



Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)

TRACK

March 2022



Advance Australia

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

Kid's Christmas Party Re-railed at Eltham



(Elizabeth Branagan)

Although the weather was threatening in the morning which kept a few faint hearts away, Santa returned in triumph to **Meadmore Junction** on **Sunday, 19 December**. Arriving in an impeccably presented Tait swing door set, the jolly old gentleman was warmly received by kids of all ages. The **Diamond Valley Miniature Railway** are to be congratulated for their assistance on the day with Covid restrictions still very much in evidence, it is a great blessing to be able to occupy our own exclusive area in their extensive layout.

As the result of an enquiry from **Lisa Morris** on the locations we have utilised over the past 44 years; following some research, I have detailed those venues on page two. It makes for interesting reading and confirms the fact that the **Lower Eltham Train Park** is the premier location for this activity.



(Elizabeth Branagan)

Santa arrived at Meadmore Junction on time and was warmly greeted by some of the kids who had been 'patiently' awaiting his arrival. He was directed to the toy cave by Mrs Simone Branagan. A light drizzle was falling, but didn't dampen any spirits!

The following members and guests registered their attendance:

Peter and Elizabeth Branagan. Rod, Sharon, Adam, Sally, Gemma and Ava Westgarth. Stan and Joy Rydel. Brett, Andrea, Heath and Ruby Clancy. Adam, Sally, Angus and Oliver Friend. Chris, Simone and Chantelle Branagan. Kaz Mesti and Maison. Tim, Kim, Ethan, Keira and Olivia Branagan. Andrew, Jenny, Charlie and Audrey Clark. Ian Smith. Meaghan, Hannah and Connor Johnstone. Alexis and Hunter Purcell. Lisa and Sophie Crosby. Fiona, Matt, Sam, Will and Milly Glenn. Val, Ted and Zoe Plastow. Heather Rydel, Isobel and Charlotte. Sue Rydel, Corey and Ryder Ogston. Craig, Anita and William Burn with Naeve Kennedy. Rod, Bev, Ashley, Taylor and Hayden (Trooper) Jones. Rob Toy. Chris, Lisa, James and Emma Morris. Carol, Ren, and Maree Proietto. Andrea, Mark, Rhys and Amelia Foley. Angela, Sandy, Evie and Alyssa Gittens. Nicole, Jeff, Ryder, Ayla and Indigo Coxford. Kate, Sam and Stazi Innocenti. Andrew Lewthwaite and Mikayla Beament. Joan and David Finlayson with Carolyn Knaggs.

Once again **Rod and Sharon Westgarth** put on an outstanding day for all. Thanks also to **Andy and Jenny Clark** and to **Lindsay Christensen** and **David Finlayson** for the provision of raffle prizes and giveaways.

A short history of the RAACA Children's Christmas Party:

1977 – 1981	Greenvale Reservoir
1982 – 1985	Donnybrook Mineral Springs
1986 – 1987	Brimbank Park Keilor
1988	Elgar Park Reserve Box Hill
1989 – 1991	Lower Eltham Train Park
1992	Tramway Museum Bylands via Kilmore
1993 – 1996	Tullamarine Miniature Railway
1997 – 2021	Lower Eltham Train Park

NB. Members will remember, 2020 was cancelled due to Covid 19.

Annual General Meeting 2022

The AGM was conducted at our new home – **the Greensborough RSL** on Sunday **20 February 2022**. Incumbent **President Peter Branagan** was re-elected unopposed as was **Treasurer Andy Clark** who has also picked up the property portfolio. Former Secretary **Peter Axton** was re-elected into the role following a one year hiatus to care for his wife Robyn. **David Finlayson** served as the interim Secretary for 2021 and we thank him for his efforts. **Werner Golla** did not re-nominate for the **Vice President's** position; 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, Bill Houston** and **Pat O'Hanlon** continue to serve on the general committee. After two years on the committee, **Tyrrell McGeever** did not seek re-election.

President's Report 2021

Monday, 22 February witnessed a big change with the resignation of incumbent Secretary Peter Axton due to family reasons. At the AGM, Peter Branagan was re-elected unopposed as President, with David Finlayson taking over the Secretary role. Andy Clark continued as Treasurer whilst Rob Toy fronted again as Membership Officer. Werner Golla successfully re-nominated for Vice President whilst Pat O'Hanlon, Ian Smith, Diesel Perkins, Trevor Watts, Rod Westgarth and Tyrrell McGeever were also re-elected unopposed. We welcomed retired Lt Col Bill Houston on to the committee. IPP Daryl Pinner, OAM has stayed with property; rounding out the team are Patron – Brigadier Ted Acutt, Auditor – Roy Arnott, OAM and Honorary Legal Officer Colman Moloney. On the morning of the AGM, Peter Axton was invested with a well-deserved Honorary Life Membership at his home in Doreen.

The year started off very well with the annual association birthday at the Shrine and the AGM being well supported. We also managed to conduct our Autumn Picnic on Sunday 28 March at the Army Tank Museum. We moved the Cambrai Dinner from its traditional home at Pucka to the Greensborough RSL and made it a luncheon. This proved to be a sound move as the Luncheon was a resounding success with the Guest Speaker – Mrs. Honor Auchinleck roundly applauded for her presentation. This move was brought about by increasing difficulties in running the dinner on a military base and also a thought for our ageing membership to give them a better opportunity to attend the function. After many years at Darebin RSL the committee decided to move our flag to Greensborough where we believe the facilities suit our operation better. The opportunity to display our two honour boards is also on the cards.

The Kid's Christmas Party was also a great success despite threatening skies keeping some faint hearts away. The online raffle was conducted again and was also very profitable enabling us to keep up our high level of support to members. Congratulations to David Finlayson and Rod Westgarth for its success. Lindsay Christensen was at the forefront again with the donation of many of his brilliant productions for the prize pool.

Unfortunately, David Finlayson had to resign his position of Secretary due to family reasons. We also lost some members passing on including Paddy Devine, Lew Postlethwaite, John Burke and Ian Laurie. Our sincere condolences are extended to their families. Our membership numbers have remained steady, around the 202 mark.

We presented three Arch Finlayson Memorial Apprenticeship Scholarships through the year.

The following members registered their attendance: Ted Acutt, Peter Axton, Peter Branagan OAM, Icky Smith, Mick O'Brien AM, Andrew and Jenny Clark, Rod Westgarth, Rob Toy, Peter Coutts CSM, Tyrrell and Maggie McGeever, Alleyne Walsh, Mark Montague, Mike Fogarty, Colman Moloney, Stan Rydell, John Hopkins, Gary Piper, Diesel Perkins, Graham Wright, Fred Coucher, Greg Sheppard, Benny Lonnborn, Trevor Watts and Karl Liffman.

The following apologies were received: Vin and Dot Brennan, John Baines RFD, Werner Golla, John Paterson, Colin Carrington, Stephen Bird, Bill Houston, Bernie Richards CSC, Gabby Cooke, Michelle Carson, David Finlayson, Daryl Pinner OAM, Bob Burke, Neil Pitt, Ted Plastow, Niall Waring, Ron Gillis, Doug Caulfield OAM, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Lindsay Christensen, Don Rodwell, Jim De Francesco, Alan Sedgewick, Godfrey Camenzuli and Chris Morris.

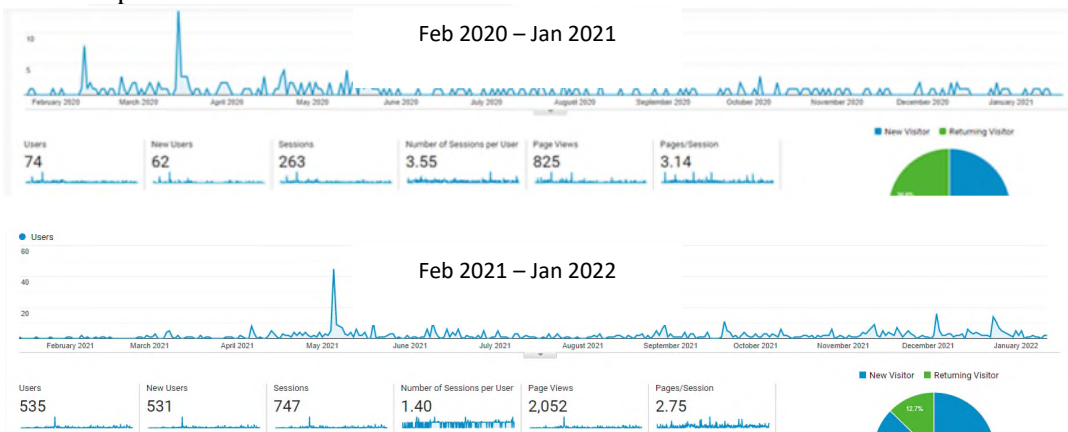
Secretary's Report

Members,

Every time you look at the TV or read the paper, our daily news seems to be presenting nothing but doom and gloom and if you believe everything they say, it would be easy to only look at the problems we've had over 2021, but if most have had it as bad as they say, then RAACA (Vic) has done fairly well. The committee managed to keep things ticking over and, although ANZAC Day wasn't quite the usual event, during the occasional relaxation of restrictions, we managed to fit in a few activities like the Birthday Commemoration Service, the AGM, and the March/Easter picnic. Changes were needed to conduct them safely but a small price to pay under the circumstances.

By November things were starting to return to something more familiar so we were able to hold our main event of the year, the Cambrai Dinner. Even though it was a luncheon and not held in Pucka, it was an outstanding success and for some, an improvement. After all we are getting older and going out during the day and to somewhere closer to home has some appeal. Although the numbers were down, we also managed to finish out the year with the Christmas picnic. Some of our achievements from 2021 include:

- **Our numbers have remained fairly steady:** It's not unexpected that we saw another year with some of the old and bold passing on, but unfortunately getting together to recognise their passing was often difficult. Still, our numbers have held fairly well due to the recruitment of new members due largely to the work of David Finlayson, always on the lookout. It appears, some have also managed to find us through the website. This meant we ended the year with 200 members, 3 less than 2020.
- **The website for RAACA (Vic):** Interest in the website is growing as members find they can keep up with what's happening. The graphs below show the activity from Feb to Jan with the top graph being 2 years ago and the lower one for last year. The numbers on the left scale are hard to read but those below the graph might give some idea how interest is growing. The addition of a group of photos donated by Tom Fogarty which we've called 'The Fogarty Collection' is now available and well worth logging on to view equipment and events from the early days of the Corps.



- **Our Family Liaison Officer has been keeping in touch:** Another year of lockdowns and restrictions had Rod Westgarth working overtime keeping in touch with members and spreading cheer through phone calls, visits and gift cards which was more appropriate than hampers with the current restrictions.

On behalf of the members, we would like to thank our Patron, Brig Ted Acutt (Retd) for his support, and to Colman Moloney, our Honorary Legal Officer. I personally thank David Finlayson for keeping the administration functioning during my absence. Thank you to all the Association members and in particular to my fellow committee members for your support in 2021 and I hope we have another great year ahead.

Peter Axton

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Good afternoon Members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As Treasurer I tender this document to the Membership and the Annual General Meeting. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Secretary Mr. Peter AXTON, for inspecting the accounts and providing his report.

Attached to assist with this report are:

The Profit and Loss Statement 2021 – a statement of the income and expenditure of the Association 01 January to 31 December 2021 and The Balance Sheet 2021 – a statement of the assets, liabilities and capital of the Association 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

From an accounts point of view, RAACA Inc (Victorian Branch) had another good year in 2021 with a profit of \$1,891.94. This is set out in the financial statements but to help you understand them, some significant things from the accounts this year are:

- Although our fundraising showed a profit \$1,867.00 after costs, we have not shown it as Fundraiser Income but transferred that to the Welfare Income account where the difference of \$280.00 more income than expenditure was then transferred to the Welfare Equity account making it available for use in future years.
- After MANY years of use, the treasurer's computer was finally retired. The most daunting concern was that it meant the need to upgrade the accounting software to the latest version. Anyone who has had to leap forward several years in that area will know the trepidation that goes with it however, the concerns were unfounded and, for our use at least, the changes have only been minor. There will now be annual licensing costs involved so you will see a new account ready to show that next year.
- We have tried to tie all costs to their source to better reflect the running costs. For instance, printing and postage of Cambrai tickets have been allocated to the costs of the event, rather than be absorbed into the administration costs of the association.
- Where unfinancial members have been removed from the Register, this year we have taken the usual business approach and treated the unpaid Subs as Bad Debts.

Although 2021 was another year where activities were curtailed due to the pandemic, Rod Westgarth and the Welfare Subcommittee managed to keep in touch with many of the members and kept their spirits up. The tough times meant there was more need to help during the year and with the restrictions, delivering the usual Christmas Hampers would have been difficult so gift cards were used to spread the cheer. This is reflected in the accounts with a substantial increase (\$748.00) in welfare expenditure, but due to the hard work of Rod WESTGARTH and David FINLAYSON and a grant from RAAC Corporation and the generosity of members, we were still able to show a profit of \$280.00.



Andrew R. CLARK

Andrew R. CLARK

Treasurer RAACA Inc. Victorian Branch

Mark Your Diary.....

2022 Autumn Picnic
Sunday 27 March 2022
1030 hrs

This popular event will be held again at the **Australian Army Tank Museum Puckapunyal** on **Sunday 27 March 2022**. 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 and the annual Easter Egg hunt will be conducted.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

Rex Warren, Mark and Honor Auchinleck, Elizabeth Branagan, Brian Cook, Stephen Bird, Pat O'Hanlon, Paul Howarth, Gerry McCormack and Noel McLaughlin, OAM.

76th Birthday Celebrations at the Shrine
Sunday 6 February 2022

Another **glorious summer's day** in Melbourne greeted an excellent roll up of members and guests at the **Shrine of Remembrance** to celebrate the **76th anniversary** of the formation of the **Victorian Branch**.

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



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

The more than usual suspects included: Daryl Pinner, OAM and wife Frances, Peter Branagan OAM, Vin and Dot Brennan, Alleyne Walsh, John Mansfield, Werner Golla, Rob Toy and Linda Boleche, Peter Wold, Mike Fogarty, Fred Coucher, Tony Peart, Bryce Phillips AO, Karl Liffman, Mark Montague, John Hopkins, Stan Rydel, John and Margaret Kinton, Diesel Perkins, Benny Lonnborn, Peter Farrugia, Lt Col Adrian Lombardo (Retd). Mick and Donna O'Brien, Craig Burn and Anita Rynne, Andy and Jenny Clark and Peter Axton.

The following apologies were received: Patron Ted Acutt, Elizabeth Branagan, Niall Waring, Greg Sheppard, Colin Carrington, Tyrrell and Maggie McGeever, Mike Charenko, Noel McLaughlin OAM, John Paterson, John Snelling, Godfrey Camenzuli and John Baines RFD.



(Anita Rynne)

Old comrades Craig Burn and Mick O'Brien caught up after the service



(Anita Rynne)

Benny Lonnborn, Mike Fogarty and Mark Montague met up in the Western Annex



(Anita Rynne)

Stan Rydel and Fred Coucher enjoyed afternoon tea in the Western Annex



(Anita Rynne)

President Peter Branagan and former Patron Mick O'Brien jointly laid the wreath on the Cenotaph.

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 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 Inc – Victorian Branch
2 Marie St.
NAGAMBIE VIC 3608

Cambrai Day Commemoration Luncheon

Sunday 20 November 2022

Greensborough RSL

111 Main Rd

Greensborough

1200 for 1300 hrs

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 Axton (M) 0428 335 406

Peter Branagan (M) 0428 576 004

Andy Clark (M) 0431 708 576

For the latest updates, log on to www.raacavic.weebly.com

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket with Miniatures

Ladies after five

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 11 November 2022



Show Off Your Association

RAACA Q Store Order Form

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

	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:
 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"

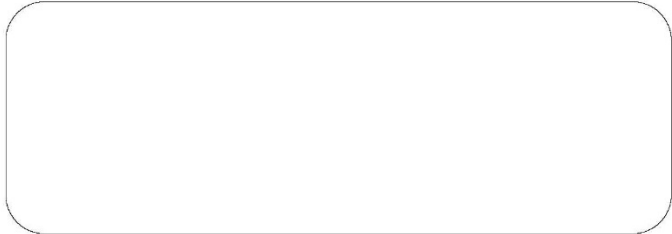


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 1 Ambleside Link
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Change of address

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)