

**SA Ambulance Service**  
**Retired Officers' Association Inc.**  
 "Friendship and welfare in retirement"



**Patron Dr John E Gilligan AO OStJ FANZCA FCICM Dip Hyperb Med**

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**COMMITTEE**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Held By</u>		<u>Contact No.</u>
President	Cliff Pinkard	Elected	#### ### ##
Secretary	Colin Beames	Elected	#### ### ##
Treasurer	Wayne Jackson	Elected	#### ### ##
Welfare	Rod Kershaw	Elected	#### ### ##
Membership Coordinator	Bill Bourn	Elected	#### ### ##
Website Coordinator	Hugh French	Appointed	#### ### ##
Newsletter Coordinator	Gerry Oliver	Appointed	#### ### ##
Social Coordinator	Mary Riddle	Elected	#### ### ##
Riverland Social Coordinator	Rod Pearson	Appointed	#### ### ##
South East Social Coordinator	Alan Balshaw	Appointed	#### ### ##
Historical Coordinator	Robert Dale	Appointed	#### ### ##
Driver Group Fleet Coordinator	Ken Jenkins	Appointed	#### ### ##
Driver Group Events Coordinators	Chris & Helen McGrath	Appointed	#### ### ##
Committee Member	Barry Wright	Elected	#### ### ##



## SAASROA Presidents Report

April - May 2023

### Introduction

We are well into the throes of Winter and the inclement weather and cold didn't take long to materialize. Look after yourselves, be safe and rug up to the prevailing conditions.

There is not much to report this reporting period and will be reflected in content and length of this report.

### SAASROA Driver's Lunch

On the 23May23 the SAASROA Driver's Group met at the invitation of SAAS for Volunteers Week at The Coopers Ale House in the City. This is a bi-annual event and was well attended. The event was a rare opportunity for the group to meet and network. The lunch was well attended and hosted by Rob Elliott, Chris Howie and Adam Hughes who thanked the Group for their volunteer service and presented gifts of a sleeping bag and a solar charging power pack to the Drivers for the last two years volunteer service.

Ken Jenkins and I were presented with the SAAS Volunteering Service Awards for ten years outstanding service.

### SAAS Excellence Award Presentation

On 01Apr23 I was invited by SAAS as President of SAASROA to present the Retired Officer's Association Community Engagement Award to Karen Woodcock for her development of the SA Ambulance Volunteering Workplace Promotion Kit.

It was an enjoyable evening and once again a pleasure to meet with new and old colleagues.

Cliff PINKARD

President  
SAASROA

11Jun23



## DRIVERS GROUP REPORT



Hello to all Association Member's.

Well it's ugg boot time, hot soup and into bed with the electric blanket on. If you are like me - I hate winter.

Last week we had a massive storm with plenty of rain and this caused a minor flood at my place.

In regards to our Driver's Group can I thank them for the past work. It was good to see them at the volunteers' dinner.

But I'm sorry to say it's been very quiet, as we only completed 1 trip In May.

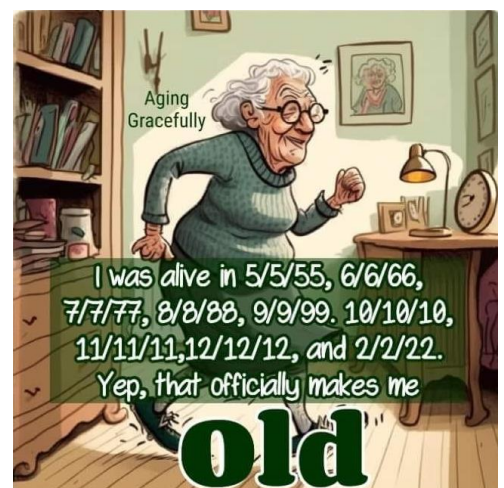
As I understand it, the fleet workshop is working seven days a week to catch up.

Please keep safe and well and snug up by the heater.

Cheers

Ken Jenkins

Task Drivers coordinator ,





## AmboCare Report

June 2023

Welcome to this bi-monthly report regarding the Welfare portfolio. Generally, the health of individuals contacted has been relatively good, given age and medical related issue that ensure for them.

Unfortunately, life has not been easy for two of our members (and families) who have been hospitalised following serious surgical and medical issues that have impacted their lives.

*The first is that of Michael Cook* who had a serious fall whilst riding his bicycle in the Riverland, on Saturday, 29 April. He was immediately taken to the local hospital then transferred to RAH in a serious condition. Following further medical assessment, it was ascertained that Michael had indeed suffered a fracture of the C5 vertebrae but, with no permanent spinal cord impact. Immediate, surgical intervention to permanently stabilize this fracture and attend to other medical issues ensued and he was then admitted to ICU.

Following notification of the accident by the SAASROA Riverland Group Coordinator, Rod Pearson on 30 April; I contacted ICU and was surprised when they forwarded my call to Michael's wife, (who's welfare was ascertained then given our ensuing support). She went on to provide me with an update regarding her husband's injuries and present condition and advised that he was intubated. We exchanged mobile numbers to maintain contact and receive updates re Michael's condition etc.

Permission was attained, to allow me to update Rod Pearson and to provide a written report for Riverland members at the coming group morning tea. There are some other issues that I have not discussed herein.

Further updates have notably advised that Michael has been transferred to an orthopaedic ward and is slowly but, surely making progress.

Unfortunately, Michael's rehabilitation will be a long and arduous journey, we wish them all the best and reaffirm our ongoing support.

*The other member to be impacted is Peter Coombes* who, collapsed unconscious on 17 May and was taken by Ambulance to the LMH then transferred to RAH ICU following a serious stroke. The situation appeared very grim regarding his survival but, alas following very successful anti coagulation intervention, Peter was coherent and eating breakfast the following morning according to his wife Pat.

Earlier on during this situation there was some difficulty in making contact with the family given collateral situation's related to the impact of the stroke however, both Lloyd Rogers and myself have had the opportunity to speak with Peter on his mobile and have ascertained a level of confusion that is somewhat prevalent in communicating with him. I took the opportunity to remind Pete of the *nine lives* that he obviously possesses, given the number of medical issues he has and is still impacted with over many years, to which he agreed.

Wishing Peter and the family all the very best in dealing with yet another medical issue, don't forget we are here for you.

In closing, I wish you a comfortably warm Winter Season and lots of good health.

Kind Regards,

**Rod Kershaw ASM**

**Welfare Officer / Vice President**

### Addendum to Welfare Officer's Report

Members are advised that Graham Ey required surgery in Brisbane whilst he was holidaying there, last week. He has had an aortic valve replacement and a double bypass. Whilst still in ICU, he was apparently sitting up in bed the day after the procedures.

Rod has taken leave from his welfare duties for the time being, with Cliff taking the role over until Rod's return.

I will never regret getting older.  
I know too many people who  
never had that privilege.





Coffee May 18th – The Nest

## 2023 – Catch Ups



Lunch - 12 Noon	Coffee - 10am
<u>JULY</u>	20 <sup>st</sup> Zee’s Eatery (@Brickworks)

		38 South Road Torrensville
<u>AUGUST</u> 8 <sup>th</sup>	Flagstaff Hotel 1497 – 1503 Main South Road Darlington	17 <sup>th</sup> Watershed Café 665 Salisbury Highway Mawson Lakes
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>		21 <sup>st</sup> La Crema Coffee Roaster 14 Denis St St Marys
<u>OCTOBER</u> 10 <sup>th</sup>	Stirling Hotel 52 Mount Barker Road Stirling	19 <sup>th</sup> Café de Grove (@Garden Grove) 1150 Golden Grove Road Garden Grove
<u>NOVEMBER</u>	AGM	16 <sup>th</sup> Oar Café 100 Military Road Tennyson
<u>DECEMBER</u> 12 <sup>th</sup>	Watermark Hotel 631 Anzac Highway Glenelg North	21 <sup>st</sup> Enjoy Bakery 112 The Parade Norwood

As Covid restrictions may continue to change please continue to text  
RSVP numbers to Linda Scheurich



# RIVERLAND



Jul 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Morning Tea	Cinnamon Grove Café, 77 Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark <b>**Pet Friendly**</b>
Aug 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00	Morning Tea	River Jacks, Berri
Sep 7 <sup>th</sup>	12:00	Lunch	Waikerie Club
Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Morning Tea	Loxton Hotel
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00	Morning Tea	Lakes Bakery & Cafe, Barmera
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	12:00	Lunch	Renmark Club

Please advise Rod if you will be attending any of these functions.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS** These are held on the second Wednesday of even months, at 13:00 at Port Adelaide Ambulance Station. i.e. next will take place on August 9<sup>th</sup>





## ROA Social Event 2023 - Held 28<sup>th</sup> April

Another successful visit to Royal Flying Doctor Service South Australian Operations Centre, Adelaide Airport. Thank you, Tony Vaughan RFDS CEO for the guided tour. 22 Members and partners attended this event followed by catch up lunch at CAFÉ SYLVANAS, Harbour Town.



Enjoying Lunch at Café Sylvanas



Thankyou everyone for supporting this event. **Social Coordinator.**

## HISTORICAL COORDINATOR REPORT JUNE 2023

Thursday May 5th, fleet 321 did not want to start, as we were to go to Tailem Bend and pick up the PR trailer. I put the plug back in, rang Fulham to notify the Mechanics that fleet 321 did not want to start and could we use the spare ute with tow ball . The answer came back a short time later saying the ute was in Port Lincoln and it would be at least an hour before anyone could come down as they were short staffed.

After an hour or so , I pulled the plug out of 321 and to my amazement and surprise 321 started with hand claps from all in the Pt Station. All went well till we got to Tailem Bend , backed into the compound at the rear of the Station, spent some time trying to get the wheel lock off the trailer. Then came the time to connect the chains , one needs to lay on your back to get up underneath to connect the chain with a bolt and put thru the hole (found two different size bolts and two different size holes ,very awkward to connect). The team leader came out and sometime later had the second bolt secured with the chains just above the bitumen. I found a piece of wire nearby and used it to secure the chains above the road prior to returning to Port Adelaide, on route blew a head light to add to what started out a pleasant drive to Tailem Bend .

Since the big long day out, 321 still does not want to start. The Mechanics have been notified and are very short of staff whilst jobs are mounting up.

Another working bee is to be organised in the next few weeks, and the Panel Van is due to be serviced etc.

Also in the next few weeks, the Bay to Birdwood is on Sunday October 22nd and are expecting all three (Panel Van, EM-Care & the HZ) to be taking part , plus the 1954 BSA Motor bike with side car in convoy.

Each Sunday in May , the Panel Van and the Em – Care went on a Sunday drive to the St. John Museum for display as part of History Month, with good results, including being videoed on Brighton Road by a passing motorist and cars tooting along with the rubber necks.

Fleet 321 is still being stubborn to start, blown headlight and waiting for an easier method of securing the chains on the tow bar i.e. rams horns so one does not need to lay on ground to connect the chains and bolts.

Vehicle Curator

Robert Dale

No one is more hated than  
he who speaks the truth.

Plato



# INSTITUTE OF

**A**s a result of recent elections, some new faces have appeared on the State Executive of the Institute. Here's a Who's-Who of this year's leadership to make sure you know who you're talking to:

You would think that **Dave Stevenson** had more than enough on his plate as our Area Training Officer for the North Metro region and bringing up Chris 18, Patrick 16, and Kerry 14. But 14 years out here from England have given Dave the chance to indulge his love of sport — he's Assistant Head Trainer for the famous Redlegs, and he still finds time for sailing.

Dave attributes his interest in emergency services to his father's wartime Fire Brigade work. It wasn't long after Dave got here that he joined the Tea Tree Gully Division in 1971. The obvious next step to fulltime staff came two years later. He has served on the S.A. Institute's Executive since 1979 and has been its Chairman for the past 3 years.

Dave is available on **263 3593** after hours.

*Chairman — Dave Stevenson.*



Well-known for his special musical achievements, Unley Centre Officer **Rod Kershaw** is Adelaide born and bred. He hasn't forgotten his early Brigade days with the former Kilburn Cadets. After joining the full time staff in 1970, working with Bruce Bartlett out at Prospect, Rod took a keen interest in ambulance service matters. He is a Founding Member of the S.A. Institute and has served on the Executive since 1981, now elected Vice-Chairman.

Married with two sons and a daughter, Rod's other career centres round his own professional 5-man band, "Mix'd Bizznezz". They can play anything, but there's a definite leaning toward Trad Jazz, according to the leader of the band.

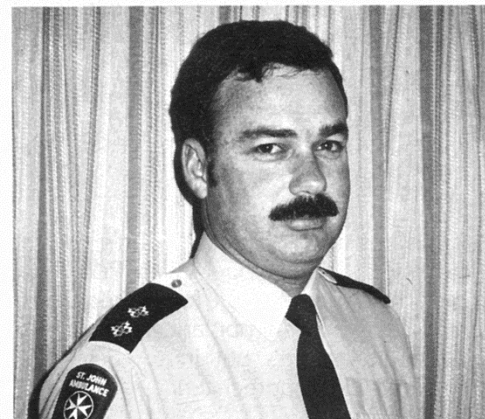
Rod can be reached on **390 1331** after hours.

*Vice-Chairman — Rod Kershaw.*



The post of Secretary/Treasurer holds no secrets for **Peter Gill**, who's "been here and done this" before from 1979 to 1981. He is proud of his association with the S.A. Institute since its inception, and had already served as Chairman. Peter joined the Cadets in 1964 and spent 17 years in the Brigade. He added to his commitment to St. John in 1970 when he joined the S.A. Training Dept. Following some country service, Peter was assigned to the Comms Centre in 1977 and is now a Comms Supervisor.

*Secretary/Treasurer — Peter Gill.*



# AMBULANCE OFFICERS



**Vic Kollosche** (Councillor S.A. Division) followed his father's example and joined the original Northern Suburbs Ambulance Association as a Volunteer in 1950. He is particularly proud to be the very first staff member to be employed by the newly-formed St. John Council in 1952.

Vic is married, with a son in the Railways and a daughter at College — he feels it's significant that neither has shown the slightest interest in ambulance work!

Born in Adelaide, Vic is a keen member of the S.A. Railway Historical Society. He enjoys light classical music contrasted with occasional bushwalking trips, as well as a special interest in gardening with native plants.

*State Councillor on the National Committee — Vic Kollosche.*



**Peter Sperou** somehow manages to combine two careers into one lifetime.

From 9 to 5, he is a full-time communications staff member. At the same time, he is the new District Superintendent, Admin. for the Brigade.

Peter began his Brigade Service in 1955 and joined the full-time staff 4 years later.

He is a Founder Member of the Institute and has served on its Executive in a range of positions, currently as Councillor S.A. Division.

Peter is also an Officer Brother in the Order of St. John. He is married with 2 daughters, both in the Brigade. The family spend a lot of time caravanning for relaxation. Peter can be contacted on **258 1193** after hours.

*State Councillor on the Executive Committee — Peter Sperou.*



For **Helen Clifton**, her son and daughter led the way into the Port Adelaide Division in 1975. Helen had trained as a R.A.H. Nurse before a 20 year career with John Martins. She takes particular interest in First Aid lecturing and Cas/Sim instruction for competitions. Adelaide-born, Helen enjoys a wide range of personal interests "from horses to woodcarving". She can be contacted on 458256 and is keen to receive your submitted articles for "Response".

*"Response" Magazine Rep. — Helen Clifton.*



### **VL5FT Caravan & Getaway Group.**

It was agreed by those present at the Jamestown trip, May 2023, that the name of the group be changed to the above. This is deemed to reflect more accurately what the group is about.

Also agreed was the start of a tradition by having a toast to those people who are, due to age, illness or having passed away, unable to join the group trips.

The person or persons arranging the trip, or their nominee, will at one of the happy hours/dinners ask for all to be upstanding and charge your glasses followed by

**“To those who are unable to join us “**

Cheers,

Gary

**GETAWAY 2**

JAMESTOWN STH AUST

23 members and partners braved “Woolly Winter Weather” to enjoy 7 days of friendship, based in Jamestown Caravan Park.

Daily outings saw the group visit Laura for ice cream and the popular bakery at STONEHUT for lunch.



Laura for ice cream. Wirrabarra for a great bakery.



Coffee morning at EK-WI-Tee Café Jamestown, very interesting café and good food. Some members tried their luck at fishing in Bundaleer Reservoir promising to supply tea for all, still waiting Helen and Chris!!

The group met each evening for happy hour at the newly built CAMP KITCHEN, to share stories of the days activities.



Some members, were game enough to accept invitation from Lee Dale to visit volunteer training night at Booleroo ambulance station, promising a fun night.

Team building exercises saw members join in designing a FORMAL Ambulance uniform made from a WAD of newspaper.



Others visited the Steamtown Heritage railway centre Peterborough, and visited historical pictures projected on silo night shows.

A trip to **Magnetic Hill** - For those that haven't been there before it's worth the trip – the road is just the Jamestown side of a little place called “Black Rock” sit in the car, place it in neutral and have the engine off and feel the car roll backwards up the hill – yes up the hill.

Yes it did!! And nobody was on drugs.



## **2023 Destinations**

### **GETAWAY 3**

#### **Waikerie**      **Barb and Rod Pearson**

**In - October 20<sup>th</sup> – Out - October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Waikerie Holiday Park (08 8541 2651) 5 ensuite cabins and 10 powered sites have been booked under the name "Retired Ambos 2023". Big4 and Seniors discounts apply, however if members have neither of these, they will be provided with a 10% manager's discount. As always, please advise the convenors once you have booked with the park.





## First Get Away for 2024

When:

In: Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Out: Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>

Where:

Port Lincoln Caravan Park, North Shields



Situated 15 km from Port Lincoln Marina, Port Lincoln Caravan Park in North Shields features accommodation, a garden with a barbecue and a children's playground.

The following have been booked in the name of Retired Ambos – Dieter Scheurich.

8 x Caravan Sites (\$35) \*\*

5 x Cabins –Twin Family (1 double bed, 1 bunk with a lounge \$110) \*\*

1 x Pet Friendly Cabin (Frances - \$110) \*\*

1x Disabled Family Cabin (Cliff - \$110) \*\*

Discount: Stay 7 nights – pay for 6

\*\*Please note these are 2023 prices. The prices for 2024 will be released at the end of June but this will give you a guide. We will update you as soon as we know \*\*.

Please ring the Park to secure your cabin or site on 886843512 and then text either Dieter or Linda advising what you have booked and the dates of your stay.

More details will follow in due course.

Looking forward to a great week exploring Port Lincoln in February 2024.

## **Editor's Note**

Those who have had a look around our web site may have noticed that previous editions of the newsletter are now being added to the site. This occurs once each edition has been “sanitised” ie all members’ personal information removed. This would not have been possible without the efforts (and patience) of Hugh French, and I thank him for his expert input.

Members are reminded that the buy, sell, swap facility is available. Simply email details of items to myself.

Rod has previously made mention of Michael Cook. Heather and I caught up with him and Vesna at the RAH on May 15<sup>th</sup> and again on June 7<sup>th</sup>. He was in ICU on the first visit and had been moved to the spinal ward for the second. Whilst he has made obvious vast improvements in that period, he still has a long way to go. At time of writing this, he was expecting to go to rehabilitation at Daw Park some time this week. There are no definitive recovery expectations at this time, however those of you who know Michael will be well aware that he is tough as nails, mentally and physically and will be giving it his all. His other great asset is his wife Vesna. Whilst it has been extraordinarily tough for her, she has stood tall since the accident occurred.

One thing that keeps them strong is the flow of visitors, and Michael specifically asked that I let members know that he really appreciates the time taken to visit him.



Cheers

Gerry Oliver