



Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)

TRACK

March 2023



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

School of Armour Birthday



(Peter Branagan)

On the occasion of the School of Armour's 82nd birthday, the CO/CI Lt Col Ben Shepherd, CSC cut the cake with the youngest soldier Tpr Cassidy on Friday, 24th February 2023.

2022 Kid's Christmas Party 18 December



(Simone Branagan)

Santa arrived at Meadmore Junction on time and was warmly greeted by one of his many fans, Mrs Elizabeth Branagan!

The following members and guests registered their attendance:

Peter and Elizabeth Branagan. Rod, Sharon, Adam, Sally, Gemma and Ava Westgarth. Lauren, Jimmy, Tex and Lilli Peile. Chris, Simone and Chantelle Branagan. Tim, Kim, Ethan, Keira and Olivia Branagan. Godfrey Camenzuli, Kerry Marshall and Ella Mannix. Andrew, Jenny, Charlie and Audrey Clark. Ian Smith. Meaghan, Glen, Hannah and Connor Johnstone, Alexis and Hunter Purcell. Lisa and Sophie Crosby with Riley Gaylord. Fiona, Matt, Sam, Will and Amelia Glenn. Craig Burn and Anita Rynne. Rod, Bev, Ashley, Wendy, Taylor, Hayden (Trooper) and Gemma Jones. Chris and Lisa Morris. Carol, Ren, and Maree Proietto. Nicole, Jeff, Ryder, Ayla and Indigo Cxford. Kate, Sam and Starzi Innocenti. Glen and Tricia Dean.

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 – 2022 Lower Eltham Train Park

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

Annual General Meeting 2023

The AGM was conducted at our new home – **the Greensborough RSL** on Sunday **19 February 2023**. Incumbent **President Peter Branagan** was re-elected unopposed as was **Treasurer Andy Clark** and **Secretary Peter Axton**. 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** and **Pat O’Hanlon** continue to serve on the general committee. Welcome to **Benny Lonnborn** who has also joined the committee. After two years on the committee, **Bill Houston** did not seek re-election. **Patron Ted Acutt** and **Honorary Legal Officer Colman Moloney** have also signed on for another year. The attendance was extremely disappointing and **without the proxy votes, the meeting would have lapsed**.

President’s Report 2022

On **Sunday 20 February** at the AGM, Peter Branagan was re-elected unopposed as President, with Peter Axton continuing in the Secretary role. Andy Clark is soldiering on as Treasurer whilst Rob Toy fronted again as Membership Officer. Pat O’Hanlon, Ian Smith, Diesel Perkins, Trevor Watts, Bill Houston and Rod Westgarth were also re-elected unopposed. IPP Daryl Pinner, OAM has handed over the property portfolio to Andy Clark; rounding out the team is Patron – Brigadier Ted Acutt and Honorary Legal Officer Colman Moloney.

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 27 March at the Army Tank Museum. The Cambrai Luncheon was conducted on Sunday 20 November for the second time at Greensborough with President Peter Branagan being a stand in guest speaker for former Patron Mick O’Brien who was unable to attend due to knee surgery. The Cambrai raffle was very successful thanks mainly to Rod Westgarth. Lindsay Christensen was at the forefront again with the donation of many of his brilliant productions for the prize pool.

The Kid’s Christmas Party was a moderate success with some of our regular families unable to attend.

We lost a number of members through the year including Andy Zsolt, Terry Bullock and Lionel Bailey. Our sincere condolences are extended to their families. Our membership numbers have remained steady, around the 200 mark.

We presented one Arch Finlayson Memorial Apprenticeship Scholarship during the year.

The following members registered their attendance: Ted Acutt, Peter Axton, Peter Branagan OAM, Icky Smith, Andrew and Jenny Clark, Rob Toy, Peter Coutts CSM, Mike Fogarty OAM, Colman Moloney, Stan Rydell, John Hopkins, Benny Lonnborn, Graham Douglas and Ray Babarikas.

The following apologies were received: Ian Murphy, Mick O’Brien AM, Vin and Dot Brennan, Alleyne Walsh, John Baines RFD, Werner Golla, Richard James, Brian Dunn, Colin Carrington, Stephen Bird, Gary Piper, Greg Sheppard, Daryl Pinner OAM, David Boulton, Niall Waring, Doug Caulfield OAM, RFD, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Rod Jones, Jim De Francesco, Bryan Kesby, Pat O’Hanlon RFD and Chris Morris.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

Rex Warren, Honor Auchinleck, Bob Burke, Pat O’Hanlon RFD, Ray Tuskin, John Howard, Clem Mooney, Niall Waring, Colin Carrington and Noel McLaughlin, OAM.

Welcome to the Crew

Terry O’Neill Jamie Pert (re-joined)

Secretary's Report

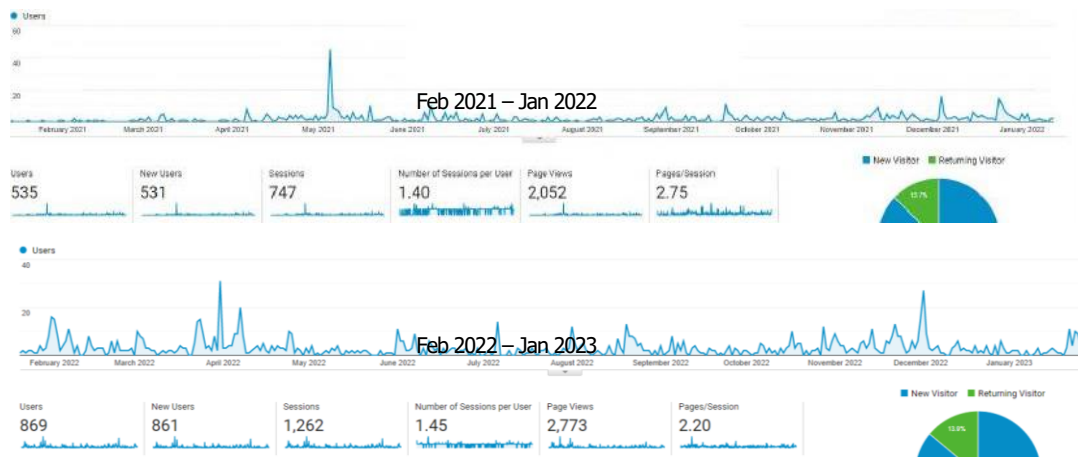
Good day fellow members,

Welcome to 2023. It's a new year and a chance to look forward to better times ahead. 2022 was a year where we were told we were now "living with COVID". No more lockdowns and we could attend events as we liked, but you only had to look around to see things had not returned to how it was pre COVID. We didn't have the daily reports or inducements to get vaccinated, we were encouraged to do so. Now interest rates are climbing along with the cost of living, but compared to the onset of COVID, these are things we've lived through before and know it will get better so we know "we can do this!"

The year started as they do, with a rush. It was good to be able to get together again and we cautiously met up for the 2022 RAACA (Vic) Commemoration Service at the Shrine and soon after for the AGM. We had tested the waters at the Greensborough RSL with our Cambrai Luncheon in 2021 but it was our first year of having access to their facilities for the whole year, and they looked after us very well.

Some of the notable points from 2022 include:

- **Our numbers have remained fairly steady for the past few years:** It's not unexpected that we saw another year where some of the old and bold passed on, but unlike 2021, we were able to honour their memory. Still, our numbers have held fairly well due to the recruitment of new members and some appear to have found us through the website. This meant we ended the year with 199 members, 1 less than 2021. It seems that during lockdowns, we have found ways to catch up without getting together. Hopefully, in 2023 we will be more relaxed. I believe no one has picked up an infection from one of our events.
- **Our Family Liaison Officer has been keeping in touch:** Rod Westgarth has been working overtime to keep in touch with members and spreading cheer through phone calls, visits and gift cards. Although receiving a Christmas card through the mail is not quite the same as a personal visit, the lockdowns showed this method allowed us to reach further out to our members. We know that the last year has been difficult for some. Where we were aware of the situation, the generosity of members and hard work by the committee has allowed us to help. Of course, we don't know everyone's situation but if you, or someone you know needs help, please contact us. Remember, the purpose of the association is stated on our website and in short is to "foster camaraderie and provide welfare services to our members" so if you need help, please ask.
- **The website for RAACA (Vic):** Interest in the website is still 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 two 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.



Finally, on behalf of the committee and members, we would like to thank our Patron, Brig Ted Acutt (Retd), and Colman Moloney, our Honorary Legal Officer for their support. Thank you to all the Association members and in particular to my fellow committee members for your support in 2022 and I hope we have another great year ahead.

Peter Axton Secretary RAACA Inc (Vic Branch)

Treasurer's Report

Good afternoon Members, Lady and Gentlemen.

As Treasurer I tender these documents to the membership and the Annual General Meeting. I would like to acknowledge and thank the **Secretary Peter Axton**, for inspecting the accounts and providing his report.

Attached to assist with this report are:

The Profit and Loss Statement 2022 – a Statement of the Income and Expenditure of the Association - 01 January to 31 December 2022 and The Balance Sheet 2022 – a statement of the assets, liabilities and capital of the Association – As of 31 December 2022.

From an accounts point of view, RAACA Inc (Victorian Branch) had another good year in 2022 with a profit of \$2,109.60. This is set out in the financial statements. To help you understand them, some significant matters from the accounts this year are:

- Total income for the year 2022 was down by \$2,583.80. This can be attributed to lower attendance at Cambrai Luncheon, fewer donations, and fewer member subscriptions. Some of this reduced income was offset by an increase in bank interest, due to greater cash holdings and rising interest rates. Total expenditure for 2022 was down by \$2,995.59 due to several factors including lower participation rates at activities and functions. During 2022 instead of journaling welfare **totals** to the Welfare Equity Fund the **difference** was transferred to The Welfare Fund, which resulted in an increase of \$1,305.75 being made available for future Welfare expenditure.
- The end result for 2022 is an overall profit of \$2,109.60 - an increase of \$242.66 from 2021.

Despite the fact that 2022 was a year where attendance at activities appeared to be suffering a pandemic hangover, Rod Westgarth, basically working by himself, has managed to keep in touch with many of the members and was able to keep their spirits up. The tough economic times and the number of ageing members, many of whom are suffering ill health, means there is still a need to provide support during the year. Even though Member Welfare expenditure was down during 2022, acknowledging members at Christmas and during the year are still vital tasks in accordance with our Welfare Charter. Gift cards and get-well cards are being used to keep in touch in many instances.



Andrew R. CLARK

Andrew R. Clark

Treasurer RAACA Inc. Victorian Branch

Mark Your Diary.....

2023 Autumn Picnic Sunday 16 April 2023 1030 hrs

This popular event will be held **Sunday 16 April 2023** at a completely new location. With the unavailability of the Army Tank Museum, we have decided to relocate to the **Australian Light Horse Memorial Park in Seymour**. The Park is located on the site of the **Old Seymour Military Camp** and is steeped in our military history. Situated on the Yea Road (Goulburn Valley Highway) it is only two kilometres SE of Seymour. 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.

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. 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.**

From the Archives.....



This Centurion ARN 169073 is located at North Bandiana and is dedicated to the memory of former CO 8/13 VMR, Lt Col John Neale, OAM, RFD, ED. Standing at right is Vic Branch member Kevin Fox of Nagambie. It was infamously involved in a friendly fire incident in Vietnam when its 100 gallon fuel tank was shot up by Sgt Gus Ballentine of A Sqn, 3 Cav Regt.

77th Birthday Celebrations at the Shrine

Sunday 12 February 2023

Another **glorious summer's day** in Melbourne greeted an excellent roll up of members and guests at the **Shrine of Remembrance** to celebrate the **77th anniversary** of the formation of the **Victorian Branch**.

Following introductions from **IPP Daryl Pinner, OAM** and **Shrine Governor Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Neil Smith AM**, 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**.



Our flag, first flown at the Shrine in 2012, flying proudly beside the National Serviceman's Association flag on 12 Feb 23.

The more than usual suspects included: Daryl Pinner OAM, and wife Frances, Peter Branagan OAM, Vin and Dot Brennan, Alleyne Walsh, Tim, Kim, Ethan, Keira and Olivia Branagan, John Mansfield, Rob Toy and Linda Boleche, Peter Wold, Mike Fogarty OAM, Fred Coucher, Bryce Phillips AO, Greg and Philomena Shepherd, Jim and Gloria DeFrancesco, Stan Rydell, Diesel Perkins, Benny Lonnborn, George Zagon and Rhonda Aanensen, Garry Clark and Pam McLaughlen, Andy and Jenny Clark, Ian Douglas and Peter Axton.

The following apologies were received: Gerry McCormack, Elizabeth Branagan, Ted Plastow, Karl Liffman, Tony Peart, Graham Wright, Joy Rydell, Craig Burn, Mick O'Brien AM, Werner Golla, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Doug Caulfield OAM and John Baines RFD.



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



Olivia Branagan attended her first Shrine ceremony, seen here with the help of her sister Keira and Dad Tim placing a tribute poppy in the urn. Seated at left are Dot and Vin Brennan.

Daryl Pinner reminded the attendees of our losses during 2022 particularly former RSM 4/19 PWLH **Andy Zolt** and QM Capt **Terry Bullock**. We also lost a South Australian member **Lionel Bailey**. He also congratulated two members who were recently honored in the annual Australia Day awards. **Mike Fogarty** of Canterbury and **Kevin Hunter** of Frankston were both awarded the **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)** for their service to the veteran community.



(Andy Clark)

Shrine Governor Lt Col (Retd) Neil Smith, AM welcomed members and guests to the Sanctuary for the commemorative service. Pictured at rear are IPP Daryl Pinner OAM, President Peter Branagan, OAM and bugler John Mansfield.

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 grand children 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

Cambrai Day Commemoration Luncheon

Saturday 18 November 2023

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

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket with Full Size Medals

Ladies after five

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 10 November 2023



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"

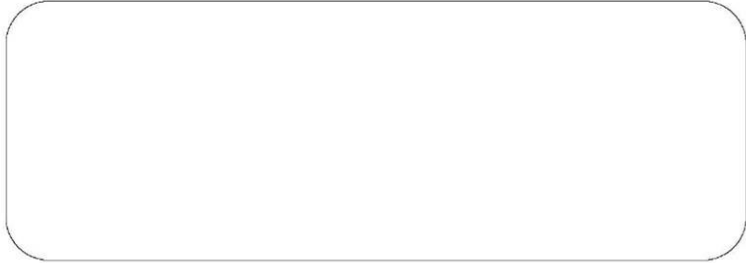


If undeliverable, return to:
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 1 Ambleside Link
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Change of address

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)