



1ST ARMOURD
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2019 | NO. 83

PARATUS

The memorial Arch, spanning the Great Ocean Road

The road itself was built as a memorial to those that were killed in the 1st World War, Making it the longest war memorial in the world.

Claire Hunter - features writer with the Australian War Memorial.

See article inside



Theatres of Operation

Japan

Vietnam - Battle Honours

- Coral - Balmoral
- Hat Dich
- Binh Ba

Rhodesia

Cambodia

East Timor

Iraq

Solomon Islands

Afghanistan

Our Soldiers Today

(Click on)

<http://armynews.realviewdigital.com/#folio=1>

Newsletter Contributions

The views and comments expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributor and not necessarily endorsed by the current committee.

Whilst every care regarding all information is exercised, it should not necessarily be taken as absolute historical fact.



In this Issue ISSN 2208-2433 (Online)

- 2019 AGM
- 2018/19 Committee
- 1AR 2019 report
- Editor's Desk
- Secretary's Report
- Operation Hammersley
- Honour Roll
- Travel to honour mate
- Latest news on Boxster
- Coral / Balmoral Artwork
- VIC – Tolmie Week end
- A Road to Remember

PARATUS

1st Armoured Regiment Association inc. 2019 AGM

1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.



Vice President John 'Tubby' Brooker, President Keith 'Mel' Melloncelli, Secretary Russ James

Treasurer
Comms Manager
Junior Vice President
Special Projects
Special Projects
VIC Rep
NSW Rep
SA Rep
QLD Rep
WA Rep
TAS Rep
NT Rep
RAAC Corps Delegate

Werner Golla
Peter Lukeis
Mark Reid
Dean Martin
Graeme Unmack
Iain Reynolds
Mick Payne
Mark Reid
Brian Hatfield
Pat Deeker
Jim Semmens
Peter Still
Chris Fenton

QSTORE
IT Manager

Dick Stanios
Phill Ho-Season Smith



Ian 'Icky' Smith and Peter Branagan



Peter Duncombe and Trevor Watts



Peter Lukeis and Ian 'Icky' Smith

Congratulations to the newly elected Committee (see previous page)

Apology

I offer my most sincere apologies for an oversight that occurred at the AGM. This year prior to the reading of the Ode, a list of names was read of the former members of the Regiment who had died since the last AGM. Regrettably the names of Robert Barrie WADE, MBE died 1 Sep 2019 and Kenneth Alfred (Sandy) TOCOCK MID died 6 June 2019, were omitted.

Annual General Meeting – 12 October 2019

As reported in the Minutes of the AGM (previously distributed via MailChimp), there were 27 members in attendance and 26 of these were entitled to vote. Apologies had been received from 35 members and proxies had been received from 89 members; two proxies were invalid as the Proxy Nominee failed to attend the meeting.

Key points from the AGM include:

- a. The Minutes from the previous meeting was accepted as was the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2019.
- b. Membership had increased by approximately 100 since the previous AGM and is currently at 476 active members.
- c. On behalf of the Association, the President thanked Committee Members who had recently resigned from their Committee positions.
- d. All members of the current Management Committee were returned to their positions unopposed except for Gary Frost and Dave Paterson who resigned because of work commitments. Werner Golla nominated for the position of Treasurer and was elected unopposed.
- e. Membership fees were amended and are now \$25 for one year, \$44 for two years, \$63 for three years, \$80 for four years and \$95 for five years. The change is to be implemented immediately for new members and will be applied to all membership renewals from 1 February 2020.
- f. Amendments to the 'Own Rules' Constitution. The changes recommended by the Secretary and previously communicated to all Association members was the subject of a Special Resolution. A secret ballot was conducted and the Special Resolution (to accept the changes) was passed unanimously by 113 votes to zero.

A motion was approved for the Association to donate \$2,500 to the Regiment to assist in the acquisition of specialised lighting for the Regimental Museum/History Room.

Russ James
Secretary



1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Committee 2019/2020

ABN 16930055791
PO Box 301, Mentone. VIC 3194
secretary@paratus.org.au

PATRON

MAJGEN Craig Orme DSC, AM, CSC, (Retd)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Keith Meloncelli
president@paratus.org.au

VICE PRESIDENT

John Brooker OAM
vicepresident@paratus.org.au

SECRETARY

Russ James
secretary@paratus.org.au

TREASURER

Werner Golla
treasurer@paratus.org.au

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Peter Lukeis
comms@paratus.org.au

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Reid
juniorvp@paratus.org.au

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dean Martin
Specialprojects1@paratus.org.au

COMMITTEE

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Graeme Unmack
Specialprojects2@paratus.org.au

RECRUITMENT MANAGER

Currently Vacant
recruitment@paratus.org.au

VIC REP

Iain Reynolds
vicrep@paratus.org.au

NSW REP

Mick Payne
nswrep@paratus.org.au

SA REP

Mark Reid
sarep@paratus.org.au

QLD REP

Brian Hatfield
qldrep@paratus.org.au

NT REP

Peter Still
Ntrep@paratus.org.au

TAS REP

Jim Semmens
tasrep@paratus.org.au

WA REP

Pat Deeker
warep@paratus.org.au

RAAC CORPORATION DELEGATE

Chris Fenton OAM
liaison@paratus.org.au

SUPPORT

Q STORE

Richard (Dick) Stanios
storeroom@paratus.org.au

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Phill Ho Season - Smith
itmanager@paratus.org.au

Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages

Web Sites

1st ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
www.paratus.org.au

RAAC CORPORATION
www.raaccorpltd.org.au

ROYAL TANK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
www.royaltankregiment.com

Facebook Pages

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC MEMBERS ONLY
www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC SOCIAL PAGE
www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/

1ST ARMoured REGIMENT FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/

Werner Golla - our new Treasurer

Biography:

27 Years ARA

8.5 ARes

31 years in the RAAC (ARA and ARes) and 4.5 in RAAOC - Corps transfer into RAAOC 31 Dec 1997 Head of Corps Policy

Retired Army 15 June 2002

Civilian employment

Confederation of Australian Motor Sport - maintained Registry at National Office 2.5 years

Sodexho - Administration Hospitality 4 years

Spotless - Administration Hospitality 10 years (Defence- Victoria Barracks and Health Services -Monash Medical Centre)

Administration, finance and Environmental Services

Southern Health - two years casual in Human Resources

Retired Australia Day 2011

Sport badminton (inter area and Service)

Squash (inter area)

Running - marathons, half marathons, ultra (Brindabella Classic ACT) Relays - Logistic Command Lake Relay Albert Park, Round the Mountain Relay NZ 89 and 90

Volunteer Melbourne Legacy Club - 10 years



SERVICE DETAILS

LEGATEE WERNER GOLLA

UNITS

1 Recruit Training Battalion
Armoured Centre

1 Armoured Regiment

2 Recruit Training Battalion
Armoured Centre

HQ Squadron 1 Armoured Regiment

B Squadron 1 Armoured Regiment

B Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment

HQ 2 Military District

Army Office (Office of the CGS)

Department of Defence (Central)

Armoured Centre

Central Army Records Office

Army Office (Local Administration)

Army Office (ADFILS)

Central Army Records Office (Directorate of Armour) 1989 Melbourne Vic

HQ Logistic Command

Discharge at 3 Military District Watsonia

Monash University Regiment (Army Reserve)

Army Personnel Agency (Army Reserve)

Monash University Regiment

Retirement

1966 Kapooka NSW (Allocated Royal Australian Armoured Corps)

1966 Puckapunyal Vic

1967 Puckapunyal Vic

1969 Puckapunyal Vic

1969 Puckapunyal Vic

1972 Puckapunyal Vic

1975 Puckapunyal Vic

1975 Puckapunyal Vic

1977 Sydney (Paddington)

1978 Canberra ACT

1981 Canberra ACT

1982 Puckapunyal Vic

1986 Melbourne Vic

1987 Canberra ACT

1988 Canberra ACT

1989 Melbourne Vic

1991 Melbourne Vic

1993 Melbourne Vic

1994 Mount Waverley Vic

1997 Melbourne Vic (South Bank)

2000 Mount Waverley Vic

15 June 2002 (Aged 55)

RANK

Recruit 1966, Trooper 1967, Lance Corporal 1970, Corporal 1971, Sergeant 1976, Temporary Warrant officer Class 2 1981, Substantive Warrant Officer Class 2 1982, Warrant Officer Class One 1987, Captain 2000

1st Armoured Regiment 2019 Report

CO 1 Armd Regt
LT COL John Holloway

RSM 1 Armd Regt
WO1 Andrew Donnelly

2019 has been an outstanding year for the Regiment with our people once again demonstrating their professionalism and dedication to getting the 'job done' despite the geographic and availability challenges. Building on previous years of hard training, the Regiment entered the READYING year at a cracking pace. This year saw the Regiment reach a number of significant milestones with the 70th anniversary of the battle of Binh Ba, Sqn exercises to Cultana, deployment of BG LION to SWBTA drawing forces from Adelaide and across Australia, the conduct of the CTC BG Assessment (Ex WARFIGHTER), Ex PARATUS STRIKE (three day BG live fire), Ex TALISMAN SABRE 19, support to the 7th RAR and the Joint Land Sea Series aboard HMAS Adelaide, and the adoption of CONFE responsibilities.



BG Image in SWBTA

Battlegroup LION numbered over 950 at its peak, and contained elements from across the 1st Brigade, and other Brigades, to make up the team. Both the 5th Battalion and the 7th Battalion (the Royal Australian Regiment) were represented along with Coral Battery (102 Bty) from 8/12 Regt and a number of other capabilities including small boat assets from 1 CER. The outcome was a Manoeuvre BG that operated with manoeuvre and cunning through some of the most challenging terrain in SWBTA to achieve overwhelming success.

The Regiment approached each challenge with an impressive level of professionalism and once again demonstrated our role as exponents of the art and science of mounted combat. Each Squadron lived up to expectations and operated with this common purpose in mind across a breadth of tasks.

A Squadron lived to their motto and proved that when asked they 'were able' to support numerous concurrent exercises. They displayed an excellent level of support to the Joint Land Sea Series and the 7th Battalions amphibious capability, while forming a key part of the Battle Group Lion commitment to Exercise WARFIGHTER and the Exercise TALISMAN SABRE.

The Squadron has since transitioned to the Regiments Main Effort CRV Squadron for the READY year. B Squadron once again demonstrated through actions, not words, the unique capability offered by M1A1 in the field. Whether in the open plains of CUTA, or the close country of SWBTA, the Tank has no equal and B Sqn once again demonstrated its key role within the combined arms team and joint force. Their professionalism was epitomized by the ability to transition from 'green' to Urban at Raspberry Creek with no decline in their effectiveness. The Squadron finished the two month exercise operating as many tanks as they started with, testament to their skill and professionalism.

C Squadron approached the year with their typical 'discipline and integrity' forming the basis of the units Main Effort throughout READYING. They were the lynch pin in all things mounted cavalry. Their place on Exercise WARFIGHTER and Exercise TALISMAN SABRE was a staple for the Brigades and Regimental cavalry effect. With multiple changes in their Order of Battle, they once again proved the role of cavalry is more linked to culture than any particular platform.

Support Squadron remained steadfast in the support to sustaining the unit's ability to operate in the field and barracks, and once again proved a key point of difference in our capability edge in SWBTA. Through some creative concepts, the Sqn was able to support five unorthodox CT structures and protect themselves. In barracks they continue to foster strong relationships with external support agencies and maintain a very diverse range of platforms with initiative and dedication.



Family Day

Following the two month deployment to Shoalwater Bay, the Regiment redeployed from central Queensland back to South Australia.

The result of which proved our ability to deploy across the country, collectively employ the Battlegroup, and redeploy in good order. But the year was far from over. September resulted in another hit-out for the Regt with B Squadron and A Squadron conducting another exercise, and qualification courses, in Cultana. Followed by numerous training activities and evolutions to establish the Regiments CONFE requirements for READY.

The Regimental families have been a great support to the Regiment this year. It is important to recognise that while the tempo has not slowed, the families continued to provide a great level of support that was hugely appreciated from the members of the Regt.

To our Army Reserve partnered units, 4thn / 19thn PWLH, and 3rd / 9th LH SAMR I say thank you for your unwavering support. The bond between our units remains strong with plenty of opportunities to work together with the new capability ahead.



A Sqn on LHQ or on Beach



ISR Operators

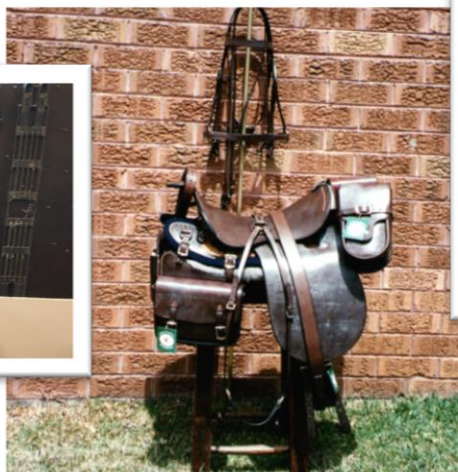
As my Command of the Regiment draws to a close I am humbled by the privilege of working for some of our Army's most professional and dedicated soldiers. Indeed it has been my honour and a career highlight. As I handover the Regiment, I congratulate my successor, LTCOL Orders, on his selection. I wish him and the RSM the best for the READY year that lies ahead. The unanswerable question of what the future holds continues to sharpen the focus of these young men and women. I am confident regardless of the answer, BG LION is ready – Paratus.



Riverine insertion

Leather Goods – Saddlery, Bandoliers and Harness fittings

Chris Fenton advised that Ian Lancaster of Crookwell (one of the top three (3) saddle makers in Australia) had the templates to manufacture Light Horse saddles, gaiters, leggings and other harness fittings. At present he is making a bandolier which will be finished in black and fitted with silver (chromed) accoutrements. Members wishing further information should contact Chris Fenton at liaison@paratus.org.au



From the Editor's desk

Peter Lukeis

Below is a Facebook post from the owner of Tank ride recognising a couple of the Veterans from FSB Balmoral.

RHS - See the 'C' Squadron Order of the day which recognises the battle and soldiers of 'C' Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment at FSB Coral and FSB Balmoral, May – June 1968, by naming the current tanks of 'C' Squadron with the names and places that begin with the letter 'C'.

Finally the 2021 Reunion. Will it be at Port Macquarie? You will soon receive an (EOI) Expression of Interest form. Please respond to the best of your understanding ASAP to enable the Committee to put all the plans in place to ensure a successful Reunion

Tank Ride QLD



Here's part of the reason why I run tankride....these two brave men celebrate Centurionitis like me! It's the love and appreciation of Australian Centurion tanks. Both men served in Vietnam, Des Kearton (left) on board my centurion ARV 169122 and John Rusty Dyson (right) as a centurion tank driver (on board 169069 from memory) Both men were present in the battle of Coral-Balmoral in Vietnam 1968 and have shared history and stories to me and my staff giving our work environment reason, depth and value for what we do. Interestingly my ARV was the first centurion on-site prior to the battle. I thank these men for their service and friendship.



AUSTRALIAN ARMY C SQUADRON, 1ST ARMoured REGIMENT ORDER OF THE DAY

Chauvel Lines, Edinburgh Defence Precinct, EDINBURGH SA 5111
TEL: (08) 7389 0100

ORDER

1. C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment was formed in 1954 and is steeped in history and traditions. In 1968, C Squadron deployed to Vietnam under the command of Major Peter Badman, where they performed with Courage and Distinction. Over the period of May to June 1968, C Squadron were positioned at Fire Support Base Coral and Fire Support Base Balmoral to provide close support to Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Whilst in these locations, they were involved in a number of battles with well-trained North Vietnamese Troops.
2. In April 2018 the Governor General of Australia, General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retired) approved the awarding of The Unit Citation for Gallantry to C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment, for its involvement in the Battle of Coral-Balmoral.
3. To honour the memory of those who served in Vietnam, C Squadron vehicles will bear the following names that have reverence to the Coral-Balmoral period:
 - a. V3C – CORAL-BALMORAL
 - b. V3F – CALLIS (TP SGT 31)
 - c. V3I – CLUGSTON (Driver 31C)
 - d. V3J – CROWE (Gunner 32A)
 - e. V33B – CANNIBAL (CPL Mick Rainey's Tank)
 - f. V33 – CARRA (Gunner 32C).
4. This order is issued by my command.


A Murgatroyd
Major
Officer Commanding

29 Oct 2019

Port Macquarie Reunion 2021



Best Regards



Communications Manager
Peter Lukeis
M: 0407 382 384
E: comms@paratus.org.au
P: PO Box 154,
Mount Macedon. VIC 3441



Report from the Secretary - Russ James

P: Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

PO Box 301, Mentone. VIC 3194

secretary@paratus.org.au

Please note new address above

B: Bendigo Bank

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

BSB: 633-000 Account: 161498159



Executive and Management Committee meetings

At present the Management Committee is taking an opportunity to consolidate whilst administrative issues are finalised with the changeover of Treasurers as well as finalising the Request for Interest for a 2021 Association Reunion in Port Macquarie. Hopefully both these issues will be finalised in the next two weeks.

Future Events

Our Vice President (John Brooker) has been invited to present a lecture to the Regiment on 14 November 2019 on Operation Hammersley (Vietnam, February 1970). In addition, the Vice President and SA Representative (Mark Reid) are to attend the Cambrai Day Parade on 23 November 2019 in an official capacity to present Association awards to the best Junior NCO and best soldier of the year.

Where to From Here?

Over the last 15 or so months the Management Committee has increased our membership, approved a range of policies and procedures concerning our day-to-day administration, finalised issues relating to our Centurion (169005) and generally improved our behaviour on a number of face book pages. It would seem that we instilled a degree of respect back into the Association: not only self-respect at the individual level but also for all others.

What do we need to do?

1. Increase recruitment, especially of the younger generation
2. Work towards a major reunion in 2021 – hopefully in Port Macquarie
3. Finally commence work on the Association By-Laws
4. Identify areas for future spending that would encourage members to renew their memberships as well as attracting new members
5. Continue to recognise those former members of the Regiment who die, regardless of membership of the Association.

Unidentified Membership Fees

If you paid your membership fees during 2018 and did not receive a new membership card or you have stopped receiving Association emails and newsletters, please contact the Secretary at secretary@paratus.org.au

IMPORTANT

Contact Details – as indicated in the last newsletter it is important that our membership contact details are up to date. If in doubt, please advise the Secretary at secretary@paratus.org.au if you have changed your address, your phone numbers or your email address/s in the last couple of years!

Recruitment

Although we have recruited well over the past 15 months, more work needs to be done, not only by the Management Committee but by all current members. If each one of us recruited one new member, then we would double the membership! All members are encouraged to talk to their mates and convince them to join the Association.

Membership Renewal

At present, 166 members are due to renew their membership on 1 February 2020. Individual notices are to be sent by email and/or snail mail to those due to renew by 10 December 2019. If you think that you are due to renew and do not receive a reminder, please contact the Secretary.

If you have moved or changed your email and have not advised the Secretary, take seven (7) extras and immediately provide your updated details.

Season Greetings

Whilst just a little early, may I wish all Association members the very best for Christmas and New Year. May you enjoy life, treasure your family and friends and consider those that are less fortunate in their day-to-day lives.

Russ James

WARNING ORDER

Operation Hammersley National Service of Remembrance 18 February 2020

To: All members of A Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment who served during 1969/70 and in particular those who participated in Operation Hammersley and specifically those involved in the Battle of "Long Hai".

Situation:

The RAAC Corporation, under the direction of the Chairman, Mr Noel McLaughlin, OAM and ably assisted by Mr Peter Rosemond CSC, OAM, has obtained funding approval from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) for a National Service of Remembrance and a Last Post Ceremony to be conducted on Tuesday 18 February 2020 in Canberra.

It is expected that the Service – to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle – will be similar in format to those conducted for Coral-Balmoral and Binh Ba. The success of this battle was not just a military victory, but a strategic political victory for the ARVN and the Government of SVN, to breach and destroy the Minh Dam Secret Zone, for which 8 RAR and 161 Battery RNZA were awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Unit Citation.

All participating units including A Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment, B Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 8 Battalion RAR, 1st Field Regiment (161 Battery RNZA)RAA, 1st Field Squadron RAE, and air elements, etc. have been advised and are expected to participate.

Requirement:

Although final details of the National Service may not be finalised until mid to late October 2019, members are advised to put appropriate travel plans in place. DVA and Defence Ceremonial will co-ordinate all ceremonial actions for this Historical Event.

Communications:

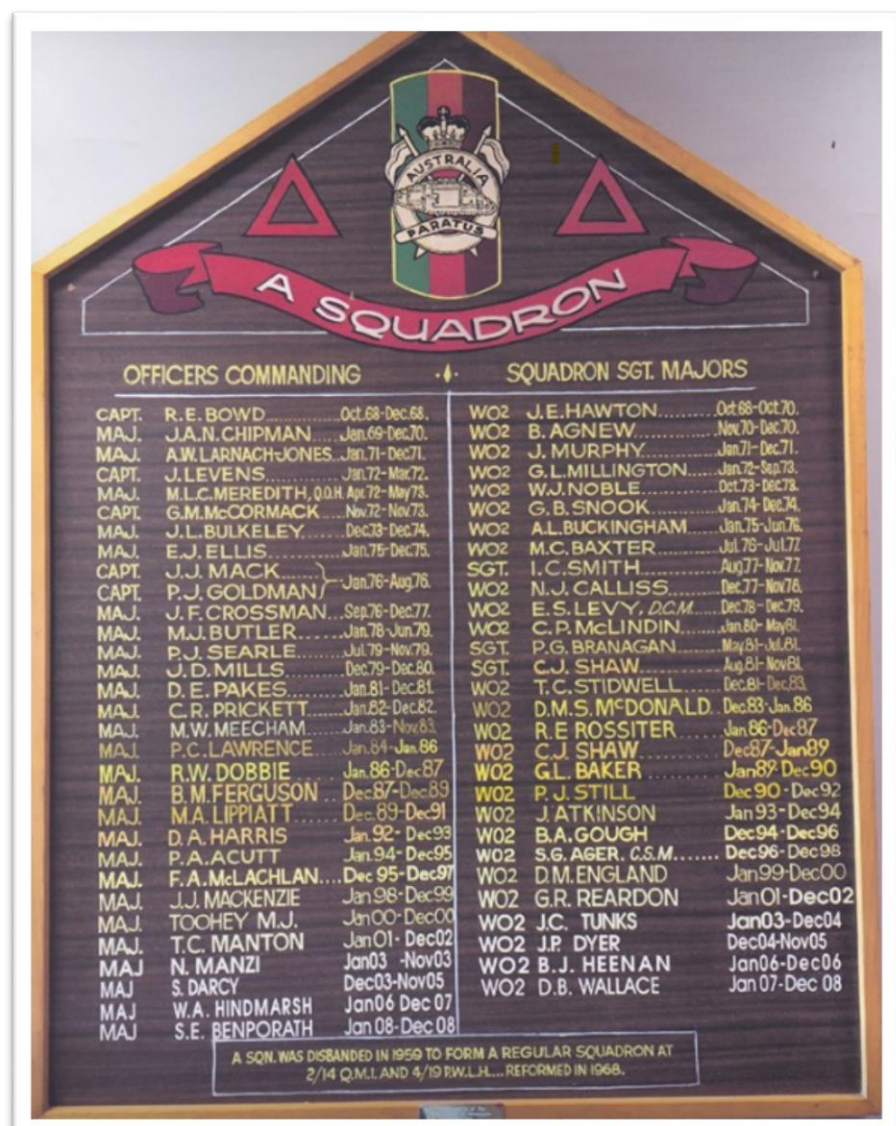
The Association will provide regular updates via email to all Association members as well as by notices in relevant face book pages.

Enquiries:

The Point of Contact (POC) for the Association is
John 'Tubby' Brooker
vicepresident@paratus.org.au

Russ James

Secretary





1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Honour Roll

Killed In Action

WO2 J.A. Bond
WO2 J. Stone
TPR J. Kerr

Died of Wounds

TPR M. Hannaford
WO2 T. Phillips

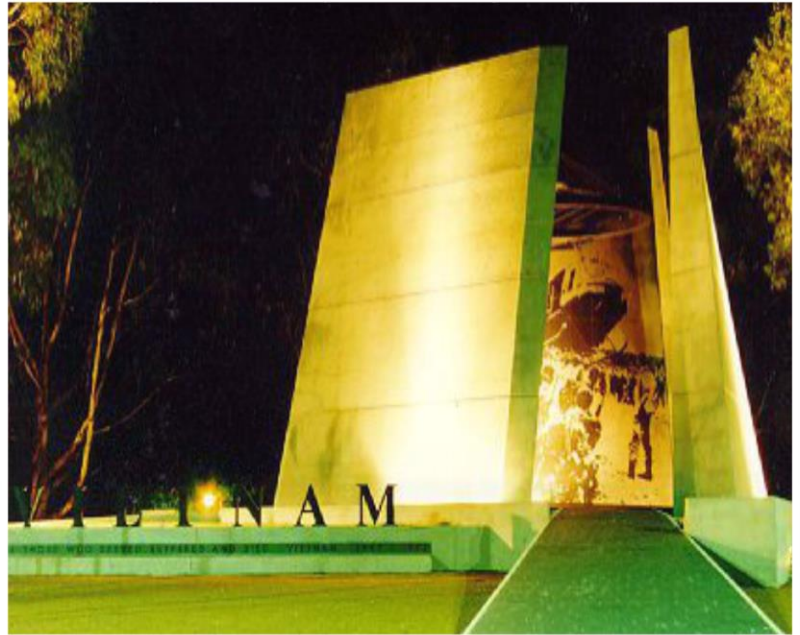
DOW Post-Vietnam

WO1 L. S. Swarbrick
WO2 N. Lowes
TPR P. G. Barwick
TPR R. S. Bellott

Killed Accidentally

LT A. J. Massey
SGT R. Morrison
SGT R. G. Murray
TPR A. M. Jordan
TPR A. Patterson
CFN B. Silver (LAD)

**Dedicated to those 1st Armoured Regiment
Soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice**



Bruce Stanley WEAVER passed away 26 August 2019

Bruce (Stan) joined the Australian Regular Army on 19 July 1978 and was discharged on 18 July 1984.

After the normal three-month stint at 1 Recruit Training Battalion Kapooka, Bruce was posted to the Armoured Centre at Puckapunyal where he was trained as a Leopard driver (Driver, AFV).

He was posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment on 20 December 1978 and no doubt spent many months on the 'Pucka Range'. During his time at the Regiment, Bruce was also trained as a Dozer driver (Driver Special Equipment (Tank Dozer) and Crewman Gunner/Signaller.

Bruce was attached to 31 Supply Battalion on two occasions in 1979. In May 1980 Bruce was selected for Exercise Northern Star 80 in West Germany and was attached to 5 Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

It is clear from many comments made on Social Media that Bruce was highly respected by those with whom he served – in both the Army and the Fire Brigade - and indeed many considered it was an honour to have served with him.

After leaving the Army Bruce joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) in Victoria and spent 34 years serving the people of Victoria. Bruce completed many courses in the Fire Brigade and was promoted on a number of occasions. Bruce gave 34 years of dedicated service to the people of Victoria through his service in the Fire Brigade.

Bruce was a keen sportsman and runner and participated in many events that supported charities and his local community.

May he rest in peace in the green fields beyond.

(Thanks to the MFB for information concerning his service).



Robert Barrie WADE, MBE passed away on Sunday 1 September 2019, age 81 years

Barrie was born on 29 March 1938 and he joined the Australian Army not long after his nineteenth birthday in 1957.

After the normal stint (in those days, almost four months) at 1 RTB, Barrie was posted directly to the 1st Armoured Regiment on 26 September 1957. He remained in the Regiment until 29 August 1963. During this time Barrie was trained and employed as a Clerk, Driver (AFV), Crewman Gunner Signaller and Crew Commander.

In August 1963 Barrie was posted to 2/14 QMI for approximately 12 months prior to 12 months deployment with the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam as a Warrant Officer for almost 12 months. On return to Australia in October 1965 Barrie was posted to the Regiment for around 15 months before a period of 20 months at the Jungle Training Centre (Canungra).

In early 1968 Barrie attended an Officer Qualifying Course and on completion was commissioned (6 August 1968) and posted to 2nd Cavalry Regiment for two years. In 1970 he was posted to A Sqn 3rd Cavalry Regiment and back to Vietnam with B Sqn 3rd Cavalry Regiment in November 1970. On return to Australia Barrie was again posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment where he joined the officers and soldiers of the Medium Tank Trial Unit that was trialling the American M60 and German Leopard tanks to replace the ageing Centurions. At the end of this stint, he was posted to the Armd Centre for two years before heading north to the 4th Cavalry Regiment (Enoggera). Two years later Barrie was posted back to Armoured Centre where he was the Officer Commanding Training Squadron until January 1981 when he was posted to 6th Training Group in Tasmania. Two years later Barrie was on the move again and back to Victoria where he spent two years at the Central Army Records Office.

Barrie's officer postings included Adjutant, Regimental Duties and Officer Commanding.

Barrie resigned his commission and was discharged from the Army having completed almost 36 years full time service for his country. Barrie had been a valued member of our Association since 2005.

Barrie always had strong ties to his local community being an active member of the Flinders Gold Club, President of the local Lions Club, President of Balnarring Probus, and last but certainly not least President of the Victorian Branch of the AATTV Association.

May he rest in the greenfields beyond.



V514565, VX146185 -11177 WO1 Ivan Paul Maher, 27 March 1928 - 19 September 2019

Funeral of Ivan Paul MAHER Thursday 26 September 2019

It was an overcast afternoon in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne when family, friends and black hats started to gather for the funeral to celebrate the life of Ivan Paul MAHER.

Just after 1600 hours the Funeral Director welcomed those in attendance and provided an overview of the proceedings. Peter Branagan was first up and delivered a eulogy worthy of the man that we were there to honour for his service to his country and to remember those many instances where most of us had experienced the man as a soldier.

Interspersed with the odd touch of humour, some of those present learnt for the first time that Ivan had 'borrowed' his older brother's birth certificate and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in 1943 at the tender age of just 15 years.

After a number of months in several infantry units, Ivan was posted to the 2/1 Australian Tank Attack Regiment and three months later was deployed to New Guinea in February 1945. After the war, Ivan spent some time at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp as well as a voyage guard HMAS Manoora that sailed between Australia and Batavia. Ivan remained in the AIF until January 1947 when he elected discharge and returned to the land as a stockman.

In October 1949 Ivan enlisted in the Australian Regular Army and was posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment in March the following year. Over the next 17 years Ivan had a variety of postings with Armoured and training units as well as a 10-months with 13/18 Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) in Singapore and Malaya in 1960. On return to Australia Ivan was posted to 10 Light Horse in Western Australia and it was during his time in Perth that he met the love of his life, Anne.



Ivan returned to the Regiment in June 1964 for a period of three years before being posted to Detachment A Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment in June 1967. This was a very hectic period of training preparing a large group of reinforcements to move to Vietnam during the December 1967/ January 1968 period. The Squadron also had to deal with a move from Kapyong Barracks in Puckapunyal to Jordan Lines at Holsworthy (NSW) in early September 1967. Ivan was deployed as the SSM of A Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment on 17 January 1968 in time for Tet 1968. Ivan was present for periods of time at both Coral and Balmoral to lend his support to his troops during very difficult times in May/June 1968.

Ivan returned to Australia on 14 January 1969 and was posted to and took up his appointment as the RSM of the 1st Armoured Regiment. Subsequent RSM postings at the School of Armour and District Support Unit in the period from 1971 to 1977 preceded his discharge in February 1977. And so ended his 30 plus years-service to his country and the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

Teresa Maher took up the story and presented a side of Ivan as a father, grandfather, great grandfather and family man that perhaps many of us would not have imagined. Teresa spoke of her early childhood living in Puckapunyal (Ramu Cres) and hearing her father giving orders to the soldiers on parade at Kapyong Barracks. Anne, Teresa's mother, said, 'Yes Teresa, your father does have a very loud voice' and there were many at the funeral who had experienced his stentorian commands whilst forming the Regiment up on the parade ground. Teresa spoke lovingly of her father as a father, a loving family man, the joy he experienced with his grandchildren and more recently the love of his great granddaughter.

The Ringwood RSL conducted a Poppy Service with the Last Post and Rouse followed by the laying of poppies by family, friends and all ex-service personnel present. Ivan was farewelled by the Regimental March, Radetzky, and there is no doubt that we all stood a little taller and even with a degree of pride in that we had been privileged to have served with this man.

After a cup of tea and biscuits with family and friends a number of the company adjourned to the Ringwood RSL for a quiet beer, reflection, and the odd anecdote of our individual experiences of Ivan our friend, our Squadron Sergeant Major and Regimental Sergeant Major.

Ivan was a man of honour, of integrity, of loyalty, of steadfastness, of respect and of high moral values. He treated everyone equally and passed on many lessons that would carry most of us through our military careers.

Our thanks to Russ James for compiling this Vale to Ivan Maher

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps and the School of Armour were represented by Lieutenant Colonel Luke Brady and Warrant Officer Class 1 Peter Swinfield. The following is a list of 'black hats' and wives (in alphabetical order) that attended the funeral to pay their respects to this man of the Corps.

Peter Axton, John Baines, Ron and Mary Bell, Alan Bennett, John Blackwell, Peter Branagan, John Brooker, David Catterall, Barry Chambers, Fred Coucher, Peter Coutts, Dal Crocker, Brian Dunn, John Forrester, Werner Golla, Herman Harberts, Rex and Meredith Harris, John Hawton and daughter, Jo Rodgers, Kevin Hunter, Russ James, Ian Laurie, Chris McLeod, Dave Menz, John Ockwell, Bruce Richards, John and Jenny Sheehan, George Skell, Ian (Icky) Smith, Gary Spencer, Allen Tanner, David Thompson, Ian Tregenza, Paul Zac Schilling, Andy Zsolt



Bruce Richards, Rex Harris, John Blackwell



Tubby Brooker, Mary Bell, Peter 'Bushy' Coutts, Ron Bell



Gerhardus (Gerry) Majella VELDHUIS, passed away 28 September 2019, aged 72 years

Gerry was born on 7 November 1946 and joined the Australian Regular Army on 16 March 1964 when he was 17 years of age. After the normal period at 1RTB Gerry trained as a Centurion driver at Armoured Centre prior to being posted to 1 Forward Delivery Troop (Training Strength) on 9 July 1964, and then to the Regiment on 19 November 1964. From April 1965 to June 1967 Gerry was posted to the Armoured Centre prior to a four-month stint with Detachment A Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Like many of his peers at that time it appears as though he was destined to go to Vietnam with the Cavalry, but the pull of the Armoured Regiment was unavoidable, and he returned to the Regiment (C Squadron) on 24 October 1967. Just three and a half months later Gerry arrived in Vietnam (C Squadron) and remained for 365 days until he returned to Australia on 11 February 1969. Gerry was fortunate to miss most of the excitement at FSPB Coral but only because his callsign – 92A, the dozer – hit a mine on the way. It also appears that Gerry had a particular knack of ‘parking’ his Cent in the most unusual places, no doubt providing the ARV crew with challenges, or as one could describe, training opportunities for the ‘bluebells’.

After Vietnam, Gerry had a number of promotions and postings to units including Armoured Centre (three years and four months), 1 Recruit Training Battalion (16 months), 2nd Cavalry Regiment (almost six years), 4th Cavalry Regiment (two years) and Land Warfare Centre Detachment in Victoria for almost three years. Prior to discharge on 16 March 1985, Gerry spent four months with 9 Field Ambulance.

Gerry’s last employment was as a Sergeant Major with the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two.

It is very evident that Gerry was well respected by those that he served with during his time in the Army either as a peer, subordinate or superior. A former RSM of the 1st Armoured Regiment wrote, ‘Gerry was a very good soldier throughout his career and maintained a very high standard in all aspects of soldiering/leadership. His laid-back approach enabled him to easily communicate with both subordinates and superiors, which enabled him to get the best from all to get ‘the job’ done.

Gerry was a very good Australian Rules footballer and was hard at the ball as well as on his opponents.

As one of Gerry’s former crew commanders stated, ‘May he drive to the green fields beyond’.

Gerry, ‘May you rest in peace knowing that you have done your duty to the absolute best of your ability’.

(Thanks to those former members who served with Gerry for their insights.)



The Association regrets to advise the passing of Robin James (JIM) Imlach on 16 October 2019.

Jim served with 1 Fwd Del Tp, B Sqn and A Sqn Vietnam during 1969/70.

Funeral details will be advised when known but are likely to be held in Launceston (Tas). May he rest in the green fields beyond.

[Russ James](#)

Secretary

1st Armoured Regiment Association

A soldier died today

WO2 D. (Dudley) J. Tudman RAAC, AATTV

G’d day all,

Sad news just in from Ian McVie (Legacy) on the passing last night 16th October 2019 of fellow Team member Dudley J. Tudman RAAC aged 82years. Dudley served as a WO2 in South Vietnam with AATTV from 23 April 1966 to 14 April 1967 with 2/1 ARVN then sub-sector HQ Phuoc Tuy Province. On his second tour of duty with Det 1st Forward Delivery Troop from 10 Dec 69 to 10 Dec 70.

I am sure all Team members would wish to pass on their deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences to Edith, family and friends on this sad occasion of the passing of Dudley. We have lost another of our finest warriors and Dudley will be sadly missed by us all.

Condolence messages may be passed through John Gibson on email: jgib1941@gmail.com

Funeral details will be advised once known.

May Dudley now Rest in Peace.

Take care and Persevere

May he rest in the greenfields beyond.

(Information received from Adrian Pitcher)



Vale – Kenneth Alfred (Sandy) TOCOCK, MID passed away 6 June 2019

Sandy was born on 5 March 1929 in Reading BERKSHIRE ENGLAND. He enlisted in the British Army on 24 Apr 1947 and served with Royal Berkshire Regiment, 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment with the British Army on the Rhine until 4 June 1949.

Sandy enlisted in the Australian Army on 1 August 1951 in the United Kingdom. He was initially allocated to Infantry and was posted to 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. After a posting to Headquarters 3 National Service Training Battalion in 1954/55 it appears that Sandy saw the light and corps transferred to the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. After a short stay at 3 Base Workshops, Sandy was posted to 1st Armoured Regiment Light Aid Detachment in June 1960 and essentially remained with Armoured units (1st Armoured Regiment and Armoured Centre) until November 1970.

Sandy served with both C Squadron and B Squadron Sections Light Aid Detachments (LAD) 1st Armoured Regiment in South Vietnam from 22 November 1968 to 5 November 1969.

Sandy was discharged from the Australian Army on 31 July 1978 having completed 27 years full-time service.

Sandy was a guru especially in the areas of armoured vehicle and heavy vehicle recovery. He provided guidance to the younger members of the Corps (RAEME) and acted as a mentor and example for younger officers, non-commissioned officers and younger RAEME soldiers in all of his postings. He was very highly regarded by all with whom he served across all corps. He was also held in high esteem by his superiors, subordinates and indeed with all those with whom he worked.

A true gentleman and considered to be a father to many.

May he rest in the green fields beyond.

Russ James

Secretary 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc

Plaque paid for by the Association at the Phillip Island Vietnam Veteran's Museum



Mates travel to Alice Springs to honour Trooper Roger Kendall for his service during the Vietnam War

Story by Mick Eilola

Russ,

HERE ARE PHOTOS FROM OUR ALICE SPRINGS TRIP. MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL AND MOST REWARDING.

I AM NOT MUCH WITH WORDS BUT THE PHOTOS TELL THE STORY.

IF ANYONE IS VISITING ALICE SPRINGS POM'S GRAVE IS IN THE OLD ALICE SPRINGS CEMETERY NEXT TO THE AIR MUSEUM. (WORTH VISITING).

THE CEMETARY HAS SOME GRAVES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, NOTABLY ALBERT NAMITJERA, LASSITER AMONG OTHERS. ALICE SPRINGS IS REMARKABLE AND WELL WORTH VISITING. HEADS TO SEE AND DO. I HOPE THESE PHOTOS CAN BE PUBLISHED.

Regards Mick.

Trooper Lindsay Conway, Corporal Crew Commander Mick Eilola, Trooper Ian Bignall and Neil Conway search through the Centralian Advocates archives. Picture: Alyce Mokrzycki



Old mates honour memory

MEMBERS of the 2TP A SQN 1st ARMD REGT have travelled to Alice Springs to honour Trooper Roger James Kendall for his service during the Vietnam War.

Mr Kendall served as Troop Leader Driver with Corporal Crew Commander Mick Eilola, Trooper Ian Bignall and Trooper Lindsay Conway.

Surviving the war, Mr Kendall passed away May 7, 1975, after the road train he was driving rolled and caught fire one km north of Alice Springs, trapping him in the vehicle. He was 25 years of age.

Mr Kendall's grave bares no acknowledgment of his military service.

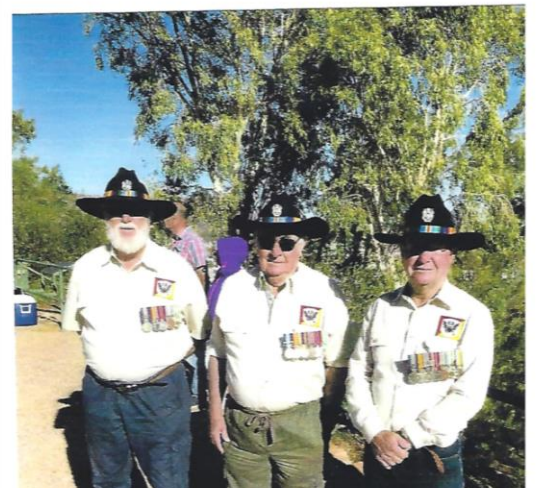
Mr Eilola, Mr Bignall and Mr Conway, along with Mr Conway's brother, retired Detective Inspector Queensland Police, Neil Conway, will lay a plaque at the site to mark Vietnam Veterans Day, Sunday 18 August. A public Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial will be held at 9.30am on Anzac Hill.

Do you have any information regarding Mr Roger James Kendall? Contact Ian Bignall 0428421668.

PRESENTING PLAQUE NATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT HALL OF FAME



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SERVICE ANZAC HILL ALICE SPRINGS





Army's first Boxer vehicle at Enoggera Barracks.
Photos: Sgt Max Bree

Next gen of combat vehicles

Sgt Max Bree

FUTURISTIC lines, massive wheels and the imposing mass of Army's first Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle overshadowed the ASLAV it was replacing as they were side-by-side for Boxer's official reception at Gallipoli Barracks on September 24.

It was the first of 211 Boxers Army will receive over the next few years.

Maj-Gen David Coghlan, Head Armoured Vehicles in CASG, was impressed with the Boxer's enhanced capability.

"It will allow our cavalry to undertake complex joint operations in a world-class vehicle that delivers world-class protection," he said.

"The Boxer is designed to go to war, let our soldiers be successful in doing what they've been sent out to do and then come home safely."

Brig Greg McGlone, Director General Armoured Fighting Vehicles in CASG, said the imposing size allowed Boxers extra protection that was lacking in the M113 and ASLAV through advances in design, increased armour and a V-shaped hull.

The first Boxer delivered was a multi-purpose variant, but inter-



Defence Industry Minister Melissa Price and CA Lt-Gen Rick Burr in the back of the Boxer.

changeable mission modules meant it could be a recon platform with a 30mm cannon in the morning and a maintenance vehicle with a crane in the afternoon.

"Mission modules on all of the vehicles can be lifted out and it takes less than an hour," Brig McGlone said.

"It's a bit like Thunderbird Two picking up all the different modules; in two hours the vehicle's role can be completely changed."

Other modules include surveillance and joint fires, recovery,

repair, combat engineer, C2 and potentially an ambulance.

The modules can be changed in the field with the 25-tonne crane on the new MAN truck heavy recovery variant being delivered under Land 121 Phase 3B.

The first Boxer was delivered about 14 months after contract signing, but cavalrymen won't get their hands on it straight away.

It will go for acceptance testing in Monegeetta, Victoria, and be joined by two more Boxers by Christmas.



The first Boxer 8x8 CRV undergoing painting in Brisbane before delivery.



WO1 Dan Boland and WO2 Tino Siliato, of the Boxer Capability Implementation Team.

Futuristic fleet

Sgt Max Bree

AT FIRST glance, Rheinmetall's Boxer looks like a futuristic APC from the movie *Aliens*.

But the Boxer's science-fiction looks hide the latest computerised systems, weapon sights and communications.

This would mean plenty of work for electrical technicians like WO1 Dan Boland, who came to the Boxer Capability Implementation Team with experience in cavalry and armoured units.

"It's beautiful, if you can call a fighting vehicle that. It's the future. There's a lot of capability and a lot of potential we can use later on," he said.

"It's two or three generations ahead of the ASLAV, which was analogue; this is fully digital with networks connected, computers talking to each other, a lot of information flowing about the vehicle. I think the boffins will enjoy it."

The Boxer's kinetic energy protection and V-hull should keep soldiers safe from the real-word threats such as IEDs and mines.

A four-stroke V8 pulls the Boxer at its combat weight of about 36 tonnes.

WO2 Tino Siliato, also of the implementation team, appreciated the new-generation engine over the ASLAV's two-stroke diesel.

"It has pickup; it's designed to move the weight that it has. It gives you feeling that you're well protected and you have that mobility," he said.

"It still does 100km/h, governed to 80km/h, but it has the same characteristics as the ASLAV."

"It doesn't feel like it's a larger vehicle than we're used to. It's very comfortable and it's very quiet. It suits our needs better. It handles fine and it even has a reverse

camera, even though the driver will still be under direction of the crew commander."

Cameras on the front and sides of the vehicle also feed vision to the crew.

The Boxer's size and superior suspension made the new vehicles easy to drive off-road for WO1 Boland.

"You're going cross country, doing 40-50km/h and you think, 'I'm going a bit fast, I need to slow down', because it's such a smooth ride," he said.

Long first parades that involve checking oils could be a thing of the past due to many components being covered in armour.

But the Boxer's computer testing system should make checks easier, according to WO2 Siliato.

"You do a function test that will tell you what has and hasn't passed," he said.

"We're looking at doing pre-mission and post-mission checks; it's not so much a first parade anymore."

"When you buy a brand new car, you don't check the oils every day; you're not supposed to."

"When it tells us it needs to be looked at, we'll get it looked at and that's what will preserve this platform."

"It gives us an opportunity to concentrate more on operating than maintaining."

With experience on a range of vehicles, including the Leopard, WO2 Siliato saw the change to Boxer being like the transition from M113 to ASLAV.

"There was a fundamental change, we adapted and we carried on," he said.

"ASLAV to Boxer will be the same process, but this has more systems to carry the recon role more effectively."

"You're going to feel much better deploying in this vehicle than an ASLAV."

The Boxers are being acquired under Land 400 Phase 2 at a cost of about \$3 billion.

Coral – Balmoral Artwork

Good Afternoon All.

I was asked to look at an entry in the War Memorial Art Work Completion called the Napier Waller Art Prize and saw a Computer Aided Design show that stunned me. It is by an Ex RAE fellow called Rod Usback who has taught himself to use the power of design to make a video/YouTube of Coral/Balmoral.

I have extracted details of the competition, they are below and give a look at what he has done, and then a guide on how you can vote in the War Memorial's competition.

As a way of getting more folk to learn about what happened in a new way I found it to an amazing step.

You may care to look at it and vote.

Also please send it to all those whose email address I have not got.

Best wishes,

Stay well

Gerry

Gerry McCormack

Rod's Words are below

The Napier Waller Art Prize (NWAP)

The Australian War Memorial and the University of Canberra are pleased to invite current and former Australian Defence Force personnel to participate in the 2019 Napier Waller Art Prize.

The Napier Waller Art Prize program aims to promote artistic excellence and the healing potential of art, while raising a broader awareness of the military experience and the impact of service on the individual.



The exhibition of the Winning and Highly Commended artworks entered in the NWAP competition was opened recently at the Australian War Memorial (Anzac Hall) Canberra.

I am very fortunate to be in that Exhibition with my digital paintings and video animation of The Battle of Coral-Balmoral Vietnam 1968. I believe all Vietnam Veterans and their families will have an interest, some keener than others.

There is an Online Exhibition of the 25 Finalists in the Competition, including the abovementioned 'Highly Commended' entries, at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions-online/napier-waller-art-prize>

The online exhibition allows viewers to vote for 'People's Choice', and I would be honoured if members were inclined to vote for and assist me in this contest. **Viewers should be aware that my artwork includes a Video Animation of the first attack on Coral, and to watch this to get the full impact of my entry, and not forget to read my Artist Statement.**

I seek your assistance please, in forwarding this e-mail to all in your Veterans contact lists; and to them, I ask also that they give their families and friends the opportunity to vote for me as well. The Peoples' Choice voting runs until mid-November.

I have been informed that the AWM is likely to ask me if they can acquire (or have me donate) my artwork for their permanent collection. So, a win in Peoples' Choice might clinch this possibility.

I would be most grateful for the support of all fellow veterans and their families.

Best Wishes

Rodney Usback

The Grand Final Camping trip to Tolmie

Iain Reynolds VIC Rep



This year went well with 21 people attending. We had great weather with only a few showers Friday night. Many thanks to David Pye & his son Jamie who made the spit & supplied the lighting for the site again this year. I don't think that the weekend would be as successful without their hard work making things happen. We held the dining in/out night on the Saturday night, with roast beef & pork cooked on the spit and vegies cooked in the camp ovens. For desert we had chocolate brownies & cream. Bruce Tarran prepared the meat & supervised the cooking on the spit. Many thanks to Peter Keane for bringing up the tables & also with specialized training doing a great on the pepper gravy. The wine for the night was supplied by Max Hammond from Fowles Wines. It is much appreciated to all that contributed by either turning a sausage, getting some firewood or Dixie bashing to make the weekend a success. Overall it was a great weekend for all that attended. For those members that have not come along in the past & could have attended missed a great weekend.





Bruce Tarran, Ray Wood and Trevor Watts at Tolmie CFA.



Phillip Hoseason-Smith



Max Hammond, Bill Stanfield, Peter Duncombe, Daryl Heales and Glenn Smith



Bruce Tarran at Tolmie CFA



Ray Wood and Peter Swinfield at Tolmie CFA



A road to remember

Claire Hunter - feature writer with
the Australian War Memorial.
1st September 2019

'19 September 2019 marks 100 years from the day construction commenced on the Great Ocean Road. During September and October the Centenary is being remembered with a range of activities including a new documentary 'The Story of the Road', Augmented Reality and an Art Trail.'

Visit <https://www.visitgreatoceanroad.org.au/iam100/> to find out more.

The Great Ocean Road is one of Australia's most scenic drives. Winding its way along 243 kilometres of Victoria's rugged south-west coast, it attracts millions of visitors each year.

But what many do not realise is that the road was built as a permanent memorial to those who died during the First World War.

Carved from wild and windswept cliffs overlooking the Southern Ocean, the Great Ocean road was built by 3,000 returned servicemen fresh from the trenches of the Western Front in memory of their fallen comrades.

"It was just an idea that was floated by a couple of men," said Dr Meleah Hampton, an historian at the Australian War Memorial.

"They had long wanted a road to connect all of these coastal towns in southern Victoria so they floated it as an idea for using the manpower of these returned servicemen, and then they decided: 'If we are going to do it, let's make it a memorial.' 'It was a huge endeavour.'"

At the time of the First World War, the remote south-west coast of Victoria was accessible only by sea or rough tracks through dense bush.

"The whole focus has been on sending men away to fight, and suddenly we've got 350,000 men overseas," Dr Hampton said.

"That's an entire workforce, and as time goes by it dawns on people that these men are going to have to integrate back into society.

"What are they going to do with them? How are they going to avoid civil unrest? How are they going to avoid having dissatisfied men roaming the streets? And how are they going to avoid all sorts of other social problems?"

"So people start turning their thoughts to how they are going to manage this and the Great Ocean Road is born out of that situation of fear and worry about what civil Australian society is going to look like after the war."



The Great Ocean Road was a huge engineering feat linking towns across the south-west coast of Victoria

Photos: courtesy visitgreatoceanroad.org.au

The chairman of the Country Roads Board in Victoria, William Calder, proposed the repatriation and re-employment of returned soldiers working on roads in sparsely populated areas in the Western District.

"The men who are coming home are just a little bit worried too, and the AIF immediately puts in place things like education programs, and there are discussions about what their options will be," Dr Hampton said.

"We all know about the soldier settlement scheme and how it is not necessarily a success, but it is a sign of the need at the time and one of the different ways in which people are trying to solve this problem.

"And the Great Ocean Road is in itself a private endeavour to help solve the same problem."

Calder submitted a plan for what he described as the 'South Coast Road', starting at Barwon Heads, near Geelong, following the coast around Cape Otway, and ending near Warrnambool.

"At that point in time some of the worst battles are yet to come," Dr Hampton said.

"As they are putting forward the idea of a road, Australians are launching the battle of Amiens.

"So in the same month that they are working on this idea for all these men coming home, there are fewer men to come home, and the idea of the road becoming a memorial becomes this real hand-in-hand process.



Men working on the Great Ocean Road

It was Geelong mayor Alderman Howard Hitchcock who brought the plans to fruition and first saw its potential as a tourist attraction for the region.

He formed the Great Ocean Road Trust and set about raising the money to finance the project.

He saw it not only as a way of employing returned soldiers, but of creating a lasting monument to those who had died during the war.

"The Australian Corps suffers thousands of casualties up until the 5th of October so the process of designing and planning to build this road happens while there are hundreds of names appearing in the newspaper," Dr Hampton said.

"There's news of Victorian kids who enlist in 1914 and survive the entire war, who were going to come home and build this road for them. And they're now in the paper as having been killed, so it's a really fraught time."

The Great Ocean Road Trust managed to secure £81,000 in capital from private subscription and borrowing, with Hitchcock himself contributing £3,000. Money would be repaid by charging drivers a toll until the debt was cleared, and the road would then be gifted to the state, connecting isolated settlements on the coast and becoming a vital transport link for the timber industry and tourism.

Survey work began in August 1918, but the difficult terrain, dense wilderness and bad weather hampered the project.

Construction work officially began in September 1919, but progress was slow with workers achieving around three kilometres a month.

"Sometimes there are hundreds of men working on it, and sometimes there are just 10 or 20," Dr Hampton said.

For their efforts, the returned soldiers were paid ten shillings and sixpence per day – significantly more than the six shillings they received in the Army, making the project a popular one.

Through rugged terrain, wild weather and steep rocky cliffs, the soldiers worked for eight hours per day, and slept 'rough' in the bush, sleeping out in old army tents in tent cities that moved along with the road.

Construction was done by hand using picks and shovels as well as explosives, wheelbarrows, and horse-drawn carts.

The work was at times extremely dangerous, with numerous workers killed on the job; the final sections along the steep coastal mountains being the most difficult to work on.

"It was pretty awful," Dr Hampton said. "The survey team would go in ahead to survey the next bit of the road to be built, and the men who were building it would come in behind them.

"There are even stories of the men going forward in carts with explosive detonators on their laps so that they wouldn't jiggle around too much on the road."

On 18 March 1922, the first section of the road, from Eastern View (where the ANZAC soldier sculpture can be viewed today) to Lorne, was officially opened with due pomp and ceremony.

It would be another ten years before the section from Lorne to Apollo Bay was finished, officially marking its completion. The road was officially opened in November 1932 with Victoria's Lieutenant-Governor Sir William Irvine holding a ceremony near Lorne's Grand Pacific Hotel.



The road was dubbed the World's largest war memorial

At the time, *The Age* newspaper reported that: "In the face of almost insurmountable odds, the Great Ocean Road has materialised from a dream or 'wild-cat scheme', as many dubbed it, into concrete reality."

It was at this time the road was dubbed the world's largest war memorial.

"The Geelong mayor, Howard Hitchcock, was a really important driver of the whole project," Dr Hampton said. "But he died just before it was opened."

Hitchcock died of heart disease on 22 August 1932, though his car was driven behind the governor's in the procession along the road during the opening ceremony.

A memorial was constructed in his name on the road at Mount Defiance, near Lorne, and he is still affectionately considered the *Father of the Road*.

Not long after the opening a toll was put in place to recoup construction costs for the road. Visitors were charged two shillings for cars, and 10 shillings for wagons with more than two horses, payable as they passed through Eastern View where a memorial arch was erected.

The toll was abolished when the trust handed the road over as a gift to the State Government in 1936, with the deed for the road presented to the Victorian Premier at a ceremony at the Cathedral Rock toll gate.

"It was a really dangerous road for quite a long time," Dr Hampton said. "There weren't a lot of places to turn out, passing was really difficult, and it was often a one car road, but that's because it was built by men with picks and shovels on the edge of cliffs overlooking the sea."

In 1962, the road was deemed by the Tourist Development Authority to be one of the world's great scenic roads, and in 2011, the road was added to the Australian National Heritage List.

"It was a really big deal," Dr Hampton said. "They managed to put together 30 odd cars for the opening, and in 1932 nobody had cars, so that was a big deal in itself. They'd thought about it for ages, and now they were doing the thing that they wished they could have, and their parents had wished they could have, so there was a lot of hope too. They felt useful and they were really excited to have it; they wanted people to know, 'This is our memorial.'"



The Diggers Memorial Designer – Julie Squires