



PARATUS

1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 16 930 055 791

W: www.paratus.org.au
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PATRON: BRIG Ted Acutt (Retd)
PRESIDENT: Keith (Mel) Meloncelli
SECRETARY: Russ James
TREASURER: Werner Golla



On exchange from the Household Cavalry, Lance Corporal of Horse (LCoH) Leslie attached to A Sqn; late 2022
(Photo courtesy Household Cavalry Facebook page)

1st ARMoured REGIMENT

Theatres of Operation
Japan (1st Armd Car Sqn)
Sth Vietnam
Theatre Honour
STH VIETNAM 1968-1971
Battle Honours
Coral – Balmoral
Hat Dich
Binh Ba
Rhodesia
Cambodia
East Timor
Iraq
Solomon Islands
Afghanistan

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.

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1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

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Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages

Web Sites

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

RAAC CORPORATION
www.raacorppltd.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/



Report from the Secretary - Russ James

Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.
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1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.
BSB: 633-000
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Secretary's Report

This issue of the Secretary's report covers the following issues:

- Annual General Meeting – 28 January 2023
- Membership Report
- New Members
- Donations

Annual General Meeting – 28 January 2023 at the Broadford RSL

The AGM was held at the Broadford RSL on 28 January 2023 with 20 voting members in attendance plus 51 valid proxies.

Elections were held for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary and Recruitment Manager. Dean Martin (RAEME) was returned unopposed as the Vice-President, Russ James as the Secretary and Dick Stanios as the Recruitment Manager. All State Representatives were returned with the exception of Jim Semmens (Tasmania) who stood down due to personal reasons. Andrew Walker volunteered to be the Tasmanian Representative; Charlie Dearing as the ACT Representative and Dean Martin (the 'Tankie') as the NSW Representative. The Association is very grateful to these latest volunteers to represent Association Members in their States.

General business included appreciation of thanks recorded for:

- a. the ARN 169005 Team including John Brooker, John Blackwell, Peter Coutts and Icky Smith for their continued and ongoing efforts,
- b. John Brooker for his continued support of the Association, particularly in providing assistance to the Cambrai Day events in Adelaide,
- c. the Port Macquarie Reunion Sub-Committee, particularly Mick and Judi Payne for their efforts, and
- d. the Cambrai Day Sub-Committee for their efforts in quickly organising a number of events.

General business - recommendations that the size of the Management Committee as well as Membership Fees and Membership structure remain unchanged were accepted.

General business – Noel McLaughlin (Chairman of the RAAC Corporation) provided a brief on the activities undertaken by himself and Pedro Rosemond on their continuing efforts to have the Cross of Gallantry with Palms awarded to participants in Operation Hammersley. A motion was moved that Noel and Pedro would continue to be supported by the Association in their endeavours.

Remaining items of General Business related to the presentation of Reports, future relationship with members of 3/9 SAMR and the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association (SAMRA).

The AGM closed at approximately 1250 hours and the members present enjoyed some light refreshments. It is anticipated that 2023 AGM is likely to be held in late November 2023 at the Broadford RSL.

Membership – Current Situation

As at 2 March 2023, the Association had a total of 480 active (financial) members with a further 31 members who

were due to renew their membership on 1 February 2023. Reminder Notices are currently being despatched via snail mail and email.

In accordance with the Constitution, these 31 members are now classified as 'Inactive' and do not have any voting rights. Those that fail to renew by 1 August 2023 will be classified as 'Inactive – Resigned'.

However, such members may renew their membership at any time without any difficulty. Any member who may be experiencing 'financial hardship' should contact the Secretary for a confidential discussion and possible extension of membership.

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!

New Members

The Association would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the December 2022 report:

Les Green 8 December 2022, Tom Booler 14 December 2022, Barry Evans 18 January 2023 and Darryl Britton 10 February 2023.

Donations

The Association gratefully acknowledges the following members who have made donations to the Association since the last Newsletter:

Rob Breddels, Geoff Baker, Dal Crocker, Peter Duncombe, John Hawton, Bob Kennard, Dave Key, Michael Leonard, Geoff Lowe, Jim McKenzie, Don McRoberts, Barry Mionnet, John Phoenix, Ian Roberts and Graeme Unmack.



Association President Keith Meloncelli addresses the AGM



Mid-meeting, the attentive Proxy voting scrutineers, Bushy Coutts and Dave Key at right

Future Association Events

ANZAC Day Long Lunch – 21 April 2023, Emerald Hotel, South Melbourne; contact vicrep@paratus.org.au

ANZAC Day Marches – 25 April 2023, all capital cities, contact your State Representative

74th Regimental Birthday – 8 July 2023, Broadford RSL, Contact secretary@paratus.org.au or vicrep@paratus.org.au

50th Anniversary to Commemorate the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War – Canberra, Commemorative Service on Friday 18 August 2023, Last Post Ceremony at AWM on Friday 18 August 2023, Meet and Greet at REX Hotel on Thursday 17 August 2023, Dinner at REX Hotel on Friday 18 August 2023. Register with Johnbrooker592@gmail.com, or contact charliedearling1951@gmail.com

Cambrai Day events 2023– in Adelaide with the Regiment. Association All former member of the Regiment are to be invited by the Regiment to attend the Cambrai day activity similar to the 2022 event. The date in November date is to be advised by the Regiment. A Meet and Greet on the Thursday will depend on demand. Further details TBA when known. Contacts reid54@bigpond.com or secretary@paratus.org.au

2024 REUNION, Adelaide, November 2024 – planning is underway to conduct a full Association Reunion around Cambrai Day activities at the Regiment in mid-November 2024. Functions to include Meet and Greet on Thursday evening, Cambrai Day activities (March, BBQ, etc) at the Regiment on Friday and full Reunion Dinner on Saturday evening. Other social activities may be organised depending on demand. Reunion Sub-Committee to be formed within two (2) to three (3) weeks. Actual dates in November will depend on the Regiment. An expression of Interest for attendance to be issued by the Reunion Sub-Committee. Contacts reid54@bigpond.com or secretary@paratus.org.au

Association Gatherings - \$10 per Association Member Subsidy

At the Management Committee held on 21 July 2021, a motion was passed that the Association would provide a subsidy of \$10 per head for gatherings of members in regional/remote areas to subsidise the cost of the meal. This was later amended to include all gatherings of Association members, whether in regional/remote areas or not. In recent times, this subsidy has been paid to offset direct members costs for a lunch at Richmond (Tasmania), at the Adelaide Cambrai Day 2022 events, at the Victorian Long Lunch and Tolmie Camping Trips.

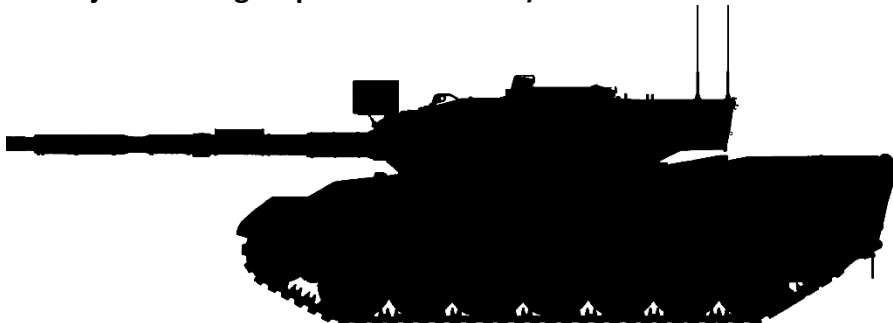
Any gathering of four (4) or more Association members for lunch and/or dinner is entitled to claim the \$10 per head. The money is to be used to offset food costs only. A list of the members attending is required as well as a photo of those in attendance.

Claims should be submitted to either the Secretary (secretary@paratus.org.au) or Treasurer (treasurer@paratus.org.au)



A 'Black Hat' gathering at Epping RSL 16 Feb this year. This group meets for dinner and a chat every two months or so and six of the eight in the photo are Association members. This is an example of where the \$10 per member subsidy can apply. Food for thought?

Attendees from left to right include Tim Finn (ex 2 CAV), Dennis Austin, Trevor Watts, Peter Duncombe, Dick Stanios, Chris Fing, Scott Roach (former Tp Ldr in B Sqn, now in the Canadian Army, joined the group whilst 'in town') and Graeme Walker.



Tassie Veteran Retreats Update

You may recall from edition 93 information on Veterans retreats in Tasmania. The Association has provided support to them, and the following response and photos have been received by the Secretary.

Hello Russ

Thank you for your kind donation towards the VVAA Memorial Bush Retreat it is greatly appreciated. Hopefully you and your group can spend some time up there in the near future.

There are two Retreats at Lake Sorell; the VVAA one and another one that we have control of until the younger vets get their act together and form their own association (subject to State Gov approval) then we can hand that one over to them. The VVAA retreat sleeps 10 single people or 13 if there are couples and children. The other retreat sleeps 7 singles or more if there are couples and children. We are able to book both retreats for big groups. Cost is \$50 per night for 2 adults per unit then \$10 per night for each extra adult. I have also attached pamphlets for both Retreats for you.

Please find attached photos of the first aid supplies purchased with the \$400 donated by your association.

We still have to have the plaque made so will send you a photo once this is done.

I have attached the receipt for the first aid supplies as well.

Regards Ann



National Flag Day – 03 Sep 22

While not a widely observed day in the calendar, the Clayton RSL sub-branch conducted an Australian National Flag Day service at their cenotaph. Association Treasurer, Werner Golla attended and sent in the following report and photos.

The service was attended by the following dignitaries and guests:

Dr Tien Kien MP, Member of the Legislative Council for South-Eastern Metropolitan Region

Cr Stuart James, Mayor of Monash Council

Timothy Holden, Honorary Treasurer RSL Victoria.

About 30 or so attended and the presentation on the history of the National Flag was given by Timothy Holden. The presentation was well researched and went for a little over 10 minutes with some humour thrown in; and was well received by all in attendance.

Bernie Dingle OAM and his men in WW1 uniform helped form the Cenotaph Guard and performed very good drill.



OP Hammersly Awards 2022

The Cambrai celebrations in November provided the perfect opportunity for the OP Hammersly awards to be presented to A Squadron personnel

After an absence due to COVID, we were able to present the annual Operation Hammersley Awards to A Squadron personnel. These awards were instituted in 2010; the idea was proposed by LTCOL Jack Chipman to the then OC MAJ Grant Chambers and have been presented every year on behalf of those members that served in A Squadron in Vietnam. Association Liaison Officer, Mark Reid, was on hand with Lou Walker OAM and John 'Tubby' Brooker OAM, who presented the awards.

The winners this year were:

Crew Commander of the year CPL Jai Johnsen

Gunner of the year TPR Calum Turley (absent on course)

Driver of the year TPR Tian Gumby

Non RAAC Crewman if the year LCPL Jake Kelly

Lou Walker OAM Award for Soldier of the year LCPL Ryan Hibbins-Leece



John 'Tubby' Brooker presents CPL Johnsen the Crew Commander award



John 'Tubby' Brooker presents TPR Gummy the Driver award



John 'Tubby' Brooker presents LCPL Kelly the Non RAAC Crew award



Lou Walker presents LCPL Hibbins-Leece the Soldier of the Year award

Scholarships – Educational and Sporting

Applications for both the Educational and Sporting Scholarship – up to \$500 each – may be obtained from the Secretary at secretary@paratus.org.au





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Honour Roll

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

Killed in Action

TPR James Kerr (13 May 1969)

Died of Wounds

TPR Mick Hannaford (14 December 1968)

Died within the prescribed period

WO2 Noel Lowes (6 July 1971)

Killed Accidentally whilst on Military duty in a Training environment

TPR A. M. Jordan (14 October 1962)

CFN B. Silver (LAD) (19 November 1962)

SGT R. Morrison (17 August 1965)

LT A. J. Massey (7 July 1982)

TPR A. Patterson (7 June 1984)

SGT R. G. Murray (9 July 1986)



The Association recognises and acknowledges those former members of the Regiment who were either KIA or DOW whilst serving with units such as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, 3rd Cavalry Regiment or any other units in any conflict since the Regiment was formed in 1949.

The Association also recognises and acknowledges those former members of the Regiment who have passed since the end of a conflict and who may or may not have been recognised by the Department of Veterans' Affairs as entitled to an Official Commemoration. Hundreds are known to have passed of wounds or illnesses and diseases that may have been contracted during military service.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary then, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
'LEST WE FORGET'**

Notification of Members who have passed since the last newsletter:

Philip LAWRENCE (29 August 2022)

Steven MITCHELL (1 December 2022)

Colin Maxwell ENGLAND (4 December 2022)

Tex McPHERSON (16 December 2022)

Michael (Mick) James PRIOR (21 December 2022)

Martin Rudelbach (8 Jan 2023)

Ramon (Ray) DEVERE (30 January 2023)

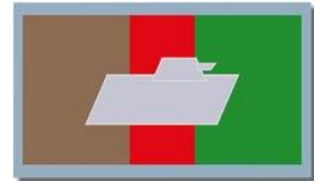
Alan George BUCKINGHAM (9 February 2023)

Duncan Carroll McINTOSH (10 February 2023)

Stan Simpson (10 March 2023)



REGIMENTAL NEWS



The Regiment's Adjutant, CAPT Benjamin Peterson, has sent in the following SITREP and photos of unit activities covering the first quarter of 2023

The Regiment has had a busy first quarter to 2023 with new command teams marching in, preparation for the Honorary Colonels Cup, and the individual courses camp being run in Cultana.

3/9th SAMR as 'Victor 4' and its reserve members have started to integrate well. This is proving to be a massive opportunity for the Regiment as we trial reserve members conducting continuous full time service within Victor 3 under the 'Reserve Accelerated Training Scheme'. Also, we now have a very effective means of retaining people after full-time service, by remaining part of the Regiment within the Reserve Squadron. 3/9th will also be kitted out with some of the most up to date equipment in the coming weeks and will certainly become the most technologically up-to-date reserve Squadron within the Army.

The Honorary Colonels Cup is being executed in early March. Training over the last few weeks has seen a significant amount of combat fitness, small-arms, HE Weapons and infantry minor tactics training. Section commanders have trained their sections hard and are on a reduced notice to move as we speak, waiting to be recalled.

The courses camp has seen multiple members from across the Regiment be trained as non-RAAC drivers and crew commanders on M113AS4 and ASLAV variants. This culminated in a deployment to Cultana in mid-February where a significant amount of driving and live-fire was conducted to confirm skills and close out the course.

The command team also received a brief from the 'Land Combat Vehicles Program' from Army Headquarters. Planning is well underway at the Regiment for receipt of M1A2 Sepv3 late next year as well as Boxer Block 2 in 2025. RAAF Edinburgh also will be getting very busy in the near future with the RAE receiving Armoured Breaching Vehicles and Joint Assault Bridges, based off the M1A1 platform concurrently to our tanks.

Paratus!



Ground mount firing the 12.7mm M2HB QCB machine gun (.50 Cal) at the Cultana courses camp



**C/S 2F, 'Buzzbox' joins in firing with the ground mounted 50 cal's
2F is a M113AS4 Armoured Logistics Vehicle (ALV)**



**C/S 2C on the hunt!
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**Non RAAC 'Replen' crews conduct live fire
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**The 1st Armoured Regiment Rugby team (with support from their mates at 7 RAR and 11 SQN, RAAF) participated in the Harmony Cup Rugby League 9's Carnival on Sunday, 19th of February 2023. Scoring 64 points during the pool stages and earning themselves a spot in the Quarter Final, they were unfortunate to go down 24 – 10 against the Pacific Island All Stars. Well done!
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



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Knock-off Note from the Editor

G'day All,

We've launched straight into 2023 in top gear. The Regiment is hard at work training and it was great to get an early update from the ADJT to add into this edition of Paratus. Anzac Day is coming up so be sure to get out to a service or march near you and catch up with those you can.

If you've read through this far, thanks for reading this edition. I'm always on the lookout for more material to include so please send in any photos or stories you might have re-discovered or found while cleaning up around the place or digging through your old green trunk of memories; it'd be great to hear from you.

Until the next edition, see ya later.

Cheers,
Wol Walker
Editor

"One Four Bravo; Out"



OC A Sqn MAJ Phil Lawrence (left) and 2IC CAPT Darryl Proud at the back of C/S 1A EX El Alamein February 1984 (Photo courtesy Russell Gannon)

NOTICES

Have you moved? Changed your email address? Changed your Mobile Phone Number?



Looking to submit DVA Claim?

If you or anyone you know is considering pursuing claims through DVA and aren't too confident of the process or who to approach to commence your claim, please contact the Secretary who can put you in touch with an advocate to ensure your claims will be dealt with thoroughly, correctly and to ensure the most favourable outcome for you, the veteran. The Secretary's contact details can be found on the front page of this issue of Paratus.

1st ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION Q STORE

Anzac Day is just around the corner so make sure to visit the Q Store to ensure you are suitably attired for the day in your Association accoutrements.

LINK TO THE ASSOCIATION Q STORE WEBPAGE [HERE](#)

