



TRACK

September 2018



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

PATRON:	Brig P.A. Acutt (Retd)	
PRESIDENT:	Peter Branagan, OAM	
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TREASURER:		
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Black Hats Pay Their Respects



(Peter Branagan)

Pictured at Beaufort Cemetery on Wednesday, 22 August at the funeral of WO2 John 'Fitzy' Fitzpatrick are, (left to right)-Barry Clugston, OAM, Peter Branagan, OAM, Ian 'Icky' Smith, WO1 Jim Carroll- Corps RSM, Colonel Bruce Richards RL, John 'Bunter' Lane and John 'Tubby' Brooker, OAM

.....continued page 2

VALE

WO2 John James Fitzpatrick 11 October 1942 – 11 August 2018

More than 100 mourners filled the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beaufort, Victoria on Wednesday, 22 August 2018 to celebrate the life of John 'Fitzy' Fitzpatrick. A full Communion Service was conducted where John's life and service to his family and the community following his Army service were extolled by family members. An RSL Service was conducted by Ripon Beaufort sub branch President Maurice Barwick and his former RAAC and RSL colleagues formed a Guard of Honour on leaving the church.

Following his burial in the Beaufort Cemetery, a wake was held in the Ripon Beaufort RSL Hall where retired Colonel Bruce Richards took the opportunity to inform the mourners of 'Fitzy's' exemplary military service.



The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors

Joan Finlayson, David Bretel, Bob Burke, Tyrell McGeever and John Langbehn

CAMBRAI DAY COMMEMORATION DINNER

Saturday 17 November 2018
1900 for 1930hrs

Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal

Guest of Honour
Brigadier Ted Acutt (Retd)
Patron RAACA Victorian Branch

Cost: \$60:00 per head for members
\$70:00 per head for non members/guests
Partners are 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:
Daryl Pinner (H) 9359 4520
Peter Branagan (M) 0428 576 004

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 & Miniatures
Ladies after five

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 9 November 2018

Accommodation is limited

2018 KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 16 December 2018

Once again this highlight on our social calendar will be conducted at the **Diamond Valley Miniature Railway**, Lower Eltham Park, Main Rd from **1000 hrs. Santa will arrive as usual on his special train at 1300 hrs** and our two exclusive specials will arrive at the picnic area at **Meadmore Junction at 1100 and 1400 hrs.** They tour the extensive layout for half an hour with a changeover of on the quarter hour.

You need to supply **a suitably named present for each of your children** to be placed in Santa's sack prior to his arrival at Meadmore Junction on **the Santa Special.**

Rod and Sharon Westgarth will be conducting their very popular sausage sizzle as usual so lunch isn't a problem. The raffle will be run with more wonderful prizes again this year thanks to the skills of **Lindsay Christensen.**

Remember it is a requirement of the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway that **enclosed footwear must be worn by all those who intend to ride the rails.**



Great fun for kids of all ages at Lower Eltham Train Park!

Welcome to the Crew

Brig Peter Alkemade Affiliates: Fiona Glen, Matt Glen, Joan Finlayson, Meaghan Johnstone,
Glen Johnstone and Lorraine Toy

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 1st year apprentices and 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

PO Box 547

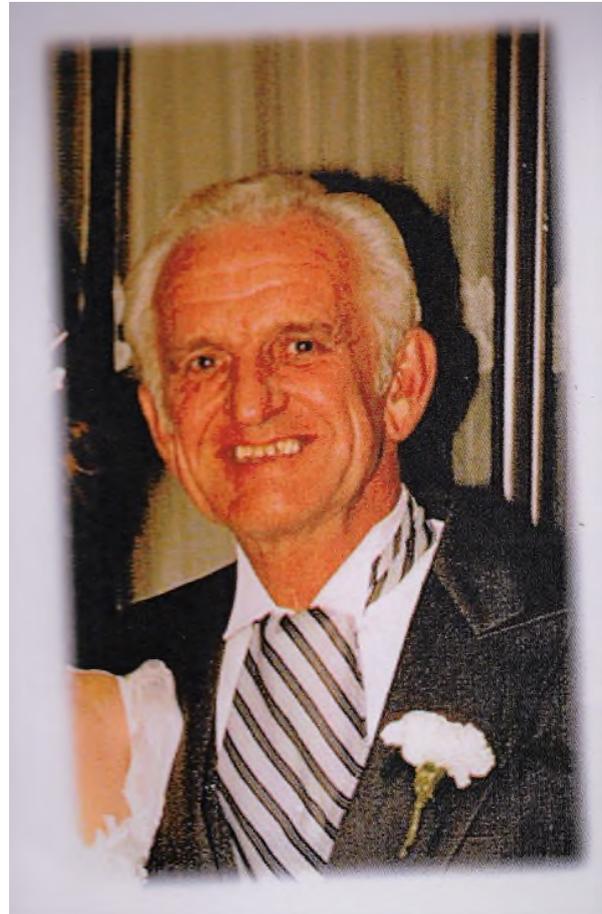
COBURG VIC 3058

VALE

3/748 WO1 Lewis Henry 'Logga' Wood 26 August 1926 – 6 August 2018

Born in the Victorian goldfields town of Maldon, Henry's early schooling was provided at the nearby Baringhup Primary School and later at Maryborough Tech. The family moved to Sunshine in Melbourne's west in 1939. He secured employment with the Victorian Railways working as a messenger boy at Spencer St Station. As soon as he was able, Henry enlisted in the 2nd AIF.

Henry enlisted in the Army in March 1945 at the age of 18 and following recruit training at Cowra NSW, he was allocated to the 6th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment hoping to fulfil his dream of becoming a commando. However when peace broke out in August, Henry found himself re-allocated for clerical duties at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. Fortunately his role at the HQ gave him access to all military planning and noting that a new Armoured Car Squadron was to be raised for service in Japan with BCOF, he successfully applied to join this new unit. On arrival at Puckapunyal he was interviewed by his new OC – Major Cecil Ives, a man who was to have a profound influence on the rest of his life.



Upon arrival in Japan at Kure, the unit was transported to Kaitachi (located a few kilometres from Hiroshima) where they joined the 34th Brigade, at that time commanded by another Light Horse and armoured luminary in Brigadier Ronald Hopkins.

The unit was equipped initially with Staghound Armoured Cars and Canadian Scout Cars; but it soon became apparent that Japanese roads and bridges were no match for the heavy armoured car. Following a number of accidents including a couple of fatalities, the Staghounds were withdrawn in 1947.

Duties for the occupying forces included peace keeping, maintaining civil order in conjunction with the local authorities plus guard and ceremonial duties at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. Henry was promoted to Pay Corporal and Orderly Room Sergeant prior to his return to Australia in October 1948. He was posted to the Armoured School where he served as Transport Sergeant until the 14th National Service Training Battalion was raised in Puckapunyal where he served as a Platoon Sergeant.

Following the establishment of the Officer Cadet School at Portsea; Henry was promoted to WO2 and posted there for two years as an RAAC instructor which was followed by a posting back to 1st Armoured Regiment as SSM HQ Squadron. On 6th February 1956 he had the distinct honour of accepting the original Guidon presented to the Regiment by the Governor General, Field Marshall Sir William Slim.

In 1957 he was posted to 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers at Tamworth and remained there as an ARA cadre staff member until 1960 when he was selected to attend the advanced Driving and Maintenance, Wireless and Gunnery Courses at the RAC Centre, Bovington Camp, Dorset, UK.

With typical diligence and hard work, Henry received three outstanding A passes, a feat never achieved before by a student from the colonies! At the completion of the three courses in April 1961, he was transferred to West Germany to give advanced instruction in all subjects to armoured units in the BAOR.

On his completion of the tour he was posted to the Armoured Centre where he was appointed Wing Sergeant Major of D&M Wing, It was during this posting that he introduced into the Tank Driver's course the infamous 16 foot 6 inch vertical drop in the Centurion tank.

In July 1963, he was posted and promoted to RSM, 1st Armoured Regiment, a position he declared as the highlight of his career. His tenure was cut short however when in early 1965, the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion was raised in Puckapunyal to train 20 year old men in the new National Service Scheme. During his tenure at 2RTB, Henry was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

In late 1967 Henry volunteered for service in South Vietnam and was duly accepted in to the AATTV. However, during training for an eventual deployment with The Team, it was discovered that he had a hearing problem so was duly returned to unit.

This upset him so much that he seriously considered discharge; however, his CO, an old Melbourne Grammarian convinced him to apply for a House Master's job at his old school. He held this position for 12 years and undoubtedly had considerable influence on many students over this time.

To me, Lewis Henry Wood epitomised the post war SNCO's and Warrant Officers with which our Corps was blessed. Men of the ilk of Jock Inglis, Joffre Gilchrist, Percy White, John Hawton, Ivan Maher and Gus Ballentine immediately spring to mind. They were highly principled men who took the training of their soldiers very seriously and dealt with all and sundry with a great sense of fairness and equanimity.

Peter Branagan, OAM

Rest in Peace Logga



National Service march out parade, 2RTB Puckapunyal, December 1967

Mark Your Diary

Victorian Branch Birthday

Sunday 10 February 2019

1400 hrs

The **73rd birthday** of the Victorian Branch will be celebrated at the **Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 10 February 2019** with a gathering on the forecourt of the Shrine followed by a short commemorative service in the Shrine Sanctuary and afterwards the usual sumptuous afternoon tea will be enjoyed in the western annex where the Shrine shop is located.

Our association flag, first flown in February 2014 will be flying from the flagpole in the Shrine forecourt. It is flown there on appropriate days during the year including **7 February (association birthday 1946)** and **9 July (official Australian Armoured Corps birthday 1941)**.

All members and spouses are strongly urged to support this significant activity. The setting, adjacent to Melbourne's most famous landmark is outstanding and the opportunity to **renew your acquaintance with this significant Melbourne precinct is strongly encouraged.**

To assist the organisers with afternoon tea catering, please contact the Secretary Peter Axton by email raxton3@bigpond.com or 0428 335 406 to warn in for rations. **RSVP 1 February 2019.**



2019 Autumn Picnic

Sunday 31 March 2019

This popular event will be held again at the **Australian Army Tank Museum Puckapunyal** on **Sunday 31 March 2019**. 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 trackpads. **Soft drinks for kids will also be provided.**

Remember your photo ID for admission to Puckapunyal Army Base

Show Off Your Association

	Items for Sale	Postage
RAACA Tie	\$32.00	\$4.00
RAACA Pocket Badge	\$15.00	\$1.00
RAACA Plaque (Victorian Branch).....	\$40.00	\$6.00
RAACA Decal	\$ 1.50	\$1.00
RAACA Lapel Badge	\$11.00	\$1.00
RAACA Cap	\$10.00	\$6.00
RAACA Stubby Holder	\$ 6.50	\$4.00
RAACA Polo shirt size S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$23.00	\$6.00
<i>Colour Black, Green, Burgundy, Navy Blue</i>		
RAACA Black Beret (medium)	\$30.00	\$6.00
<i>(Please include Beret size)</i>		
RAACA Rugby tops	\$35.00	\$6.00
<i>Navy blue with denim collar and Association Logo</i>		
RAACA Chambray shirts	\$29.00	\$6.00
<i>Long/Short sleeves, light blue with Association Logo</i>		
RAACA Brew Mug.....	\$10.00	Pickup Only
With Association logo		
Eldridge Book (special)	\$30.00	Postage Paid

Please note:

1. Prices are subject to change when current stock runs out.
2. all items are inclusive of GST and subject to a charge for packing and postage.
3. Please include cost of Postage.



P.O. Box 547

Coburg Vic 3058

[Email: daryl.pinner@yahoo.com.au](mailto:daryl.pinner@yahoo.com.au)

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.**

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.

(Victorian Branch)

PO Box 547

Coburg Vic 3058

SURFACE
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AUSTRALIA



Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.

(Victorian Branch)

Change of address

To change your mailing address, please fill in the new address below,

and return THE COMPLETE PAGE to:

RAACA (Vic Branch) Membership Officer, PO Box 547, Coburg Vic 3058

Name:

Address:

.....Post Code:

Mobile No:

Phone No:..... Fax No:.....

E-mail:

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS (EXCEPT FOR E-MAIL)