



Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)
A0023458C

TRACK

September 2022



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

On the Road to Cambrai Again this Year



(Peter Branagan)

Following a very successful move to Greensborough RSL last year, we are on track for another outstanding luncheon to commemorate the 105th anniversary of the first use of tanks 'en masse' in the Great War. We have adjusted the celebration this year to Sunday to make the most of the actual day – the 20th of November. That will be two successive years that we have been able to achieve this. Our former Patron Colonel Mick O'Brien, AM (Retd) is flying in from Canada and will be our guest speaker. Back in February, he also attended our birthday celebration at the Shrine.



Cambrai Day Commemoration Luncheon

Sunday 20 November 2022

1200 for 1300 hrs

**The ANZAC Room
Greensborough RSL
111 Main Street
Greensborough Vic 3088**

Guest of Honour

Colonel Mick O'Brien, AM (Retd)
Former Patron RAACA (Victorian Branch)

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

Andy Clark (M) 0431 708 576

Peter Branagan (M) 0428 576 004

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket with full size medals
Ladies equivalent

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 11 November 2022

Mark Your Diary.....

2022 Kid's Christmas Party

Sunday 18 December 2022

1030 hrs

Rod Westgarth has booked **Meadmore Junction** again for this year's party at the **Diamond Valley Miniature Railway**. Come along and enjoy the fun and the bar-b-que at **this premier location in Eltham**.

Victorian Branch Birthday

Sunday 12 February 2023

1400 hrs

The **77th birthday** of the Victorian Branch will be celebrated at the **Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 12 February 2023** 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, in 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 secretary.raacavic@gmail.com or 0428 335 406 to warn in for rations. **RSVP 31 January 2023**.



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 Street

NAGAMBIE VIC 3608

Latest Finlayson Memorial Scholarship Presented



Young Nathan Branagan is the latest recipient of an Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship

Nathan is the grandson of President **Peter Branagan**. He was a regular attendee at our functions particularly the Kid's Christmas Party at Eltham. Nathan's apprenticeship is with BIG Building Group of Hillside. He is currently studying for a Certificate III in Carpentry at Platinum Properties Melbourne Pty Ltd. **The \$500.00 scholarship will be used for the purchase of carpentry tools.**

The Other RAACA SCHOLARSHIPS

The current situation relating to the RAACA Victorian Branch Scholarships as it appears regularly in Track

“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.**”

A brief history of the RAACA Victorian Branch Scholarships

(1974 - 1999)

The "Welfare Patriotic Fund"

The RAACA Victorian Branch was authorised to establish a "Welfare Patriotic Fund" on the 23rd August 1971 (Authority No. 3268), the money to start this fund were provide by transferring monies originally raised by members from 1946 to 1953 and placed in a registered "Building Patriotic Fund" established on 1st November 1948 (Authority No. 3268). This money was accumulated with the intention of "erection or purchasing club rooms" for the RAACA Victorian Branch members.

By 1964 it was recognised by the Committee that the funds accumulated were not sufficient to meet the stated objective of establishing clubrooms. This fact plus the decline in membership and the introduction of less restrictive liquor licensing laws (eg. 6.00 to 10.00 pm public bar closing times) caused some concern as to the viability of licensed club rooms.

The membership of the RAACA Victorian Branch in 1953 was 2000, in 1966 approx. 80/100, with an increase to 380 as at 31st December 1970. With this new membership it became clearer that these funds should be available provide some benefits to members from a new generation of Armoured Corps soldiers, those who served in the Fifties and Sixties. However the restrictions on having the money in a "Building Patriotic Fund" prevented them being used in any way other than for clubrooms. In January 1970, a start was made to have this position changed. The efforts of Gordon Arthur DAVIDSON and supported by Victor CHAPPLE & John Gerald NORRIS resulted in gaining approval on 10th October 1972, by order of the Governor in Council, to have these funds transferred to the "RAACA Victorian Branch Welfare Patriotic Fund" and available for welfare purposes.

Welfare Benefits

The availability of a source of funds for welfare purposes allowed the RAACA Victorian Branch to review the needs of eligible members. Whilst there was occasional calls for welfare assistance during financial crises, it was identified that there was a far wider need for support of members to educate their children. This is not normally perceived as a financial crisis issue, but one were the members were financially pressured by education costs. A payment towards these expenses would support the improvement in the financial situation for a member.

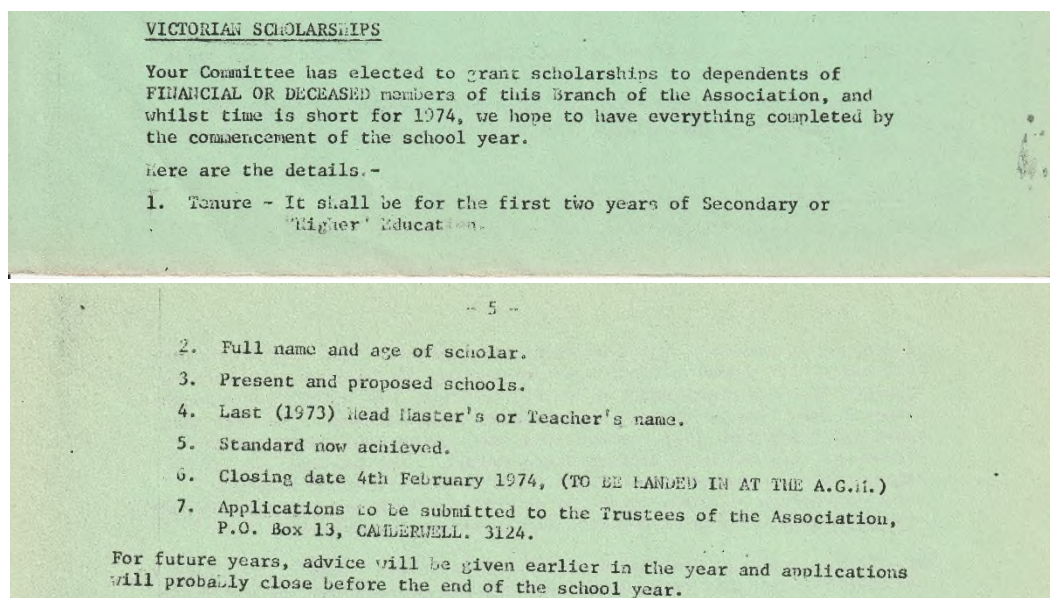
Scholarship Awards

The proposal to establish a scholarship was made by Charles H. Walsh in a letter dated 30/8/1973 to the Secretary and minuted on the 5th November 1973.

The call for 1974 applications and notification of eligibility criteria were published in "Track" December 1973.

From the archives.

This is the "call for applications" as it appeared in that issue of Track, at the bottom of Page 4 & 5.



The RAACA Victorian Branch has offered financial support to members, for the past 25 years, in assisting them to meet the cost of education of their children in the first two years of Secondary Schooling (Years 7 & 8).

Awarding Procedure

A RAACA Victorian Branch member makes an application to the Secretary, for a Scholarship each year. The Branch Committee confirms that the member meets the scholarship awarding criteria and forwards recommendations to the Trustees for payment. When the Trustees have ensured that the application of monies from the RAACA Victorian Branch Welfare Patriotic Fund are appropriate, they make a cheque payment direct to the scholarship recipients.

The Trustees have made payments totaling \$ 7850.00 over the period from 1974 to 1999. (*refer Appendix A.*)

Funding Resource Administration

Funding for these educational scholarships is through the application of monies held in the RAACA Victorian Branch Welfare Patriotic Fund.

These monies are governed by the Victorian Government "Patriotic Funds Act 1958" and supervised by the Patriotic Funds Council of Victoria.

The trustees approve the necessary funding under welfare guidelines as prescribed by the Act and must satisfy the supervisory authority with annual audited accounts.

The Patriotic Funds Council of Victoria require "prudent persons" as trustees to administer the RAACA Victorian Branch Welfare Patriotic Fund. The appointment of Trustees are prescribed in the authority to establish the Fund. (*refer Appendix B.*)

There has been a small number of changes to Trustees over the past years :

Appointment Date	Order of Succession	Trustee Name	Retirement Date
23/8/1971	Initial (i)	Gordon Arthur DAVIDSON	?
23/8/1971	Initial (ii)	John Gerald NORRIS	1987
28/3/1978	New (iii)	Victor A. CHAPPLE	?
(Prior to 3/'79)	(i) - (iv)	Henry RIGG	?
(Prior to 3/'79)	(iii) - (v)	Ron POLLARD	1991
1987	(ii) - (vi)	Stuart Douglas McDIARMID	Current Trustee
(H. RIGG retired?)	(iv) - (vii)	Godfrey CAMENZULI	Current Trustee
1991	(v)- (viii)	Daryl PINNER	Current Trustee

The role of the Trustees can be defined as being a part of the RAACA Victorian Branch executive, elected by the Members, but have an independent role in relation to the Patriotic Funds Council of Victoria by being governed by the Act & Regulations of the "Patriotic Funds Act 1958".

RAACA Scholarships today

With that history lesson in mind, your committee were considering the Victorian Branch Scholarship and its current suitability to the needs of our members. For their dependants, members have access to the **Brigadier F.B. Hinton, MC Scholarship** which caters for their children in the final 2 years of secondary school as well as the **Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship** which caters for member's grandchildren in the first year of their apprenticeship. Each of these is funded through a scholarship fund which is administered by trustees in a similar way to how the Victorian Branch Scholarship had been. In the 25-year period reported in that history, the scholarship value was \$100 and a total of \$7,850 was distributed to assist members with their children's education. In later years, when the funds had been all but distributed, the little that remained was transferred to the general RAACA accounts. There has been little to no interest in recent years and on evaluating why, the committee felt it was because the average age of members now means their children are all past the first 2 years of secondary school. The relevance of the scholarships was then considered under

the current circumstances and after some discussion it was decided that, since the second point under the “Purposes of The Association” in our Constitution says: **From time to time the Association may provide welfare services to its members and secondary school scholarships to their dependants as appropriate**, a scholarship should continue to be available. To achieve this aim, it was felt that the focus should now shift to provide for grandchildren of members and the best way to do this was to use the terms of the original Victorian Branch Scholarships, the criteria being as stated at the start of this article, but expand its scope. The motion then being passed by the committee as follows:

“The eligibility conditions of the 2 Victorian Branch Scholarships, (The Gordon Davidson & Charlie Walsh Scholarships) be expanded to cover grandchildren. Initially there is to be a cap of 3 of each scholarship per Association member until running costs can be assessed. The details of the changes are to be advertised in the September issue of Track, giving time for members to assess their personal situation prior to the start of the school year. The value of the scholarship is to remain unchanged at \$150 and be available to grandchildren of both ordinary and affiliate members with at least 5 years of financial membership, meaning where a family has 2 qualifying members, a total of 6 scholarships would be available.”

Since the money from the original scholarship fund was transferred to the general accounts, that scheme is no longer in existence so this new scholarship will be funded through our general accounts and be administered by the committee. Having said that, it was decided to continue to honour the members who established the original scholarships and use the original names being the Gordon Davidson and Charlie Walsh Scholarships. To ensure it does not get out of hand and deplete or funds, we have kept to the original scholarship value of \$150 and added some constraints as detailed in the Motion above. This will be monitored over time and may be expanded.

The Victorian Branch Scholarship is now as follows:

The Victorian Branch Scholarship is \$150.00 per year and paid to assist with the cost of the first two years of secondary school. Applications should be forwarded to the Secretary by **28 February in the first year of qualification** in the form of a letter setting out the child’s details and with proof of attendance. **A follow up application is required for the second year.** To apply, **applicants must be the children or grandchildren** of someone who has been a financial member of the RAACA for a **minimum of five years.**

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.** Please send 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** for a minimum of 5 years.

Welcome to the Crew

David Gayton Kallir Preece, Lindsay Bancroft

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Donors

Niall Waring

Below is our order form. We currently have low stock of most items, but we plan to stock up soon plus we are looking for ideas of new products to expand our range. Please contact the Treasurer/Property Member with any suggestions.



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

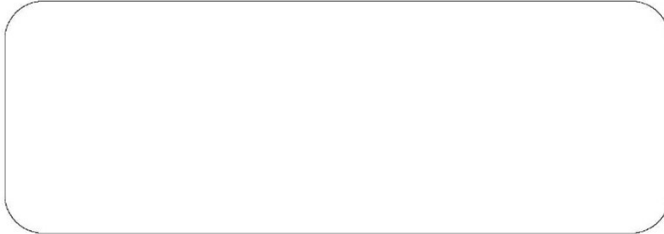
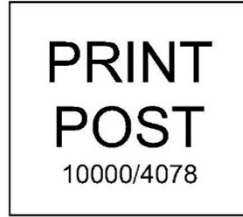
If paying by direct deposit:

Bank: Bendigo Bank
 BSB: 633 000 Acc. No.: 163760515
 Include your name and something to identify payment like "Q Store"



If undeliverable, return to:
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.
(Victorian Branch)
1 Ambleside Link
DOREEN Vic 3754

TRACK



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)