



Out in force: Army jeeps lead the Reserve Forces Day parade in Wagga Wagga.

ARes families honoured

By Cpl Zenith King

A RESERVE forces day parade was held in Sydney on July 3 to honour and pay special tribute to the families of reserve forces.

During the parade, held at one of Australia's oldest parade grounds, the Sydney Domain, commemorative medallions were presented to spouses who remained home while their partners undertook part-time military training, continuous service or while on operations.

More than 200 medallions were presented at the parade, which also acknowledged the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Air Force.

The national chairman of the Reserve Forces Day Council, Sir Laurence Street, said awarding the medallion recognised the immense strains placed on family members.

"This medallion is a token of our thanks and gratitude for the extra workload undertaken to allow a family member to leave home temporarily in order to bolster Australia's defences," he said.

Governor-General Quentin Bryce provided a message for reservists and their families who attended the parade.

"Today, we thank the families who have supported, and continue to support, these men and women at home and during the performance of their public duties," she wrote.

"We admire the spirit and dedication of reservists; they are a source of inspiration and pride, defending our nation, supporting full-time Defence personnel during times of conflict and peace-keeping.

"I acknowledge our country's debt to the outstanding service, commitment and courage of these fine men and women, and send warm wishes to all reservists across Australia on this most special occasion."

NSW Governor Marie Bashir was guest of honour and entered in an open-topped 1925 Lancia Lamda, escorted by a troop of light horsemen in World War I uniforms carrying lances.



Recognition: Lt-Col John Howels presents Margaret Luck with a commemorative medallion, presented to spouses who kept the home fires burning while their partners undertook training, continuous service or while on operations (above).

On show: Vintage military vehicles join in the festivities on Reserve Forces day.

Sydney photos by Bill Cunneen

Wagga Wagga joins in the celebrations

By Sgt Dave Morley

THEY came from Gulargambone and Batemans Bay, and several points in between to march at Wagga Wagga's fourth Reserve Forces Day parade on July 3.

More than 180 serving reservists, former reservists and nashos, supported by 219RCU cadets and the town band, took part in the march to the city's National Servicemen's Memorial.

Guest speaker Brig Wayne Dunbar, former commander of 4 Bde, said it was important to acknowledge the support people offered reservists because without it they would not be able to serve their country.

"Families and employers play a crucial part," he said.

"An employer is a very important cog in the wheel when a reservist is preparing for deployment."

Brig Dunbar said he once asked a regular Army commander in East Timor the difference between ARA and ARes soldiers.

"He told me that after two weeks they all look like regular soldiers, except they ask a lot of questions," he said.

The ceremony concluded with the wives of 18 former reservists being presented with medallions for the support they gave to their husbands during their reserve service.

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New chair for council

PHIL Moss has been appointed as Chair of the ACT and south-eastern NSW Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council. Mr Moss has served in the RAAF Reserve since 1979 and has held several senior positions in the Australian Public Service. The Defence Reserves Support Council facilitates a flexible partnership between the community, employers and reservists to support Australian security. Each state and territory has committees of the council and some larger regional centres, such as Townsville, also have committees. Council members are volunteers.