



# SAMRA

Incorporating: 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Australian Armoured  
Regimental Group Association



E-VOLUME 1, NUMBER 6 – APRIL 07

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## ABOUT SAMRA:

SAMRA became an incorporated body on the 13th July 1988. It has been the main point of contact for ex members of the Regiment, Corps and other interested military associations e.g. The RSL and the Federal body of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association.

### Objects

a. To perpetuate the close bonds of comradeship, and esprit de corps created by past and present members of the Regiment and the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

b. To guard the good name and preserve the interests of the Regiment and Corps.

c. To foster the interests of the Regiment by;

i. Providing assistance for Regimental activities outside the scope of normal entitlement from Army sources, and

ii. Encouraging those suitable to serve with the Regiment, to so serve.

d. To assist in researching, recording, and preserving the history, traditions and customs of the Regiment and also its predecessor Regiments.

### Presidents

Ron Hoey (1987 - 1989)

Chris Hill (1989 - 1991)

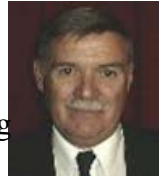
Clarrie Mitchell (1991 - 1993)

Glenys Litchfield (1993 - 1998)

Dave Griffiths (1998 - 2005)

Ron Teusner (2005 - Present)

## President Ron Teusner



ANZAC Day 2007 is almost upon us and once again I urge all members to join us for the march to make this year's parade the best yet. Apart from the fun of catching up with old mates and acquaintances, the experience of being part of the march and celebrating the continuance of the meaning of Anzac is something we all should support if we are able to.

Of particular importance this year is SAMRA's responsibility to take over the presentation of the Light Horse Remembrance Service previously conducted by the 2/9<sup>th</sup> AARGA. Pete Southam has been working hard with preparations and full details are on this page below.

The Black Hat Night held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February by the Projects Group at the Keswick Barracks featured a barbeque and a very interesting tour of the Army Museum by the curator Sven Kuusk. It was a successful night with a good attendance and resulted in \$60 donation to the museum and a further \$160 was raised for the Ferret restoration (this will help pay for the intercom equipment).

This year's Reserve Forces Day is being held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July and will be a major event with the Governor General attending. There will be Reserve Forces Day Council meeting shortly, which I will be attending, and will be able to report details in the next newsletter...**RON**



## ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES - 25 APRIL 2007

All SAMRA members, including our 2/9<sup>th</sup> Veterans and members of the general public, are invited to attend the 2007 Light Horse Remembrance Service at 0815 on ANZAC Day, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, cnr of North and East terraces.

3/9 LH (SAMR) will be providing the Catafalque Party and the Barossa Light Horse will provide a mounted re-enactment display.

As this year marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba it is a significant for SAMRA to host this year's ceremony as we take over the custodianship from our 2/9<sup>th</sup> members. The 2/9<sup>th</sup> AARGA have previously maintained the tradition from the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Old Comrades Association. We ask all members attending to be present by 0800 and assemble near our banner.

**ANZAC Day march**, 1000 hrs, Group 12, corner of Pultney and Grenfell streets, Hindmarsh Square...**PETER SOUTHAM**



Click on badge for  
History of Regt

# Social Calendar

[\(Social page on website\)](#)

- **Sat 26 May** – McLaren Vale Hotel, 1200 hrs, bookings are essential.
- **Sun 8 Jul** – 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) will exercise its 'Right of Entry' to the town of Gawler, timings TBA.
- **Sun 15 Jul** – Reserve Forces Day, details TBA.
- **Wed 15 Aug** – Annual General Meeting, Keswick Barracks Sgt's Mess, 1900 for 1930 hrs.
- **Fri 31 Aug** – Black Hat function at the Naval & Military club, 1830 for 1900 hrs. Members only, dress jacket and tie.
- **Wed 31 Oct** – 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Gaza-Beersheba. Ceremony is to be held at the ALH Memorial, cnr North and East Tce's commencing at 1900 hrs.
- **Sat 3 Nov** – Public celebration of the Battle of Gaza-Beersheba. In the afternoon the Barossa LH, supported by Artillery will perform a LH re-enactment in Elder Park. Followed by a Mounted Ceremonial Parade of the Regiment's Guidon's (Trooping of the Colour) on Torrens Parade Ground. That evening an all-ranks dinner is to be held at Torrens Training Depot.

## HAVE YOU GOT YOUR NEW AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL (ADM)? DO YOU NEED YOUR MEDALS COURT MOUNTED?

A SAMRA member and volunteer (Researcher/Historian) at the Army Museum of S.A. (AMOSA), Keven Draper can have your medals professionally court mount at very competitive prices, **only awarded medals will be mounted**, the RSL asks unofficial medals not be mounted with official awards.

He can usually have your job done within 7 - 10days, cut off date for Anzac Day is 17th April, his contact details are;

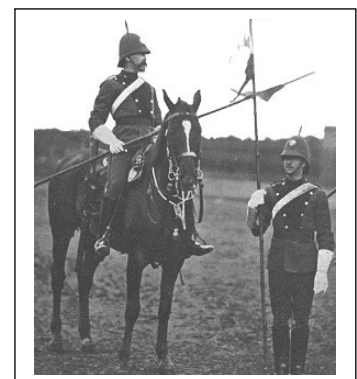
AMOSA: 8305 6374 (Wednesday only 0900hrs to 1400hrs)

Home: 8260 4204 (Hrs 0930 to 1600) 101 leave message

Email: [kdraper@chariot.net.au](mailto:kdraper@chariot.net.au)

## Adelaide Lancers, South Australian Mounted Soldiers of the 1880s

Before Federation each of the local States of Australia had their own volunteer force. The Defence Force of South Australia in part owe their origin to the Russian War scare in Australia, of 1885, which compelled the various Colonial Governments to pay more attention than they had previously done, to the efficiency of their local defences.



In South Australia, the Governor in Council was authorised under the Defence Force Act of 1886, to raise an Active Militia of 1,500 men with a reserve militia of 1,000 men, and a force of unpaid volunteers. The Active Militia comprised two troops of cavalry, and one of Lancers, (illustrated above), one field battery of artillery, and one garrison battery, plus three battalions of infantry, each of four companies, and an ambulance and medical corps cadres. The Active Militia was concentrated in Adelaide, and attended six weeks training every year as well as regular parades.



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history of Regt

## CONTACT DETAILS:

**PATRON:** LTCOL Reg Williams  
Email: [reg.williams@team.telstra.com](mailto:reg.williams@team.telstra.com)  
Mobile: 0419 970 799

**PRESIDENT:** Ron Teusner  
Email: [teusnerron@adam.com.au](mailto:teusnerron@adam.com.au)  
Mobile: 0419 462 517

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Mark McKenna:  
Email: [markmck@adam.com.au](mailto:markmck@adam.com.au)  
Mobile: 0411 256 897

**SECRETARY:** David Mercer  
Email: [samra@adam.com.au](mailto:samra@adam.com.au)  
Mobile: 0439 843 897

**TREASURER:** Glenys Litchfield  
Email: [samra@adam.com.au](mailto:samra@adam.com.au)  
Mobile: 0412 750 475

### ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Dean Manuel**  
Email: [markad2001@yahoo.com](mailto:markad2001@yahoo.com)  
Mobile: 0407 260 949

**Barry Goldsworthy**  
Email: [samra@adam.com.au](mailto:samra@adam.com.au)  
Tel: 8374 0475

**John Gyepes**  
Email: [jgyepes@sa.chariot.net.au](mailto:jgyepes@sa.chariot.net.au)  
Mobile: 0419 829 166

**Peter Southam**  
Email: [dl\\_peter@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dl_peter@bigpond.net.au)  
Mobile: 0438 808 378

**John Sampson**  
Email: [samra@adam.com.au](mailto:samra@adam.com.au)  
Mobile: 0433 347 206

**SAMR Association Website:**  
<http://www.ausmil.com/~samra>

**Postal Address:**  
The Secretary,  
C/- 63 Barramundi Drive,  
Hallett Cove, SA 5158

Association Plaque - \$40.00



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## A MOUSE WITH A WEIGHT PROBLEM

**THE HEAVIEST** Tank ever built weighed 180 tonnes and stood almost 6 metres high. Its armour at the front was 30cm thick. Code named the Mouse, it first appeared in 1944, after the German Army's tank divisions had been badly mauled on the Russian front.

Hitler had realised he could never hope to match the masses of Russian tanks now ranged against his forces, and the huge output from the Soviet factories meant that the gap was widening every day.

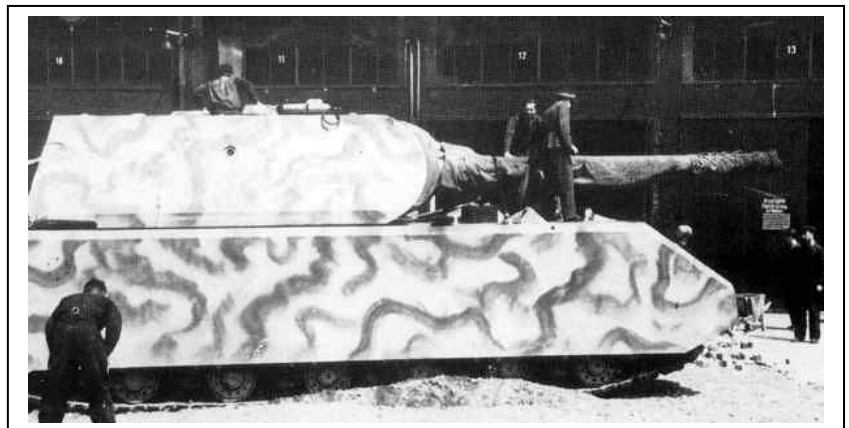
So he briefed Dr Porsche – designer of the Volkswagen Beetle – to produce a land battleship, a tank that would pack a heavier punch than any enemy tank, yet remain completely invulnerable, thanks to its own massive armour protection

To shift this enormous bulk, it had a 1120Kw diesel engine driving an electric generator which fed the power to two motors mounted in each hub of the monster's giant caterpillar tracks.

The Mouse was completely watertight with its hatches closed. It could cross the bottom of a river 12m. deep, with its engine switched off to conserve power and its motors fed by cable from another tank on the riverbank. Once the tank was safely across the roles were reversed for the second tank to cross.

But its size and weight were the Mouse's undoing. Its top speed was only 19 km/h, and when it drove along roads on test the vibration cracked foundations, smashed cobblestones and shattered windows in all the towns and villages it passed through.

Although its tracks were each about 1m. wide, the pressure on them was enough to cause it to sink on anything but the driest ground. So finally, the project was dropped.



180 TONNES, 6 METRES HIGH, 19 KM/H

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## LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

[LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION](#)

[QUEENS OWN HUSSARS](#)

[ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS MUSEUM](#)

[BLACK BERET](#)

[RAACA – VICTORIA](#)

[BRITISH ARMY INDEX](#)

[ARMY MUSEUM OF S.A.](#)

[TANK MUSEUM BOVINGTON](#)

[RAAC TANK MUSEUM](#)

[AUSTRALIAN DIGGERS](#)

[AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL](#)

[RETURNED VETERANS](#) **New!**

[IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM](#)

[ARMY NEWSPAPER](#)

*Two Bar-Nine News – March 2003, supplied by Merv Maddison*

### ...What's in a name

We've all got names of course – official and unofficial names or nick-names. Merv maddison has been delving into the depths of his memory to list nick-names of army mates. He says it is a custom for the average Australian make to give mates or other men names – complimentary or otherwise – and this practice was particularly common in the services. Here is Merv's list, not in any particular order but just as he remembered them:

B.J. Savage	<i>Doggy</i>	L.G. Hargrave	<i>Bruce</i>
L. Clark	<i>Smiler</i>	V.J. De Fontenay	<i>The Frog</i>
L.G. Waters	<i>Snozzle</i>	M. Waters	<i>Slapsy Maxy</i>
L. Heath	<i>Colonel Snr by Length of Service</i>		
A. Prosser	<i>Colonel Jnr</i>		
M. Dawkins	<i>Paddles</i>	K.W. Farrell	<i>The Little Nip</i>
F.J. Cooper	<i>Boongo</i>	F.J. Andriske	<i>Andy</i>
L.G. Bitmead	<i>Boot Hill</i>	W.L. Bowen	<i>Bowyang</i>
A.W. Brown	<i>Padre</i>	E. Budgen	<i>Budge</i>
G. Fahlbusch	<i>Blue</i>	H.F. Fisher	<i>Sleepy</i>
W. Burns	<i>Buns</i>	M.D. Clark	<i>Mad Malcolm</i>
H.V. Hearfield	<i>Dopey (never!)</i>		J.B. Lathlean <i>Happy Jack</i>
L.H. Loaring	<i>Cocky</i>	H.T. Loosmore	<i>Loony</i>
K.T. Maddison	<i>Kafray</i>	M.T. Maddison	<i>Maddo, Mogeys</i>
C.P. Horner	<i>Wimoy (The Wonder)</i>		
S.A. Maynard	<i>Sam</i>	D.C. Keats	<i>Sport</i>
Arch Wilcott	<i>Little Bull Tossers</i>		

**ED:** *What about coming up with a list of nicknames from our era.*

## MYTH UNDERSTOOD - Is it safe to drink alcohol when taking antibiotic?

Like most drugs, antibiotics have both benefits and side effects, but many people wrongly believe that consuming alcohol will adversely affect the performance of antibiotics.

This myth came about in the 1950's, when penicillin was routinely used to treat what were then known as venereal diseases (VD's), now known as sexually transmitted diseases (STD's). The VD clinics regularly advised that alcohol should never be used while taking penicillin, not because there was a significant chemical interaction between the two, but for more moral reasons.

The doctors of the time were concerned that alcohol would reduce the inhibitions of their patients, and that while under the influence they might pass on their infection to another person before being cured.

While alcohol is safe to have with most antibiotics, it does interact badly with a number of other drugs, such as metronidazole (Flagyl), potentially causing nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, headaches, fast heart rate, and flushing.

Alcohol can also reduce the absorption of particular antibiotics, but these few interactions are well known to doctors and pharmacists who will warn you of this possibility.

But before you head down to your local, remember that it's never wise to drink too much while on any medication. Putting an extra load on your liver, staying up late, behaving recklessly, and not getting enough rest are unlikely to aid your recovery.

Main Source: Great Moments in Science, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, at [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)



## Ramon Deed Veteran's Retreat. Under New Management

This Veteran's retreat is now managed / looked after by Steve & Jackie Barlow ex 1 AR

The Ramon Deed Veterans Retreat is situated just off the Silver Highway, in Scout Rd, DARETON, NSW. It is 17 Kms from Mildura & 16 Kms from Wentworth. The retreat is situated on 22 acres and is now managed by the newly formed committee and members of the Wentworth & Coomealla Districts Sub Branch of the V.V.A.A. NSW Branch Inc.

All veterans, Peacekeepers, Peacemakers, Serving and Ex-serving personnel and their families are most welcome to use the Retreat.

There are Caravan & Camping Facilities available as well as clubrooms and BBQ area. The boat ramp has just been upgraded and the fishing is great.

A relaxing and peaceful environment to catch up with old mates and make new friends. Costs: \$10.00 per night / \$70.00 per week which includes power.

The town of DARETON is only 5 mins away and has: Doctor; Chemist; Post Office; Taxi service; Take away food shop; Ladies & Men's Hairdresser; Fishers I.G.A. store; Bottle shop and Garage.

The Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club provides Bowls; Pokies; Bingo; T.A.B. and wonderful meals. The Coomealla Golf Club fronts the mighty Murray River and is an excellent course.

Contact details are:  
Ramon Deed Veterans Retreat  
Scout Rd, DARETON, NSW 2717

PO Box 320  
Wentworth, NSW 2648  
Phone: (03) 50274447

*"Jackie and I are looking forward to seeing you here".*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I was most honoured to have served under Ellis B.J. Wayland AM, RFD, ED. The first time I was introduced to him was as Squadron Leader of B Squadron 3/9 SAMR at Gawler. I was most impressed with his leadership and administration, in my opinion he would have been in the same class as the officers I served with during the Normandy campaign.

Therefore I was most grateful to have had dinner with him, and it gave me great pleasure in presenting him with a special painting of my tank in action during the campaign, which he gratefully accepted.

I have had the pleasure of his friendship for over 40 years.

George A. Johnson MM

In reference to Gordon Woods comments in the last SAMRA Newsletter (Feb 07). I was taught to drive the M113 in 1972 by old Buck Rogers, he used to unscrew the top section of the antenna and use it to guide you but he used to tap you on the head to stop and poked you in the back to advance. For some reason I had a different instructor for a day and I was approaching Point Lowly road and a civilian car was approaching on my right. The instructor kept poking me in the back so I had to disregard his instructions and stop to avoid colliding with the car.

Incidentally it is almost impossible to pull back on the laterals to stop while being poked in the back with a stick.

One morning while doing a first parade service I was sitting in the down position in the M113 checking the oil levels using the hand throttle to increase the revs. Unfortunately the vehicle was in 'drive' and although the brakes were on, it took off. I was trying to push the hand throttle in while at the same time pulling back on the laterals by wrapping my arms around both sticks at the same time as well as trying to see where I was going through the vision blocks. The carrier charged through a rope fence dividing the kitchen area off before I could stop it.

I quickly backed up, parked the APC, repaired the rope fence and disappeared before being caught... **Bon Jordan**