



## **SAASROA Newsletter June 2024**

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*"If you have something others would find interesting,  
let me know so we can share some good stuff"*

[newsletter@saasroa.org.au](mailto:newsletter@saasroa.org.au)

## COMMITTEE DIRECTORY 2024

### Office Bearer

President	Cliff Pinkard	<a href="mailto:president@saasroa.org.au">president@saasroa.org.au</a>
Vice President	Barry Wright	<a href="mailto:vice.president@saasroa.org.au">vice.president@saasroa.org.au</a>
Secretary	Colin Beames	<a href="mailto:secretary@saasroa.org.au">secretary@saasroa.org.au</a>
Treasurer	Wayne Jackson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@saasroa.org.au">treasurer@saasroa.org.au</a>
Welfare	Cliff Pinkard	<a href="mailto:welfare@saasroa.org.au">welfare@saasroa.org.au</a>

### Coordinator Appointments

Membership	Barry Wright	<a href="mailto:membership@saasroa.org.au">membership@saasroa.org.au</a>
Website	Hugh French	<a href="mailto:admin@saasroa.org.au">admin@saasroa.org.au</a>
Newsletter	Colin Beames	<a href="mailto:newsletter@saasroa.org.au">newsletter@saasroa.org.au</a>
Social Events	Mary Riddle (until a replacement is found)	<a href="mailto:social.events@saasroa.org.au">social.events@saasroa.org.au</a>
Social Metro	Dieter & Linda Scheurich	<a href="mailto:social@saasroa.org.au">social@saasroa.org.au</a>
Riverland	Rod Pearson	<a href="mailto:riverland.coord@saasroa.org.au">riverland.coord@saasroa.org.au</a>
Historical	Robert Dale	<a href="mailto:historic@saasroa.org.au">historic@saasroa.org.au</a>
Drivers Group Fleet Tasking	Ken Jenkins	<a href="mailto:drivers.group.fleet@saasroa.org.au">drivers.group.fleet@saasroa.org.au</a>
Drivers Group Events / Admin	Helen & Chris McGrath	<a href="mailto:drivers.group@saasroa.org.au">drivers.group@saasroa.org.au</a>



## **SAASROA Presidents Report**

**Apr – May 2024**

### **Resignation of Welfare Officer**

Due to pressing family needs Graeme Harding with sincere regret has tendered his resignation as the SAASROA Welfare Officer. We thank Graeme for his time and commitment to the role and wish him and his family all the best in dealing with his current familial matters.

Until a replacement can be sourced, I will undertake the Welfare Officer duties,

### **Queensland Ambulance Service Retired Officers Association (QASROA)**

On 15Apr24 Greg Eustace, Secretary/Treasurer from the QASROA emailed the secretaries of SAASROA and Retired Ambulance Officer Association Victoria seeking an opinion regarding the need to establish a relationship between our respective Associations for the exchange of ideas at executive level that may be common to our associations. Greg indicated that we all have the same goals in our Constitutions and face similar challenges i.e. membership numbers, members attending social activities, funding, initiatives and the commitment of respective and State/Territory Ambulance Services toward retired staff.

On the 05Jun24 Greg moderated a Teams meeting between Paul Skerman (Vice President QASROA), Colin Beames and me.

Matters discussed were:

- Similar challenges
- Membership numbers
- Members attending social activities
- Funding
- Initiatives
- Commitment of State/Territory ambulance services towards our Associations
- Conclusions

The meeting was very cordial and informative, highlighting our commonality. However, they took away some of our ideas and services to discuss with their respective Management Committees.

It was decided that we keep in regular contact and meet by Teams every 6 months.

### **VALE Dr John (Fred) Gilligan AO OStJ and Paul Costello**

It is my sad duty to report on the passing of Dr John (Fred) Gilligan and Paul Costello.

**Dr John (Fred) Gilligan** passed away peacefully with family present on the 13 May 2024 aged 87. A funeral service was held at the St Peter Claver Catholic Church, Burnside on 24 May 2024. Following the funeral of Dr John (Fred) Gilligan a ceremony of committal was conducted at the Summertown Cemetery.

Dr John (Fred) Gilligan was our Patron of the SA Ambulance Service Retired Officers Association, and we sincerely thank him for patronage.

Dr Fred had a long relationship with St John Ambulance and then SA Ambulance Service in forwarding the clinical skills of all ambulance officers. He was also the pioneer of the medical and aero medical retrieval services in SA. Dr Fred's skill, teaching and service to the SA Community will be missed by all, we are all better for knowing him and are deeply saddened by his loss.

**Paul Anthony Costello** passed away peacefully at the RAH on Sunday, 19 May 2024. A funeral service was conducted at the St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Barmera on 27 May 2024. Following the funeral a ceremony of committal was conducted at the Barmera Lawn Cemetery.

Paul was a good Ambulance Officer and Paramedic; his advice and practice was exemplary. He was always helpful, a quiet achiever and a true gentleman. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him. Another SAAS family member taken too soon.

On behalf of the SAASROA Management Committee and Members extend our sincere condolences to family and friends and may they rest in peace.

Cliff PINKARD  
President  
SAASROA  
09Jun24

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## ***SAASROA Committee Appointments - VACANCIES***

Registrations of interest are sought from SAASROA Members to fill the following positions.

These two positions are ex-officio and do not require attendance at Committee meetings, although attendance in person or via Zoom is always welcome.

All we ask is for a bi-monthly report (verbal or written) to the Committee to provide an update on portfolio activities.

Welfare Officer – maintain contact with members who have agreed to receive regular phone calls or visits of support (mobile phone supplied).

Social Coordinator Events – to plan, organise and coordinate social events (other than Coffee Mornings and Bi Monthly Lunches) for the enjoyment of all SAASROA Members.

Expressions of Interest or enquiries should be emailed to:

Mary Riddle [social.events@saasroa.org.au](mailto:social.events@saasroa.org.au)

Cliff Pinkard [welfare@saasroa.org.au](mailto:welfare@saasroa.org.au)

## ***SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST*** by Glen Bone

### **Police Foundation Day**

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 the Police Museum held Foundation Day at the Police Academy Taperoo, this was to celebrate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of the Police Civil Ambulance in 1894 and in particular the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the handing over of the “Police Ambulance” to St. John in 1952.

There were a number of dignitaries present including the Asst. Police Commissioner, St. John CEO, SAAS CEO, President of the Police Museum and Chair Person of the St. John Historical Society.

The Asst. Police Commissioner unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion. There were four special guests invited, Firstly an ex police officer , Reg Swanborough, who drove the police ambulances in the 1940s, He was 102 and the oldest RSL member to physically march on Anzac Day, this year, in Australia.

The other three are believed to be the only living persons to have worked on the “Police Ambulance” prior to 1952. they are David Heard aged 91, Graham Maloney aged 87 and myself Glen Bone aged 88. Interestingly we were all from the Colonel Light Gardens St. John Ambulance Division.

The St, John Historical Society had 3 vehicles on display. They were the Holden panel van, Em-care, motor cycle & sidecar and also the SAASROA Holden 1tonner.

These were taken to the ceremony by Wayne Jones, Robert Dale, Kevin Marsland and Mike Kosonen. A lot of interest was shown in these “ancient vehicles.”

At the end of the morning tea was stories passed



ceremony an excellent served and many over the tables.

L-R Reg Swanborough (SAPOL), Graham Maloney, Glen Bone & David Heard 2024 (St John)



Let me tell of just one of my experiences on the Police Civil Ambulance.  
by Glen Bone

We have all heard how the Austin Sheerline ambulance could go at 100mph & how sparse the medical equipment was. It also handled like the F1 cars of today & the drivers thought they were Stirling Moss.

One Saturday evening we were tasked to the Mount Pleasant Hospital to transport an unconscious motor cyclist back to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

The journey to Mount Pleasant was uneventful, however, the return trip wasn't.

I was attending the patient as we proceeded down Gorge Rd. around the corners first left then right, one after the other. I began to become a bit sweaty and uncomfortable around the stomach. Next thing I had a mouthful of vomit.

Oh my goodness! I searched every cupboard and draw in the vehicle but, you guessed it, "No Vomit Bowl."

There was only one thing left to do so I opened the rear doors, spat it out and returned to observing my patient.

Nobody was any the wiser!



Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July  
Balthazar Café  
20 Five Ash Drive Pasadena

Lunch 12 noon

Coffee 10 AM

AUGUST

13<sup>th</sup>

Roulettes Tavern

Kings Road

Parafield

22<sup>nd</sup>

Zeea's Eatery (@Brickworks)

38 South Road

Torrensville



## Historic Vehicle Activity Report



April 28 Police Foundation Day HZ (43) R Dale approx. 8kms 4 hours each, Em Care K Marsland and Panel Van W Jones

May 5 St. John Museum during May (HISTORY MONTH)

Panel Van W Jones 20 kms, 4 hours each, HZ (43) R Dale

May 19 Panel Van R Dale, Em Care K Marsland

May 26 Panel Van W Jones, Em Care P Gill

May 26 Port Broughton Fleet 321 plus PR trailer 340 kms 10 hours

May 27 Barmera Paul Costello Funeral Fleet 321 442 kms 10 hrs

Robert Dale

For the seniors among us.

Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

If you can't think of a word, say, I forgot the English word for it. That way people will think you're bilingual instead of forgetful.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

I now realise I'm part of a major historical event.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do, it's because I missed my exit.

My goal for 2024 was to lose 10 kilos. Only have 10 to go.

# SA's 'Dirty Dozen' remembers Cyclone Tracy 50 years after they flew into the disaster zone

It's been 50 years since these South Aussies answered the call for help, with no idea what they were flying into or when they would be coming home.



[Jess Adamson The Advertiser](#)

Cyclone Tracy – 1974. They were known as the Dirty Dozen – 12 young South Australian ambulance officers, dispatched to Darwin with little notice, after Cyclone Tracy obliterated the laid-back city in the early hours of Christmas Day, 1974.

A total of 66 people lost their lives and 145 more were seriously hurt when howling winds of up to 217km/h tore through, leaving 41,000 of the city's 47,000 residents homeless.

Our ambos, dubbed the Dirty Dozen by Territory locals, were later joined by 23 South Australian police officers. They left Adelaide with little idea of when they'd be home.

Darwin resembled a nuclear wasteland. Twisted car wrecks and stobie poles bent over at right angles, fridges wedged high in water tanks and home after home, completely flattened. Animals and birds didn't survive. It was eerily quiet.

The team was confronted with apocalyptic scenes, now forever etched in their minds. Our nation had never seen a disaster like it.

This Christmas marks 50 years since Cyclone Tracy and some of our first responders are planning to return for commemorations. Local police officers assigned to the trip included constables Ian DeLaine, Craig Drogemuller, Ashley Pursche, Peter Giles and Graham England.



Mike Horsman, John Pohl, Don DeGiglio, Peter Simms and Lee Francis

Photo by Dean Martin 2024



'Enjoying a relaxing break'

The "Dirty Dozen" was made up of operations manager Peter Gebert, second in charge Don DeGiglio, Lee Francis, Mike Horsman, John Burton, Graham Stewart, Ray Benzie, Peter Simms, John Pohl, Malcolm Pascoe, Bob Campbell and Charlie Stal.

The full article and photos available online at 'The Advertiser' 16 April 2024





## July

2	Bruce Goodman
6	Jan Hambling
7	Brenton Jenkins
7	Sue McDonald
9	Neil Copley
9	David Ward
9	Sandra Lipschinski
11	Jacqueline Victory
12	Pat Adams
18	Kerin Carr
18	Sue Nancarrow
18	Elizabeth Smyczek
21	Sheila Cahill
21	Gaynor Casey
25	Denis Roberts
25	Linda Scheurich
27	Helen Roberts
28	Pam Camp

## August

1	Ron Hoklas
3	Ken Parbs
4	Dennis Keating
7	Lorraine Jenkins
9	Ross Parkinson
9	Manon Norman
11	Dieter Scheurich
13	David Monten
20	Joe Smyczek
24	Neil Boots
24	Teerse Stal
25	Bobby Roberts
26	Joy Burgess
26	Pat Pickering
29	Rhonda Carr



Photo – Lloyd Rogers 2024



Photo – Wallaroo Heritage & Nautical Museum

**WALLAROO & DISTRICT AMBULANCE** by Lloyd & Jan Rogers

Lloyd and Jan Rogers recently spent a week away on the Yorke Peninsula and took the opportunity to visit the excellent Wallaroo Heritage and Nautical Museum.

Lloyd came across an old photograph of the Wallaroo Jubilee Ambulance facility and noted the sign on the building stated "Incorporated 1952" which coincidentally is the same year that St John took over the provision of the Adelaide Metropolitan Ambulance Service at the request of the S.A. Government.



Lunch at Peninsula Hotel Taperoo 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
(Seated in front, Geoff "Choco" Fudge, Ex SAAS & Retired Secretary NSW ROA)



Coffee Morning at The Nest Café Walkerville 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024



Lunch at the Watershed Cafe Mawson Lakes 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024



## In Memory of Dr. Fred Gilligan AO OstJ



*Dr. John 'Fred' 'Ted' Gilligan  
AO OstJ*

*Born Thursday, December 17, 1936  
Entered eternal life on Monday, May 13, 2024*



Dr Fred Gilligan was born John Eugene Gilligan, known to his Medical and Ambulance Service colleagues as 'Fred' and 'Ted' to his family. Fred willingly accepted and was appointed as Patron of the SA Ambulance Service Retired Officers' Association and had a particular interest in the restored historic ambulances. Fred was a pioneer of retrieval medicine and started the Royal Adelaide Hospital retrieval service back in 1973, and he first advocated for a helipad at the RAH in 1987. "Gilligan's Island" was opened in 1997.



## Stansbury Getaway Trip May 24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

Our May trip took us to Stansbury Caravan Park. The weather for most of the time was perfect during the day, the nights just a bit cold but bearable. We had some awesome sunrises, and sunsets.



The caravan park didn't let us down, including a great camp kitchen where our Happy Hours were held.



Our caravan sites were mostly on the beachside foreshore, and cabins on the seaside foreshore. There were 14 all up on this trip, in 5 caravans and 3 cabins.

We had a joint dinner on the Saturday night at the Port Vincent Hotel (The Ventnor), and morning tea on the Monday morning in Edithburgh at the Location Café.



Both places did not disappoint, great meals, for the dinner we were joined by Phil Clarke, and then again for the morning tea, along with Ray Nourse, was a great catchup. We also had lunch on the Thursday, when the weather had turned, at the Dalrymple pub in Stansbury. After lunch some of us decided to try our luck in the pokie room, and without mentioning names, one person won a major jackpot (well deserved win!!).

Just one more thing, yes, I went fishing, and yes, I finally caught some fish worthy to mention 🐟, helped by Gerry and cheered on by Heather, given I am still recovering from a 2<sup>nd</sup> knee replacement done recently.



We have also decided on next years getaways (remember, not just caravans, we reserve cabins too, or if you are so inclined, do a tent or swag!) Dates are yet to be confirmed but the 1<sup>st</sup> will be late Feb at the Pt Broughton Caravan Park, organised by Francis, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in late May at the Milang Caravan Park, organised by John and Gloria, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in late Oct at the Brighton (Kingston Park) Caravan Park, organised by Chris and I.

We avoid going in school holidays and over any public holidays, we also endeavour to stay at pet friendly parks. Please let each organiser know ASAP if you are interested in any of these trips so we have some idea of numbers. We usually tentatively book a few sites and cabins, but it would be good to have an idea on numbers, particularly for the Brighton Caravan Park.

Until next trip!!

Helen and Chris McGrath.

### ***SAASROA SOCIAL ACTIVITIES***

Your Committee are keen to provide social activities that are in the best interests of the broader membership.

Socialising and maintaining contact with former colleagues is an important objective of SAASROA.

Do you have a suggestion as to the type of activity that we can provide that you think would be enjoyed by our members?

If so, please email Mary Riddle [social.events@saasroa.org.au](mailto:social.events@saasroa.org.au)



## **SAASROA – FINAL GETAWAY FOR 2024**



**Scheduled** – In Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>

Out Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>

**Location** – Fort Courage Caravan Park NSW

It is simply a caravan park run by a fishing club in a rural setting; and is 162 km from Renmark via the Sturt Highway and Wentworth. (It is also possible to go directly from Renmark to Fort Courage, via the back road, however the great majority of that road is dirt, and not recommended.). It is 17 kms from Wentworth and 50 kms from Mildura.

**Accommodation** –

There are no more cabins available – the only non-caravan accommodation is at “The Lodge” and Frances is kindly coordinating that aspect.

“The Lodge” can provide separate rooms with shared ablution facilities. There are double and single rooms. The cost is \$175 per night. and those intending this option will work the individual costings out between themselves. (*There is no additional cost for “Arthur” - the alleged resident ghost.*) They do not provide linen etc – you have to bring your own. No pets are allowed in any of the buildings.

Powered sites are \$35 per night and \$40 per night for those on the riverfront. All tariffs include stay for seven and pay for six. Lindy, the on-site caretaker stressed that **there may be price rises for all categories prior to October.**

Caravan sites are limited and if anyone has trouble booking one, an extra has been “reserved” in our (Olivers) name.

There is a large camp kitchen in the park. We can also have a fire pit there, (We could provide the pit and wood, as necessary).

Email [admin@fortcouragecaravanpark.com](mailto:admin@fortcouragecaravanpark.com) .*Please note the updated email address* Office hours are 08:30 -17:30 EST.

We are surprised at the speed that all categories of bookings have been taken up and recommend that anyone considering this week away should book as soon as possible.

A listing of activities available in the time we are there will be provided as we draw closer to the date.

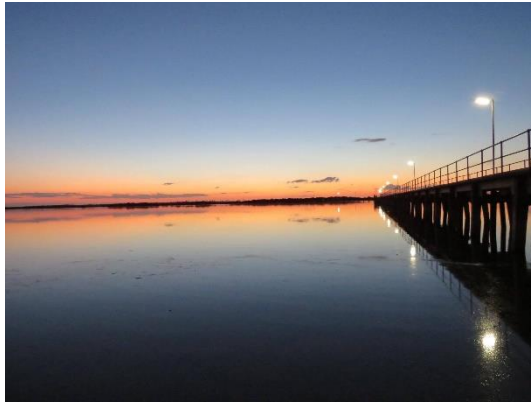
*Fort Courage*  
CARAVAN PARK

1703 Renmark Road  
Anabranck South, NSW, 2648  
Tel: 5027 3097 (Via Wentworth)  
Email: admin@fortcourage.com.au



- Sites	- Main Kitchen	- Disabled Parking	- Fire Hose Reel	- Sink Area	- Clothes Line
- Cabins	- Camp Kitchen	- Fish Cleaning Station	- Attraction	- Game Room	- Viewpoint
- Lodge	- Laundry	- Office	- Family Amenities		

Convenors – Gerry & Heather Oliver



## First Getaway 2025 Port Broughton

Port Broughton Tourist Park Get away 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Hi all, provisionally on hold till end of July 2024

2 Dog friendly cabins (have enclosed yards) U1 & U3 2bedroom \$135 per night

1 unit U8 - 2 bedrooms double bed & bunks \$135 per night

2units U9 & U10 - 2bedrooms Queen & bunks \$158 per night

Van sites 28ft+

2 drive through 67 & 99 \$48 per night

5 98 – 100 \$48 per night

All synthetic grass close to amenities etc They were ? uncooperative in extending booking times – as still in their “busy times , but no other dates available until end of March for 2 dog friendly cabins On hold under Retired Ambos contact Frances Reynolds.

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