

# SAS RESOURCES FUND NEWSLETTER



SAS RESOURCES FUND ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Issued March 2016

The purpose of this inaugural newsletter is to provide you, friends of the Special Air Services Fund, with an overview of our activities last year. Thanks to your generous support, our beneficiaries enjoyed many extra-curricular educational activities, field trips and training opportunities in addition to having their educational costs met.

We consider it important to share this news with the broader community as it provides context and meaning of a tangible nature, for the way in which our beneficiaries are supported. Our aim is to produce this newsletter annually for release early in the New Year.

I trust you will enjoy the content and we look forward to any suggestions on improvements as we go forward.

Our office in Western Australia is located at the old Sunset Hospital, 80 Birdwood Parade, Dalkeith and we welcome visits by all.

*Tim Hawson*  
Chief Operating Officer  
SAS Resources Fund



## In This Issue

- A word from our Chairman
- Our beneficiaries thank you
- The year in review
- Meet the team
- Coming up 2016

## A word from our Chairman

I echo the words of introduction from our Chief Operating Officer and trust you will enjoy reading the first edition of this newsletter. I was recently appointed as the Chairman of the Special Air Service Resources Fund having succeeded The Hon Peter Blaxell. As an inaugural Trustee, I have had a long association with both the Fund and the Special Air Service Regiment. Below is a short version of my biography.

Born and educated in Western Australia I graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Western Australia in 1971. Originally I joined a family legal practice, and then practiced mainly in the areas of commercial, corporate and resources law, having extensive experience in both Australia and a number of other countries, over a career of more than 40 years.

Following a merger in 1983, I became a partner in a national legal firm until 1987, and when two of my brothers established a new firm named Solomon Brothers, of which I became the managing partner, where I remain today.

I have held directorships on a number of ASX listed public companies since 1984, and am currently Executive Chairman of both Tasman Resources Ltd and Eden Energy Ltd, positions which have been held since before they were listed in 2001 and 2006 respectively.

As a founding trustee of the Special Air Services Resources Trust, I acted as the Trust solicitor for 18 years from its inception in 1996, before the position was passed in 2014 to Michelle Hawksley, another partner in Solomon Brothers.

Greg Solomon, Chairman



## Our beneficiaries thank you

### Zimbabwe Field Trip—by Giverny Tombs

“In September/October, the SAS Resources Trust helped fund me to embark on a two-week study tour where I collaborated with teacher education staff and seven other students at the University of Newcastle, Australia and Children In The Wilderness (Zimbabwe & Zambia) Not-for-profit organisation.

We visited schools in the local area of Victoria Falls, ran a resource-making workshop with local teachers and collaborated with teachers at Jabulani School to undertake various teaching activities with the children such as: book-making, maths games, comprehension activities, and studying for the year seven exams. The Jabulani School children also had great fun teaching us Australians IsiNdebele (the local language)!



One of the days was spent in Botswana, just next to Zimbabwe where we as a group went on a safari in the Chobe National Park. The first animals we saw were three lioness's and a lion laying under the shade of a tree 50 metres from the car. It was incredible! We also went on an elephant-



back safari on our last day which was a great concluding experience of our African adventure.

Back home in Australia we, as the students, continue to reflect on our life changing Victoria Falls experience and will take our intercultural learnings into our future teaching careers, reflecting the deep knowledge and insight we developed whilst over there. We hope this is a lasting relationship between the University of Newcastle and CITW, one that expands into Australian schools as we begin our own teaching pedagogies.



I owe many thanks to the SAS Resources Trust as they have continually given and provided for me, making opportunities like these a reality. “

---

*“The SAS Resources Trust has been so helpful with my education over the past years. Last year I decided to start my diploma in specialist makeup services and asked the Trust if they would be happy to fund my course as it was too expensive for me to pay for and only be able to work one day a week. The Trust was able to assist me with a few things I needed to get me through the course which was again extremely helpful.*

*So I just wanted to say thank you very much. I am now a fully qualified makeup artist specialising in beauty, special effects, airbrushing and basic hairstyling. I am currently working on a few projects doing photo shoots and have two weddings coming up this year.*



*Thank you SAS Resources Trust, it was very kind of you to help me.”*

*Laura Hagan*

## Our beneficiaries thank you

### **“The opportunities the SAS Resources Trust have provided to our family.....**

- With the Trust’s financial support I have been able to go on school sporting tours for rugby that took me all over New Zealand and the Hawksbury canoe classic, an overnight endurance canoe marathon of 111km.
- The Sea to Summit expedition that took five days of cycling and hiking from Pabula Beach to the summit of Mt Koziosko. Led by a schoolmate and myself for our gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- The Hinchinbrook Island trip – seven days of paddling and camping around the island.
- They have also supported my music by paying for guitar lessons. This has led to me now making a little bit of extra cash from performing at pub gigs around my local town.
- They also supported my sister and myself on our Gap years in England, still one of the greatest years of our lives, where we met lifelong friends and connections.
- In August 2013 my sister and I were able to undertake the Kokoda trail with the generous funding by the Trust. The trail took ten days and over 140kms of extreme mountainous terrain. This trip helped to bring my sister and I closer together, as well as closer to understanding the perseverance and dedication that our father must have shown to gain entry into the ranks of the SAS regiment.
- And finally I have just applied for financial assistance to attend a University coordinated field trip to Botswana, where I will gain great experience in the field of animal welfare and management. The Trust has financially covered the cost of both me and my sisters secondary education which has taken the weight of HECS debt off our shoulders.

All of these opportunities have shaped who I am and challenged me at every step of the way to push for more out of myself and more out of life. They have helped me to be the kind of person who would, without question, talk at the Melbourne dinner, even though every part of my body trembles at the thought of public speaking. I accepted the opportunity because it is yet another chance to challenge myself but mostly because it is the least that I can do to say thank you to this amazing organisation for all that they done for my family.”

Joshua Tombs



## Our beneficiaries thank you

### Abrolhos Islands Trip— by Haley Nary

In 2015 the SASR Trust funded my passion and interest in Scuba Diving and Marine Science. With the help of the Trust I was able to complete an Open Water Dive Course, which included three pool dives, two shore dives at Rockingham and another two boat dives off Rottnest. This dive course was the gateway for me to be able to continue down more paths and provided me with the opportunity to visit the Abrolhos Islands off Geraldton for a five-day research and dive trip.

In March 2015, I, along with 17 other Year 9 students from St Mary's went on a Marine Science Dive Trip to the Abrolhos Islands off Geraldton.



After a six-hour drive to Geraldton, which went surprisingly quickly, we stepped off the bus into the cool sea breeze and straight onto our home away from home, the Oceania. As we all made ourselves at home in our rooms the charter boat ferried us out to the Northern Abrolhos Islands, a four-hour trip on unusually calm waters.

When we woke up, we were greeted by the stark beauty of these almost untouched islands. The crystal clear water allowed us to see straight to the bottom where there was an abundance of coral reefs and marine life.

We first snorkelled the remains of the Batavia and were welcomed by the hundreds of colour-



*Abrolhos Islands Trip ...continued from page 6*

ful fish and warm water. We scuba dived to 18m on the Stairway to Heaven and many other incredible dive sites such as Anemone Lump, where pristine coral was plentiful.



We were indulged by the crayfish and coral trout caught by the crew and had great fun rock hopping and exploring the islands. The sunsets were breathtaking and I will never forget the amazing experience of swimming with two sea lions.

I cannot thank the trust enough for the opportunity to go on this trip. It was an experience I will cherish forever.

## The year in review

### MCC Charity Dinner—Melbourne

**6 February 2015**

Our very first Melbourne Charity Dinner was an 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 exclusive member's dining room.



Our special guest speaker was former Australian PM, Mr John Howard OM AC who gave an excellent speech and spoke from the heart; as too did Josh Tombs, our beneficiary who talked about the loss of his father and how the SAS Resources Fund had been of great support to both himself and his family.



The highlight of the evening was the auction of the cricket collection, which was generously donated to the SAS Resources Fund by our great friend and supporter Mr David Williams, former Chairman of the Western Australian Cricket Association. Our sincere thanks to David for this donation which raised a considerable amount on the night.



Mr Eddie McGuire AM was our man of the hour, hosting a wonderfully entertaining sporting legends panel consisting of the great Dennis Lillee AM MBE, Rodney Hogg,

Brad Scott - Coach North Melbourne Football Club and Chris Scott - Coach Geelong Football Club.



Eddie was also a sensational assistant to auctioneer Charles Leski, revving up the crowd to get every last dollar from the bidders and with nothing left to sell, managed to auction

two lots of "pure Melbourne air" for the sum of \$4,000 each. 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.

---

## Mustang Roundup

**1 March 2015**

The Mustang Owners Club of WA hosted their Roundup and Concourse at Wesley College who again generously donated their sports oval in support of the SAS Resources Fund.



A grand day of all things Mustang attracted hundreds of people to see a spectacular muster of the famous Pony car. This annual event was in support of the Fund and more than 150 of the most colourful and stunning Mustangs of Perth and country WA were corralled on the oval. The Funds Regional Force Surveillance Vehicle was also a highlight of the show representing the 100 years of Anzac.

---

## Western Derby Breakfast

**16 April 2015**

The now traditional Western Derby SAS Resources Fund football breakfast, held on the eve of the first Freo vs West Coast Derby for the year was recently held at Subiaco Oval attended by a record crowd of some 240 folks. The event was moved to the home of WA footy in order to better align the fundraiser with the theme of the event.....footy. The Bill Walker Room proved to be a wonderful venue and the staff of Delaware North supported the event beautifully.



VIP Guests included the WA Governor - Her Excellency Kerry Sanderson, Mr Jude Bolton, executives from Harvey Beef, KPMG, Chevron and PWC to name but a few.

The breakfast followed a traditional format consisting of the Fund's Chairman Peter Blaxell's opening speech, guest speaker Jude Bolton's career highlights and personal



anecdotes, panel interviews with senior coaches Ross Lyon and Adam Simpson and players Shannon Hearn and Stephen Hill and a closing address by the Commanding Officer of the Special Air Service Regiment.

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 was ably assisted by West Australian sports journalist Mr Steve Butler - whose insight, wit and talents certainly added a certain sparkle to the panel discussions.

A fundraiser auction was the final piece to the breakfast and proved to be very productive in boosting the coffers for the Fund. Many thanks to both clubs for providing VIP boxes, Grand Cru wines for providing two bottles of Grange, John Worsfold for providing a personal footy poster and Burley WA footballs to auction at the tables.



# WA Hot Rod & Street Machine Spectacular

**13-14 June 2015—Claremont Showgrounds**

Perth's largest annual auto show drew huge crowds over the two day event. A highlight of the many exhibits was the Truck Surveillance Lightweight Mk 1 dressed up with snipers and military hardware looking like brand new. The vehicle highlighted the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ANZAC and the display combined with Defence Force Recruiting handouts. The SAS Resources Fund was well received by the many visitors to the show. Proceeds from the day were very generously donated to the Fund by Harry and Helen Martin.



## How to donate to the SAS Resources Fund

<b>Direct Credit</b>	Westpac BSB 036-406 Account No. 186903
<b>Credit Card</b>	Either email ( <a href="mailto:admin@sasresourcesfund.org.au">admin@sasresourcesfund.org.au</a> ) or phone (08 9389 8897) through credit card details and we will process
<b>Cheque</b>	Please post to: SAS Resources Fund, PO Box 633, Nedlands WA 6909
<b>Online</b>	Visit <a href="http://www.sasresourcesfund.org.au">www.sasresourcesfund.org.au</a>
<b>Bequests</b>	If you are interested in making a gift to the SAS Resources Fund in your Will, we suggest the following clause for inclusion in your will: "I GIVE to SART Holdings Pty Ltd ACN 088 734 490 as trustee for the SAS Resources Fund the sum of \$[insert] for its general purposes. My Trustee shall not be required to supervise or oversee the application of the funds referred to in this clause by SART Holdings Pty Ltd ACN 088 734 490 and the receipt of the Treasurer, Chairman or other appropriate officer of the same shall be full and sufficient discharge to my Executor/Executrix of his or her obligations in respect of the gift herein referred to."

## 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](http://www.sasresourcesfund.org)**

# Perth Charity Dinner

**Saturday 18 July 2015**

Six hundred guests enjoyed a splendid dinner at Perth Convention Centre attended by dignitaries including the Governor of WA (Her Excellency Kerry Sanderson), the Chief of Army (Lt. General Angus Campbell), the Commander Special Operations Command (Maj. General Jeff Sengleman), and the Commanding Officers of the SAS Regiment and the 2nd Commando Regiment.



In his keynote speech the former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshall Sir Angus Houston, thanked the people of Perth for their outstanding support of the SAS Regiment over the 19 year period since the Blackhawk helicopter disaster in 1996. Sir Angus also paid tribute to the work of the SAS Resources Fund in assisting all families of SAS soldiers who have been killed or seriously injured in the course of duty.

Another speaker was 22 year old Giverny Tombs, a beneficiary of the SAS Resources Trust, who gave a very moving account of her life without a father since the age of three. Giverny's mother, grandmother and uncle were present to support her, and her presentation received a standing ovation.

The Dinner successfully raised significant funds which will be used for ongoing assistance to SASR members, widows and families.







# JRA Day

**15 August 2015**

The JRA 30th Anniversary of its Bathurst win was the highlight of the Wilf Chambers JRA Nuts and Bolts Day. Proceeds from the day were very generously donated to the Fund by Helen and Harry Martin. To many of those who attended on the day it was a celebration of two major events, the Bathurst win and JRA's contract victory with defence. This made it a day of reflection and pride to have been a part of the JRA achievement in racing and Australian design and manufacturing. The day also featured the Truck Surveillance Lightweight Land Rover on display in support of the SASRF.





# St Georges College Spring Arts Day

**10 October 2015**

The SAS Resources Fund were involved in St Georges College Spring Arts Day held at the College on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The SASR/SASRF had an equipment display and photographs set up for guests to enjoy, whilst at the same time promoting awareness of the Fund. Hon Peter Blaxell and Sally Doherty were guest speakers at the event.



We are in the process of commencing the establishment of a residential scholarship at the College, which may be utilised in the future for a beneficiary intending to study at UWA. Part proceeds from entry fees were donated to the Fund and future scholarship endeavours.



A huge thank you to Mr Greg Mawkes (from the SAS Historical Centre) for his detailed planning, supply of equipment and displays in order to support the event.



# Trinity College Scholarship

**19 October 2015**

Representatives from the SAS Resources Fund visited Trinity College to sign a new scholarship fund into effect. A fund of \$150,000 has been put together and scholarships will be offered to boys whose father or mother have suffered loss of life or serious injury while serving in the SAS.

When the Trinity College Foundation was approached by the SAS Resources Fund to ascertain whether a scholarship fund could be set up, the Foundation and the College both saw an opportunity to operate within the ethos of Edmund Rice, (a Roman Catholic educationalist, who founded the congregation of Christian Brothers) and immediately agreed to the partnership.

Trinity College Foundation Chairman Mr Stephen Spiers ('85), Headmaster Mr Ivan Banks, and other members of the Foundation were delighted to meet with the members of the SAS Resources Fund and to see the many months of planning come to fruition. Mr Banks said "The College is very happy to be part of this Foundation initiative. There is no greater sacrifice that can be made than to give your life for your country."

The signing ceremony was held in the Trinity College Boardroom and the College was honoured to host the Commanding Officer of SASR.



Back row (from left): Ms Diane Millar and Hon Chris Ellison (Trinity College Foundation); Mr Greg Solomon (Chairman SAS Resources Fund); Mr Jon Hanlin (Fundraising Committee - SAS Resources Fund), Mr John Driscoll (Chairman of the Board - Trinity College), Mr Michael Burgess (Bursar - Trinity College) Front row (from left): Mr Ivan Banks (Headmaster - Trinity College), Hon Peter Blaxell (Trustee SAS Resources Fund), Mr Stephen Spiers (Chairman - Trinity College Foundation)

# Chairman's Function

**21 October 2015**

Around 100 guests enjoyed nibbles and drinks on a mild evening in Swanbourne for the now traditional Special Air Service Resources Fund Chairman's Function. Over the last two years this event has been combined with the 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. 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.

During his speech, SAS Resources Fund Chairman, the Hon Peter Blaxell announced that he was retiring from his position as Chair and would be handing over to Mr Greg Solomon. This marks five years as Chairman and a total of 19 years of dedicated commitment to the Fund. As a token of appreciation Peter was presented with an 'SAS' watch and proudly announced that it would come in handy as he had not worn a watch since 1969. Peter will continue on as an ordinary Trustee with the Fund for the foreseeable future.



Outgoing Chairman Hon Peter Blaxell and new Chairman Mr Greg Solomon



Harry and Helen Martin

Many thanks must also be extended to Harry and Helen Martin who made a significant donation on the night. This is the result of another year in which they support various charity events across WA from the Royal Show in Perth to the Mustang Club Annual Show in South Perth. Harry and Helen have been very magnanimous in their support over many years.







## Friends of the Regiment Day

Staff and Trustee Directors were lucky enough to be invited to the Friends of the Regiment Day in November. This day is hosted by the Regiment to thank all the people who have assisted in some way. Some very brave souls, including Director Rob Druitt below, were invited to take a tandem jump. For others, flying in a C17 Globemaster Aircraft was excitement enough.



## Meet the team



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

## Coming up in 2016

The SAS Resources Fund has provided funding for three of our beneficiaries to be included in the Pozieres 100 Years Commemoration Study Tour Trip -15 to 29 July 2016.

This once in a lifetime opportunity will allow the seven selected WA participants to journey to several French and Belgian battlefields and to get a taste of French culture and cuisine, whilst also having quite a lot of fun on the way! Not least, this study tour is sure to provide an amazing bonding experience and I am sure that many long-lasting friendships will be forged amongst this Legacy Family during their journey.

Upon their return, it is anticipated that these young Legacy and SAS Resources Fund ambassadors will be able to provide both our communities with a post visit report and perhaps some presentations on their experiences. It is anticipated that both the SAS Resources Fund and Legacy will benefit from the publicity and goodwill generated by this visit, both here in Western Australia as well as along the way in the three countries that they will be visiting.



### Contact Us

PO Box 633  
NEDLANDS WA 6009

(08) 9389 8897

[admin@sasresourcesfund.org.au](mailto:admin@sasresourcesfund.org.au)

[www.sasresourcesfund.org.au](http://www.sasresourcesfund.org.au)