

Secretary's Report on 2021 RAACA (Victorian Branch) A0023458C

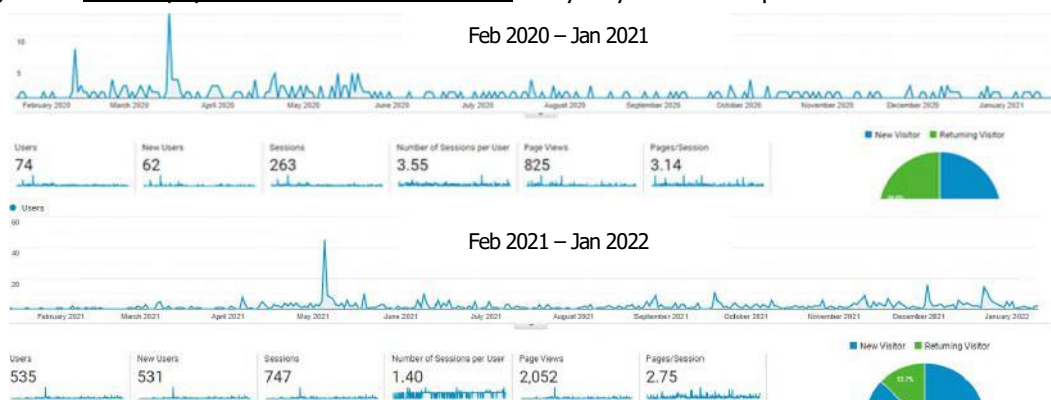
Members,

Every time you look at the TV or read the paper, our daily news seems to be presenting nothing but doom and gloom and if you believe everything they say, it would be easy to only look at the problems we've had over 2021, but if most have had it as bad as they say, then RAACA (Vic) has done fairly well. The committee managed to keep things ticking over and, although ANZAC Day wasn't quite the usual event, during the occasional relaxation of restrictions, we managed to fit in a few activities like the Birthday Commemoration Service, the AGM, and the March/Easter picnic. Changes were needed to conduct them safely but a small price to pay under the circumstances.

By November things were starting to return to something more familiar so we were able to hold our main event of the year, the Cambrai Dinner. Even though it was a luncheon and not held in Pucka, it was an outstanding success and for some, an improvement. After all we are getting older and going out during the day and to somewhere closer to home has some appeal. Although the numbers were down, we also managed to finish out the year with the Christmas picnic.

Some of our achievements from 2021 include:

- **Our numbers have remained fairly steady:** It's not unexpected that we saw another year with some of the old and bold passing on, but unfortunately getting together to recognise their passing was often difficult. Still, our numbers have held fairly well due to the recruitment of new members due largely to the work of David Finlayson, always on the lookout. It appears, some have also managed to find us through the website. This meant we ended the year with 200 members, 3 less than 2020.
- **The website for RAACA (Vic):** Interest in the website is growing as members find they can keep up with what's happening. The graphs below show the activity from Feb to Jan with the top graph being 2 years ago and the lower one for last year. The numbers on the left scale are hard to read but those below the graph might give some idea how interest is growing. The addition of a group of photos donated by Tom Fogarty which we've called The Fogarty Collection is now available and well worth logging on to [view equipment and events from the](#) early days of the corps.



- **Our Family Liaison Officer has been keeping in touch:** Another year of lockdowns and restrictions had Rod Westgarth working overtime keeping in touch with members and spreading cheer through phone calls, visits and gift cards which was more appropriate than hampers with the current restrictions.

On behalf of the members, we would like to thank our Patron, Brig Ted Acutt (Retd) for his support, and to Colman Moloney, our Honorary Legal Officer. I personally thank David Finlayson for keeping the administration functioning during my absence. Thank you to all the Association members and in particular to my fellow committee members for your support in 2021 and I hope we have another great year ahead.

Peter Axton
Secretary