



Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)

TRACK

June 2021



AdvanceAustralia

PATRON:	Brig P.A. Acutt (Retd)	
PRESIDENT:	Peter Branagan, OAM	
VICE PRESIDENT:	Werner Golla	
SECRETARY:	David Finlayson	0409 256 765
TREASURER:	Andy Clark	
EDITOR:	Peter Branagan, OAM	0428 576 004

Autumn Picnic a Winner

Sunday 28 March 2021



(Peter Branagan)

As usual at the Autumn Picnic held at the Tank Museum each year, Welfare Officer Rod Westgarth (left) was on bar-b-que duty. He is seen here 'chewing the fat' with member David White. Bending the ear of Kev Hunter in the background is Membership Officer Rob 'Dinky' Toy. Possibly as a result of having to cancel last year; numbers this year were well up on previous picnics. The kid's traditional Easter egg hunt was a highlight and the Easter Bunny found some very novel spots to hide his wares amongst the many AFV exhibits!

.....continued page two

2021 Autumn Picnic



(Peter Branagan)

Enjoying the delights of the picnic were (left to right) William Burn, Dot Brennan, Jenny Clark, Treasurer Andy Clark and Marina Houston.

The following members and guests were in attendance: Peter and Elizabeth Branagan, Meaghan, Glenn and Connor Johnstone with Hunter Purcell. Fiona, Matt, William, Sam and Millie Glenn. Peter Coutts. Andrew and Jenny Clark. Craig, Anita and William Burn. Ian Smith. Rod Westgarth. Vin and Dot Brennan. Bill and Marina Houston. David and Joan Finlayson with Carolyn Knaggs. Ryan and Gemma Accornero. Kev, Matthew and Rowan Hunter. Rob Toy with Peter, Shireen and Harvey Wold with Patrick and Harvey Roberts. Levi, Erin, Shelby and Audrey Thompson. David White and Mike Fogarty.

Mark Your Diary.....

2021 Kid's Christmas Party

Sunday 19 December 2021

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**.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

Nial Waring Richard James

Welcome to the Crew

David Boulton John Ham

The Significance of Cambrai Day and the Royal Tank Corps to the RAAC

20 Nov 1917

As the 104th anniversary of this ground-breaking event is almost upon us; we will revisit, courtesy of Major John Baines RFD (Retd), the RAAC Historian, some brief thoughts on this momentous time in military history.

The Battle of Cambrai is the foundation event on which the heritage of the Royal Tank Corps is built. The RAAC shares this heritage because of our close association with the Royal Tank Corps from the inception of our own tank units in 1930 and the later Australian Armoured Corps (AAC). The black beret, the mud, blood green fields colour patch and silver uniform accoutrements are testament to this relationship first ordained with the presentation of the model silver MK V tank when the Australian Tank Corps became the first Dominion unit to be granted affiliation with the Royal Tank Corps.



Our **Guest Speaker** for this year's **Cambrai Dinner** **Mrs Honor Auchinleck**, granddaughter of **General Sir Harry Chauvel** is pictured here with her husband **Colonel Mark Auchinleck (Retd)** formerly of the **Scots Dragoon Guards**.

Mrs Auchinleck grew up on the family property at **Towong Hill** near **Corryong in NE Victoria**. Apart from operational tours she accompanied her husband on all his postings, learning relevant languages while working in teaching, journalism and archaeological roles. She published a memoir - *Elyne Mitchell: A Daughter Remembers* in 2012 about her mother and completed her doctorate in 2014 at La Trobe University.

As her grandfather's death on March 4, 1945 was before her birth, Mrs Auchinleck said during her childhood he was an enigmatic figure who looked down from George Lambert's portrait that used to hang above the mantelpiece in her grandmother's dining room. Through travels with her husband however, she has been able to trace her grandfather's exploits.

Honor Auchinleck will be the **first woman to provide the annual address at our Cambrai Dinner in the history of the State Branch**. We look forward with great anticipation to her presence in Puckapunyal on **20 November**.

Cambrai Day Commemoration Dinner

Saturday 20 November 2021

1900 for 1930 hrs

**Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal**

Guest of Honour

Mrs Honor Auchinleck

Author and Historian

Granddaughter of General Sir Harry Chauvel, GCMG, KCB

Cost: \$60:00 per head for members

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

Partners are very welcome

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:

Peter Branagan (M) 0428 576 004

Andy Clark (M) 0431 708 576

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 with Miniatures

Ladies after five

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 12 November 2021

Accommodation is available



This outstanding bust of General Sir Harry Chauvel, GCMG, KCB is currently on display in Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

Another Finlayson Scholarship Presented



(Peter Branagan)

(Pictured left to right) Damian Maidment, Service Manager, Icky Smith, Connor Johnstone and Gerard Michel, General Manager – Graham Thompson Motors.

A very proud Grandfather presented the latest Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship recently to his grandson Connor Johnstone. Connor is currently undergoing his first year as an apprentice diesel mechanic at Graham Thompson Motors on New Dookie Rd, Shepparton, Victoria. Connor is the son of very proud Affiliate Members Glen and Meaghan Johnstone.

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. **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 St.
NAGAMBIE VIC 3608

From the Archives.....



(Mike Cecil)

In early April 1998, your Editor along with Craig Burn and Mike Cecil took a trip to Central Western NSW to the property of retired Lt Col Peter Jarratt. The former CO of 1st Armoured Regiment owned a Ferret Scout Car and a Centurion Mk 5/1 in very good condition. It later transpired that the 1st Armoured Regiment Association would offer to purchase the MBT and in February 2010 it was transported from NSW to the Tank Museum in Puckapunyal where it resides to this day in outstanding restored condition.



(Peter Branagan)

Seen here being driven at the Tank Museum by Peter 'Bushy' Coutts in August 2018; more than 20 years after the top picture was taken, the tank's condition is a credit to its crew – John Blackwell, Tubby Brooker, Ian Smith and Peter Coutts.

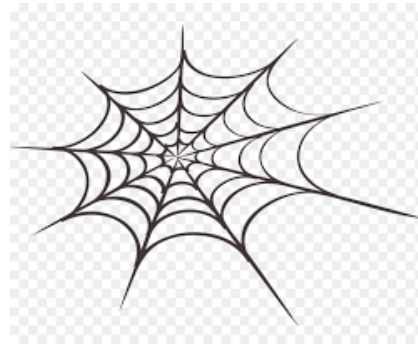


Our website

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.

Show off Your Association: You can still purchase RAACA branded items but we now have details, pricing and photos on the website and the order form can be downloaded from there.

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. If you have a problem using the link above, try this <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 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.**

2021 RESERVE FORCES DAY CEREMONY



SUNDAY 4TH JULY 2021

10:00 hrs

Shrine of Remembrance - Melbourne



To honour and recognise those who have served as members of the Reserve Forces in Australia

Due to the current COVID situation and after consultation with the Shrine Staff the Reserve Force Day Ceremony will be held at the Shrine on the forecourt

Program

1000 hours March on of Members/Associations and Banners

1005 hours Ceremony to include:

Welcome, Guest Speaker, Wreath Laying, ODE, Last Post, Silence

Australian National Anthem

1030 hours Flypast of Vintage Planes from Pt Cook RAAF Museum

1035 hours Ceremony concludes.

Dress: For Males Beret, jacket with medals, trousers or suit, black shoes

For Female a similar or suitable attire is expected

Seating: Seating will be available on forecourt

Light Refreshments: There will be No refreshments after the ceremony.

Wet Weather Plan – Ceremony moved to Shrine Sanctuary.

Live Streaming – The Shrine will be Live Streaming the Ceremony

Link <https://www.facebook.com/shrineofremembrance/>

Further Details : Contact Brian Neal 0409 197 913 or

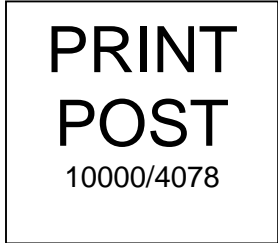
Danny Hill 03 5945 1034





If undeliverable, return to:
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)
61 Gladstone Rd
BRIAR HILL Vic 3088

TRACK



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) 61 Gladstone Rd BRIAR HILL Vic 3088

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Mobile No:

Phone No.: E-mail:

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS (EXCEPT FOR E-MAIL)