



1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

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PATRON: BRIG Ted Acutt (Retd)
PRESIDENT: Keith (Mel) Meloncelli
SECRETARY: Russ James
TREASURER: Richard (Dick) Stanios



Cambrai Day "Peacekeepers"

Back Row left to right: Brian Hatfield, Dean Chappel, Daniel Williamson, Chris McLeod, Brian Chapple, Roger Powell, Martin Kies, Mark Smiley Moran, Brian Roach

Front Row left to right: Gary McCabe, Bob Kennard, Bill Whitburn, Keith Moodie, Ric (Red) Jackson, Chris Fenton, Cameron Proudfoot, Craig Burn, Russell Gannon, Ian (Gooch) Cummings.

(Photo courtesy Jan Fenton)

1st ARMoured REGIMENT

Theatre Honour
STH VIETNAM 1968-1971
Battle Honours
Coral – Balmoral
Hat Dich
Binh Ba
Theatres of Operation
Japan (1st Armd Car Sqn)
Sth Vietnam
Rhodesia
Cambodia
East Timor
Iraq
Solomon Islands
Afghanistan

Newsletter Contributions

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

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



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Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages

Web Sites

1st ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
www.paratus.org.au

RAAC CORPORATION
www.raaccorpltd.org.au

ROYAL TANK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
www.royaltankregiment.com

Facebook Pages

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC MEMBERS ONLY
www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC SOCIAL PAGE
www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/

1ST ARMoured REGIMENT FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/



Report from the Secretary - Russ James

Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.
PO Box 301
Mentone. VIC 3194
B: Bendigo Bank
1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.
BSB: 633-000
Account: 161498159



Secretary's Report

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

- The AGM, elections and other important matters
- Membership Report
- New Members
- Potential New Members
- Membership Renewals – February 2024
- Farewell and Thanks
- Donations
- Christmas and New Year Greetings

AGM - Elections and Other important Issues

The AGM was conducted at the Broadford RSL on 19 October 2024. Elections were held for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary, Recruiting/Membership Manager, Special Projects 1 and all State Representatives. Present incumbents all nominated for their positions, and as there were no further nominations, were elected unopposed.

Gary McCabe was nominated for the position of Communications Manager. As there were no further nominations, Gary was elected unopposed.

Future of the Regiment – after a short break during which those present had the opportunity to read an 11-page document that contained a range of discussion points, that had been prepared by the Secretary, there was a robust discussion on the next steps, if any, that should be taken by the Association.

At the end of these discussions, it was moved that, *'now is the time for the Association to become assertive in its opposition to the current plan as well as lobbying whoever is necessary to ensure the longevity of the Regiment as a unit that must be remain on the ORBAT?'* The motion was carried.

A small group of members including Mel Meloncelli, Craig Burn, Graeme Walker and Russ James was formed to determine the next steps to be taken. This group has met and letters, to several politicians, are now being drafted. Copies of these are to be distributed to Association members when complete.

Membership – Current Situation

As of 21 December 2024, the Association had a total of 534 active (financial) members. This includes only one (1) member who failed to renew his membership in September but remains as members for six (6) months after his renewal date. He has, however, formally resigned by email.

Members who do not renew within six months of the renewal date may renew their membership at any time without any difficulty. Any member who may be experiencing 'financial hardship' should contact the Secretary for a confidential discussion and extension of membership.

New Members

The Association would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since late September 2024:

Paul Jackson 24 November, Craig Tippet 24 November, Brett Ferguson 10 December, Greg Matthews 18 December and Stephen Williams 18 December 2024

Potential New Members

There were approximately 35 non-Association members who paid to attend various reunion activities such as the Meet and Greet, the Cambrai Parade and the Cambrai Reunion Dinner. It is hoped that at least 50% of these will join the Association in the near future (*I have always been an optimist!*).

Membership Renewals

There are 162 members who are due to renew their membership on 1 February 2024. The Treasurer (Dick Stanios) and I will be sending individual membership renewal notices by email in late December/early January. Some notices will be sent by 'snail-mail' to a small number of members who do not have email.

Thanks

The Association owes our departing Treasurer, Werner Golla, an enormous thankyou for his work over the last five years. During this time Werner was also the Treasurer of the Volvo Club of Victoria, plus a Legatee with the responsibility of looking after 20 or so war widows.

Thank you, Werner, for all your efforts and hard work.

Donations

The Association gratefully acknowledges the following members and veterans who have made donations to the Association since the last Newsletter:

Andy Rostan, Barry Mionnet, Chris Morris, David Ritchie, Dennis Crowe, Des Mahar, George Stojkovic, Keith Everett, Keith Moodie, Kevin Hunter, Lindsay Burke, Mark Reid, Mick Dunn, Michael Austin, Peter Rosemond, Rob Millstead and Roger Powell

Christmas and New Year Greetings

Dear Association Members, Veterans and Families,

As we celebrate this holiday season, we extend our deepest gratitude for your sacrifices and service. May your Christmas be filled with love, peace, and joy, and may the New Year bring you happiness and good health.

For those traveling to be with loved ones, we wish you safe and smooth journeys. Your dedication inspires us, and we are forever thankful for all you do.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

President, Executive and Management Committee



Grand Final Weekend at Tolmie

The Grand Final camping weekend at Tolmie was conducted over the last weekend in September. The following report was sent in by Vic Rep, Iain Reynolds.

The Grand Final Camping trip to Tolmie this year was from the 27 to 29 September. The weekend went well with 27 people attending (20 members and 7 guests), with a few new faces and even David O'Brien traveling down from Wagga for the event. We had some great weather all weekend with a few of us even breaking out the shorts in the afternoons. Simon Williams organised the Tolmie Bocce tournament Saturday morning. With the major prize of a bottle of Green Steam going to the winners, Gary McCabe and Rob Splatt.

Many thanks to Peter Keane for bringing up the tables. 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 and could have attended, you missed a great weekend.



Tolmie Camp Site



Peter Keane, Max Hammond, Wal Ovenden



Dennis and Mick Austin



Graeme Potts, Simon Williams, Gary McCabe



Peter Keane, Trevor Watts, Peter Swinfield



Bocce Winners: Gary McCabe and Rob Splatt with the highly valued prize of 'Green Steam'



Weekend group photo (names below not in photo order)

Peter Swinfield, Andrew Hill, Peter and Nathan Duncombe, Bruce and Wayne Tarran, Craig Bruce, Daryl Heales, David O'Brien, David and Jamie Pye, Dennis and Mick Austin, Gary McCabe, Graeme Potts, Iain Reynolds, Keith Johnson, Max Hammond, Paul Clemence (RAA), Peter Keane, Phil Koschak, Graeme Selwood, Rob Splatt, Simon Williams, Trevor Watts, Tubby Brooker and Wal Ovenden.



Association Annual General Meeting

The AGM was conducted at the Broadford RSL on Saturday 19 October.

The Association's Annual General Meeting was once again held at the Broadford RSL. The attendance was quite good with a high number of proxy votes submitted. If you are able, attendance is a great opportunity to hear in detail the issues that are important to us and to add to the discussions. **See you there next year.**



Association President, Keith Meloncelli, addresses the assembled membership.



The President leads the discussions during General Business.



Cambrai Long Lunch

Vic Rep Iain Reynolds organised the annual Cambrai Long Lunch on 15 November 24, held at Melbourne's Emerald Hotel and provided the photos below.

The annual Cambrai Long Lunch was held at the Emerald Hotel with a moderate turnout; understandable given the Adelaide reunion was only a few days away. Our Vic Rep Iain Reynolds took the opportunity to present an Association plaque to the hotel who have hosted us for many functions and have consistently catered our requirements for a room or table space, sometimes at short notice. The Emerald hotel is the Association's Melbourne metro 'go to' venue and will be so for the foreseeable future.



Simon Williams, Emerald Hotel co-owner Andrew Lewis and Iain Reynolds with the Association plaque presented to the Emerald Hotel.



Long lunch regulars enjoying refreshments.



Chris Macleod and Simon Williams.



Vic Rep Iain Reynolds presents the Association plaque to Emerald Hotel co-owner Jane Lewis.

Cambrai Weekend and Association Reunion

The Cambrai Day Parade and Reunion weekend was a huge success and attended by a record number of association members, partners, guests and veterans of the Regiment. There is an enormous amount of posts with photos of the events of the weekend on the Association and affiliated Facebook pages. The editor intends to produce a 'Cambrai Reunion Special Edition' of the Newsletter which should be ready around the first week of February.

Until then, here's a few images from the weekend.



Association President Keith Meloncelli opens proceedings at the Meet and Greet



Coral-Balmoral veterans are joined by the current OC and SSM of C Squadron



The veterans march on (Photo courtesy Penny Burke)



The Regiment advances in review order (Photo courtesy Penny Burke)



Association Reunion Dinner (Photo courtesy the Editor)

The Cambrai Day Parade and Reunion weekend was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone I spoke to, both at the event and since.

I believe the following letter from Bob Kennard to the Reunion committee sums up the sentiments of all who attended the weekend.

Thank You to the Reunion Committee

Gratitude and Appreciation

Dear Members of the Reunion Committee,

I am writing to extend my heartfelt thanks and profound appreciation for the exceptional work you have done in organizing our recent reunion. Your dedication, meticulous planning, and unwavering commitment to ensuring a memorable event did not go unnoticed and were deeply appreciated by all who attended.

From the moment we arrived, it was evident that every detail had been thoughtfully considered. The warm welcome, the beautifully arranged venue, and the seamless coordination of activities all contributed to creating a truly special experience for everyone present. A great deal of effort and care went into making the reunion a success.

The opportunity to reconnect with old friends, share stories, and honour our shared history was invaluable. Your efforts provided a meaningful and poignant reminder of the bonds we forged during our service and the enduring sense of camaraderie that continues to unite us. The events and activities you planned were not only enjoyable but also served to strengthen these connections and create new memories that we will cherish for years to come.

Please convey my deepest gratitude to each member of the committee for their hard work and dedication. Your contributions have left a lasting impact on all of us, and we are truly grateful for your service. It is through the efforts of individuals like you that such meaningful gatherings are possible, and your commitment to honouring our shared heritage is truly commendable.

Thank you once again for everything you have done. Your hard work and dedication are sincerely appreciated, and I look forward to future reunions that will undoubtedly be just as successful and memorable.

With deepest gratitude,

Bob Kennard



(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)

OP Hammersley Awards

The Op Hammersley awards to A Squadron personnel were presented on Cambrai Day prior to the parade by John Brooker OAM and Mark Reid who provided the following photos.



Crew Commander of the year CPL James Haddock.



Gunner of the year - TPR Nicolas Cummins.



Non crewman – LCPL Keenan Rojas Vernon.



The Lou Walker OAM Outstanding Soldier of the year - Tpr Alecia Smith.

Not shown is Driver of the Year – TPR Nicholas Carroll

Tankies Head North to Cairns

Along with a few fellow southerners, Vic rep Iain Reynolds trekked north to Cairns and has provided the following report and photos of the trip.

Four members decided to escape the penal colony of Victoria & head north to Cairns. Peter Swinfield, Dick Stanios, Simon Williams & Iain Reynolds caught up with some FNQ members of the Association, & to delve into FNQ's rich military history.

Caitlan Allan & Andrew Hill from the Army Museum at Puckapunyal also made the trip up for a couple of days to check out the condition of the Australian Leopard on loan from the museum at Puckapunyal. Peter Swinfield was on hand supervising & giving expert advice, which he does best. A big thank you to the curator of the Cairns Armoured & Artillery Museum, Jason Belgrave, who is also an Association member for a person guided tour of the world class museum.

That night we all caught up for an Association dinner at the Cock & Bull Hotel. It was good to catch up with Colin Toll, a former Commanding Officer of the 1st Armoured Regiment, who joined us for dinner that night.



**The Avenue of Honour Yungaburra
Iain Reynolds, Peter Swinfield, Dick Stanios & Simon (Pockets) Williams**



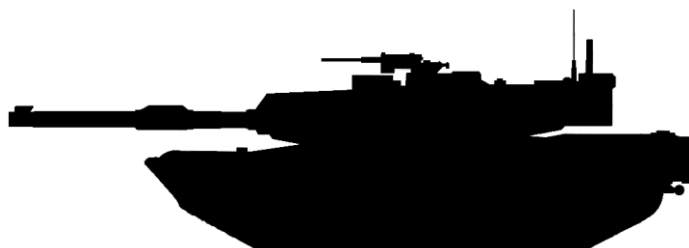
**Japanese Air Raid Memorial Mossman
Simon Williams, Peter Swinfield & Dick Stanios**



**Checking in on Pucka's Leopard at the Australian Armour & Artillery Museum Cairns
Dick Stanios, Iain Reynolds, Peter Swinfield, Simon (Pockets) Williams & Andrew Hill**



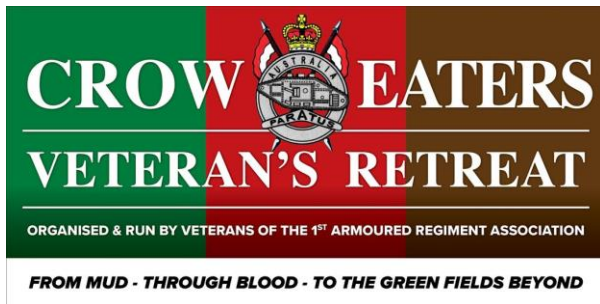
**Impromptu Association Dinner
(Back) Peter Swinfield, Dick Stanios, Jason Belgrave (Curator Australian Armour & Artillery Museum Cairns), Iain Reynolds, Andrew Hill
(Front) Gavin Warren, Simon (Pockets) Williams, Colin Toll and Caitlan Allen (Curator Army Museum Puckapunyal)**



Crow Eaters Veteran's Retreat 2025

Warning Order

Lou Walker OAM has issued a Warning Order for the Crow Eaters Veteran's Retreat 2025. See below and on the Association Facebook page for the activity and booking details.



Proposed activities 01 - 04 May 25

Thursday 1st May – Arrival with a defibrillator demonstration at Quorn bowling club then move to venue, set up your bed roll, followed by bar snacks then a welcome BBQ.

Friday 2nd May - Breakfast, then your own time, then lunch followed by 'bush games' ending with a clay shoot then a veterans and farmers' BBQ.

Saturday 3rd May – Breakfast then move into Quorn for 'bowls comp' followed by a visit to 'Flinders Gin' for tasting with bar snacks, then own time in Quorn returning NLT 1600hr for the camp oven roast dinner, complete with presentations. Red wine for the dinner courtesy of a local sponsor.

Sunday 4th May – Breakfast followed by clean up then into Quorn to property owners' residence for group photo and presentation to the owners, then all depart.

NOTE: Flinders Gin visit is at own cost of \$20 ea (TBC), which you have to nominate with your acceptance of attending to Lou on the association fb sites. The cost for the visit will be collected on the Thursday of your arrival after your 'retreat donation' has been gifted at the venue. snacks for the visit will be supplied by the veterans retreat, which is inclusive of your 'gifted donation'. tasting comprises 2 samples of their gin with soft drink and a presentation of their business. I will be present initially for introductions at flinders gin but Clem and I will then return to the venue to prepare for the Saturday night camp oven roast dinner. Other attendees not wishing to attend the tasting are free to do their own thing. Extra drinks after the tasting are at members own cost; and remember, drink responsibly.



The 2022 CEVR crew.

Advice has been given from the 'Flinders Gin' owners that an early booking with numbers would be advantageous for a confirmed booking for Saturday 3rd May 2025. This is mainly due to the tourist season and requests for a tasting come thick and fast very early in the New Year through their web site.

Therefore, I am asking if you are going to attend. Having been there I can guarantee that it is worthwhile and gives an insight into the distillery of gin and what procedures occur. The price of \$20 per head has been confirmed and as stated in my initial 'Warning Order', the Veterans Retreat will provide side snacks for the tasting, which is all inclusive of your 'gifted donation' for attending the Retreat.

Please respond by a PM to me on FB or by phoning me on 0491 817 720

Thank you and have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lou Walker - Crow Eaters Veterans Retreat Co-Ordinator/Organizer



Honour Roll

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

Killed in Action

TPR James Kerr (13 May 1969)

Died of Wounds

TPR Mick Hannaford (14 December 1968)

Died within the prescribed period

WO2 Noel Lowes (6 July 1971)

Killed Accidentally whilst on Military duty in a Training environment

TPR A. M. Jordan (14 October 1962)

CFN B. Silver (LAD) (19 November 1962)

SGT R. Morrison (17 August 1965)

LT A. J. Massey (7 July 1982)

TPR A. Patterson (7 June 1984)

SGT R. G. Murray (9 July 1986)



The Association recognises and acknowledges those former members of the Regiment who were either KIA or DOW whilst serving with units such as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, 3rd Cavalry Regiment or any other units in any conflict since the Regiment was formed in 1949.

The Association also recognises and acknowledges those former members of the Regiment who have passed since the end of a conflict and who may or may not have been recognised by the Department of Veterans' Affairs as entitled to an Official Commemoration. Hundreds are known to have passed of wounds or illnesses and diseases that may have been contracted during military service.

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

Members passed away since the last newsletter:

Terry Camden (RAEME) - 22 October 2024

Waldemar (Wally) Sosnowski - 26 October 2024

William (Bill) Freeman - 12 November 2024

Ian McVie - 17 November 2024

Geoff Whittet - 03 December 2024

John Holyoake ~15 December 2024



REGIMENTAL NEWS



The Regimental Adjutant, CAPT Josh Lawrence, has once again sent through a detailed report summarising the Regiment's activities over the last three months.

As the Regiment moved into the final months of the year, the unit had the immense privilege of providing the royal guard to his majesty the King on the 22nd October in Sydney, as part of his visit to Australia during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. The honour afforded to the Regiment to represent Army in a ceremonial capacity was a highlight of the year for those in attendance. The 2024 training year's last key event was marked by the Regiment celebrating and commemorating the battle of Cambrai through a parade and social event on the 22nd November. The week surrounding provided an opportunity to reflect on the highlights of the year through a number of social and sporting activities. Attendance was in large numbers with the mounted parade going swimmingly and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Looking forward, although the role change of the Regiment has directed a re-posturing of personnel and equipment North in Australia, the Regiment's restructure enables the unit to be at the helm of pushing Army's boundaries in the sphere of emerging technology and experimentation.

Regards, Josh

Paratus!

The following photos highlight recent Regimental activities.



**The Bushmaster Challenge competition in the US; pitting the best LAV crews across the world. In a sterling effort, the Regiment's team came in 6th in a hard fought competition against highly skilled USMC crews and a 2 CAV crew who took out 4th place.
(Photo courtesy School of Armour Facebook page)**



**Practice makes perfect – preparations for the Royal parade.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**Royal Salute! Standard Bearer WO2 Daniel Williamson, SSM C Sqn, conducts the salute.
(PTE Sophie Hartley photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**The Commanding Officer, LTCOL Jake Penley receives King Charles III on parade.
(PTE Sophie Hartley photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**Sharing a joke with His Majesty.
(PTE Sophie Hartley photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**The 'Zoo crew' at Adelaide Zoo. The Regiment fully engaged in the community for the benefit of all.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**Back in the community assisting in clearance works to the old Children's zoo area.
The works will help provide space for new animal enclosures to be enjoyed by the Adelaide community
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



Cambrai Day Parade



(Photo courtesy CPL Adam Quinn - Defence Image Gallery)



(Photo courtesy CPL Adam Quinn - Defence Image Gallery)



(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)



Knock-off Note from the Editor

Greetings members,

We're at the end of another year and the Christmas carols are playing everywhere as we all prepare for a break with family and friends. Thank you for your readership during the year and most particularly, to those who have provided such positive feedback to each edition of the newsletter. It has provided me much appreciated validation for my 'make it up as I go along' approach to each edition.

My sincere thanks go out to the Adjutant, CAPT Josh Lawrence for his swift and detailed responses to my requests for Regimental updates, which provided consistent, first-hand insight to the activities of the Regiment.

There are many more photos of the Regiments activities so don't forget to go to the Regiment's Facebook page for more information and photos, at this [LINK](#)

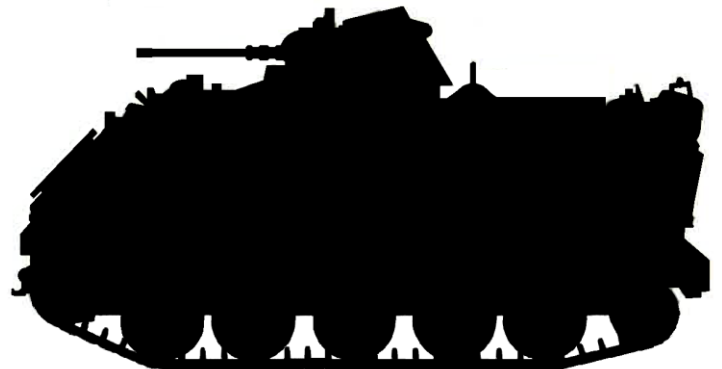
Send your photos, stories or reports of association events both major and minor, current or past to newsletter@paratus.org.au. If you receive no reply or response, then please send your submission here: graeme14b11a32a@gmail.com.

Enjoy your well-earned break, however long it may be. Drive safe, arrive safe and enjoy the company of those most important to you.

See you next year.

Cheers,
Wol Walker
Editor

"Two One Foxtrot; Out"



Favourite Words of the Last Year

Copacetic
Discombobulate
Disingenuous
Obdurate
Obfuscate
Throttlebottom

The Secretary wonders what the above words have in common!

NOTICES

Scholarships – Educational and Sporting

Applications for both the Educational and Sporting Scholarship – up to \$500 each – may be obtained from the Secretary at secretary@paratus.org.au



Looking to submit DVA Claim?

If you or anyone you know is considering pursuing claims through DVA and aren't too confident of the process or who to approach to commence your claim, please contact the Secretary who can put you in touch with an advocate to ensure your claims will be dealt with thoroughly, correctly and to ensure the most favourable outcome for you, the veteran. The Secretary's contact details can be found on the front page of this issue of Paratus.

1st ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION Q STORE

The Association Q Store has plenty of scarves, ties, lapel pins and stickers, among other items, still in stock. Contact the Q Store and proudly display your association.

LINK TO THE ASSOCIATION Q STORE WEBPAGE [HERE](#)



Association Gatherings - \$10 per Association Member Subsidy

At the Management Committee held on 21 July 2021, a motion was passed that the Association would provide a subsidy of \$10 per head for gatherings of members in regional/remote areas to subsidise the cost of the meal. This was later amended to include all gatherings of Association members, whether in regional/remote areas or not. In recent times, this subsidy has been paid to offset direct members costs for a Meet and Greet in Adelaide on 16 November 2023, Victorian Long Lunch on 24 November 2023, ANZAC Day Long Lunch in Melbourne 2024 and for all Association members attending the Meet and Greet and Cambrai Reunion Dinner in Adelaide.

Any gathering of four (4) or more Association members for lunch and/or dinner is entitled to claim the \$10 per head. The money is to be used to offset food costs only. A list of the members attending is required as well as a photo of those in attendance.

Claims should be submitted to the Secretary (secretary@paratus.org.au) or Treasurer (treasurer@paratus.org.au)



Attendees at the 2024 Reunion Meet and Greet.
(Photo courtesy the Editor)

***Have you Moved House! Have you Changed your Email Address?
Are you lost in the Wilderness - cut-off from the Association?
Did you tell the Secretary?
It is never too late!***

secretary@paratus.org.au





