



# SAMRA



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

E-VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5 – FEBRUARY 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'S REPORT

7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Committee members and the Project Group over the last 12 months in achieving another successful year for SAMRA members.

This year we will hold our first Black Hat night on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February in a different venue. Drinks and a barbecue will be held in the grounds of the Army Museum at Keswick Barracks, followed by an evening tour of the museum. I would urge all members who have not had the opportunity to visit the museum, or who have not seen the recent displays, to attend. Many of our members are museum volunteers.

Your committee will be collaborating with the Hon Col and 3/9<sup>th</sup> LH (SAMR) to commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beersheba. This will be our major event for the year occurring on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Torrens Training Depot. Exciting details will be announced as arrangements are finalised. Keep this day free.

Recently I attended the national launch of Reserve Forces Day in Sydney. This was a high profile event with many dignitaries, including the New South Wales Premier attending. The national theme for the Reserve Forces Day this year is highlighting the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beersheba.

Vice President Mark McKenna recently arranged the purchase of digital recording equipment for the museum to enable them to record oral history. This was made possible by SAMRA obtaining a grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs. David Watts will be arranging the training of volunteer interviewees to assist in gaining material for a book on the Light Horse in South Australia.

Finally, I had the pleasure of attending our first luncheon this year on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at the Earl of Leicester Hotel. Only a small group turned up, but it was an enjoyable and hearty affair.

Ron T

## ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

We have the ferret at the Army Museum mobile now and will be getting it licensed to run on the road soon. Just putting a few bits back on after its paint job. I am searching the internet particularly the Ferret heaven website and forum for info and advice about how to obtain and set up comms between the driver and gunner/comd. Have been looking at Clansman gear but wondered if any 3/9 old Ferret boys might have any gear lying around the place that we could get hold of.

Thanks

Robin Maslen, Mobile: 0408 814 453

## Contact the DVA:

### By Phone:

Local Call: 133 254

Country Freecall: 1800 555 254

### In Person:

Office open: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm (no appointment necessary)

Blackburn House, 199 Grenfell Street, Adelaide

DVA's website: <http://www.dva.gov.au>

Fact Sheets on various subjects, forms and other information.

Do you have a Gold Card? Unsure of your entitlements? A Gold Card Kit is available from the DVA.



Click on badge for  
History of Regt

# Social Calendar

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

- **23 Feb 07– Black Hat Function – Members only. BBQ outside AMOSA , tour of the museum, 1800 for 1830 hrs**
- **Wed 25 Apr – ANZAC Day, details TBA**
- **Sat 26 May – Reunion lunch, details TBA**
- **Sun 1 Jul – Reserve Forces Day, reunion lunch, details TBA**
- **Wed 15 Aug – Annual General Meeting, Keswick Barracks Sgt's Mess, 1900 hrs**
- **Fri 31 Aug – Black Hat function at the Naval & Military club, 1830 for 1900 hrs. Members only, dress jacket & tie**



Dick Nicholls –  
where is he now?

## R A P

We are not getting any younger and inevitably there will be times when we will not be firing on all cylinders. At these times it would be nice to know that we have members of the RAAC family to assist in some small way.

If anyone hears of someone ill or in need of someone to visit or just a telephone call, please let us know. Ed

## HARDENED & NETWORKED ARMY (HNA)

### Roles and Tasks of the Army Reserve

The Army will take full advantage of the opportunity presented by the Government's legislative changes to allow greater use of the Army Reserve. In doing this, the Army will foster ARes history and traditions as a key support to Army's capability.

In recent years the Army has increasingly relied on the ARes to provide individuals and, to a lesser extent, collective capability. This contribution has often been required and delivered at short notice. The Army Reserve has proven remarkably flexible in meeting demands made to date. Even so, sustainment of these demands is difficult. To underpin sustainable ARes capability generation, the HNA Reserve model has refocussed the raise, train and sustain functions of Army Reserve HQs, formations and units. ARes formations and units will no longer have express or implied tasks to be deployable for contingencies short of national mobilisation.

Under the new HNA Reserve model, the Army Reserve will be provided with clear tasks. These tasks will be directly linked to generating capability for the HNA and also will formalise Peacetime National Tasks and Defence of Australia contributions. All tasks will be expressed at ARes unit level, allowing for clear local purpose and relevance. Collective tasks will in turn be linked to a full-time Regular Army force element. Full-time and Army Reserve units will develop habitual relationships to foster, sustain and deploy capabilities. These tasks require sustained capability generation, primarily at sub-unit level and below and also a wide range of small team and individual reinforcements.

Source: <http://www.defence.gov.au/army/HNA/>



3/9 SAMR Squash Team

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## 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: [teusneron@adam.com.au](mailto:teusneron@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: [markad@vp-connect.net](mailto:markad@vp-connect.net)  
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: [peterandjdi@bigpond.com](mailto:peterandjdi@bigpond.com)  
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



## Q STORE ITEMS

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

- **New!** ASSOCIATION WALL PLAQUES - \$40.00 (Picture on left)
- BLACK BASEBALL CAP EMBROIDERED WITH THE 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE ON THE FRONT AND THE WORDS 'SAMRA' ON THE BACK— COST \$15.00
- BLACK POLO SHIRT 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE ON THE FRONT, WITH 'SAMRA' UNDERNEATH
- CLOTH EMBROIDERED 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE - \$10.00 (Which includes postage)
- NEW STYLE NAME BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT A COST OF \$15.00

Place your orders with Glenys Litchfield please add \$5.00 for postage and packing.

Send your money and size details to: 3 Peacock Rd, Elizabeth Downs, SA 5113

## The following elements of Army are planned to be relocated to Adelaide:

- the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR), which will be re-roled as a mechanised infantry battalion;
- A Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery;
- an engineer sub unit;
- A logistic group; and
- a small command and control organisation.

It is proposed to begin occupation of the base from 2011, with the full mechanised battle group capability being in place by about 2014-2015.

Source:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/army/HNA/default2.htm>

ARTICLES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE  
SHOULD BE SENT TO THE  
EDITOR / WEBMASTER

DAVID MERCER: [samra@adam.com.au](mailto:samra@adam.com.au)  
HOME: (08) 8381 5303  
MOBILE: 0439 843 897

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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](#)

[ARMY MUSEUM BANDIANA](#)

[IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM](#)

[ARMY NEWSPAPER](#)

[ROYAL NSW LANCERS](#)

**“If you bruise easily, eat more pineapple. It’s rich in an enzyme called bromelain, which attacks and disperses dead and damaged blood vessel tissue, so that any bruising is less severe”**

*Jan Clarke, timesonline.com.*

## USAT - ‘Sea Barb’

**The question has often been asked: “What became of the Sea Barb?”.** United States Army Transport (USAT) Sea Barb conveyed many 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Australian Armoured Regiment and associated personnel from Queensland to Morotai in preparation for the Borneo Campaigns.

USAT Sea Barb was a C3 standard type vessel and NOT a Liberty Ship, as so often mis-stated. The vessel was built at San Francisco, California in 1943. Her steam turbine machinery was constructed at Lynn, Massachusetts, to provide a speed of 16.5 knots.

With a length of 680 feet, her gross registered tonnage was recorded as 7,909.

Following WWII service, Sea Barb was sold in 1949, being renamed “F.J. Luckenbach” for commercial service. After an additional 11 years she was again renamed “P&T Seafarer.”

In 1963 our old troopship acquired her fourth and final name – “American Hawk.” Once again, called up for war service in June 1971 at Qui Nhon, Vietnam, fully loaded with military supplies, an underwater explosion occurred, sinking the vessel in about 33 feet of water.

After being raised “American Hawk” was towed to Hong Kong for repairs, but further damage was caused in August 1971 when a typhoon struck Hong Kong.

In September that year the ship was sold and demolished by Mollers Ltd at Hong Kong.

*Reprinted from the Two Bar Nine News – April 1997, article by John Craike*



VALE

**Maxwell Murray Chapman  
Passed away peacefully  
on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2007  
Lest We Forget**

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## NEW WORDS IN 2006

**TESTICULATING** - Waving your arms around and talking bollocks.

**BLAMESTORMING** - Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.

**SEAGULL MANAGER** - A manager, who flies in, makes a lot of noise, craps on everything, and then leaves

**ASSMOSIS** - The process by which people seem to absorb success and advancement by sucking up to the boss rather than working hard.

**SALMON DAY** - The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed and die.

**CUBE FARM** - An office filled with cubicles.

**PRAIRIE DOGGING** - When someone yells or drops something loudly in a cube farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see that's going on. (This also applies to applause from a promotion because there may be cake.)

**MOUSE POTATO** - The on-line, wired generation's answer to the couch potato.

**SITCOMs** - Single Income, Two Children, Oppressive Mortgage. What yuppies turn into when they have children and one of them stops working to stay home with the kids or start a "home business".

**STRESS PUPPY** - A person who seems to thrive on being stressed out and whiny.

**ADMINISPHERE** - The rarefied organisational layers beginning just above the rank and file. Decisions that fall from the "adminisphere" are often profoundly inappropriate or irrelevant to the problems they were designed to solve. This is often affiliated with the dreaded "administrivia" needless paperwork and processes.

**OHNOSECOND** - That minuscule fraction of time in which you realise that you've just made a BIG mistake (e. g. you've hit 'reply all')

**BEER COAT** - The invisible but warm coat worn when walking home after a booze cruise at 3am in the morning.

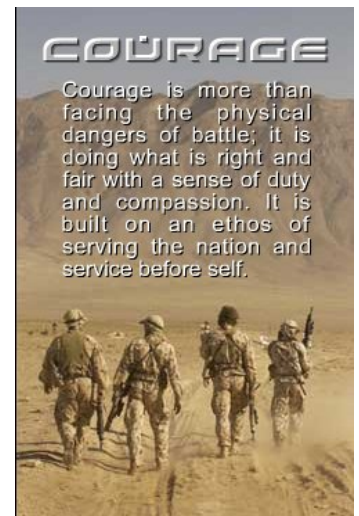
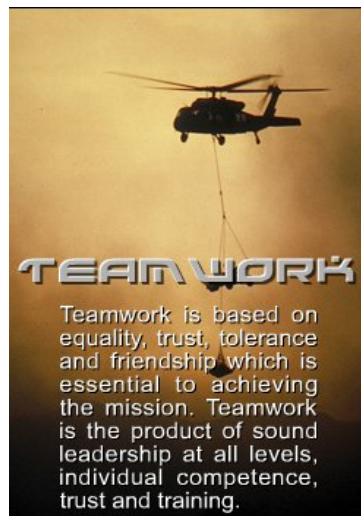
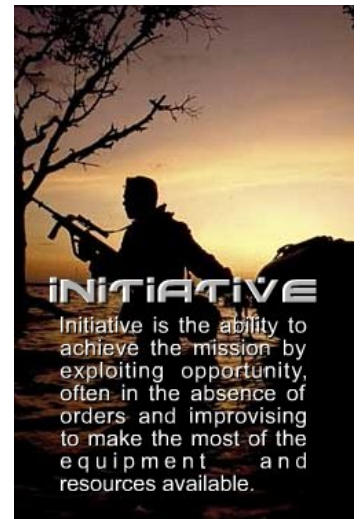
**BEER COMPASS** - The invisible device that ensures your safe arrival home after booze cruise, even though you're too drunk to remember where you live, how you got here, and where you've come from.

**BREAKING THE SEAL** - Your first pee in the pub, usually after 2 hours of drinking. After breaking the seal of your bladder, repeat visits to the toilet will be required every 10 or 15 minutes for the rest of the night.

**MONKEY BATH** - A bath so hot, that when lowering yourself in, you go: "Oo!Oo! Ho! Aa! Aa! Aa!".

## ARMY ETHOS

The ethos of the Army is that of the soldier serving the nation: mentally and physically tough, and with the courage to win. We fight as part of a team and are inspired by the ANZAC tradition of fairness and loyalty to our mates. We are respected for our professionalism, integrity, esprit de corps and initiative.



Source: <http://www.defence.gov.au/army/>

## VIA EMAIL TO THE EDITOR

Dear Robin, **(Re IC system for MK1 Ferret)**

I have received your email request via Dave Mercer. I have an old piece of stick that would be suitable - as I recall, that is what was often used to get the driver to turn and halt. .

I was a radio op in a Mk1 Ferret for a few camps (Lt Gomm was the Troop Commander), and the poor comms meant that the Crew Commander just tapped the driver on each shoulder for the turns and pushed him in the back to slow or halt. The harder the push in the back the more braking force was required! Ahhhh! The memories!

Regards

Gordon Woods

Ex B Sqn Gawler (Tpr, Cpl, Sgt, WO2)

(Capt, Standby Reserve)