



TRACK

March 2024



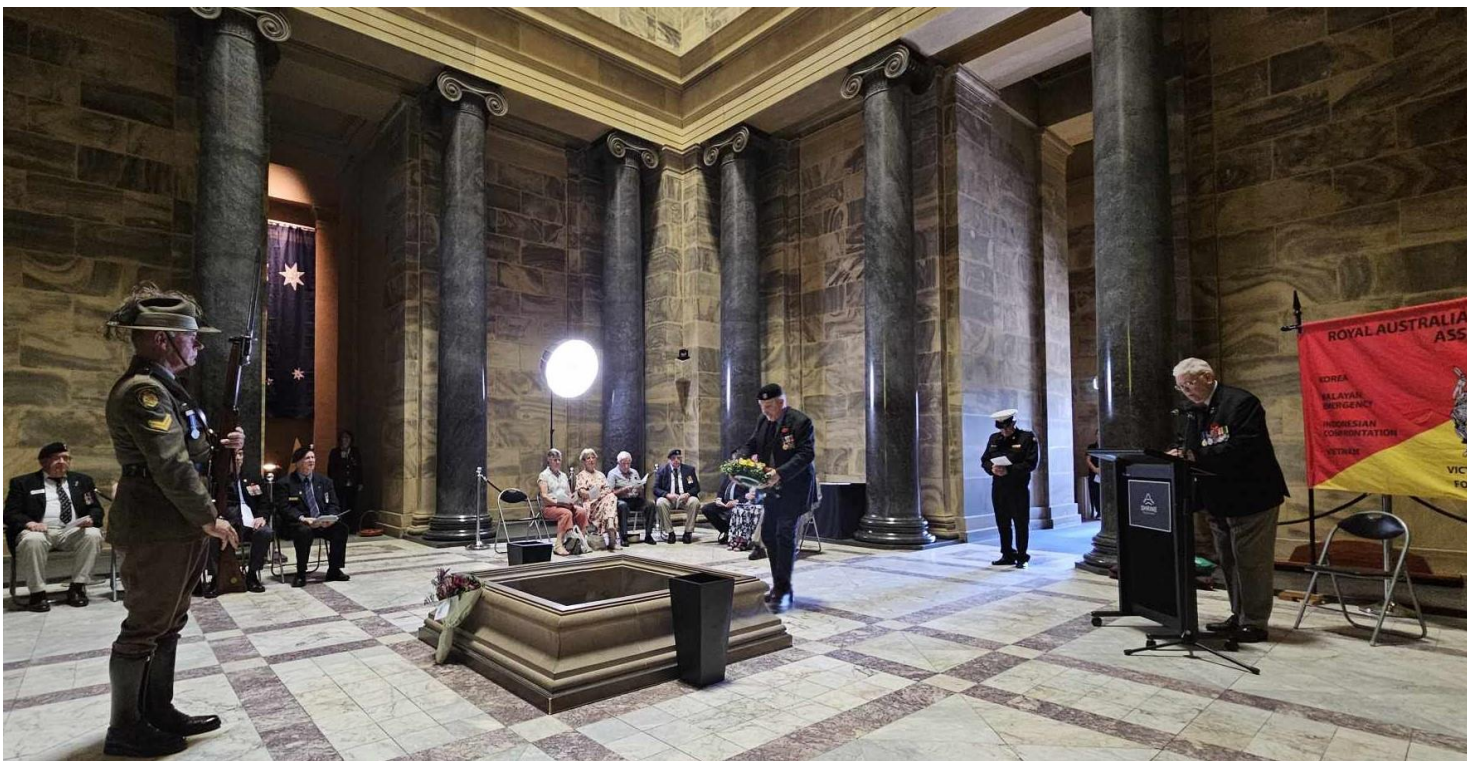
**Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)**

A0023458C

Web: <https://raacavic.weebly.com>

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

Birthday at the Shrine



(Elizabeth Branagan)

The 78th birthday of your association was celebrated as usual in fine style in the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 11 February 2024. This location is perfect for us and coupled with the area of the Shrine shop in the Western Annex, enables us to have an afternoon tea location.

This year we were privileged to have the newly elected Shrine Governor Squadron Leader (Retd) Peter Meehan, OAM at our ceremony. Peter is a well known commentator at many Melbourne events including the Anzac Day march and the Avalon Air Show.

2023 Kid's Christmas Party 17 December



A small section of the madding crowd at Meadmore Junction.



As usual Santa arrived on his own special, this year it was a Melbourne tram.

All pictures at the Kid's Christmas Party are courtesy of Andrew Clark.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

Pat O'Hanlon RFD, Ray Tuskin, Mick O'Brien, AM.



Lisa and Chris Morris always enjoy time on Santa's lap!

The following members and guests registered their attendance:

Peter and Elizabeth Branagan. Sharon Westgarth. Lauren, Jimmy, Tex and Lilli Peile. Chris, Simone, Chantelle and Nathan Branagan with Aliesha Hill. Andrew, Jenny, Matthew, Charlie and Audrey Clark. Ian Smith. Meaghan, Glen, Hannah and Connor Johnstone, Alexis and Hunter Purcell. Lisa, Shane, Sophie and Jared Crosbie with Riley Gaylord. Fiona, Matt, Sam, Will and Amelia Glenn. Craig, Anita and Will Burn. Benny, Linda, Felix and Gabriel Lonnborn. Chris and Lisa Morris. James and Emma Morris. Carol, Ren, and Maree Proietto. Nicole, Jeff, Ryder, Ayla and Indi Coxford. Kate, Sam and Starzi Innocenti. Angela, Sandy, Evie and Alissa Gittins. Andrew Lewthwaite. Trish and Glen Dean. Rosemary Arceri. Vicki Coxford. Andrea, Mark, Amelia, Rhys and Chris Foley.

Many thanks to the Smith Family particularly Matt and Fiona Glenn who stepped up and cooked the bar-b-que and Santa's helpers **Meaghan Johnstone** and **Lauren Peile** who, as always, kept Santa under control and organised the distribution of presents and lollies. Thanks also to **Andy** and **Jenny Clark** for conducting the raffle with help from **Chris Morris** and **Ian Smith** for his prize donation

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 – 2023	Lower Eltham Train Park	NB. Members will remember - 2020 was cancelled due to Covid 19.

Annual General Meeting 2024

The AGM was conducted at **the Greensborough RSL** on Sunday **18 February 2024**. 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**. **Benny Lonnborn** will serve again as **Vice President** and **Trustee**. **Rob Toy** has put his hand up again as **Membership Officer** whilst **Trevor Watts, Diesel Perkins, Icky Smith** and **Pat O'Hanlon** continue to serve on the general committee. **Icky Smith** remains as a trustee of both scholarship funds. **Karl Liffman** is a welcome addition to the team. **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 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** continued in the important role of **Family Liaison Officer**. **Rob Toy** 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** also signed on for another year. The attendance was extremely disappointing and **without the proxy votes, the meeting would have lapsed**.

On the social front it has been a moderately successful year; the annual association birthday at the Shrine on Sunday 12th February was well supported and the AGM on 19 February not so. We also managed to conduct our Autumn Picnic on Sunday 16 April at the **Australian Light Horse Memorial Park** in Seymour. Our normal venue, the Army Tank Museum is currently closed. The annual Cambrai Luncheon was conducted on Saturday, 18 November at Greensborough RSL. Over 70 members and guests enjoyed a forthright and enthusiastic presentation from former Patron **Col Mick O'Brien AM (Retd)**. Our very popular Children's Christmas Party was conducted with moderate attendance on Sunday, 18th December at the Lower Eltham Train Park.

On a more sombre note, we lost a very popular member in **Rod Westgarth** on 6 May from a Coronary Embulism. Rod was a highly valued member of our committee and was also our Welfare Officer. We have perpetuated his memory with the creation of *The Rod Westgarth Memorial Award*. At the Cambrai Luncheon, the inaugural award was presented to our resident bugler **John Mansfield** by Rod's son in law, **Jimmy Peile**.

New committeeman **Benny Lonnborn** volunteered to fill the vacancy caused by Rod's passing as a trustee on the **Hinton and Finlayson Scholarship Funds**. He has also been promoted into the Vice President's position.

Our membership numbers have remained steady and are currently 189 all categories.

We have presented one **Arch Finlayson Memorial Apprenticeship Scholarship** this year and one **Charlie Walsh Scholarship** to a Year Seven student.

In closing I wish all members and families across the Black Hat brotherhood a better year in 2024

Peter G. Branagan, OAM
President

The following members registered their attendance: Ted Acutt, Peter Axton, Peter Branagan OAM, Elizabeth Branagan, Andrew and Jenny Clark, Rob Toy, Graeme Perkins, John Briggs, Karl Liffman, Ray Tuskin, Jamie Pert, Benny Lonnborn, Graham Wright and Ray Babarikas.

The following apologies were received: Ian Murphy, Mick O'Brien AM, Vin and Dot Brennan, Alleyne Walsh, Werner Golla, Dick Stanios, Mike Fogarty, OAM, Peter Alkemade, Bryce Phillips AO, Colin Carrington, Stephen Bird, Trevor Watts, Greg Sheppard, Daryl Pinner OAM, David Boulton, Doug Caulfield OAM, RFD, Peter Martin, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Rod Jones, Joyce Watts, Pat O'Hanlon RFD, Ian Smith, Peter Coutts CSM and Mike Annett.

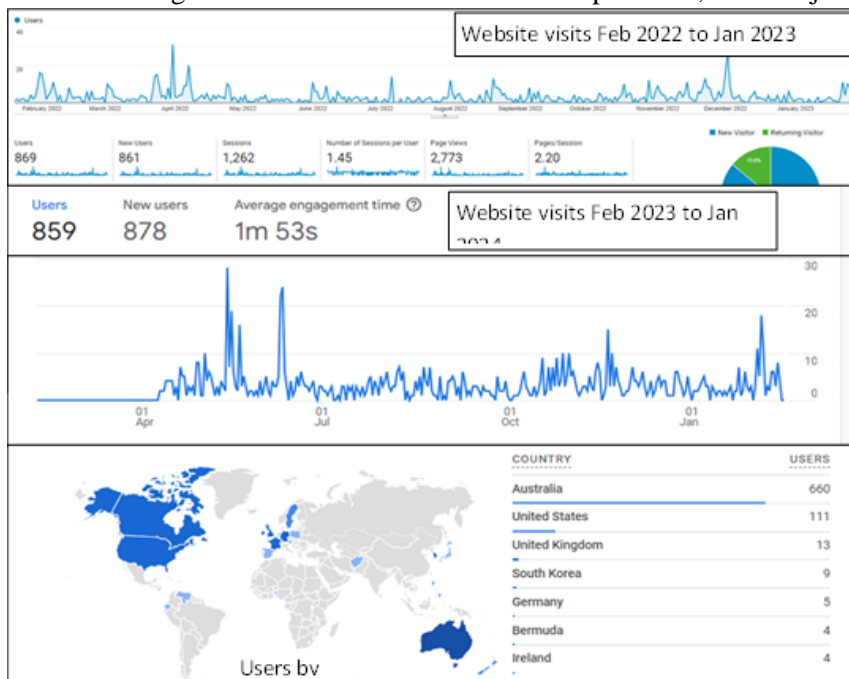
Secretary's Report

Hello fellow members,

Looking back over 2023, it was generally another successful year. We started with the Birthday Commemoration Service at the Shrine of Remembrance, followed closely by the AGM. With the closure of the Tank Museum, the autumn picnic was transferred to the Australian Light Horse Memorial Park in Seymour. All these events saw low attendance compared to previous years but were successful in spite of the numbers. The Cambrai Luncheon was once again an outstanding success confirming the shift to the Greensborough RSL and holding it at lunch time, has many benefits. The Christmas Picnic was also enjoyed by all who attended.

Some of the notable points from 2023 include:

- **Our numbers have fallen a little over the past year:** The number of members listed in the Register of Members, has dropped to 189 from the 201 we had at the time of last year's AGM. This is partly due to the passing of some members during 2023 but also due to the removal of long term un-financial members. These people were not attending events or contributing to the association, so their removal will not affect the viability of the association.
- **Attendance numbers fell during 2023:** Attendance at events fell once again but this appears to be a trend amongst most clubs and associations, with people being more likely to attend family oriented events.
- **Family Liaison and keeping in touch:** The passing of Rod Westgarth showed us all how central he was to keeping in touch with our members. The President stepped in at Christmas to ensure we "spread cheer" far and wide with the distribution of gift and Christmas cards. The current financial conditions have made it difficult for many and from the feedback received, the gifts were much appreciated.
- **The website for RAACA (Vic):** We use Google Analytics to track usage of the website but during the year, Google changed the way it collates and reports the information. We assume the changes make it better, however, we had become familiar with the old format making comparison less obvious this year. In spite of this, the charts below show there is still great interest in the information it provides, and not just in Australia.



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 2023 and I hope we have another great year ahead.

Peter Axton, Secretary RAACA Inc (Vic Branch)

Treasurer's Report

Good morning Members, Ladies 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 2023 – *a Statement of the Income and Expenditure of the Association - 01 January to 31 December 2023* and The Balance Sheet 2023 – *a statement of the assets, liabilities and capital of the Association - 01 January to 31 December 2023*.

From an accounts point of view, RAACA Inc (Victorian Branch) had a good year in 2023 with a Gross profit of \$16,206.10. This is set out in the financial statements. Some significant matters from the accounts this year are:

- Net Ordinary income for the year 2023 was up by \$1,739.62. This can be largely attributed to the purchase of new Q Store items and subsequent sales. By way of further explanation, the Stock Asset shows an increase of \$4,338.14 and the Sale of Goods shows an increase of \$1,483.97.
- Cambrai income (after expenses) showed a marginal increase of \$311.71.
- Membership Subscriptions show an increase of \$350.00 during 2023. This can be attributed to a reduced number of unfinancial members during 2023 and four members who have paid subscriptions in advance of 2024.
- Donations by some very generous Members is reflected in an increase of \$1,651.25 - \$1,599.25 specifically for welfare.
- Expenditure on Members Welfare during 2023 was increased, in line with our commitment to our Membership. The Total Welfare Expenditure for 2023 was \$2,565.31.
- The end result for 2023 is a Net Income of \$3,824.22 - an increase of \$1,739.62 from 2022.

With the tragic loss of our dear friend, colleague and Welfare Officer **Rod Westgarth**, during the year, Welfare Services to our Membership suffered a decline, but since that position has been generously taken over by our President **Peter Branagan**, our Services in that regard are now getting back to normal.

The slow return to a healthy economy is reflected in the increase of interest returns on our Investment Funds. This interest was \$1,052.17 more than the interest received in 2022.

The end result for 2023 is an overall profit of \$16,206.10 – an increase of \$3,618.95 from 2022.



Andrew R. CLARK

Andrew R. Clark
Treasurer RAACA Inc. Victorian Branch

Mark Your Diary.....

2024 Autumn Picnic

Sunday 14 April 2024

1030 hrs

This popular event will be held on **Sunday 14 April 2024**. With the continuing unavailability of the **Army Tank Museum**, we have decided to conduct the picnic again at 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 we will be frying up bangers and track pads as usual. 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.....



President Daryl Pinner presented an Eldridge book to guest speaker Major General Craig Orme at the 2009 Cambrai Dinner at Puckapunyal.

78th Birthday Celebrations at the Shrine

Sunday 11 February 2024

Another **glorious summer's day** in Melbourne greeted an excellent roll up of members and guests at the **Shrine of Remembrance** to celebrate the **78th anniversary** of the formation of the **Victorian Branch**.

Following introductions from **IPP Daryl Pinner, OAM** and **Shrine Governor Squadron Leader (Retd) Peter Meehan OAM**, 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 11 Feb 24.

The more than usual suspects included: Daryl Pinner OAM, and wife Frances, Peter and Elizabeth Branagan, Vin and Dot Brennan, Alleyne Walsh, Craig Burn, John Mansfield, Rob Toy and Linda Boleche, Peter Wold, Mike Fogarty OAM, Diesel Perkins, Benny Lonnborn, Pat O'Hanlon RFD, Ron Gillis, Andy and Jenny Clark, Ray and Rita Tuskin and Peter Axton.

The following apologies were received: Tony Peart, Mick O'Brien AM, Werner Golla, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Ian Smith.

Daryl Pinner reminded the attendees of our losses during 2023 particularly **Rod Westgarth, John Hawton, Colin O'Dell, Bill Maynard and Ron 'Specs' Fuller**. He intimated in his closing remarks that this would be his last performance as Master of Ceremonies, so watch this space!



Alleyne Walsh, Dot and Vin Brennan, Ron Gillis, Rita and Ray Tuskin and Diesel Perkins certainly enjoyed the ambience of the Shrine Sanctuary on Sunday, 11 February.

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

2 Marie St.

NAGAMBIE VIC 3608



Show Off Your Association

RAACA Q Store Product List & Order Form

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

Item Description	Item	Size	Colour	Qty	Price Each	Postage	Cost
Chambray Shirt Long Sleeve		XL 2XL 3XL (Please circle)	Indigo Blue With RAACA badge		\$41.50	\$12.40	
Chambray Shirt Short Sleeve		XL 2XL 3XL (Please circle)	Indigo Blue With RAACA badge		40.00	\$12.40	
Polo Shirt Black, Navy or Burgundy with RAACA Badge		XL 2XL 3XL (Please circle)			\$28.00	\$12.40	
Rugby Shirt Black with Black Colar Long Sleeve with RAACA Badge		XL 2XL 3XL (Please circle)			\$52.00	\$16.30	
Polar Fleece Vest Black or Navy with RAACA Badge		2XL 3XL 4XL (Please circle)			\$34.50	\$13.60	
Polar Fleece Jacket Long Sleeve Black or Navy with RAACA Badge		2XL 3XL 4XL (Please circle)			\$40.50	\$16.30	
Cotton Tee Shirt Black		XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL (Please circle)			\$23.00	\$12.40	
RAACA Mouse Pad					\$15.00	\$12.20	
RAACA Pens					\$3.00	\$2.00	
Eldridge Book					\$30.00	Postage Paid	

Item Description	Item	Qty	Price Each	Postage	Cost
RAACA Tie			\$32.00	\$12.40	
RAACA Pocket Badge			\$15.00	\$2.00	
RAACA Wall Plaque			\$50.00	\$12.40	
RAACA Decal (inside)			\$1.50	\$2.00	
RAACA Decal (outside)			\$1.50	\$2.00	
RAACA Lapel Badge			\$12.00	2.00	
RAACA Cap			\$14.00	\$12.40	
RAACA Stubby Holder			\$6.50	\$12.40	
RAACA Brew Mug			\$10.00	Pick Up Only	
RAACA Beret, Black			\$30.00	\$12.40	
Please insert beret size (S, M, L, XL)					
				Total Cost	<input type="text"/>

If ordering more than one product, please contact Andy Clark for a combined postage cost.

Member Details:

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:
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)
1 Ambleside Link
DOREEN Vic 3754

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AUSTRALIA



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)