

SAS RESOURCES FUND NEWSLETTER



SAS RESOURCES FUND ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Issued December 2016



In This Issue

- 2016 Chairman's report
- Our beneficiaries thank you
- The year in review
- The Pozieres experience

If there was one single glimmer of light to emerge from the ashes of the 1996 Blackhawk disaster it would certainly be the creation of the Special Air Service Resources Fund. While the unit was understandably reeling from its worst ever loss, and rightfully focused on rebuilding the short notice Counter Terrorism capability that Australia relies upon it to provide, a selfless group of individuals coalesced, unprompted, and set about creating this amazing institution. In doing so, they reacted swiftly, decisively and generously; and have continued to ever since..

The 20 years since the Blackhawk tragedy represents about a “generation” within the Special Air Service Regiment; the unit’s most senior soldiers today were young troopers or lance corporals back in 1996 when the accident occurred. Sadly, during that generation, almost every single member of the unit has experienced the loss of a friend in training or combat. But on each occasion, in the midst of their grief, our men and women have also seen the Fund immediately step into action. As a result, we have witnessed the children of our fallen mates grow up, being cared for by the Fund. No one can replace a lost father or husband but through its financial support and empathy, the Fund provides a backbone of solace in this darkest of situations.

By virtue of this fact, every time our soldiers step forward into the breach, they do so confident in the knowledge that should they fall in the service of this country, the Fund has their back, and will continue to take care of that which is most precious to them. In a capability sense, the difference that this makes to the Special Air Service, as an operational unit, is profound.

Finally, while every member of the Special Air Service Regiment is aware of the incredible support that the Resources Fund provides, I must admit that it has only been since assuming the role of Commanding Officer that I have come to fully appreciate the enormous time and effort put into this endeavour by the board and members of the Fund, and the incredible generosity and support of the Perth and, increasingly, wider Australian community. On behalf of every member of the Special Air Service Regiment, I wish to pass on our sincere thanks. I look forward to where the next 20 years of our relationship might take us...

Who Dares Wins

Commanding Officer, SASR



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015-16

It is my pleasure to provide this annual report on the activities of the SAS Resources Fund and its three associated Trusts (collectively known as the "Trust") for the financial year ended 30th June 2016.

2016 is a significant year for both the Trust and the Special Air Service Regiment as it marks the 20th anniversary of the Blackhawk helicopter accident which occurred on 12th June 1996 during a night training exercise outside of Townsville, that resulted in the tragic loss of 18 lives including 15 members of the Regiment, and left another member as a paraplegic, and 11 children without their fathers.

As a direct result of this tragic accident, the first Trust (now known as Trust 1), which has also had its 20th anniversary, was established on 2nd October 1996 by a group of West Australian civilians.

Since 1996, as the needs of members of the Regiment and their families became better understood, two further Trusts (Trusts 2 and 3), were established along with the SAS Resources Fund as the over-arching fundraising body.

On the 20th anniversary of the accident, a very moving memorial service was held at Campbell Barracks (as well as another in Townsville), attended by many of the widows and children whose travel costs were met by Trust 1.

THE TRUSTS

Trust 1

Trust 1 provides financial support for members of the SAS Regiment and their families when a member is killed or permanently incapacitated (both physically or mentally) in the course of active service or training.

A primary focus of Trust 1 has been, and remains, to try to enable the children to experience the best possible start in life through facilitating the best available education and assisting with other vocational needs (up until the age of 25 years). The level of support provided by the Trustees is based on "a caring father" test (namely what a caring father would do in the circumstances).

During the year Trust 1 continued to provide this support to the beneficiaries of Trust 1.

Trust 2

Trust 2 was established to broaden the coverage to provision of financial support for all former members of the Regiment (and their families) who experience financial hardship. Ordinarily but not exclusively, the financial assistance under Trust 2 is not ongoing but involves a 'one-off' payment.

During the year Trust 2 provided support to several ex-members of the SAS Regiment or their families when they experienced financial difficulties that qualified them as beneficiaries. These include difficulties arising as a result of such causes as post-traumatic stress.



Trust 3

Trust 3, established to provide support to current serving members of the Regiment and their families, provides Squadron-size family functions for each Squadron of the Regiment, as well as the Personnel Welfare Respite program. This enables serving individual soldiers and their families who are in need of this relief as a result of service with the Regiment to have a respite family holiday. A number of holiday homes in WA's southwest, a villa at Cable Beach in Broome and an apartment in Falls Creek, Victoria are also available, free of charge, through the generosity of a number of individuals.

During the past 12 months, the support provided by Trust 3 has been extended to now also provide funding for members of the Regiment:

- who need to participate in a rehabilitative art programme; and
- to enable them, through funds raised under the Wanderers Education Programme, to undertake tertiary qualifications to help assist them to transition back into civilian life at the end of their military careers, thereby opening wider employment opportunities leading to greater long term security for both members of the Regiment and their families.

The SAS Resources Fund was established as the umbrella fundraising entity that manages all fundraising and distributes the proceeds between the three Trusts according to need.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

As has been the case in previous years, three fundraising events, arranged by the Fund, occurred during the past twelve months:

The second Melbourne MCC Function - Friday 4th March – which, along with the annual charity dinner, was once again arranged by the hard working Dinner Committee. This event was well supported and we were honoured to have present a number of very prominent dignitaries including His Excellency, Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC and Lady Cosgrove, Dawn Fraser AO MBE, Hon Tim Fischer AC, Murray Thompson MLA, Ben Roberts Smith VC MG, Corporal Mark Donaldson VC and Major General Jeff Sengleman DSC AM CSC, Special Operations Commander Australia.

The Annual Charity Dinner - Friday 29th July – Hyatt Hotel in Perth at which we were honoured to have with us a number of dignitaries headed by Her Excellency the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia as well as Brigadier James Wallace AM and Mrs Poppy Wallace; and

The fourteenth Western Derby Football Breakfast - Thursday 4th August – Subiaco Oval. Once again we were honoured by the support of a number of dignitaries including Her Excellency the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia, The Hon Colin Barnett MLA, Premier of Western Australia, Kevin Sheedy AM, Adam Simpson and Eric MacKenzie representing the West Coast Eagles and Ross Lyon and Michael Walters representing the Fremantle Dockers.

All three events were well attended, enjoyable and not only raised money for the Fund but also helped to maintain its public profile.

As always we are greatly indebted to our various sponsors and also to the many people who contributed so much time and effort organizing these events that form a key part of the Fund's fundraising

activities. We thank you all most sincerely for your support. In particular, I make special mention of the members of the dinner committee who once again carried a very heavy load, arranging both the Melbourne MCG Function and the Annual Charity Dinner.

PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP – SCOTCH COLLEGE

This year, with the help of Jon Hanlin and Nick Brasington, a perpetual scholarship for the secondary education of male beneficiaries was established with the very generous support from both a private donor and Scotch College. We thank Scotch for its generosity and all who have assisted in this significant achievement.

This brings to three the number of scholarships that the Trust has secured for the education of future beneficiaries, with Methodist Ladies College and Trinity College being the other two.

OTHER TRUST MATTERS

Beneficiaries Afternoon Tea – 12th March 2016

This year we held our first afternoon tea for beneficiaries at the Sunset premises on a sunny Saturday afternoon in March. It was attended by a number of beneficiaries, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment accompanied by his wife and children, and a number of the trustees. This successful event was very professionally organized by Ms. Donna-Lee Attrill, our Administration and Beneficiary Liaison Officer.

The Fund and the three trusts were very efficiently managed and run by Chief Operating Officer Mr. Tim Hawson, our Business Manager Ms. Jo Nelson, Ms. Donna-Lee Attrill and Mrs Jackie Masters (Dinner Committee Administration) who works part-time for our dinner committee, and I thank all of them for the fine job that they are doing.

Finally, I thank all donors, trustees, committee members, staff members, other volunteers and helpers for their continued dedication, enthusiasm and support. As you all know, most do so free of charge and it is the power of this collective goodwill that drives the Fund and enables it to continue to grow into a major pillar in the provision of support of members of the SAS Regiment and their families.

GREG SOLOMON
CHAIRMAN



Our beneficiaries thank you

In 2016 the Resources No.1 Trust sent Joshua Tombs to Botswana on his final study trip for completion of his Zoology degree this year. Congratulations Joshua...

Here he shares with us his journey, the experiences and the discoveries along the way.

The Camp Life

The first thing that hits you when you land in Botswana is the Heat. It is almost stifling and kind of takes your breath away as you first step out of the cool air-conditioning of the airplane. The first few nights were tough as the heat did not dissipate with the going down of the sun, this made sleep hard to find. After a few days however, you do grow use to it and sleep comes easily. Tau camp was set in an amazing location, on an island completely surrounded by a wet season flood plain, with low-level scrub throughout the camp providing shade in the heat of the day. The late afternoons were a special

treat at the camp, as large herds of elephants would often come down to the pools outside the camp's lounge area and bathe and socialize. I never grew tired of witnessing this daily ritual and it was undoubtedly the best part my day.

Camp life was simple and easy going. Cooking and cleaning was shared amongst the group on a day-to-day basis. The living quarters were very relaxed and were once part of an old safari lodge and so were fitted with luxuries such as lights and bathroom amenities. Over all I found the place very homely, it actually did feel like we were coming home when we returned from time spent in Chobe or just when we returned at the end of a long days drive checking waterhole levels.

We spent roughly half of the two months that I was in Botswana in Tau camp, which was located near the village of Khwai on the northern fringes of the Okovango delta. The geographical location of the camp placed it right on



the edge of a dry season haven (the delta). For most of the wildlife in this part of the world the delta is a vital resource that provides a consistent source of water and at the very least, buffer feed supplies to get them through the dry times. Although for a lot of the time that we were there the plains around the camp were dry, all it took was a couple hours of heavy rain once every few days, and the channels surrounding the camp would be flowing again. There were also many permanent water sources scattered all over

Our beneficiaries thank you

the area, particularly to the west of camp. One pool in particular made for a great spot to go for a quick dip and to watch the sun go down at the end of a long hot day out in the field.

It was not only the water that made the area so popular with the wildlife but also the nature of the feed in the area too. There had recently been bushfires through the concession before we had arrived. Because of these fires there was now a great abundance of new grass shoots coming through. These new shoots provide the most profitable feeding for many grazing herbivores. There was also thick Mopanie scrub all through the area. Mopanie is a big part of the elephants' diet and so supported a lot of the giant creatures in the area. Elephants were a very prevalent feature on just about every drive we did, often making their presence known with a loud trumpet or even charging at the truck on the odd occasion.



The later stage of the trip was spent farther to the North at a research camp located in an area of the Chobe National Park that bordered on the Caprivi strip of north eastern Namibia. This camp was a nice treat for the team as it was fully catered for and all cooking and cleaning was taken care of by the wonderful staff at the camp. The actual accommodation was solid walled cabins with all the trimmings, lights and electricity, that functioned after the sun went down which made for a nice change. Once again the camp was located deep in the bush with no other signs of civilization for miles around, providing a great sense of isolation and an appreciation for your surroundings.

As far as the environment itself goes, there was a very distinct difference that could be felt in this area compared to Tau. Aside from the noticeable reduction in the numbers of animals that we saw on each drive, the presence of humans was inescapable. On every drive we would visit cattle outposts, dotted all through region. This was to be expected as we were visiting the area for this exact reason, to assess the conflicts between humans and wildlife but this wasn't the issue, the Outposts themselves were fine. It was the remnants and discards from humans that were left lying scattered all through the bush that tainted the natural experience of the place.

Every drive there was rubbish on the road or old bits of steel and household appliances that had simply been discarded in the middle of nowhere. A particularly prevalent piece of evidence that indicated the negative impact of humans on the region was the discarded fences strewn everywhere. One fence in particular was inescapable, The Department of Agriculture (DA) Cluster farming fence. This was a fence that the DA had erected with no consultation with any other party outside of their own organization and as a result had been a major catastrophe. The fence now lays in ruins with large stretches, several kilometers long, just utterly destroyed by elephants and other large game. The problem was the area that the DA had chosen to place the cluster farming area was smack bang in the middle of many of the animal's migratory pathways. When you look at sections of the fence that are still intact you can clearly see that it would be no problem for a thirsty, hungry, or even just an impatient elephant to push aside and that is exactly what has happened and now no one wants to take responsibility for either maintaining or removing the fence and this seemed to be a common theme in the area. Peoples attitudes towards responsibility and ownership was very much lacking. When speaking with the herders at the cattle posts it was often the case that when an animal had been lost it was because the animals had not been put away for the night. The farmers seemed unconcerned about this loss of property and just seemed to think that it was all part of the job, rather than being concerned and taking measures to ensure the security of their livelihood. They believed it was

Our beneficiaries thank you

the Government's job to protect them and their livestock and that there was no onus on themselves to do anything. I should note that this was not the case for all farmers. A lot of farmers did take pride in their cattle and their yards and were very happy to show us around and speak with us.

Aside from all the issues surrounding the human wildlife conflicts it was very interesting to note that many of the threatened species of birds and herbivores that we were observing were doing quite well in the area. Species such as Eland, Roan and Sable, of which we had seen only two sable in Tau, were seen in large herds on a number of occasions. On one occasion we came across a herd of Eland that would have numbered at least 200. Sighting's such as these were very encouraging and left me with a feeling of hope that things were not beyond reckoning, and that with the help and hard work of organizations like Wildlife Act Team, rare and endangered species could become a thing of the past.

The Wildlife

Certainly the biggest part of the trip for me, and I'm sure for the majority of people who have or will embark on such an



amazing trip was the wildlife. The thing that strikes you most when you are out in the reserves is just the sheer abundance of animals. Every time we got in the vehicle to set out on another observation or transect drive there was an element of excitement in the back of everyone's minds as to what amazing new scene we would come across today. Whether it be a pack of wild dogs bursting out of the bush and racing across the road, metres in front of the vehicle or just a new species of bird that you haven't checked off the list yet. Every drive offered the chance of a new encounter and the funny thing was that they would always happen just when you had given up hope of anything exciting happening. One particular instance occurred in the small hours of the morning before the sun had come up. We had headed out particularly early this day as we were moving from Tau camp to Chobe, some five hours to the north and we wanted to beat the heat of the day. It was around 4:30am and pitch black, all you could see was the dimly lit 10 metres of road in front of us that the dull lights from the Range Rover struggled to light up. Suddenly, like apparitions in the night, two large female lionesses appeared in the road. They didn't seem startled by our sudden arrival at all and carried on walking right up to the vehicle and straight on past us, down the road and disappeared back into the darkness. As fast as they had appeared, they had vanished. Shortly after they disappeared, two adolescent cubs of around one year of age ran past the vehicle, this time showing a little more caution than their predecessors. Although the encounter was brief, the excitement and feelings brought on by it didn't leave me for some time after.

For as long as I live I will never forget the amazing experiences I had during my time in Botswana. The lessons I've learnt while working and travelling with the Wildlife Act Team will be invaluable to my future career prospects. In particular my lessons on how to deal with the human aspect of wildlife management. It takes more than just a love of animals to succeed in this industry. It requires a certain resilience and perseverance to carry out the work that must be done in difficult circumstances and often against all odds and with few resources. I now see that there is long and hard road ahead but one that I look forward to embracing, with a determined resolve.

JOSHUA TOMBS

Our beneficiaries thank you

Shared with us by Melissa Bingley, proud mother to Mitchell Bingley (Trust 1 beneficiary)

“Mitchell was selected to sit for an ICAS Science Exam which is run by the NSW University at his school last term, because he is achieving good grades in that subject. The results came in two weeks ago and he received a distinction mark, got the top mark for all the Year 4's at his school and was the only one to achieve a Distinction. In fact he rates in the top 6% in Australia with the mark he received. He was so proud and I was just bursting with pride as it gave him such a confidence boost.”

Thanks again to everyone at SASR Trust for supporting Mitchell in his education and giving him such wonderful opportunities to grow and achieve.

Melissa Bingley



Haley Nary - Artwork St Marys Anglican School for Girls- Year 10

This was an entry to the CAPAF for which Haley was awarded Gold. Haley's Mum Naomi proudly forwarded this fantastic piece of art.

Congratulations Haley...

Our beneficiaries thank you

To the SASR Trust,

Thank you so much for helping me with Phoebe's expenses. We are so grateful for the financial assistance you give us. Phoebe attends a wonderful school & plays sports with many teams largely due to the generosity of the Trust.

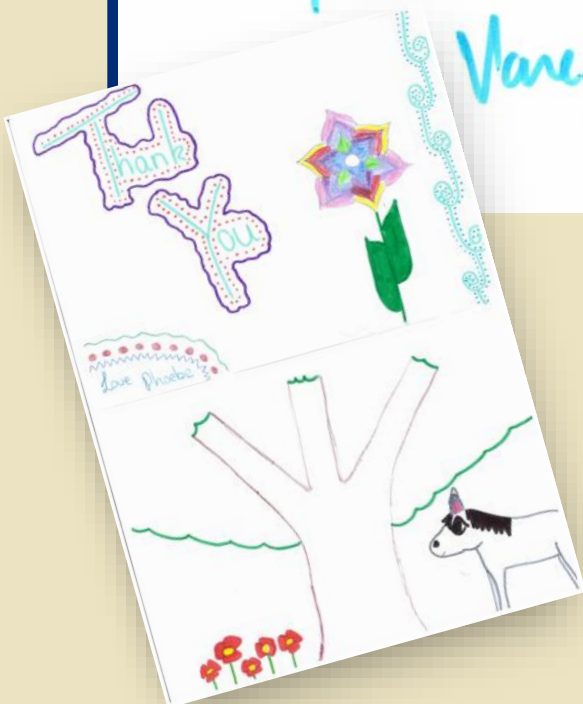
When I attended the function at the MCG recently I was completely overwhelmed by the feeling in the room - at the same time uplifting with pride but then so devastatingly sad at the same time.

It was a very moving evening & I thank you for the invitation.

Phoebe & I look forward to meeting those who help us daily in June when we will be in Perth for the Black Hawk anniversary.

Yours most humbly & sincerely

Vanessa
and
Phoebe



*Lovely thank you received
from Vanessa and her
daughter Phoebe*



Phoebe and her horse 'Tara'

Our beneficiaries thank you

Dear Donna,

I am writing to give you an update on my Year 8 experiences at St Hilda's and outside curriculum activities so far. This year I experienced Year 8 camp (Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park in the Margaret River region)



where we were split up into our tutor groups as shown in the image. During camp we got to see what it's like to hike on beaches and very, very large hills whilst

carrying our own equipment for camping/eating/drinking. We were given lessons on how to surf and we got to enjoy going for a walk in a cave. Our camping trip consisted of all four nights out in the open which I quite enjoyed except for the drop toilets which we had to use for four of the five days, the other night we got to use a hole! On the last night we got to enjoy stories and probably the best dish of stir-fry ever!!

During first term along with year camp I was fortunate enough to partake in another year of IGSSA swimming. St Hilda's came in first place for the eighth consecutive year. GO ST HILDAS!!

At the end of term two I decided I wanted to join another sport and started rowing at ANA Bayswater. At ANA Rowing I was recommended to compete at State level in double scull and quad scull. The first race I ever competed in was my quad race and we were coming first by a very large lead until one of my teammates fell out of time and dropped the oar. We were still able to stay in the lead but by a much smaller margin, however, with only a few meters away from the finish line the same teammate let go of the oar again and cost us the race but it was still amazing for my first race in a quad or any boat for that matter. I have also been able to compete in Club Pennants in both double and quad sculls plus a mixed sculls, whilst only coming in third in the grand finals my coach was very proud of what I have managed to achieve in such a short time.

I have had a busy and productive year and my school results have been improving with the additional support I have been receiving. I am really looking forward to the end of year to relax and continue to focus on both of my sports in preparation for next year. I hope that you and your family have a wonderful break.

Kind regards, Bethany Newton

Dear Donna,

This year at my school I went on a Canberra trip, school camp, and I did a Year 6 production called the Sherwood Hoodies.

The Canberra trip was a very educational experience and on the trip I went to the Australian War Memorial. I had dinner at the well known Jamie Italian restaurant, we also went to the old and new Parliament House and we had dinner at the Canberra Raiders Club House. The overall knowledge that I learned on the four day trip was more than I could learn in two weeks at a normal school.

The school production was my highlight of my year. The play was called Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies



and I played a character called Alan-a-Dale. The time it took to rehearse was nine weeks and we performed over three days. As I said before, this was my highlight of the year and I will look back at this moment through photos and laughter!

The school camp was an amazing experience with team building and sustainability lessons, I will remember these throughout my life. We did an orienteering course, we learnt about aboriginals and built an aboriginal shelter called a 'humpie'. We also went canoeing down rapids and finally we learnt about indigenous plants that live around the bush and presented our research to the class.

I also performed a drum solo in the music assembly and was happy with how I performed. And finally the last thing I will be doing this year is performing in the junior school rock band at Mojo's this coming weekend! I am drumming two songs and singing one so am pretty excited about it.

I hope that you and your family have a good break over Christmas.



Kind regards,
Joel Newton

Me and two class mates at a lunch function

Some of our beneficiaries in 2016



Maddison
Holy Communion



Yasmin and her
Mum

Congratulations Joshua
Bachelor of
Zoology



Laura and her
Mum



Congratulations!
Nathan, Shannen and Aliyah



Our beneficiaries thank you

In September, Leisa Russell a beneficiary of Trust 1, with the assistance from the Resources Fund, ventured with her St Hilda's School friends to Vietnam. Leisa shares with us what she has learnt from this journey...

Thank you for funding my trip to Vietnam. It was an amazing trip that I will never forget.

When we arrived in Hanoi after nine hours of flying, we went to a local restaurant for dinner, straight away I was struck by how busy the place was. There were people and bikes everywhere, crossing the road was scary at first, but we just stuck together as a big group and followed the guide, Tang. After dinner we went back to the hotel and were told that it was best that we got straight to bed after such a long day. One thing the teachers forgot was that most of us were sharing a room with our closest friends, so we stayed up till midnight, as we were used to Perth time zone.

The next morning we left at 7:30 to go to Mai Chau which took four hours by bus. By the time we arrived we were exhausted. At our home stay there were lots of school kids waiting for us and they gave us flowers, they were beautiful. We then went for a walk around the village. We saw the Calling Bell which when rung is where the villagers meet. We then went to see where the community service project would take place. It involved us going down a slippery muddy steep hill, most of use fell down but instead of me falling down I got kicked in the butt. I'm not joking. We then went back to our homestay and we were shown around. We knew that the facilities would be basic and they were, we had squat toilets and a bucket for a shower. We would sleep on the floor under the cover of a mosquito net.



The next day we went out to start our project, which was building an irrigation canal amongst the rice fields. Most of our morning was digging, it was very muddy and slippery, a couple of times students lost their shoes in the mud! After we had finished digging we moved bricks with each student passing it along our people train, however as we got further away from the bricks we started to use wheelbarrows to help move more bricks at once. After the morning hours we headed back for lunch with our tops drenched with sweat, it was very hot and humid. After lunch we went back to work. Moving bricks happened most days

but we also did cementing with us mixing and shovelling the cement into buckets and wheelbarrows and taking the wheelbarrows and buckets to the canal. Since there were two jobs we spilt into two groups and rotated at half time. We worked alongside the local adults and sometimes the kids would come and watch.

After we had finished our work each afternoon, we would visit different parts of the village to meet with the local people and learn more about their culture. We learnt about their lifestyle, a traditional dance, which we were not very good at, and how to cook rice in bamboo, kebabs and lemon grass, which was the best meal of the whole trip. We also tried what looked like a green orange, the smaller the piece the sourer it was. This was quite

Our beneficiaries thank you

amusing watching the other girls' faces when they tried it.

One of my favourite parts of the trip was going to the school. The school was a 45 minute walk, I can't believe they do this every day, especially in the heat. When there we divided into groups for each classroom. Each of us brought different activities that we could do with them. It appeared that everyone's class was calm, except mine, we had beads for making bracelets, it was fun chaos. We also had pipe cleaners (for making things), balloons, stickers and maybe the worst idea of all, bubbles. The kids loved the bubbles. After class we played a soccer game, which we lost, soccer is very popular in Vietnam. On the way back to the home stay we saw one of the kids blowing bubbles sitting on the back of his friends bike.

On the last night we had a celebration. The women performed the traditional dances, which were amazing and beautiful. We then got split into three groups; one doing an Australian dance, the other singing an Australian song and I was in the group performing the traditional dance. We had a lot of fun and managed to do most of the dance quite well. The singing group sung Old Kookaburra Laugh and the Australian dancing group did the Hocipoci. It was a fun night for everyone, with lots of laughing.

The next morning we only worked for an hour as we were leaving after brunch. We then had speeches to say thanks from both sides. We donated some of our shoes, hats and gloves. Before we left, we got changed out of our wet, sweaty tops to head back to Hanoi. It was clear on the bus that we had learnt to appreciate personal space as everyone took two seats for themselves.

When we got back to Hanoi we went around the shops, the Temple of Literature, the museum of gardens, and on bikes, as we also got to see the old president Ho Chi Min Temple. The following day we went to Ha Long Bay, which was a five-hour drive. While there we went kayaking and swimming, we went for walks and enjoyed the beautiful view of the bay.

The next day, feeling refreshed, we went back to Hanoi and caught the night train to Hoi An. This was a town near the coast. While there we got to go on a river cruise, we learnt how to make traditional lateens, and had a tour around the local areas. The next day it was time to return back to Australia.

Vietnam was truly an amazing experience. The people live such a different way of life to us, despite them not having big houses and cars and all the other things that we take for granted, they are so happy. I realise how different the world can be, and that one place is not always better than another because of these things, I know this because when I came home the thing I appreciated the most was a hot shower, a western toilet and my soft bed.

I would like to say a very big thank you to the Trust for this amazing trip. Not only did I learn about Vietnam, but I also have an extra special bond with my classmates as well as some of my teachers. I hope one day to have a job where I can work with people to help communities be safe.

Leisa



The year in review

Melbourne Charity Dinner March 2016

Our second 'Melbourne' Charity Dinner was another excellent event. Pre-dinner drinks were sipped while taking in the view from the famous MCC Long Room followed by a sumptuous dinner in the Members Dining Room.

The evening commenced with an ANZAC message from the Hon Mr Ted Baillieu and followed by new SASRF Chairman Mr Greg Solomon – who reminded our guests of the purpose for the dinner. Our special guest speaker was His Excellency General the Hon. Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd), who gave an excellent speech and spoke from the heart; as too did Ms Giverny Tombs, our beneficiary who talked about the loss of her father and how the SASRF has been of great support to both herself and her family. Mr Tim Fischer offered the vote of thanks to His Excellency and Maj Greg Mawkes kept all amused with his great sense of purpose and humour.

The evening had many highlights including live and silent auction and a sporting panel whose MC was the well-known Brian Taylor, hosting a wonderfully entertaining panel consisting of the Peter Moody (trainer of Black Caviar), swimming legend Dawn Fraser and footy legend Mal Brown.

Thank you to all our winning bidders, you made the auction a success and raised a substantial amount of money for the SAS Resources Fund.



The year in review

An afternoon at Sunset March 2016



The Chairman Greg Solomon was delighted with the turnout at our inaugural gathering of Widows, Beneficiaries, Trustees, SASR Commanding Officer, SASR RSM, SASRF staff and families at the Fund office grounds at Sunset Hospital on Saturday 12th March 2016. The afternoon was a casual get together giving everyone the opportunity to mingle and meet/catch up with each other. The Fig trees provided a lovely setting (and climbing chance for the younger kids) to a beautiful afternoon complimented with some canapes and refreshments.



The year in review

20th Anniversary of the Blackhawk Accident Memorial Service

On Sunday 12th June 2016 the SAS Regiment conducted a memorial service at the Garden of Reflection to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Blackhawk accident. Families and friends of the fallen travelled from across the country and locally to attend the service along with members of the Regiment, SASRF Board and staff, which was followed by an afternoon at the ASASA House with lunch and refreshments. Around one thousand people attended the service and enjoyed the opportunity to catch up at the House following the formal proceedings.

It was a respectful day and conducted in true Regimental spirit. Services were also conducted in Townsville and Canberra to commemorate the anniversary.



Lest we Forget

The year in review

An article written by Janine Hill for the Sunshine Coast Daily shared to us by SASRF beneficiary Laura Hagan...



The dad I never had after the Blackhawk tragedy

by Janine Hill

LAURA Hagan does not know exactly what she has missed by not having a dad for the last 20 years, just that it was a lot.

Laura had just turned three when her father, SAS Trooper Glen Hagan, died in the Blackhawk helicopter crash at Townsville 20 years ago today.

"To be honest, I don't know what it's like to have a dad because I haven't had much to compare it to. It's more that void in my life," she said. Laura, who was raised on the Sunshine Coast, has travelled to Perth with her mother, Vanessa, this weekend for a ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the crash and the lives lost.

The crash is regarded as the Australian Army's worst peacetime disaster. Two helicopters which were among a group of six on a live fire counter-terrorism training exercise collided in the dark, leaving 18 men dead.

Laura was the youngest of 11 children left without fathers.

She and her mother had travelled to Townsville a few days before the crash so that Glen could spend some time with her on her third birthday. They heard a helicopter fly over that night and thought it might have been Daddy. They found out later that it was a helicopter trying to rescue the injured.

Vanessa and Glen, who had married young, had split up by that stage but Vanessa said he still tried to be as involved in his young daughter's life as he could around work. Vanessa did remarry but has been a single mother for most of Laura's life and received support from the SAS Resources Fund to help with costs while Laura was a student.

Mother and daughter are a tight unit but special occasions and life milestones are when Laura feels her father's absence most acutely. "I'll be talking with friends, and they'll be talking about what they did with their fathers, or Father's Day - things like that get difficult because I can't relate to that, I never had that," she said

Laura has two memories of her father.

"We were at the beach building sandcastles. I don't remember his face, I just remember him being there, and I remember going back the next day to see if they were still there and they'd been washed away," she said.

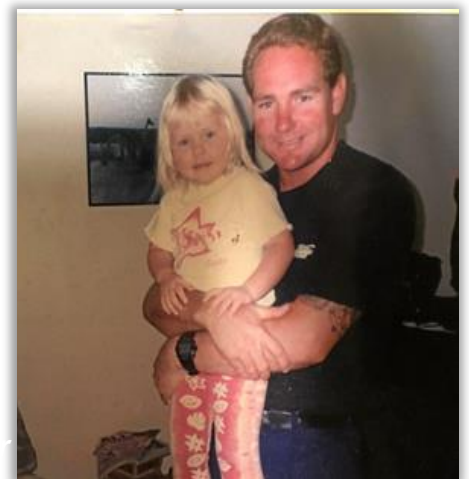
"And I can remember sitting on the kitchen chair, on the phone to him. I was eating an apple, I think, and I passed the phone to Mum and I remember saying, 'Good night, Daddy'."

Laura, a bright, outgoing young woman who enjoys talking to people, knows her father through her mother and his family, and the memories they have shared with her.

"I know he was very work-committed, he loved his job, he was a very open, straight, person, a bubbly person, which is where I get that from," she said.

"Mum always says to me that I'm so much like my dad. My laugh is like his, and his smile," she said.

**Laura and her late father
Glen Hagan**



This speech was written and presented by the Commanding Officer of the SASR at the Memorial service held at Campbell Barracks on 12 June 2016

Blackhawk 20th Anniversary Speech

There's a very famous line from a James Elroy Flecker Poem which is inscribed on the clock tower of the British SAS Regiment—their version of our rock—and which is well known to anyone who has ever worn a sandy beret. The poem describes a humble group, bearded and dressed in rags who seek to join a caravan bound on a dangerous journey. When challenged as to their credentials by the Master of the Caravan, the group replies:

*We are the pilgrims master,
We shall go always a little further*

This, to me, encapsulates the very essence of the sacrifice of the 18 men lost on this day 20 years ago. These men were seeking neither glory nor wealth nor recognition for their efforts, but were instead driven by a desire to go a little further in the pursuit of a goal both necessary and worthy.

The Special Air Service Regiment prides itself on—indeed is relied upon—for its ability to come up with operational solutions to missions without precedent. But inherent in this job description is the fact that there is no playbook for what we need to be able to do. There is no instruction manual on how to create a capability to counter the absolute worst in human nature. Moreover, this is not a static endeavour—our adversaries in this challenge are constantly working towards their own unfathomable goals; these are the kinds of minds who come up with the concept of flying a passenger plane into a New York building; who decide it appropriate to their ends to fire automatic weapons into a crowded Parisian concert hall. There is no template on how to combat this kind of evil; rather, development in this space is entirely contingent on the innovation and daring of men and women who dedicate—and in some tragic cases, sacrifice—their lives to develop a response to situations that most of us would prefer never to think of, and all of us pray will never eventuate.

And this is exactly what these 18 pilgrims were doing on the night of 12 June 1996. They knew that the capability they were training to provide might never be called upon. They knew also that while they were developing it, they would be challenged by those unable to think beyond comfortable paradigms, by those who would question the expense, who would balk at the risk; and who, as it turns out, would seek to distance themselves entirely the second that something went wrong.

But here's something else that they knew. They knew that when the moment came that they were called upon, there would be no time to start developing ideas. They knew that the very fact that they would be called upon would mean that the situation had become so dire as to make all ordinary avenues of resolution completely untenable and so tenuous as to make the chances of success slim at best; what they were doing was providing an option, a force of absolute last resort, against a completely insoluble problem. And, more importantly, they knew that at that moment that this option was considered, there would be innocent Australians, scared and held

against their will, whose only hope of survival would rest solely on the men in those Blackhawks going a little further.

This, to me, is what their sacrifice boils down to. A selfless commitment to pursuit of a goal that is not clearly defined, that is often misunderstood; an unwavering dedication to provision of an option of last resort. I truly believe that, man for man, the Australian Special Air Service Regiment is the equal of any fighting force on the planet today, however this is only because we stand on the shoulders of giants. For the families of those who fell 20 years ago and who have been able to make it here to join with the regiment today, please know that the regiment is only where it currently stands because of men like your sons, your husbands, your fathers.

They, of course, never saw the tears of gratitude in the eyes of the women and children who were rescued from the chaos of East Timor during Operation Spitfire, but without their efforts, those tears might have instead been shed in terror. They, of course, never saw how deep into the western deserts of Iraq our long range patrol vehicles would push during Operation Bastille, but they paved the roads upon which those vehicles drove. And of course, they never experienced the grim satisfaction of removing so many Taliban commanders, fighters and bombmakers from the battlefields of Afghanistan, but the countless rounds they fired in training ensured that our bullets fired in anger found their mark. Their life's work, and ultimately their sacrifice, built the foundation upon which today's regiment stands; everything this unit has achieved since shares its DNA directly with these men.

And of course, for the families, your loved ones' sacrifice is equally your sacrifice; their selflessness arguably exceeded only by your own. Even before that tragic night, you had shouldered the burden of countless nights away from home, missed birthdays and anniversaries. And since then, you have personified stoicism and dignity in the face of such devastating circumstances. It is our true honour to have you here this morning—please know that our debt of gratitude extends firmly to include each of you.

We are also extremely grateful to another group of individuals represented here this morning. I have mentioned before that if there was one positive glimmer of light to emerge from the ashes of this tragedy, it would have to be the creation of the SAS Resources Fund. Here, too, we see a group of selfless individuals; a group who heeded the unit's call in our darkest hour of need and reacted, decisively and generously, then and ever since. I am delighted to see so many members of the Fund here this morning; we truly consider you part of our regimental family.

So, to the families, my message is simple: on behalf of every member of today's Special Air Service Regiment, I wish to thank you for everything you have given up to provide our nation with the unit that stands before you today. And to the 8 fallen pilgrims—the giants upon whose shoulders we now stand—let me reassure you that the men and women of this unit have received the torch you have passed and will continue to go always a little further.

Who Dares Wins

An article written by Peter Michael for the Courier Mail shared to us by SASRF beneficiary Giverny Tombs

Courier Mail

QWEEKEND

JUNE 4-5, 2016

THE DAD I NEVER KNEW



Twenty years after the
Black Hawk tragedy

PETER MICHAEL

PLUS: ROLL UP, ROLL UP, TO
THE PAUL PISASALE SHOW

FAITHFUL

THE 1996 BLACK HAWK DISASTER IN TOWNSVILLE KILLED 18 MEN AND LEFT 11 CHILDREN WITHOUT FATHERS. GIVERNY TOMBS, NOW 23, IS JUST ONE OF THOSE STILL COMING TO TERMS WITH A 20-YEAR-OLD TRAGEDY

PETER MICHAEL

It's time. Time for the truth. Giverny Tombs, 23, sits alone at her computer. She clicks on a YouTube link. It takes her to an ABC-TV Four Covers documentary on the 1996 Townsville Black Hawk tragedy. She never knew her Special Air Service Regiment warrior dad, Brett. She was three years old when he was missing. It was SAS soldiers and three army aviators killed in one of Australia's worst peacetime military disasters. Next Sunday marks 20 years since the crash during a joint night-time SAS counter-terrorism training exercise with pilots and crew from Townsville's 5th Aviation Regiment at Fire Support Base Barbara.

Giverny has since grown into a smart, caring, adventurous young woman who is about to finish her teaching degree at the University of Newcastle in NSW. She makes her father proud.

She has the memory of her dad. But she says she "knows" him. He is her guardian angel. She sees him all the time. She sees him in the sky, in the earth, in the foaming surf. He is a montage of photographs and two decades of friends, heartfelt advice from family and friends. He comes to her in her dreams. They go for walks in the bush. He tells her "everything is going to be OK".

The week before Corporal Brett Tombs, who died aged 17, would have turned 31, a solitary outlander grew out of weeks that had fallen from a brief fender try at his widow's home at Armidale, in the New England Highlands of NSW. "Nothing had ever grown there before," Giverny says. "It only lasted a week, and that was his favourite flower, but to us it is a sign that he is still there. There comes to believe he is still looking after us."

In the days, weeks and months after the disaster, the north Queensland city of Townsville, the military and the civilian collectively mourned the loss of the 18 pilot-crews and eight crew, who had been training for deployment at the 20th Sydney Olympics. It was 1996, a time of relative peace, before the "war on terror" and the deaths of many more young soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Giverny Tombs, daughter of SAS Corporal Brett Tombs, (opposite page) Colonel David Burke, pilot of one of the Black Hawk aircraft. Main picture: Stuart Cumming, The Chronicle

About anyone who was then in the military – and many in civilian life, too – can recall exactly where they were when reports of the deadly chopper crash came through. Pappa Buttner at half mast at defense sites around the nation. It left 11 children, ranging in age from two to 15, without fathers. In the days after Brett Tombs' funeral, Giverny bravely reassured her grieving mum and brother Josh, 5, with the words "Daddy's up in heaven, but we can climb the rope and we'll see him in heaven".

Somewhere she had made the connection to the live-fire exercise that involved an helicopter, each carrying about 15 SAS soldiers, flying to a designated point and simulating the Munich Olympics scenario of hostages held by terrorists. The soldiers were to rappel down ropes from the hovering aircraft, then advance the position held by the "terrorists". But that was it. For the missing 19 years, Giverny had not sought to discover exactly what unfolded on that ill-fated morning night on a hillside in Townsville's High Range training area on June 12, 1996. Until that moment, a year ago, sitting in front of her laptop computer she finally felt ready to confront the truth.

She clicked on the YouTube link, with its screenroll of hero pilot Captain David Burke, and pressed "play". Within minutes of watching her eyes filled with tears. Her life-time of grief and loss suddenly poured out and spilled down her cheeks, engulfing her for weeks to come.

"What's wrong with me?" she asks, still looking back at the screen. "Why do I get so upset after all these years? I thought it was the right time. I thought I was finally ready. I thought I was mature enough and independent enough to cope. But then I sat down for the first time to watch and listen to his voice and perspectives of those in the crash, like Captain Burke. And it opens my world into something different. Why did my dad and all these men die? For what?"

David Burke, now a Colonel and Defence Attaché based in the Australian embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 48 recall every excruciating moment of the mid-air collision

and crash. "It changed our world too," the former Brisbane Grammar School student and University rugby player says. "It's something you never forget. The thing for me is the guys are not forgotten, and we've learned from the mistakes." Burke also believes in guardian angels. To him they are the men and women of the Australian Defence Force. "In the 20 years since the accident, the world we live in has changed immensely, especially after the 9/11 terror attacks," Burke says. "These things we were training for (in 1996) in special operations as a potential threat scenario, well, it's all evolved into reality, and since then we've been almost continuously on deployment in different theatres of war."

The former Black Hawk pilot, then 35, was killed when he landed his crippled helicopter upside. Burke's skills saved the lives of four aviators (including his own) and four SAS troopers, while seven other soldiers on board died.

ELVEN MEN IN THE LEAD HELICOPTER WERE KILLED. Two miraculously survived. It was a collision to disaster, according to the Black Hawk Board of Inquiry report released a year later. On June 12, 1996, at 10pm, the air crew and the elite SAS troops who were the coaxed, uncoiled, coiled and winged danger ingress with the motto "Who Dares Wins" had gathered for the day's briefing.

"We've always got to have a balance between getting the job done and doing it safely. Sometimes it takes a dreadful tragedy to make us go back to the drawing board. There were some bad but very important lessons learnt."

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THERE WAS A LOT OF BRAVERY THAT NIGHT. I THINK EVERYONE WAS A HERO... THERE WAS NO YELLING OR SCREAMING... THE WHOLE RESCUE MISSION WAS DONE BY TORCHLIGHT

was one drawn by the SAS, mainly to guide troops on the ground. It was up on a whiteboard, and it was wrong – it depicted a nonexistent gun emplacement northwest of the point where Black One, flown by the relatively inexperienced Capt. Hales, was to drop its troops.

Despite the lack of accurate maps, the daylight operation went ahead smoothly and Black One, the lead aircraft, offloaded its troops without incident. Black Two pilot Burke, a senior member of the flight squadron, suggested to Hales he had dropped his troops at the wrong point. But they agreed to go to the same point in the night mission.

About 6.30pm, the six Black Hawks took off. There was no moon, little wind and the remains of the sunset glowed on the horizon, which interfered with the night-vision goggles worn by the aviators. About 10km from the target, a "three-minute" call was given. The helicopters began "countdown flight", dipping and rising over the ridges and valleys at about 300 knots to disguise their approach.

The plan was for the three leading Black Hawks would come in ahead in order to drop their troops in place. But a few hundred metres from the target, the formation was off track. Black One made a series of right-hand turns towards Black Two, which was in the middle of the formation, and headed in for Black Three.

Burke was attempting to climb when Black One's rotors smashed into the tail of his helicopter. Burke died. The helicopter rotated for between five and ten seconds, its tail section in flames. Burke fought to keep it upright before it crashed. Burke, his three crew and four SAS soldiers escaped from Black Two.

The extent of Burke's skill in landing his aircraft remains the stuff of legend, in attempts to replicate the helicopter's condition in those critical seconds after the crash in a Black Hawk simulator: no other pilot has been able to duplicate Burke's success in landing his aircraft.

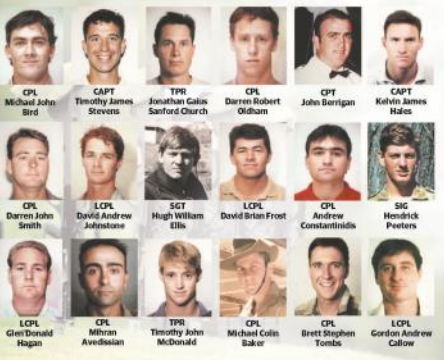
SAS Corporal Dominic Boyle, who later won a coveted Star of Courage, risked his life and ignored his own fractured elbow, the flames of the burning wreckage and exploding fuel tanks to save the children not there that loved him in their lives. Giverny will never know what it is like to have a father. That's the sad truth.

Boyle's relatives died. "One of the saddest operations I've seen," it was said by his brother. Boyle's relatives died. "He made numerous attempts to save those trapped, to free the bodies of those killed in the crash. It was a very powerful place. One you get there, you feel like you're home. It feels like the old family. Like you belong to something."

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THE 18 SERVICEMEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE BLACK HAWK TRAGEDY OF JUNE 12, 1996



THERE IS A LOT MORE MONEY BEING SPENT THESE DAYS ON KEEPING PILOTS HIGHLY TRAINED AND COMPETENT AND ON KEEPING THE AIRCRAFT MAINTAINED AND IN THE AIR

growing family and forensic policy deemed as "crucial". Three aviators faced court martial and all were left the military service.

Ten years ago, Australia's Black Hawk fleet was replaced by the Eurocopter built MR109.

AS THE NATION'S WORST MILITARY DISASTER SINCE the collision between HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Voyager in 1964, which also claimed 38 lives, the Black Hawk disaster still reverberates through the nation and its defence forces. Governor General Peter Cosgrove, in Brisbane last month for the annual Army-Navy rugby match in Bulimba, recalled the moment when news of the 1996 tragedy began to spread. "I was commander of the Australian Defence Force Warfare Centre, a tri-service unit based at Williamstown (NSW), the decorated war veteran said. "I was in Canberra at an air power conference and went west around the face of the reception that there had been out of the tragedy incident. In Townsville. This was an aviation-related event, so there was huge, huge concern because it was obvious from the word go that there had been deaths."

The next day, Cosgrove was back at work at Williamstown Air Force base when the full scale of the disaster began to emerge. "It appeared two helicopters had come

together violently and there were a lot of people dead on the ground, and a number of people injured," Cosgrove recalled. "It reverberated immediately and profoundly into the nation as a whole as we were one of our army aviators and special forces were looking for something as close to operational reality as they could do."

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Gary Piper (left), widow of SAS Corporal Brett Tombs (above, at right) with Gary and their children Josh and Giverny, 1996.

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The year in review

Perth Charity Dinner July 2016

The Special Air Service Resources Fund (SASRF) annual Charity dinner, organised by the Trust's dinner committee, was held recently at the Hyatt Hotel in front of a sell-out crowd of over 550 people. A blend of current and former serving military members, beneficiaries of the Fund, supporters and sponsors attended what proved to be a memorable occasion.

Special guests for the evening included the Governor of Western Australia Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, SASR Honorary Colonel Brig Jim Wallace AM (Ret'd) and his wife Poppy.

A special thanks to the committee under the guidance of Chairman Hon Chris Ellison and Dinner MC Mr Geoff Baldwin for their efforts in raising sponsorship and other significant cost savings through negotiations and hard work which contributed significantly to the overall profit for the dinner with a result of over \$140,000 profit. A tremendous effort in this current economic environment.

The audience were entertained by members of the Australian Army Band under Bandmaster Major Peter O'Connor and we thank the band for their wonderful ongoing contribution. A special thanks must also go to the ongoing support from the SAS Historical Foundation lead by long standing SAS member, Major Greg Mawkes MBE.

A highlight of the evening was the enlightening address by the SAS Commanding Officer who spoke with eloquence and deep feeling to a highly attentive audience. The Commanding Officer's address was followed by Fund beneficiary Ms Elle-Lou Diddams, the daughter of the late Sergeant Blaine Diddams MG, who was killed just three days before he was due to return home during an engagement with insurgents on operations in Afghanistan on 2 July 2012. Elle-Lou spoke of the work undertaken by the Fund to support her, her mother and younger brother Henry through their grief and then provided full support toward their education and upbringing. Other major activities that Elle-Lou has participated include a Legacy trip to France this year to attend commemoration services for the 100th anniversary of the battles of Fromelles and Pozieres and successfully completing the Kokoda Track with other Trust beneficiaries. The dinner committee gratefully acknowledges its principal sponsors Hancock Prospecting and the Fortescue Metals Group and its numerous other generous sponsors for the dinner, including the Victorian based Broo Beer and Churchview Wines.

Shortly after the dinner the former committee Chairman and one of the 'fathers' of the annual dinners Mr Allan Downs decided to retire from actively supporting the committee and the Trust. Allan has been the driving force behind organising thirteen dinners and his commitment, dedication and devotion has been significant in the raising of just under \$5 million dollars during this time. These events, conducted over many years, have also created a strong awareness of the SASRF amongst the Perth community.

The 2017 Charity Dinner is to be held on 21 July at the Hyatt Hotel.....Save the date.



The year in review

Perth Charity Dinner July 2016



Thank you for your support....

The year in review

Western Derby Breakfast August 2016

The now traditional Western Derby SAS Resources Fund football breakfast, held on the eve of the second Fremantle vs West Coast Derby for the year was recently held at Subiaco Oval attended by a stellar crowd of some 215 folks. The date of the event was moved to meet club availability requirements and despite being held some five days after the SASRF's annual dinner, the event proved to be popular and well supported by a loyal group of WA football aficionado's. The Bill Walker Room is an ideal and logical venue and the staff of Delaware North supported the event beautifully. Perth Audio Visual also supported the event by providing specialist communications and AV for the occasion.

The special guest this year was Mr Kevin Sheedy, who kindly agreed to take time from his busy commitments and attend. Guests were privileged to hear a range of footballing insights and anecdotes from someone who is regarded by many as AFL football royalty.

Other VIP Guests included the WA Governor - Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson; the WA Premier, Mr Colin Barnett, executives from WAFC, West Coast Eagles, KPMG and Qantas to name but a few.



Kevin Sheedy

SAS BENEFIT

The SAS Resources Fund's annual Western Derby breakfast next Thursday is an important fundraiser for current and former members of the Special Air Service Regiment and their dependants. The fund supports families of SAS members injured or who made the ultimate sacrifice.

It should be compulsory for footy lovers and this year's instalment at Domain Stadium features none other than AFL legend Kevin Sheedy as the special guest.

The Hall of Fame player and coach will be joined by Eagles coach Adam Simpson, Dockers counterpart Ross Lyon, as well as West Coast star Eric Mackenzie and Freo goal sneak Michael Walters.

And the SASRF will also hold an auction at the breakfast, giving fans a chance to bid on items such as a Dean Kemp VIP package at a West Coast game.

The breakfast followed a traditional format consisting of the Fund's Chairman Greg Solomon's opening speech, special guest Kevin Sheedy's AFL reflections and future plans, joined on stage for a panel interview with senior coaches Ross Lyon and Adam Simpson. Accompanying players Eric McKenzie (WCE) and Michael Walters (FFC) were also quizzed on their pre-game thoughts and reflections, followed by a closing address by a member from Regiment representing the Commanding Officer, who was unable to attend.

In typical style, the panel discussion was conducted by the legendary ABC TV sports commentator Mr Trevor Jenkins who also performed the role of event MC. Trevor has been integral to the breakfast for over 10 years and again compered the event to perfection.

A fundraiser auction was the final piece at the breakfast and proved to be very productive in boosting the coffers for the Fund. Many thanks to both clubs for providing VIP boxes, Mr James McMahon (SASRF Board member) for donating an executive leather office chair in WCE club colours, Grand Cru wines for providing a bottle of Grange and the History and Research Centre at SASR for a tour of their museum visit. Burley WA again provided footballs to auction at the tables.



The West Australian
'Inside Cover'
By Ben O'Shea

The year in review

Chairman's Function November 2016



Around 100 guests enjoyed refreshments at the SAS Association House in Swanbourne for the now traditional Special Air Service Resources Fund Chairman's Function. This event is combined with the SAS Regiment and allows both the Chairman and Commanding Officer to thank members of the local community who have generously supported both organisations throughout the year. Primarily the event is an opportunity for the Chairman to release the annual financial information and his annual report detailing the various key events and milestones for the year.

The Resources Fund Chairman, Mr Greg Solomon welcomed everyone and spoke warmly to those attending whilst making special mentions of thanks to our loyal supporters. The Commanding Officer SASR, also relayed to the audience his gratitude and provided some updates on the future of the Regiment and the renovation of the barracks that are due to be mostly finished by late 2017. As this was the 20th Anniversary of the tragic Blackhawk accident that occurred in 1996, due to this event it was also the year in which the Resources Trust was established, Ms Ann Edwards OAM (retired Trust Manager) has kindly and passionately put together a 20 history of the Resources Fund, as she was integral in the inception through to her retirement in 2014. Also assisting Ann in this project were current and longstanding Trustee's Mr Tom Wallace, Hon Peter Blaxell and current Chair Mr Greg Solomon. A copy of this can be found on our website www.sasresourcesfund.org.au or contact the SASRF office to request a copy.

In recognition of Ann's long association with the SASRF, a surprise announcement was made on the evening with the one of the meeting rooms in the new redevelopment at Campbell Barracks to be named in Ann's honour as a show of gratitude and respect for her dedication, commitment and passion she has given to the SAS Resources Fund and Regiment.

Special thanks must also be offered to Donna-Lee Attrill (who organised the function), Jo Nelson (who produced the report, financials and history articles), Gerry Bampton (who made the SAS Association House available for the event) and our beneficiary kids who worked tirelessly during the evening to distribute the finger food and canapes`.

The Pozieres Experience

In July 2016, the Resources Fund assisted in funding three of our beneficiaries to attend a tour organised by Legacy to the Western Front to reflect on the 100th Anniversary of the World War 1 battles. Here Legacy Ward and Resources Fund beneficiary Henry Diddams shares with us his journey and experiences along the way...

First movements and thoughts of the tour, started in 2015 when the word went around that, Charles Wright was organising a massive tour that was at first thought to be impractical. For around 100 Legacy Australian widows' kids aged between 16-25, to go and celebrate, reflect and be educated on the Great war that Australians before us fought in. From my understanding the tour was bought together by a group of men that surrounded Charles' idea and from there, it began.

First stages of the tour began for the kids in 2015 where approximately 100+ kids were given the opportunity to find themselves a position on the tour. This was conducted through a small testing and self-nomination package that was sent out to the kids, from here. Legacy kids of all ages answered questions and statements to their best ability and to their full extent. This was the first selection process.

On completion of the booklet that had numerous questions within it, legatees and tour staff would read through responses and pick a selection of the people to go through to continue doing small activities that would further aid their knowledge of where they would be going. From this a group of around 100 people from all locations of Australia were bought together to enjoy not only a lifetime opportunity but also one of the best overseas trips that they could ever go on.

Sections were made by our tour staff, allocating people into groups that went by the names of; Gellibrand, Rawlings, Alberry, Jacka, Lihou, Monash and Savige. I was a member of Savige section and to this day still believe it was the best section. From here all members of all sections carried out jobs in the coming days of the tour having a small or large part to play in organising production works or ceremonial procedures.

Two tour staff were in charge of one section and, from here the tour staff allocated one and in some cases two soldiers of the great war, to be researched by the kids. This was a part of the educational program that was run on the tour. From our research on the soldiers, a short summary was made into a speech that would be read out in front of the gravestone and the soldiers resting place. These places were located all over Europe's west.

Our tour staff were a small group of experienced adults that not very many of us knew in person, only by their name due to numerous emails that were exchanged within the selection process of the tour. The tour staff team consisted of ten people, five male and five female, that took part in every single bit of the tour that us kids did, if not more, with behind the scenes work requiring a large amount of organising.

From the 100 people that were selected at the start of the tour selection process to this stage, a small quantity of them had discharged themselves or had been removed from the group due to numerous reasons. From here the tour group became smaller to around 80 people. All 80 people had completed the same tasks to get themselves to this point and were all put into a social media chat room. on Facebook. There everyone was able to have a look, talk to and meet who would be travelling with them

Clothing forms were signed off and given the all clear and tour packages were sent out to all participants. This is when the tour really began for me. Arriving in the mail, a rather large box with a lot of tour clothing, when I say a lot I mean a box estimated 60cm high by 50cm long packed with clothing, accessories and tour information.

All wrapped in plastic packaging, at first the clothing looked rather rough, with the suit being folded in half, put into the box and t-shirts with crease marks all through them,, along with a backpack that was flat as a pancake stuffed into the bottom of the box. I was able to remove all items from packaging and have them ironed, dry cleaned and what not, to be looking rather 'flash' and formal looking.

This gave me the feeling of being quite special and significant as I could only picture a group of legacy kids wearing the exact same thing, travelling to a place that all of us are so aware of, together. This started the reality check for me and made me think what were we really going to be seeing and experiencing.

"It gave a really professional look to Legacy's name every time it was worn".

Time came around very quickly from the first stages of thinking we could be going on tour to the stage of packing our bags and labelling our tour clothing. As our mindsets changed and situations came about in our heads, we were all anxious to see how this trip would go about.

Weeks went by and the 'Perth people'-which we called ourselves. included six others and myself, started a small group chat as we were all fond of each other and had met in previous legacy events. We talked about upcoming events and what we basically thought the tour would be like, then as the tour date drew even closer, we were able to get together and speak to our legatees and fellow Perth Legacy members, This was held at a small function in the city that gave us and our parents the chance to get together before embarking overseas. All Legacy 'kids' that went on tour were given a spending amount of roughly AUD\$500 to go away with, kindly given to us by our legatees.

Getting closer to the departure date, news headlines arose around the world, and read "Brussels Bombings". This gave all of us a disturbed mindset and a few nerves about the tour. As time went on more headlines arose saying " Bastille day attack on Nice" where another terror attack had occurred. This gave all of us travelling once again uncertainties of the trip as we would be travelling to some of these locations at some stage on the tour.

The day came and the 'Perth People' all gathered at the Perth International Airport Terminal 1 to board their flight to Sydney, "its confusing how its an International Airport and we were only flying to Sydney at this stage, I guess its just how Perth likes to work", to kick off the start of the tour.

The five hour flight went very quickly for some and totally the opposite for others depending on how they slept, if they did at all...

Arriving in Sydney, all seven of us 'Perth People' got off the plane and were approached by members of Legacy Australia and some of our tour staff. From memory it was, Charles Wright, Jacqui de Gelder and Leigh Wrighton-Jones.

We gathered belongings and headed to Randwick barracks, where we would stay for the next two days. Learning new names and meeting new faces, conducting briefs and learning more about each other and what we would be doing.

This is where we were reassured about our personal safety and the group's safety whilst traveling overseas, this is where we all lost some of the nervousness we had felt previously due to newspaper headlines.

Team building activities were held within the groups to get basic backgrounds of each other and stranger roommates were soon to be close mates.

First impressions still stick with me today and are rather funny to look back on and talk about but the men and women I met there won't be forgotten.

Day 3 of the tour Sunday 17 July

We all headed to Sydney International Airport for departure to Brussels, via Abu Dhabi. This day was spent on the plane with new mates that had just been made from all over Australia. Stories were shared and friendship groups were made.

Day 4 –Brussels to Leper

This was the first day overseas on European soil where we split into two groups and departed from Brussels International to Leper where we learnt that Belgian people loved their corn and the sun didn't go down till 10.00pm at night.

All sections attended the St Georges chapel for a memorial service to the Anzacs.

We were then let out for free time and got a basic understanding of where most places were located within the town.

Day 5- Leper Salient

This day commenced the start of the mass war graves and kicked off the emotional sides to people very quickly. Over the whole day we had a look at some of the most impressive war graves I have ever seen and what I thought was a very memorable day in the tour for me.

The whole group explored and learnt about numerous battles, led by 'Willy' a great historian that provided the tour group with both great knowledge and entertainment. Battle and memorial sites visited this day were; Tyne Cot Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde Ridge, Hill 60 and Menin Gate. All places left a strong remembrance part in me, as they all had unique, famous stories and history behind them.

Later this day we all attended, the Menin Gate Ceremony, where there was approximately 5000.

Day 6- Leper to Albert

Once again we explored and gathered great knowledge about another five battle grounds and memorial sites; Fromelles Museum, Pheasant Wood Cemetery, Memorial Park, VC corner and Bullecourt

Day 7-Poizieres and Amiens

This day we walked the battle of Poizieres and visited all key sites.

As a group we all visited many sites this day and conducted numerous ceremonial services. Visiting six different memorial areas then being a part of a guided tour through Amiens was an exceptional experience and I never thought I would be doing it. At Poizieres cemetery I had my soldiers' speech that was a part of the research task with the selection process of the tour. This is where I stood at the headstone of my soldier and read out a brief summary of his biography. The tour visited Amiens Cathedral in the afternoon and was then lead to the Mayor's hall for a reception. This was followed by a dinner at Steak Easy which was one of the best places that we ate on tour, then back to the accommodation in albert to rest our eyes after a massive day.

Day 8-Villers Brettoneux and Hamel

This day we visited the better-known sites of Australians on the Western Front., highlighting the strong Australian/French relationship. The group as a collective visited The Red Baron site, Viller-Bretteux Memorial and Cemetery, Adelaide Cemetery, Hamel Memorial and Villers-Bretteux Museum and school where we were able to look through the school and see a comforting sign that said "Never Forget Australia" and where we learnt that the students would sing the Australian anthem at their weekly/monthly assembly's.

Day 9-Dernancourt and Poizieres

This day we visited Dernancourt then headed to Poizieres Commemoration Ceremony. This was an awesome ceremony that was conducted with great professionalism that recreated the scene of the Australians that fought there many years before us. The tour group were able to meet/re-meet Chief of Army Angus Campbell and Sydney's Acting Governor General and Governor of New South Wales David Hurley. After this ceremony we headed back to Albert to have dinner and free time.

Day 10-Albert to Paris

This day we left the battlefields and the Western Front and headed to Paris. This is where we started the final leg of the tour.

A two hour bus ride got both groups into Paris being greatly educated on the Louvre, Paris in general and pick pockets that are widely known as 'gypsies'. On arrival into Paris, we visited the Louvre, took a Seine river cruise and also visited Notre Dame. Then we had a couple of hours free shopping before heading back to campus.

Day 11-Paris

This day gave us all a greater insight into Paris as we all visited some of the greatest tourist parts of Paris. We visited the Army Museum and Napoleons Tomb, then went to Ambassador Brady's residence, where a farewell reception was held. Then went on to the Arc de Triomphe and spend the evening at the Eiffel Tower watching the sunset over the horizon at the top of the Eiffel tower.

Day 12- Paris to Sydney

This day saw the tour conclude as the massive group of 76 was broken into two, where we had to say goodbye to some of our new best friends. The first of Group A that was mostly eastern staters set off early in the morning and headed back to Sydney via Abu Dhabi. They were followed several hours later by the rest of Group A. Group B were lucky enough to visit four more amazing places before following Group A back home.

Day 13 –Sydney

Group A arrives in Sydney and completes the tour with numerous people being put onto connecting flights home, as Group B remains in the air traveling home to further do the same things, once they land. This seeing the, 'Perth Crew' fly back home together to conclude their tour.

Overall the tour was really a once in a lifetime opportunity that I believe everyone who participated is very grateful for. Friendships were made on this tour that will never be forgotten and hopefully stay strong.

Special thanks should be given to all of the sponsors that helped the tour go ahead and we know who they are. Not only the sponsors but the tour staff, and especially Charles Wright for making this all happen. Darryl Kelly and Anthony Hambleton who went out of their way tremendously to help all of us and their behind the scene efforts that ensured the comfort and enjoyment of the trip. They took us under their wing for twelve days and showed us the significance of the Legacy Australia morals and what they are here for.

Henry Diddams



Paying respects: WA Legacy wards Kirstie Morrison, Jacinta Blum, Elle-Lou Diddams and Jared Morrison, front. Christian Martin, Josh Nary and Henry Diddams, rear. Picture: Ben Crabtree

Legacy wards honour fallen fathers

■ Malcolm Quekett

Seven young West Australians have very personal reasons to pay their respects this week at ceremonies to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I battles.

Each lost their father while he served with the Australian Defence Force and all are Legacy wards.

The group joins more than 90 other Legacy wards on a journey through Belgium and France to visit Western Front battlefields and take part in

commemorative services, 100 years after the original Diggers' promise was made at Pozieres to look after the families of the fallen.

Included in their itinerary is a visit to the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, in Ypres, Belgium, to be part of the official party at the Last Post Ceremony and lay wreaths.

They will also visit the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, France, and lay wreaths at the official commemoration of the centenary of the Battle of Pozieres on

Saturday. The WA participants said they were extremely excited to be going, humbled at the opportunity and grateful to Legacy for sponsoring them.

They expected the commemorations to be emotional and solemn and some thought they were likely to shed tears.

Perth Legacy executive officer Robert Ratkovcic thanked the SAS Resources Trust, WA Rotary clubs, ex-service organisations and many corporate and individual sponsors and donors for making the trip possible.

Malcolm Quekett - The West Australian, July 21 2016

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The SASRF office team



Left to right: Jo Nelson—Business Manager, Tim Hawson—Chief Operating Officer, Donna Attrill—Beneficiary Liaison Officer and Jackie Masters—Functions Coordinator



How to donate to the SAS Resources Fund



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About the Fund

The Special Air Service Resources Trust is a perpetual fund that assists members and former members of the SAS Regiment (as well as dependants of those members) who are in need of relief or support. The primary beneficiaries are the dependants of SAS soldiers who are killed or severely disabled in or as a result of operations or training. The Fund also assists the families of other ADF personnel who are killed or disabled while working alongside the SAS Regiment in SASR controlled operations or training.

The Trust was formed following the Blackhawk helicopter tragedy on the 12 June 1996 during a training exercise outside of Townsville, North Queensland that claimed 18 lives and rendered one soldier paraplegic. Consequently there were 11 children left without fathers ranging in age from 2 to 15 years of age.

The Trust's mission is to provide additional support not covered by DVA entitlements including education, family relocation, home security and medical and dental services required due to financial, emotional or psychological hardship.

The Trust also provides additional peace of mind to members serving in the Australian Special Air Service Regiment in the knowledge that they and their families will be looked after in the event of death or injury. All members are potential beneficiaries.

Since the Blackhawk tragedy there have been a further nine deaths in service leaving a further nine children fatherless. Two further Trusts have since been established to broaden the support to cover both current and ex-members of the Regiment and their families – the first to provide support to ex-SAS members and their families who do not qualify as beneficiaries under the original Trust but who are experiencing financial or other difficulty, and the second to provide general support for serving members of the SAS Regiment and their families. Additionally, the SAS Resources Fund was established as the fundraising arm of the group.

The SAS Resources Trust No 2: was established in November 2011 and provides relief to current and former members of the Regiment (and their families) who do not qualify as beneficiaries under the primary Trust but are experiencing financial hardship or difficulty as a result of any disability which significantly impacts on their quality of life.

The SAS Resources Trust No 3: established in May 2011 was the third Trust established to provide respite and welfare opportunities to all serving member of the SAS Regiment and their families. who in the opinion of the Commanding Officer, (after taking into account their physical, mental and emotional welfare) require it as a result of the member's service in the Regiment.

The SAS Resources Fund was established in March 2012 to act as the umbrella fund raising body for the three Trusts. All funds raised through donations or Charity Functions go to the Fund, to be distributed between the three Trusts according to their particular financial requirements from time to time.

The three Trusts and the Fund are all approved by the Australian Taxation Office as tax deductible gift recipients.

For further information regarding to the Fund, please visit our website:

www.sasresourcesfund.org.au

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Contact Us

PO Box 633
NEDLANDS WA 6009

P (08) 9389 8897 **E** admin@sasresourcesfund.org.au

www.sasresourcesfund.org.au

ABN 82 135 715 704