



# TRACK

March 2020



Advance Australia

Royal Australian Armoured  
Corps Association Inc.  
(Victorian Branch)

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

## Latest Hinton Scholarship Presented



(Anita Rynne)

At the Kid's Christmas Party on 15 December at Eltham, senior trustee **Peter Branagan** in concert with trustees **Ian Smith** and **Rod Westgarth**, had the pleasure of **presenting the latest Hinton Scholarship** to young **William Craig Burn**. William is continuing his secondary schooling in Year 11 in 2020 at Assumption College, Kilmore.

## 2019 Kid's Christmas Party

A fine, sunny day greeted 100 members, friends and families at the 2019 Christmas Party on **Sunday 15 December**. Attendance was up this year with some first timers appearing. **Santa arrived on time at 1300 hrs on a beautifully presented Tait Car** and our two dedicated trains were fully subscribed. **Ed Plastow was in good form again selling the raffle tickets. Sincere thanks to the prize donors, particularly Lindsay Christensen for their continuing generosity.**

Many thanks to **Rod and Sharon Westgarth** for their unflagging efforts to ensure this activity is a premier event on our calendar. The rumour proved correct – long term Santa's helper **Lauren Westgarth** with brand new baby **Tex Leo Peile** did make a welcome re-appearance and doled out pressies with **Hannah Johnstone**.



*Production Director Meaghan Johnstone (right) lays down the ground rules prior to present distribution!*

### **The following members and guests registered their attendance:**

Peter and Elizabeth Branagan, Chris and Simone Branagan, Tim, Kim, Ethan, Keira and Olivia Branagan. Bev Powell. Ian Smith. Glen, Meaghan, Hannah and Connor Johnstone with Alexis and Hunter Purcell. Matthew, Fiona, Samuel, William and Amelia Glenn. Shane, Lisa and Jared Crosbie with Keely Gray. Trevor Watts. Craig, Anita and William Burn. Andy, Jenny, Charlie and Audrey Clark. Adam, Sally, Angus and Oliver Friend. Ted, Val and Zoe Plastow with Adam Lasky. Joy and Stan Rydell. Susan, Corey and Ryder Ogston. Andrea, Heath and Ruby Clancy. Ricky, Jaime, Caryss, Jack and Harry Farrell. David and Joan Finlayson with Caroline Knaggs. Sharon and Rod Westgarth. Jimmy Peile, Lauren Westgarth and Tex Leo Peile. Simon Peile. Adam, Sally, Gemma and Ava Westgarth. Godfrey Camenzuli, Kerri Marshall, Michelle Cartlidge, Maddison Lister and Ella Mannix. Jeff, Nicole, Ayla, Ryder and Indigo Coxford. Mark, Andrea, Millie and Rhys Foley. Sandy, Ange and Evie Gittens. Ren and Maree Proietto. Glen and Tricia Dean. Lisa and Chris Morris. Kate, Stazi, Sam and Andrew Innocenti. Santa Claus, Rod, Beverley, Ashley, Taylor and Hayden 'Trooper' Jones.

**Meadmore Junction** has been booked already for **Sunday, 13 December 2020**. Get it into your diary!

# Annual General Meeting 2020

The AGM was conducted at our current home – **the Preston/Darebin RSL** on **Monday 24 February 2020**. Incumbent **President Peter Branagan** was re-elected unopposed as were **Secretary Peter Axton** and **Treasurer Andy Clark**. The President will also continue in the role of **Track Editor**.

**Rod Westgarth** will continue in the important role of **Family Liaison Officer**. **Rob Toy** has put his hand up again as **Membership Officer** whilst **Trevor Watts, Icky Smith, Diesel Perkins, David Finlayson** and **Pat O’Hanlon** continue to serve on the general committee. A warm welcome to **Werner Golla** who successfully nominated for the vacant Vice President’s position and **Tyrrell McGeever** has joined the general committee. Attendance exceeded all expectations and was great to see.

## PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2019

Monday, 25 February witnessed a ‘steady as she goes’ situation for the Victorian Branch. At the AGM, Peter Branagan was re-elected unopposed as President, as was Peter Axton in the Secretary role. Andy Clark stepped up and took over as Treasurer whilst Rob Toy continued as Membership Officer. Pat O’Hanlon, Ian Smith, David Finlayson, Diesel Perkins, Trevor Watts and Rod Westgarth were also re-elected unopposed. IPP Daryl Pinner, OAM has stayed with property whilst Lew Postlethwaite has retired from the Webmaster role. Rounding out the team are Patron – Brigadier Ted Acutt, Auditor – Roy Arnott, OAM and Honorary Legal Officer Colman Moloney.

The newly introduced category of membership - *Affiliate Member* has proven a popular decision. So far 13 dependants have availed themselves of this new facility.

On the social front it has been a mixed bag with activities such as the 2019 Cambrai Dinner, the Kid’s Xmas Party, the Autumn Picnic and the annual association birthday well supported whilst the AGM and Reserve Forces Day languished somewhat.

On Sunday 15 December, the Brigadier F.B. Hinton, MC Scholarship Fund Trustees: Rod Westgarth, Ian Smith and Peter Branagan met and agreed to award a Hinton Scholarship to young William Craig Burn.

Our membership numbers have remained steady, around the 195 mark. Rod Westgarth organized 22 Christmas hampers to be delivered to worthy recipients in early December and half a dozen gift vouchers were posted out to far flung members..

**The following members registered their attendance:** Ted Acutt, Peter Axton, Peter Branagan OAM, Icky Smith, Andrew and Jenny Clark, David Finlayson, Rob Toy, Peter Coutts CSM, Tyrrell and Maggie McGeever, John Baker, Werner Golla, Colman Moloney, Roy Arnott OAM, Tony Peart, Godfrey Camenzuli and Kerri Marshall, Lindsay Burke, Bob Neate, Bob Burke, Ian Murphy, Basil Tiligadis, Stan Rydell, Jim DeFrancesco, Trevor Watts, Pat O’Hanlon, Fred Coucher, Graham Wright, Diesel Perkins, Greg Sheppard, Ray Babarikas and Rod Jones.

**The following apologies were received:** Mick O’Brien AM, John Baines RFD, Andy Zsolt, John Langbehn, Ted Plastow, Chris Morris, Joyce Watts, Gary Piper, Craig Burn, Michelle Carson, David Holloway OAM, Lorraine Toy, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Vin Brennan, Tim Costa, Terry Cuthbert, Stephen Bird, Niall Waring, Mike Fogarty, Rod Westgarth, John Hopkins, Iain Reynolds and Peter Swinfield.

# Secretary's Report

Members,

Another year over and the Association is now heading for its 75th birthday, a significant milestone for any group. Even with the changes we have made during the past few years, we have still continued to forge ahead in 2019 and we hope we are still meeting the needs of our members.

Some of our achievements from 2019 include:

- **Our numbers have held fairly steady:** It's a sad thing that, with the age of many of our friends from the Corps, we have seen the passing of quite a few over the past year; however, the recruitment of new members has seen us close 2019 with our numbers steady at 198, one down on 2018. This has come about through additional Affiliate members with our total then 11, as well as some new Ordinary members. Thanks to the work of David Finlayson, this includes some instructors currently posted here from the USA.
- **The expansion of our database of e-mail addresses:** We now have confirmed e-mail addresses for 140 members, up from around 40 in 2017, making it quicker and easier to keep in touch and to pass on information.
- **The construction of a new website for RAACA (Vic):** This is allowing us to make information about the Association available to members 24/7/365. This includes our newsletter Track, banking information, forms and other administrative things as well as upcoming activities and post activity reports. There are also photos and links to other sites and to useful information.
- **Attendance at activities has generally remained steady:** In addition to our annual activities, Ian Smith arranged an extra one with a visit to the Internment Camps around Murchison in October conducted by Tim Whitford, an outing which greatly impressed all those who attended.
- **Our Family Liaison Officer is keeping in touch:** Through his work, Rod Westgarth is ensuring that we look after the welfare of our members through activities and at times, offering support. His fundraising work and the generosity of members has allowed him to not only keep many social activities free so everyone can attend, but has also expanded the Christmas Hamper programme, a gesture that, by the feedback we have received, is something very much appreciated by those who have received a parcel or gift card.

We would like to thank the Darebin RSL for their support and for providing rooms and assistance for our meetings through 2019 and look forward to their continued backing in 2020. Also, to thank our Patron Brig Ted Acutt (Retd) for his support, the School of Armour regarding Cambrai Day and to Coleman Moloney, our Honorary Legal Officer and of course Honorary Auditor Roy Arnott, OAM.

In closing I thank Peter Branagan for his encouragement and assistance during this past year and to all the committee for their efforts.

Thank you all for your support in 2019 and we look forward to another great year ahead.

Peter Axton

# Treasurer's Report

Members,

Before I tender this document my first as Treasurer to the Annual General Meeting, I would like to acknowledge and thank the previous Treasurer Mr. Peter Axton, for his work as Treasurer over the previous year and for his guidance and assistance in making the handover as seamless as possible.

The following information is to explain a couple of the more significant points from the accounts:

- The reorganisation of bank accounts has worked well, especially since so many members are now making payments electronically. Part of the banking changes involved a change in investment strategy meaning an increase in bank interest received. It can be seen from the figures shown in the accounts that this increase is roughly equal to the membership subscriptions of around 34 extra members.
- Changes to the way we handle membership subscriptions has made it easier to track financial status which has contributed to being able to complete the year with all members on the Register being financial, a situation we believe has not occurred for some time.
- Although still well patronised, the Cambrai Dinner once again ran at a loss, but it was the intention of the committee that the attendance cost was maintained at a level that made the event available to all members who wish to attend.
- A likely increase in our administration costs in the coming year will be the printing cost for Track. Unfortunately access to free printing through the system is no longer available so we will have to pay for printing in the foreseeable future.
- The reorganisation of the accounts in 2018 highlighted the difficulty in tracking income and expenditure of donations intended for welfare. Steps were taken to overcome this and are now reflected in the accounts where the Welfare Income is equal to the Welfare Expenditure, the difference having been transferred to a Welfare Fund where it is available in future years.
- On the subject of Welfare, the generosity of some of our members allows our Family Liaison Officer to continue the program of helping members and lifting spirits through the Easter and Christmas picnics and the Christmas hampers and vouchers.

Andrew Clark

Treasurer

## From the Archives



*Inaugural Finlayson Scholarship presentation to Nicholas Watts 6 June 2010*

# Birthday Celebrations at the Shrine

## Sunday 9 February 2020

Another **glorious summer's day** in Melbourne greeted a pleasing roll up of members and guests at the **Shrine of Remembrance** to celebrate the **74th anniversary** of the formation of the **Victorian Branch**.

Following introductions from **IPP Daryl Pinner, OAM** and **Shrine Life Governor Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) David Ford, CVO, AM, GM**, the **Armoured Corps Prayer** was recited along with the **Ode to the Fallen** and a wreath was laid by **President Peter Branagan, OAM**. Retired Musician **John Mansfield** graced us again with his presence and the Sanctuary reverberated with his outstanding renditions of the **Last Post** and **Rouse**.



*(Elizabeth Branagan)*

*Providing his usual outstanding support was Musician John Mansfield flanked here by Secretary Peter Axton and President Peter Branagan. Graham Wright is pictured left rear.*

**The usual suspects included:** Daryl Pinner OAM, Peter and Robyn Axton, Vin and Dorothy Brennan, Alleyne Walsh, Peter and Elizabeth Branagan, Werner Golla, Lindsay Burke, Alan Sedgewick and Mary Hornsby, Greg and Philomena Sheppard, Rob Toy, Peter Wold, Roy Arnott OAM, John and Sue Hopkins, Mike Fogarty, Graeme Perkins, Fred Coucher, Graham Wright, John Baker, Graham Douglas, Tony Peart and Judith Bouchier, David Finlayson, Godfrey Camenzuli and Kerri Marshall, Jimmy De Francesco and Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) David Ford, CVO, AM, GM.

**The following apologies were received:** Bryce Phillips AO, John Snelling, Andy Clark, Neil Pitt, Gary Piper, Terry Cuthbert, David Holloway OAM, Stan Rydell, Joyce Watts, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Basil Tiligadis, Bob Burke, Bob Neate, Will and Bill Anderson.



*President Peter Branagan laid the Association wreath; watching on are Alan Sedgewick, Rob Toy, Fred Coucher, Graham Wright, Graeme Perkins, John Baker and Greg and Philomena Sheppard.*



*IPP Daryl Pinner fulfilled his usual role as Master of Ceremonies.*

## Mark Your Diary.....

### 2020 Autumn Picnic Sunday 29 March 2020 1030 hrs

This popular event will be held again at the **Australian Army Tank Museum Puckapunyal** on **Sunday 29 March 2020**. Bring the kids (from eight to eighty) along for a great day. Bar-b-que facilities are available and Rod Westgarth will be applying his well honed cooking skills to bangers and track pads. Soft drinks for kids will also be provided.

### 2020 Kid's Christmas Party Sunday 13 December 2020 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**.

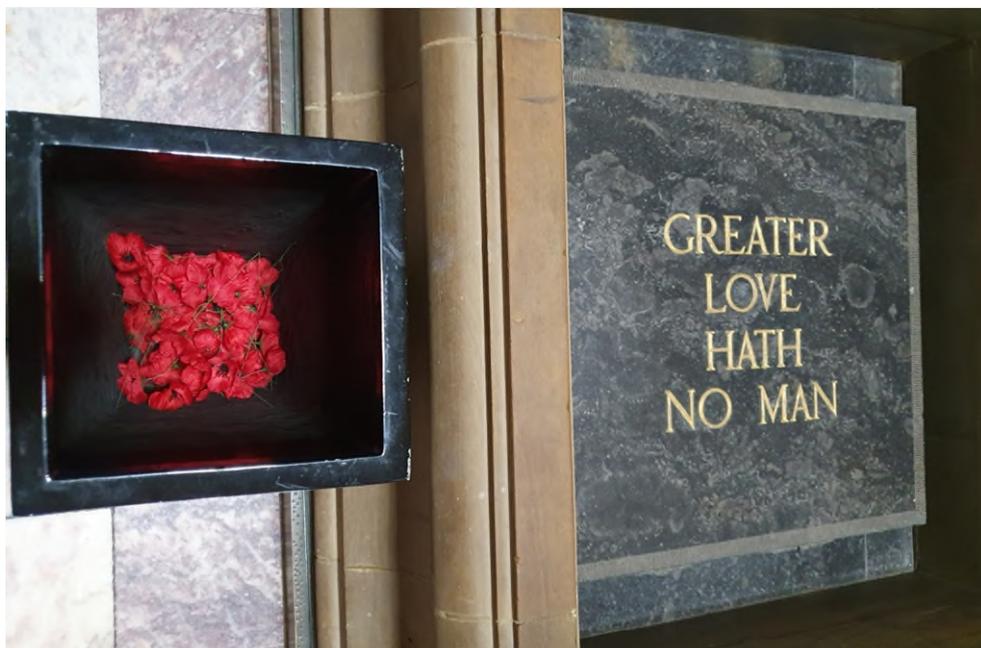
## We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

Bob Neate, Pat O'Hanlon, Meaghan and Glen Johnstone

## Welcome to the Crew

Kerri Marshall Alleyne Walsh Mick Butler (rejoined) Richard Farrell

Iain Reynolds Levi Thompson Jenny Clark Derick Kolenda



# 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**

# **Cambrai Day Commemoration Dinner**

**Saturday 21 November 2020**

**1900 for 1930 hrs**

**Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess**

**Puckapunyal**

**Guest of Honour**

**TBA**

**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

Peter Axton (M) 0428 335 406

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 13 November 2020

**Accommodation is available**



## Our new website

[www.raacavic.weebly.com](http://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.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION INC. (VICTORIAN BRANCH)

Home Activities Announcements Administration Gallery Membership Contacts Store more...

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 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.**



## 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	

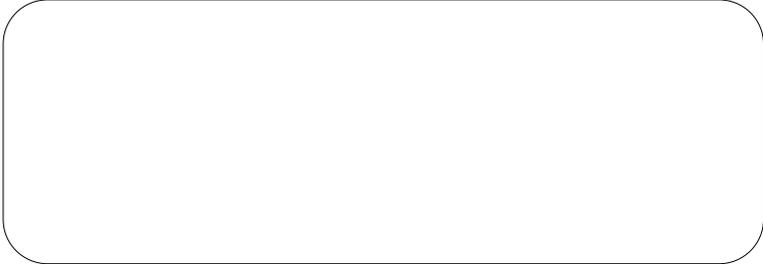
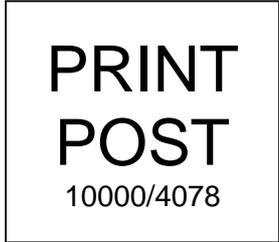
Refer to the website (<https://raacavic.weebly.com/>) for photos of these items

<b>Member Details:</b>		<b>Total Cost</b>	\$
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

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) 1 Ambleside Link DOREEN Vic 3754**

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Mobile No: .....

Phone No.: ..... E-mail: .....

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS (EXCEPT FOR E-MAIL)