MARCH/APRIL 2007

NEWSLETTER



AEME/RAEME ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Editor Greg Rosser

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Secretary David Turner
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MAJ Richard Moyses Ph: 0427 716 728 WO1 Wayne Birch Ph: 0409 990 937

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Auditors

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<u>Association Historian</u>

Vacant

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COL Graham Smith (Rtd) (Representative COLCOMDT - RAEME)

AEME/RAEME Association of SA Inc. Web Site (www.raemesa.com)

Webmaster - WO1 Dean Ellis

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was with pleasure that Christine and I represented the Association at the Moonta WW1 gun dedication ceremony on the 24 Feb 2007. It was also with significant pride to see the gun completed and housed in its purpose built facility. I also proudly accepted appreciation certificates from the Moonta Community on behalf of the 9th Combat Service Support Battalion and 107th Field Workshop for the support given during the gun restoration project. After the ceremony we had lunch as guests of the Moonta RSL. It must be said that the efforts of many have created an outstanding memorial and a fine tribute from the Moonta community that will stand the test of time.

Due to unit commitments at Warradale, this years ANZAC Re-Union is being held on the 13 Apr 2007, a week earlier than anticipated. This should not detract from the spirit and purpose of the reunion and I am looking forward to seeing you there and enjoying an evening with friends and family.

In closing the Association can only be strong and successful with the continuing support of its membership. We are growing, however if anyone has any new ideas or suggestions on the direction the Association should take, please let the committee know and if you wish, attend and speak at committee meetings, as all members are welcome.

Arte et Marte Grant Kuchel

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Everyone

As you were advised in the last newsletter I have taken on the role of producing the Association Newsletter and have found it an interesting challenge so far.

I attended the February Committee Meeting and found it an interesting experience and received a couple of items to include in the Newsletter.

- 1. The committee have for some time been trying to find a Welfare Officer without any success. It was decided that all the committee would act as Welfare Officers and they would either visit (if appropriate), ring the member or arrange for another committee or association member to do so.

 For this to work it requires any of us who hear of a member being sick to advise one of the committee members. Their contact details are on page 1.
- 2. The committee also decided to trial a system of sending "get well" cards to members reported as being sick. This is dependant on committee members receiving advice that another member is sick.
- 3. The committee members are all being provided with a professionally produced Badge (nametag) and similar nametags are available for all association members for \$7.50. Contact the Secretary if you are interested in purchasing a new nametag.



Your Committee in action

I received lots of positive feedback on the last Newsletter particularly from those who received it by email. They were particularly impressed by the quality and colour definition of the photos etc.

If you have access to a computer with email facilities and would like to receive a trial copy by email let me know (gregrosser@adam.com.au) and I will organise for you to receive your copy.

I was advised I didn't include enough jokes so I will do my best to provide some in future editions.

That's all for now, I hope you enjoy this and future editions of the Newsletter

Greg Rosser Editor

Sam Cannavo & Co

Chartered Accountant

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DIARY DATES 2007

Activity/Function

- Committee of Management Meeting
- 2007 RAEME Mixed ANZAC Reunion
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration
- 2007 ANZAC Day March
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration
- Committee of Management Meeting
- Reserve Forces Day 2007 (Torrens Parade Ground)
- 2007 Officer, WOs & SNCOs Formal Dinner
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration
- Committee of Management Meeting
- RAEME Luncheon
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration
- RAEME Corps Seminar
- Committee of Management Meeting
- Fort Largs Guns Restoration
- Annual General Meeting
- RAEME Birthday Family Function

Date

Thursday 12th April Friday 13th April Saturday 14th April Wednesday 25th April Saturday 2nd June Thursday 21st June Sunday 1st July Friday 13th July

Saturday 4th August
Thursday 16th August
Tuesday 11th September Saturday 6th October

18th –19th October

Thursday 25th October

Saturday 1st December Sunday 2nd December

Sunday 2nd December

DON'T FORGET

If you hear of one of our fellow members being sick let one of the committee know ASAP so they can organise someone to contact them. All of us need to participate.

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2007 RAEME MIXED ANZAC REUNION

As mentioned in the January Newsletter, permission has given for our Association to conduct the 2007 RAEME Mixed ANZAC Reunion in the combined **Warradale Area Other Ranks Canteen** (southern side of the oval) on **Friday 13th April** commencing at 7:00pm. Format will be similar to last year. A BBQ meal will be available from approximately 7:15pm to 8:15pm. Cost is \$7:50 per head, which includes entry in a Meal Ticket raffle. Refreshments will be available from the Bar. A "Remembrance Ceremony" will be held at 9:00pm commencing with "Last Post". The function is expected to conclude at 11:30pm.

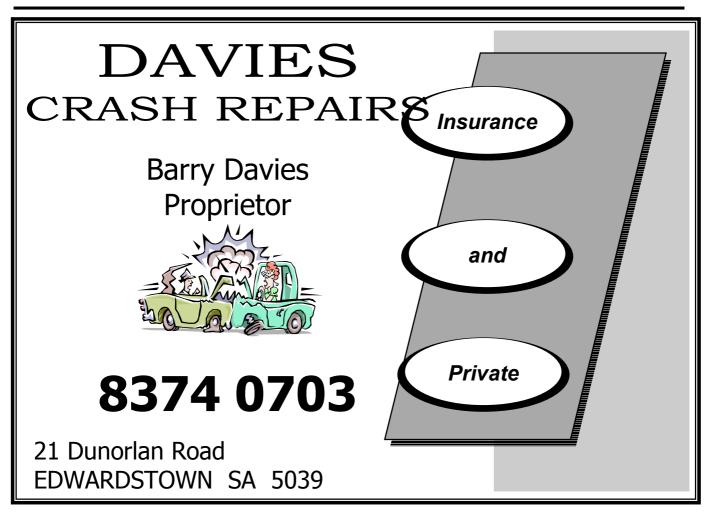
This function is for serving and ex-serving members and their partners and friends. It will be an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and reminisce. Assistance will be required with Set Up, cooking the BBQ, collecting money at the door, selling Raffle Tickets, and Clean Up. <u>Please let David Turner, know on phone (08) 8381 3644 (after hours) if you can assist in any way</u>. An invitation with full details is attached to this Newsletter.

Please ring David Turner, on phone (08) 8381 3644 (after hours) before Wednesday 4th April and let him know whether you will be attending and the number and names of all guests who will be attending with you.

(Note -: If the Security Level at Warradale Barracks increases, it may be necessary to either supply a list of names of those attending to the Security personnel on the gate, or advise those attending of a change of Venue.)

In order to keep costs under control the Committee of Management has decided that <u>WE WILL</u> <u>ONLY CATER FOR THE NAMES NOTIFIED</u>.

<u>Please make every effort to take part in this function to help build Esprit de Corps in the Corps of RAEME in South Australia.</u>



The ANZAC Commemorative March Wednesday 25 April commencing at 9:30am.

The AEME/RAEME contingent will be lead this year by Major Murray from 16 AD Regt. It was agreed at the AGM that the winners of the ARA and GRes 2006 "RAEME Soldier of the Year" awards in Central Region will be offered the opportunity to carry the Association Banner. The ARA winner was CPL Andrew Hird (who has now been promoted to SGT and posted) was Workshop Floor Vehicle Mechanic with Combat Service Support Battery, 16 AD Regt. The GRes winner was CPL George Cook, Workshop Technician Electrical with the 107th Field Workshop, 9th Combat Service Support Battalion. Our President WO2 Grant Kuchel plans to carry the Banner in the absence of SGT Hird who has been posted to Bandiana. Please make George feel welcome on the day.

Any ANZAC Day March queries should be directed to our Unit Guides, Dutchy Holland on phone (08) 8294 4401, John Howard on phone (08) 8447 7681 or Bob Killoran on phone (08) 8270 2222.

The Assembly Point for Group 6 is the same as last year, ie the eastern side of Pultney Street with head on Rundle Street and extending south to the Grenfell Street intersection (see map on page 14).

The route is also the same as last year, north along Pultney Street, west along North Terrace, north along King William Road and right into Sir Edwin Smith Avenue to the dispersal area in Pennington Gardens.

Salutes (the Association Banner is to be lowered on the "eyes right") are to be paid at the National War Memorial and the South African War Memorial on North Terrace, and the Official Dais on the eastern side of King William Road near the Parade Ground at Torrens Training Depot.

As happened last year, 16 AD Regt has offered a vehicle from the workshops to allow WWII veterans who can no longer make the distance the opportunity to participate. Please contact David Turner, on phone (08) 8381 3644, (after hours) if you require a seat (the vehicle will return passengers to Pultney Street immediately after Group 6 has been dismissed at the end of the March). The RSL has allowed this vehicle to participate on the proviso that it forms up alongside AEME/RAEME but must drop back to travel in a "Pod" of vehicles behind Group 6 when they step off. This is to prevent marchers directly behind AEME/RAEME from being forced to breathe exhaust fumes.

All persons who have:

- Served in the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia, British Commonwealth countries or any country which, at the time of such service, was an ally of Australia, or
- 2. Been allotted for duty in the March, are eligible to march.

Children are not permitted to participate in the March other than those who are Next-of-Kin of a deceased veteran and are 13 years of age or over. Those participating are required to wear the medals of the deceased relative (over the right breast) and are required to march with the Next-of-Kin Group - Group 12 (assembly Point on the southern side of Grenfell Street with head on Pultney Street and extending west towards King William Street) or if a Legacy Ward with Legacy Group - Group 1 (Assembly Point on the southern side of North Terrace 50 metres east of Kintore Avenue).

The participation of next-of-kin in the ANZAC Day March is a vexed issue. The RSL policy has been and remains, that next-of-kin marchers shall have reached their 13th birthday and march within Group 12. It is expected that one next-of-kin will march for a deceased family member unless, in extraordinary circumstances, a carer for the next-of-kin is required.

Next-of-kin marchers shall, wherever possible, wear the service medals of their deceased

relative on their right breast and must always be dressed in a manner appropriate to a march of this nature.

Whilst policy is that next-of-kin will only march in Group 12, the RSL recognises that certain exceptional circumstances may exist within individual units, which may prompt units to invite selected next-of-kin to join them. Whilst not encouraging or condoning this practice, the RSL recognises the unit's right to decide upon and implement such exceptions if they so desire.

The recognition of these exceptions should not be viewed as any change in the RSL policy that has existed for many years.

Free car parking facilities will be provided upon display of Service Medals or RSL Badge at:

- Gawler Place Car Park
 6:00pm 25 April (no entry/exit during March 9:00am - 11:00am)
- Hungry Jack's Car Park 7:00am 12:00 midnight 25 April (no entry/exit during March 9:00am-11:00am)
- 3. Harris Scarfe's Car Park 7:30am 6:pm 25 April

Toilet facilities will be provided as follows:

- 1. Council toilets in Hindmarsh Square
- 2. Ground floor level Hungry Jack's Car Park
- 3. Austin Street corner Pultney Street (portaloo \times 1)
- 4. North Terrace opposite Pultney Street intersection (portaloo \times 1)
- Kintore Avenue opposite State National War Memorial (portaloo x 2)
- 6. South eastern side of City Bridge for WWI veterans and VIPs
- 7. Rear of Adelaide University Oval and the Adelaide Oval
- 8. Portable toilets will be provided by the Adelaide City Council at the south eastern corner of Pennington Gardens.

As reported at the AGM in December 2006, approval has been obtained for Association members to meet in the Sergeants' Mess at Keswick Barracks for refreshments and a light luncheon after the March. Please be

advised that the Standard of Dress for inside the Mess is neat civilian attire with a collared shirt. Blue denim is acceptable provided there are no holes or patches, but runners are not acceptable footwear.

Civilian, ex-serving and retired members of any rank are more than welcome to attend as long as they are properly attired and do not display poor behaviour. However, current serving members who are not eligible for membership of a Sergeants' Mess are not invited to attend and should attend their rank respective Mess. Mess protocol dictates that all personnel attending the Mess should introduce themselves as a member of the AEME/RAEME Association to the President of the Mess, WO1 Dean Chappell, or the senior Mess member present.

David Turner



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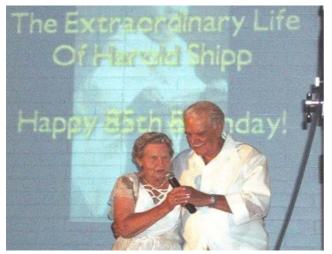
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Shippy Turns 85

Lt Harold Shipp recently turned 85, *WOW*!!!!!! we all hope we are as fit and healthy as Shippy is when we get to the same age.



Shippy and Shirley

Shippy has been a larger than life figure in the Corps for as long as anyone can remember and in typical fashion, he celebrated his birthday with a huge party with approximately 200 people including army members from the Association, the Army Museum and RSI. The party included a floorshow based loosely on Shippy's life and included actors, comedians, singers and dancers. Our own COL Roger Burzacott was MC for the night



Some of the floorshow action

Shippy and his guests all had a great time and we all wish him "all the best" for the future and look forward to his 90th and 100th birthdays.

Greg Rosser



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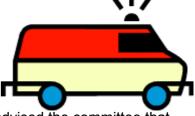
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Sick Parade



Dutchy Holland has advised the committee that Pete Gaskin, an Association member, is currently in Ashford Hospital with stomach cancer. The diagnosis is not good and we wish him all the best.

We received an email from one of our Association members, Eric Kelly, who now lives in Queensland. He reports that he is now a fully fledged member of the zipper club. After a series of heart problems he had heart bypass surgery recently and now reports he is:-

- A little humbled
- A little sore.
- Happy to be alive
- Looking to be totally fit for his 24 April post surgery follow up visit, where hopefully he will be cleared to drive, work etc

The Association wishes Eric a continued speedy recovery.

2007 CENTRAL REGION RAEME OFFICERS, WOS & SNCOS FORMAL DINNER

MAJ Patrick Murray, RAEME Regional Representative - Central Region and Battery Commander of Support Battery (the Workshop) at 16th Air Defence Regiment (16AD) Woodside Barracks, is organising the annual Formal Dinner for serving and exserving RAEME ARA and GRes Officers, WOs and SNCOs and members of the Association.

The Dinner will be held on Friday 13th July at 16 AD Regiment, Woodside Barracks. Bus transport will be provided from Keswick Barracks Sergeants' Mess for Adelaide Plains dwellers.

A personal invitation will be posted to all eligible Association members when the details have been finalised. Mark the date in your Diary now! Please make every effort to take part in this function to help promote Esprit de Corps in the Corps of RAEME in South Australia.

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REMINDERS

If you have a computer and are connected to the internet you can receive your newsletter by email.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email or try it and see how it works send an email to <code>gregrosser@adam.com.au</code> and say if it is a trial or you would like to receive it by email permanently.

If you hear of any Association members who are sick or in hospital please let one of the committee members know so they can arrange a card or visit.

The committee needs your help with this.







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Proprietors:

Chris and Thi yen Rajasingham (MIAME)

A blonde woman goes into a department store and tells the salesman she wants a pair of pink curtains.

He assures her they have a good selection of pink curtains. He shows her many kinds and different fabrics of curtains.

She finally picks out a pink floral pattern. The salesman asks, "What size do you need?"

She says, "15 inch." He exclaims, "15 INCHES! What room are they for?"

She says, "It's not for a room, it's for my computer monitor."

The surprised salesman exclaims, "Miss, computers do not need curtains."

The blonde says, "HELLooooooo... I've got Windows

ISN'T THIS THE WAY IT ALWAYS GOES!

My wife and I had words, But I didn't get to use mine.

ANZAC Day with a difference

Received a note from Warren (Willie) Williams one of our Association members who lives at Wellington (South East) inviting anyone who is touring down his way on ANZAC day to the Lower Murray Ex-Servicemen's Association's "ANZAC Day 2nd Tour at Wellington". Over 200 attended in 2006! Only 68 live in Wellington.

Bring your caravan, or stay in a cabin for a few days at the Wellington Caravan Park.

The War Memorial is 100 metres west, and the Hotel is 100 metres east from the Caravan Park. On the banks of the Mighty Murray.

WEDNESDAY: - ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE "GUNFIRE" BREAKFAST A "GAME OR TWO" LUNCH AT THE PUB

THURSDAY:-

BREAKFAST AT WILLIE'S RIVER CRUISE ON AN OLD PADDLE STEAMER FOR A LAZY COUPLE OF HOURS. (LUNCH SUPPLIED) DINNER AT THE WELLINGTON HOTEL.

FRIDAY:-

GOLF

LAWN BOWLS

LUNCH

WINERY TOUR LANGHORNE CREEK NIGHT TIME: - travel to Fire Support Base "THOMAS" scene of a very large bonfire, sit around the camp fire for a bullshit session and sing song, to 60's & 70"s music. Bring your hoochie or swag.

NO DRIVING, NO HASSLES, NO WORRIES. RELAX HAVE FUN

It's very important to book ahead. Bookings and info: Warren Williams 0417 833 126.

And you thought police officers didn't have a sense of humour.... The following was taken off an actual police car video:

"Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch after you wear them for a while." An 80-year-old man went to his doctor for his quarterly check-up.

The doctor asked him how he was feeling and the 80-year-old said, "Things are great and I've never felt better. I now have a 20 year-old bride who is pregnant with my child. So what do you think about that?"

The doctor considered his question for a minute and then began.

"I have an older friend, much like you, who is an avid hunter and never misses a season. One day when he was setting off hunting, he was in a bit of a hurry and accidentally picked up his walking cane instead of his gun.

As he neared a lake, he came across a very large male beaver sitting at the water's edge. He realized he'd left his gun at home and so couldn't shoot the magnificent creature, but out of habit he raised his cane, aimed it at the animal as if it were his favourite hunting rifle, and went 'BANG, BANG'. Miraculously, two shots rang out and the beaver fell over dead. Now, what do you think of that?" asked the doctor.

The 80-year-old said, "If you ask me, I'd say somebody else pumped a couple of rounds into that beaver."

The doctor replied, "My point exactly."

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FORT LARGS GUNS REPORT February - March 2007.

We had informed the Police Academy that a three man work party was coming down to the fort on Saturday the 10^{th} February, but I received a phone call from Robin Maslen late on Wednesday 7^{th} February to tell me that he had received a request from an Andy Griffiths from NSW who was very keen to see both guns and their associated parts and tools.



Mike Culley, Eric Kelly, Peter Schumann, Robin Maslen, Lindsay Johnson, Keith Tainsh, John Howard, Graham Janz

Robin and I arranged with Andy to show him over the guns on Thursday 8th February at 10.00 am. I arrived early at the fort on Thursday morning, opened up the storage room and did a quick inspection on both guns before our visitor arrived.

I met Andy Griffiths as he walked through the main gates at the fort, I had just started to show him some parts and tools from both guns when Robin and Keith Tainsh arrived to meet Andy and we spent some time swapping information about the workings of the guns and the setup when they were fired.

We were the ones who got the surprise

because Andy told us he was part of a work party from Fort Scratchely NSW who, 10 years ago, started stripping the guns at Fort Largs. While they did as much as they could, they could not continue working on the guns because of the cost of traveling to and from South Australia.

It was at that staged that RAEME in South Australia were approached to see if it could help with the restoration of



the guns. This resulted in a group of retired ex-RAEME volunteers, including Mike Culley, Eric Kelly, Peter Schumann, Robin Maslen, Lindsay Johnson, Keith Tainsh, John Howard, Graham Janz and Eddy Kaminski. Keith Tainsh has been in charge and they have been working on the guns for the last 10 years.

The real reason to the visit to the fort by Andy was to get details of the firing pin mechanism, but while we knew they were "safely stored" somewhere we could not find them. Even after a thorough search they could be not found. According to Andy the firing mechanisms we have are the only original ones they know of left anywhere in the world, and South Australia have them.

After this excitement our own first work-day for 2007 took place on Saturday 10th February as planned. The team consisted of Lindsay Johnson, Robin Maslen and myself and we had the task of placing removed parts back on the guns. We managed to get all the clutch plates fitted back in the southern gun, swivel lockdown wheel set up and fitted the covers over the main worm gears on both guns. Robin managed to free up the oil screw so we could get oil into the hinges of the breech blocks.

I tried to fit one of the brass covers over the gears below the barrel on the Northern gun, but found four metal braces and 8 bolts were missing. At the end of the day, Robin and I had quick tidy up in the main storage room and laid out all the parts to go back on the guns at later date. As we started shifting drums and furniture around inside the storeroom, Robin found the missing firing mechanisms for the guns inside an old oil drum, that made our day!

JOHN HOWARD

The Moonta WW1 German 105mm Howitzer comes Home



Well the final chapter in the restoration of this war trophy reached its successful conclusion when on the 24th February 2007 the dedication ceremony to launch the memorial gun in its new home was conducted. Over 100 guests turned up for the ceremony including the Patron Jim Harbison OAM, Stephen Stock Chairman of the Moonta project group, the Mayor Paul Thomas (who presented certificates to those involved on the project), a 10/27 RSAR Catafalque party with the Rev Ian Giles the officiating clergy. Robin & Val Maslen, Graham and Judith Janz, John and Judith Fuller and John Howard from the Adelaide restoration team along with WO2 Grant Kuchel

and wife Christine attended representing the Association and 9 CSSB and 107 Fd Wksp. SGT Geoff Parker and CFN Brett Wilkeson from 107 Fd Wksp with the Mack wrecker and Bruce Watson the Moonta liaison member also attended. The dedication ceremony Master of Ceremonies was Graham Hancock and the local KWM brass band entertained the guests with WW1 era music. Wreaths were placed on the memorial and bugler Aaron Jenkins played the Last Post. We all adjourned to the Moonta RSL for a great lunch prepared by Jyll Watson for the 100 guests, a few drinks then back home to Adelaide feeling proud and satisfied with our efforts.

The gun was taken to Moonta from 107 just before Xmas by the workshop's wrecker and trailer and was welcomed by a crowd of Moonta locals with their cameras for the arrival and unloading. Quite an article with photos appeared in the local paper and disappointingly only a small article in the Advertiser.

Over 30 sponsors were involved in raising finance for the project which was completed without any government financial support. In addition many individuals contributed by buying a paver with their names engraved on it. These pavers were laid in the surrounds of the memorial building site.





The Adelaide project team now wonder what to do with their Mondays. 107 Fd Wksp rests in peace as we have cleared up and cleared out. Some of the group have migrated to the Keswick Army Museum to work on Wednesdays putting the finishing touches to the restoration of the MK1 Ferret started 4 years ago by Eddie Kaminski. This vehicle is about to make its debut on the Adelaide roads shortly. More about this project in the next newsletter.

Then we are to be involved to make roadworthy, a 1948 Land Rover, and an old 3/9 Saracen plus fixing other bits and pieces and vehicles in the "To Do' list.

Robin Maslen

WE WANT YOU

This group of museum volunteers would love to see any "old" retired RAEME Vehicle Mechanics or Tradesmen with a bit of a taste for a challenge to join us on Wednesdays at the Keswick museum. The 3 course \$4.35 lunch in the canteen is worth it, let alone the comradeship and fun that we all have.

Contact Robin if interested.

rmaslen@ozemail.com.au or phone 8296 2768

MEMBERSHIP

Subs are still \$5 for one year or any multiple thereof eg \$20 for four years. Subs are due at 1 July in the year your membership is "current to". According to the records, the following persons are financial members of the Association. The number in brackets is the year your membership is "current to", as shown on your Membership Card.

Honorary Life Members

Mike Culley, Dutchy Holland, Eddy Kaminski, George Robinson, David Turner

Ordinary Members

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Please inform the Secretary, David Turner, or a member of the Committee of Management, of any change of address. This will ensure that you receive the latest copy of the Newsletter.

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ANZAC Day Commemorative March

Assembly Areas and March Route

