Centurion August 2018

1ST ARMOURED REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSLETTER

Reg No AO044180K



Theatres of Operation

Japan

Vietnam - Battle Honours

- $^{\circ}$ Coral Balmoral
- ^o Hat Dich
- Binh Ba

Rhodesia

Cambodia

East Timor

Iraq

Solomon Islands

Afghanistan

Our Soldiers Today

(Click on)

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

Newsletter Contributions

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

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



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At the time of finalising this Newsletter the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc. AGM for 2018, has come and gone leaving us with a new Association Committee.

For full details see 'Notices from the Secretary'.

The new committee commenced discussions (as individual candidates) approximately two months prior to the AGM and quickly developed a mantra, a proxy collection plan and a list of objectives to be tackled within the first 100 days. As a result, the new Committee hit the road running and within three weeks the following objectives have been achieved.

- All new 'own rules' Constitution has been lodged with Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Handovers completed for all key Committee positions
- Code of Conduct for social media behaviour
- Rules for the Management of Association correspondence
- Implementation of standards for the Association branding in the use of badges, signature blocks and letterheads
- Technology implemented and tested for Internet video conferencing

Additional (but not all) objectives from the 1st 100 days plan includes:

- Executive and Management Committee Meetings
- 1ARA Website
- Surveys
- Membership Recruiting all Corps
- Membership Recruiting RAEME
- By-Laws (commence re-drafting)
- Adelaide Re-Union increased participation
- Policy subsidisation of State run functions
- Policy use of Regimental Flag as a funeral pall
- Policy deaths and funerals (members and nonmembers)
- Roles and responsibilities for all committee members
- Responsibilities of all members of the Association consistent with the purposes and values of the Association

The temptation for some members is to demand instant responses and change regarding committee action for matters such as upcoming RAAC Milestones, as well as instant responses to correspondence etc. This is of course unrealistic as all of these matters will be the subject of discussion at the next scheduled committee meeting.

Once the matter is discussed and a resolution is decided on by the Committee then the member or if applicable, the whole membership of the Association, will be advised of the outcome as soon as practicable.

Already we have received emails criticizing the committee for not announcing important issues regarding a number of these anniversaries and we haven't even held our 1st Committee meeting.

Please be patient and give the committee a fair go. Following is an extract of an email from the Secretary.

'You must be aware that the committee of this Association – like many others – is comprised of volunteers who have their day-to-day lives to live, some have full-time work and in a number of cases, shift work. Relatively important matters may take some time to address, and constant demands for immediate attention are unhelpful.

The first committee meeting, of the recently elected Committee, is scheduled for Monday 6 August 2018, and a number of important and demanding items of correspondence (emails) will be tabled and discussed at that meeting. Decisions made at that meeting will be advised at some time later.'

In the near future we will be able to report the minutes of the Association Committee meetings on the Association's Web Site for everyone to be kept up to date.

Members may not know that Peter Badman has Alzheimer's Disease and for the past 3 years has been in care at Estia Nursing Home, 25 Noble Pde, Dalmeny 2546 near Narooma on the NSW south coast. His wife Mary lives nearby and she and their children are proud of the way he is coping, somehow maintaining a certain dignity despite his inevitable physical and mental deterioration as the disease increases its hold.

After the Coral/Balmoral 50th Commemoration, ACT May 2018 both Mick Butler and then Gerry McCormack were able to visit Dalmeny and spend time with Peter. It was good to show him Commemoration photos on an iPad and watch his positive reaction."

With best wishes, Gerry COL Gerry McCormack (Rtd)



Yours Faithfully,
Peter

Peter Lukeis

E: newsletter@paratus.org.au

Notices from the Secretary, Russ James

E: secretary@paratus.org.au

P: Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

PO Box 60,

Bandiana MILPO. VIC 3694





1st Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated (Registration Number A0044180K) Annual General Meeting 14 July 2018

Election Results

The results for the Election of Officer bearers at the AGM held on the 14th July 2018 are as follows:

Executive Members

President: Keith Meloncelli elected unopposed
Vice President: John Brooker elected unopposed
Secretary: Russ James elected unopposed
Treasurer: David Paterson elected unopposed

Committee Members

Six (6) members nominated for five (5) available Committee positions. The results were as follows:

Gary Frost – elected, Recruitment Manager

Peter Lukeis – elected, Communications Manager, Executive

Dean Martin (RAEME) – elected, Special Projects, Executive

Mark Reid – elected, Junior Vice President, Executive

Graeme Unmack – elected, Special Projects

Kevin Bell - not elected

Ex-Officio Member

Chris Fenton – elected unopposed, RAACC Delegate

State Representatives

Victoria – Iain Reynolds, unopposed

NSW – Mick Payne, unopposed

QLD - Brian Hatfield, unopposed

SA – Mark Reid, unopposed

WA - Pat Deeker

TAS - Jim Soul, unopposed

NT - Peter Still, unopposed

ACT - Vacant

Special Resolution

The Special Resolution for an 'own rules' Constitution was passed unanimously with 106 votes in favour, one (1) abstention and no votes against. The Constitution has been forwarded to Consumer Affairs Victoria for ratification.

R.F. James

Secretary

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

New Members:

Dean Martin, (RAEME) VIC

Shaun McQuillan, VIC Gary Millar, WA

Ian Cummings, ACT

Jon Belmonte,

(Jon is/was the unit Salvation Army Rep.) NSW

Donations:

Jon Belmonte



1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

Committee 2018/2019

PATRON

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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IT SUPPORT

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Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages

1ST ARMOURED REGIMENT FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/

RAAC CORPORATION WEB SITE

www.raaccorpltd.org.au

ROYAL TANK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

www.royaltankregiment.com

1st ARMOURED REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC. WEB SITE

http://www.paratus.org.au

1ST ARMOURED REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC. FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/

Join the Crowd in Adelaide

2018 Adelaide Reunion

For full details see pages 23 - 26



Regiment celebrates its 69th birthday

On 5th July 2018 the Regiment paused to celebrate its 69th Birthday. Activities included a Regimental Parade with promotions and awards, a lesson on vehicle camouflage and concealment led by the Regimental Sergeant Major and a morning tea in the Mick Rainey, MM Club. The morning tea was opened with a traditional cutting of the cake ceremony by the Commanding Officer and the Regiment's youngest soldier, TPR Szecko.

The Regiment would like to acknowledge the efforts of Rozanne and the team from <u>Sugar & Spice Cakes</u> for providing such a wonderful cake.

The birthday activities will culminate this evening with the 2018 1st Armoured Regiment Winter Ball.

To all members of the Regiment past and present, thank you for your service and your contributions to making the Regiment what it is today. -Paratus















Saturday night drinks after the AGM Canberra 14th July 2018





Graeme Unmack Noel Mc Laughlin OAM



Russ James, on behalf of Team Meloncelli, would like to express his, and the team's, appreciation to all those who made time to have a say at the AGM, either through their attendance or by appointing a proxy (more than 90 were received).

The active support of so many enables the Association to progress matters with a high degree of confidence in their decision making.

Appreciation is also extended to those who submitted their apologies.

Thanks



Russ James Secretary

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.



Peter Rosemond CSC OAM Peter Swinfield



After the Wreath laying ceremony

Tim Wood's 'TANK RIDE' Tamborine, Queensland

With thanks for article and pics sent by John 'Bluey' Dyson





When Tim was 6 years old his parents gave him a remote controlled Leopard tank for his birthday, this formed a great interest in tracked machinery and the more intense the equipment the more interest there was.

Amphibious ability was amazing to Tim and military equipment seemed to have the greatest ability to cope with all sorts of terrain and conditions which caught Tim's fascination at this young age.

As Tim grew up his parents always noted how dedicated he was to putting time into and perfecting things he enjoyed. BMX bike riding was Tims favourite past time and from Racing this developed into an addiction chasing an adrenaline rush doing stunts in the Sport of BMX freestyle ramp riding. There was no such thing as a career in such a sport in the early 90's so Tim and a group of friends started doing small shows at fetes and city events in the Brisbane region. This funded new bikes and gear and bigger ramps! A stroke of good timing and opportunity presented itself for Tim in 2000 where Pepsi was offering a professional role for a BMX rider doing shows around Australia.

As Tim was unbeaten in any competition within Australia from a 15 year old right through to being Professional at 25 he became the obvious choice!

Within 3 years of this Tim had bought a house and property, built an indoor training facility and set up a proper construction company to build ramps for councils. While this was all happening Tim played with machinery from excavators, bulldozers, tracked bobcats to not so practical (in Queensland) snow mobiles and amphibious vehicles. He also developed his Construction skills hand building a loose interpretation of a Ferrari Testarossa car without moulds or a kit as such ... this took 15 years to fully road registered completion!!

As the years went on in the BMX industry Tim Travelled afar and became one of the Best riders in the world competing in the American x-games and similar competitions in many continents.

Each year Tim would contribute to his construction

realising that one day it would all help to maintain a centurion tank!

In 2010 Shortly after his first Son was born Tim decided to retire from professional riding and started searching for something else to do that gave him enjoyment without the risks..... not many other sports hadn't been tried and there was a period there where it would have been very easy to go into depression without the idea of Buying a Tank......So the first purchase was a Saracen APC, Next was a Stuart tank Hull that needed an enormous amount of work then these were both sold to contribute to the picture in Tims head of a Main battle tank-The Centurion. 169109 was purchased and after a heavy transport bill she was home and undergoing a full-scale mechanical birthday.



To this day she is still on the button and runs and drives on a weekly basis. Not without a lot of maintenance and parts I should add.

A Love hate relationship developed with the Centurion as Tim learned how to fix just about anything on the "bitch" (this was 169109's nickname in Vietnam) and then saw an opportunity to start a"tankride" business. In order to Lower the price for participants with larger numbers on board Tim saw the opportunity to Purchase 169083, one

of only three Centurion Driver trainer tanks modified by the Australian army from Tim Vibert in Victoria.



Despite breaking down on its very first day with a Business Launch party this tank has operated wonderfully, week in and out for over 5 years. The bug was totally caught by now and Tim could not resist buying the last remaining operational Centurion Bridge laying tank in the world from Tim Vibert as well for display and Demo Purposes.



There was a bit of a pattern evolving now and Tim started to idly consider the possibility of collecting all 5 of the types of Centurions that served for Australia when he Purchased 169078 a bulldozer Gun tank in exceptional mechanical and complete condition. While the Centurion collection grew so did the collection of other tanks and vehicles as more and more people started to visit Tankride for a guided tour and ride in the vehicle of their choice. From Ferrets, a Saracen, Stallwart, supacat, MK3 acco, Sabre and Rapier missile Launcher Tims collection grew and when good friend Phil Lloyd joined the team a Stuart, Austin champ Jeeps and Blitz radio truck turned up.



But it was only recently when two of Tims Dreams became reality with the completion of an indoor tank storage facility or Living Museum as he likes to call it and the purchase of 169122 Centurion ARV to complete the Centurion Collection.



This Centurion is as close to brand new as will ever be seen with only 24 Miles on the clock since a full rebuild. "It's immaculate with all the recovery kit in new and complete condition".

Tim's enthusiasm for his new found passion drives him to grow the business and he already has his eyes set on new additions to insure that frequent visitors always have something new to see.



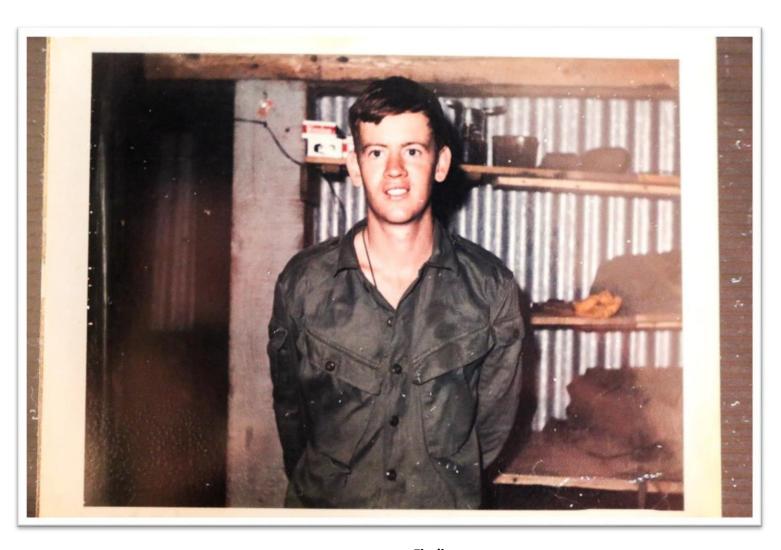
Phil has motivated Tim with 23 years of army service and a different perspective on military equipment and how it's used plus a wealth of knowledge from many years of collecting and researching everything military. The mix works really well when we guide people through says Tim, Phill gives the technical knowledge and backs me up with info and i get to drive centurions around the track several days per week ... it's a dream job, except when they break! To visit Tankride please look at their website www.tankride.com.au for bookings or email Tim Direct on info@tankride.com.au

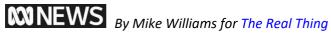


I Was Only 19:

Meet the real soldier behind the anthem

It's a song that brought Australia's Vietnam veterans together, but it's not a work of fiction. It's about a real soldier: Mick Storen.





Redgum's John Schumann was the right age to fight in Vietnam, but his number didn't come up.

He never forgot how close he came, and when those who did fight returned, he paid attention to their struggles.

"They were fundamentally altered," he said.

"I started to think about what it would be like to come back from a very unpopular war and not be welcomed home."

Schumann decided to write a song about Australia's involvement in Vietnam, but he didn't write fiction.

Click on link to hear song

Finding a veteran

One night, Schumann's girlfriend Denise, also known as Denny, brought her older brother Mick Storen to a Redgum performance.

"I remember being told that Mick had been to Vietnam and had been involved in an awful mine incident," Schumann said.

"I also knew that he didn't talk about it to his family."

After the gig they went out for a few drinks.

"I was probably flying on adrenalin and I just remember plucking up my courage and asking if he would talk to me about what happened," he said.

"To my surprise, he said that he would."

Schumann and Mr Storen spent a few hours with the veteran's photos, a tape recorder and a couple of beers.

Later, on tour, as his bandmates used their new Walkmans to listen to music, Schumann played the tapes back.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=271&v =Urtiyp-G6jY

Back at home, he woke up one day, walked into his North Carlton backyard with a coffee, a pad and a biro, and wrote the song.

"It's as simple and as complicated as that," he said.

But Mr Storen had only agreed to share his Vietnam War experiences on the basis that he could hear the song first.

The approval

Schumann told Mr Storen the song was ready at a family function. He pulled out his guitar and started to sing.

After the intimate performance, the room was silent.

"He looked at me," Schumann said. "He didn't say anything. He just stared at me."

"By this stage I'm pretty sure Denny and I were engaged and I'm thinking: this guy's going to be my brother in-law and I've really trodden in it."

But when Mr Storen was finally able to speak, his decision was made. "It was just incredible," Schumann said.

Mr Storen's story had made the song real. There was one thing he wasn't happy about, though.

In the original lyrics Schumann wrote: "Tommy kicked the mine." The name was made up, and Mr Storen, who didn't know any Tommys, thought the line was weak.

"I didn't really understand why," said Schumann.

"For me names were immaterial, it was the story. But it was important to Mick [Storen]."

Who kicked the mine?

A real Australian soldier did step on a mine on July 20, 1969, though. That soldier was Mr Storen's skipper, Peter Hines, who died in the incident.

"Peter" suited the rhythm of the song but Mr Storen didn't want the name used out of respect for Hines's wife and child.

So they went through the names of those in Mr Storen's platoon. They hit "Frank" — Frank Hunt had been badly wounded in the same mine incident.

A few months later Schumann was passing through Hunt's home town of Bega on the south coast of NSW.



Frank Hunt at his home in Bega, NSW. Picture: Mike Williams/ABC RN

"I have to say Frank was not all that keen on opening the door to a long-haired, left-wing pinko," Schumann said.

Schumann got out his guitar and Mr Hunt's reaction was the same as Mr Storen's.

"He wanted to hear it again and again until I begged him to allow me to play it into a cassette so I could stop playing it."

After the song's release Mr Hunt helped Schumann promote the song.

"Obviously they had some pretty deep and meaningful conversations, otherwise he would not have come out with a ripper of a song like that," said Mr Hunt

Welcome home



John Schumann, Mick Storen and Frank Hunt celebrate the success of I was only 19. Photo: John Schumann/Supplied

On October 3, 1987, 25,000 Vietnam veterans marched through the streets of Sydney in a belated welcome home parade.

It was four years after the release of I Was Only 19, and 15 years after Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war ended.

After the march, Schumann played I Was Only 19 at a concert in the Domain.

Frank Hunt was beside him, on stage in his wheelchair. Friends jumped on the stage to hug Mr Hunt as men in the audience cried and embraced each other.

"Very few Australian songwriters get to write anything that's had the lasting effect of I Was Only 19," Schumann said.

"But it's a great responsibility. You know in all the important ways it's owned by the people about whom I wrote it.

"I have to be very careful and guard its integrity. It's a hymn."

Good Morning, Vietnam DJ Adrian Cronauer dies aged 79

MNEWS Posted 20 Jul 2018, 10:53am

Adrian Cronauer, the military radio DJ who came up with the "Good Morning, Vietnam" catchphrase made famous by Robin Williams in the film of the same name, has died aged 79.

Mr Cronauer died on Wednesday from an age-related illness. He had lived in Troutville, Virginia, and died at a local nursing home, his family said.

During his service as a US Air Force sergeant in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, Cronauer opened his Armed Forces Radio show with the phrase, "Gooooood morning, Vietnam!"

Williams made the refrain famous in the 1987 film, loosely based on Cronauer's time in Saigon.

The film was a departure from other Vietnam War movies that focused on bloody realism, such as the Academy Award-winning Platoon.

Instead, it was about irreverent young people fighting the military establishment.

"We were the only game in town and you had to play by our rules," Cronauer said in 1987.

"But I wanted to serve the listeners."

Mr Cronauer said he loved the movie, but said much of it was Hollywood make-believe.

Williams' portrayal of a fast-talking, nonconformist DJ sometimes gave people the wrong impression of the man who inspired the film.

"Yes, I did try to make it sound more like a stateside station," he said.

"Yes, I did have problems with news censorship. Yes, I was in a restaurant shortly before the Viet Cong hit it. And yes, I did start each program by yelling, 'Good Morning, Vietnam!'."

The rest was what he delicately called "good script crafting".

He said that in many ways, he was "a very conservative guy".

"A lifelong, card-carrying Republican can't be that much of an anti-establishment type."

The image of Adrian Cronauer, that was displayed here, has been removed due to an issue with copyright.

Adrian Cronauer said he loved Good Morning, Vietnam. AP: Charles Krupa

Key points:

- Cronauer opened his Armed Forces Radio show with the phrase, "Gooooood morning, Vietnam!"
- After the military, he worked in radio, television and advertising
- He handled prisoner-of-war issues for the Pentagon

After leaving the military Mr Cronauer attended the University of Pennsylvania's law school and went into the legal profession, working in communications law and later handling prisoner-of-war issues for the Pentagon.

"I always was a bit of an iconoclast, as Robin [Williams] was in the film," he said in 1999.

"But I was not anti-military, or anti-establishment. I was anti-stupidity. And you certainly do run into a lot of stupidity in the military."

UPGRADES

Refresh for Australian Army M88A2ARV

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY'S M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lifting Extraction System (HERCULES) armoured recovery vehicles (ARV) are w1dergoing a major technical refresh, the service has said.

Seven M88A2 ARV are being put through the refresh at the Joint Logistics Unit - North (JLU-N) in Darwin, with work carried out by an integrated project team that includes JLU, BAE Systems and Broad Spectrun personnel.

The refresh involves conducting deep maintenance and enhancements to establish a common configuration across the fleet and to ensure ongoing operational availability.

The M88A2 ARV is essential in providing close battlefield support and recovery for the

Army's MIAI Abrams main battle tanks. Australia received a follow-on quantity of six M88A2 ARVs in late 2016, bringing the total fleet size to 13.

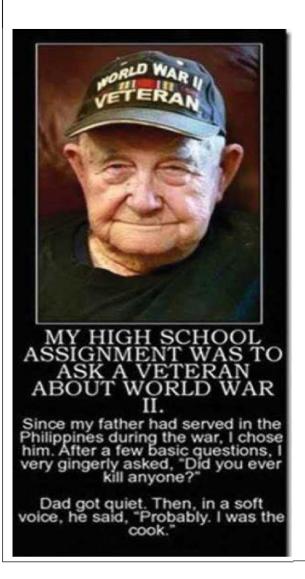


ABOVE: The first of seven MBBA2 HERCULES armoured recovery vehicles was redelivered to Army in March this year. Image: AOF

The first M88A2 ARV to undergo the refresh was delivered back into service with the Brisbane-based 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mow1ted Infann-y)

in March. The remaining six vehicles are expected to be delivered to other units across the Army by July 2018. --

- Staff Reporters





US Army signs up for Trophy APS



Leonardo DRS announced on 26 June that it had been awarded a US\$193 million (AUD\$262.7 million) contract from the US Army for the supply of Trophy active protection systems (APS).

The contract is in support of "immediate operational requirements" to fit Trophy to the Army's M1A2 Abrams main battle tank (MBT), and includes Trophy systems, countermeasures and maintenance kits.

Developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, the partner of Leonardo DRS in North America, Trophy was first combat proven in 2011 and is currently installed on around 1,000 Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) ground combat platforms.

A hard-kill APS, Trophy provides a close-in self-defence capability against anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM), recoilless rifle fire and rocket-propelled grenades. It can also defeat high-velocity high explosive anti-tank rounds fired by opposing tanks. Trophy provides protection through 360 degrees azimuth and high-angle elevation and is effective against simultaneous attack from multiple weapons.

In 2014, during the IDF's Operation Protective Edge in the Gaza Strip, Trophy successfully defeated attacks by both short-range, tandem RPG-29 rockets and long-range Kornet ATGMs.

ABOVE: It is understood that 261 M1A2 Abrams MBTs will be retrofitted with the Rafael Trophy HV APS.

Image: Leonardo DRS

THEDEVELOPMENT OF THE TROPHY HV SOLUTION FOR THE M1A2 ABRAMS HAS SEEMINGLY TAKEN THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

According to Leonardo DRS, no tanks equipped with Trophy suffered hits, casualties or residual effects - nor did any accompanying infantry - during these engagements.

US Army officials confirmed in February this year that funding had been set aside *to* retrofit Trophy to 261 M1A2 MBTs. The Trophy HV (Heavy Vehicle) version will be adopted.

Trophy HV, which has a total installed weight of 820kg, is well known for being fitted to the Merkava Mk 4 MBT. Currently in full rate production, Trophy HV is now being retrofitted to the IDF's Namer heavy armoured personnel carriers.

The development of the Trophy HV solution for the M1A2 Abrams has seemingly taken the least amount of development effort. APS candidates for the M2 Bradley infantry fighting vehicle and Stryker 8x8 infantry combat vehicle are yet to be finalised, with development work for the IMI Iron Fist and Iron Curtain systems from Artis still underway for each vehicle respectively.

General Dynamics Land Systems is expected to undertake the retrofitting of Trophy HV into the M1A2 Abrams MBTs. In the background, the Army is continuing the development of its longerterm Modular Active Protection System (MAPS) program. MAPS seeks to field a modular system into which new and emerging detection and defeat technologies can 'plug and play'.

The selection of Trophy HV by the US Army essentially guarantees that the Australian Army will also request Trophy HV for its expanded and upgraded fleet of M1A2 Abrams as planned via Land 907 Phase 2.

- Staff Reporters



Victoria Cross hero - Mark Donaldson VC!



The award of the Victoria Cross was made following Trooper Donaldson's heroic actions when his patrol was ambushed in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan, on 2 September 2008.

The citation for the medal reads, in part: "In the early stages of the ambush, Trooper Donaldson reacted spontaneously to regain the initiative. He moved rapidly between alternate positions of cover engaging the enemy with 66mm and 84mm anti-armour weapons as well as his M4 rifle. During an early stage of the enemy ambush, he deliberately exposed himself to enemy fire in order to draw attention to himself and thus away from wounded soldiers. This selfless act alone bought enough time for those wounded to be moved to relative safety." As the ambushed vehicles manoeuvred to withdraw, with the unwounded members of the patrol running alongside, a severely wounded Afghani interpreter was accidentally left behind.

The citation continues: "Of his own volition and displaying complete disregard for his own safety, Trooper Donaldson moved alone, on foot, across approximately 80 metres of exposed ground to recover the wounded interpreter. His movement, once identified by the enemy, drew intense and accurate machine gun fire from entrenched positions. Upon reaching the wounded coalition force interpreter, Trooper Donaldson picked him up and carried him back to the relative safety of the vehicles then provided immediate first aid before returning to the fight." The patrol was ultimately able to disengage from the action and withdraw with its wounded, all of whom survived.

As the citation concludes: "Trooper Donaldson's actions on this day displayed exceptional courage in circumstances of great peril.

His actions are of the highest accord and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Special Operations Command, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force."

Victoria Cross hero Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith VC!



Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith was born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1978. He joined the Australian Regular Army in 1996 and was posted to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, with whom he conducted two operational tours of East Timor.

In 2003 he was posted to the Special Air Service, and was on his first operational tour of Afghanistan in 2006 when he was awarded the Medal for Gallantry for his actions as a patrol scout and sniper during Operation Slipper.

During his fifth tour of Afghanistan, on 11 June 2010 Roberts-Smith was involved in an operation to hunt for a senior Taliban commander in the Kandahar province. Here he took part in an assault against an enemy fortification, exposing his own position in order to draw fire away from members of his patrol who were pinned down. Fighting at close range, he stormed two enemy machinegun posts and silenced them.

For this action Roberts-Smith was awarded a Victoria Cross. His citation in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette noted that 'his selfless actions in circumstances of great peril served to enable his patrol to break into the enemy's defences and to regain the initiative ... resulting in a tactical victory'.

Following his sixth tour of Afghanistan in 2012 Roberts-Smith was further recognised with a Commendation for Distinguished Service for exceptional leadership, courage, mentoring, and reconnaissance in the 'most difficult and dangerous of circumstances'.



WO Don Spinks hangs up pace stick

Pte Renee Breeze

The Soldiers Newspaper July 28, 2018



ON THE cusp of completing 40 years in Army, RSM-A WO Don Spinks AM has hung up his pace stick.

After handing over to incoming RSM-A, WO Grant McFarlane, WO Spinks mused on mentoring, modernisation, morality and a family holiday.

WO Spinks said he wasn't concerned about the number.

"Forty years isn't a personal milestone, I'm comfortable with the period of time that I've served," he said.

Serving the nation for more than most soldiers have been alive, WO Spinks reflected on what life would look like after Army.

"I'm not very patient with golf so Jen won't become a golf widow – I'd like to think we'll go for a holiday.

"After that I will look to further employment while staying engaged in the Defence space.

"I would also like to serve in the community, where I can remain connected with people and give something back." Through challenges in his time as Army's most senior soldier, WO Spinks said his pride in the Army had only grown.

"The Chief and I, more than anyone else, get to see the whole of Army – warts and all," he said.

"Being RSM-A really made me appreciate our people in a way I wasn't able to before, it also increased my appreciation of the way we train and develop our people.

"Though I think we need to do more on the subject of mentoring our soldiers." If given a few more years as RSM-A, WO Spinks said he would invest more in leadership and mentoring.

"It's a two-way-street; a person has to want to be mentored, otherwise you're talking to the hand," he said.

"Life and careers are mostly about relationships, and being able to influence people to do stuff is more rewarding than directing them." WO Spinks said he was now seeing Army modernise at an unprecedented rate.

"This Army is a much better one than I joined over 39 years ago; it is better equipped and better prepared than we were back then," he said.

"Our readiness culture has been key to these improvements.

"Our soldiers should remember this – the last day you had to prepare for operations was yesterday.

"No one knows what our next task will be. So be ready, and be relevant." WO Spinks said his greatest frustration as RSM-A was seeing "good people do stupid things", often costing people their careers and reputation.

"It's been the most annoying part of not only this job, but previous jobs as well," he said.

"To err is human. It's life, it's reality and often the individual will reflect on it and apologise, but too often the damage has been done.

"On a positive note, we've got so many amazing people in our organisation that are committed and dedicated. I'm most proud of our people." WO Spinks said he was looking forward to spending more time with his wife.

"I'm going to take a break and then we'll see what opportunities are presented," he said.

"I'll take the time to unwind and then look to the next chapter, whatever it is.

"Although I won't be joining the RAAF, I encourage anyone who has a passion to serve to do so, regardless of the service.

"If not Army, I'd tell them they've made the wrong choice – jokingly of course, because we need the other services and departments.

It would be a tough fight if we were trying to do it by ourselves.

"I want to close by thanking our people for their service, and to wish everyone good soldiering."

BIO

Warrant Officer Don Spinks was born, raised and educated in the Upper Hunter Valley, New South Wales. He enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in January 1979 and on completion of Basic Recruit Training he was assigned to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in January 1999 and in 2000 he was selected to attend the United States (US) Army Sergeants Majors Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas where he completed the US Army Sergeants Major and the Command Sergeant Majors Courses. He then served as an instructor at the academy the following year. For his service with the Sergeants Majors Academy he was awarded the United States Army Meritorious Service Medal.

Warrant Officer Spinks' Regimental Sergeant Major appointments include the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Multi National Force and Observers - Sinai Egypt in 2004, Royal Australian Armoured Corps, 1st Brigade in 2008-2009, Joint Task Force 633 on Operation Slipper in 2010. In 2011, he was appointed Command Sergeant Major Forces Command - Army.

In March 2015 he was appointed as the 10th Regimental Sergeant Major of the Australian Army and commenced his appointment on 9 July 2015. He completed this appointment 2 Jul 2018 and will transition from Army late in 2018.

In January 2007 he was awarded the Medal for the Order of Australia for meritorious service to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and to the Multi National Force and Observers - Sinai.

In June 2018 he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for exceptional service to soldiering within the Australian Defence Force in senior Regimental Sergeant Major appointments, culminating in the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army.

Warrant Officer Spinks is married to Jennifer; he has two children and six grandchildren. He is a keen Rugby supporter and enjoys exercise, outdoor activities and travel.



The RSM-A WO Don Spinks AM attached the Governor General approved Battle Streamers for the Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) to the 1st Armoured Regiment Standard. The citation is for the actions at the battles of Coral and Balmoral 50 years ago.

* *

ANZAC DAY 2018 – STATE ROUNDUP

VICTORIA State Rep - Iain Reynolds

MELBOURNE ANZAC DAY MARCH









It was decided to have an extra event this year for the Regiments Birthday. I held a Long Lunch for the Victorian members on Friday 6th July at the Emerald Hotel. We had 13 members attend the lunch that day. I would also like to thank John Billings for making the trek to join us at the luncheon. John is a spry 86 year old that first marched into the Regiment way back in 1952. John also had some great stories to share with us at the lunch. We even had two of our members that travelled down from Albury for the lunch. Despite the small number in attendance everyone had a great time, & the staff at the Emerald looked after us very well.

ATTENDANCE

Cam McPherson

Dave Key, David Thompson, Dick Stanios, Douglas Bignall Gerry Germaine, Henry Polis, Iain Reynolds, John Billings John Forrester, Maurie Betts, Paul Baker, Trevor Watts.



G'day Members,

I now have some firm details for the Long Lunch that I am organizing for next year in Thailand.

DATES: Monday 20th May 2019 till

Sunday 26th May 2019

COST: \$1870.00 (Twin Share), or

\$2360 (Single Share)

**THESE PRICES ARE

BASED ON 22 PEOPLE GOING**

There will also be a one off <u>non-refundable \$100.00 per person</u> registration fee. This will be used to offset any increase in costs to the trip (e.g. not getting the 22 people), so hopefully the total price above will be the final price. This will also show commitment in going. If we do get the 22 people & there is no increase in the final figure, then it will either be used to reduce the final price, or used by all that attend this trip in Thailand.

WHAT THIS INCLUDES:

Airfares flying Thai Airways direct from **Melbourne** to Bangkok and return.

Airport transfers to the hotel.
4 Nights at the Pathumwan Princess Hotel in a superior room including full daily breakfast.

A Long Lunch at the Bangkok Sky Lunch Observation Desk.

Day trip to the Damnernsadduak Floating Market.

A White Orchid Chaophraya Dinner Cruise.

2 Day 1 Night River Kwai Delight Tour staying at the River Kwai Resortel. This will include visiting the Hell Fire Pass Memorial.

For full details of the trip please email me & I will include you in the mailing list.

To get these prices we need 22 people to make the trip. I would like to make the accommodation Twin Share to also keep the cost down, but I have included the Single price as well for those that want that option.

<u>Visa:</u> You will not need a Visa if you are travelling on an Australian Passport, but you will need at least 6 months on your passport before it expires to travel. If you are travelling on a non-Australian Passport, let me know & I can check with my travel agent.

<u>Vaccinations:</u> You will need to check with your doctor if you need anything special as we will be travelling to the River Kwai area.

If you're interested send me an email to be included in future emails. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you for this Long Lunch trip to Thailand.

Regards, *Iaún Reynolds* Victoria State Rep 1st Armoured Regt Assoc. 0411-066-704

vicrep@paratus.org.au





South Australia State Rep - Mark Reid



Naracoorte South Australia - Darren and Jo Callahan, Mark Reid, his brother Allen, Peter Lukeis, Errol Driver, Mick Dunn, Dick James. Handover of the Q Store from Mick Dunn to Courier Peter Lukeis to transport to new Q Store manager Dick Stanios. A mini reunion and a great time had by all

The following Honour Roll is dedicated to those 1st Armoured Regiment Soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice

Killed In Action

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



TPR M. Hannaford WO2 T. Phillips

DOW Post-Vietnam

WO1 L. S. Swarbrick

WO2 N. Lowes

TPR P G. Barwick

TPR R. S. Bellott

Killed Accidentally

LT A. J. Massey

SGT R. Morrison

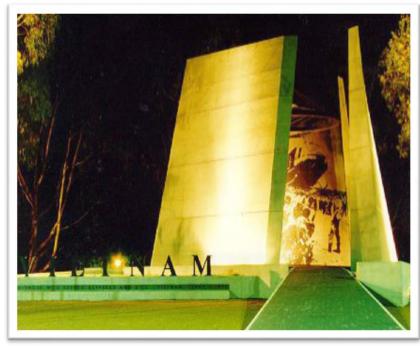
SGT R. G. Murray

TPR A. M. Jordan

TPR A. Patterson

CFN B. Silver (LAD)





VALE:

'Advised by our NSW/ACT Rep that **Mick Djukic** passed away in SA on 27 May 18

It is with regret that I inform members that **Reg Stratton** passed away on 2nd June 2018 at 9.30. Our thoughts are with Marie and family.

Sergeant Reginald Stratton

A and C Squadrons 1st Armoured Regiment LAD

Headquarters, Australian Task force Vietnam (Army Component).

Regards,

Russell Cunningham

Trooper William Heyward

Served: 1953 until 1959 B Sqn 1 AR then posted to Armd Centre and was responsible for the maintenance of centurion vehicle ARN's 169001 and 169005

From Trevor Heyward

It is with regret that I inform members that Harold Baker passed away this afternoon. Vietnam 1968 to 1969 Craftsman Harold John BAKER (NS)

Service No: 3792983 Service Between: 23/12/1968 and 17/12/1969 Total Days: 360

B Squadron Section, 1st Armoured Regiment LAD Vietnam

C Squadron Section, 1st Armoured Regiment LAD Vietnam

Arte et Marte

From Russell Cunningham

Dear Members,

Once again it is with deep regret that we advise that Corps identity, **LTGEN. Henry John Coates AC, MBE** passed away on Monday 11 June. His funeral will be held on the 12 July at the RMC Chapel, Duntroon. This date has been chosen to allow family and friends from overseas to attend.

From Darren Brown

John Coates was born in Adelaide, South Australia, on 28 December 1932 to George Coates and his wife Gwenyth (née Begg).] Educated at Ipswich Grammar School in Queensland, Coates graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon into the Royal Australian Armoured Corps in 1955.

John Coates was granted his first regimental posting in 1956 to the 1st Armoured Regiment. He served with the unit until 1958, when he was promoted to captain and reassigned as adjutant of the 10th Light Horse Regiment for a period of two years.] He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Australia in 1962, before completing Honours at the Australian National University in 1965.

He was posted to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and, as a major, was deployed to Vietnam. He was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1971. He graduated with a Master of Arts from the Australian National University in 1975. He subsequently became Commanding Officer of his Regiment.

Coates was appointed Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1983 and Head of the Defence Staff in Washington, D.C. in 1984; he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1987 in recognition of his service there.

He was appointed Assistant Chief of the Defence Force (Policy) in 1987 and appointed Chief of the General Staff in 1990; he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1992 in recognition of his service to the Australian Army, particularly in that role.

In retirement he wrote a number of books about the Australian Army and Australian military history. These include:

Suppressing insurgency: an analysis of the Malayan Emergency, 1948–1954 (1992)[8]

Review of the Ready Reserve scheme (co-authored with Hugh Smith, 1995)

Bravery above blunder: the 9th Division at Finschhafen, Sattelberg and Sio (1999)[9]

The Australian centenary history of defence, co-editor (2001)

An atlas of Australia's wars, volume 7 of The Australian centenary history of defence (OUP, Melbourne, 2001) An atlas of Australia's wars, 2nd edition, 2006.

Coates was a Visiting Fellow in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Australian Defence Force Academy campus of the University of New South Wales (UNSW@ADFA).

Aged 85, Coates died at his Canberra home on 11 June 2018.

My name is Dallas JOHN King. I've just sent out an email informing friends and associations that **Frank Beattie** OAM passed away in Brisbane on 21/6/2018.

Sad news just in on the passing today, 21st June 2014 of fellow Team member F. (Frank) J. Beattie RAAC aged 77 years. Frank served in South Vietnam with AATTV as a WO2 adviser from 3 September 1970 to Mar 71 with 4/7th ARVN Cavalry, Quang Tri, Apr – May 71,11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, Dong Ha, Jun – Aug 71, 3/11 ARVN Cav, La Vang, Quang Tri, RTA 7 Sep 71. Frank also served a tour of duty with A Sqn, 3 Cav Regt from 24 Feb 67 to 19 Dec 67. In addition to the unit citations awarded to AATTV, Frank was also awarded the US Army Commendation Medal for Service, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (with Bronze Star), the Vietnamese Armed Forces Honour Medal 2nd Class and the ARVN Armour Badge. Frank was also awarded the Medal for the Order of Australia in 1996 in recognition of service to the community and the ex-service community, in particular as an advisor and marshal of ceremonial parades. Frank was well known throughout AATTV and will be sorely missed by us all. I am sure that all Team members would wish to pass on their deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences to family and friends of Frank on this sad occasion of his passing.

Glenniss Duncombe

31 July at 23:14

On behalf of the staff off the original Jacka Club Puckapunyal it is with the deepest regrets on the passing of **Justin Hepburn** a much loved character always remembered. Lov from us all.

Graham White 1/8/2018

Thank you to everyone.

Guys the pain is indescribable. I am strong but still don't know how to live in this world without our Justin. I'll never be the same. I'm going to find out in due course what happened to our beloved Justin yesterday. I have to organise his funeral service & will give date & time as soon as I know. It will be in Perth. I'm sorry I couldn't say earlier. It happened around 12.30pm yesterday & the police turned up at our house after 3.30pm. Tragic motorbike accident. He always comes home & walks through the door. I just don't want this to be.

At this stage come and join

Bailey - Lionel & Joyleen

Baker - Geoff & Denise

Bates - Bill

Bavistock - Chris & Ruth

Beatty - Ken & Wendy

Beeton - Wayne & Kerry

Britten - Reg & Helen

Brooker OAM - John

Brooks - David

Burnett - Kevin & Julie

Chapple - Brian & Sandra Edlington

Charenko - Mike & Julie

Cornish - Philip

Costello - Roger

Cummings – Ian & Wendy

Dunn - Mick & Cris Weir

Evans - Ross & Celia

Eyre - John & Rose

Fenton OAM - Chris & Jan

Fitzpatrick - John & Lorraine

Giles - Paul & Wei Wang

Grainger - Col & Ros

Hampstead - Terence & Lee

Harberts - Herman & Roslyn

Hatfield - Brian & Margaret

Hendy - Peter

Heyward - Kevin & Julie Morgan

Hoseason Smith - Phillip & Suzanne

Hunter - Kevin

Jaenke - Kevin & Sandra

James - Richard & Iris

Jamieson - Peter & Elaine

Jay - Robert

Jeffrey - Colin

Jeffrey AM - Baden

Johns - Daryle

Jukes - Leigh & Joy

Keys - John & Sally

Kiellerup - Rus & Liz

Kostin - John

Lane - John & Jennifer

Laurie - Ian

Mahar - Des

Maxwell – David & Anne

McNabb - Gary & Helen King Millsteed - Rob & Helen Milner - Colin & Yvonne

Morris – Chris & Lisa

O'Gorman - Peter & Carol

Payne - Mick & Judi

Peate - Robert

Peel - Doug & Nola

Powell - Roger & Rhonda

Prior - Mick & Pat Ralph - Tony & Joy



1ST ARMOURED REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

1st Armoured Regiment Association Reunion 2018

Adelaide - Friday 16th, Sat 17th and Sun 18th November 2018

Commemorating 50 years (May/June 2018) since the Battles of Fire Support Base's Coral and Balmoral

1. If you are intending to be there, please complete Registration Form and Visitors Pass (page 3) Edinburgh RAAF Base, for Cambrai Day parade now and send to Mark Reid or Des Thomson along with \$50 registration fee (see page 2)

2. Hotel Accommodation: bookings via Hotel Trivago or similar search engine will give the best discounts but get in early, there are seven along North Terrace a 5 minute walk from the Intercontinental and 10-15 minutes from the Adelaide Oval.

3. Caravan Bookings:

- Adelaide Caravan Park acpmanager@aspengroup.com.au
 David Bullock 0409 866 020 Reunion members will receive a discount (let David know when booking) and also meal discount at the nearby Hackney Hotel.
 - Big 4 Caravan Park West Beach
 - Levi Park
 - Brown Hill Creek Tourists Park

4. Don't forget to order your reunion T Shirt. (See page 3)

Functions & Venues:

Fri 16 Nov: Registration 1100-1600 Reg. Intercontinental Hotel. Meet & Greet 1800-2230 Intercontinental Hotel.

\$80 pp, food & drinks.

Sat 17 Nov: Back to the Regiment Edinburgh military precinct.. All members bussed out unless you wish to use your own vehicle with another member see page 3 requirements

Reunion Association to cover cost of buses now we know that Cambrai day is a goer.

Sun 18 Nov: Gala Dinner William Magarey Room Adelaide Oval

Cost \$125 pp, food & drinks.

1830-1900 Pre Dinner Drinks. 1900-2359 Seated Dinner.

Reeves - Phillip & Marie

Reid - Mark & Gail

Reynolds - Iain

Roberts - Ian & Sue

Robertson - Keith & Doreen

Rosemond - Peter & Vicki

Rossiter - Phillip & Brenda

Rowley – Eric & Lyn

Sibly – John & Fran

Stanfield - Bill & Mary

Sullivan - Peter & Maureen

Contacts for registration and payment are:

Mark Reid E: reid54@bigpond .com .au M: 0439 646 116 21 James Harrold Court Golden Grove SA 5125

Des Thompson desthomo@bigpond.com 18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161

Table bookings:

Mark Reid Mick Dunn

reid54@bigpond.com.au mdunn8888@gmail.com

Tables of ten only please.

Adelaide Reunion 2018 Registration Form

To avoid disappointment and to help us organise proceedings please complete this Registration form now and send to:

1st Armoured Regiment Reunion 18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161

OR

You can scan it and Email it to:

reid54@bigpond .com .au OR

desthomo@bigpond.com

Please also send Registration Fee for \$50 or \$50 plus *total cost, via either of the following methods of payment:

Cheques / Money orders payable to 1st Armoured Regiment Reunion 18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161 **Online Banking**

BSB 065112 ACC 10229270, Reference "your name" and the word "2018 Reunion"

PARTICULARS Title: Rank/MR/MRS/MS	Given name	Surname/ Post Nominal	Preferred Name
Member Name			
Wife / Partner Name			

CONTACT DETAILS

Address:		Phone	
Suburb / Town		Mobile	
State	Post Code	Email.	

REGISTRATION FEE \$50.00, Is non Refundable.

I/we would be interested in attending all /some of the following events

Event	Please circle preference	Cost
Meet & Greet, Intercontinental Hotel \$80.00pp	Me only/both	\$
Reunion Dinner Adelaide Oval \$125.00pp	Me only/both	\$
	*Total Cost	\$

Note: All accommodation will be self-book.

Association Member Yes No

Any special diet / accessibility requirements

Disclaimer

All members and or their partners attending the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Reunion, Adelaide 2018 do so at their own risk. The reunion committee accept no responsibility for personnel injury, property damage or any other loss that may be suffered through participation in any event/s comprising the 1st Armoured Regiment Reunion, Adelaide 2018

SQN FOR NAME TAG CIRCLE ONE ONLY
HQ SQN A SQN B SQN C SQN TSS OSS LAD
Dates Served in SQN
Corps RAAC, RAEME, ORDNANCE, TRANSPORT, CATERING, MEDICAL, SIGS

Other list.....

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 16TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Seating Plan.

If you wish to be seated alongside mates please let me know well in advance. Table capacity of 10 - Part bookings most welcome.

Also if there are any special dietary needs, again let me know.

Table bookings: Mick Dunn mdunn8888@gmail.com

Important message from Mark Reid

First Names

Further information if needed to let us know who is travelling other than the above

Now that the Cambrai Day Parade on 17th Nov 2018 has been confirmed we need to ask if couples or just the member is attending using the form below. They as well as anyone who has already committed needs to also fill out the information below and send to:

Geoff Baker normynomads@bigpond.com

Mark Reid reid54@bigpond.com.au

For inclusion on a master list to be presented to the Regiment three weeks prior. This will also give us a firm idea on bus requirements or if driving their own car so that passes can be arranged.

Date of

Place of birth

Nationality

Organisation

Visitors Pass Register

Surname

		birth			or Company name	
Will you be travelling via the bus - Yes No Including the above visitors						
Driving your own vehicle - Yes No						
Registration Number						
Important that you carry photo identification e.g. Drivers License						

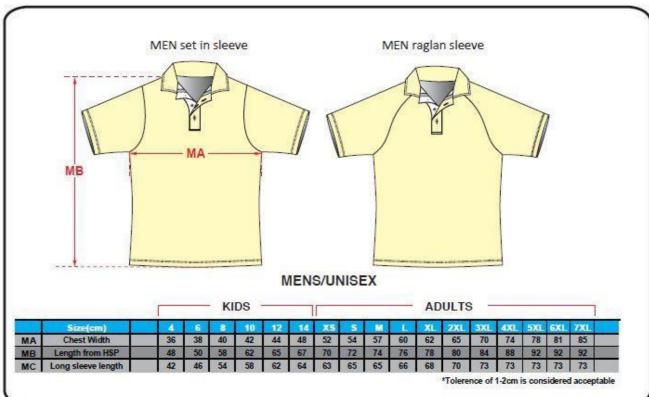
Order shirts now for the 2018 reunion, Adelaide

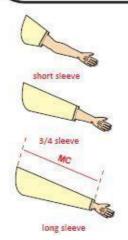
Orders will be placed in the Registration Bags. Can be posted but will incur postage costs.

Follow these 2 easy steps to order

- 1. EFT \$45 per shirt to BSB 065 112 A/C No 10229270, Reunion Treasurer and Reference 'shirt/s & your name' (Important)







How to get the best size:

- 1. Find a shirt that you wear at the moment and fits you comfortably.
- 2. Measure the Chest Width (Arm pit Arm pit).
- Correspond that measurement to our size chart. For example: If your shirt measures 60cm across the chest, then you would be a Large.

Please note: Promocorner/ Spida Sports will not take any responsibility for shirts that have been ordered in the wrong size. No refunds will be given.

If you require extra width or length please let one of our staff know. We can organise custom sizes for a small fee