



Royal Australian Armoured  
Corps Association Inc.  
(Victorian Branch)  
A0023458C  
Web: <https://raacvic.weebly.com>

# TRACK

December 2023



AdvanceAustralia

PATRON:	Brig P.A. Acutt (Retd)
PRESIDENT:	Peter Branagan, OAM
VICE PRESIDENT:	Benny Lonnborn
SECRETARY:	Peter Axton 0428 335 406
TREASURER:	Andy Clark
WEB MASTER:	Peter Axton
EDITOR:	Peter Branagan, OAM

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## Another Successful Cambrai Luncheon



*Former Patron Mick O'Brien was our Guest Speaker this year and he spoke with great passion, conviction and knowledge about the current world situation. His military service, followed by over 17 years of UN and International Red Cross experience enables him to speak with great authority. He certainly held the attention of our crowd.*

The move of the Cambrai celebration from Puckapunyal to **Greensborough RSL** has again proved to be an outstanding success with 70 members and guests sitting down to a great lunch and availing themselves of the sub branch's first class facilities and hospitality. Many thanks to President **Dal Crocker** for his support.

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 the New Year.**

**The following members and guests enjoyed the 2023 Cambrai Luncheon:**

Ted Acutt  
Dal Crocker  
Mick O'Brien, AM  
Donna O'Brien  
Elizabeth Branagan  
Peter Branagan, OAM  
Ray Tuskin  
Rita Tuskin  
David White  
Kevin Hunter, OAM  
Dave Bucknell  
Daryl Pinner, OAM  
Frances Pinner  
Craig Burn  
Anita Rynne  
Colin Straughen  
Jimmy Peile  
Colman Moloney  
Mary Ann Moloney  
Mary Hornsby  
Allan Sedgewick  
Peter Axton  
Sharon Westgarth  
John Belfield

Alleyne Walsh  
Bryce Phillips, AO  
Trevor Watts  
Brenda Watts  
Noel McLaughlin, OAM  
Maggie McGeever  
Tyrrell McGeever  
Larry Clark  
Jan Belfield  
Niall Waring  
Nick Collett  
John Mansfield  
Graeme Perkins  
John Baines, RFD  
Diane Baines  
Trudie Pratt  
Vin Brennan  
Dot Brennan  
Jenny Clark  
Andy Clark  
Peter Farrugia  
Peter Coutts, CSM  
Shireen Wold

Iain Reynolds  
Chris Morris  
Lisa Morris  
Godfrey Camenzuli  
Kerri Marshall  
John Hopkins  
Tony Crook  
Sue Hopkins  
David Holloway, OAM  
Karen Holloway  
Graham Wright  
Stan Rydell  
Joy Rydell  
Mike Fogarty, OAM  
Ian Smith  
Graham Douglas  
Benny Lonnborn  
Linda Lonnborn  
Linda Boleche  
Peter Wold  
Rob Toy  
Peter Duncombe  
Glenniss Duncombe

## The Rod Westgarth Memorial Award



*The inaugural Rod Westgarth Memorial Award was presented to our regular bugler Mr John Mansfield by Rod's son-in-law Jimmy Peile at the Cambrai Luncheon. John's support to our activities over many years has finally been recognised.*

Following the tragic passing of Honorary Life Member Rod Westgarth in May, your committee decided; with the blessing of his family, to create a memorial award in Rod's memory. It will be awarded annually at the Cambrai Luncheon to a recipient in recognition of their considerable and selfless contribution to the enhancement of the RAACA – Victorian Branch.



*'The Silence'*

*Dal Crocker, Ted Acutt, Mick O'Brien, Peter Branagan, Colin Straughen.*



*Long serving Immediate Past President Daryl Pinner was congratulated by President Peter Branagan for his 27 years at the helm of the Victorian Branch. His long suffering wife Frances was presented with a wonderful bunch of roses for her enduring efforts in supporting Daryl over the journey.*





*Chris and Lisa Morris with Jimmy Peile and Sharon Westgarth*



*David White with Diane and John Baines*



*Dot and Vin Brennan, Peter Branagan and Alleyne Walsh*



*Trudi Pratt, Diesel Perkins and Graham Douglas*



*Jan Belfield, Mary Hornsby and Alan Sedgwick*



*Iain Reynolds and Kev Hunter*

## Patron's Christmas Message



*Brigadier Ted Acutt (Retd)  
Patron RAACA – Victorian Branch*

Another year down range, where did it go, and we look forward to Christmas once again. I am hoping for a time when I can be super positive about the year, and we can all put our party hats on. This has not been that year. No one has put it better than COL Michael O'Brien, AM (Retd) when he spoke at this year's Cambrai Lunch at the Greensborough RSL (again a success). He gave a very clear picture of the current status of world affairs and how they will impact on Australia. His analysis of the Ukraine and Middle Eastern wars was spot on. His military and UN experience form the basis of insights that few can match. On top of this, the domestic environment has also been challenging. We have seen continued rate rises and inflation remains high. The cost-of-living pressure means that many are doing it tough. Charities are seeing a doubling in demand and the trend doesn't seem to be changing.

It hasn't been a great year for the RAAC either with the Minister for Defence announcing the new role for 1st Armoured Regiment in October this year. The Regiment's move to a Test and Innovation Unit is not in the best interest of providing real capability to Army. This is odd, given that Australia is purchasing Leopard type numbers of the new M1A2 Tank and a full suite of Special Equipment/Engineering variants. It seems a waste. As the CO 1 AR stated in his speech on the Cambrai Day Parade, the unit has always been under pressure and been constantly changing and evolving. I am sure this will not be the last hoop jumping exercise the Corps goes through. Much of this is a result of Army being under pressure as resources are shifted to Navy to pay for the submarines and the recommendations of the Defence Strategic Review that see a shift away from close combat. How about some positives though? I have been fortunate to go field this year on several occasions. I have seen 1AR conduct squadron battle-runs, 2/14 LH QMI on Exercise Desert Strike and 1 DIV exercise on Talisman Sabre under command of MAJGEN Scott Winter (ex CO 1 AR). Morale is strong, accuracy during the live-fire practices has been excellent and all soldiers, NCOs and Officers are keen to improve. They are just like we were. Hopefully Army can retain them.

Now, like many times before, we must hang tough, stick together, support each other and use our collective capabilities to move in the right direction. This is from support to those who continue to serve through to our most vulnerable Association members. This is a period to keep the antenna up and ensure we can provide the help we can. I hope as many of you as possible can get together with your families and enjoy this special season. This is a special time and Australia does it in its own unique way. My thoughts and prayers are with you, and I hope to see you all next Cambrai Day. Merry Christmas.

Ted Acutt



# 2023 Kid's Christmas Party

## Sunday 17 December 2023

### 1030 hrs

We have 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 11 February 2024

### 1400 hrs

**The 78th birthday** of the Victorian Branch will be celebrated at the **Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 11 February 2024** 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 [secretary.raacavic@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.raacavic@gmail.com) or 0428 335 406 to warn in for rations. **RSVP 2 February 2024.**



*Wreath laying in the Shrine Sanctuary*

## We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

B.J. Hatfield, I.C. Smith, J.Franken, D. Caulfield, C. Mooney, T. Acutt, T. Costa, S. O'Brien, G. Douglas, S. Rydel, J. Hopkins,  
A. Spenceley, K. Liffman, P. Manning, B. Cook, K. Marshall, R. Toy, G. McCormack, M. Johnston, C.N. Burn, A Walsh,  
J & A Clark, R. Babarikas, B. Dunn, W. Gillis, M. Fogarty, N. Waring.

## Welcome to the Crew

Mick Leonard

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 18th February 2024

1130 hrs

Greensborough RSL Sub Branch

111 Main Street

GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

## 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  
Webmaster  
Editor - Track  
General Committee  
Honorary Legal Officer

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 treasurer 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 or grandchildren of a financial member.**

**The Victorian Branch Scholarship is currently \$300:00 per year for the first two years of secondary school. The scholarship is named in honour of former long serving members Charles Walsh and Gordon Davidson and is now available to grandchildren of financial members. 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 .....

Contact Phone Number .....

Registered Training Institute or TAFE.....

Name of Financial RAACA Victorian Member .....

Address .....

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**  
**2 Marie Street**  
**NAGAMBIE VIC 3608**

## Show Off Your Association

RAACA Q Store Product List & Order Form



Please contact the Property Member, Andrew Clark, to confirm availability prior to placing order. Ph.: 0431 708 576 Email: [treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer@gmail.com)

Item Description	Item	Size	Colour	Qty	Price Each	Postage	Cost
Chambray Shirt Long Sleeve		XL 2XL 3XL (Please circle)	Indigo Blue With RAACA badge		\$41.50	\$12.40	
Chambray Shirt Short Sleeve		XL 2XL 3XL (Please circle)	Indigo Blue With RAACA badge		40.00	\$12.40	
Polo Shirt Black, Navy or Burgundy with RAACA Badge		XL 2XL 3XL (Please circle)			\$28.00	\$12.40	
Rugby Shirt Black with Black Collar Long Sleeve with RAACA Badge		XL 2XL 3XL (Please circle)			\$52.00	\$16.30	
Polar Fleece Vest Black or Navy with RAACA Badge		2XL 3XL 4XL (Please circle)			\$34.50	\$13.60	
Polar Fleece Jacket Long Sleeve Black or Navy with RAACA Badge		2XL 3XL 4XL (Please circle)			\$40.50	\$16.30	
Cotton Tee Shirt Black		XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL (Please circle)			\$23.00	\$12.40	
RAACA Mouse Pad					\$15.00	\$12.20	
RAACA Pens					\$3.00	\$2.00	
Eldridge Book					\$30.00	Postage Paid	

Item Description	Item	Qty	Price Each	Postage	Cost
RAACA Tie			\$32.00	\$12.40	
RAACA Pocket Badge			\$15.00	\$2.00	
RAACA Wall Plaque			\$50.00	\$12.40	
RAACA Decal (inside)			\$1.50	\$2.00	
RAACA Decal (outside)			\$1.50	\$2.00	
RAACA Lapel Badge			\$12.00	2.00	
RAACA Cap			\$14.00	\$12.40	
RAACA Stubby Holder			\$6.50	\$12.40	
RAACA Brew Mug			\$10.00	Pick Up Only	
RAACA Beret, Black			\$30.00	\$12.40	
Please insert beret size (S, M, L, XL)					
				Total Cost	<input type="text"/>

If ordering more than one product, please contact Andy Clark for a combined postage cost.

**Member Details:**

Name:
Address:
Contact Number:

If paying by cheque, post payment to:

RAACA Treasurer 17 Birchwood Bvd HOPPERS CROSSING Vic 3029

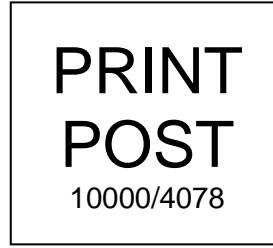
If paying by direct deposit:

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

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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)