

Commanding Officers of the Rostrevor College Cadet Corps 1945 to 1983

1945-49 Major Auld

1950 Capt JV Rapp

1951 Lt Ray O'Donohue

1952 Lt Ray O'Donohue

1953 Lt Ray O'Donohue and Lt E F McCarthy

1954 Capt O'Donohue, 2IC Capt JV Bourke, Adjutant Lt WB Greening

1955 Capt OC JV Bourke, 2IC Capt R Whiting, Adjutant Lt WB Greening

Rostrevor's Heritage – The Cadet Corps

On the 25th May 1945 the Rostrevor College Cadet Corps was formed. Two weeks earlier Churchill had announced victory over the Germans and the community had experienced 7 years of World War. During the course of the War, over 360 Rostrevor old scholars are known to have enlisted. This figure continues to grow as family members discover the Honour Roll on the Rostrevor College website and inform of another name to add to the list.

Major Auld was the first OC of the Rostrevor Cadet Corps. At the 1945 Speech Night Br Mogg acknowledged the conclusion of the War and the presence of old scholar returned servicemen in the audience. He also acknowledged the DFC awarded to Flt Lieut Vic Grimmitt. Br Mogg went on to comment, 'Is interesting to note that for every year of the War Rostrevor had one old boy to win the coveted DFC.'

As with religious vocations, success on the sports field and academic laurels, the Brothers were very proud of the achievements of their boys.

The first Officers of the Corps were: Sergeant Major Broderick, Sgts Hall and Veitch, Staff Sgt Woods, Cpls Carrington, McCormack, McCawley, McAuley, Dalzell, Fox, Coglin and Walsh.

The 1946 Annual contained a statement on the intrinsic value of the Cadets in the College curriculum. ' Apart from the purely personal military purpose it serves of preparedness, it is a symbol of healthy patriotism, as it fosters in the minds of the young an appreciation of the advantage and blessings we enjoy in this country of ours, when otherwise they might tend to be taken for granted.'

By 1949 the number in the cadets had risen to 122 and the College developed a miniature rifle range in the drained lake on the east of the property. In 1950, a Drum Band consisting of two bass drums and 5 side drums is reported and the Passing Out parades were attended by numerous military dignitaries.



From the 1945 Annual. Rev Bro CA Mogg and Brigadier Weavers enter the Oval to view the parade of the Rostrevor Cadets.



From the 1946 Annual. The Radio section.

The original Cadet Corps is described as a voluntary activity but at some point in time the personal advantages of being involved led the College to make Cadets a compulsory activity unless there were serious medical reasons or grounds of conscientious objection.

In the early years, the annual camp was held in May, sometimes in the school holidays and was voluntary. Some early camps were held at Woodside and then in the early 1950s the camps were held at Warradale and participants were bussed to the hills for combat activities or to the Dean Range and the Proof Range at Pt. Wakefield depending on their sections.

'It is hoped that in the future, arrangements can be made to hold the camp at such times as will enable all



From the 1946 Annual. Training in the use of the Bren gun.



From the 1946 Annual. Training in the use of mortars.



From the 1950 Annual. The first Drum Band at Rostrevor College.

cadets to share in the discomforts of camp life.'

The 1951 Annual boasts that Rostrevor has 3 past pupils at Duntroon, Cdt/Lts B Smith, Broderick and Hockney and in

1952 Peter Phillips was to join these ranks as well.

In that year the Memorial Ovals were officially opened and dedicated to the 'Old Boys' who fell in World War II.

1956 Capt KC Nangle, 2IC Capt RC Whiting, Lt WB Greening, Lt TP Kendell
 1957 Capt KC Nangle, Capt RC Whiting, Lt WB Greening, Lt TP Kendell
 1958 Capt WB Greening, 2IC Lt TP Kendell, Lt AV O'Neill, Lt FL Wise, Lt JJ Faulkner
 1959 Capt GV Frances, 2IC Capt TP Kendell, Lt AV O'Neill, Lt FL Wise, Lt JJ Faulkner
 1960 Capt GV Frances, 2IC Capt TP Kendell, Lt AV O'Neill, Lt FL Wise, Lt JJ Faulkner, Lt KP Duggan
 1961 Capt JV Frances, Capt TP Kendell, Lt JJ Faulkner, Lt KP Duggan, Lt M Koch
 1962 Capt JV Frances, Capt TP Kendell, Lt JJ Faulkner, Lt KP Duggan, Lt IF Davis
 1963 Capt JJ Faulkner, Capt TP Kendell, Lt JR Koerner, Lt KP Duggan, Lt IF Davis

Rostrevor's Heritage – The Cadet Corps



From the 1956 Annual. Stand to at Warradale.



From the 1952 Annual. Rostrevor Cadets at the Annual Camp at Warradale.



From the 1954 Annual. The first Drum and Bugle Band at Rostrevor College.



From the 1956 Annual. Sleeping quarters at Warradale.



From the 1954 Annual. Vickers Training.



From the 1959 Annual – The Rifle Team (Winners of the Earl Roberts Trophy and the Jake Rudall Shield) from Left.

Front Row: Cpl G Cock, Cpl P Du Bois.

Second Row: Sgt K Duggan, U/O K Hancock, Captain G Frances, Sgt D McMahon.

Third Row: Cpl B Devitt, W/O B Osmond, W/O D Grubb, Cdt R Creelman, Cdt B Crowson.



From 1957 Annual – Rifle Team from Left:

Front Row: Cpl I Lambert, U/O K Hancock, Lt W Greening, U/O D Pak Poy, Cpl K Duggan.

Second Row: Cdt D McMahon, P Jones, R Kalvaitis, B McNamara, F Manoel.

1964 Capt JJ Faulkner, Capt TP Kendell, Lt DA Sexton, Lt AJ Whittington, Lt IF Davis
 1965 Capt JJ Faulkner, Lt DA Sexton, Adjutant/QM Capt AJ Whittington, Lt B Clery, Lt IF Davis, Lt Morgan
 1966 Capt DA Sexton, Capt AJ Whittington, Major JF Sheehan, Lt IF Davis, Lt B Clery, Lt Morgan
 1967 Capt DA Sexton, Capt AJ Whittington, Capt Addicoat, Lt IF Davis, Lt B Clery, Lt Shacklock, Lt J Coulter
 1968 Maj AJ Whittington, 2IC Capt B Clery, Capt IF Davis, Lt J Coulter, Lt T Gibbons, Lt D Siebert
 1969 Maj AJ Whittington, Capt B Clery, Capt IF Davis Lt J Coulter, Lt T Gibbons, Lt D Siebert, Lt OG Stanley
 1970 Maj AJ Whittington, 2IC Capt O Stanley, Capt IF Davis, Lt J Coulter, Lt T Gibbons, Lt D Siebert, Lt Fitzgerald
 1971 Maj AJ Whittington, Capt O Stanley, Capt IF Davis, Lt J Coulter, Lt T Gibbons, Lt D Siebert, Lt J Webb

Rostrevor's Heritage – The Cadet Corps

The Corps developed specialized sections: the Drum Band, Intelligence, 3in. Mortar, Signals, Medics, Vickers M.M.G. and Infantry

In 1954 Cadets were still voluntary and the corps numbered 210, the largest in the State.

As in previous years, the Officer's and NCO camp was held in January, training young men to lead the Corps for the following year. The Cadet Band introduced bugles to become a Drum and Bugle Band and it was to remain this way until 1968 when the Band became a full brass marching band. As a corollary to the Cadet Rifle Competition Shoots, **Br Ray O'Donohue** introduced a Small Bore Rifle Club in 1954 and over 50 boys, mainly boarders, belonged to the Club. By 1956 there was a Cadet Rifle Team which competed in cadet competitions and Senior Army competitions.

The 1957 Annual reports that the annual camp was cancelled due to the Asian flu, which also effected the passing out parade which was held on a week day for the first time.

In the same year the College welcomed back to the first parade of the year old scholar **Lt Peter Day** who was a Queen's Medal recipient at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. In the cadet shooting competitions Rostrevor came second and third respectively in the Earl Roberts and Jake Rudall trophies. **Des McMahon** topped the range with a brilliant score of 72 out of 80. In the following year Rostrevor won the Earl Roberts trophy and was second in the Jake Rudall and in 1959 was first in both with outstanding performances from **D McMahon** (100/100 points) and **B Devitt**. The Rostrevor College Cadet Unit Rifle Club continued and used the Dean and Athelstone Range for its own competitions.

In 1960 **Kevin Duggan** joined the Cadet Unit as an officer in command. The annual camp was held at Woodside in that year and the "Advertiser" King George V Trophy for rifle shooting was



From the 1960 Annual. CUO Peter McDonald with the King George V Trophy.



From the 1964 Annual. On patrol at Cultana

presented to the CUO Peter McDonald for the shooting successes of 1959.

In 1962 a new specialist group was added to the corps – the Assault Pioneers. The third year cadets made up these specialist groups and during the Annual Camp at Woodside they were taken to Beaver Range, Cape Jarvis and Kuitpo where they fired the Bren LMG, the new SLR and the Owen. The younger cadets were also taken to Kuitpo Forest where they engaged in 'mock battles' using blank rounds. The engagement was televised.

The best section leader of the camp was awarded to the Drum Major, **John Ordon**



From the 1962 Annual: The College Unit flag is blessed by Fr Joe Grealy at the Anzac Day ceremony in the Chapel



From the 1964 Annual. Feeding the Troops

(**John is currently on the Rostrevor Staff, Ed**).

In 1963 the College rifle range which had been situated in the empty dam (lake) at the back of the property was moved to the strip of land along Heather Avenue between the Main Oval and the road (now car park and storage shed facilities). The dam was to be filled in that year and the Fathers' Club purchased an ex-Army 25 yard rifle range which was dismantled in Norwood by the Brothers and some boys and re-assembled by the Fathers' Club. In that year first mention is made of an ARA instructor, **Sgt-Maj Whittington** 'for his invaluable assistance.' The name,



From the 1963 Annual. The Assault Pioneers construct a display on Ceremonial Parade day



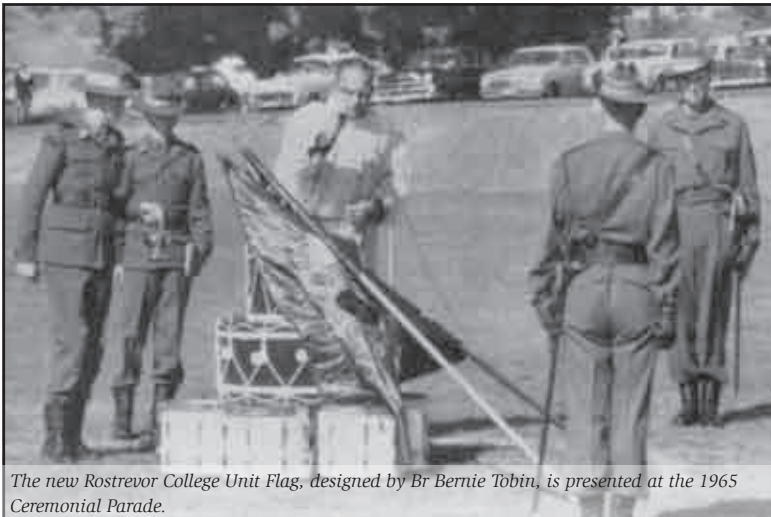
From the 1965 Annual. Cadets line up for entry into the mess hall at El Alamein. Crockery and cutlery were sterilised in boiling water as cadets filed into the tent

Major AJ Whittington, was to become synonymous with cadets at Rostrevor. Camps at Woodside and bivouacs at Warradale and Murray Bridge continued with the emphasis being in training in the use of the .22 and .303 rifles and the Bren LMG. Superior marksmen were awarded their 'crossed rifles' a coveted badge to be worn on the shoulder to indicate superior marksmanship.

An enjoyable aspect of many overnight bivouacs was the night patrol with blank ammunition. The 1963 Annual reports that a section on night patrol 'ambushed and annihilated itself!' which seems to have been par for the course for any of those night time activities with blood

1972 Maj AJ Whittington, Capt O Stanley, Capt IF Davis, Lt J Coulter, Lt T Gibbons, Lt J Webb, Lt P Ryan
 1973 Maj AJ Whittington, 2IC Capt BN Tobin, Capt IF Davis, Lt J Coulter, Lt T Gibbons, Lt J Webb, Lt P Ryan
 1974 Maj AJ Whittington, Capt BN Tobin, Capt IF Davis, Lt J Coulter, Lt T Gibbons, Lt J Webb, Lt Lake
 1975 Maj AJ Whittington, Capt BN Tobin, Capt IF Davis, Lt J Coulter, Capt J Webb, Capt Lake, Capt TX Hann, Lt Rushworth
 (Bandmaster)
 1976 Cadets disbanded
 1977 Maj AJ Whittington, 2IC Capt J Webb, Capt Lake, Lt G Levett, Lt P Symonds, 2nd Lts D Caretti, M Gogler, T Hart,
 C Klemm

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The new Rostrevor College Unit Flag, designed by Br Bernie Tobin, is presented at the 1965 Ceremonial Parade.



From the 1966 Annual – Cadet Band from Left.

Front Row: Cpl M Coligan, Cdt A Smith, Cdt P Baillie, Cdt M Lovell, Cdt G Slattery, Sgt P McCabe, Cdt D Peters, Cpl J Dundon, L/Cpl D Flint, Sgt D Norman.

Second Row: S/Sgt L Saturno (Drum Major), Cdt D Munro-Ford, Cdt W Atyeo, Cpl K Hansberry, Cdt J Savage, Sgt P Norman, Cpl J Allan, Cpl S Spears, Cdt G Num, Cdt J Browne, Maj D Sexton (Bandmaster).

Third Row: Cdt T Wedding, L/Cpl J McDavitt, Sgt R Giorgio, Cdt C Johnson, Cdt S Browne, Cpl M Wischik, Cpl F Sergi, Cdt T Butler, Cdt J Murphy.



From the 1967 Annual – Guard of Honour, Keswick Barracks from Left: CUO C Lang accompanies the Commander on his inspection. N Amos, P Henry, C Neck, K Osmond, S Casey, R Beerworth, R Altorjay-Arnoul, R Hutton, P van der Lee



From the 1972 Annual – Cadet Unit – Junior NCO's from Left:

Front Row: Cpl H Young, Cpl R Viscione, Cpl P Samra, Cpl M Kennedy, Cpl A Thiele, Cpl P Rothall.

Second Row: Cpl R Finocchiaro, Cpl M Ugody, Cpl M Johnson, Cpl A Sands, Cpl D Piro, Cpl P Maffei, Cpl C Penna.

Third Row: Cpl J Alderman, L/Cpl J Atyeo, Cpl G Shearwin, Cpl A Heaven, L/Cpl L Stephan, Cpl A O'Leary.

Fourth Row: L/Cpl P Cooling, Cpl M Kenny, Cpl G Zecchin, Cpl A Boland.

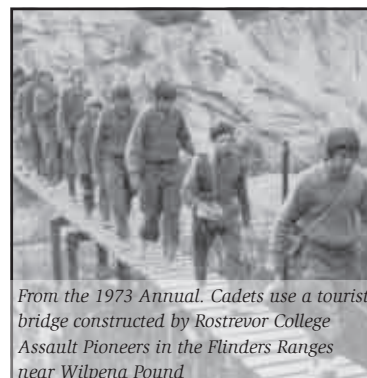
Fifth Row: L/Cpl J Dal Collo, Cpl M Pedersen, Cpl M Angeli, L/Cpl A Navakas.



From the 1969 Annual – Unit Rifle Team from Left:

Front Row: WO2 Gillespie, CUO Bowler, CUO Reardon, CUO McNeil, SUO Baumgurtel, CUO Davis.

Second Row: Cpl Lynch, Cpl Cotton, Cdt O'Connell, L/Cpl Walden, Cdt Walsh, Cpl Boog, S/Sgt Hanafin.



From the 1973 Annual. Cadets use a tourist bridge constructed by Rostrevor College Assault Pioneers in the Flinders Ranges near Wilpena Pound



From the 1969 Annual. Cpl Paul Kelly at El Alamein

1978 Maj AJ Whittington, Capt J Webb, Capt Lake Lt B McCarthy, Lts Symonds, Caretti, Gogler, Hart, Klemm
 1979 Maj AJ Whittington, Capt J Webb, Adj Capt G Parham, Capt Lake, Lt M Blight, Caretti, Dahl, Gogler, Hart, B McCarthy, S Ruzski, C Williams
 1980 Maj AJ Whittington, 2IC Capt Lake, Lts Dahl, T Hart, B Kearney, M McCarthy, C Williams
 1981 Maj AJ Whittington, 2IC Capt Lake, Lts Dahl, T Hart, B Kearney, M McCarthy, C Williams
 1982 Maj AJ Whittington, Capt Lake, Lts Dahl, T Hart, B Kearney, S Kelly, J Ordon, C Williams
 1983 Maj AJ Whittington, Lts Dahl, T Hart, S Kelly, J Ordon, 2IC Quartermaster C Williams

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pumping and the desire to engage and fire off as many blanks as you could. 1963 was the first year that second and third year cadets made the trip to Cultana (between Pt Augusta and Whyalla). After some basic training they were marched over 4 days a distance of 21 miles north carrying packs and with numerous ambushes along the way. At night they dug in and arranged a circular defensive position with sentries posted and silence maintained apart from the occasional voice in the dark 'Halt! Who goes there?'

In this year the Cadet Band was rather inexperienced but was 'brought to a fair standard by the Drum Major, Sergio Sergi'

The 1964 Annual reports of a new officer, Lt AJ Whittington, who joined the staff as a teacher in that year. Dick Whittington, as he was affectionately known, came to Rostrevor as an instructor from the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Dick began his military life in England after spending the War years in Canada. He was an MP in Palestine in 1948 before coming to Australia and joining the Australian Army as an instructor at Duntroon Military College. Dick became O.C. of the Rostrevor Cadet Corps in 1967 when Major (Br) D.A. Sexton moved on from Rostrevor. At the conclusion of Cadets, Dick met the challenge of providing for boys in an all boys environment with the development of an Outdoor Education Program known as Outward Bound Venture and then, Murray River Venture. For the first time, all College Cadet Units in Adelaide attended the same Annual Camp at El Alamein (first year) and Cultana (second and third year).

After 20 years of ANZAC Masses in the Chapel, 1965 saw the first open air Requiem Mass on the front lawns of the College. This enabled the entire school and the parent body to become involved in the ceremony. After the Mass the Rostrevor Unit of 270 cadets marched to the RSL Memorial on the corner of Magill and Penfold Road for a wreath



From the 1969 Annual –Rostrevor College Cadet Unit Band from Left:
 Front Row: WO2 P Gillespie, P Kennedy, L/Cpl B Moore, Sgt R McClaren, D Oldfield, Lt T Gibbons.
 Second Row: G. McFarland, P Belson, L/Cpl R Pagliaro, P Hambour, P Donaghy, J Hattersley.
 Third Row: M Browne, L/Cpl P Moloney, P Moran, M Sands, P Kelly, P Callen, K Skinner.
 Fourth Row: T Gibbs, W Lavis, A Brewer, L/Cpl T Mousley, J Spoljar, A Skinner.
 Fifth Row: A Robertson, Sgt C Dean, M Shirley, L Savage, P Fraser.
 Absent: Rev Br B Fitzgerald, I Castenetto, C Streicher, R Groves



From 1969 Annual –Rostrevor College Cadet Unit Cross Country Team from Left:
 Front Row: P Burberis, Rev Bro O Stanley, R Nutt.
 Second Row: J Brown, M Carter.

laying ceremony. This would have been a spectacular sight to see the entire Unit on the march down Moules Road. At the Annual camp the Colleges remained in their school platoons which enhanced the camp for all. Sgts G Power and J Molnar and Cpl T McClure and Cdt K Hansberry were awarded their St John First Aid Certificates and the second and third years were treated to demonstrations of armoured fire power and the movement of armoured vehicles. At the Annual Ceremonial Parade it took the form of a Flag Presentation. Br B Tobin had designed a new Unit Flag which was blessed and presented and carried on parade by Sgts P Smith and J Toole.

1966 saw a change in destination for the July Bivouac from the Murray Bridge facility to Kuitpo Forest for the first time. Also, for the first time, the Bivouac was open to all senior cadets (second and third year cadets) where previously it had only been for CUOs and NCOs. Cadets were in pairs in two-man tents and did their own cooking. The year was also the 100th anniversary of Cadets in Australia and every Cadet Unit in South Australia assembled for a parade in the south parklands. 3,000 cadets were on parade and marched to a massed band of all cadet units. The Rostrevor Unit



From the 1971 Annual. Fenner Cup Winners from Left: Joel Brown, Br Trevor Gibbons, Marty Whyte, Michael Dodd, Kevin Skinner, Richard Nutt and Mark Carter

band participated in the Aldgate Festival and competed in the Combined Cadet Band competition under the tutelage of Maj Sexton and the bugle instruction of Miss Taylor. The Drum Major for 1966 was S/Sgt Leon Saturno.

1967 saw the beginnings of a full Military Brass Band with the work of Br Shacklock and brass and woodwind teacher Mr Norm Burns. In the same year Guard Commander CUO Chris Lang led a 40 strong Rostrevor Cadet Unit Guard of Honour at a Medal Presentation Ceremony at Keswick Barracks in March and brought great credit on the College Unit.

The Cadet year for 1968 had few changes. The Military Brass Band was now commissioned and was ably lead by Lt Gibbons. L/Cpl R Kenny and Cdt M Frodyma were the first Rostrevor cadets to earn their Adventure Training Badge, an award based on the Duke of Edinburgh Award: navigation, living in the field, first aid, field craft and evading the enemy in the field forming the basis of the award. The award in 1969 was earned by CUO B Bowler and Cdt AK Walsh with St John 's First Aid Certificates going to Sgt Vermeulen, Cpl Boog, Cdts D McQueen, P Dinham, C Annear, G Schlink, T Ryan and J Paley. Maj Whittington formerly thanked and

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congratulated Mr and Mrs Hoban on the success and service of their sons; John, David and Peter, as Under Officers over a 7 year period. A unique achievement by one family. 1969 seems to be the first year that Rostrevor participated in the Cadet Cross Country competition, the Fenner Cup, and were represented by Joel Brown, Mark Carter, Peter Buberis and Richard Nutt and trained by Br Owen Stanley. Cpl Paul Kelly, as College bugler, played the Last Post at the Anzac Day Solemn Requiem Mass. At the end of 1969, in the first week of the Christmas holidays, an NCO and Band camp was held at the College involving 40 Rostrevor boys and 25 from CBC as well as 25 bandmen.

By 1970 the special divisions of the Unit were the Assault Pioneers, the Medics, Signals and the Band. The 25th year of cadets at Rostrevor was to have some long lasting effects on the Unit. At the Annual Camp at El Alamein, a group of first year cadets, while on bivouac, were injured when an undetonated 37 mm anti tank shell (left over from World War II manoeuvres) was used for a game of 'the splits', whereby the shell was being thrown into the ground alongside the legs of the two participants until the detonating pin was dislodged causing the shell to explode at ground level and in the ensuing aftermath 17 boys were injured by shrapnel. The landscape of the El Alamein region was littered with years of flotsam and jetsam related to army manoeuvres such as shell and bullet casings, shell and bullet projectiles, ammunition clips and unfortunately, live shells and bullets which were either dropped in training or failed to detonate on impact. All cadets received some instruction as to the dangers of touching any shells or ammunition but on this camp, as Br Trevor Gibbons recalls, the first year cadets from the Band did not attend the instruction with the other first years as they were at Band practice.

Cdt Eric Robertson was seriously injured when he was struck by shrapnel in the



From the 1979 Annual. Senior CUO Siebert receives the Leadership Award from Major Kenna.



From the 1980 Annual. Old scholar, Lt. Col McCawley presents Adventure Training Awards to P. O'Halloran and A Walters

stomach which lacerated his liver. He also lost a left index finger in the explosion and had further injury to his hands and knees. The other participant in the game Cdt Richard Duluk received serious injury to his ankles. Cdt Dean Iuliano had his left leg badly broken and casing lodged in his liver. Cdt Paul Rooke was hit by shrapnel in the back of the head which fractured his skull and caused temporary blindness. The explosion happened at around 7.45am, just after breakfast. As the unit was in the field there was no immediate transport and no 'on the spot' medical support. The 1970 Cadet report in the Annual stated, 'The unfortunate incident of the explosion with First Years, although extremely critical at the time, has fortunately, in most cases, left few visible after effects. It is hoped that all will make a full recovery very shortly. The unit is very proud of the fact that all cadets involved in the explosion have expressed a desire to continue cadet training. This indicates some very



From the 1975 Annual. Cadets Adventure Training From Left: J Twigg, L Rose, D Hitchcock and C Klemm



From the 1980 Annual. Cadet Prize Winners. From Left: A Donegan, D Martin, P O'Halloran, J Keelan, M Passelli, T Skinner

constructive thinking on the part of the parents. Next year's camp will not be held at El Alamein but more than likely will be held at the Woodside Army Camp.'

At the Ceremonial Parade of that year, three past OCs of the Unit were present, Maj Sexton and Francis and Capt Nangle. CUO Julian McNeill and Sgt Peter Kenny received an Adventure Training Award in this year.

By 1971 the unit was the largest it had ever been with 286 cadets. In his Principal's report, Br Hall highlighted some changes in the operations of the cadet unit, in particular for first years, and spoke of the move away from rifle training and more towards activities such as Cross Country orienteering. Br Hall also implored parents to support the Cadet Unit by making sure their sons attend camps and parades and pointed out that exemptions for firing weapons were possible and that marching was not the main diet of cadet training nor did

they have to pursue a course of military study.

On reflection, the explosion of 1970 and the growing anti-war sentiment in the community due to the Vietnam War must have begun to be felt by the College through parental attitudes. In this year the Fenner Cup was run at Rostrevor for the first time and CUO Patrick McInerney won the ANA plaque for rifle shooting pitted against all cadet units in the State. Rostrevor was placed third in the Barossa Marching band competition.

Robert Fenech topped the Sergeants' course in 1971 and, as predicted, the Annual Camp was held at Woodside during a very wet week. The Anzac service was moved to the new Purton Hall and wet weather also sent the Ceremonial Parade to the Purton Hall as well. Old Scholar Lt Col Peter Day was the inspecting officer. The highlight of the year was the first place earned in the Fenner Cup. The cross-country event

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From the 1982 Annual. Award Winners from Left: Cdt B Richardson, CUO D Martin, Sgt J McClure, CUO M Benham, S'CUO A Piantodosi, WO2 B Harrison, RSM A Walters, CUO Hamra, Cdt S Martin, Cpl S Floreani

was an inter-service competition with cadets running against CMF and Regular Army teams. In the 40 years history of the Cup, Rostrevor was only the third cadet unit to win the trophy.

In 1972 there was a strong emphasis on the fact that what the cadet unit offered boys had changed with a range of new activities and policies. The Annual Bivouac, which included first year cadets for the first time, left a day earlier, on the Thursday, and was held at Mt Crawford Forestry Reserve, where a range of activities including orienteering, mapping and navigation were undertaken by the senior boys and for the first years, it was a Science and Geography excursion in the framework of a cadet camp. The Annual Camp was held near Rawnsley Bluff in the Flinders and undertook a complete change to previous El Alamein style camps. The specialist groups carried out the jobs they had trained for all year: the Assault Pioneers built tourist bridges, the Signals ran the radio communication and the Medics worked in the hospital and at the First Aid posts. All cadets got to fly in an RAAF helicopter and to explore Wilpena Pound. In 1972 the slouch hat made way for a College beret and goggle hat.

The 1973 Annual Cadet report spoke of an air of doom for the future of the cadets based on the Federal Government's attitude and the general public perception that cadets were only about the military and the training of boys to be killers. The Annual Camp was

again held in the Flinders with the exception that the third years spent two days at El Alamein in weapons training with modern field weapons on the field range and the target range.

They were then transported back to the Flinders and then airlifted into a four day field exercise.

In 1974 the Cadet Unit was the largest in the State with in excess of 300 members. Reference again was made of the denigration by the general public of anything military. Rostrevor's answer to that was to integrate cadet training into the curriculum, in particular, studies in Biology, Geography and related Sciences. The Annual Camp this year was back at El Alamein for the first years and Cultana for the seniors. The report also mentions that the Headmaster, **Br JV Bourke** must be proud that the unit he commanded when he was on the staff in the late 1940s had survived and flourished to the extent that it had.

The next year it was **Br JV Bourke** announcing to the College community at speech night that the Federal Government had withdrawn funding for the Australian Cadet movement and that cadets would no longer be part of the offerings of a Rostrevor education. **Br Bourke** bemoaned what would be lost in opportunities for teamwork, camaraderie, acceptance, initiative, self reliance and cooperation and then went on to thank **Major Whittington** for his work as OC for seven years. The Rostrevor Brass Band won the SA Junior

Band Champions in 1975 and **Br Bourke** pointed out the good work that **Br Trevor Gibbons** had done over so many years in building up the band and the satisfaction he would take from the success, albeit from his new posting, as Head of St Patrick's College, Geraldton.

In the 30 year history of the Rostrevor Cadet Unit, thousands of boys gained some experience in self reliance, bushcraft and self discipline. The Unit closed with a membership of 333 cadets and **Ivor Davis** received a medal for his long service to the Unit over 12 years.

The hiatus year of 1976 did not prepare the College well for the re-introduction of the Cadets in 1977. Several Officers had moved on and there was a lack of experience at that level. Recent old scholars **Chris Klemm**, **Tim Hart**, **Michael Gogler** and **Daniel Caretti** came to the rescue and were appointed 2nd Lts. The funding for the Cadets had also changed and while the uniforms, Annual Camps and associated transport were funded, the College was challenged to fund the Bivouacs and the Courses of Instruction which were critical for getting the Unit back to where it had been only a year before. The College was still committed to integrate what the cadets had to offer to the broader disciplines of orienteering, bushcraft, mapping and general Outdoor Education and the reinstatement of the cadets helped facilitate that with funding. All Year 9 students elected to join the cadets and all but 18 of the Year 10s so the total number in 1977 was 240. The Annual Camp was held at El Alamein. The new age of Cadets was off to a shaky start but had the foundations to repeat the advantages and opportunities of the previous 30 year history.

In 1978 the Annual Camp was held at Murray Bridge. The new look cadet funding expected the College to train boys to become NCOs so weekend camps at the College were held to accommodate this. The tone of the Annual report suggests that the teething problems experienced in getting the Unit

back on track were being minimized and that the Unit had a bright future in its new form.

The 1979 Annual does not have a Cadet report, the first time in 33 years but there is some photographic record of cadet activities in that year. The 1980 Annual reports a contingent of 220 cadets with 120 attending a Bivouac at Mt Crawford and the Annual Camp at Murray Bridge. Old scholars **Justin Whittington** and **Richard Siebert**, students at Duntroon, joined the camp and supported activities.

The 1981 Annual reports a successful year with a training bivouac at Mt Crawford and the Annual Camp at Murray Bridge. The unit was the subject of a television report by ABCs State Affair as Rostrevor was one of the few schools in the State with an active cadet unit. The Governor visited Rostrevor in July and was given a Cadet Guard of Honour.

The following year, the Bivouac was cancelled and there was an inference in the Annual report that there had been elements that had made it a frustrating year for the Cadets. The report goes on to mention that the 4 Cadet Group, the HQ of the cadet administration, was not impressed with the standard and attitude of the Rostrevor Cadet Unit and cast doubts on the Unit's ability to improve. The origin of this attitude remained a mystery and the Unit was able to completely vindicate itself and was left to wonder where and why the opinion originated. The Annual Camp was held at Murray Bridge and the Unit was feeling uncomfortable being under the HQ spotlight. The performances of the cadets at the camp and the success of Rostrevor cadets at the Cross Country on the rifle range and in the camp efficiency award, where Rostrevor came second by one point (and was 4 times bigger than the other Units at the camp), should have ameliorated the concerns of HQ about the efficiency of the Rostrevor Unit. The Unit Drill Competition at Keswick gave the Unit another opportunity to put pay to HQs concern

Rostrevor's Heritage – The Cadet Corps

about the ability of the Rostrevor Unit. Thanks to **Li John Ordon** and **CUO Hamra**, Rostrevor won the competition with outstanding results. The Ceremonial Parade was held on the Parents Open Day and the Unit was presented to the President of the P&F **Mr Denis White** who inspected the cadets and presented the awards.

In 1983 the Unit experienced a satisfying year but the school curriculum had squeezed the cadet program to the point where it was half of what it was in the 1960s and 70s. Once again the author

bemoaned the loss of the senior boys from the cadets losing their experience and potential for leadership. Parents were also questioning the existence of the cadets alongside a strong Outdoor Education program. The Annual Camp at Murray Bridge was very successful with Rostrevor taking out the Cross Country Run (first 3 places) and the Inter Unit Shooting Competition (first 3 places). 5 cadets earned their First Aid Certificates, 5 qualified on their Signals course and 9 seniors gained their boat licence.

The 1983 Annual reports on the 'Passing

of a Tradition' whereby **Major AJ Whittington** writes, ' So after 38 years our Unit has been closed. It is to be hoped that the spirit and the ideals of the cadet unit – discipline, loyalty, self reliance, leadership and the spirit of adventure, continue on in others areas of school life.'

The Rostrevor College Cadet Unit disbanded at the end of 1983 following the federal government's decision to confine cadet funding from 1984 onwards to suburban based units such as at Warradale and Hampstead. The College was allowed to maintain the Unit but the impost on the school and the parents was considered too great and so a 38 year history within Rostrevor came to a close.

It is estimated that 4,000 Rostrevor boys served as cadets and amongst those were numerous graduates who pursued a career in the armed forces.

Rostrevor's Heritage – Anti Tank Aftermath

On Thursday 27th August, 1970, 17 Rostrevor students were injured, some seriously, when a 37mm anti-tank artillery shell exploded while on bivouac, about five miles south-east of base camp at El Alamein.

At approximately 7.45am, **Cadets Eric Robertson** and **Richard Duluk** were unwittingly playing 'the splits' with a live artillery shell, the nature of the game being to throw a sharp object near the foot of your competitor, each time taking the legs further apart until one of the participants topples over.

Robertson received serious injuries to his stomach, hands and legs, **Duluk** received serious ankle injuries. Cadets within range of the spreading shrapnel received injuries to legs, upper body and head. Plasma was flown in to El Alamein from Whyalla. Providentially, the Third General Hospital was stationed at El Alamein undertaking field manoeuvres and the injured cadets received essential first aid before being transported out. Cadets with serious injury were taken by ambulance to Whyalla and then flown by air ambulance to Adelaide while others where taken to Pt Augusta Hospital by road.

The Headmaster, **Br RM Morphett** rushed to the Daws Road Repatriation Hospital to await the arrival of the 4 seriously injured cadets; **Robertson**, **Deane Iuliano**, **Geoffrey Zecchin** and **Antony Cox**. **Iuliano** had chest, leg and foot injuries, **Zecchin**, a hand injury and **Cox**, hand and leg injuries. The other injured cadets were: **Stephen Featherstonhaugh**, **Tony Caruso**, **Herbert Schwarz**, **Simon White**, **Paul Roocke** (head injuries), **Anthony Daly**, **Grant Taddeo**, **Duncan McGrath** (legs, chest and abdomen), **Christopher Hocking** (nose), **Gino Musolino**, **Michael Carrig** (hip) and **Allan Young** (thigh).



From 'The Advertiser' September 1970. **Anthony Cox**

The majority of the boys made a full recovery from their injuries however **Robertson** lost a left index finger and his knee injuries prevented him from playing sport, **Duluk** spent almost a year on crutches and was required to wear special shoes and had shrapnel in his

legs, **Zecchin** lost the tip of a finger and **Iuliano** had a piece of shell casing lodged in his liver.

Most boys received a cash compensation from the Army for their injuries, for various amounts, to a maximum of \$6,000.



From 'The Advertiser' September 1970. **Eric Robertson** and Minister for the Army **Andrew Peacock**