



# CENTURION



Official Newsletter

1st Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated

August 2016

**CO 1 Armd. Regt.  
LT COL Chris Gardiner**

**RSM 1 Armd. Regt.  
WO1 Jason Robinson**



**Vietnam 1968 – 72**



- Hat Dich
- Coral – Balmoral
- Binh Ba

- Rhodesia**
- Cambodia**
- East Timor**
- Iraq**
- Solomon Islands**
- Afghanistan**

**From Mud through  
Blood to the  
Green Fields Beyond**



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### Contributions to the Newsletter

The views / comments expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributor and not necessarily endorsed by the current committee. While every care regarding all information is exercised, it should not necessarily be taken as absolute historical fact.



# COMMITTEE 2016/2017

## PATRON

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



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### RAAC Corporation Web Site

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### Regimental Contact

RSM WO1 Jason Robinson

## HONOUR ROLL

### **Killed in Action**

AATTV ex 1AR  
WO2 Chesty Bond  
US Bronze Star for Valour  
Killed Quang Tri, 25 April 1969

WO2 Tom Phillips  
(MID POST)  
DOW Da Nang 20 Mar 1966

WO2 John (Jim) Stone  
(MID POST)  
Killed Thua Tein 19 April 1967

**1AR**  
TPR Mick Hannaford  
Killed Bien Hoa 14 Dec 1968

TPR James Kerr  
Killed Phouc Tuy Province  
13 May 1969

### **Died of wounds 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.K.Patterson

CFN B. Silver

### **DONATIONS:**

Frank Beattie OAM  
John Hawton  
Peter Rosemond CSC, OAM  
Maj Gen Roger Powell AM  
Lou Walker OAM

Donations 169005  
Noel McLaughlin

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

John Evans

Keith Johnson

Terry Roswarne

Reggie Riordan

John Schnaars

Christopher Degerin

Brett Barlow

Chris Henry (Serving Member)

David Hendrie

Trevor Raymer

Bob Roberts

Peter Sykes

Ted Taylor

Simon Whitehead

Andrew Pye

**Article submitted by Bruce Scott  
WA State Representative**



Bruce joined up as a regular soldier in 1967 and marched into the Regiment as a Gunner/Sig in October that year.

Too young to join C Sqn, he went into a holding pattern in HQ Sqn and was an original member of A Sqn when it was re-raised in 1969.

He was posted to B Sqn in Vietnam in Sep 1969 and stayed on until Dec 1970. After that he remained in the Army, retiring in 1993.

**A CLOSE CALL**

June 1970 found 4 Troop in support of 2RAR/NZ, operating from Fire Support Base (FSB) Tess, which was established just east Route 15 near Phu My in the north of Phuoc Tuy Province.

When not out patrolling or conducting night ambushes we occupied a position outside the main perimeter of the base, facing the road. Like the base proper, we too were provided with an earth bund immediately in front of our position. Route 15 was no more than 100 metres to our front and, as the main thoroughfare from Saigon to Baria and Vung Tau, it carried a large amount of traffic.

One day, while at the base, we received orders that curfew violations were occurring and that the no civilian movement between 18:00 and 06:00 provisions were to be enforced. Being adjacent to the road, 4 Troop was to be a major player. Our orders were that if a vehicle was seen, white light from the main searchlight was to be directed onto the road to its front. If the vehicle failed to stop a machine gun burst was to be fired onto the road, and if it again failed to stop it was to be engaged. The designated picquet tank was to be responsible and that was 4Alpha, commanded by SGT Bob Wicks.

I can't recall exactly when we stood to in the evening but it was prior to 18:00, which was close to dark in June. Traffic on the road had petered out when just after 18:00 a vehicle approached from the south, our left. I was on the left flank of our position and as it came nearer I could see that it was an American Jeep with the canopy erected. The plastic side windows were in place and you couldn't see into the vehicle.

As the Jeep came closer to 4Alpha's front he shone the searchlight onto the road but the Jeep drove on. Bob then fired a burst at the road from the commander's .30 and the driver reacted just as we had been taught in counter MT ambush drills at JTC; he accelerated – the drive through method! The next burst went into the Jeep's nearside front wheel, bursting the tyre. A short burst followed and then the gun went silent. The Jeep continued to accelerate away and even when it was out of sight we could still hear the flapping of the burst front tyre.



The following day an American major visited FSB Tess and Bob Wicks presented him with the separated cartridge case that had caused the previous night's stoppage, and probably saved the major's life.



FSB Tess showing Route 15 at upper left.  
4 Troop's position was the area closest to the road.

# A warm welcome to our new President Kevin James Bell

## Professional Profile:

### AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE – ARMY (1975 – 1995)

Instructor driving and servicing wing 1994 - 1995  
ADF – Recruiting Officer Brisbane QLD (1989 – 1993)  
First Armoured Regiment Command Troop Sergeant (1988)  
First Armoured Regiment 3 Troop A Squadron Troop Sergeant (1987)  
Instructor driving and servicing wing (1985 – 1986)  
B Squadron First Armored Regiment (1975 – 1984)  
Trooper, Corporal and Squadron Commander's Operator.

### SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY TRAINING OFFICER QLD HEALTH (1995 – 1997)

### DIRECTOR OF STUDIES/ OPERATIONS MARTIN COLLEGE BRISBANE (1997- DEC 2003)

### EDUCATION CONSULTANT (2004- 2008)

Martin College (Gold Coast)  
Shafston International College  
Kelly College  
TAFE QLD  
Queensland Health  
FUTURUM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

### NATIONAL TRAINING MANAGER MONSTER SOLUTIONS PTY LTD (JAN 2009 – 10)

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

### EDUCATION CONSULTANT (2011- 16)

Aventia College  
GESS Education Pty Ltd  
Captain Cook College  
Custom Fluid Power  
Sentinel International  
Australian Business College

### PROFESSIONAL SKILLS:

Management and Leadership Training  
Selection and Career counseling  
Staff Recruiting  
Leadership/Team Building  
Mentoring/ Coaching  
Effective Liaison with all levels of Management  
Working with international students

### EDUCATION:

Certificate of Risk Management  
Pine Rivers Shire Council  
"Class" Corporate Leadership and Success Strategies.  
Zamora Corporate Training Brisbane  
Warrant Officer Management Course Department of Defense  
Advanced Certificate Human & Physical Resource Management (ACT Accreditation Canberra)

### TERTIARY EDUCATION:

Master of Education (USQ) (Education, Administration & Leadership)  
Bachelor of Business Management, (University of Southern Queensland)  
Diploma of Training & Assessment Systems (Martin College Brisbane)



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Australian Army M1A1 Abrams tanks fire at the range during Exercise Jericho Dawn at Puckapunyal



## 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association support at work

### Sponsorship Awards for the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Soldier of the year
- Junior Non Commissioned Officer of the year



### A Squadron Vietnam Veterans sponsor:

- The Hammersley Awards for A Squadron

### Students of Merit Awards:

- Tank Gunners Course
- Tank Crew Commanders Course
- Regimental Officers Basic Course – Tank



Your continued support and prompt payment  
of annual fees is most appreciated



## 169005 Update June 2016



Work on 005 is still progressing a little slower that we would have liked. We have struck a number of hurdles as we have progressed in the way of parts that needed replacing.

Unfortunately some of the parts are now not readily available and have caused a lot of head scratching to work how best to fix these problems.

We look like we have overcome the problems and have sourced a near new dynamo for the Aux gen and have now fitted it along with oil cooling pipes that weren't originally fitted to the aux gen on 005



We also struck issues with the water pipes from the radiators to the coolant rails these were close to rusted out we were able to source near new ones from the museum.

They have now been cleaned and painted and fitted with new hoses and stainless steel clamps.



Aux Gen and Generator before being joined.



John Blackwell down in the bowels fitting new pipes and hoses.

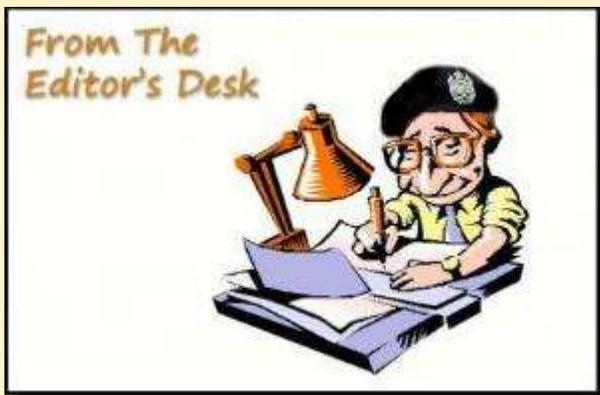
We also found that the LH manifold on the old engine was cracked and fell apart after we had removed it so we again had to source a new one.



Peter Coutts with new/old manifold

We are currently assembling all the sub-assemblies to start replacing in the coming weeks. Those attending the dinner and coming out to Pucka will be able to view the progress.





Hi to all the Members of the Association,

My name is Peter Lukeis and I have just Volunteered to become the next Editor of the Association's Newsletter.

I was called up in the 5th intake of National Service in July 1966 and posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment after basic training.

I was a member of 1 troop C Squadron (31B) and posted to SVN, February to June, 1968. During that time saw action at Pinnaroo and FSB Coral.

I have had some experience in the past producing Newsletters so I am not completely new to it and will strive to come to grips with it ASAP with your help. My wife and I made a tree change from Melbourne 12 years ago and now live on a property at Macedon after farming for a short time just out of Kyneton. Look forward to getting to know many of you and to be of service to the Association.

I am aware that I certainly have a big pair of boots to fill and feel privileged to carry on after John (Tubby) Brooker to whom I'm sure others will have lots to say about his magnificent contribution to the Association from its founding, till current day.

In an effort to be more aware of the functions of the Association I had a good look at the Constitution and believe the "Object" of its existence will help guide me in carrying out the role of Editor.

With this in mind I have included a copy of which many will be aware of but good to look at from time to time.

### 3. Objects

The objects of the Association are:

- (1) To combine into an Association:
  - (a) former members of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment; and
  - (b) currently-serving members of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment;
  - (c) widows, dependants and next of kin of former and present members of the units however prescribed In **Rule 5.1(a)**.
- (2) To foster and perpetuate ties of comradeship created by those eligible for membership;

- (3) To unite members of the Association for their mutual benefit;
- (4) To promote and advance or otherwise assist the welfare and well-being of members, their dependants and next of kin and any other persons as the Management Committee, branch or branches shall approve;
- (5) To provide all possible assistance to members in a practical and advisory capacity;
- (6) To preserve the history of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment through the fostering and sponsorship of awards for excellence in soldiering;
- (7) To diffuse or disseminate knowledge and information or otherwise further these Objects;
- (8) To maintain, promote and encourage the establishment of groups of members to act as a branch or branches of the Association; and
- (9) To do all such other acts and things and enter such affiliation as are incidental or conducive to the furtherance of the above objectives.

Now over time a lot has been published about the role of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment in South Vietnam and rightly so and hopefully more to come, but I am keen to obtain more contributions from the other periods of time such as; **Rhodesia, Cambodia, East Timor, Iraq, Solomon Islands, Afghanistan.**

I would encourage anyone who is able to contribute pictures, stories or both of these times or knows someone who could to please contact me or their State representatives so we can all share in this part of the History of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment.

Look forward to producing an interesting and informative Newsletter for all.

Yours Faithfully

*Peter*

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## New South Wales - State News

**Bob Ferrari OAM JP**

### Anzac Day

Please accept this as my report for Committee meeting and for Centurion.

Despite the opportunity for people to take off for a long weekend, we had a reasonable roll up of 1 AR members to march with our Banner.

Leading our contingent were Lt Col Jeff Coleman (currently serving) and Maj Peter Serle (SVN). Behind the banner were Ex RSM A Pedro Rosemond CSC OAM, Lt David Ritchie (Binh Ba troop leader), Dave Ferguson, Warren Grant, Dave Poole (SVN Medic), John Cook,

Dickie Burton (SVN Bluebell), Graham Munsell, Jarryd Moore (current Abrams gunner) and Bob Ferrari. Some other ex-members of 1 AR marched behind the RAACA banner which preceded us in the order of march, 3 Cav SVN had a good roll up and we were very privileged to have 1/15 Lancer's band marching in front of the Black Hat contingent. They played Radetzky March twice during our trip down the new route which was necessary due to light rail construction activities in the centre of Sydney.

After the march all Black hats including 1/15 adjourned to our regular post March venue upstairs at the Civic Hotel, cnr Goulburn and Pitt Sts. A good time was had by all as memories were relived.

Except for the 2 serving members we were unable to attract any recent veterans this year which is disappointing and needs to be addressed.



## Western Australia - State News

**Bruce Scott**

### ANZAC DAY PERTH 2016

On what must have been one of Perth's wettest ANZAC Days ever, some 20 former members of the Regiment took part in this year's parade. Step-off was scheduled for 09:00 and by 08:00 it was obvious that the rain had settled in and that we were all in for a soaking. Several of the boys came armed with brollies, which were useful in the FUP but most ended up soaked during the long wait before we eventually got underway. The WA Rep whose prized 20-year-old brogues separated from their soles in the wet provided some comic relief. Keith Moodie receives a special mention for taking the initiative and hunting down some rubber bands to hold body and sole together for the march.

With the early start, it was a long wait before the pubs were permitted to serve much-needed beverages at 12:00. Fortunately, the Grosvenor Hotel opened early and served tea, coffee and ANZAC biscuits, free of charge.

All in all it was a pretty successful day that was well attended, despite the weather. A number were unable to join us due to illness and absences and we hope to see them next year.





## South Australia - State News

**Mark Reid**

The weekend at Quorn went well with 6 members and one visitor attending. We met in the main street of Quorn midday and the troop made for The Junction Outstation. The setup was fantastic with beds an option for those without a camping setup. The men set about organising the cooking arrangements closely followed by the drinking arrangements.

After a night of revelry and a small long walk up a hill – mountain, curtesy of Richard James we headed for Mokine where arrangements were made to see how a sheep run operated with a local shearer showing his skills. To some members it brought back there youthful days working in them to others we probably won't be invited back as a roustabout. Back to the Junction and the tucker for the evening meal went on the camp fire whilst we scoffed Barb Walkers homemade sausage rolls, which didn't last long, neither did her soup.

After the evening meal a toast to the Queen and Regiment followed not sure what happened after, that as Chris Fentons rum and red wine took over, must have been great though I remember laughing a lot.

Next year the weekend will be held early April, it rained as we were leaving and 4 wheel drives just made it out, depending on numbers we may have the week at the Wygunya Homestead, the only rider is that it would be ok for camper vans but not caravans about 20kms off road.

A big thank you to Lou and Barb Walker for the liaison to ensure a great weekend was had.



### **Anzac Day**

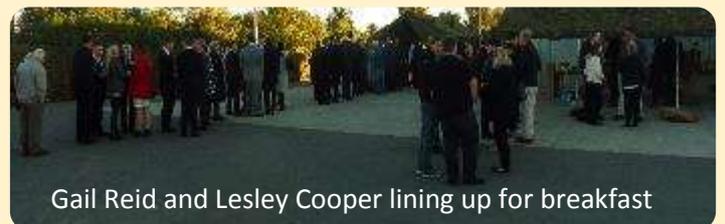
5 members and families about 25 in all, attended A Sqn Anzac Day service as usual, the Assn was made to feel most welcome, after breakfast we made use of the two and crown and anchor facilities hopefully more will attend next year



Bob Litchfield, Grant Lane, Geoff Cooper and Stan Iry



Sgt Bock and Maj Charry organising two up



Gail Reid and Lesley Cooper lining up for breakfast

I attended the AGM at Puckapunyal over the weekend so thought a brief overview as there was significant change which should be known.

The minutes will be published shortly.

The new President is Kevin Bell from Qld. Kevin served 70s - 80s with the Regiment.

The members voted that the 2018 Reunion be held in Adelaide around November date TBA but hopefully over the Cambrai Day weekend. There will be much to do and if you can assist that would be great, please let the steering committee know.

Members Dave Key and Pedro Rosemond are not well and are in hospital I will forward a message of support to Dave on behalf of the SA Members - Dave can be contacted through David Patterson for individual messages.

On a more pleasant note you are invited to the Duke of Wellington North Adelaide on the 5th August 2016 for a get together 5:30 - late. If you are coming I will reserve tables for a meal. Please let me know. If you wish to attend a long Lunch on a Friday in late September 2016 can you also advise and what date would suit - will send another reminder email early September.

I will invite members from A Sqn to the lunch who also may wish/can attend. The Regiment will deploy Iraq after training so thought we could show support at the lunch and wish them the best.

Mark  
14<sup>th</sup> July 2016



Mark getting back into the saddle





# Victoria - State News

Ian Reynolds

## Anzac Day

The Anzac Long Lunch was again held at the Emerald Hotel on Friday 22nd April. It was well attended with 38 members, including Lt Clinton Howe, Paul Saunders & the other members of Tank Troop SOA. Cam McPherson was presented with his Life Membership which was well deserved & a total surprise to him. Everyone had a great time; especially the guys from Tank Troop & it would be a pleasure to have them attending future events.

1st Armoured Regiment was well represented in Melbourne for Anzac Day with approximately 65 that marched to the shrine of remembrance. Once again we were all kept in order with Thomo calling the step. With being near the front of the march this year, we had a fairly clear run up to the Shrine with minimal stop/start. The weather was kind to us this year with sunshine all day. Drinks afterwards were again at the Palmerston Hotel. I would like to thank the members that attend the functions that I hold in Victoria. I can plan & hold a long lunch or a camping trip, but it's you the members that attend these functions that make it a success.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Tolmie Camping Trip

Victorian Grand Final Weekend Friday 30th September till Sunday 2nd October.

#### Cambrai Long Lunch

Friday 11th November, Emerald Hotel 415 Clarendon Street South Melbourne



Hamilton



The camping trip to Tolmie this year went really well with numbers increasing to 30 people that attended including Lou Walker, Mark Reid & Mick Dunn that all made their way across from South Australia. The weather was fantastic with the sun shining all weekend. Graeme Barr provided additional eskies & ice to keep the drinks cold. We had a dining in night in the bush, with roast beef and vegs slowly cooked in a bush oven, for desert we had Quandong Pies (wild Peach) lovingly made by Barb Walker. David Pye supplied the generator for the lighting, & an additional camp oven. Red wine was flowing plenty during the meal, with Port for the toasts. The tables were provided thanks to Peter Keen (who also made the gravy). A special thanks to Jamie Macka for getting there early with the firewood to reserve our campsite, & the guided tour of Stringy Bark creek. Overall it was a very successful weekend. We managed to turn a profit on the weekend which was donated back to the Association for the upkeep of Centurion 005.

The Cambrai Long Lunch was held on the 20th November at the Emerald Hotel South Melbourne with 19 members in attendance. We were lucky enough to get the private dining room which made the conversation more enjoyable for the majority of us that is hard of hearing. We were very well looked after by the staff of the Hotel. For the 1st time in a very long time (to the surprise of my family), I actually made it home on the same day & before dark.





## Queensland - State News

Welcome to our new QLD Rep.  
Brian (Benji) Norton

Quick update!!

I will be organising destination lunches for members around Brisbane, Burnett and Darling Downs regions. Have no list etc. at this time but will be speaking to Dinga shortly.

Brian

### Anzac Day



## Tasmania - State News

Anthony (Dutchy) Souter

With about 12 Association members in the state not a lot happens down here, especially in winter.

This year was a fairly quiet Anzac day with most members attending various dawn services around the state.

I wish to apologise to our outgoing President Tony Cook for any problems I may have caused over the last year.

Tasmania also wishes to thank Tony Crook for his hard work and service to this Association.

Also we wish all out going committee members all the best and welcome the new committee members as well.

Congratulations to Kevin Bell on his election to the President's position within the Association.

As Always, Regards to all members of the 1AR Assn.

Dutchy Soutar  
Tasmania Representative



Anthony & Shirena Soutar at what looks like a freezing cold Anzac day



## Australian Capital Territory - State News

Rep - Ian Cummings

### Anzac Day 2016



Ian Cummings

Doc Brains

In Canberra all activities were well attended despite the long Weekend seeing a number of members head off interstate. Post the dawn Service saw half a dozen members gather at "The Dock" Kingston for an excellent gunfire breakfast. Due to numbers the main march was conducted under the RAAC Banner, although there was a late surge of Assn members which bolstered our numbers. Following the Main march we returned to the Dock again for a great lunch and Two Up. There was a broad spectrum of both Assn members and black hats attending, with a tight knot of Vietnam veterans along with ex and current severing members from across the lake. Also attending were a number of young troopers from B Sqn 1/15.



### Other activities

Support from the Owner and Operator of "The Dock" has gone well and we will continue to use this venue for our gatherings.

There is no function planned for the Regimental birthday, rather we have encouraged all state members to attend the Birthday Weekend in Seymour.

Our final activity for the year will be Cambrai Day drinks At "The Dock", 18 Nov 16. Again all black hats in the area will be welcome to attend.

### Reinterment of WO2 Tom Phillips

Assn representatives and members along with reps from RAAC HOC attended the reinterment of WO2 Tom Phillips at the Woden War Cemetery on a bleak winters day on the 6 Jun 16. WO2 Phillips had served as a TP Sgt in the Regiment. He died of his wounds on 20 Mar 66 after being shot in a contact near Da Nang while attached to 433 RF Coy, ARVN (as a member of AATTV), and was buried at Terendak.





## 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regt. Assoc. 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armd regt association dinner was held at the Seymour club on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. In attendance as special guests was the outgoing Patron MajGen Roger Powell AM (Retd) and Mrs Rhonda Powell.



The incoming patron MajGen Craig Orme DSC AM CSC (Retd), CO SOA Col Andrew Abbott and Mrs Oliva Abbott, RSM SOA WO1 Craig Cook and Mrs Joanne Cook, Mr Lou Walker OAM and Mrs Barbara Walker and Mr John Brooker OAM.



The dinner started by a reading of the regimental prayer, by Kevin Bell. Entrée was served and the main course was a buffet with a choice of 3 roast meats with roasted vegetables and gravy. After the meal Shannon Radermaker (Bruce's Son) presented to Tony Crook the badge that use to grace the wall in front of RHQ, the badge was passed on to Joe Linford for a special place in the museum.



There were a number of presentations Roger and Mrs Powell were both presented with gifts from the association for their outstanding support through the years.



John Brooker and Lou Walker were both presented with Certificates of appreciation for their fine work and a new life member's badge. Tony Crook handed over the rains as president to Kevin Bell and his first official duty was to call on certain members to raise their glasses to the loyal toasts.



There was a Birthday cake cutting ceremony where Roger Powell, Craig Orme and Kevin Bell joined together to cut the cake using a Saber. The rest of the night was spent catching up with old mates and the usual chit chat. From all accounts a great night was had by all that attended.



# The National Boer War Memorial



This Royal Australian Armoured Corps Project  
Must have your help if it is to succeed!

The Australian troopers who served in the Boer War, the predecessors of our troopers of today, were our first soldiers to fight in a war as Australians.

Although all the other major wars are commemorated in Anzac Parade in Canberra, there is not yet a memorial to the Boer War.

**Every Black Hat should help to redress this deficiency!**

But do they deserve to be commemorated? Try this ....

23,000 young people from Australia served there, 1,000 lost their lives there - more than the total lost during all warlike operations since WWII.

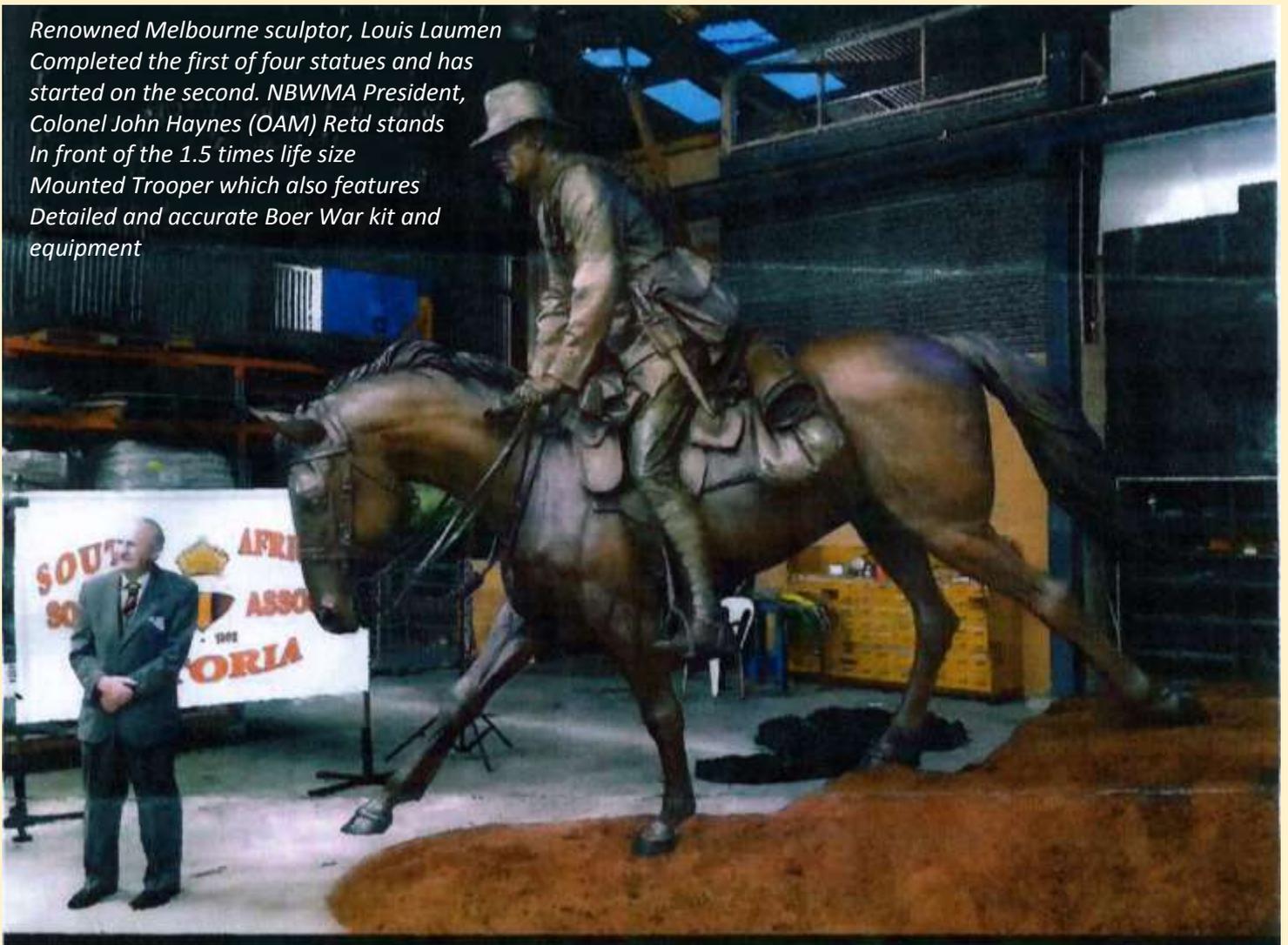
Our first VC was awarded there along with another five, and 161 other bravery awards. We sent 143,000 unarmoured personnel carriers (horses) none of which came back.

Of course the deaths, the other men and women who served and our gallant horses all deserve a memorial, but it's up to us to do something about it.

We have a site in Anzac Parade and an approved design, the centrepiece of which is a section on patrol of four Australian Troopers, mounted on war horses. Each Statue is a one and a half times, life size in bronze. The photo below shows the results of our efforts so far: the first mounted trooper recently completed in the foundry. Former RAAC Assoc. (NSW) President, and now NBWMA President, COL John Haynes (OAM) Retd. at 177cm, stands in front demonstrating the size of the bronze sculpture. Please help us to get the next three completed. Please visit the NBWMA website and consider making a tax-deductible donation of \$2 or more.

**We need every Black Hat to kick the tin**

*Renowned Melbourne sculptor, Louis Laumen Completed the first of four statues and has started on the second. NBWMA President, Colonel John Haynes (OAM) Retd stands In front of the 1.5 times life size Mounted Trooper which also features Detailed and accurate Boer War kit and equipment*



## NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

National Patron:

Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, Chief of the Defence Force

National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. • ABN 29 293 433 202

Victoria Barracks, 75 Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021

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