TRACK

December 2019

Advance Australia

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc. (Victorian Branch)

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

RAAC Icon Laid To Rest

*On Thursday **26 September**, one of our **finest soldiers was laid to rest.** Attended by family, friends and a large number of members of **his Black Hat 'family;' former WO1 Ivan Paul Maher** was **honoured** and **remembered** at a moving funeral service conducted at the Funeral Parlour of Heritage Funerals. Boronia Road, Wantirna.*

VALE V514165, VX146185, 11177 WO1 Ivan Paul Maher

27 March 1928 – 19 September 2019

Ivan Paul Maher was born at Dubbo, New South Wales on 27 March 1928. On leaving school he worked on a cattle station *Nanylco* in the corner country of outback South Australia. Joining the CMF on Full Time Duty on 7 October 1943 at the tender age of 15 years, 195 days (utilising his older brother's birth certificate); he then transferred to the 2nd AIF on 16 November 1943. In the following 12 months he served in various Infantry units including the 18th Infantry Battalion. In November 1944 he was posted to the 2/1st Australian Tank Attack Regiment and served with them in New Guinea. Prior to his discharge in January 1947, he was posted to the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp.

The outback beckoned him again and he returned to the corner country of South Australia this time to *Mt Margaret Station*. After two years and tiring of the lonely existence of a stockman, Ivan volunteered for service in the newly raised Australian Regular Army and was enlisted on 27 October 1949.

Over a career spanning another 28 years, Ivan served the RAAC in a variety of roles. Included in this period were five postings to 1st Armoured Regiment, 12 National Service Training Battalion, Holsworthy, 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry, Gatton, 10 Light Horse Regiment, and 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers. He also served on detachment with 13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO) in Malaya in 1960.

Ivan experienced further overseas service with A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment as SSM in South Vietnam in 1968. On return to Australia in January 1969, he was posted as RSM at 1st Armoured Regiment and then moved over the hill to the same appointment at the Armoured Centre in July 1971. Two years later he took up his final appointment as RSM, District Support Unit Puckapunyal.

Following discharge in February 1977, Ivan, who had completed a Health Surveyors course in his final year of service, worked in that capacity for the Moorabbin City Council until retirement in 1993.

Old comrades Russ James, Ian 'Icky' Smith and John Hawton shared some fond memories of their time spent in the company of Ivan Maher.

Bruce ‘Rock’ Richards, Rex Harris and John Blackwell celebrated the life of their old comrade.

Representing the Corps were WO1 Peter Swinfield and CO/CI School of Armour Lt Col Luke Brady in company with long serving ‘Black Hat Spanner’ Chris McCleod.

The following members were in attendance at Ivan's funeral service:

Peter Axton
John Baines, RFD
Ron and Mary Bell
Alan Bennett
John Blackwell
Lt Col Luke Brady
Peter Branagan, OAM
John Brooker, OAM
David Catterall
Barry Chambers
Fred Coucher
Peter Coutts, CSM
Dal Crocker
Brian Dunn
John Forrester
Werner Golla
Herman Harberts
Rex and Meredith Harris
John Hawton and daughter, Jo Rodgers
Kevin Hunter
Russ James
Ian Laurie
Chris McLeod
Dave Menz
John Ockwell
Bruce Richards
Paul (Zac) Schilling
John and Jenny Sheehan
George Skell
Ian (Icky) Smith
Gary Spencer, AM
WO1 Peter Swinfield
Allen Tanner
David Thompson
Ian Tregenza
Graham Wright
Andy Zsolt

John 'Tubby' Brooker, Mary Bell, Peter 'Bushy' Coutts and Ron 'Dinga' Bell also shared some fond memories.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

Michael Annett CSC, Peter Axton, Craig Burn, Vin Brennan, Ray Babarikas, John Blackwell, Andy Clark, John Bellfield, Tim Costa, Brian Cook, Barry Clugston OAM, Doug Caulfield OAM, Chris Fing, Michael Fogarty, William Gillis, Kevin Heyward, John Hopkins, Peter Jarratt, John Langbehn, Karl Liffman, Paul Manning, Donald MacEwan, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Kenneth McPherson, Clement Mooney, Alan Spenceley, Lou Walker OAM, Niall Waring, Rex Warren.

Welcome to the Crew

Sharon Westgarth, Iain Reynolds and Ricky Farrell

From the Archives ……

Cambrai Day 1974 - A Sqn 1 Armd Regt - Allan Hayes Memorial Shield Winners

Back Row: *(LtoR) Gavan Vigar, Mick Rayson, Brian Ives, Colin Robinson, George Stojkovic, John McCrystal*

Centre Row: *Gavan Dinsdale, John Smith, Wayne Grinter, Steve Hawes, Peter Coutts, Max Colles, Peter Branagan, Gordon Jones, Lew Postlethwaite*

Front Row: *Steve Turk, Ian Morris, Graeme Moore, Peter Blackwood, Terry Friend, Leigh Shearwin*

WO2 Ivan Maher, SSM A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment with Sgt Len Swarbrick, C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment, in the chow line at Nui Dat, circa June 1968. *RIP*

Mark Your Diary……

2019 Kid's Christmas Party

Sunday 15 December 2019

1030 hrs

Rod Westgarth has booked **Meadmore Junction** again for this year's party at the **Diamond Valley Miniature Railway**. Come along and enjoy the fun and the bar-b-que at **this premier location in Eltham**.

Victorian Branch Birthday

Sunday 9 February 2020

1400 hrs

The 74th birthday of the Victorian Branch will be celebrated at the **Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 9 February 2020** with a gathering on the forecourt of the Shrine followed by a short commemorative service in the Shrine Sanctuary and afterwards the usual sumptuous afternoon tea will be enjoyed in the western annex where the Shrine shop is located.

Our association flag, first flown in February 2014 will be flying from the flagpole in the Shrine forecourt. It is flown there on appropriate days during the year including **7 February (association birthday 1946) and 9 July (official Australian Armoured Corps birthday 1941).**

All members and spouses are strongly urged to support this significant activity. The setting, adjacent to Melbourne's most famous landmark is outstanding and the opportunity to **renew your acquaintance with this significant Melbourne precinct is strongly encouraged.**
To assist the organisers with afternoon tea catering, please contact the Secretary Peter Axton by email raxton3@bigpond.com or 0428 335 406 to warn in for rations. **RSVP 31 January 2020.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 24th February 2020

1930 hrs

Darebin RSL Sub Branch

402 Bell Street

PRESTON VIC 3072

Agenda

Apologies
Minutes of previous AGM
Business Arising
Correspondence
Reports
Election of Office-Bearers
Supper

Election of Office-Bearers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Officer
Editor - Track
General Committee
Honorary Auditor

All nominations to the

Secretary RAACA Vic Branch

1 Ambleside Link

DOREEN VIC 3754

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 and12 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**.

CAMBRAI DINNER 2019

The formal highlight of our social calendar – the annual commemoration of the Battle of Cambrai was celebrated again at the **School of Armour Officers/Sergeants Mess on Saturday 23 November**. **Keldie Hall** was the venue as usual and witnessed **56 members and guests in attendance**. **The 1st Armoured Regiment Cambrai Parade in Adelaide robbed us of a number of our regulars despite our best efforts to de-conflict with their activity!**

The 102nd anniversary of the battle was celebrated with an interesting and informative address from our **Patron - Brigadier Ted Acutt, RL.**

Patron, Brig Ted Acutt making a point during his presentation. Giving their undivided attention from L to R are: Jim De Francesco, John Kinton, Stan Rydell, Rocky Gerzina, Rod Jones, Graham Wright and Craig Burn.

President Peter Branagan presented the Patron with the traditional RAACA tie and the book 'To The Greenfields Beyond.'

The following members and guests enjoyed the 2019 Cambrai Dinner……..

Ted Acutt
Will Anderson
Bill Anderson
Ray Babarikas
John Blackwell
Peter Branagan, OAM
Elizabeth Branagan
Bob Burke
John Burke
Andy Clark
Peter Coutts, CSM
Ray Tuskin
Rita Tuskin
Alan Spenceley
Peter Swinfield
Sharron Hey
Graham Wright
Graeme Perkins
Pat O'Hanlon
Craig Burn
Anita Rynne
Gavan Vigar
David Vigar
John Hopkins
John Kinton
Stan Rydell
Allen Tanner
Carolyn Tanner
Trevor Watts
Iain Reynolds
Ian Smith
Colin Straughen
Jim DeFrancesco
Rocky Gerzina
Bryce Phillips, AO
Maggie McGeever
Tyrell McGeever
David Finlayson
Gordon Hastie
Bob Neate
Angus MacEwan
Kevin Heyward
Karl Liffman
Nick Collett
Peter Farrugia
Rod Westgarth
David White
Niall Waring
Alan Sedgwick
Mary Hornsby
Ricky Farrell
Rod Jones
Fred Coucher
Terry Cuthbert

Last year in order to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice; Federal Labour member for Holt, the Hon. Anthony Byrne, commissioned a number of local artists to produce WW1 themed paintings. One of these – 'Cambrai in Ruins' caught the eye of new member Niall Waring and through the auspices of Treasurer Andy Clark we agreed that it should hang at the Home of Armour. Pictured right, Niall Waring presented the painting to the RAAC Officers Mess and was accepted by Mess Life Member Peter Branagan.

President Peter had the pleasure of pinning on our distinctive lapel badge and welcoming our newest member, Marine Gunnery Sergeant Ricky Farrell to the Association at the Dinner.

RAACA Vic

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Victorian Branch

Our new website

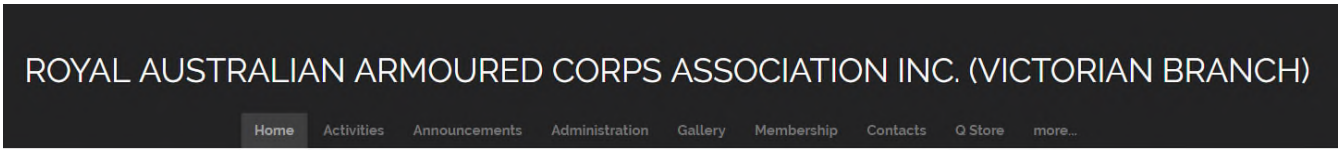
www.raacavic.weebly.com

All the latest news and reviews

Open all hours.

If you have access to the internet, you should also have access to the current information on all our activities for the year like the RAACA Birthday Commemoration, AGM, Autumn/Easter Picnic & BBQ, ANZAC Day, Cambrai dinner and the Christmas picnic, any time you want it, day or night. What's more, the new site is compatible with other devices so you can access it via your smartphone, iPad or most other tablet devices that can access the Internet. If you don't know how, ask your grandkids! Sad but probably true.

Navigating the site is easy using the menu with tabs to quickly take you to the information you're looking for.



If you have the time to browse, there are also loads of links to stories like what our members have been up to, photo galleries as well as back issues of Track. But more than that, we have also included links to other websites and information you might find helpful or at least of interest; things like the Army Newspaper, Military Museums and organisations.

Now you know what's there, go ahead and take a look for yourself.

https://raacavic.weebly.com/

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 and12 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**.

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 children and grandchildren of financial members. They must be 1st year apprentices and the scholarship 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

1 Ambleside Link

Doreen Vic 3754

Show Off Your Association

RAACA Q Store Order Form

Please contact the Property Member, Daryl Pinner to confirm availability prior to placing order. Ph: 03 9359 4520 Email: daryl.pinner@yahoo.com.au

	Size	Colour/ Sleeve	Qty	Price each	Postage	Cost
Tie, RAACA				$32.00	$4.00	
Pocket Badge RAACA				$15.00	$1.00	
Plaque RAACA				$50.00	$10.00	
Decal (External) RAACA				$1.50	$1.00	
Decal (Internal) RAACA				$1.50	$1.00	
Lapel Badge, RAACA				$12.00	$1.00	
Cap, RAACA				$10.00	$6.00	
Stubby Holder, RAACA				$6.50	$4.00	
Brew Mug, RAACA				$10.00	Pick-up Only	
Beret, black				$30.00	$6.00	
(Please insert beret size - S, M, L, XL)						
Polo Shirt, RAACA				$25.00	$6.00	
(Insert Size: L, XL, 2XL) (Insert Colour: Black, Green, Burgundy, Navy Blue)						
Rugby Top, long sleeve, RAACA				$35.00	$6.00	
(Insert Size: L, XL, 2XL) (Style: Navy Blue with denim collar, long sleeves & Association Logo)						
Chambray Shirt, RAACA		Long / Short		$29.00	$6.00	
(Please enter size: L, XL, 2XL, 3XL & mark Sleeve Length)						
(Style: Long or Short Sleeves, light blue with Association Logo)						
Eldridge Book (Special price)				$30.00	Postage Paid	

Refer to the website (https://raacavic.weebly.com/) for photos of these items

Total Cost $

Member Details:

Name:

Address:

Contact Number:

If paying by cheque, post payment to: ☐

RAACA Property Member PO Box 547 Coburg 3058

If paying by direct deposit:

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000 Acc. No.: 163760515 ☐

Include your name and something to identify payment like "Q Store"

If undeliverable, return to:
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)
1 Ambleside Link
Doreen Vic 3754

TRACK

PRINT POST
10000/4078

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

Change of address

To change your mailing and/or contact details, please fill in the new information below,

and return THE COMPLETED PAGE to:

Secretary RAACA (Vic Branch) 1 Ambleside Link DOREEN Vic 3754

Name: ……

Address: ……

…… Post Code: ……

Mobile No: ……

Phone No.: …… E-mail: ……

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS (EXCEPT FOR E-MAIL)