



## **Minutes for Management Committee Meeting Held Using Zoom Technology on 2 May 2025**

The meeting was opened by the President, Mel Meloncelli, at 1900 hrs. He thanked all those in attendance for giving their time on a Friday evening.

1. **Attendees:** The following members were in attendance:  
Mel Meloncelli, Dean Martin, Russ James, Dick Stanios, Chris Fenton, Gary McCabe, Pat Deeker, Brian Hatfield, Chris Hodgson and Graeme Unmack.
2. **Apologies – (Secretary)** – Graeme Walker, Mark Reid, Andrew Walker and Iain Reynolds.
3. **Distribution of Information:** Copies of all documents tabled and/or discussed at the Management Committee meeting were electronically distributed to all Management Committee members prior to the meeting.
4. **Item 56/25 - Minutes from Previous Meeting (21 March 2025)** – updates were provided on outstanding issues:
  - a. **Future of the Regiment** – the President advised that there had not been any announcements since the last meeting.
  - b. **Communication Tools Update** – The Comms Manager (Gary McCabe) advised:
    - i. That there had been numerous requests to join both the 1<sup>st</sup> Armd Regt Assn (Members Only) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Armd Regt Social Face Book pages. Most of these had been bogus as the questions asked could not be answered correctly.
    - ii. That he had been investigating the backend of the Website ([www.paratus.org.au](http://www.paratus.org.au)) and was attempting to resolve some technical issues. Further advice to be provided at the next meeting.
    - iii. There was still a lot do to make the website more user friendly and he anticipated that a new version would be available by the next meeting.
    - iv. 183 people had visited the website in the last 30 days.
  - c. **Mailchimp and Crazy Domain Update** – Secretary advised that there had been no change to the Mailchimp update. The software licence restricts the Association to one authorised user. Crazy Domain have not answered any emails or phone calls concerning a smaller revised number of email addresses.
  - d. **Policies and Procedures – Internet Code of Conduct** – Secretary advised that this document could not be updated until further work was undertaken to set up an Instagram account.
  - e. **Policies and Procedures – Funerals and Commemorative Services Update** – the Secretary apologised that there had been insufficient time to publish the document to Management Committee members. The document had been updated and would be distributed shortly. To be reviewed at the next Management Committee meeting.

- f. **Q Store Manager** – the Secretary advised that there had not been any volunteers to take on this role. The Secretary would continue to satisfy Q store Orders as these were received.
5. **Minute 28 of 2024/25** - it was moved Pat Deeker, seconded Graeme Unmack that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**
6. **Item 57/25 – Minute No 29 of 2024/25 - Membership Decisions Made via email (Secretary)** – it was moved Russ James, seconded Dick Stanios that the membership decision made via email be ratified for Brenton Shevlin on 29 April 2025. **CARRIED**
7. **Item 58/25 - Correspondence In (Secretary)** – emails relating to membership renewals, advice of deaths and illnesses, Q store orders, invoices, etc.
8. **Item 59/25 - Correspondence Out (Secretary)** – recruiting emails, membership renewal emails and letters, invoices, membership cards and membership badges, emails to communication providers, condolence cards, notices of deaths and funerals, etc. No other significant outwards correspondence.
- Minute No 30 of 2024/25** - moved Russ James, seconded Gary McCabe that the Correspondence Report be accepted. **CARRIED**
9. **Item 60/25 - Membership Report (Secretary):**
- a. Current Membership = 542 (2 May 25) increase of 170 since July 2018. There are currently only three (3) members for this year, who have indicated that they do not intend to renew their membership.
  - b. Membership renewals for 2025 – 164 members due to renew. 135 Renewals Notices sent so far and 111 of these have renewed. A further 29 renewal notices are to be sent between now and the end of the year. The Secretary and Treasurer still chasing 28 members who were due to renew on 1 February!
  - c. Secretary and Recruitment Manager (Treasurer) continue to contact previous members and other contacts for potential renewals and new memberships.
- Minute No 31 of 2024/25** - moved Russ James, seconded Chris Fenton that the Membership Report be accepted. **CARRIED**
10. **Item No 61/25 - Treasurer's Report (Treasurer)** – advised that the Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2024 to 29 Apr 2025 had been distributed prior to the meeting (Copy included at Annex A). The President asked for any questions.
- Minute 32 of 2024/25** As there were no questions, it was moved Russ James, seconded Graeme Unmack that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **CARRIED**
11. **General Business**
- **Item 62/25 – AGM (Secretary)** – advised that the responses to the email to all members requesting information concerning their attendance at the AGM as well as wives/partners attending the following 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch had been very poor. The final agenda for the AGM as well as the Proxy Form would be distributed within a week, and it was hoped that members may be more forthcoming in their intentions.
  - **Item 63/25 – New Membership Category (Secretary)** – indicated that he believed the Association needed a new membership category for those members who were no longer capable of understanding the membership renewal requirement due to health issues. There was considerable discussion including the need to amend the Constitution as well as suggestions for the name of a new membership category. In the end it was agreed that as

there are only two members who are currently in this situation, it was best left to the Secretary to extend their memberships and include such information (without names) in the Membership reports.

- **Item 64/25 – SA Veterans Marching under the Association Banner in Adelaide on ANZAC Day (Secretary)** – advised that Association members, as well as other 1AR Veterans, had not been able to march behind the banner in Adelaide as the RSL in Adelaide had indicated that the group was too small. The President indicated that he would write to the RSL seeking confirmation of the requirements for banners to be included in the Adelaide ANZAC Day March.
- **Item 65/25 – Minute 33 of 2024/25 – Nomination of John Blackwell for Life Membership of the Association** - the Secretary advised that the Life Membership Sub-Committee had reviewed the Nomination, and supporting documentation (copies at Annex B), for Life Membership of John Blackwell. The President asked those present if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Nomination as well as the recommendation of the Life Membership Sub-Committee. As there was no discussion, the President moved, seconded by the Secretary, that Life Membership for John Blackwell be referred to the AGM for approval according to the Policies and Procedures for Life Membership of the Association. **CARRIED**

Next Meeting – after some discussion, the President advised that the next Management Committee should be held on Friday 13 June 2025 and asked that members included this date in their diaries.

There being no further business, the President thanked members for their attendance and input.  
The meeting closed 1951 hrs.

Russ James  
Secretary  
1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association

Annexes:

- A. Profit and Loss for Current Financial Year
- B. Life Membership Documentation for John Blackwell

**Profit and Loss**  
1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc  
For the period 1 July 2024 to 29 April 2025

<b>Account</b>	<b>1 July 2024-29 Apr 2025</b>
<b>Trading Income</b>	
Interest Income	2,097.70
Membership Income	10,274.89
Merchandise Sales	15,376.83
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>27,749.42</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>	
Cost of Merchandise Sold	220.66
Purchases	13,935.58
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>14,156.24</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>13,593.18</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Adelaide 2024 Registration F	1,520.00
Donations Received	459.05
Donations Received - Adelair	3,758.75
Donations Received - Centur	500.00
Event Proceeds	1,000.00
Stock Adjustment - Increase	101.92
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>7,339.72</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Adelaide 2024 Bus Transport	530.00
Adelaide 2024 Event Outlays	1,455.00
Adelaide 2024 Meet and Gre	880.00
Adelaide 2024 Reunion Dinn	5,855.00
Adelaide 2024 Torrens Boat	13.00
Adelaide 2024 Winery Trip E	(35.00)
Adelaide 24 Prizes	403.02
Bank Fees	33.50
Communications	1,000.77
Consulting & Accounting	682.50
Donations Paid by the Assoc	25.00
Event Outlays	1,206.28
Flowers/Wreaths/Donations	201.65
General Expenses	44.97
Grants - Colonel John Hayne	1,000.00
Insurance	301.33
Legal expenses	49.00
Office Expenses	401.15
Postage	773.76
Printing & Stationery	624.91
RAAC Corp Fees	200.00
Repairs and Maintenance - C	217.75
Scholarship Sporting	522.00
Stock Write Off	73.78
Stripe Fees	55.50
Tyro Charges	59.69
Website Expenses	42.90
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>16,617.46</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>4,315.44</b>



# *1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated*

ABN 16930055791  
PO Box 301, Mentone. VIC 3194  
[secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)

2 May 2005

## **Report by the Life Membership Sub-Committee on the Nomination for Life Membership for John Blackwell**

Reference: 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association – Policy and Procedures for Life Membership published  
16 October 2022

### **Nomination for Life Membership**

A Nomination for Life Membership for John Blackwell was submitted to the President of the Association by John Brooker on 28 March 2025. The nomination was supported, in writing by Peter 'Bushy' Coutts and John Phoenix.

### **Initial Review of the Nomination**

In accordance with the principles of the Policy and Procedures, the Secretary of the Association conducted an initial review of the Nomination to determine if the mandatory and highly desirable criteria existed for the Nomination to be referred to the Life Membership Sub-Committee. Subsequently, the President was advised of the need to convene a meeting of Life Membership Sub-Committee.

### **Members of the Life Membership Sub-Committee**

President – Keith (Mel) Meloncelli  
Vice-President – Dean Martin (RAEME)  
Secretary – Russ James  
Member – Chris Fenton  
Member – Gary McCabe

### **Life Membership Sub-Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Life Membership Sub-Committee was convened at 1900 hrs on 1 May 2025 via ZOOM. The President opened the meeting by thanking those in attendance and asked if everyone had read the documents (see list below). Following confirmation, the President asked for any comments, questions or points that may require clarification.

Individual members of the Sub-Committee made comments in support of the Nomination, some of which included:

John Blackwell is a sincere, honest former ASM of the Regiment who lives and breathes our Centurion (ARN 169005). He is an outstanding person, a mentor of the highest order who provides a positive light to others within the volunteers at the Tank Museum, as well as to staff of the Museum.

John loves doing what he is doing; he is committed and passionate about our Centurion as well as training others in the maintenance and servicing requirements to ensure that the vehicle is in the best condition possible.

John's efforts at the Tank Museum, not only within the Centurion, but also other display vehicles, could only be described as incredible.

There is no doubt that the value of the vehicle has increased significantly over the original purchase price and there can no doubt that this increase may be attributed to John's efforts as the senior technical lead for the vehicle. An asset, which is perhaps the Association's most valuable asset.

It was agreed that John had met all of the 'mandatory' criterion, but some concern was expressed over a 'highly desirable' criteria which required the development, or input, to the constitution, policies, procedures for the day-to-day management of the Association. The Secretary indicated that John, as the senior technical lead, was responsible for the preparation of significant documents, maintenance and servicing schedules, planning documents, etc for the day-to-day management of the vehicle.

### **Voting to Accept the Nomination**

As there were no further comments, the President moved, seconded by the Secretary, 'that the nomination for Life Membership for John Blackwell be accepted by the Life Membership Sub-Committee, and that the nomination be referred to the next meeting of the Management Committee. **CARRIED**

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 1925 hrs.

Russ James  
Secretary

### **Attachments:**

1. Nomination for Life Membership by John Brooker OAM
2. Support of Nomination by Peter Coutts CSM
3. Support of Nomination by John Phoenix OAM
4. Life Membership Considerations – Mandatory and Highly Desirable Criteria

**Attachment 1 to  
Report by Sub-Committee on  
Nomination of John Blackwell**

John Brooker  
3/142 Dudley Street  
WALLAN VIC 3756

28 March 2025

The President  
1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Inc.  
PO Box 301  
MENTONE VIC 3194

Dear Mel,

I wish to submit a nomination for Life Membership of the Association for John William Blackwell. I have read the 'Policy and Procedures for Life Membership of the Association' published on 30 August 2019 and believe that John Blackwell fulfils the requirements to be considered for Life Membership. I have also prepared this submission in accordance with the requirements of the Policies and Procedures mentioned immediately above.

**DISCLOSURE**

I am one of the founding members of the Association and have held a number of positions on the Executive and Management Committee for approximately 20 plus years. Positions held include President (2000-2008) and Vice-President 2008-2014 and then 2019-2020. I have worked with John for approximately 11 years on restoring, refurbishing and maintaining the Association's Centurion Tank ARN 169005. During this period John has been a member of the Board of Management for ARN 169005.

I believe that I am well-qualified to attest to John's commitment to the Association and its values and purposes.

**GENERAL**

John Blackwell has been a member of the Association for almost 20 years and during that time he has been the primary manager, technician and mechanic for our Centurion. He has ensured that all possible steps have been taken to safeguard the future of this very valuable asset, not just from a monetary perspective, but also ensuring that a significant historical item is available for demonstrations, as well as for RAAC activities conducted by the School of Armour and the Corps.

During this period of time, I worked very closely with John and found him to be respectful to the RAAC, to RAEME, to the Regiment, to the Association and indeed to all members of the Association as well as to former members of the Regiment.

**CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED**

1. **Continuous membership of the Association** – John had been a member of the Association since around 2005.
2. **Demonstrated a Commitment to the Association** – John is considered to be the guru for all matters relating to ARN 169005 and has manufactured many parts to keep the tank in running order. John has been a member of the Board of Management for ARN 169005 since its formation some nine or ten years ago. He has also provided guidance and instruction to staff and volunteers at the Tank Museum, for a wide range of military equipments as well as ARN 169005.

3. **Has provided exceptional, loyal and outstanding service** – over a period of 10 or more years, John always put the needs of the tank over his own. His mentorship and guidance have led to improvements in the knowledge of those with whom he has worked.
4. **Demonstrated commitment to the purposes of the Association** – John has demonstrated a commitment to the purposes of the Association especially through preserving the history of the Regiment and providing assistance to members (museum volunteers) in a practical and advisory capacity.
5. **Demonstrated commitment through the development, etc of the constitution, bylaws, policies, or procedures** – John has contributed to the development of management plans, maintenance schedules, etc for the maintenance and refurbishment of ARN169005 as well as other museum vehicles.
6. **Demonstrated loyalty to the Association and Regiment** – John has attended many state-based functions, as well as major reunions, conducted by the Association and the Regiment over many years.
7. **Behaved in a manner that demonstrates respect for the Regiment, the Association and for members of the Regiment and the Association** – John's personal behaviour and attitudes have always demonstrated his respect for the Regiment, for the Association and for members of the Association, as well as currently serving members at the Tank Museum. His commitment to ARN 169005 is a beacon for others to follow.
8. **Behaved at all times in a manner that contributed to maintaining the good name and reputation of the Association** – John has committed thousands of hours of work to the maintenance of the major asset (Centurion ARN 169005) of the Association. John's conduct in relation to the Association, as well as the Tank Museum, Association members, as well as staff at the Tank Museum is beyond reproach.  
At all times, his personal commitment was for the good of the Association and maintaining relationships with Association Members for the benefit of the Association.

### **Supplementary Information**

From around 2013/14, John has been the ASM for our 'tank'. He has identified hundreds of mechanical issues and developed plans and programmes to progressively rectify such issues so that the tank is in the full running order that it is today.

John has headed a team of volunteers including myself, Bushy Coutts, Icky Smith, Tony Crook and other members of the Museum staff. He has rebuilt and restored many Centurion components in his home workshop; without his commitment to such tasks, the restoration of ARN 169005 would not have proceeded and the vehicle would not be in the great condition that it is today.

I am convinced that without John's involvement, the full restoration would have never been achieved. His attention to detail and efforts in obtaining, repairing and refurbishing various components are a testament to him as well as ensuring the survival of this important part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment's history.



**Attachment 2 to  
Report by Sub-Committee on  
Nomination of John Blackwell**

Dear Mel and Russ,

This nomination was sent to me on behalf of Tubby to review and to support.

John has always worked with the highest integrity and purpose for the Association and its members. His commitment and dedication have been of great assistance to Tubby, me and other volunteers (and staff) of the Tank Museum. There is no doubt that his perseverance and enthusiasm inspires others to achieve better than expected outcomes.

It is only a few in the leadership group who actually know how much time and effort John has contributed to the refurbishment of our tank and its use not only as a fully functioning museum piece but also as a training aid for students at the School of Armour. I am supportive of his nomination for Life Membership.

Kind Regards

Peter 'Bushy' Coutts CSM

**Attachment 3 to  
Report by Sub-Committee on  
Nomination of John Blackwell**

Dear Russ,

In reference to John Blackwell's nomination, I have known John for 45 years as a workmate and friend. He has always been trustworthy and reliable.

John got involved in the Tank Museum when we volunteered to carry out repairs to the M543 wrecker 20 years ago. He has been involved since then as a volunteer.

John's work has always been outstanding. This is shown by the current condition of the Centurion Tank ARN 169005 and the three Cadillac engines.

John is also involved in the Vietnam Veterans Walk in Seymour.

I wish John all the best in his nomination for Life Membership.

John Phoenix OAM

**Life Membership Criteria – Assessment for John Blackwell**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Pass/Fail</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Had continuous membership as an ordinary, associate or affiliate member of the Association for a period of not less than ten (10) years (mandatory requirement)	Pass	Has been a member since 2 July 2005
Demonstrated a commitment to the Association by serving on either the Executive or the Management Committee or a Reunion Committee for a period of not less than five (5) years (mandatory requirement)	Pass	Has been a member of the Board of Management for ARN169005 for at least 10 to 12 years
Has provided exceptional, loyal and outstanding service as well providing measurable benefits to the Association (mandatory requirement)	Pass	Loyal and outstanding service to the maintenance, refurbishment of ARN169005
Demonstrated commitment to the 'purposes' of the Association as contained in the 'Own Rules Constitution' passed at the AGM in July 2018 (mandatory requirement)	Pass	Has demonstrated a commitment to the purposes of the Association especially through preserving the history of the Regiment and providing assistance to members (museum volunteers) in a practical and advisory capacity.
Demonstrated a commitment to the Association through the development of, or input to the, constitution, bylaws, policies and procedures for the day-to-day management of the Association (highly desirable requirement)	Pass	Has certainly contributed to the development of schedules, etc for the maintenance and refurbishment of ARN169005
Demonstrated loyalty to the Association and the Regiment over an extended period of time (highly desirable requirement)	Pass	John has attended many functions conducted by the Association and the Regiment over many years
Personal behaviour that demonstrates respect for the Regiment, for the Association, for members of the Regiment and all members of the Association (highly desirable requirement)	Pass	John's personal behaviour and attitudes have always demonstrated his respect for the Regiment, for the Association and for members of the Association, as well as currently serving members at the Tank Museum. His commitment to ARN 169005 is a beacon for others to follow.

Criteria	Pass/Fail	Comments
Has at all times behaved in a manner that contributed to maintaining the good name and reputation of the Association as an Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) in good standing (highly desirable requirement).	Pass	John's conduct in relation to the Association, as well as the Tank Museum, Association members, as well as staff at the Tank Museum is beyond reproach.