

# Centurion

November 2018

1<sup>st</sup> ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSLETTER

Reg No AO044180K

*Special 2018 Adelaide Reunion - Souvenir Edition*



## Theatres of Operation

Japan

Vietnam - Battle Honours

- Coral - Balmoral
- 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.



1<sup>st</sup> ARMoured  
REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION INC.

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## From The Editor's Desk

Item from John Dyson

Subject: First attack on FSB CORAL

Here is a small piece of trivia that may interest you.

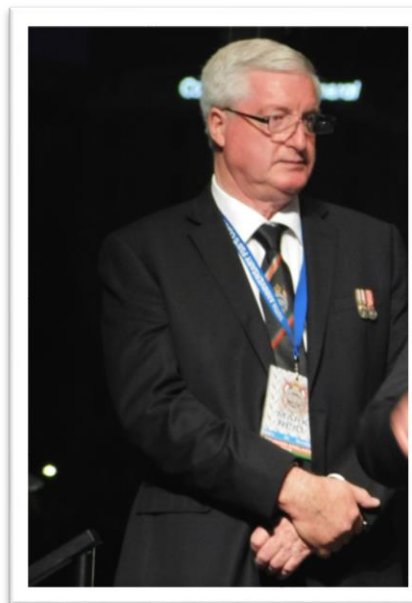
The first attack on Fire Support Base Coral (South Vietnam) was on the morning of the 13 May 1968. That is also the day that Australia's new Prime Minister, Scott John Morrison was born.

That time has come again to look back and reflect on the past 12 months over the Christmas holiday season. On behalf of the President and the Committee I would like to wish all the members of our Association a happy and safe time with families and loved ones and a prosperous New Year.

## Merry Christmas

It was with great sadness for me to farewell my comrade in Arms, Ambrose Crowe. We both were from the 5<sup>th</sup> intake of the National Service draft going through the same path together to finally finish off at FSB Coral from where Ambrose went on to FSB Balmoral with 2 troop, where they were involved in heavy contacts with the enemy on several nights. See further details on page 18.

Well done to Mark Reid and his team for carrying off an extremely successful, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Reunion in Adelaide. Said by many to have been the best reunion yet. Great location, great food and good friends.



A Special thanks to Committee member, Gary 'Frosty' Frost for providing two really interesting stories for the Newsletter of our current day soldiers.



Yours Faithfully,

*Peter*

Peter Lukeis

E: [comms@paratus.org.au](mailto:comms@paratus.org.au)

**Honour guard for Ambrose Crowe at the Springvale Cemetery 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**



**Black hats present – see page 7 - Vale**

### LHS Top to bottom

Kevin Hunter  
Peter Lukeis  
Mick Butler  
Russ James

Dave Thompson

Mick Ingram  
Bluey Bowman  
Ron Ingram  
Gary Willits

### RHS Top to bottom

Des Mahar  
Werner Golla  
Andy Zolt  
Rus Kiellerup

Ian Tregenza

Ian Caines

### Not in picture

Herman Harberts  
Bob Lees  
Alan Keele/Hackney



**PATRON**

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****PRESIDENT**Keith Meloncelli  
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[qldrep@paratus.org.au](mailto:qldrep@paratus.org.au)**NT REP**Peter Still  
[Ntrep@paratus.org.au](mailto:Ntrep@paratus.org.au)**TAS REP**Jim Soul  
[tasrep@paratus.org.au](mailto:tasrep@paratus.org.au)**WA REP**Pat Deeker  
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[liaison@paratus.org.au](mailto:liaison@paratus.org.au)**SUPPORT****Q STORE**Richard (Dick) Stanios  
[storeroom@paratus.org.au](mailto:storeroom@paratus.org.au)**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**Phill Ho Season - Smith  
[itmanager@paratus.org.au](mailto:itmanager@paratus.org.au)**Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages****Web Sites****1<sup>st</sup> ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.**  
<http://www.paratus.org.au>**RAAC CORPORATION**  
[www.raaccorpltd.org.au](http://www.raaccorpltd.org.au)**ROYAL TANK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**  
[www.royaltankregiment.com](http://www.royaltankregiment.com)**Facebook Pages****1st ARMD REGT ASSOC MEMBERS ONLY**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/)**1st ARMD REGT SOCIAL PAGE**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/)**1<sup>ST</sup> ARMoured REGIMENT FACEBOOK**  
[www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/](http://www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/)

# *Special 2018 Adelaide Reunion - Souvenir Edition*

## **They Came**

## **Meet and Greet - Intercontinental Hotel North Terrace Adelaide**



Phil Reeves with the girls



Trevor Watts, Chris Fenton



Ray Wood, Spic Cornish



Peter Rosemond, Jack Chipman, Ferret Unmack



Craig Orme, Roger Powell







Doug Peel, Roger Costello



Ian Laurie, Dave Brooks, Kevin Burnett



Bob Jay, Mick Butler



## They Saw

### 2018 Cambrai Day - Edinburgh Precinct Adelaide, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment



The Regiment employed the new multi rotor UAS during the conduct of the mounted Cambrai parade on 17 November. The capability produced some great results during the parade and will be employed heavily in the Regiment during future exercises.





**Catching the buses to Edinburgh**



**The Regiment marches onto the parade**



**The Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 J Robinson marches the Regiment onto parade.**



**The Standard of the 1st Armoured Regiment is marched onto parade by the standard bearer WO2 S Clements.**





The Standard passing by the dais







**The Australian Army Band - Adelaide supported the parade with outstanding music.**



**The Deputy Chief of Army, Major General J Ellwood, DSC addresses the parade.**



**Group Captain B Rogers presents the Craftsman of the year award to CFN S Liberato**



**The Regimental Sergeant Major of the RAAC WO1 J Carroll presents the support person of the year award. The award was won by CPL C Corrin and accepted on his behalf by WO2 J Lehmann.**



**The Regimental Sergeant Major of 1 Brigade, WO1 M Landy presents the soldier of the year award to TPR J Ison.**





**Commander 1 Brigade, Brigadier M Pearce, AM presents the JNCO of the year award. CPL D Lentija won this award and it was accepted on his behalf by LT J Lawrence.**



**The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment Major General C Orme, DSC, AM, CSC presents the Robert Murray memorial award for the best SNCO of the year. The awards was won by SGT W Huang and accepted on his behalf by WO2 P Nebauer**



**The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Major General C Orme, DSC, AM, CSC presents the best officer award to OC SPT SQN, Major S Towner**



**The Representative Honorary Colonel of the RAAC, Major General R Powell, AM presents the Lancer trophy to the best crew in the annual gunnery competition. V13B won this award**



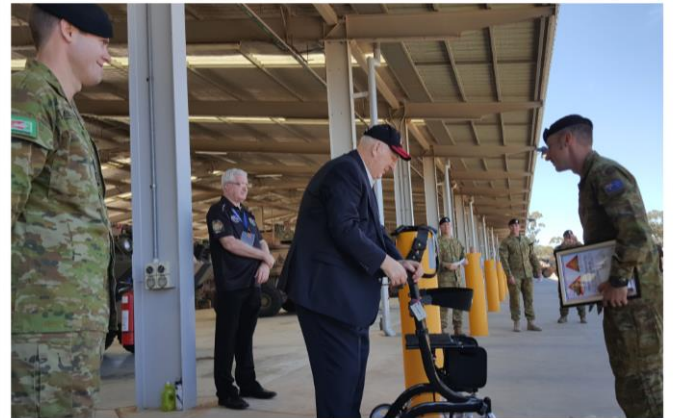




The Deputy Chief of Army, Major General J Ellwood, DSC presents the Champion Squadron award to Support Squadron. OC SPT SQN, Major S Towner accepts this award on behalf of his Squadron.



Jack Chipman presents Hammersley /SOTY Awards



Lou Walker OAM presents - A Squadron 'Outstanding Soldier of the Year' 2018, Cambrai Day Parade 2018.







**Chris Fenton**



**Phil and Brenda Rossiter with Chris Fenton in the middle**



**Jan Fenton and Judi Payne**



**The Rhino club – Adelaide - 2 above**





## They Dined

## Gala Dinner - William Magarey Room, Adelaide Oval



**Standard Party (table 1) 2018 — with Marcus Ludeman, Phillip Hoseason-Smith, Simon Williams, Trevor Watts and Iain Reynolds at Adelaide Oval.**



**Mrs Holloway, CO LT COL Holloway, Mr and Mrs Roger Powell, John Brooker, Craig Orme**



**Some of the olds and bolds**



**Coral/Balmoral Veterans Front - Kevin Hunter, Shorty Britten, Mick Butler, Phil Reeves, Leigh Jukes Back – Dave Brooks, Bruce Tarran, Bluey Jay, Rus Kiellerup, Chris Bavistock. Eric Rowlev. Herman Harberts**



**Some of the young's and bolds**



**Jack Chipman and friends**



**Mick and Irene Butler**



**Brian Hatfield with members of the Regiment**





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



**Mark Reid, Chairman Reunion committee  
and John Brooker OAM**



**CO LT COL John Holloway**



**Lou Walker OAM, Brian Hatfield, Richard James**



**Coral and Balmoral Veterans pictured by the  
Standard – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary May- June 2018**





## Report from the President Keith (Mel) Meloncelli [president@paratus.org.au](mailto:president@paratus.org.au)



Hello Fellow Members,

I open by congratulating and thanking Mark Reid, Des Thompson, Mick Dunn, Geoff Baker, Ted Taylor, Col Grainger, Tony Shwerdferger, and Posthumously, Mr Stan Iry, along with his wife Celeste Iry and family, being the volunteer committee who coordinated, managed and ran the 2018 reunion in Adelaide 16 – 18 Nov 2018.

The positive feedback that has been posted on social media and emails sent to Association committee members does all the organisers credit. My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and only wish we could have been there for the dinner, however, due to a clerical error by myself could not. I would also like to make special acknowledgement of all the ex 1AR members and their partners who made the trip to be at the reunion.

Those that attended had the opportunity to see the current 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment on parade and mingle with those serving, at a lunch and during the dinner. Our thanks go out to the Commanding Officer LTCOL John Holloway and his staff for providing the opportunity for this to occur and wish all officers and soldiers of the Regiment, good soldiering.

Reunions and get togethers like this give us all time to reflect on having served in an outstanding unit with great people and start the story's flowing again. I personally have fond memories of my time in 1AR and serving on AFVs.

**Where will the next Reunion be?** A question to still be asked and answered. The committee is open to any suggestions, recommendations or hearing from those volunteering to take on the role of coordinating the next Reunion in 2021.

**What is happening in the Association?** Well the new committee that was appointed by the members at the AGM, has been working to reinvigorate membership and our links to 1AR and the School of Armour.

For those that may not be aware our own constitution has been confirmed and approved, following voting at the AGM. What this means is members now have a constitution specific to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association that can be developed and amended to meet the needs of all the Association members and to provide those taking appointments in the volunteer Association committee, their boundaries, rules and procedures. The current committee is working to further develop and enhance the constitution to enable current and future members to have a sound, up to date document that provides guidance for all.

Beyond the constitution the current committee has been working on a number of areas to improve our communications to the membership, increase membership numbers, manage our assets, strengthen our links to 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment and the School of Armour, and develop/enhance procedures, rules and management guidelines. I will not steal the thunder from other committee members who are providing their own updates for the newsletter and let them provide more detail.

Due to the implementation of improved technology, the committee has been able to employ a video conferencing tool, which allow us to hold monthly meetings of most committee members. These meetings are very constructive with plenty of feedback and broad discussion. I would invite any members who may be interested in attending one of the committee meetings to contact the Secretary.

For those that may not know, my family and I have moved down from NSW to VIC in recent months. As a consequence of moving from one state to another, Association State Reps have made me feel welcome and invited. Whilst in NSW, the State Rep Mick Payne always kept me updated and advised of activities. Since arriving in VIC I have had two opportunities already to get together with fellow members at a camping weekend and the Cambrai Long Lunch thanks to the VIC Rep Ian Reynolds. This is what being a member is, staying in contact with fellow members and having the opportunity to revisit times gone by with fellow ex 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment members.

I currently hold the position of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated; this however means little without a hard-working Association committee and Association members. The current committee make the Association work and have the heart and energy to maintain and develop the Association, however, without members where would we be.

I thank all those who are current members of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association for maintaining their membership and look forward to seeing more members at future activities over the coming months and years.

Regardless of rank, corps or job if you were or are a soldier of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment this Association is here for you. I wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Cheers

Mel





## Report from the Secretary - Russ James

E: [secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)

P: Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

PO Box 301, Mentone. VIC 3194

**Please note new address above**

**B: Bendigo Bank**

**1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Inc.**

**BSB: 633-000 Account: 161498159**



It is still less than five (5) months since the present Management Committee was elected at the Association's AGM in Canberra. I might be biased, but I believe that we have been kicking goals! What exactly have we achieved?

**Membership** – 25 new members have joined the Association and 42 lapsed members have renewed their membership from 2017 and 2018. Efforts to contact lapsed members continues through personal emails, telephone calls and individual letters.

**Executive and Management Committee meetings** – there had been some criticism in the past that the Association lacked transparency and governance primarily because minutes from committee meetings were not readily available or published.

Since the AGM, there has been one (1) meeting of the Executive as well as three (3) meetings of the Management Committee. All meetings were held over the internet using ZOOM Technology, allowing all Committee members to see and hear each other, thus enhancing our decision-making process. The minutes from each of these meetings have been distributed to all Association members via email.

The Communications Manager is to be congratulated on his patience and the work he has undertaken to set up ZOOM and ensure that it is working correctly prior to each meeting.

**New Policies** – have been approved for Code of Conduct (behaviour over the Internet), Management of Association Correspondence, the Use of Debit and Charge Cards, Delegations (Financial), and Funerals, Commemorative Services and Vale Notices. In addition, Roles and Responsibilities for each position on the Committee have been issued.

**New Procedures** – have been approved for the Management of Correspondence, the use of Debit and Charge Cards, and for Funerals, Commemorative Service and Vale Notices.

In the next three or so months all new policies and procedures, as well as the Roles and Responsibilities are to be incorporated in a re-write of the Bylaws of the Association. The Bylaws has to be rewritten as the current version was based on the previous Constitution and not the Constitution that was passed at the last AGM.

**Centurion** – considerable research was undertaken on documentation (both physical and electronic) that could be located relating to the purchase of Centurion ARN 169005. It was proved beyond doubt that it was always the intention of the Association of purchase the vehicle and include it as an asset of the Association.

**Communication Strategy** – Association members are to be asked to contribute their ideas and suggestions on the communications channels, information repositories and technologies to ensure that we (the Association) may communicate and provide information effectively to Association members who have a wide range of technical capabilities.

### New Members

John	Atkinson	NSW
Jim	Carroll	VIC
David	Coleman	NSW
Maurice	Doran	NSW
Thomas	Foster	WA
Robert	Friedrich	VIC
Gerry	Germaine	VIC
Shane	Griffis	NSW
John	Harrison	SA
Paul	Kensington	NSW
Samuel	King	NSW
George	Main	NSW
Simon	Mason	VIC
Allistair	McCoy	VIC
DMS	McDonald	QLD
Harold	Milne	VIC
Stewart	Murphy	VIC
Andrew	Pellow	ACT
Martin	Rudelbach	VIC
Anthony	Sheedy	VIC
Mark	Trew	VIC
Matthew	Watt	VIC
Patrick	Weldon	QLD
Adam	Wilson	NT
Alex	Wolf	VIC

### Donations

Ivan Maher  
Richard Stanios  
Kevin Ramsdale

### IMPORTANT

**Your Contact Details** – it has become apparent over the last five or so months that much of our member contact information is **out of date!!**

**Postal addresses**

**Telephone numbers**

**Email addresses**

**Have not been updated**

It is essential that we are able to contact all members of the Association to keep everyone in the know!

**Have you moved? Changed your email address or telephone number?**

If you answered **Yes**, please advise the Secretary at [secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au) ASAP





Member's consideration and valued response  
greatly appreciated

Forward to: [secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)

## Communications Strategy Review

### Review

The Association is undertaking a review of its communication methods and information repositories accessed by Association members on a regular basis. For a number of years, the Association has been criticised over its perceived failure to effectively communicate with Association members. Precisely what this means is difficult to ascertain as the critics have not definitively indicated any specific issues except 'accountability, transparency and governance.

Our current communication channels include the website, two face book pages, email (from mailchimp and individual Management Committee members), the quarterly newsletter, '*Centurion*' and snail mail for those who do not have internet or email access. The current Management Committee has used both electronic means and snail mail to ensure that the majority of members are provided with copies of all meeting minutes and decisions made. In the future it is intended that such information would also be accessible through the website.

All Association members are encouraged to provide suggestions that would assist the Management Committee to formulate a Communications Strategy. Issues that should be considered include the use of existing communication channels, new and emerging communication technologies, information that should be included on the website, and tools that allow members to communicate with each other subject to privacy issues.

Submissions and suggestions should be forwarded to the Secretary ([Secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:Secretary@paratus.org.au)) by 15 December 2018.'



We took 005 and an M 113 out for a photo shoot today for part of the Coral / Balmoral article for the corps magazine.  
Tubby Brooker



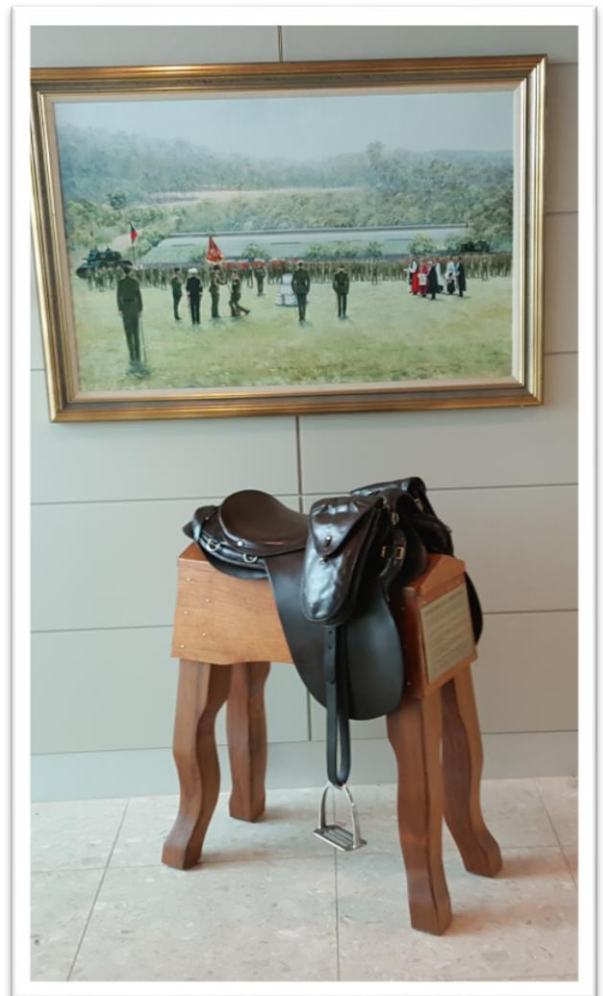


## RHQ foyer

Photos of the standard with new battle honour, along with its Coral Balmoral Streamer.

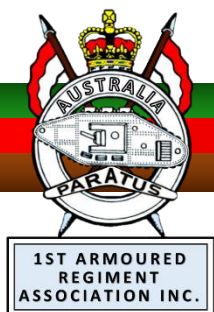
When all soldiers enter/exit RHQ they face the Standard, come to attention at the top of the stairs and salute the Standard. An excellent initiative as it used to be housed at the officers mess in my day so one rarely saw it.

**Mark Reid**  
SA Rep



Pictures of standard courtesy of:  
Captain Anthony Purdy  
Adjutant  
1st Armoured Regiment  
*Many thanks – Ed.*





# Honour Roll

**Dedicated to those 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice**

## **Killed In Action**

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

## **Died of Wounds**

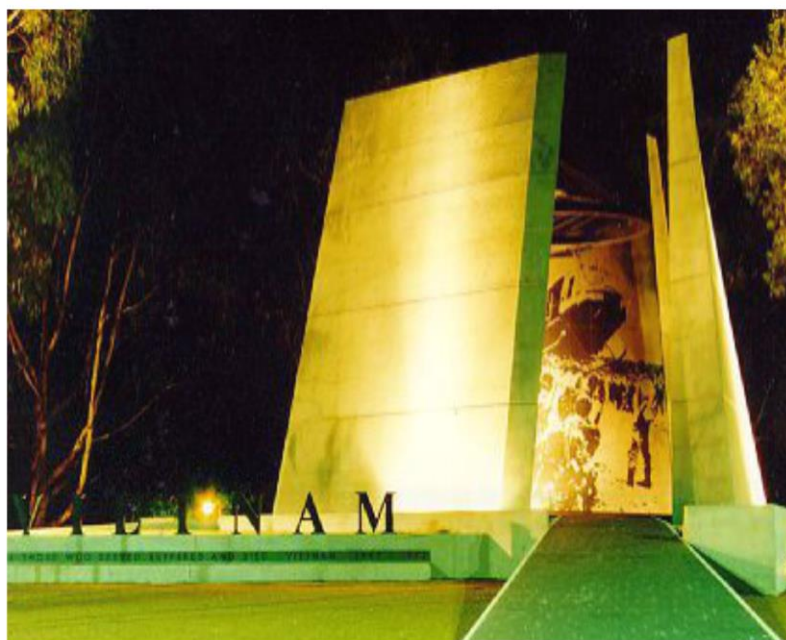
TPR M. Hannaford  
WO2 T. Phillips

## **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:**

### **Henry Lewis 'Logga' Wood**

It with sincere regret that the Association advises that Henry Lewis 'Logga' Wood died on 9 August 2018. There is insufficient space here to provide details of his regimental life, but the basics of a very illustrious career are as follows. Henry was born in 1926 in Maldon, Victoria. He enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF in March 1945 and was allocated to 6<sup>th</sup> Division Cavalry (Commando). However, as he completed training, peace was declared. After a stint at Victoria Barracks (Melbourne), he 'wrangled' a posting to First Australian Armoured Car Squadron which was heading to Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupational Force. Highlights of his tour in Japan included Guard Duties at the Imperial Palace and retrieving hidden treasure normally at the end of a 37 mm barrel.

Henry had a variety of postings including Pay Corporal, Orderly Room Sergeant, Transport Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, WO2 Instructor at OCS Portsea and SSM of HQ Sqn. Henry attended driving and maintenance, wireless and gunnery courses at Bovington (UK) and achieved outstanding results. This was followed immediately by a posting to the British Army on the Rhine (West Germany) to provide advanced instruction on all subjects to armoured units. On return to Australia, Henry was posted as the Wing Sergeant Major of Driving and Maintenance at Armoured Centre. Just two years later Henry was promoted to WO1 and posted as the RSM of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment (which Henry describes as the highlight of his career). In 1964, Henry was posted as the RSM of 2RTB Puckapunyal for the first intake of National Service Training.

Significant highlights of his career included accepting the original Guidon presented to the Regiment by Field Marshall Sir William Slim in 1956. This was followed by carrying the Guidon at the Opening of the Victorian Parliament in 1956, as well as leading a group of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment soldiers for security duties at the Olympic Games, also in Melbourne 1956.

When interviewed by Peter Branagan, OAM in 2015, Henry wrote, 'To sum up my military career, I served with and under the command of some wonderful soldiers, enjoyed an association with people outside Australia, had many wonderful experiences and never regretted one second of my 23 years of service.'

It is believed that Henry was the last surviving member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Armoured Car Squadron that served in Japan. In all likelihood, Henry was also the last RAAC member who served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF.





### RONALD (RON) McKENDRICK:

The Association regrets to advise the passing of Ronald (Ron) James McKendrick who was a member of A Sqn in South Vietnam from 21 Jan 1970 to 10 September 1970. Ron passed away after a battle with Cancer.

Although not a member of the Association, he was a member of the 1st Armoured Regiment Family, the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and the Australian Army. May he rest in peace in the green fields beyond.

From Russ James, Secretary 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.



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### WO2 John James (Fitz) Fitzpatrick

The Association regrets to advise the passing of WO2 John James (Fitz) Fitzpatrick who died on Friday 10 August in Beaufort Victoria. John served in the Regiment around the period 1961 to 1966/67. He served with A Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment in South Vietnam from January 1968 to January 1969. He was a long term member of the Association, a member of the 1st Armoured Regiment Family, the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and the Australian Army. May he rest in peace in the green fields beyond. The passing of a gentleman.

Russ James, Secretary 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.



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### Ambrose Thomas Crowe

It is with great sadness that I advise that Ambrose Crowe has passed away around dawn this morning (6<sup>th</sup> September 2018) after a short illness.

Ambrose was a National serviceman who served in the Australian Army from July 1966 to July 1968. During this time he was posted to 2 troop, C Squadron 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment and deployed to South Vietnam where he was involved in the battle at FSB Balmoral.

Ambrose became a mature age student at Monash University where he followed the passage of legislation in USA acknowledging the harmful effects of the defoliant "Agent Orange" commonly used in SVN. This became a cause celebre for Ambrose, who, in assisting the recognition of the Agent Orange problems in Australian veterans, wrote a book "**The battle after the war**" which became the basis of a thesis for which Ambrose was awarded a PhD.



Thirty years on, the source of the story revisited. The author at left with fellow veterans Peter Hutton, Peter Lukeis and Errol Driver standing on what remains of Luscombe air strip at Nui Dat. The area has regenerated during the past 30 years since spraying ceased, to such an extent that the tarmac is almost overgrown. The Vietnamese in the picture is a Viet Cong Soldier who acted as our guide.

From the late 80s Ambrose enjoyed fellowship at Beaumaris RSL, became a committee man and trained as a pension's advocate where he did sterling service for the WW2 and SVN veterans. For his dedication and results he received a state award from RSL Victorian HQ.

RIP my good mate - from Peter Lukeis





### **Patrick O'Loughlin**

We wish to advise the very sad news that Patrick O'Loughlin passed away on Wednesday 5th September 2018. Paddy served with C and B Sqns in Vietnam from 12 Feb 1968 to 17 Jun 1969.

Russ James

Secretary

1st Armoured Regiment Association

### **STATEMENT OF SERVICE**

**Full Name:** *Patrick O'LOUGHLIN*

**Service Number:** *1731158, 1200807*

**Category of Service:**

*Australian Regular Army Supplement (NS) 28 September 1965 to 22 February 1966*

*Australian Regular Army 23 February 1966 to 18 March 1975*

**Employment:** *Crewman Gunner / Signaller, Crewman Driver / Signaller,  
Driver Armoured Fighting Vehicle (Light Tracked),*

*Assistant Instructor, Administrative Assistant, Storeman Technical*

**Rank on Discharge:** *Corporal*

**Postings/Attachments:** *1 Recruit Training Battalion 28 September 1965*

*Armoured Centre 9 December 1965*

*1 Armoured Regiment 28 March 1966*

*Detachment A Squadron 2 Cavalry Regiment 10 July 1967*

*C Squadron 1 Armoured Regiment 24 October 1967*

*B Squadron 1 Armoured Regiment 12 February 1969*

*Unallotted List Northern Command 17 June 1969*

*2 Recruit Training Battalion (Staff) 30 July 1969*

*3 Army Recruiting Unit 24 January 1972*

*21 Supply Battalion 18 November 1973*

*11 Supply Battalion 10 October 1974*

**Operational Service:** *Vietnam 12 February 1968 to 11 February 1969*

*Vietnam 27 March 1969 to 16 June 1969*

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### **Lindsay Briggs**

Graeme Potts has advised that Lindsay Briggs (A Sqn 3 Cav Regt SVN 1967/68 and Det 1 Fwd Del Tp SVN 1969/70) passed away 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Private funeral for family only.

Russ James

Secretary

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.



### **Allen Hudswell**

Allen passed away in Queensland on 30 Oct 2018.

Allen served in 1st Armoured Regiment from 1961 to 1966 and on discharge in 1968 joined 4/19 PWLH where he spent approximately 10 years. After moving to Queensland Allen joined the 127 Cadet Unit as a Lt where he trained and mentored young Australians until he was around 61 and his term would not be extended. He leaves his wife Phyllis and children Marcus, Lisa and Wendy.



## Above & Beyond

Late in the afternoon of 5 May 2001, Corporal Shaun Clements was a crew member of a Leopard Main Battle Tank (MBT) taking part in an Army Training exercise at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland. From inside the tank turret, Corporal Clements could hear Trooper Richard Turner screaming. He came out to see the driver's head being crushed between the gun and the edge of the Main Battle Tanks driver's hatch, and the tank veering out of control.

Corporal Clements was in the loader's compartment and climbed out of the top of the tank turret, clambered down the opposite side of the tank turret to Trooper Turner's side and held his head. The injured man lost consciousness and, as he did, put his foot on the accelerator. The tank went off the edge of a ridge and careered down a steep bush gully, with three men on board and Corporal Clements hanging off the side.



What Corporal Clements did earned him the Star of Courage, Australia's second highest bravery award and was one of 58 Australians whose bravery decorations are to be announced on the 18 Mar 2004.

As the tank sped downhill, he tried with one arm to protect the injured driver while his other hand reached inside the compartment. He found the brake but the cable snapped.

Someone running alongside yelled at him to jump, but as he said "there was no way I was going to leave my driver." He thought a large tree might stop them, but instead the tank uprooted the tree - which smashed into Corporal Clements' body - and kept going, straight towards three more tanks and a crowd of people standing at the bottom of the hill.

"The guys, whether they were stunned or not, were just standing in my path. I thought, 'Oh shit. We're going to run over someone'." With just 20 or so metres short of a collision, he managed to reach in and steer the tank. He turned it up a hill and brought it to a stop. He helped the medics extract the injured man.

Only then, when he stopped for a cigarette and found blood on it, did he realise he was in bad shape, too. He had broken ribs and a collapsed lung. He spent nearly 10 weeks in hospital, then went straight back to his regiment, serving in Timor later that year.

In the same Rockhampton hospital, Trooper Turner was having four plates inserted into his skull. "I managed to con the nurse into letting me go and see him," Corporal Clements said. "He was there with his new wife and his mum. There were lots of tears and thanks... We talk quite often now. Obviously, there's a connection."



The Minister Assisting the Defence Minister, at the time, Mal Brough was quoted as saying "Corporal Clements showed amazing courage in the face of grave danger." Currently, Warrant Officer Class Two Clements, works as the Squadron Sergeant Major in B Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment in Adelaide, where he lives with wife Kristine. Warrant Officer Class Two Clements, does not agree. "I keep saying that I don't think I did anything that special," he said. "I would think that anyone in the same position would do the same thing."

The Star of courage was created on 14 February 1975. The Star of Courage (SC) is a bravery decoration awarded to Australians. It is awarded for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril. The decoration recognises acts of bravery by members of the community. They selflessly put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

It is ranked second in the Australian civil bravery decorations in the Australian Honours System. Recipients of the Star of Courage are entitled to use the post-nominal letters "SC".



By his actions, Corporal Clements displayed conspicuous courage above and beyond.

*Story supplied by Gary 'Frosty' Frost*



# On This Day (OTD) November – December - January



## Battle Chronology

AUSTRALIAN ARMOUR BATTLE CALENDAR

Dates of historical significance for the RAAC  
MAJ John Baines, RFD, (Retd)  
RAAC Honorary Historian  
[john.baines5@bigpond.com](mailto:john.baines5@bigpond.com)



HOC Staff strive on behalf of the RAAC in general and veterans in particular, to ensure the accuracy of our published information and our collection material. If anyone can help in this regard, or otherwise add value, please contact John on the email above.

<b>1 Dec 1967</b>	A Sqn 10 LH Regimental Birthday
<b>28 Dec 1967</b> <b>14 Dec 1968</b>	AATTV Member <b>WO2 Percy White</b> Distinguishes Himself in Battle 1 Armd Regt Centurion Driver Killed by Mine, South Vietnam
<b>18 Jan 1969</b>	A Sqn 3 Cav Regt APC Section Commander Killed by Anti-Tank Mine Whilst Conducting Resupply Mission, Phuoc Tuy Province South Vietnam
<b>19 Jan 1969</b>	A Sqn 3 Cav Regt Participate in Successful Combined Arms and Cav Ambushes, Phuoc Tuy Province South Vietnam.
<b>19 Nov 1969</b>	B Sqn 1 Armd Regt and B Sqn 3 Cav Regt Conducted Successful Operation Against En in Bunkers, Thai Thien, SVN 20 Nov 1970 2 Cavalry Regimental Birthday
<b>27-29 Nov 1970</b>	B Sqn 3 Cav Regt in Action at Ngai Giao and the Callout of the Ready Reaction Force, Xuyen Moc
<b>30 Dec 1970</b>	3 Cav Regt Action in Bunker System, Phuoc Buu, South Vietnam.
<b>31 Dec 1970</b>	1 Tp B Sqn 3 Cav Regt Conducted Successful Ambush in South Vietnam
<b>19 Nov 1969</b>	B Sqn 1 Armd Regt and B Sqn 3 Cav Regt Conducted Successful Operation Against En in Bunkers, Thai Thien, SVN
<b>20 Nov 1970</b>	2 Cavalry Regimental Birthday
<b>27-29 Nov 1970</b>	B Sqn 3 Cav Regt in Action at Ngai Giao and the Callout of the Ready Reaction Force, Xuyen Moc
<b>30 Dec 1970</b>	3 Cav Regt Action in Bunker System, Phuoc Buu, South Vietnam.
<b>31 Dec 1970</b>	1 Tp B Sqn 3 Cav Regt Conducted Successful Ambush in South Vietnam



<b>25 Dec 1979</b>	2 Cav Regt Lt Nick Keam and Cpl Ovendon Arrived in Rhodesia as part of Operation Damon as part of the Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force (CMF).
<b>17 Jan 1981</b>	B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regimental Birthday
<b>3-10 Dec 1992</b>	Approval For A Support Troop (35 Armoured Personnel Carriers and 90 personnel) from B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment To Form Part of a 1 RAR Bn Gp Deployment to Operation SOLACE, Somalia
<b>15 Dec 1992</b>	Australian Government Agreed to Provide a Bn Group to Support Operation Restore Hope in Somalia by Establishing the Australian Operation Solace to be Deployed as Australian Forces Somalia. (AFS).
<b>21 Dec '92- 20 Jan '93</b>	Australian Forces -Somalia. (AFS) Deployed to Somalia
<b>22 Dec 1992</b>	B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt Advance Party Arrived in Somalia, Africa as Part of a Peace Making Mission, Unified Task Force – Somalia (Unitaf) Somalia
<b>#10 Jan 1993</b>	B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt Supported the Commencement of the Australian Contribution to the Unified Task Force – Somalia (Unitaf) Somalia, Ministerial Press Statement 2018
<b>15 Jan 1993</b>	Main Body of B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt Arrived in Somalia, Africa as Part of a Peace Making Mission
<b>5 Dec 1997-2003</b>	RAAC Soldiers Participated in Truce and Peace Monitoring Groups, Bougainville., New Guinea
<b>10 - 16 Nov 1999</b>	2 Cav Regt, Occussi, East Timor. International Force for East Timor (INTERFET)
<b>17 Nov- 10 Dec 1999</b>	2 Cav Regt Conduct Civil Liaison, East Timor, International Force for East Timor (INTERFET)
<b>19 Dec 1999</b>	2 Cav Regt Returned to Australia after International Force for East Timor (INTERFET), East Timor
<b>Nov 06-Jun 07</b>	2 Cav Regt Mounted the Overwatch Battle Group, OBG (W) 2: Iraq
<b>1 Dec 2009</b>	I Armd Regt Conducted Last M113A1 Patrol in Operation Astute, East Timor
<b>12 Jan 2010</b>	RAAC Maj Gen Took Over Command of Operation Slipper, Afghanistan



# 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Member decorated for valour.....

For street police there is a sixth sense they develop that can't be taught from a training manual. It can be a glance, suspicious body language or an unexpected movement that gives the game away. Then sometimes it can be something as simple as a change of weather that brings about a change of luck.

Mark Hall (left) and Andrew Vallas are to be presented with Valour Awards for their encounter with a gunman in 2016.



Senior Constable Mark Hall and Constable Andrew Vallas had more in common than just sharing a station, a uniform and a rostered patrol.

They both joined around the same time and came from police backgrounds. Vallas' mother, father (a demon with a set of chopsticks), sister and brother were all police, while Hall's father is a 36-year veteran stationed at Ballarat.

Vallas' journey was a longer one. He came to policing already battle-hardened, for he was a soldier with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment for more than 12 years and was employed as a tank commander before serving in Afghanistan and Iraq before he decided to "join the family business".

On that day, October 26, 2016, the Dandenong district patrol should have been routine. After all it was a middle of the week day shift, hardly the most challenging in a police district that offers more than its share of challenges. It would culminate in a life-altering event that last week resulted in them being presented with Valour Awards - the first since 2014.

It began as a foot patrol around the busy precinct before they jumped on a train to wander Springvale with the aim, Vallas declares. "to talk to everyone and eat all the food".

In between they found someone to arrest and took him to the station. It then started to rain and rather than do the rest of the shift getting wet on foot, they opted for the comfort of a marked patrol car.

Leaving the station they headed to a well-known dumping ground for stolen vehicles, looking for what Vallas describes as "dodgy cars and dodgy characters". It didn't take long.

As they drove past a green Mazda 6, Vallas saw the passenger "eyeball us". They agreed he "looked shifty" and did a U-turn to pull in behind. As the police approached, the sedan moved off - another sign the occupants wanted to avoid the patrol.

A quick check on the radio showed the female owner was no cleanskin.

The sedan came to a roundabout and did a 180-degree turn, which only increased suspicion. "They were going around in circles doing anti-surveillance," says Hall. When they pulled them over in Grace Avenue it was 3.30pm - school pick-up time. The driver jumped from the car and approached. "She was overly nice," Vallas remembers. After all, no one is keen to be pulled over by police, who are never going to announce you have just won the lottery.

Both police thought she was trying to keep them away from the car because she had something - or someone - to hide.

Hall asked why she hadn't waited in the car. "She said she wanted a smoke but didn't want to light up in the car. I looked and saw the male passenger was sitting in the vehicle smoking. It was another little sign they were up to no good."

Vallas went to the passenger, Adrian Turra, 26, and asked if he had been in trouble with the police.

Adrian Turra pulled a homemade gun on two police officers.

"Nah mate," was the response. A quick check from the police car showed Turra was lying - he had an extensive criminal record. Knowing this was not likely to end well, the passenger decided to, in the police vernacular, "flee on foot".

As the Valour Award citation says: "Without warning, the male passenger jumped from the vehicle and produced a handgun, which he pointed at both officers, before running away in a westerly direction along Grace Avenue."

Here the pair's recollections vary slightly. Vallas remembers Turra "turning around - he had jumped from the car and was pointing a handgun at Mark. He then ran off waving the gun behind him like Harry Potter's wand."

Hall says he didn't immediately realise the man was armed. "It was when he took off that I saw the gun. It wasn't pointed directly at me but it registered what it was."

He says the fight-or-flight instinct immediately kicked in: "I just think training and instinct took over." And so the chase was on.



This was more than instinct, because instinct is all about survival. They could have let him go because by now they knew his identity. They could have left the arrest to the heavily-armed Special Operations Group, but that would have meant leaving a gunman roaming suburban streets. And so they gave chase even though they knew it placed their lives in danger.

Assistant Commissioner Bob Hill said: “the members showed great courage by placing themselves in harm’s way to confront an armed offender who was an extreme risk to the community.”

Mark took the lead while Andrew, who says he is “built for comfort”, came from a fair way back as he was still sitting in the police car. They were further hindered when Turra charged through traffic in busy Stud Road. “I still can’t believe he wasn’t bowled over,” says Vallas.

(What he didn’t know was the Karma Bus was warming up down the road, but more of that later.

Assistant Commissioner Robert Hill declares patrol police Vallas and Hall are true heroes.

This gave Turra a break on his pursuers. Both were calling for him to stop and drop his weapon. “I was screaming into the radio for backup, I wanted everyone from the Air Wing to the Water Police,” says Vallas.

The gunman jumped a fence and tried to open doors, eventually disappearing into a garage, while Vallas ran around to try and cut off his escape. Turra then emerged from the garage, ran out of a driveway and back along Stud Road.

It was then the desperate offender decided he had a better option than trying to outrun two police - a carjacking at gunpoint.

“We were still yelling at him to drop the gun as he ran to a brown BMW that was slowed by traffic. It was like it was in slow motion. We were yelling ‘Keep driving’. Then he started to try and pull the driver out of the car, but he couldn’t,” Vallas recalls.

According to Hall: “when he threatened driver with the firearm we were so close he didn’t have time. He would have known we would have reached him by the time he was in the driver’s seat.”

Turra was running out of options, and breathe. “He was pretty gassed out,” says Hall. The choices were surrender or fight. He chose the wrong one. He stopped running, started walking, stumbled on the gutter and turned around with his gun pointed to the ground.

Although he was facing two police yelling at him to surrender and with their guns drawn, he raised his firearm with both hands to point at his pursuers.

But this was not the OK Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, but a busy suburban street in Dandenong. (Although both occurred on Wednesday, October 26, shortly after 3pm - just 135 years apart.

There was no time to talk, take cover or work out another plan. Both police aimed at the body and were about to fire when they saw a postie on a motorbike emerge from a driveway behind the gunman, right in the shooting zone. If they missed their target they could have hit the innocent bystander.

Both police moved to change their angles, with Hall dropping to his knees as they yelled at the gunman to drop his weapon. “I had to change my line and I ducked to lower my profile,” says Hall.

Both police fired, hitting Turra in the body. The chase lasted 105 seconds and covered 495.5 metres.

“We gave him very chance,” says Vallas.

In fact the police asked him: “Why didn’t you listen?” But as he had just been shot twice, he wasn’t interested in joining the discussion. Vallas said the incident exploded out of nothing. “I’ve been shot at overseas, but you can anticipate that. This was in Melbourne at school pickup time.”

It is a graphic example of modern policing, where a recent flood of illegal firearms has resulted in more street criminals carrying guns. For Vallas and Hall there was the immediate trauma of the shooting and the residual sense of unease when passing the area of the incident. Now when they pull up a suspect, they know what can happen if it all goes wrong.

The wounded crook was taken to hospital and has since recovered. He pleaded guilty to attempted armed robbery, assaulting police and carrying a prohibited weapon and was sentenced to six years with a minimum of three years, nine months.

He was extremely lucky; the bullets passed through his body and managed to avoid all major organs and arteries before exiting his back.

Here is where the Karma Bus comes in. Turra was a wannabe gangster who not only hated police but wanted the world to know it. On his back was a large tattoo - a caricature of a masked bandit shooting the head off a police pig, and in case you missed the message it was accompanied by the words “F--- the police”.

As one investigator observed: “let’s put it this way, the exit wound did nothing for the artwork.”

Another example of new generation going above and beyond. – John Sylvester, Age Newspaper.

*Andrew Vallas was one of my soldiers in 2 Troop C SQN from 2003/04. He has always been a likable rogue. We won Paratus Cup together when I was his Troop SGT. He rose through the ranks and finished his time in the Army as a SGT Gunnery Instructor at the School of Armour. He was the black sheep of the family and chose the Army life over the police force. The police force is in his blood with both mother/father in the police force. His father at one point was the Commandant of the police academy in Glen Waverly.*

*Gary ‘Frosty’ Frost  
Recruitment Manager 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association*

**Pictures from John (Tubby) Brooker**  
169005 out in the morning sun for some GCE checks.



**Cav Hanger Australian Army Tank Museum**  
**Puckapunyal**





## Inside the Leopard Hanger Australian Army Tank Museum



Not dead, just resting – David Paterson



Bushy



Bob Kennard and John Brooker attended the Coral Balmoral commemoration at the Repat yesterday. We laid wreaths on behalf of the Assoc and the RAAC. Herman Harberts and Doug Blackney also attended, not bad as Doug is 90.





**The Regiment on Parade**



**The Regimental Lance guard**



The Unit Citation for Gallantry ready to be presented to member of C Squadron

The Commanding Officer presents the UCG to C Squadron







Governor-General of the  
Commonwealth of Australia  
and Commander-in-Chief  
of the Defence Force

*BE IT KNOWN* that with the authority of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second,  
Queen of Australia, I have awarded the

## *UNIT CITATION for GALLANTRY*

to

**1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE (FORWARD) which includes  
Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force (Forward)  
1st and 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment  
A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment  
C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment  
12th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery  
1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers  
Detachments in direct support of and located with  
1st Australian Task Force (Forward)**

*in recognition of acts of extraordinary gallantry in action*

### *CITATION*

*For extraordinary gallantry in action in the Binh Duong/Bien Hoa Provinces of South Vietnam  
from 12 May 1968 to 6 June 1968, during Operation THOAN THANG.*

*GIVEN at Government House, Canberra  
this fifteenth day of May 2018.*

*By His Excellency's Command*

*Official Secretary to the Governor-General*



## 2018 – STATE ROUNDUP

**VICTORIA** State Rep - Iain Reynolds

### **Tolmie Annual Camping Trip**

The Grand Final Camping trip to Tolmie this year went well with 15 people that attended. We had great weather with only a few showers Friday night. We also had Mick Dunn make the trip over from South Australia to join us. Many thanks to David Pye & his son Jamie who made the spit & supplied the lighting for the site again this year. After some teething problems, the chicken gyros was cooking well for the kebabs that we had for Saturday lunch. I don't think that the weekend could be as much a success without their hard work with making things work. We held the dining in/out night on the Saturday night, with roast legs of lamb cooked on the spit and vegies cooked in the bush ovens, for desert we had mud cake & cream. Bruce Tarran prepared the lamb & supervised the cooking on the spit. Many thanks to Peter Keane for bringing up the tables & also with specialized training doing a great on the pepper gravy. The red wine for the night was supplied by Max Hammond from Fowles Wines. It is much appreciated to all that contributed by either by turning a sausage, getting some firewood or dixi bashing to make the weekend a success. Overall it was a great weekend for all that attended. For those members that have not come along in the past, & could have attended missed a great weekend.







## Victorian Cambrai Long Lunch.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November we held a mixed Cambrai Long Lunch at the Emerald Hotel South Melbourne. This event was well attended with 22 members in attendance. This included 6 members of Tank Troop B Sqn ¾ Cav SOA. We were privileged to have Peter Lukeis a veteran of the battle at FSB Coral recount his personal experiences of his battle. We also had David Catterall give us a rundown of the logistics difficulties during the battle. Again, we were well looked after by the staff of the Emerald. The food was hot, the beer was cold & everyone had a great time.







## West Australia State Rep – Pat Deeker

ANZAC Day – The turn out for the parade was reasonably attended by the members of the association, numbers were around the twenty mark. This was due to members parading with their local RSLs, which is much easier for them due to the distance they live from the city. On hand to boost the parade numbers were past members from 2 CAV, BSQN 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> CAV Regt and a few others, they boosted the numbers to approximately 40 personnel.

Due to the geographical problems it is pretty hard to get a majority of the members at the one place at the one time.

This makes having other events a very hard task, we'll have to wait and see if Santa Claus is kind to us and aligns all the stars and we might be able to make something happen next year for events such as the REGT birthday and Cambrai Day.

On a brighter note, I have received some e-mails from Mick Rainey since his release from hospital, the only thing I'll say about his e-mails is that he still has a great sense of humour.



## New South Wales State Rep – Mick Payne

Black Hats - Out there supporting people.  
Vietnam Veterans Day 2018.

Myself - Barry Hodges 1st Armoured Regiment 1969 and  
Gary Clark 3rd CAV Regiment 1971-1972.

Spending the 18th August supporting Pooncarie farmers  
(far Western NSW) at their drought relief BBQ.

Barry and Gary would like special mention to Mildura RSL  
and the Gol Gol Hotel for their generous donation of  
vouchers.

The response from the Sunraysia community to the  
drought relief fund has been amazing.

As a footnote - check out what the Murray Darling Basin  
Authority MDBA is trying to do to the lower Darling River -  
"DRY DRY SHAME"

Thanks to the A relief team Ron Collingburn and his wife  
Judy, daughter Jan and friend Bec.

Regards  
Barry Hodges

