



JUNE 2023

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE  
ASSOCIATION (VICTORIAN BRANCH)

# ZERO 3 DESPATCH

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of Zero 3 Despatch

## ANZAC Day Special

This Edition:-

- President's Report 2-4
- 'Stand-in' Report 5
- Anzac Day March 2023 6 – 11
- Proposed Thailand trip 12
- Calendar of events 13

## **President's Mid year update 2023**

### **ANZAC Day.**

I must thank Ash Murphy for taking over the organisation of ANZAC Day this year. He told me that it was the best day in many years!

On a personal note, the Somalia reunion went well, a lot of grey hair, and lots of forgotten memories recovered. The award of the Meritorious Unit Citation to J Troop, 3 SAS Sqn, as part of the UNOSOM operation will be done later this year. I have been helping SASR Welfare contact all the members to make sure they receive their awards.

### **Blackhawk Memorial.**

Piper Iain Townsley lead us in the memorial service on a cold Monday, and it was great to have him back again. A small group of us read the service and paid tribute to those who died, and those that risked their lives to save them. We then made fast tracks to the café for a hot drink.

Unfortunately, I mucked the date for the Shrine Remembrance Last Post and I only realised as I was driving into the Shrine. I apologise to you all for that, it is only ever done on a Sunday evening.

### **Committee members**

President – Phil Sullivan

Secretary – Roger Dennerley

Treasurer – Ash Murphy

Members – Mike Bourke, Tony Bowden, Declan Deasey, Peter Gurney, Travis Holland, Barry Jones, Paul Leishmann, Doug McCarty, Terry Nolan.

### **Committee Activities:**

Association Constitution review and update to the Consumer Affairs Victoria base standard. The current constitution was written in 2003, in 2011 Consumer Affairs mandated a minimum standard and level of detail for all incorporated bodies to have in their rules. They have provided a draft “model rules” to use to reduce the complexity. I have mapped our current rules to the new rules and all our constitution elements are included, most deficiencies within our constitution are around members rights, conflict resolution and procedural details for the handling of disputes. There are also additional committee positions, such as Vice-President, which will need to be filled once approved.

I aim to have the draft update completed in two weeks and then sent out for review. Our current constitution states that amendments must be approved by a general meeting of the Branch therefore I am planning to delay the AGM by a month to allow time for review and amendment, then have it as an agenda item in the AGM.

### **Membership drive and activities.**

We have talked a lot of how we are to interact with our members, some of who we only see on ANZAC Day, or other events, and we have proposed a few solutions which we hope to start doing this year.

- The first step is feedback from all members on how we are doing, what we are doing right & wrong, and what type of things you would like to take part in. Declan and Travis have designed an online membership questionnaire to enable this information to be captured easily. We intend this to be ready for release around early September.
- We have also discussed how to bring more balance into the Branch activities, we attend a lot of memorials, as is right, but we haven't got the balance of fun events. Activities that we thought might be of interest included:
  - o Long gun competition (500 – 1000m) (smallest group size, etc)
  - o Fly fishing
  - o Motorcycle touring
  - o Bushwalking
  - o Hunting
  - o Book Club
- There is a personal interest section on the membership survey to let us know what is preferred. Some of these might only interest a few of you but we can act to connect like-minded people.
- Website. After many years of waiting for the National Body to get a functional website together, we have authorised Travis to create a State Branch website. This is intended to provide a simple, easy to read, first point of call for any Branch activities, issues, and contact. The website is here:
  - o <https://asasa-vic.org.au/>
  - o It is still in draft and many of the links have little detail in them yet.
  - o It is scheduled to go live in early September.
- If it is successful it may act as a template for other Branches.

The committee has approved the membership of Mrs Annette Linacre, mother of SGT Craig Linacre MG, as an Affiliate member. Annette has asked to be able to take part in the association to provide help and support to ex-SASR members and I am looking forward to her involvement and ideas.

#### **AGM.**

The AGM will be held in early August, I am after numbers to see if you want to have a luncheon, perhaps at an RSL with dining facilities; or to have it as a meeting only. As per the constitution all committee positions are declared vacant, and anyone can nominate themselves for a position.

Other agenda items will be the financial plan, the membership feedback, and the updated constitution. The committee will send out the confirmed date, location, and agenda 30 days prior to the AGM.

#### **Annual Dinner.**

We haven't had an annual dinner for many years, and I will be sending out an email shortly to get numbers and support to have one. Please let me know if want to attend. The date will be early September around the SASR birthday.

**National Executive Issues:**

At the 2022 National AGM the State Branches agreed to have a single voice on the highly divisive issues falling out of the Brereton Report and the Office of Special Investigations activities. This appears to have been successful with the recent medal issues, and Martin Hamilton-Smith has been working closely with the Australian Commando Association to take the fight to the Government. If you want to have any issues raised by the Association at this level, please either contact me, or you can go directly to Martin Hamilton-Smith. You also always have the right to do so as a concerned individual directly.

All the best wishes to you and your families.

Phil





**‘Stand-in’ Report - June 2023**  
**by Ash Murphy (Previous Past President)**

Ok we’re having a bit of fun with this. Phil was off in Canberra at the Somalia 30-year reunion, hob-knobbing with the Governor General and other



Phil Sullivan ASASA (ViC), His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)  
Governor-General  
and Chips Raftery (ex 126 Sig Sqn Commando)

dignitaries, while the rest of us tried keeping a lower profile and attended ANZAC services around the country and region. In Melbourne we had a keen contingent of members and family attend the march, service and some social drinks at the Kelvin.

This Zero3 Despatch is dedicated to sharing some of those moments with you all and hope that those that could attend will be able to get together with us for other social activities in the near future.

# ANZAC Day 2023



Scotch College Cadets escorting our banner



Decs and Tony



Decs, Darren, Dino & Barry





**Decs, Rick, Peter, Mike & Allan**



**Caity (Ash's daughter) & Ash**



**Family of Craig Linacre**





Scotch College lads with our Banner setting off down Swanston St



The ensemble in Swanston St





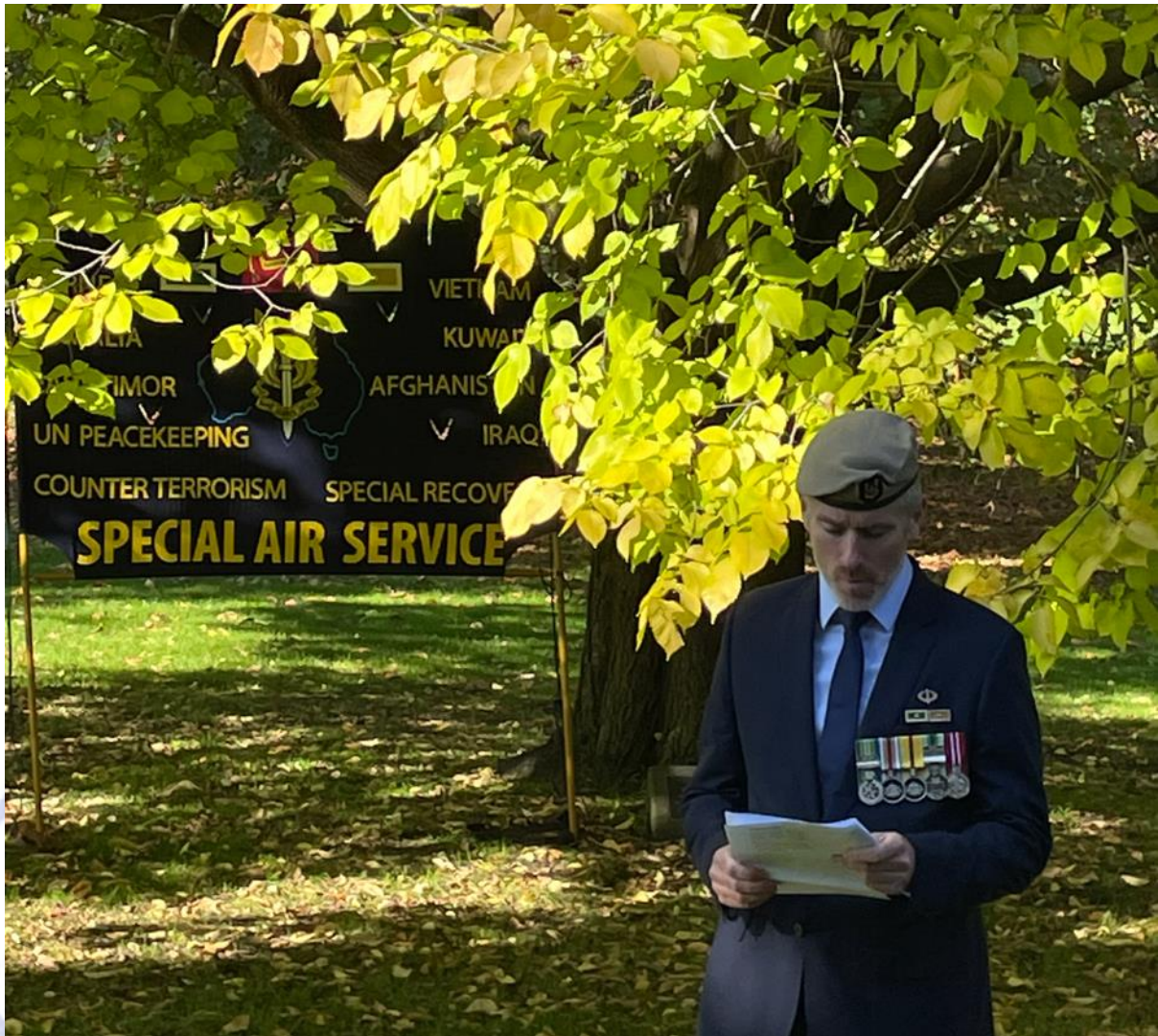
Marching up to the Shrine forecourt



The service by our plaque at our tree







**Travis reading a passage during the service**



**Families and friends of the ASASA**



**Other ANZAC Day Services:**

**We know Phil couldn't make it while he rubbed shoulders with the Governor General.**

**Meanwhile over in NZed, Neil and Fiona Thompson went the service in Alexandra in Central Otago**



## Proposed Thailand Trip

Roger Dennerley is proposing to host a trip to for ASASA members to Thailand where he spends most of his time. Basic itinerary would be as follows:

- Melbourne to Bangkok direct flight 9 hours. One or two nights in Bangkok.
- Train journey to Kanchanaburi. Visit WW2 bridge over River Kwai site, war cemetery, museum and hellfire pass - 2 - 3 days.
- Transit to Chiang Mai, Thailand by VIP coach. Stay at Rogers small house in Chiang Mai - several activities over 6 or 7 days. TBA.
- Train journey to Bangkok, or flight dependent on interest either way.

Bookings and deposits will be 5-6 months in advance in order to take advantage of extremely cheap air fares. Trip can cater for 10-12 persons. Trip could be blokes only, or bloke and partners if interest is strong enough. The trip will be November / January either this year or next to take advantage of weather & Roger availability.

Roger's house in Chiang Mai below.



We're calling for expressions of interest, so if you're interested, send Roger and email at [rog@fastmail.fm](mailto:rog@fastmail.fm)



## Calendar of Events

Month	Dates	Activity	Remarks
<b>June</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> June (Sun)	Blackhawk – Last Post Shrine 5pm	(Members encouraged – Formal /medals) SAS Tree / Rear of Shrine
	12 <sup>th</sup> June (Mon)	Blackhawk memorial	
	30 <sup>th</sup> June (Fri)	Kelvin Club Drinks	Every last Friday each month – 5PM
<b>July</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July (Thu)	Committee Meeting	Eltham/Montmorency RSL & Zoom
	25 <sup>th</sup> July (Tue)	SAS Company Formed	
	28 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Kelvin Club Drinks	Last Friday each month.
<b>August</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	AGM – Online & Physical	Kelvin Club – Presidents Room/RSL ?
	25 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Kelvin Club Drinks	Last Friday each month.
<b>September</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Sat)	Annual Dinner ASASA VIC Branch	Kelvin Club
	4 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	SASR Birthday	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Committee Meeting	Eltham/Montmorency RSL & Zoom
	29 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Kelvin Club Drinks	Last Friday each month.
<b>October</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Pistol Shoot (SASR & Commando)	
	27 <sup>th</sup> (Oct)	Kelvin Club Drinks	Last Friday each month.
<b>November</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Lunch at Portarlinton Hotel	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Committee Meeting	Eltham/Montmorency RSL & Zoom
	24 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Kelvin Club Drinks	Last Friday each month.
<b>December</b>		<b>No</b> Kelvin Club meet	

Our mailbox address is:  
[asasavic@gmail.com](mailto:asasavic@gmail.com)



The ASASA was formed:

- *to provide advice and assistance to past and present members of the Australian Special Air Service (hereafter referred to as the SAS) and /or their families.*
- *to perpetuate the close bonds of comradeship and esprit de corps created by past and present members of the SAS, and other Special Air Service units, by providing the means for contact.*
- *to provide support to the SAS Regiment*
- *to preserve the good name of the SAS Regiment and guard its interests.*

**Should you know of any ex-Regiment people that are now living in Victoria, let them know we exist and what we aim to do. They are of course very welcome to join and come along to any of the activities.**