



**Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)**
A0023458C

TRACK

June 2023



AdvanceAustralia

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

Picnic in the Park



(Andy Clark)

Stalwarts Glen and Connor Johnstone, Peter Branagan, Craig Burn and Sophie Crosby enjoyed the amenity of the Light Horse Park, Seymour for the first time. The weather Gods smiled upon us on Sunday, 16 April.

The annual Autumn Picnic was conducted in the Australian Light Horse Memorial Park Seymour, due to the unavailability of our usual venue – The Army Tank Museum. Unfortunately we were unable to hold our normal remembrance service for our WWII armoured comrades. The attendance was to say the least disappointing as the early morning showers kept the faint hearts away. However by the time the bangers and track pads were sizzling, the day turned out pretty fine with the Sun breaking through the overcast. The annual Easter Egg hunt was a real hit as the limited number of youngsters enjoyed a huge bounty!

2023 Autumn Picnic



(Andy Clark)

Most of the crew pictured at the Light Horse horse carriage that formerly lived at the Tank Museum.

The horse box arrived at the Tank Museum in 1997 and was the centrepiece of the Light Horse Memorial that was dedicated on 31 October by the Governor General, Sir William Deane, the 80th anniversary of the Charge at Beersheba. It was moved to Light Horse Park in 2021 and hopefully will receive some much needed restoration and overhead protection.



(Andy Clark)

The horse box in situ at Light Horse Park, Seymour. Laying on the grass in the foreground are remnants of a station canopy recovered from the former Spencer Street Station which were proposed to be erected over the horse box in its original location at the Tank Museum. Unfortunately for a variety of reasons, this never occurred, hopefully the new custodians will put that situation right.

The following members and guests were in attendance: Peter Branagan, Glen, Meaghan, Hannah and Connor Johnstone, Alexis and Hunter Purcell with Ruby Cox. Andrew and Jenny Clark. Craig Burn. Ian Smith. Lisa, Shane and Sophie Crosbie. Rob Toy and Linda Boleche.

RAAC Annual Farewell Dinner

The annual dinner traditionally held in conjunction with the RAAC Conference was conducted this year in the Tank Hangar (The Bopper), School of Armour on Saturday 22 April. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the recipient of the 2022 Prince of Wales's Commendation, WO1 Peter Swinfield. The commendation is awarded annually to an individual who has demonstrated honourable service and an exemplary record in the interests of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. Peter Swinfield has certainly filled that bill for many years. Unfortunately due to Covid, he was unable to be present to receive his just recognition. The Head of Corps Brigadier Chris Gardiner, DSM presented a number of service certificates to retiring members including Major Brian Gough 45 years, Major Dave Metrikas 21 years, WO2 Marcus Ludeman 43 years, WO2 Jason Rogelewski-Slade 35 years, Sgt Lindsay Burke 43 years and Broadford's finest - Sgt James Evans, 21 years.



Victorian Branch members Tyrrell and Maggie McGeever were delighted to be at the dinner



Your editor was delighted to catch up with old friend, Brigadier Chris Gardiner, DSM.

As usual the Hangar was lined with a variety of Corps vehicles both past and present.



Hawkei

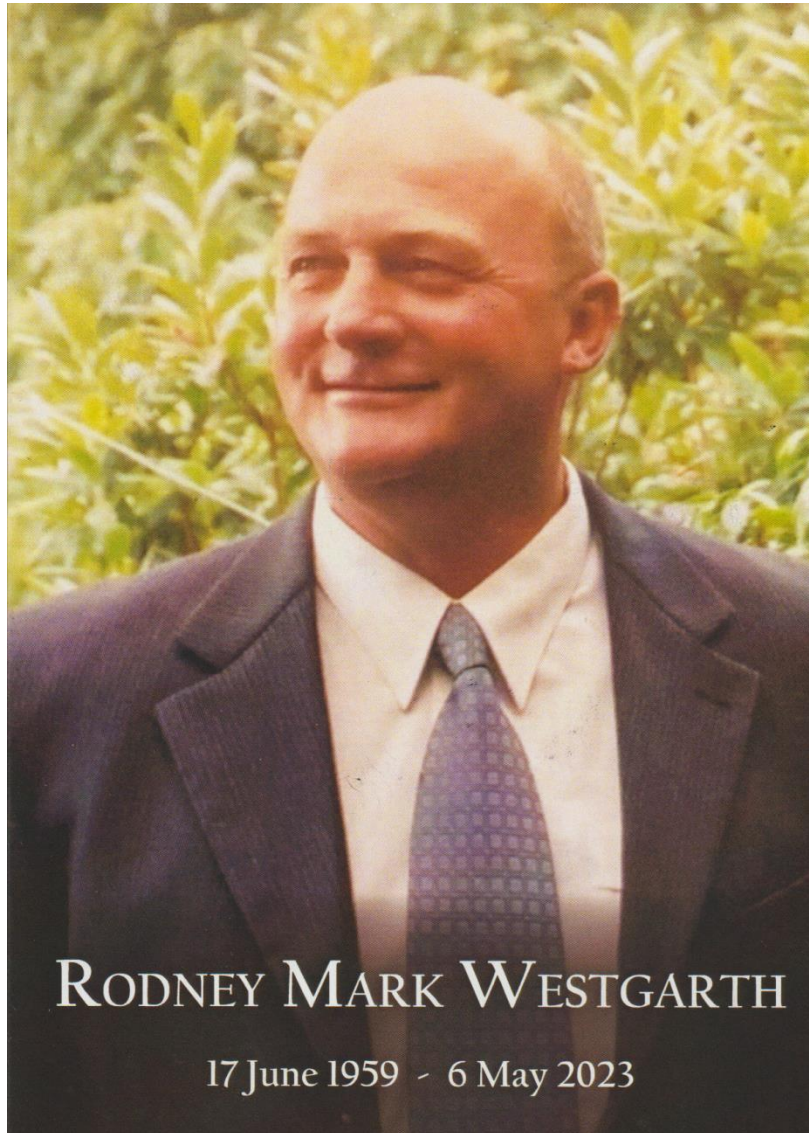


Leopard MBT ARN 27763



Rwanda veteran M113A1 ARN 134348

Vale



When the news came through to me in the USA on 7 May that our esteemed member Rod Westgarth had been cruelly taken from us, I was absolutely shattered. It took some days for this tragic news to sink in.

Rod had joined the association back in the early Nineties following his three years service in the RAAC, mostly in 2nd Cavalry Regiment. He was a carpenter when I first came to know him and he would devote many hours of volunteer work at Puckapunyal in the Army Tank Museum. More than 20 years ago, Rod decided a change of direction was needed in his life so he joined the Victoria Police as a mature age recruit. Given his age and life experiences, Rod brought a very balanced approach to the challenges of being a rural copper. He suffered somewhat from the effects of the Black Saturday bushfires when he was one of the first responders into his patch – the Whittlesea/Kinglake area. I know his cool demeanour and common sense approach took the sting out of many serious and confronting situations.

He had a strong sense of family as was attested by wife Sharon and children Lauren and James at the packed funeral service in the chapel of the Glen Waverly Police Academy on Monday 22 May. May you Rest in Peace now Rod, your duty is well and truly done.



Rod was presented with Honorary Life Membership at the 2012 Cambrai Dinner by guest speaker Major Darren Rosemond.



One of our premier events in any year is the kid's Christmas Party at the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway in Eltham. This was Rod's function; from booking the venue each year with the volunteer management committee (a challenge in itself), to supplying and cooking the bar-b-que, ensuring there were raffle prizes available and generally overseeing the activity, it had Rod's stamp all over it. Of course he had the dedicated support of his wife Sharon and daughter Lauren, who for many years fulfilled the role of Santa's helper.

Mark Your Diary.....

2023 Kid's Christmas Party

Sunday 17 December 2023

1030 hrs

Meadmore Junction has been booked 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

P. Martin, T. Plastow, R. Noonan, J. Franken, M. Annett, CSC

Welcome to the Crew

Timothy Branagan

From the Archives.....



This Leopard MBT ARN 27747 currently holding ground close by the Jerilderie NSW RSL was initially issued to Cpl Richard Leonard 'Sludge' Brown and was nicknamed the 'Jumbo Tank!' Must have been something to do with its ARN!! Three Troop, A Sqn, 1977.

Cambrai Day Commemoration Luncheon

Saturday 18 November 2023

1200 for 1300 hrs

**The ANZAC Room
Greensborough RSL
111 Main St
Greensborough Vic 3088**

Guest of Honour

Colonel Mick O'Brien, AM (Retd)

Former Patron RAACA Vic Branch

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 Axton (M) 0428 335 406

Peter Branagan (M) 0428 576 004

Andy Clark (M) 0431 708 576

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket with full size medals

Ladies after five

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 10 November 2023

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

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.

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.**



If you want to read a back copy of Track, you will find them going back to 2017 on our website along with other stories of interest, reports and administration. If you're not familiar with the site, to make navigation easier, we have divided the information into pages under the titles:

- Home Page: Here you will find things like the purpose of the association and important matters.
- Activities: This page has tabs to our upcoming event information and reports on previous ones.
- Announcements; This is where we post major events.
- Administration: This page has links to things like committee and scholarship information.
- Gallery: This page has photos from members and photo collections that have been shared with us.
- Membership: This page explains the criteria and has a link to the Membership Application.
- Contacts: The Contacts Page lists contact, and banking details and also has provision for others to contact us.
- Q Store: The Q Store page has information and photos of branded items available. Note: we are currently updating our product list.
- External Links: which is further broken down to pages covering: Places of Interest, Member Association, and For your Information.
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Now you know what's there, go ahead and take a look for yourself. If you're reading this online, click on this link which should take you there

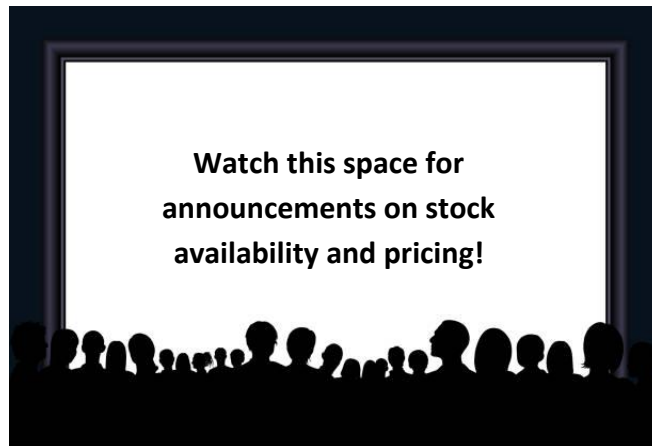
[Link to the RAACA \(Vic\) Website](https://raacavic.weebly.com/)

If you have a problem using the link above, try this <https://raacavic.weebly.com/>

RAACA (Victorian Branch) Q Store



It has been several years since the stock levels in the Q Store were replenished. As announced at the AGM, the Treasurer is currently working on restocking and adding a range of new products to our range. With the number of years since the last purchase of stock, the cost of any new stock is likely to be considerably more.



2023 RESERVE FORCES DAY CEREMONY



SUNDAY 2 ND JULY 2023
10:00 hrs

Shrine of Remembrance - Melbourne



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

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, Australian National Anthem

100 0 hours Flypast from Pt Cook RAAF

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

For the full details on Reserve Forces Day Parade, go to the RAACA (Vic) website

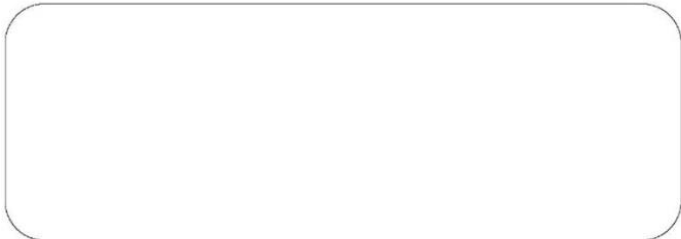


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Change of address

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)