

# THE SNAKE PIT

The Sergeants' Mess unofficially opened for trading in July of 1995 with the aim to get the Mess back to the level of operation that it was in 1964. When the Mess first opened it received a nick name of 'The Hole in the Wall' and this was in a small building Hut 36 AMC that used to be a hospital at Woodside, SA. Through this hole the duty barman CPL Langford would serve South Australian hospitality tinned beer.

After the raising of the Battalion, the Sergeants' Mess were directed to share facilities with 8/12 Milm Regt. This lasted only six months before we moved to what is called Old Holsworthy, a temporary accommodation building. Between the months of July 1995 and November 1995, the Sergeants' Mess could only operate restricted hours, no official functions were to be held, no staff, civilian or Army staff were to be employed, no books of account were to be raised and the outside had a look unlike a Mess, in fact it had to look like a storeroom. Thus the nickname of the 'Storeroom' was given to it.

The Mess was officially allowed to operate in November 1995 and since then we have had many great functions, ANZAC Day, Mixed Happy Hours, Regimental Dinners complete with Ferrel Cheryl, throwing competitions and many more.

The members have all worked hard to improve the area outside and inside the Mess. There have been a few walls knocked out and of course the outside beer garden area where we spread all the dirt, laid the turf and made all the garden furniture. With the latest project being the brick BBQ, if only it would stay fine long enough for us to enjoy the weather.

The committee have worked very hard this year not only with the pressure of their own job but also with the extra regimental appointments as committee members. I insisted on thorough detailed attention to each job at hand and I can say that the books of account are maintained in a fair, neat and accurate account of the financial position. Thank You and well done. We are looking forward to another good year next year.

I would like to thank all of the Mess Members for their input throughout the year and trust that you will give me the same support next year.

It would be remiss of me if I let a chance go by to highlight a few of you to the talent spotters of the world. Perhaps even Hey Hey It's Saturday may have a spot. The Mess has produced some very talented members since its inception:

SSGT F.N. Stein - He has been a bit of a handful this year as he has been getting into trouble with SGT Snack Pac McMillan and the local girls and of course he took leave without authority and went on a country NSW trip and finished up at Newport Beach to observe the talent.

WO2 Jim Evans - and his ability to stir up the 'Shafter' even if it is getting him to wear your front teeth while you polish off a bottle of green death.

ASM John Bastin - partner in crime to the above.

WO2 Dick Lonergan - outdoors, garden and wildlife member who likes a beer on Friday nights and of course a bottle on Baileys and beer chasers.

WO2 Ray Quigg - Some say he is taking all the overtime so that no one else can get some up. Never says much he is always at every event going and a great back stop.

SSGT Tutty and SGT Bedding - twins what more can you say.

SSGT Wyatte - I have three beers a day whether I need it or not, besides there might be one that is off. PS always try to buy the kids chips and gumpies to bribe his way through the front door, it works!!

SGT 'I'll hang my arse in the window', and 'I'll wear the Caterers teeth and wig to attract their attention while I sell raffle tickets' Greg Batchelor - better known as the Burglar. The first man in the Battalion to wear the beard.

SGT pay your mess bills Cust - the slowest shafter elected. Retired and sent back to the caterer for retraining in shafting.

SGT 'I'm on a diet tomorrow YUM YUM' Farmer - With out a doubt the best messing member I have ever seen.

SGT 'Doom and Gloom (DAG)' Craig Iverach - he gets the patience award for 1996. OPS SGT and a very good job. We will teach him to drink yet.

SGT Max 'Mr Whippy' McDonald - if it can be brought or wrangled out of someone Max can find it.

SGT 'The Admiral' 'Snack Pac' McMillan - by gee he can eat but he can't sail the Tobruk very well we must have done 20 about turns in one day.

SGT Mitch Mitchell - well known for his pink champagne and prowess with the ladies.

SGT 'I've got the beard now Schwizler loves tall glasses of port and in general always in it, it's just the depth that varies.

SGT Scotty 'Have you been to Casablanca's' Scott.

SGT 'Bobbin hit me in the head OUCH' Wear - has been the Mess medal mounting expert not that there are many medals floating around.

SGT Pete Whitten - 'Brother to Mitch son of Dick' always likes a beer on a hot day.

SGT 'where the hell is Frank now' Wischusen - We are not game to give him a platoon yet as he can't control a lone Staff Sergeant. We look forward to more inventive ways on keeping an eye on SSGT F.N. Stein.