



TRACK

March 2018



Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)

PATRON:	Brig P.A. Acutt (Retd)	
PRESIDENT:	Peter Branagan, OAM	
VICE PRESIDENT:	Vacant	
SECRETARY/ TREASURER:	Peter Axton	0428 335 406
EDITOR:	Peter Branagan, OAM	0428 576 004

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Birthday Celebrations at the Shrine 11 February 2018



(David Finlayson)

*A reasonable roll up of members and families attended the 72nd anniversary of the formation of the Victorian Branch held in the Shrine of Remembrance Sanctuary on Sunday 11 February 2018. **Retired Musician John Mansfield** was again in support and the Sanctuary reverberated to his outstanding renditions of **The Last Post** and **Rouse**.*

*Pictured above is **Peter Branagan, OAM** laying the Association wreath in memory of our departed comrades.*

On a beautiful summer's day in Melbourne, a fair number of members and families attended the **Shrine of Remembrance** on **11 February** to celebrate the **72nd birthday** of the **Victorian Branch**. The **Armoured Corps Prayer** and the **Ode to the Fallen** were recited and a wreath was laid by **Peter Branagan**.

Following the commemorative service, the group moved into the Western Annex where a **sumptuous afternoon tea** was enjoyed. **It is our intention to continue to celebrate** the formation of your branch **every year on the Sunday nearest the 7th February**. You can show your support by attending the activity. **Congratulations to Master of Ceremonies Daryl Pinner and his wife Frances** for their outstanding administrative efforts on the day.



(David Finlayson)

*A member of the Shrine Guard took the salute during the playing of The Last Post by our resident bugler
John Mansfield (centre beneath Australian National Flag)*

The more than usual suspects included: Daryl & Frances Pinner, Peter Branagan & Elizabeth Meng, David & Joan Finlayson, Robert Toy, Tony Peart, John & Ros Snelling, Andy & Jenny Clark, Jim & Gloria De Francesco, Chris & Mandy Fing, Peter & Robyn Axton, Graeme & Joan Perkins, Michael Fogarty, Fred Coucher, Roy Arnott, Allen Tanner & Tania Clayton, Bob & Ros Burke, Greg & Philomena Sheppard, Alan Sedgewick & Noah and of course our resident bugler John Mansfield. Representing the Shrine was Major Maggie More, RFD.

The following apologies were received: John & Tricia Viergever, Michelle Carson, Colin Carrington, Geoff Barnett, Gary Piper, Doug Caulfield, Joyce Watts, Pat O'Hanlon, Ian Smith, David Holloway, Godfrey Camenzuli & Kerry Marshall, Charles & Alleyne Walsh, John Baines, Robyn Gibson and Bob Neate.

The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors

J. Baines J. Finlayson A. Spenceley J. Franken S. Andrew R. Babarikas J. Bauerle
B. Clugston R. James P. Manning K. McPherson P. O'Hanlon S. Rydell P. Thomas

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

The AGM was conducted at our current home – the Preston/Darebin RSL on Monday 26 Feb 2018.

Thanks to the sterling efforts of **Secretary Peter Axton** the meeting enjoyed its largest turnout in some time. Track Editor **Peter Branagan** was appointed to conduct the meeting and in contrast to the past two years, a good number of nominations were received but unfortunately none for the Treasurer's position vacated by **John Snelling**; the call for a Vice President also fell on deaf ears. Long serving member **Peter Branagan** was appointed President and will also continue to edit the Track newsletter, **dynamo Secretary Peter Axton** has retained that role and for now will also act as Treasurer with assistance from **Rob Toy**. **Rod Westgarth** has accepted the important position of **Family Liaison Officer** whilst stalwarts **Trevor Watts, Graeme Perkins, Icky Smith, John Snelling and David Finlayson will continue to serve**. Some fresh blood was also introduced in the form of **Andrew Clark and Pat O'Hanlon**. Welcome aboard.

Other appointments include:

Brigadier Ted Acutt (Retd) is continuing as Patron

Daryl Pinner, OAM is the **Immediate Past President** and will remain as **Property Member**.

Roy Arnott continues in his role as **Honorary Auditor** whilst **Coleman Moloney** is soldiering on as our **Honorary Legal Officer**.

Special Resolution:

It was **moved PG Branagan, seconded IC Smith** that the Constitution of the RAACA-Victorian Branch be altered to allow for the inclusion of the membership category of **Affiliate Member** as set out previously in the widely circulated draft document. There being 100% of attendees voting in favour, the resolution was declared as **Carried**.

General Business:

1. John Baines addressed the meeting reference the ongoing support to the descendants of our armoured veterans. He emphasised that the families now keep alive their traditions and memories. It was agreed that we would continue to support them with invitations to our annual Cambrai Dinner and any other appropriate occasion.
2. Gary Piper forwarded a letter calling for support for a submission to seek recognition of the the support afforded by Defence members in the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy. This request will be forwarded to the RAAC Corporation.
3. The President reminded members of the following activities and dates for 2018:
Anzac Day 25 April, Reserve Forces Day 1 July, Mitre 10 BBQ 4 November,
Cambrai Dinner 17 November, Christmas Picnic 16 December.

The following members registered their attendance:

Peter Axton, Peter Branagan, Rob Toy, John Baines, Icky Smith, Peter Coutts, Trevor Watts, Ted Acutt, Graeme Perkins, Ian Laurie, Jim DeFrancesco, Gary Piper, Tony Peart, Pat O'Hanlon, Col Carrington, Bob Burke, Bob Neate, Andy Clark, Ian Murphy, Roy Arnott, John Snelling, David Finlayson and Coleman Moloney.

Proxies were received from: G. Camenzuli, A. Tanner, D. Caulfield, M. Carson, S. Bird, D. Pinner, M. O'Brien, R. Westgarth, M. Fogarty, B. Richards, V. Brennan, W. Golla and Dr. B. Phillips.

Apologies: D. Holloway, N. Pitt, A. Zsolt, E. Plastow, L. Burke, P. Martin, G. Sheppard, R. McConnell and F. Coucher.

Secretary's Report 2017

Although I have been a member of the RAACA Victorian Branch since 1994, it wasn't until this time last year that I had any involvement at all. Daryl Pinner, I think in a moment of desperation, sent an e-mail to the small group of members he had on file and that brought me to ring him and offer to assist where I could. With John Paterson uncertain when he would be able to return, that found my position of assisting, change to taking on the responsibilities of the Secretary. It's been a busy year, finding out what the job entailed and keeping on top of the workload, but with the help and support of all the other committee members, I think I'm getting there.

We have put in considerable effort to confirm e-mail addresses for members and this seems to have made communications better. It is quicker, easier and cheaper than post or phonecalls. If we haven't been catching up with you this way and you have access to e-mail, please let us know so we can add you to our address list. We have managed to cover in excess of 50% of the membership but would like to increase that number during 2018.

One of the tasks that has finally been resolved, and is now being put to the members, is the alteration to the Constitution to allow for Affiliate Membership. Looking back over old minutes and notes, this has been in the pipeline for several years so the dogged persistence of some has finally paid off and will hopefully see that accepted at the AGM.

All the usual activities of Birthday Commemoration, Autumn Picnic, ANZAC Day march, Reserve Forces Day and the Christmas Picnic at Eltham were ably conducted by the usual team of committee members and attended by some of the membership, but one theme that seemed to persist was, with the exception of the Christmas picnic; that the numbers are dwindling each year. Assuming that the changes to the Constitution are agreed to, we might see an influx of new members to revitalise and reinvigorate our membership and start to return to the attendance numbers of the past.

One exception amongst the activities in relation to numbers was the Cambrai Day Commemorations and dinner. The inclusion of a number of allied association groups boosted the numbers and the overall enjoyment of the night, with one visitor remarking how well he was welcomed by all those who attended. This only happens due to the work done by the likes of Daryl Pinner, Peter Branagan, John Baines, Rod Westgarth and the generous donation of raffle prizes by Lindsay Christensen. Also, the efforts of the support people at the Officer's and Sergeant's Mess at the School of Armour, and John Snelling who is always working in the background to ensure everyone is not left to do the dishes to offset the cost of the night.

In spite of the loss of access to the army resources that he has had in previous years, Peter Branagan has still managed to turn out several excellent issues of Track. Of course, Track is a newsletter and although Peter does a great job of reporting on the things he is aware of, he needs input from members to cover everything that is happening. You don't need to write the article, although that would help, but if something is happening in your area, like your local ANZAC Day commemorations, send him some notes and maybe some photos so we can all see what is happening. You can send it to the secretary at secretary@raacavic.com and I will pass it along.

Several members have made generous donations during the year but a special mention to Rod Westgarth for his work and that of his wife, Sharon, in organising the Autumn and Christmas picnics, and the fundraising that he does to cover these events as well as to provide Christmas hampers for some of the older members. Feedback from the “elves” who deliver these suggests that for some, this is one of the highlights of their Christmas. Thanks also to the elves, you know who you are.

I would like to say thank you to Lew Postlethwaite for his work as Webmaster in keeping members informed through the website. If you haven't seen it, go to www.raacavic.com and have a look. If you don't have computer, ask someone to show you next time you visit your local library, or maybe just ask your grandkids, they will have it all covered.

Finally, we would like to thank the Darebin RSL for their support and for providing rooms and assistance for our meetings through 2017 and look forward to their continued backing in 2018. Also, to thank our Patron, Brig Ted Acutt (Retd) for his support, the School of Armour as outlined regarding Cambrai Day and to Coleman Moloney, our Honorary Legal Officer, especially since, without his advice and support, the changes to the Constitution would still be unresolved.

In closing I cannot finish up without thanking Daryl Pinner for his encouragement during this past year. Pointing me in the right direction and making sure I don't step too far out of line. After what I believe to be around 27 years as President of the RAACA Vic Branch and a couple of years of trying to take a back-seat position, with little success, he has decided not to nominate for the committee this year. This will create a large hole in the committee but one that I know others will work hard to fill, but as Immediate Past President, he will still be around to keep an eye on things and will continue as our property member. I don't believe we will need to warn his wife, Frances, that he might be in her way since I'm sure he still has many other commitments to Legacy, the Shrine and other things he is involved in, to fill in his time. As a committee, we have not been overwhelmed by nominations from people wishing to step up to fill any gaps as others step down, but this could be the year to restructure and rethink how we meet our goals.

Thank you all for your support in 2017. I hope I can meet your expectations in this coming year.

Peter Axton

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Snelling presented a comprehensive report that had been audited by **Roy Arnott, OAM** who reported that no anomalies had been found. Detailed below is a brief summary:

Total Income: \$12,206:44 **Total Expenditure:** \$9,419:71 **Net Profit:** \$2,446:21

Membership:

Honorary Life Members	7
Paid Life Members	63
Financial	92
Unfinancial	36
Total Membership	198

CAMBRAI DAY COMMEMORATION DINNER

Saturday 17 November 2018
1900 for 1930hrs

Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal

Guest of Honour
TBA

Cost: \$60:00 per head for members
\$70:00 per head for non members/guests

This function is our premier event for the year and as usual we will be providing a quality guest speaker for your enjoyment

All enquiries to:
Daryl Pinner (H) 9359 4520
Peter Branagan (M) 0428 576 004

On Sunday morning enjoy a sumptuous cooked breakfast in the Chauvel Courtyard at the Officers Mess from 0800 hrs

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket Miniatures

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 9 November 2018

Accommodation is limited

Autumn Picnic

Sunday 25 March 2018

A cool Puckapunyal autumn day greeted some **38 members, guests and families** at the annual autumn picnic conducted at the **Army Tank Museum** on Sunday, 25 March 2018. The younger kids were entertained with the traditional Easter egg hunt. The older kids enjoyed the bar-b-que hosted in their typical style by **Rod and Sharon Westgarth**. **Once again the Smith Family helped out the Easter Bunny with the provision of chocolate eggs and rabbits. Many thanks.**



(Meaghan Johnstone)

As usual it was the kids who had the most fun on the day, there were plenty of Easter treats hidden amongst the armoured vehicle collection at the Tank Museum.

The following members and friends registered their attendance:

Ian Smith, Meaghan and Glen Johnstone, Alexis and Hunter Purcell, David and Joan Finlayson with Carolyn Knaggs, Ray Harmes, Nadia Vonic and Myrene Chambers. Jenny, Andy and Charlie Clark. Rod and Sharon Westgarth. Adam, Sally, Gemma and Ava Westgarth. Dennis Woolcock. Fern Summer with Aidan, Lincoln and Eliza Thorpe. Peter Branagan and Elizabeth Meng. Fiona, Samuel, William and Amelia Glenn, Bill and Will Anderson and Peter Couatts.

The Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship

Application Form

Applicants for the Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship must complete this form and mail to the address detailed below. The Scholarship is available to 1st year apprentices and is valued at \$500.00

Name.....

(Christian name/names)

(Surname)

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone.....

What is your apprenticeship?

Employer.....

Employer's Address

.....Post Code.....

Contact Phone Number

Registered Training Institute or TAFE.....

Name of Financial RAACA Victorian Member

Address

.....Post Code.....

Contact Phone Number.....

You will need to enclose copies of the following:

1. A brief supportive resume.
2. A copy of signed training agreement.
3. A copy of your enrolment at a registered training institute or TAFE.
4. A supporting letter from your employer.

After your application has been received, the three trustees of the fund may require you to attend an interview at a time, date and location to be advised.

Return this form together with all supporting documents to:

The Trustees

Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship Fund

RAACA – Victorian Branch

PO Box 547

COBURG VIC 3058

Show Off Your Association

		Items for sale	Postage
RAACA	Tie	\$32.00	\$4.00
RAACA	Pocket Badge.....	\$15.00	\$1.00
RAACA	Plaque (Victorian Branch).....	\$40.00	\$6.00
RAACA	Decal	\$ 1.50	\$1.00
RAACA	Lapel Badge.....	\$11.00	\$1.00
RAACA	Cap	\$10.00	\$6.00
RAACA	Stubby Holder	\$ 6.50	\$4.00
RAACA	Polo shirt size s, M, L, XL, XXL <i>Colour Black, Green, Burgundy, Navy Blue</i>	\$23.00	\$6.00
RAACA	Black Beret	\$30.00	\$6.00
	<i>(Please include Beret size)</i>		
RAACA	Rugby tops	\$35.00	\$6.00
	<i>Navy blue with denim collar and Association Logo</i>		
RAACA	Chambray shirts	\$29.00	\$6.00
	<i>Long/Short sleeves, light blue with Association Logo</i>		
RAACA	Brew Mug	\$10.00	Pickup only
	<i>with Association Logo</i>		
	Eldridge Book (special)	\$30.00	Postage paid

Please note:

1. Prices are subject to change when current stock runs sold.
2. all items are inclusive of Gst and subject to a charge for packing and postage.
3. Please include cost of Postage.



P.O. Box 547

Coburg Vic 3058

Email: daryl.pinner@yahoo.com.au

RAACA SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the benefits your Association provides are the scholarships available to eligible children commencing or completing their Secondary education. Applicants must be the children of a financial member; unfortunately due to financial constraints, grandchildren are not eligible for either scholarship at this time.

The Victorian Branch Scholarship is currently \$150:00 per year for the first two years of secondary school. Applications should be forwarded to the Secretary with proof of attendance by **28 February in the first year of qualification. A follow up application is required for the second year.** You must have been a financial member of the RAACA for a **minimum of five years to apply.**

The Brigadier F.B. Hinton, MC Scholarship which was a Federal Executive Scholarship is also administered by the Victorian Branch and currently provides \$500:00 for each of the final two years of Secondary School. Application including proof of intent to complete years 11 and 12 to our Secretary by **30 September in the applicant's year 10.**

There are no scholastic results required, however proof of attendance must be provided on the relevant School's letterhead paper. **Applicants must be financial members.**

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)
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(Victorian Branch)

Change of address

To change your mailing address, please fill in the new address below,
and return THE COMPLETE PAGE to:

RAACA (Vic Branch) Membership Officer, PO Box 547, Coburg Vic 3058

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Mobile No:

Phone No: Fax No:

E-mail:

PLEASE use bLOCK LETTERS (EXCEPT FOR E-MAIL)