

# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## 2020





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ABOUT THE SAS RESOURCES FUND

The Special Air Service Resources Fund (SASRF) assists current and former members of the SAS Regiment (SASR), and their dependants, who require relief or support.

The inaugural Trust was set up initially to assist beneficiaries who are the dependants of SAS soldiers who are killed or severely disabled in, or as a result of, operations or training. While this support is primarily for education for beneficiary children, it also covers health and other needs as required. The Fund is committed to holistically supporting our beneficiaries.

Two additional Trusts were established to include support

for respite and educational opportunities to current and former SASR members and their families as well as extending support when they encounter financial hardship. Assistance is also provided to the families of other Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel who are killed or disabled while working alongside the SASR in Regiment controlled operations or training.

The Fund provides peace of mind to members serving in the Australian Special Air Service Regiment. Members of the SASR can rest assured in the knowledge that they and their families will be looked after in the event of death, injury or illness.



SAS NETWORK



Integral to the ability to deliver support to current and former members of the SAS Regiment (SASR) and their families, the Fund works closely with the Australian SAS network. This network consists of the SAS Auxiliary, the SAS Historical Foundation, the Australian SAS Association as well as the SASR.

The Australian Special Air Service Association was formed in the mid-1980s to perpetuate the close comradeship created by past and present SASR members and to provide support to the Regiment. The Association comprises a National Secretariat and State Branches. Membership is an entitlement to all former members of the SAS Company, and former and serving members of SASR. The WA Branch has over 600 members. The Association provides advice and assistance to past and present members of the SAS and their families.

The SAS Auxiliary was formed in 1965 by partners of soldiers serving in the Regiment to give support and promote

friendship among SASR families. This volunteer, not-for-profit organisation, has become a vital component of the Regiment’s informal family support system.

The SAS Historical Foundation was established in 1998 to commemorate the remarkable history and heritage of the Australian Special Air Service on behalf of the SASR. The Foundation supports the maintenance of unit morale and esprit de corps through display of military heritage objects that acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the SASR.

Other Units within the Special Operations Command have similar support organisations and networks that are committed to provide direct organic support to their members and families. Regular meetings and forums are held to address issues of importance to ex-service and defence communities.

These networks provide vital support to the current and former members of the SAS Regiment and their families.







## SASRF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On behalf of the SAS Resources Fund it is my pleasure to present the 2020 Annual Chairman's Report and the Newsletter.

The Special Air Service Regiment continues to play a vital role in national security, however and unfortunately, service with the Regiment can come at a tragic personal cost to its members. In 1996, 18 soldiers lost their lives and others were permanently disabled in the Townsville Black Hawk helicopter training accident. As a result, prominent members of the Western Australian business community established the first SAS Resources Trust to provide financial assistance and support to members of the SAS Regiment and their dependants. In the intervening years the umbrella of support evolved; two additional Trusts were established and the assistance provided was broadened to cover all current and former members of the Regiment and their dependants whilst maintaining the original spirit of the founders. As a consequence, the Fund was also established as the public face of the group that manages the collective fundraising activities of the three Trusts.

In June this year, The Hon Peter Blaxell resigned from the Board after 24 years

of exemplary service. In 1996, just days after the Black Hawk tragedy, Peter accepted a request to become an inaugural Trustee. His duties as a District and Supreme Court Judge and a very active family life, never prevented Peter from fulfilling his Fund responsibilities with utmost commitment. He served as the Fund's Deputy Chairman until assuming the Chairman role in 2010, holding the position until 2015. Peter is to continue to contribute as a member of the Assistance Committee. Our thanks and acknowledgement of Peter's eminent service to the Fund is contained separately in this Newsletter.

The Hon Chris Ellison has been appointed as a Trustee to replace Peter bringing a wealth of experience and vigour.

Similarly, the Commanding Officer of the SAS Regiment completes his tenure at the end of this year and therefore, will also leave the Board. On behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank him for his significant contribution and guidance on matters related to the Regiment. We wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Education has always been a fundamental aspect of our work and we strive to provide the children we support with the opportunity to obtain

the best possible education up to and including tertiary and vocational qualifications. With the generous support of a number of donors and of Western Australian schools, scholarships have been established to ensure that beneficiary children will be able to receive a quality of education appropriate to their needs. In this regard I would like to acknowledge and thank Methodist Ladies College, St George's College UWA, Trinity College, Scotch College, and Guildford Grammar School for their scholarships. This year a beneficiary will complete year 12 at Methodist Ladies College under very successful scholarship arrangements.

The Wanderers' Education Programme, which provides educational opportunities to serving SASR soldiers, has now grown its asset base to \$2million and has supported a total of 40 scholars undertaking graduate, post graduate and vocational study. I am delighted to report that this Programme continues to be highly successful. Its expansion and success has been due to the generosity of many donors and we thank you all for your continued support of this most important Programme.

This year, the Fund's respite programme for current members of the Regiment

and their families has continued to grow. It provides a pre-emptive strategy designed to alleviate, where possible, the stress associated with military service. I would like to acknowledge all of the generous individuals and companies who offer their facilities, located around Australia, for use by members of the Regiment and their families.

In July of this year the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Mr Chris Johns as its Chief Operating Officer, replacing Mr Tim Hawson who has held the appointment since 2013. Chris has had a long association with the Fund and the Regiment and he looks forward to the challenge of continuing Tim's excellent work managing the operation of the Fund. Tim will continue to work with the Fund as its Liaison Officer to the Regiment.

I would also like to recognise and thank our very dedicated staff, Ms Jo Nelson and Ms Sharon Tee, who have once again done an excellent job throughout the year. I also thank Marion Smyth who has been instrumental in providing invaluable counselling and social work assessments of beneficiaries throughout the year.

To our donors and sponsors, each of your contributions is extremely

important and collectively they ensure we are able to continue our work in supporting and providing such things as quality education, financial relief and respite for our beneficiaries. We sincerely appreciate that when we need your help and assistance, you are always generous in your support, and we thank you very much.

Finally, it is with a mixed sense of sadness and pride that I announce the conclusion, after five years, of my term as Chairman of the SAS Resources Fund. I will be formally handing over the Chairmanship to Dr Grant Walsh who, having been the Deputy Chair for the duration of my term, is ideally positioned to continue the role with imagination and wisdom. Grant was appointed as a Trustee to the Fund Board in 2009 and as its Deputy Chairman in November 2015. He has been a steadfast Deputy and a resolute source of sound advice and wise council. He will take over the Chairmanship with my absolute confidence.

As much as I have enjoyed being Chairman it is important to periodically invigorate an organisation with fresh outlooks and ideas. Five years, which was the maximum term that I nominated I would serve when I

accepted the position in November 2015, is, I believe, sufficient time to make a genuine leadership contribution to an organisation in a positive way and to avoid the traps of familiarity. My retirement from the Chair, however, does not end my long commitment to the Fund as for the foreseeable future I will remain on the Board as an ordinary Trustee. The Fund is served by an outstanding Board of Trustees and could not be better placed to meet all challenges it may be confronted with in the future.

**Greg Solomon**  
Chairman  
SAS Resources Fund





TRUSTEES



Greg Soloman  
Chairman



Grant Walsh, CSM  
Deputy Chairman



Robert Druitt  
Treasurer



Nicholas Brasington



Alan Cransberg



Hon Chris Ellison



Peter Fitzpatrick, AO, AM



Andrew Forrest, AO



Michelle Hawksley



James McMahon, DSC, DSM



Dr Mark Nidorf



Kerry Stokes, AC



Caron Sugars



Commanding Officer  
SAS Regiment

PATRON

Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO(Mil), CVO, MC (Retd)

Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO(Mil), CVO, MC (Ret'd) graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon into Infantry Corps and served operationally in Malaya, Borneo, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. In 1976, he assumed command of the SAS Regiment (SASR) in Perth and was then promoted to Colonel as the first Director of the Army's Special Action Forces, for services to which he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

Having commanded all combat elements of the Army from platoon to division, he retired in 1993 and in November of that year, he was sworn in as the 27th Governor of Western Australia. In recognition for his services as Governor, he became a Companion of the Order of Australia, a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order and a Citizen of Western Australia for his services to the State. He was Governor until 2000.

On 11 August 2003 he was sworn in as the twenty-fourth Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, serving in that capacity until 5 September 2008, where his key interests were in youth, education, food security and landscape regeneration matters.



education, food security and landscape regeneration matters.

The Queen, as Sovereign Head of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, also appointed General Jeffery Prior for the Priory in Australia, and a Knight of Justice of the Order. He is a Papua New Guinea Companion of the Order of Logohu, a Paul Harris Fellow and an honorary life member of the Returned and Services League.

He and his wife Marlena have three sons, a daughter and seven grandchildren. He

enjoys music, reading, golf and fishing.

Major General Jeffery has been a supporter of the SAS Resources Fund since its inception in 1996 when he was appointed inaugural Patron. He retired as Patron in 2000 and was reappointed in 2003.

At the time of the Black Hawk helicopter disaster in 1996 Major General Jeffery was the Honorary Colonel of the SAS Regiment. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster the solace, guidance and leadership he provided to all ranks of the Regiment was immeasurable.





# SASRF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S REPORT



Regiment. I am genuinely excited by the prospect of making a contribution to the Fund in this appointment.

As a representative of the Fund, I am mindful of its unique recognition of the Special Air Service Regiment as a valued member of the Western Australian community. I will approach my responsibilities with the intention of sustaining and enhancing the Fund's reputation for friendly can-do service that is responsive, timely and accountable. I will also remain clearly focused on the principle task of enabling the Fund Trustees to assist beneficiaries.

I see our principle challenge is to engage broadly to ensure potential beneficiaries are aware of what the Fund can provide and that they know how they can reach out to us when the need arises. I am hoping to strengthen our network particularly to the State branches of the Australian SAS Association. By working through the National Chairman of the Australian SAS Association, Mr Peter Fitzpatrick and the Fund Liaison Officer to the SAS Regiment, the Fund will enhance its role as a provider of last resort to fill inevitable gaps in the care and support provided by first-line providers.

In July of this year I was pleased and honoured to accept the appointment of Chief Operating Officer of the SAS Resources Fund. I firstly, wish to take the opportunity to thank the Fund Board of Trustees for approving and offering my appointment to the position. I accept the challenge of this position with gratitude and humble pride. My sincere thanks go to my predecessor in this role, Mr Tim Hawson, who has held the position since 2013. Tim has made the lifestyle decision to reduce his work commitment to the Fund but will continue as the Fund's Liaison Officer to the Special Air Service Regiment.

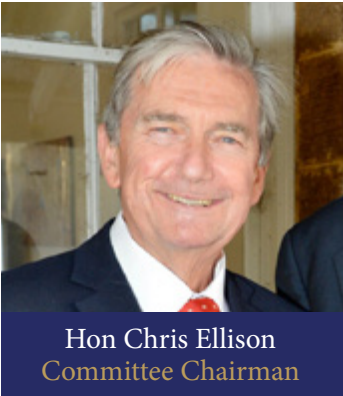
My association with the Fund has been long if intermittent but from its almost defiant beginnings to the present day, where it is recognised as a model and a benchmark, I have been directly aware of its outstanding work. As a long-serving member of the Australian Army with a range of appointments at the Special Air Service Regiment, I am personally, profoundly aware of the challenges faced by serving and ex-members of that

COVID-19 has certainly presented unforeseen challenges to us all in 2020 but the Fund has proved to be well positioned and resilient in these unprecedented times. Tim Hawson, Sharon Tee, Jo Nelson and I are acutely aware that the Fund may encounter unprecedented challenges and demands in the future and we are prepared to meet these challenges, should they arise, with resolute confidence.

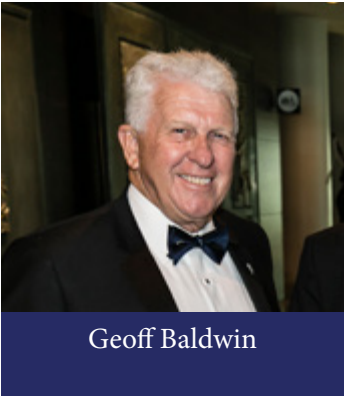
Finally, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution made to the Fund by its inaugural Chief Operating Officer, Tim Hawson. Rarely, if ever, is anything of significance achieved that is not firmly built on the foundation of what came before and I am indebted to Tim for the perceptive judgement, dedication and hard work that he has invested in the role over the last six years.

**Christopher Johns**  
Chief Operating Officer  
SAS Resources Fund

# DINNER COMMITTEE MEMBERS



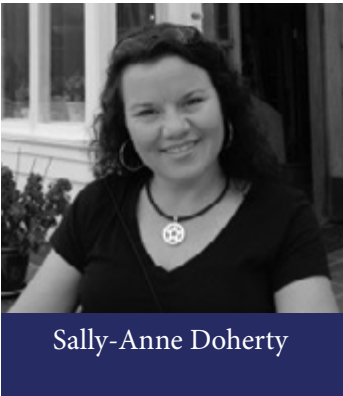
Hon Chris Ellison  
Committee Chairman



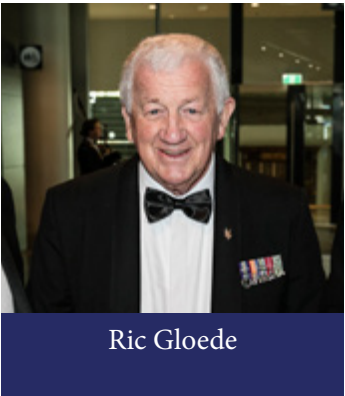
Geoff Baldwin



Peter Boyd



Sally-Anne Doherty



Ric Gloede



Dietmar Mazanetz



Mike Smith



Simon Trevisan



Tony Wills

During the last year, the Committee has still continued to function, however, the Melbourne Dinner planned for February this year had to be postponed due to the bushfire crisis and of course we have since had COVID-19 which has hampered our efforts. Notwithstanding this, the Dinner Committee has maintained contact with our supporters and we are planning future events for 2021. These plans will be in accordance with government recommendations and align as necessary, as restrictions lift within Australia.

This year we farewelled long serving Committee members in Peter Blaxell and Andrej Karpinski. On behalf of Committee members, I would like to extend our deep appreciation for their efforts and we shall miss their presence on the Committee. In particular, Peter Blaxell has served on the

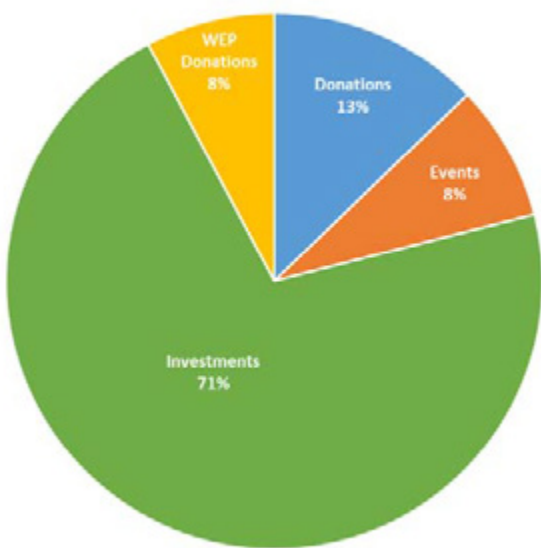
Board of the Fund and has been an invaluable link between the Committee and the Board. Peter, as a foundation member of the Board has made an outstanding contribution as its Chairman and has always been supportive of the work we do. We all wish Stella and Peter all the best on their retirement and we look forward to seeing them at future events.

I would also like to thank the members of the Committee, who despite the recent demands of COVID-19 have remained enthusiastic and dedicated to the work they do. We are looking forward to a great 2021 and we look forward to seeing you at future events. Thank you all for your generous support, which we do not take for granted.

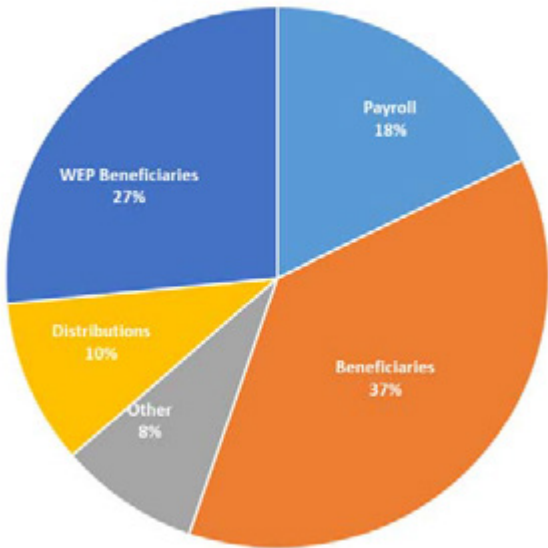
**Hon Chris Ellison (SASRF Trustee and Committee Chairman)**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME 2020



EXPENDITURE 2020



## 2020 Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations	155,705	155,616
*WEP donations	94,821	362,000
*Events	99,978	9,895
Investments	866,818	1,229,341
Total Income	1,217,322	1,756,852
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Operating Expenses	252,047	275,569
Beneficiary Payments	359,986	284,952
WEP Payments	254,945	96,457
*Distributions - Other	95,000	33,000
Total Expenses	961,978	689,978
Net Surplus From Ordinary Activities	255,344	1,066,874

from 1 July to 30 June.

### \* Notes

**Wanderers' Education Programme** is a sub Fund established in 2016 and managed under Trust 3. The programme assists members of the Australian Special Air Service Regiment with merit-based higher vocational education, as well as other professional and personal development opportunities in order to build individual and familial resilience and prepare them for post-service life.

**Events** held in the 2020 financial year include SASRF Perth Charity Dinner and Western Derby Breakfast. The Perth Charity Dinner was not held in the 2019 financial year.

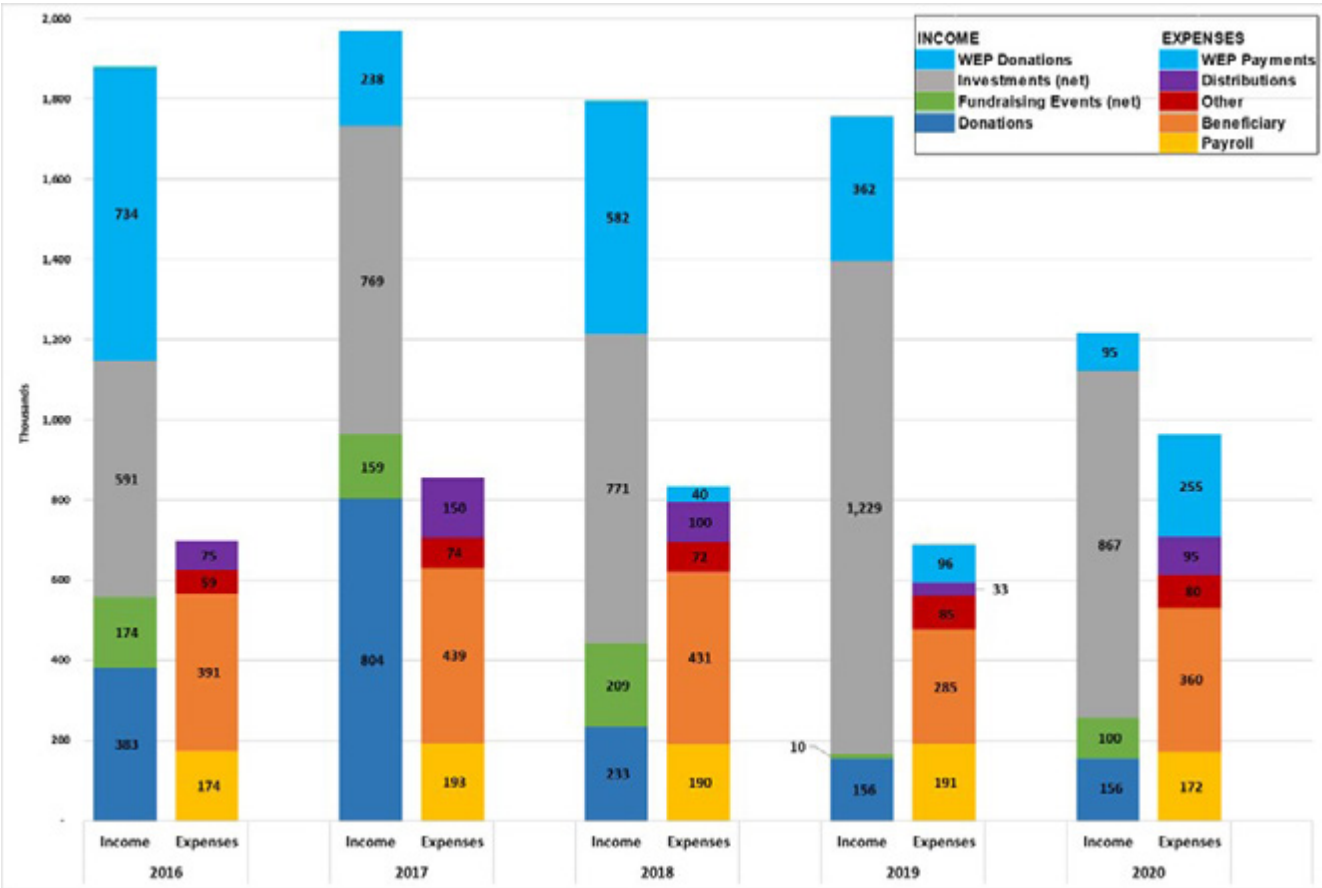
**Distributions** to other charities in 2020 included \$20,000 for a Scholarship Programme with St George's College (received from two donors), \$15,000 for the Legacy Club of Western Australia and \$60,000 for the Recovery & Restoration Centre Inc.

The SAS Resources Fund and Trusts are not-for-profit, charitable institutions registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

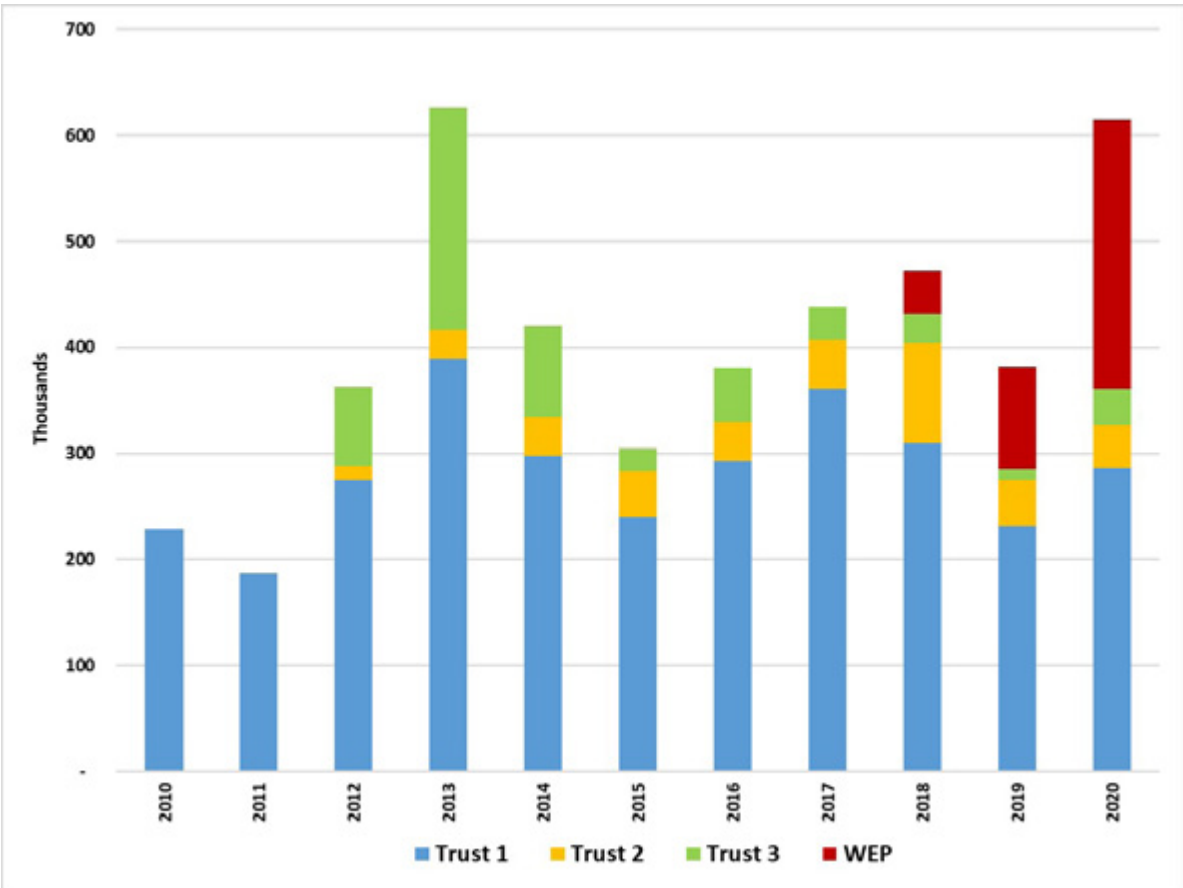
The financial reporting period for the Fund and Trusts is

The full audited accounts of the SAS Resources Fund are available on the web page, [www.sasresourcesfund.org.au](http://www.sasresourcesfund.org.au)

## Five Year Consolidated Profit and Loss



## Beneficiary Payments





# THE HON PETER BLAXELL

by Dr Grant Walsh



In June this year Peter Blaxell resigned from the Board after an amazing 24 years of exemplary service. On 15 June 1996, only three days after the Black Hawk tragedy, Peter accepted a personal request from the Trust’s founder, Mr Jeff Kazim and became one of the inaugural Trustees. At the time, Peter was a Judge on the WA District Court and in subsequent years he progressed to become a Supreme Court Judge from 2005 until 2011. His onerous professional duties, alongside an active family life, never prevented Peter from fulfilling his philanthropic responsibilities with utmost commitment. Indeed, in addition to a number of other volunteer community endeavours, he served as the Trust’s Deputy Chairman until assuming the Chairman role from October 2010 through to November 2015.

Peter’s vision, leadership and wisdom have been instrumental to the Trust’s evolution since its inception. Notably, as Chairman, he initiated and led changes to the Trust’s remit and structure that have enabled a broadening of support to meet the needs of serving and former SAS Regiment (SASR) members and families. These changes included establishing an overarching fund to manage donations, the derivation of two additional Trusts with specific objectives, the embedding of new staff to improve efficiency and governance and the introduction of an educational scholarship programme. After handing over the Chairman’s reins, Peter’s support and

influence remained and his considered judgement has been a consistent guide to all of us.

Peter’s most impactful contributions and legacies have arisen from his unwavering sense of benevolence. His respect and regard for our beneficiaries is genuine, personal and unsurpassed. His ability to meaningfully relate to others has generated positive impacts, particularly for those experiencing the most demanding of circumstances. Peter has always based his judgement on the measure of what is best for the beneficiaries; a simple benchmark that drives a powerful clarity of purpose.

While Peter has resigned from his formal Board role, absolute retirement just doesn’t seem to be in his mindset, nor that of his wife Stella for that matter, who has equally committed her life to the betterment of others. Peter has offered to remain involved with the Assistance Committee, which the Board has eagerly accepted.

So on behalf of all, the Board wishes Peter, Stella and their family the very best for the future and we reinforce our sincere gratitude for the many years of valuable service.

**Dr Grant Walsh CSM**  
**(SASRF Deputy Chairman and Committee member)**

# MY JOURNEY WITH THE SAS RESOURCES TRUST

by the Hon Peter Blaxell

As a newly retired trustee of the SAS Resources Trust, I have been asked to write a ‘few words’ about my time in that role. Rather than attempt a brief summary of the many rich and varied experiences during my 24 years with the Trust, I will simply refer to some of the highlights.

As everyone knows, the Trust began in 1996 in the aftermath of the Black Hawk tragedy which claimed the lives of 18 mostly SAS soldiers and caused serious injuries to others. As a result, 13 wives became widows and 11 young children lost their fathers, with some of them facing a reduced standard of living because of the flawed military compensation system at the time.

It was in these dire circumstances that the late Jeff Kazim stepped forward with vision, energy and determination to create a Trust Fund which would look after these families (and particularly the children for whom he was very concerned). Jeff was a caring man who was motivated by the difficulties he had experienced during his own childhood. He had been born in Cyprus to a single mother who had abandoned him at an orphanage. There he remained until 14 years of age when he was unexpectedly rescued by an unknown uncle (the brother of his father who had died before his birth). The uncle then took Jeff into care at his home in England.

Jeff thrived in this new environment and a few years later enlisted in the Manchester Regiment of the British Army. He was soon selected for the 22nd SAS Regiment where he

enjoyed a long and distinguished career. He was a highly intelligent man and during his army service accumulated considerable wealth with investments in the petroleum industry. In 1982 he used some of this wealth to establish and endow a Trust Fund in Britain to care for families of SAS soldiers killed or injured in the Falklands War. In 1983 Jeff emigrated with his family to Western Australia where he chose to live a very reclusive life until his death in 2009.

In his drive to establish a Trust Fund for the Australian SAS, Jeff approached various friends and close acquaintances including his solicitor, accountant, bank manager and myself asking that we become trustees. (Jeff and I knew each other as fellow members of Fremantle Sailing Club). Everyone enthusiastically agreed to this, and at Jeff’s suggestion I then telephoned David Malcom, the Chief Justice of WA, to ask him to chair the new Trust. It is to David’s eternal credit that he did not even put down the phone to think about the proposition but immediately agreed. (David went on to chair the Trust for 14 years, and to greatly enhance its reputation and credibility with the public).

Right from the beginning the Trust was primarily focused on the welfare of its child beneficiaries. Although the Trust could never make up for the loss of their fathers it did all it could to ensure they each received a quality education and the best possible start to adult life. To this end bursaries were arranged at private schools, and in recent years a network of scholarship funds has been established. Whenever deciding





# MY JOURNEY WITH THE SAS RESOURCES TRUST

(cont)

on assistance for a child beneficiary the Trust has always applied the “caring father” test. (In other words, what would a caring father do in the situation then being considered). This test has worked very well, and I am exceptionally proud of the outcomes for these young people who have grown up into capable and confident adults. The feedback from widows and other extended family members confirms that the Trust has largely succeeded in achieving its aims with these children and in helping other beneficiaries.

None of this would have happened without adequate funding, and in the early years we had a big struggle to meet our financial needs. Although we received many small donations from ordinary people, the big corporations who might have been expected to help were reluctant to do so. Their response was usually along the lines that it was the Government’s responsibility to look after the stricken families; but when we lobbied the relevant Minister (Bronwyn Bishop) for financial assistance we were rebuffed. For these reasons we fell well short of our initial fundraising target of \$10,000,000 and did not accumulate our first \$1,000,000 until eight years later. (This early lack of funds did hamper us a little in helping our beneficiaries).

All this changed during the Federal Election in 2007 when Kevin Rudd was Leader of the Opposition. One of his candidates and a former member of the Regiment, Peter Tinley, secured a pledge that the Trust would receive \$10,000,000 from Government if Kevin Rudd became Prime Minister. That event duly occurred and the pledge was ultimately fulfilled, but not without an immense amount of drama in between.

The problem was the considerable resistance within the Army, the Canberra bureaucracy, and (surprisingly) from the SAS Association and within the Trust itself, to the pledge being met. Some of the objections raised were quite understandable, namely that the SAS Regiment was being unfairly favoured over the rest of the ADF, and that a gift to us of \$10,000,000 would reduce the defence budget. These issues caused great angst amongst some Trustees and it was the only occasion when we ever had a serious split in our Board (as well as the resignation of a valued Trustee in protest at the ultimate outcome).

The crisis was ultimately resolved by a meeting with the Minister for Defence (Joel Fitzgibbon). The Government decided to allocate funds from outside the defence budget to meet the pledge, and the Trust committed to share the income it would earn from investment of the \$10,000,000 with similar Trusts which it would help to establish throughout the ADF. This commitment was confirmed at a Board meeting on 9th June 2008 when it was also agreed to

amend the Trust Deed to “enable increased benefits....to a wider range of beneficiaries”.



The Trust duly followed through with these commitments. Our first priority was to provide coverage by a similar Trust for other Special Forces, and on 22 October 2010 at Victoria Barracks in Sydney I had great pleasure in handing over a cheque for \$370,000 as seed funding for the launch of the Commando Welfare Trust. We then set about creating three Brigade based trusts (in Brisbane, Townsville and Darwin) to cover the Australian Mentoring Force in Afghanistan, but the Chief of Army rejected this proposal. In the end, and after extensive negotiations with interested parties, the only option was to establish a single new Trust to cover the whole of the ADF other than Special Forces. We implemented this in partnership with the Perth Branch of the RSL by creating the ‘Legacy Services Trust’ which later became the ‘ADF Assistance Trust’ and is now the Bravery Trust. At the launch of that Trust in late 2011 it was my pleasure to hand over a cheque from our Trust for \$440,000.



There can be little doubt that we made the correct decision in 2008 to accept the \$10,000,000 gift from the Federal Government. It was that gift which led to the formation of the new Trusts, and which also created a precedent resulting in the Federal Government later giving \$9,000,000 to the Commando Welfare Trust, and \$14,000,000 to the ‘ADF Assistance Trust. These outcomes have benefited the whole of the ADF and would not have occurred without our efforts, so we can be justifiably proud of them.

The second commitment we made in 2008 was to increase benefits to a wider range of beneficiaries within our own Trust, and this promise has been amply fulfilled. In this regard our original Deed of Trust covered only cases where active service had resulted in death, quadriplegia, paraplegia, or total loss of sight. (Jeff Kazim insisted on these restrictive criteria which replicated the coverage of his UK Trust. He was adamant that there should be no coverage for mental injuries). However, we amended the Deed in 2009 to extend its coverage to any ‘serious mental or physical injury and permanent disablement’ resulting from active service. (Jeff had passed on by then and although he would not have approved of the amendment it was the right thing to do).

We further increased the range of benefits in 2010 by creating the SAS Resources Trust (No. 2). This Trust assists current and former members of the Regiment and their families who experience hardship as a result of any disability. (In other words the disability does not have to result from active service and it does not have to be permanent). The funding for this new initiative came from a generous donation of 200,000 FMG shares to the new Trust 2 which were then on-sold to our primary Trust for \$1.3 million. Although the level of assistance under Trust 2 is not as high as with Trust 1, it has been of great help to many families.

In 2011 there was yet another expansion of beneficiary cover with the creation of the SAS Resources Trust (No.3). This Trust benefits serving members of the Regiment and their families by funding respite holidays and whole of Squadron retreats. More recently Trust 3 has embarked on a program with its “Wanderers’ Education Programme” to assist soldiers in their transition to civilian employment when they retire. This new Trust was funded with yet another generous donation which was made at one of our Annual Dinners.

The Annual Dinners conducted since 2007 have significantly contributed to the Trust’s finances not only with their direct proceeds but also with the donations they have attracted. The Dinners were initially organized by the Orthodox Order of St John (OOSJ) which had a long history of voluntary fundraising for charitable causes. In 2009 the organising committee asked that it be transferred to the Trust, and OOSJ agreed that this should happen. Since then the “Dinner Committee” has continued to run successful annual functions in Perth as well as other events in Melbourne. The Committee has always had a ‘can do’ attitude and enjoys excellent camaraderie amongst its members (about

half of whom are retirees from the Regiment). The total of funds (including donations) raised by all Dinners since 2007 currently stands at \$4.16 million.

The coming year will mark a quarter century of the Trust’s existence. Over that period, it has been an innovative organisation which has proved its worth by paving the way for organised community support not only for the SAS but for all defence families throughout Australia. As the founder of the Trust Jeff Kazim deserves full credit for this achievement, but there are also many others who have contributed to our success. These volunteers, donors and other people who have put in time and effort for our cause are far too numerous to be individually named, but on behalf of our beneficiaries they deserve our heartfelt thanks.

For my part I will look back on my time with the Trust as a significant and rewarding life experience which has brought much satisfaction and pride. My greatest satisfaction has come from seeing young people overcome life’s misfortunes and go on to achieve their full potential. Jeff Kazim’s life story is an example of how the lives of bereft children can be improved with adult encouragement and support, and I am glad that the Trust has been able to perform that role with our young beneficiaries.

It has been a privilege to be a Trustee of such a wonderful organisation, and I look forward to continuing in my lesser role as a member of the Assistance Committee. The work that Committee does in assisting beneficiaries lies at the heart of what the Trust is all about, and I hope to contribute in this way for at least a few more years before riding away into the sunset.

Best wishes to you all.

**Hon Peter Blaxell**







## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Since the Fund's inception, a core focus has been education. The Fund is of the belief that education can lead to greater opportunities. The Fund is fortunate to be able to provide beneficiaries and beneficiary children with formal education and supports them through primary school, high school, TAFE, apprenticeships and University.

Through the generosity and support of donors and the educational institutions, the Fund has scholarships and partnerships with Methodist Ladies College (2014) Trinity

College (2015) Scotch College (2016) Guildford Grammar School (2017) and St George's College within the University of Western Australia (2020). More scholarships are planned and in progress.

The Fund is also grateful for many bursary arrangements with various schools and colleges and is thankful for the support of WesTrac.

## WANDERERS' EDUCATION PROGRAMME (WEP)

Founded in 2015 with the vision of providing all SAS Regiment (SASR) personnel with the opportunity to complete tertiary study, the Wanderers' Education Program (WEP) has grown to provide over \$500k worth of education to 40 members through 129 units of study. On the initiative of SGT Harry Moffitt, the WEP quickly moved from vision to reality with the support and generosity of the many donors who have contributed to the programme.

Over the past five years, the WEP has become a highly contested scholarship with dozens of enquiries and at least ten applications per sitting for the past three rounds of intakes. With a strong focus on business, security/terrorism, and sports science, WEP members are not only fortifying their post-service employment options but providing an enhanced capability to SASR.

**Travis (WEP Manager)**

## METHODIST LADIES' COLLEGE PERTH

Ms Bethany Newton is completing year 12 at Methodist Ladies' College (MLC). The Fund has two perpetual scholarships with MLC. Bethany was able to attend under the Paul Harold Denehey Scholarship, the first beneficiary to do so. The Fund would like to thank the donors, MLC and the MLC Foundation who made this scholarship possible.

Bethany writes:

My time at MLC has been a positive and enriching experience, it has helped bring me out of my shell and allow me to feel secure in myself to grow and become more confident as a person. This has shaped me into the person I am today and helped me to continue to become the person I want to be in the future – strong, confident, compassionate.

During my time at MLC I was welcomed and supported which has allowed me build back my confidence and develop strong friendships that I feel will be with me for the rest of my life. MLC taught me that even when really terrible things happen people should and will stand up for you no matter what. It taught me to fight for what I believe in and to use my voice. (Which I'm sure a number of my teachers are now very used to!)

One of the highlights of my time at MLC was boarding. As a new student I had found it hard to connect with the girls. However, when I spent a term boarding, I was able to develop a deeper connection with a number of girls I was living with. I learnt about their lives and it felt as if I had been friends with them for years rather than weeks.



Paul Harold Denehey

I built a close friendship with one of the girls in particular. She also attended the Year 11 school academic Europe tour. We, along with a number of other girls in year 10 and 12, developed not only our knowledge of history but also our knowledge of European culture.

Thank you to the Trust for allowing me to complete my high school education at MLC and I will be proud to call myself a Collegian of MLC at the end of 2020.

Kind regards,  
**Bethany Newton**

MALAYSIA		DENEHEY	
Order Serial No.	Group No. R49/1/17(10.3.66)	(Sabah-Sarawak-Brunei)	
<b>WAR GRAVES RECORD CARD</b>			
ALSO SERVED AS	1 SAS SQN.	BADGE	AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES
CEMETERY	ULU PANDAN - SINGAPORE	No. 37562	RANK Lance Corporal
	Plot 28 - Row G	GIVEN NAME	Paul Harold
	Gr.1	SURNAME	DENEHEY
NEXT OF KIN	Mr. J. B. Denehey, 40 McGregor Street, PARKDALE. VIC. (Father)	NAME TO APPEAR AS	
		UNIT	SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT
		DATE OF DEATH	6.6.65



# ST GEORGE’S COLLEGE UWA RESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The residential scholarship at St George’s College UWA, which was made possible through the donations of Mr Peter Guy and Mr Simon Trevisan, has been taken up by a beneficiary in 2020.

St George’s College, founded in 1931, provides accommodation for tertiary students. The College offers not only an excellent academic programme but also has a dedicated Student Care Centre where residents have access to a range of support and services. Along with a social calendar and numerous cultural events the College, importantly, offers exceptional pastoral care.

Peter Guy’s father and uncle served in WWII and he had two great-uncles serve in WWI. Of the four, only his father, who served in Tobruk and New Guinea, survived. His feelings about war service are deeply felt. Mr Guy says of the SAS: “They are Australia’s elite force. Contributing to the SAS Resources Trust which cares for SAS Regiment family members is not just patriotic, it is a privilege.”

Simon Trevisan is a Georgian, alumnus of College, and he and his family have supported residents through scholarships before. Mr Trevisan says “The main thing for me is that St George’s is a very strong and supportive community. Most people who go there come out of it with lifelong friends – as I did. Whilst having a ball and getting some study done.”

Along with the integral care of the College mentors, the residents also have the dedicated support of the College Warden, Mr Ian Hardy. Regarding the scholarship, Mr Hardy comments that he is “happy to say how privileged we are to be involved in the development of the lives of young beneficiaries, and to work with the Trust donors who are enabling residence for the beneficiaries at the College.”

The Fund would like to acknowledge the opportunity that Peter Guy and Simon Trevisan has given the student attending the College. This altruistic giving is a reflection of their commitment to philanthropy.



# BENEFICIARY REFLECTIONS



**Beneficiary Notes of Thanks**

“I would love to express many thanks to you all. With all of your generosity and kind natures, I have been able to continue pursuing my passions and goals! I just want to say thank you all for the ongoing support that everyone has supplied me with, I greatly appreciate it and wanted you all to know how humbled and grateful I am.”

“I send my thanks and appreciation to the Trust, not just for the assistance but for the ongoing support of everyone’s commitment to the Fallen families”

“Thank you so much for all your assistance, not just for my son’s education. We are both so very grateful for your ongoing support.”

‘I would like to take the time to express my gratitude on behalf of my family for your incredible work and generosity. Your help has blown us away and we are extremely thankful for the assistance.’

## Respite Notes of Thanks

Through the support of individuals and companies who provide their homes and resort accommodation, the Fund is able to provide, under its welfare and respite programme, relief to serving SAS Regiment members and their families who in the view of the Regimental executive require assistance. The Fund would like to acknowledge and thank the owners of the homes and owners of resort accommodation for their generosity.

Some notes of thanks from SAS Regiment members who have participated in this programme.

“I am writing a letter to express my family’s thanks for the opportunity to stay in your beautiful home over the weekend just gone. Again, thank you for opening your family’s home to our family and your ongoing generosity and support towards the SAS Resources Fund.”

“We would like to thank you for allowing our family to share your amazing home. We immediately felt relaxed on arrival and our children enjoyed exploring the new surroundings. As a family we were able to unwind and reconnect after a busy and stressful period. We are grateful for this opportunity and we thank you for your continued support towards the Unit and the Resources Fund.”

“I would like to personally thank you for the experience to stay at your home. I recently had the opportunity to spend a few nights in the amazing house as part of your contribution to the SAS Resources Fund. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and genuinely is a welcomed retreat. The experience to stay in such an amazing area was above and beyond expectations and I can’t thank you enough for the generosity.”

“My stay there was nothing short of amazing and was a well-needed rest after a busy year to date. I thoroughly enjoyed the location and well set up facilities and am looking forward to trying to get back there in the not too distant future.”

“Your continued support of the SAS Resources Fund doesn’t go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated by all members. The ability to spend some quality down time is often hard to achieve. Having members of the public that actively support this speaks volumes and helps members thoroughly enjoy their R&R. Very Gratefully”

“I wanted to send along our gratitude to the family for their generosity in allowing us to stay in their house. It is a gorgeous home and was a wonderful getaway for our family. The time out was much needed and appreciated. Thank you very much”



# OUR EVENTS

## SASRF Sundowner November 2019 St George's College UWA

The SASRF Annual Sundowner is the Fund's opportunity to thank all those who provide support throughout the year and have therefore enabled the Fund to assist its beneficiaries in a variety of ways.

On a delightful Spring evening on the 21st November 2019, volunteers, supporters, sponsors, donors, Board members, Committee members, current and former members of the SAS Regiment and SASRF staff gathered at the beautiful setting of the University of Western Australia, St George's College Quadrangle. The Sundowner evening included light refreshments and canapés whilst listening to the Methodist Ladies' College's Staccato Quartet.

This event coincided with the release with the Fund's 2019 Newsletter.

In his speech at the Sundowner SASRF Chairman Greg Solomon highlighted that the support for the Fund comes in a variety of ways such as:

- Donations – be that of money, respite homes, auction items or wine for functions;
- Time – volunteers at events, legal advice, accounting services, Committee and Board members;
- Financial – purchasing tickets to events and purchasing auction items as well as such initiatives as donating back a percentage of money from the sale of the SASR Golden Jubilee Rose.

Whatever your contribution to the Fund in 2019, please know it was received gratefully and much appreciated.



# OUR EVENTS





# OUR EVENTS



# FOUNDATION SPONSORS



# EVENT SPONSORS



# PLATINUM SPONSORS



# GOLD SPONSORS





## SUPPORTERS 2019-2020

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Grant Priest (JP Stratton Trust)	Jennifer and Steven Thorpe	

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify the Fund of any inaccuracies or omissions [sharon@sasresourcesfund.org.au](mailto:sharon@sasresourcesfund.org.au) We sincerely regret any errors.





# THANK YOU

## FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT

### HOW TO DONATE

Direct Credit	Westpac BSB 036-406 Account No. 186903
Credit Card	Email (admin@sasresourcesfund.org.au) or phone (08 9389 8897) through credit card details
Cheque	Please post to: SAS Resources Fund, PO Box 633, Nedlands WA 6909
Online	Visit <a href="http://www.sasresourcesfund.org.au">www.sasresourcesfund.org.au</a>
Bequests	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."



2020 IN REVIEW

#### Financial Statements

Audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 can be found on the SAS Resources Fund website.

#### Upcoming Events

Please refer to the Fund website for upcoming events.

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

#### Contact SASRF

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Your assistance and support is greatly appreciated

