



Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)

TRACK

March 2021



Advance Australia

PATRON:	Brig P.A. Acutt (Retd)	
PRESIDENT:	Peter Branagan, OAM	
VICE PRESIDENT:	Werner Golla	
SECRETARY:	David Finlayson	0409 256 765
TREASURER:	Andy Clark	
EDITOR:	Peter Branagan, OAM	0428 576 004

Another RAAC Icon Laid to Rest



(Noel McLaughlin)

The life of **John Alexander (Jack) Carter, OAM, DCM** was celebrated at the **Benalla Lakeside Community Centre** on a very wet **Friday, 29th January 2021**. The Community Centre was packed with family, friends and former comrades, some who travelled great distances in atrocious weather to pay their respects to a fine soldier whose exploits, particularly at the **Battle of Long Tan** are well known to his former RAAC colleagues. The citation for his **Distinguished Conduct Medal** is reprinted on page two.

VALE 38317 WO1 John Alexander Carter, OAM, DCM

23 May 1945 – 23 January 2021

At approximately 1800 hours 18 August 1966, Corporal John Carter was the Crew Commander of an armoured personnel carrier of 3 Troop, First Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron. This Troop had been given the task of carrying a relieving force of Infantry to assist D Company, 6 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment which was in heavy contact with a brigade sized enemy force. Orders were for the carrier troop to advance with two sections forward. Weather conditions at the time were extremely difficult due to a severe rain storm. When contact was made with the enemy, Corporal Carter's vehicle was engaged by fire from a 57mm recoilless rifle, machine gun and small arms fire. The projectile from the 57mm recoilless rifle missed his vehicle and exploded against a rubber tree. Corporal Carter returned fire using his .50 calibre machine gun. The gun jammed. He then grasped the driver's Owen Machine Carbine and without hesitation leapt onto the top of his vehicle and returned fire killing the 57 mm recoilless rifle team, a fraction after another 57 mm recoilless rifle round had been fired. This round exploded and dazed the crew and passengers. Corporal Carter still undeterred continued to fire killing five other enemy. By his actions Corporal Carter also drew attention to himself enabling the other vehicles of the troop to advance.

Through the action which was fought at a very close range, Corporal Carter showed outstanding courage, initiative and determination. His actions were an inspiration to all his comrades and contributed greatly to the success of the assault by the relief force, the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy and immediately afterwards, the relief of D Company, 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

John continued his military service and attained the rank of WO1. During his service in Defence, John was also awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his outstanding contribution to the success of the 1988 Military Tattoo. I am sure that all Vietnam veterans especially those close friends of John will be saddened by his passing. John had been living in a retirement unit in Benalla for the past few years and had gradually been affected by dementia and PTSD. To daughter Jodie, son Glenn, siblings, sisters Bev, Jeanette and Gail, brother Daryl (deceased), family and friends of John may we pass on our deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences on this sad occasion of the passing of John.

John was a true warrior in any sense of the word yet suffered the effects of the Vietnam War for many years. He always felt that the Armoured Corps efforts at the Battle of Long Tan had not been fully recognised and this troubled him greatly. John is now Resting in Peace and will be sadly missed by us all. *Rick Ryan.*





Pictured here on 28 October 2018 with John are old comrades Rick Ryan AATTV and John Barnes AATTV (died 2 November 2020).

The Black Hat Community Was Well Represented



(Peter Branagan)

(L to R) Werner Golla, Peter Branagan OAM, Hendie van de Duim, Andy Zsolt, Alan Brimelow AM, Rex Harris, Noel McLaughlin, OAM and Ian Tregenza.

Annual General Meeting 2021

The AGM was conducted at our current home – **the Preston/Darebin RSL** on **Monday 22 February 2021**. Incumbent **President Peter Branagan** was re-elected unopposed as was **Treasurer Andy Clark**. With the unfortunate retirement of **Secretary Peter Axton** due to family reasons, **David Finlayson** has taken on the role. We welcomed retired **Lieutenant Colonel Bill Houston** onto the committee. **Werner Golla** successfully re-nominated 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, Tyrrell McGeever** and **Pat O'Hanlon** continue to serve on the general committee. Attendance exceeded all expectations and was great to see.

President's Report 2020

Monday, 24 February witnessed a 'steady as she goes' situation for the Victorian Branch; of course we had little idea of what the year 2020 would bring. At the AGM, Peter Branagan was re-elected unopposed as President, as was Peter Axton in the Secretary role. Andy Clark continued as Treasurer whilst Rob Toy fronted again as Membership Officer. Pat O'Hanlon, Ian Smith, David Finlayson, Diesel Perkins, Trevor Watts and Rod Westgarth were also re-elected unopposed. Joining the committee was Tyrrell McGeever – welcome. 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.

The recently introduced category of membership - *Affiliate Member* has proven a popular decision. So far 14 dependants have availed themselves of this new facility. We sadly lost an affiliate member in December 2020 with the untimely passing of **Lorraine Toy**. **Our most sincere condolences go out to Membership Officer Rob and the extended family.**

On the social front it has been a mixed bag with activities such as the 2020 Cambrai Dinner, the Kid's Xmas Party and the Autumn Picnic not able to be conducted due to the Pandemic. The year had started off very well with the annual association birthday and the AGM seeing their best crowds for some time. After that it was all downhill. Our membership numbers have remained steady, around the 202 mark. Rod Westgarth and David Finlayson organized two rounds of gift vouchers; one lot during COVID lockdown and a second issue for Christmas.

In closing I wish all members and families a better year in 2021 and look forward to catching up with many of you this year.

The following members registered their attendance: Ted Acutt, Peter Branagan OAM, Icky Smith, Andrew and Jenny Clark, Rod Westgarth, David Finlayson, Rob Toy, Bill Houston, Peter Coutts CSM, Tyrrell and Maggie McGeever, Vin and Dot Brennan, Mike Fogarty, John Baker, Werner Golla, Colman Moloney, Roy Arnott OAM, Tony Peart, Ian Murphy, Graham Douglas, Stan Rydell, Jim DeFrancesco, John Hopkins, Ray Babarikas, Gary Piper and Rod Jones. Guest: Marina Houston-Romanovskaya.

The following apologies were received: Mick O'Brien AM, John Baines RFD, Peter Axton, Trevor Watts, John Paterson, Diesel Perkins, Lindsay Burke, Don Rodwell, Neil Pitt, Mark Montague, Ted Plastow, Joyce Watts, Mark Holmes AM, MVO, Ron Gillis, Pat O'Hanlon, Doug Caulfield OAM, Noel McLaughlin OAM, Lindsay Christensen, Greg Sheppard, Niall Waring, Peter Alkemade and Iain Reynolds.

Secretary's Report

Members,

With 2020 behind us and our 75th year ahead, we can only hope that 2021 is an improvement on the past year. Having said that, we started 2020 well with great attendance at the Birthday Commemoration Service and the AGM but soon after, it became a progression of cancelled events. Despite all we were up against, we still managed to keep the administration of the Association ticking over throughout the year so we could keep everyone informed and, although somewhat tentative, be ready to start 2021 running.

Some of our achievements from 2020 include:

- **Our numbers have held fairly steady:** As RAACA (Vic) reaches 75, 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 203 members, five up from the previous year.
- **Communications:** Work has continued during the year, consolidating contact details and getting more members onboard with receiving Track by e-mail which has kept the production and distribution cost down. The website and setting up some dedicated e-mail addresses also helps.
- **The website for RAACA (Vic):** The website is not breaking any records but still going strong and providing members with current information. The graphs below might shed some light on the interest shown over the past year and the spikes in it show how some events create a bit more activity.



- **Our Family Liaison Officer has been keeping in touch:** The committee recognised the impact that the isolation brought on by lockdowns would have on members and in some cases, the financial challenges the year might bring so a subcommittee was set up to work with Rod Westgarth and help him keep in contact with members and what a great job they did. As part of this, a raffle was run online and our members based at Puckapunyal did their part to raise the funds we felt would be needed. This turned out to be very successful and more than covered the program they had planned which meant there were additional funds that could be carried over into 2021.

We would like to thank the Darebin RSL for their support and for providing rooms and assistance for our meetings through 2020 and look forward to their continued backing in 2021. I particularly thank our Patron, Brig Ted Acutt (Retd) for his support and to Colman Moloney, our Honorary Legal Officer.

This is my final report as secretary since I will be stepping down at the AGM due to family health matters. Although I joined RAACA (Vic) in 1994, I have only been involved with the Association for the last four years but found my involvement extremely rewarding and hope I have added something to the continued success of the organisation, while also ensuring an easy transition for my replacement.

Thank you to all the Association members and in particular to my fellow committee members for your support in 2020 and I hope you have another great year ahead.

Peter Axton

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

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 and the Auditor Mr. Roy ARNOTT.

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

- The old Defence Bank account is now closed and all payments are now being made into the Bendigo Account. Most members are now making payments electronically and a few members are making payments by Cheque and Money Transfer Orders.
- Part of the banking changes involved a change in investment strategy, meaning an increase in bank interest received. However interest rates in the 2020 year have been less than 2019 due to lower interest rates across the financial sector
- Membership subscriptions for the year 2020 resulted in almost all members again being financial with six members not responding to reminders.
- Due to Covid19 restrictions Cambrai Dinner was not conducted in the Year 2020. This was reflected in the accounts as a positive as it usually runs at a loss. However, this loss is offset by the funds raised from the Cambrai Dinner Raffle. The Association would like to thank the generous donations of highly sought after raffle prizes and the generous raffle ticket purchases.
- An increase in our administration costs in the year 2020 is attributed to the printing cost for Track and associated postage.
- The reorganisation of the accounts in 2018 – 2019 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, the Christmas hampers and assistance during the Covid19 period.
-

Andrew Clark

Treasurer

Another Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship Presented



Young Max Pudebat is the latest recipient of an Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship

Max is the grandson of members **Vin and Dot Brennan**. Along with his twin brother Leon and older brother Sean; were regular attendees at our functions. The boys had a great interest in their Grandfather's Army service and a particular love for the Army Tank Museum. Max's apprenticeship with Ascot Building Pty Ltd of Bulleen, Victoria has so far covered all manner of carpentry work. **The \$500.00 scholarship will be used for the purchase of carpentry tools.**

In January, young **William Craig Burn** was presented with the second part of his **Brigadier F.B .Hinton Memorial Scholarship** on the commencement of his year 12 education at **Assumption College, Kilmore.**

Mark Your Diary.....

2021 Autumn Picnic
Sunday 28 March 2021
1030 hrs

This popular event will be held again at the **Australian Army Tank Museum Puckapunyal** on **Sunday 28 March 2021**. 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

Michael Martin, Basil Tiligadis, Bob Burke, Gerry McCormack and Noel McLaughlin, OAM

Welcome to the Crew

Gerry McCormack and Ian Power

75th Birthday Celebrations at the Shrine

Sunday 7 February 2021

Another **glorious summer's day** in Melbourne greeted a disappointing roll up of members and guests at the **Shrine of Remembrance** to celebrate the **75th 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**.



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

The less than usual suspects included: Daryl Pinner, OAM and wife Frances, Peter Branagan OAM, Vin and Dorothy Brennan, Alleyne Walsh, John and Brenda Mansfield, Werner Golla, Bill Houston, Rob Toy, Peter Wold, Mike Fogarty, Fred Coucher, Tony Peart, Bryce Phillips AO, Rod Westgarth and Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) David Ford, CVO, AM, GM.

The following apologies were received: Patron Ted Acutt, Peter and Robyn Axton, Andy and Jenny Clark, Niall Waring, John Baker, Basil Tiligadis, Lindsay Christensen, Kevin Heyward, Michelle Carson, Graeme Perkins, Greg Sheppard, Colin Carrington, Tyrrell and Maggie McGeever, Will and Bill Anderson.

Retiring Secretary Honored for his Service



On his final day in office, **retiring Secretary Peter Axton** was recognised for his outstanding efforts in re-energising the Victorian Branch with our highest award for excellence – **Honorary Life Membership**. President **Peter Branagan** invested Peter assisted by **Rod Westgarth** with his well deserved award at his home in Doreen on Monday, 22 February 2021.

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

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 – Victorian Branch

2 Marie St.

NAGAMBIE VIC 3608

Cambrai Day Commemoration Dinner

Saturday 20 November 2021

1900 for 1930 hrs

**Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal**

Guest of Honour

Mrs Honor Auchinleck

Author and Historian

Granddaughter of General Sir Harry Chauvel

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

Andy Clark (M) 0431 708 576

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 12 November 2021

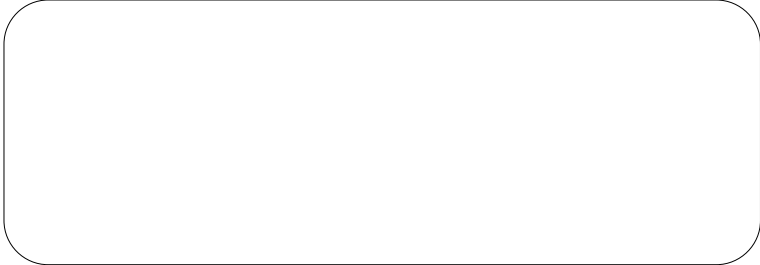
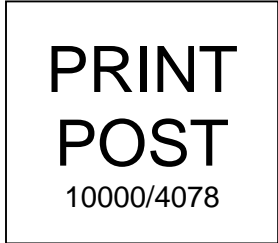
Accommodation is available

 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						
Member Details:				Total Cost		\$ <input type="text"/>
Name:						
Address:						
Contact Number:						
If paying by cheque, post payment to:						<input type="checkbox"/>
RAACA Property Member 21 Elsa St FAWKNER Vic 3060						
If paying by direct deposit:						
Bank: Bendigo Bank						<input type="checkbox"/>
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)
61 Gladstone Road
Briar Hill Vic 3088

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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) 61 Gladstone Rd BRIAR HILL Vic 3088

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Mobile No:

Phone No.: E-mail:

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS (EXCEPT FOR E-MAIL)