



Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)

Web: <https://raacavic.weebly.com>

TRACK

December 2020



Advance Australia

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

Kid's Christmas Party Derailed



Unfortunately happy scenes like the one above won't be happening this year. President Peter Branagan and convenor Rod Westgarth had to make the gut wrenching decision to cancel this year's Kid's Christmas Party as a result of COVID 19 restrictions and the inability of the venue at Lower Eltham Train Park to provide timely information about their intentions to re-commence operations.

The **President and committee** would like to take this opportunity to **wish all members, families and friends very best wishes for the Festive Season, and a New Year that hopefully will see things somewhat restored to normality. 2021 is our 75th year and we are planning some special occasions to celebrate this milestone.**

The 'Cambrai' Raffle was a Huge Success



A very happy first prize winner in the monster raffle was Ian 'Icky' Smith

As a result of an initiative by **David Finlayson** and **Rod Westgarth** with assistance from Treasurer **Andy Clark**, the annual raffle that is usually conducted on the night of the Cambrai Dinner was held this year as a 'virtual' activity with ticket buyers paying electronically and then allocated tickets by **David** and drawn by **Rod**. Our normal producer of raffle prizes **Lindsay Christensen** really stepped up to the plate and provided a smorgasboard of his wonderful framed presentations. As a result of the outstanding response, extra prizes in the form of military books provided by **John Campbell** of **Australian Military Press** and **Big Sky Publications** were drawn. Our US Army and Marine Corps members at Puckapunyal - **Ricky Farrell**, **Levi Thompson** and **Derick Kolenda** raffled some prizes and raised a fair sum. **Lt Col John Pearce** and his troops at **4/19 PWLH** also made a sizeable contribution.

Detailed below are the lucky prizewinners as drawn:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ian Smith | 10. Graham Garvie |
| 2. Bryan Kesby | 11. James Armstrong |
| 3. Jimmy Peile | 12. Andy and Jenny Clark |
| 4. Peter Coutts | 13. Ian Smith |
| 5. Bob Neate | 14. Alan Sedgewick |
| 6. Paul Baker | 15. Ian Smith |
| 7. Peter Coutts | 16. Jimmy Peile |
| 8. Ron Bell | 17. Joan Finlayson |
| 9. Joan Finlayson | |

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to **all members and friends** who participated in the raffle; it will provide us with the funds to support our many members who receive help leading up to Christmas. **Thank you all.**

Patron's Christmas Message



Brigadier Ted Acutt (Retd)
Patron RAACA – Victorian Branch

It's been a tough year. There has been significant sacrifice as well as increased isolation. Victoria has had the worst of it. As Christmas approaches, we seem to be coming out of it, although restrictions remain. I was disappointed to hear that the Children's Christmas Party could not go ahead. What has impressed me is how the Association's network has functioned. You have kept the communication up and looked after each other – great to see.

The good news is that tough times don't last forever. We will have a vaccine in 2021 and some normalcy will return. The Association has an incredible formula for its operation that will again kick in, in the New Year. Let's look at some of them:

- Highly effective and competent committee that makes appropriate and sound decisions.
- Very strong financial position that enables the Association to execute its mission.
- A proven set of events that support each and every member and their families.
- A proven ability to adjust over time with new policies like the initiation of female associate members.

Christmas is a time to be with family, have a drink with your mates and take a breather from the year just gone. I hope each and every one of you has a great Christmas and that you can enjoy some of the pleasures you would normally enjoy. Continue to support each other and look forward to knocking elbows next year.

Merry Christmas and God Bless.

VALE 126453/16686 Corporal Gordon Donald HASTIE

On 29 June this year, we lost a larger than life personality in **Gordon Hastie**. Although he started his Army career as a foot soldier in the CMF 1st Battalion, the Royal Queensland Regiment; after joining the Regular Army on 5 March 1962 and following recruit training he found himself in 1st Forward Delivery Troop, RAAC. Subsequently after Corps Training he was posted to B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment in Kapyong Barracks, Puckapunyal. Although he spent only two and a half years in armour before Corps transferring to RA Sigs, he always remembered that time with great fondness. He spent almost a year in Sth Vietnam with 506 and 709 Signal Troops from 17 May 1966 to 12 May 1967. Following discharge from the ARA in March 1968, he soldiered on in the Emergency Reserve until March 1974.

Thereafter followed a highly successful career in the private sector including 12 years as a regional director with Gerber Technology, managing its international operations in the US, Turkey and Singapore. More recently he ran his own software solutions company.

Gordon was a leading light in the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell. He was a member of their executive and as youth chair he ensured that youth programs progressed substantially over recent years. He was a passionate contributor to the Mitchell Suicide Prevention Network. He was President of the Broadford RSL for four years during a very difficult period of rebuilding the clubrooms that had been destroyed by fire in January 2008. His senior executive experience and extraordinary business skills really came to the fore at that time. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow Evie and the Hastie family.

Rest in Peace



Gordon (left) at the 2018 Cambrai Dinner, an event that he rarely missed.

This Vale from long serving member Allen ‘Shorty’ Tanner:

VICTOR JOHN HALL was born 16th June 1935 - died 10th July 2020.

Another old soldier marches on, as he said in the song he wrote “Where are you, Armoured Soldier?”
This song has been played at many funerals of old soldiers, leaving many with tears in their eyes.

Vic spent 9 years in the Army. He was a “Tankie” and proud of it. He did his National Service in 1953, then enlisted in the Regular Army 12th January 1954, serving in the Armoured Corps until 12th January 1963. He spent a great deal of that time in Puckapunyal and some at Wacol, Qld. He served in several capacities such as National Service trainer and Tank Commander. He only reached the rank of Corporal although serving as acting Sergeant in the last part of his service. He had decided that if they had not made him Sergeant when his time was up he wasn’t re-enlisting. They didn’t, so he left!

In 1959 Vic spent the year at the Point Cook School of Languages where he completed the Mandarin Chinese course successfully. He should have had a posting as an interpreter to Hong Kong for two years but was asked to forego that on compassionate grounds to enable the incumbent interpreter to remain there because of marriage problems with a Chinese wife. Being Vic, he said yes and went back to his unit and never used the new skill.

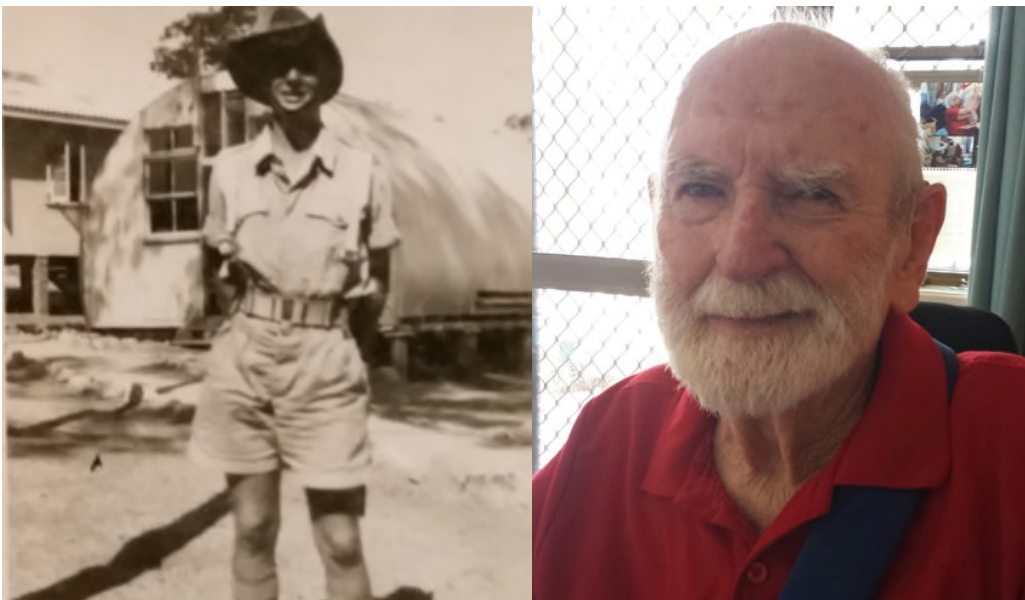
Vic married me, Colleen on 5th June 1965 and remained married until his death. 55 years of detected and forgiven sins, according to Vic. He leaves his wife Colleen, son Andrew and two daughters, Catherine and Rebecca, 4 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. When his mates were going to Vietnam he wanted to re-enlist but refrained because of our marriage.

Vic was a storyteller. He told some wild stories about things he got up to in the army with his mates. These were sometimes unbelievable but when some old army buddy turned up to visit, or there was a gathering of them, listening to them repeat the same stories was certainly an eye-opener. They were true!! He made it to the 1992 reunion in Pucka and performed in the concert for the old fellas. He really enjoyed doing that and meeting up with old friends.

Vic was involved in music his whole life. He has had bands or did solo performances over the years. He wrote many songs including Gospel songs and recorded them. He had a great faith in his Heavenly Father and has now gone to live with Him. There were two occasions where he was given the opportunity to make it in the music industry in Australia including on television, but because it would have affected his family or other band members adversely, he declined the opportunities. Typically Vic. He considered others before himself and was a great mate to his friends.

Vic suffered a massive stroke almost 6 years ago which left him paralysed down his right side, unable to play music or sing any more. That was the hardest thing for him. After 2 years being looked after by me at home, it just got too hard and Vic went into a nursing home where he remained until he had another massive bleed which ended his life. He was ready to go and therefore we cannot be sad about it. I just thank God for the wonderful years we had together.

Colleen Hall



Mark Your Diary.....

Victorian Branch Birthday

Sunday 7 February 2021

1400 hrs

The 75th birthday of the Victorian Branch will be celebrated at the **Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 7 February 2021** 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 29 January 2021.**



Wreath laying in the Shrine Sanctuary

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

Michael Annett CSC, Craig Burn, Ray Babarikas, John Bellfield, Tim Costa, Brian Cook, Brian Dunn, Doug Caulfield OAM, Michael Fogarty, William Gillis RFD, Peter Jarratt, Karl Liffman, Paul Manning, Donald MacEwan, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Clem Mooney, Alan Spenceley, Werner Golla, Stan Rydel, Pat O'Hanlon, Glen Johnstone, Meaghan Johnstone, Shane O'Brien, Jason Franken, Simon Mason, Mick Butler, Alleyne Walsh, John Snelling, Kerri Marshall, Rod Jones and Graham Douglas.

Welcome to the Crew

Robert Noonan and Gny Sgt Ryan Accornero USMC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 22nd February 2021

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

Nomination and Proxy Voting forms are available on the RAACA (Vic) website. All nominations to the

Secretary RAACA Vic Branch

1 Ambleside Link

DOREEN VIC 3754

NOTE: You need to be financial to vote. The financial year begins on 1 January and fees for the year are due from that date. Many members have already paid but if you are in doubt, please contact the secretary to confirm your financial status. Payment details are on the website.

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.**

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 a 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
2 Marie Street
NAGAMBIE VIC 3608



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

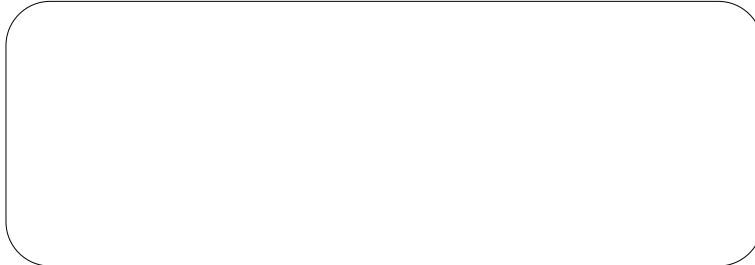
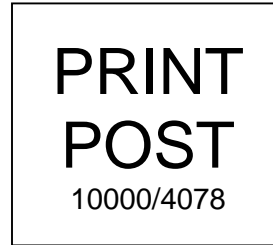
	Size	Colour/ Sleeve	Qty	Price each	Postage	Cost
Tie, RAACA				\$32.00	\$4.00	
Pocket Badge RAACA				\$15.00	\$1.00	
Plaque RAACA				\$50.00	\$10.00	
Decal (External) RAACA				\$1.50	\$1.00	
Decal (Internal) RAACA				\$1.50	\$1.00	
Lapel Badge, RAACA				\$12.00	\$1.00	
Cap, RAACA				\$10.00	\$6.00	
Stubby 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

Member Details:		Total Cost	\$
Name:			
Address:			
Contact Number:			
If paying by cheque, post payment to:			<input type="checkbox"/>
	RAACA Property Member PO Box 547 Coburg 3058		
If paying by direct deposit:			
	Bank: Bendigo Bank		
	BSB: 633 000 Acc. No.: 163760515		<input type="checkbox"/>
	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

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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)