**Mobile: 0428 835 339**

**Steve Langdon**  
**Mobile: 0452 507 986**

**Warwick Edwards**  
**Mobile: 0402 780 171**

**Thomas Begg**  
**Mobile 0424 144 812**

**Bob Ireland**  
**Mobile 0421 846 592**

## Presidents Page

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association was held. We noted the passing of Jim Harradine, Kym Batchelor and John Candlett as well as the crew who died in a helicopter crash during Exercise Talisman Sabre.

SAMRA has a role to support current members of 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse including preserving the unit history, organising functions for former members, and maintaining contact with other black hats.

SAMRA's has supported the Squadron by publicising the George Johnson MM memorial prize for a soldier to visit affiliated Regiments in England, and regularly improving the History Room with the display of unit history from early days to the present. This complements the collection in the Army Museum of South Australia and the excellent work of SAMRA volunteers. In November 2022, SAMRA sent care packages to five Squadron members serving on Operation Resolute in Darwin. The Commanding Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment asked if we could send additional care packages to B Squadron members who were also deployed, and we were pleased to assist. I appreciate generous donor support and Thom Begg for organising the packages. I meet regularly with the Officer Commanding, Major Matt Walsh and appreciate the support that he has shown, particularly in promoting SAMRA to the Squadron.

SAMRA organises functions for members to keep in touch with mates. We have the quarterly SAMRAG magazine, our website and Facebook page, all maintained by Dave Mercer. The Anzac Day Light Horse Memorial service and the march were well attended by SAMRA members and is appreciated by the wider community. Special thanks to James Kennelly and Reg Williams who played key roles in planning for the service. SAMRA hosted Mixed Old and Bold lunches at McLaren Vale, Glenelg North, and Lockleys as well as a Christmas function at the Holdfast Scout Hall. There is also the November get-together at Stansbury Caravan Park. Thanks to Dave Mercer and Reg Williams for making these events happen. SAMRA hosted a Black Hat Night in November 2022. The Commanding Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment, LTCOL Mick Henderson shared his vision of how 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse would operate under his command, and in June 2023, we visited RAAF Edinburgh to crawl over armoured vehicles including the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, ASLAV and Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle (Light).

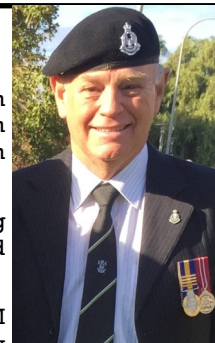
SAMRA supported the get-together at The Cumby in March 2023 with 12 people attending. SAMRA has also established a relationship with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association, and we were invited to the Cambrai Parade in November 2022 and the relocation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment's original guidon and standard to St Peter's Cathedral in June 2023, both of which were well supported by SAMRA members. We have also been invited to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association's reunion in Adelaide in mid-November 2024.

Since last year our membership has gone from 61 life members and 64 ordinary members to 66 life members and 40 ordinary members. Annual membership renewals are being followed up. We offer one years' free membership to attract new members and it is pleasing to see the increase in the number of life members. I am thrilled to see current Squadron members joining as well as memberships from The Cumby get-togethers.

Many thanks to the SAMRA Committee - Vice-President James Kennelly, Past President Reg Williams, Treasurer Peter Byass, Secretary Dave Mercer, committee members Bill McKeough, Bob Ireland, Gerald Hopgood, Steve Langdon, Thom Begg and Warwick Edwards as well as Major Matt Walsh. Gerald will not be continuing, and I wish him well for the future.

SAMRA means different things to different members, with some more active than others. Over the course of the past year, about 70 members have attended one or more event with a small group of about 8 – 10 attending most functions. We continue to provide activities for members and support for the Squadron. This shows that SAMRA is going strong, however, we can never be complacent. We have an ageing membership and we must continually ensure that we are an organisation that appeals to younger members.

Nec Aspera Terrent—Malcolm Haynes



*"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."*  
Winston Churchill

Fun times in a Ferret Scout Car!

Anyone got any good Ferret Scout Car stories from their time in the regiment?



AN OUTPOST NALIN PALESTINE 3rd A.L.H.

## AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE VETERAN'S COVENANT & LAPEL PIN

The Lapel Pin provides the opportunity for veterans to be easily identified when not wearing their medals or uniforms.



There is a Veteran Lapel Pin and Reservist Lapel Pin that eligible applicants can apply for using [MyService](https://recognition.dva.gov.au/how-veterans-and-reservists-can-apply) for more information go to this link <https://recognition.dva.gov.au/how-veterans-and-reservists-can-apply>

One tale I remember was outside of El Alamein camp probably occurred in 1968 or 1969. The then OC of the LAD, not sure who, arranged to take "all of us" to watch a demonstration of how they would recover a bogged Ferret. My recollection is that they showed it once and then set it up for a repeat. A certain Trooper, or was he a LCPL, I think is was Harnett, said that it wasn't bogged and climbed into the drivers seat and drove it out. A bit embarrassing for the LAD. Regimental members at the time like Erik Fridmanis, Geoff McDuff and Bob Lines may remember the details more accurately.

*Frank Wade*

1. We were in Harbour when a Trooper tried to open a soft drink on a Ferret smoke grenade tube in doing so the smoke grenade discharged, the Trooper dropped the softy to pick up the grenade which discharged. Containing phosphate it was burning into his hand. You could hear his scream all over the camp. My CC got the request via radio to pick up Starlight. At speed we barrelled through the camp with him on the outside deck to the injured Trooper who was then taken to the Whyalla Hospital by the Army Ambulance.

2. Beer rations we managed to acquire these via the LAD mit ice. HQ got wind of this and raided another camp we were at without success. We had two ways of hiding the goodies (a) Hub cap of the spare wheel. Put a capes half shelter inside with the ice and beer. (b) Dig an "Old Man Salt Bush " up place a cape half shelter in the hole and put ice & beer there in and back fill with the Salt Bush.

*Wayne Vantenac*

The year would have been around 1960 and we were tasked to set up a radio communications network for the Barossa Vintage Festival. As we could not get a network established it was decided to use the vehicles to transfer messages between the various sites. This involved going to wineries with messages and as you can imagine we were offered bottles of wine and the obvious storage space was the ammunition cases on the outside of the Ferret. I remember as we were leading the street parade through town a motorcycle cop patted the side of the vehicle and threatened to check if the side containers had anything in them!

It was a great day out and a memorable trip back to the Gawler depot.

Cheers

*Howard Kerrsmith (Trooper 410827)*



***SAMRA BLACK HAT NIGHT HELD AT 1ST ARMoured REGIMENT, RAAF BASE,  
EDINBURGH ON TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2023***





## 2023-2024 Annual Subscription Reminder

### ALL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE ON 1 JULY EACH YEAR

The Association asks that all members attempt to renew their membership within two months of the due date. **SHOULD YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOT BE RENEWED BY THE 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER.** You may not receive updates on the activities of your Association and you may not receive your personal colour copy of your Association newsletter. Check your membership status on our website <http://www.samrainc.org/financial.htm>

Annual Membership is **\$25.00** and for your convenience you can pay by electronic funds transfer via your financial institution. Our account details are;

**Account Name: Association South Australian Mounted Rifles**

**BSB No: 833 205 Account No: 20760940**

### Welcome to our newest SAMRA members

**4401806 CPL Simon Braid** he served six years in the ARA with 16 Air Defence Regt. Then a further 12 years in the ARES with 3/9 LH (SAMR).

**8650258 LT Oliver Douglas** he was an OCDT at AUR and currently posted to 3/9 LH (SAMR).

**8666586 Tpr David Rebbeck**, currently serving with 3/9 LH (SAMR).

**8656747 LT Greville Ingham** serving in 3/9 LH since the 19th June 2023.



"Oscar" Wayland

Circa 1965 it was taken at Cultana during the AFE. I was then a Captain and the acting Sqn Commander of C Sqn at Unley.

**Note:** The blue circle insignia on the front of the hull of the Ferret, and the blue scarf under the tank suit.

**Note:** The sun/wind burn under the white skin on the face designated clearly by the shape of the goggles. Sun screen was not invented then! The result was the surgical removal of 2 carcinomas by plastic surgeons later in life.

3rd/9<sup>th</sup> was then a regiment, and the vehicle designator tac signs were:

Red triangle – A Sqn - Unley

Yellow Square – B Sqn at Gawler

Blue circle – C Sqn – Unley

The following year I was promoted to Major and posted Sqn Commander B Sqn – wherein lies another story (for later). 'Oscar'

### VALE SGT KYM BATCHELOR

30/3/1947—27/6/2023

Beloved husband of Anne-Marie.

Loved father,  
father-in-law, and  
grandfather.

Kym was a founding member of SAMRA and served with the unit for 17 years.



We are co-ordinating a project to add details to photos of unit activities and exercises that have been held since 1948. Your support is requested. Each edition of SAMRAG will have a photo of a unit activity, unit members and / or unit vehicles. If you recognise the photo we would appreciate contacting Malcolm Haynes on [haynesfam8@gmail.com](mailto:haynesfam8@gmail.com) or Dave Mercer on [davidmercer@adam.com.au](mailto:davidmercer@adam.com.au) with any information on:

1. Date of activity (month and year if possible)
2. Name and location of activity or exercise
3. Names of any people you recognise (please be specific e.g. TPR Bloggs - second from left)
4. Vehicle ARN (if known)

If you have any anecdotes of the photo or the relevant activity, please let us know so they can be published in the next edition of SAMRAG.

We also appreciate contributions of any photos you have with as much detail on the photos as you can provide. Here is the next photo. Thank you for your assistance.



1. Date of activity - Early 1980's
2. Location - The photo is most likely from a Driving course at El Alamein and Cultana and not before the early 1980. The building to the right and above Bob Lines head appears to be the old 41 Supply Battalion building in the El Alamein Camp located near the main entrance.
3. People present: (Left to Right) Michael Kuilboer (ARA Tpt CPL), SGT Roy (Pissy) Day, CPL Rod Cathro and CPL Bob Lines.
4. Greg Hill thinks it is at Cultana with the carpenter's hut in the background. It would be 1980 or 1981 looking at the black boots and tanksuits. Greg did his Radio and Gunnery Course with SGT Mick Kuilboer at Cultana with the motto "No Dramas". He has still got the red T-shirt with gold writing.



Circa 1970s members enjoying a cold one around a fire after a day on the Range. "No fire walking Clarrie Mitchell".



**VALE**

**4700154 JOHN CLEMENT  
CANDLETT**

**16/7/1933—27/6/2023**

**Beloved husband of Helen.**

National service Woodside 1951 in A Coy, 2nd Pl. He served in 3/9 SAMR and transferred from Unley to Warradale, he discharged on 11 September 1956 and has been a member of SAMRA for 10 years.





# 1st Armoured Regiment—Dedication and Relocation of the Guidon and Standard at St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide on Saturday, 8th July 2023





**The following items are available for purchase. All profits support the Association:**

- ASSOCIATION PLAQUES - \$40.00
- BLACK BASEBALL CAP EMBROIDERED WITH THE 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE ON THE FRONT AND THE WORDS 'SAMRA' ON THE BACK — \$20.00
- NAME BADGES—\$25.00
- BLACK POLO SHIRT, BADGE ON THE FRONT, WITH SAMRA UNDERNEATH— \$45.00 WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING SIZES IN STOCK 2XL = 3, L = 1 AND M = 1
- 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BLAZER POCKET BADGE - \$25.00
- RAAC LAPEL BADGE—\$6.00
- SAMRA MEMBERSHIP LAPEL BADGE—\$5.00
- ASSOCIATION TIE—\$33.00
- UNIT TIE—\$33.00

**Place your orders with Bob Ireland, Mobile: 0421 846 592 please add \$11.00 for postage and packing. The preferred method of payment is via your financial institution using EFT, details are;**

**Account Name—Association, South Australian Mounted Rifles  
BSB—833 205, Account No—20760940, or send your payment to:  
SAMRA Secretary, 63 Barramundi Drive, Hallett Cove, SA 5158**



**BALTHAZAR**  
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<http://balthazarcafe.com.au/>

**Platinum Donors 2023—2024**

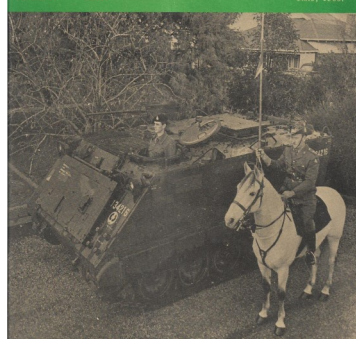


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MOUNTED RIFLES  
ASSOCIATION INC  
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**3rd/9th SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED RIFLES**  
Volume 1, No. 1, June, 1966.



**1966 SAMRAG**

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Warwick is a former RAAC member who served with 1<sup>st</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> Royal New  
South Wales Lancers and is a current SAMRA Committee Member.

## 2023 SOCIAL CALENDAR

- **Thursday, 14 Sep—Old & Bold lunch at the Maid of Auckland Hotel, 1200 for 1230.**
- **Wednesday, 11 Oct—Black Hat Night.**
- **1st Week in November—SAMRA AFX at the Stansbury caravan park.**
- **Saturday, 2 Dec—SAMRA EOY family function, at the Glenelg North Scout Centre, Anderson Rd, Glenelg North at 1200 h. Chicken & Ham lunch supplied, BYO drinks and a desert to share.**