



PARATUS

1ST ARMOURD
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 16 930 055 791

W: www.paratus.org.au

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PATRON: MAJGEN Craig Orme DSC, AM, CSC, (Retd)
PRESIDENT: Keith (Mel) Meloncelli
SECRETARY: Russ James E: secretary@paratus.org.au
PO Box 301, Mentone VIC 319



New Life Members

1st ARMOURED REGIMENT Theatres of Operation

Japan (1 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.



In this Issue

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- Committee 2020/2021
- Secretary's Report
- Honour Roll
- Around the association
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- Port Macquarie Reunion
- Defence News

Life Membership Ron Bell

It was clear from the Life Membership nomination that Ronald Harry Bell clearly met all mandatory and highly desirable requirements, and it was evident that Ron had demonstrated loyalty to the Association, its members and to the Regiment for a period greater than 10 years whilst he was a member of the Committee.

Ron had been an excellent member of the RAAC during his service and this continued during his time with the Association and as a member of the Committee.

It was apparent, based on the written nomination and personal knowledge of Ron over many years, that the criteria for life membership had been obviously met.

Ron had been a first-class performer in all activities, including work, community and sport, and this continued whilst a member of the Committee.

The process for Life Membership of the Association provides a rigorous set of guidelines not only for the nomination but also for the evaluation process. The Life Membership Sub-Committee found that Ron clearly met all mandatory requirements, and this was endorsed by the Executive and Management Committees of the Association.

Personal Note by the Secretary

As an addendum, could I just add that behind every good man is an exceptional woman and in Dinga's case, this is Mary. If there was ever a case for sharing 'Life Membership' this would be it. Mary was extensively involved in the organisation and running of at least three (3) major reunions as well as providing significant support, including administrative, moral and technical, to Ron on a daily basis.



Life Membership Peter Rosemond

The life membership nomination for Peter Rosemond was not as clear cut as that for Ron Bell as Life Membership submission did not specifically address the criteria specified in the Life Membership Policy and Procedures.

However, after careful deliberation all members of the Life Membership Sub-Committee felt that Peter Rosemond satisfied the mandatory and highly desirable criteria with clarity regarding the Committee's views about paragraph 2b of the Policy and Procedures. Whilst Peter had not served in a specified appointment of the Committee or Executive of the Association, he has been continually empowered by the Committee to act on their behalf in a number of dedicated and difficult roles. The following general comments were made concerning the nomination and the subject of the nomination, Peter Rosemond.

a. Peter had been an outstanding member of the Australian Army, of the RAAC. His unrelenting commitment to the Corps and to current and former members of the Corps have continued for many years after his retirement.

b. Peter's leadership and advocacy has been sought, on numerous occasions, by the Executive of the Association to undertake delicate and difficult matters relating to the formal recognition of Coral-Balmoral, Binh Ba and Hammersley Veterans. Peter has also had an ongoing role on behalf of the 1 Armd Regt Association Executive in representing its interests and helping to mature the fledgling RAAC Corporation in a wide-ranging number of sensitive issues, particularly those related to culture and values of membership matters.

c. Peter has, over many years, acted in a guiding and mentoring role for both former and current members (including Presidents) of the Executive and Management Committees.

d. As a member of the RAAC Corporation Advisory Board, Peter has formally represented the views of the Executive and Management Committees of the Association, as well as current and former members of the Regiment, seeking their counsel where appropriate.

e. All Sub-Committee members felt that Peter has provided an untiring commitment to the Association, to the Regiment and to all former members of the Regiment in his endeavours working with the RAAC Corporation and Head of Corps to present cases to Defence Honours and Awards and to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal.



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The Sub-Committee all agreed that Peter has acted as a representative for the Association, as an agent of the Executive; and as the Association's point of contact for a number of significant matters and activities over many years since his retirement as RSM of the Army. Peter has also worked sensitively in the background with dedication, providing frank and fearless advice to the RAAC Head of Corps, the Representative Honorary Colonel RAAC, and the 1 Armd Regt Association's Patron and Honorary Colonel. His value in this role, acting in the Association's Best interests, has been exceptional. All members of the Sub-Committee agreed that Peter Rosemond's continuous commitment and dedicated work, as an agent and advocate of the Association's Executive, met and indeed exceeded the requirements of paragraph 2b of the Policy and Procedures.





1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Committee 2020/2021

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

PATRON

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

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Q STORE

Kevin Heyward
storeroom@paratus.org.au

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Phil Hoseason - 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.raaccorp ltd.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.
PO Box 301, Mentone. VIC 3194

E: secretary@paratus.org.au

B: Bendigo Bank
1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.
BSB: 633-000 Account: 161498159



Secretary's Report

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

- 2021 Renewal of Memberships
- AGM outcomes
- Welfare and Well-Being of Association Members (see separate article on these issues)
- Quick Update for the 2022 Port Macquarie Reunion

Membership Notes: At 16 March 2021, the Association has a total of 501 active members; an increase of around 125 since the AGM held on 14 July 2018 when the current Management Committee was elected.

The Membership Renewal process for 1 February 2021 is in full swing and as at 25 March 2021 170 members (77.8%) had renewed their memberships but 46 members had yet to renew. Some of this is caused by changes to either email or postal addresses. Hopefully, all members will be found in due course!

As previously reported, the Association does not have a Recruitment Management Manager and we are largely dependent on existing members to encourage their friends to join.

AGM Outcomes

After a frustrating couple of months of delays due to COVID, the decision was made to commence the AGM using Zoom videoconferencing technology. At 10.00 am (AEDT) the meeting opened over the internet with 28 persons in attendance; 27 of these were eligible to vote.

Pertinent points from the AGM included:

- a. Financial reports had been submitted to Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV),
- b. An additional issue with pricing of Q Stock had been identified and a decrease of \$480 in the loss for the previous financial year had been included in revised financial statements submitted to CAV,
- c. The Annual Report including financial statements for the financial year ended on 30 June 2020 had been distributed to all Association members in the week prior to Christmas,
- d. The election of Dean Martin (former ASM of the Regiment) as the Vice President,
- e. The re-election of Russ James as the Secretary as well as Graeme Unmack as Special Projects Two,
- f. The size of the Management Committee was not changed but vacancies existed for the Recruitment Manager as well as the Representative for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT),
- g. There were no changes to the existing State Representatives and Mick Payne volunteered to continue to represent the members of the ACT,
- h. Life Membership Nominations for Ron Bell and Peter Rosemond, CSC OAM were approved,
- i. A proposal to offer 'free membership for 12 months' for personnel leaving the Regiment on reposting or discharge was approved,
- j. A proposal to offer two (2) scholarships – one educational and the other sporting – per year for a value of \$500 was approved, and
- k. An option to include only those who were either Killed In Action, wounded in Action or Killed Accidentally on Duty while posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment was adopted (the new Honour Roll is published on the Association website).

The full Minutes of the AGM are included on the website at www.paratus.org.au/News/Minutes

Update for the 2022 Port Macquarie Reunion

As previously notified (Mail Chimp and Association Website), the Reunion planned for Port Macquarie for July 2021 has been postponed until July 2022. Apart from slight change of dates – Meet and Greet on Friday 22 July, Dinner on 23 July and Recovery Breakfast on 24 July 2022 – all other detail remains largely unchanged.

The major functions are still to be held at Rydges, prices remain the same, the Sub-Committee is the same, etc. A new Reunion Registration form has been issued but this does not have to be completed by those who had registered for the 2021 Reunion. Full refunds are available for those who are unable to attend the 2022 Reunion. Just let the Treasurer know your BSB and bank account details.

Those who had registered for PM2021 should have been contacted by the Secretary of the Reunion Sub-Committee (Johnny Atkinson) for confirmation of attendance details as well as an indication of accommodation requirements so the Sub-Committee may do a little haggling with accommodation providers.

Any issues, concerns, questions, etc should be sent to SecPM22Reunion@paratus.org.au (Johnny Atkinson) or Chair PM22Reunion@paratus.org.au (Mick Payne).

Donations Received

Laurie O'DONNELL
Doug BLACKNEY
Robert 'Bluey' JAY
Maurie BETTS
Martin KIES
Hendryk VAN DE DUIM
Andy ZSOLT
David HENDRIE
Alan 'Lap Lap' MURPHY

New Members Since August 2020

Joe VERHEIJEN, 8 September 2020
Kim McCLYMANS, 3 October 2020
Don JUERS, 27 October 2020
Gary McCABE, 8 December 2020
Ian POWER, 13 January 2021
Joel BAKER, 5 February 2021
Mary BELL, 5 February 2021
Russell EGAN, 15 February 2021
Martin CORBETT 10 March 2021

Have you Moved House! Have you Changed your Email Address?

Are you lost in the Wilderness –cut-off from the Association?

Did you tell the Secretary?

It is never too late!

secretary@paratus.org.au





1ST ARMOURD
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ASSOCIATION INC.

Honour Roll

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.

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



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

Deaths Reported Since November 2020 Newsletter

Peter John BEAUMONT, 14 November 2020

John Edmund GIERSCH, January 2021

Mark 'Paddy' DEVINE, January 2021

Kenneth John ROWE, 5 February 2021

Peter LUKEIS, 21 February 2021

Keith O'CONNOR OAM, 6 March 2021

Around the Association



A Squadron Dining in Night.

The association received an invite to send someone from A SQN Vietnam to address the SQN on the 51st anniversary of Operation Hammersley. Due the Covid situation in Victoria, John Brooker was unable to make it to SA, because of the lock down. Luckily, we were able to enlist the services of Alan Murphy at the 12th hour to step in. Alan sent the following below.

I would just like to pass on the success of the dining-in night I attended. I was made very welcome, and my address was well received by all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Association for selecting me to attend this dinner in the unfortunate absence of Tubby Brooker due to the lock down in Victoria.

Cheers
Alan Murphy



RAAC VETERANS AT JOHN CARTER'S FUNERAL 29/1/21.

Rear from Left: Peter Branagan; Andy Zsolt; Rex Harris; Ian Tregenza. Front from left: Werner Golla, HENDY Van De Duim, Alan Brimelow, Noel Mc Laughlin

VICTORIAN LONG LUNCH 12TH FEBRUARY 2021

Over the past year we were not able to get together as all events in Victoria were cancelled due to COVID-19. This year I decided kick things off on the right foot & hold a post COVID-19 Long Lunch on the Friday 12th February at the Emerald Hotel South Melbourne. We had 21 members in attendance for the day. Again Jane & the staff at the Emerald looked after us well, and the food & drinks flowed plentiful. All those that attended had an enjoyable afternoon. We were lucky to get the lunch in as the Victorian Government put us in a 5-day lockdown from midnight that night.



VICTORIAN ANZAC LONG LUNCH



Members,

I am inviting you to the ANZAC Long Lunch at 12:00 on Friday 23rd April 2021 at the Emerald Hotel, 415 Clarendon Street South Melbourne.

This event will be a mixed lunch for Serving & Association members, so feel free to bring your wife, husband or partner (but not all three at the same time) along for lunch.

Due to the uncertainties again with this year's ANZAC March, I have decided to make this a formal lunch. Which means Suit or Jacket with Tie, Beret & Medals (what you would normally wear to the march).

Once again, the Association Management Committee has allocated \$10 per member that is in attendance to subsidise their Main Meal. Entrees & drinks are to be paid for at the bar.

Members wishing to bring a guest along for lunch are also free to do so, just let me know.

If you are intending to come along, please email or phone me to reserve a seat for you.

Regards



Iain Reynolds
State Rep VIC
0411 066 704
vicrep@paratus.org.au

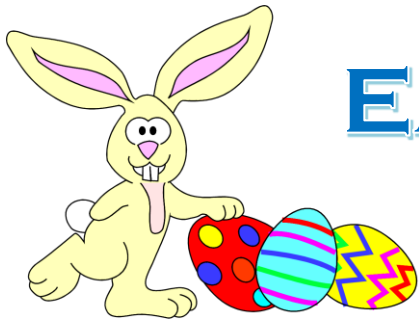
MEMBERS PAGE

The idea behind this page is to highlight association members interests. We are a diverse membership with many interests and hobbies. Here is the chance to share with the other association members. To kick off Tubby Brooker shares his.

My interest when time permits is to get out on the rail trail network within Victoria. There are a great many of these trails not only in Victoria but in many other states as well. They can be viewed here, <https://www.railtrails.org.au/>

I started out riding a normal mountain bike but have now graduated to an E mountain bike, as the legs and fitness are not what they used to be. Below are some photos of the Great Victorian Rail Trail starting at Tallarook. I'm sure many of you have similar interests and hobbies, and we would like to have you share with the rest of the membership. Send your articles to the secretary and he will forward onto the editor of the newsletter.





EASTER BUNNY SALE

Well, the bunnies have arrived early, and it is time to get serious and clean out the Q Store.
Look at these super-duper specials:

Items 1b and 1c (Lapel Badges - Leopard and Colour patch) - reduced to \$5.50 each plus postage



Items 2a to 2f and 2h to 2n - Stickers - reduced to just 60 cents each plus postage of around \$1.10 for five stickers.

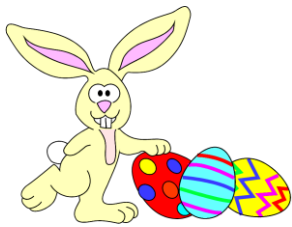
Item 9 - T Shirt with Colour Patch (Collector's item) -now only \$17.50 (Originally \$30!)



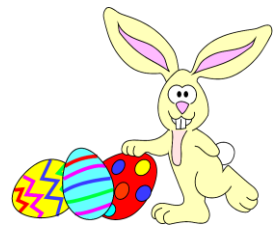
Item 10 - Print 'Tanks for the Memories' - now only \$39 plus postage of around \$19



(please see the Order Form over)



Special Q Store Order Form – Easter Bunny Sale



Your Name:

Postal Address:

.....

Email Address:

Phone number:

Example Order Form

Item	Item Name	Qty	Price	size
Item 1c	Badge, Colour Patch	1	\$5.50	
Item 9	Shirt T, Colour Patch	2	\$17.50	Small

Actual Order Form

Item	Item Name	Qty	Price	size

PROCESS

Step 1 – Copy and Send completed Order Form to:

By post (snail mail) to: Q Store Manager, PO Box 60 BANDIANA MILPO VIC 3694, or

By Email: Scan and send to storeroom@paratus.org.au with a cc to Treasurer@paratus.org.au

Step 2 – Wait for Invoice from the Treasurer before paying

Step 3 – Pay By:

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) the Total Amount shown on the invoice:

- ❖ BSB 633 000 (Bendigo Bank)
- ❖ 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc
- ❖ Account Number: 161498159

❖ **Please ensure that you insert your Surname and Invoice Number**

Or

By post (snail mail) to: Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc, PO Box 301, MENTONE VIC 3194

Association ANZAC Day information by State

WA

In the good old state of W.A. ANZAC Day will be commemorated pretty close to the pandemic days. The dawn service at King's Park will go ahead with limited numbers allowed to attend. This will be followed by a gunfire breakfast. The march will take place as per normal with the association in group D57, after the service at Langley park we intend to have a get together at the Globe Hotel. All the proformas have been sent to RSL WA and they have been confirmed. This is all subject to change if there is another invasion by COVID 19. I'll do my best to give you an update if anything changes, if nothing changes, I'll send what I can to you and also keep in contact with Russ James.

Pat Deeker

SA

SA is at logger heads between RSL and Government/Health. At this stage it appears some RSL will be having a service with Covid restriction, however work is on having a march but at this stage in negotiations, will check with the Adjutant on what the Regiment is doing.

Mark Reid

QLD

There are some details that the Brisbane march committee has to put in place IOT meet the Government Health Officers COVID-19 Plan. The eighteen-page plan that was submitted resulted in an 80 question response. A new plan is to be developed that covers the Government requirements.

The following information regarding the march is provided to members of the Association:

- a. We are Group 7 (1 Armd Regt; 2/14 QMI & 3 Cav Regt);
- b. FUP: William Street (towards North Quay);
- c. Step off: at 1045h.

IOT comply with the Government and the March Committee's obligation, marchers will be required to maintain physical distance apart. All marchers have to be registered prior to the march. All members who intend to march are required to send the following information to me (hatfieldbmlid@bigpond.com) NLT Wed 21 APR 21, IOT meet March Committee requirements prior to the Sun, 25 Apr 21.

- ❖ Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email address.

All members are advised to bring your own sanitizer.

If a member doesn't meet the registration date an information tent will be set up for late comers (location TBA).

Brian Hatfield

VIC

Dawn Service – restricted to 1,400 persons by invitation only.

On 24 March 2021 it was announced that a March with only 5,500 marchers had been approved. This was the number that the Victorian Branch of the RSL requested. It is expected that those wishing to attend will have to register (how is unknown) and further that marchers will not march behind unit or association banners. Further details to be provided by the Victorian Representation (Iain Reynolds) when final details have been confirmed.

The Victorian Government is urging everyone to attend local RSL services.

N.S.W.

As at 25 March it seems that 10,000 is the limit for the Sydney March and all those intending to participate must register. Crowd sizes for other locations including RSL and Sub-Branched is restricted to 5,000. Further details to be distributed by the State Representative as these become available.

TAS

The ANZAC Day March and Commemorative Service for Hobart is still in the planning stages but is to proceed. However, those wishing to participate in the traditional Hobart ANZAC Day March and Commemorative service are required to register. Members should access the Tasmanian RSL website at rsltas.org.au/Hobart-anzac-day-commemorations/ for up-to-date details.

All members are advised to monitor their emails and local RSL Websites/Face Book pages for the latest information.



1st Armoured Regiment Association

Port Macquarie Reunion 2022

Feb/Mar Update

REUNION POSPONED !!!!

General Information for Everyone

The Management Committee of the Association decided to postpone the 2021 Port Macquarie Reunion for 12 months. Main reasons were related to the health and safety of attendees as well as the financial implications from ad hoc state border closures and resultant quarantine requirements.

Dinner on Saturday

The reunion is now scheduled for 22 July (Friday) to 24 July (Sunday) 2022. The format is the same with the Meet and Greet on Friday 22 July, Reunion Sunday 24 July. The location for the Meet and Greet and Reunion Dinner is planned for Rydges in Port Macquarie, whilst the Recovery Breakfast is still subject to negotiation. There are no planned changes to Reunion prices.

All monies paid, Registrations, Meet and Greet, Reunion Dinner and Recovery Breakfast are fully refundable up to 1 May 2022. After that date, refunds are to be negotiated with the Association and should not be an issue if related to health issues or travel restrictions.

For Those who have Registered

- Reunion Refunds – send an email to Treasurer@paratus.org.au with BSB, Account No and Account Name. Monies are to be refunded by EFT
- Monies paid – are accurately recorded in the Association's accounting software (Xero)
- Two (2) weeks after this update, Reunion Secretary (Johnny Atkinson) is to individually email all Registrants to confirm intention to attend the 2022 Reunion
- Attendance at 2022 Reunion – guaranteed if monies paid by 1 May 2022
- Table/seating requests remain as requested unless otherwise advised
- Invoices – Association Treasurer is to amend 'payment due date' on all invoices and send by email to individual attendees

For Those who have Registered (continued)

- Accommodation booked – Rydges is not able to guarantee 2021 prices even if deposit has been paid. Apply for a refund if necessary. Current bookings cannot be transferred until July 2021. Contact Rydges for further information
- Accommodation booked – Caravan Park (CP) will refund any monies paid if requested. Existing bookings will be rolled over in July 2021. Contact CP for further information. Prices are not expected to increase. Group discount of 10% to be provided if 10 or more caravan sites are booked.
- Airline/Travel bookings – responsibility of individual members to cancel/reschedule

For those who have not yet registered

- Do not linger – Reunion is around 50% subscribed
- Registration form – a new form is to be issued in around two (2) or three (3) days via face book, website, newsletter and email
- Reunion Prices – no change to the former price structure
- Wait List – to be established once bookings reach 250 for the Reunion Dinner. Attendance based on receipt of full payment once a vacancy becomes available
- Accommodation bookings with Rydges and/or Caravan Park – may not be made until after July 2021

Conclusion

- Members impacted or concerned – contact Association Secretary at (secretary@paratus.org.au) or Chair of the PM22 Reunion Sub-Committee (ChairPM22Reunion@paratus.org.au) or Johnny Atkinson (SecPM22Reunion@paratus.org.au)
- Port Macquarie attractions and amenities – click on the (url) link: portmacquarieinfo



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1st Armoured Regiment Association Port Macquarie Reunion 2022 - Registration Form

Separate Registration forms are to be submitted for guests (two guests per form). Places at the Reunion are to be reserved in the order that Registrations are received. Registrations fees may be paid after the situation with COVID-19 is clearer.

**Registrations close 25 March 22 and full payment is required by 1 May 2022

Only use this form if this is a NEW registration made after 1 March 2021

Personal and Contact Details

	Title/Rank	First Name	Surname	Preferred Name	Member No
Name					
Wife/Partner					
Postal Address					
Home Phone		Mobile		Email	
Corps/Unit/Regiment/Squadron/Troop details including years and location served:					
Events				No. Attending	Total \$
Registration Fee – See Note 1	\$35 per person (Member and Wife/Partner)				
	\$40 per person for non-members				
I/We would like to attend the following functions:					
Fri 22 Jul 2022 - Meet and Greet	\$50 pp members	\$55 pp non-members			
Sat 23 Jul 2022 - Reunion Dinner	\$120 pp members	\$135 pp non-members			
Sun 24 Jul 2022 - Recovery Breakfast	\$15 pp members	\$17 pp non-members			
				Total Cost	\$
Special Dietary Requirements:					
Accommodation: Please circle your likely Accommodation preference: Rydges, Caravan Park, Other					

Please Note: All travel and accommodation for the Reunion weekend are the responsibility of attendees.

Payment Details: When sending this completed form the registration fee may be paid, either by an electronic funds transfer to BSB: 633-000, Account No: 161498159 and Reference 'PM21 REG Surname' Important Or by Cheque or Money Order to: Secretary, 1st Armd Regt Assoc, PO Box 301 MENTONE VIC 3194

Subsequent Payments:

On receipt of this Registration Form, the Association Treasurer is to prepare and send an itemised invoice to the member's address. Lump sum, part payments or instalments are acceptable.

Disclaimer – In submitting this form, you agree to the following:

All members, their partners and guests attending the Port Macquarie Reunion do so at their own risk. The Association and Reunion committee accept no responsibility for personal injury, property damage or any loss that maybe suffered through participation in any event/s comprising the 1st Armoured Regiment Association 2022 Reunion.

Signature: Date:

Scan or copy and Email to: SecPM22Reunion@paratus.org.au, cc to Secretary@paratus.org.au

Or post to: John Atkinson, Secretary, Reunion Sub-Committee

6 Forrest St, LAKE ALBERT NSW 2650

Note 1. Due to the Coronavirus the Registration Fees does not have to be paid at this time. Any Registration Fees that are paid will be fully refunded if it is necessary to postpone or cancel the reunion due to Coronavirus.



Prototypes of both platforms competing for the Australian Army's Mounted Close Combat Capability acquisition on display outside Russell Offices in Canberra during the official 'unveiling' of the two down selected vehicles. To add drama to the announcement, the Hanwha Defence Australia AS21 Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicle (left) and Rheinmetall Defence Australia KF41 Lynx Infantry Fighting Vehicle (right) competitive prototypes flanked an example of the M-113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier they would replace. Both prototypes have entered competitive field and scientific trials within the Project Land 400 Phase 3 Risk Mitigation Activity which began earlier this year. Pic ADF



The Leonardo M1074 Joint Assault Bridge (JAB) has been conditionally cleared for initial US Army unit issue and employment after successful remediation of problems identified in the platforms initial operational test and evaluation. The Australian Army is seeking to Acquire the M1074 Joint Assault Bridge under its Project Land 8160 Armoured Engineering Assault Vehicles acquisition program. Pic US Army



4 DECEMBER 2020

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: The Australian Army's proposed reorganisation and expansion over the next five to eight years under the 2028 Army Objective Force plan includes some dramatic force multipliers including a new Armoured Brigade Combat Team based in South Australia.

Under the 2028 Army Objective Force structure, the in-service 1st Brigade will be split into two separate combat brigades with the 1st Brigade combat units currently based at the Edinburgh Defence Precinct near Adelaide in South Australia forming the nucleus of a highly capable heavily armoured Brigade Combat Team (BCT) with new regular and mixed regular reserve heavy combat manoeuvre elements.

Under the new arrangements, the existing 9th Brigade (a South Australian and Tasmanian based Army Reserve formation command structure) will transition to a Total Work Force structure with a regular 9th Brigade Headquarters raised to command and control the new combat units

The recently relocated from the NT, 1st Armoured Regiment (1AR) will form the nucleus of the 9th Combat Manoeuvre elements, retaining its current structure of a Headquarters Squadron, a Support Squadron, a Main Battle Tank Squadron (B Squadron) and two Combat Reconnaissance Squadrons (A and C Squadrons).

Scheduled acquisitions will see 1st Armoured Regiment's B Squadron replace its in service M1A1 SA Abrams and M88A2 HERCULES Armoured Recovery Vehicles with new or remanufactured M1A2C/D Abrams Main Battle Tanks and M88A3 HERCULES Armoured Recovery Vehicles acquired under Project Land 907 Phase 2 by mid decade.

The 1st Armoured Regiment's two Combat Reconnaissance Squadrons, A Squadron currently equipped with ASLAV Phase 3 Light Armoured Vehicles and a trials fleet of Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle - Light and B Squadron currently equipped with ASLAV Phase 3 Light Armoured Vehicles, will operate the new Boxer Block II Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle which will enter service from 2023 under Project Land 400 Phase 2.

The new 9th Brigade's primary fires long range fires capability will be delivered by the 9th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery (9RAA) which will be reassigned from its current role as the command structure for the Army Reserve's six geographically separated Light Batteries (operating the F2 81mm mortar and soon to transition to the M252A1 81mm mortar entering service), to be the first of two planned Protected Mobile Fires Regiments equipped with the AS9 Huntsman Self Propelled Howitzer and its partnered AS10 Armoured Ammunition Resupply Vehicles which will be acquired under Project Land 8116 and enter service from 2023/24.

The 9th Brigade Order of Battle (ORBAT) information available to A&NZD indicates that 9th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery will be a Total Work Force manning unit with both regular and reserve personnel.

The Edinburgh Defence Precinct based 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR) will be reassigned from the 1st Brigade to the 9th Brigade under 2028 Army Objective Force structure but continue on as a mechanised infantry battalion.

Under the new arrangements, 7RAR will replace its in service M113AS4 Family of Armoured Vehicles with the next generation Infantry Fighting Vehicle (either the Rheinmetall KF41 Lynx Armoured Fighting Vehicle range or Hanwha Defence AS21 Redback Armoured Fighting Vehicle range) and variants, to be acquired under Project Land 400 Phase 3 and scheduled to enter service in the second half of the 2020s.

The currently serving 9th Brigade 10th/27th Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment (10/27RSAR) Army Reserve light infantry battalion will lose its attached 3rd Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers and transition to a mechanised infantry battalion mounted in Land 400 Phase 3 Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

The 9th Field Squadron, a new full time Royal Australian Engineers element will be raised to support the new 9th Brigade, which will be rolled as an Assault/Manoeuvre Support Squadron and will re-equip with the M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicle (ABV) and the M1074 Joint Assault Bridge (JAB) under acquisition under Project Land 8160 (Under Armour Breaching & Bridging).

The 9th Brigade's existing Army Reserve 9th Combat Service Support Battalion (9CSSB) logistics unit and 144th Signals Squadron will be augmented with significant full-time personnel to support the 9 Brigade Operations while in Australia, but would be likely replaced by full time combat support/combat service support elements if every deployed into high intensity combat scenarios.

The future 2028 Army Objective Force 9th Brigade will constitute the Australian Army's first true armoured brigade combat team capacity raised since the 2nd World War with the capacity to launch and sustain offensive operations through dense and sophisticated defences against both a peer or near peer opponent.

The heavy new 9th Brigade combat manoeuvre structure will be offset by the 2028 Army Objective Force restructured Northern Territory based 1st Brigade which will be reorganised as a light rapidly deployable brigade combat team with a unit and equipment mix optimise for littoral, amphibious or air emplacement operations