



1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

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PARATUS

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



Mounted in a M113AS4, COL Jake Penley CSM departs his final parade as Commanding Officer of 1st Armoured Regiment.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)

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

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Secretary's Report

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

- Membership Report
- Membership Renewals – the 2025 Membership Renewal Year
- New Members
- Donations

Membership – Current Situation

As at 23 December 2025, the Association had a total of 534 active (financial) members. At this stage **28 members have not renewed** their memberships during 2025; 15 of these were removed from the 'Active List' on 1 Aug 2025 and the remaining 13 will be removed up until 25 June 2026, unless they renew their membership in the meantime.

Membership Renewals - 2025

The loss of 28 members for one year is quite upsetting and is the worst result since 2017. Further information on this issue is to be published in the New Year

Members who do not renew on their membership 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 probable extension of membership.

New Members

The Association would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since July 2025:

Nicholas Coles, Ian Hinson and Andrew Dash.

Donations

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

David Key, Laurie O'Donnell and Mick Butler

Association Gatherings - \$10 per Association Member Subsidy

The Association can provide a subsidy of \$10 per head for gatherings of Association members in regional/remote areas to subsidise the cost of the meal. 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. In recent times, this subsidy has been paid to offset direct members costs for the Tolmie Camping Trip in March and the AGM in July 2025

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

DO NOT LEAVE IT TO OTHERS!



S.A. Black Hat get together in Adelaide 14 August 25.

**Left to right: Mark Reid, Herbie Mack, Bob Hawton, Bill Stanfield, Geoff Baker and Mick Dunn.
(Photo courtesy Mark Reid via the Association Social Facebook Page)**

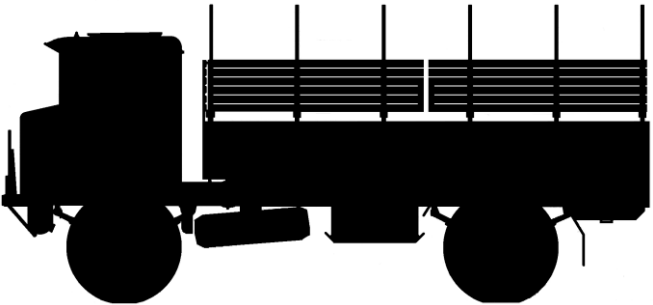
Cambrai Long Lunch

Vic Representative, Iain Reynolds, has sent in the following report and photos of the Melbourne Cambrai Long Lunch.

The Victorian Cambrai Long Lunch was held at the Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne on Friday 21st of November. The event was well attended with 15 members and 6 guests. Unfortunately, we were not able to get out usual private room so that we were not able to conduct our usual formalities. Again, we were looked after by the staff at the Emerald and the afternoon was very enjoyable. Thanks to all that attended, as follows:

Brad Clarke, Chris McLeod & Andrea, David & Susan Pye, David Catterall, Herman Harberts, Iain Reynolds, Ian Kilgour, John Forrester, Keith & Ann Meloncelli, Kevin & Angela Hunter, Noel Gellert, Rob & Gloria Joyce, Rob & Robyn Splatt, Russ James and Simon Williams.





Tankies Head North

Vic Representative Iain Reynolds and companion 'crew' have once again ventured north to Far North Queensland. Iain has sent in the following report and photos of their trip.

It was time again for us Victorians to escape the cold & head North to Far North Queensland. This year we picked up two newbies, Trevor Watts & Ron Taylor who didn't have quite as far to travel as the rest of us. Travelers: Dick Stanios, Iain Reynolds, Peter Swinfield, Ron Taylor, Simon Williams & Trevor Watts.

We arrived in Cairns on Wednesday 26 Nov. After picking up Ron from the airport on the Thursday we headed to Cooktown for 2 nights. Anyone traveling to Cooktown we can recommend staying at the Milkwood Lodge. Over the two days in Cooktown, we visited Grassy Hill Lookout, Cooktown Museum, the Wharf area, Cooktown History Centre & of course the RSL...more than once.

Before leaving Cooktown, we stopped off at the memorial park. The M113 was in fair condition, but the Leopard unfortunately was rusting away & needs a lot more work than a new coat of paint. After that we headed back to Cairns via Kuranda for lunch.

Sunday was spent in the Atherton Tablelands visiting the Avenue of Honour, Rocky Creek War Memorial Park and Herberton Historic Village.

Monday was an early start with a half day spent at the Australian Armour & Artillery Museum. A big thanks to Jason Belgrave for opening for us early before the public. The museum is world class & definitely visiting if your min the area. This is our third visit & there are always new exhibits to look at. In the afternoon we took a drive to Crystal Cascades.

Monday night was the catch-up dinner with other Black Hats in the Cairns area. As well as the six travellers we caught up with Colin Toll (Ex CO of the Regt), Jason Belgrave as well as Gavin Warren (Ex IV Cav).

Tuesday was a drive north to Port Douglas with a stop on the way to the WWII Bombing Memorial at Miallo.

Tuesday night was the last supper of the seafood that we ordered. Four magnificent platters of Banana Prawns, Bugs & oysters. Well worth the money the five of us paid for them...Five you may be asking! Peter Swinfield had a microwave pasta meal as he doesn't eat seafood. It was a struggle, but we got through all four seafood platters....and pasta.



Grassy Hill Lookout Cooktown.

Left to right - Simon Williams Trevor Watts, Dick Stanios, Iain Reynolds, Ron Taylor and Peter Swinfield.

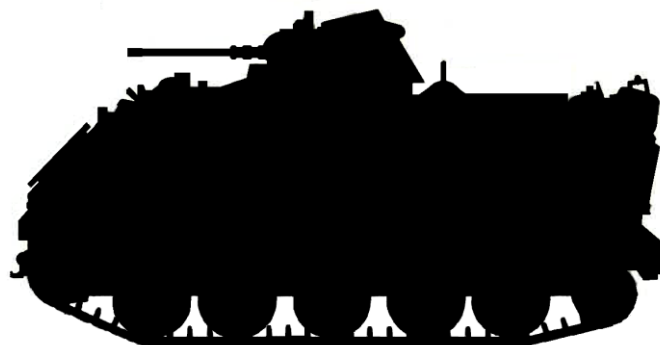


Cooktown Historical Museum.

Left to right - Dick Stanios, Peter Swinfield Trevor Watts, Simon Williams, Iain Reynolds and Ron Taylor.



M113A1 in Cooktown.





Leopard AS1 (ARN 27718) in Cooktown.



Lunch at the Kuranda Hotel.



The crew at The Australian Armour & Artillery Museum Cairns in front of the Leopard AS1 (ARN 27771), currently on loan from The Australian Army Museum Puckapunyal.



Far North Queensland Black Hat dinner.

Left to right - Colin Toll, Jason Belgrave, Gavin Warren, Ron Taylor, Simon Williams, Dick Stanios, Trevor Watts, Iain Reynolds and Peter Swinfield.



Trinity Bay Lookout Port Douglas.



Bits and pieces from around the Association

B&P 01 - The Leopard tank, Mount Bundy and Project Waler.

The following was sent in by Gerry McCormack via email; a very interesting read.

Hello Graeme,

Here are some reminiscences from Bernie Sullivan. They may be of interest to the old and bold as well as the youngsters! But what will be familiar to all, will be the indecision, prevarication and difficulty in getting projects through the Defence Department, still! Mind you it looks as if we now really will have an AIFV – the Redback! - 32 years later!

Many thanks, and best wishes,

Gerry McCormack

PARATUS

Below are some comments from Colonel Bernie Sullivan (Rtd) who was the Techo of the first C Squadron deployed to Vietnam. Bernie had a long and interesting career, both Regimental and the Staff. Two elements from his staff time are commented on below.

However, his most demanding staff appointment was from 1980 -1985:-Project WALER. This was to initiate and see through to production and introduction of the Australian designed and built Arm'd Infantry Fighting Vehicle (AIFV) to replace the M113 fleet of about 850 vehicles.

Design work and company bids saw four Australian companies link with UK, US French and German companies. Construction and Trials would run from 1989 -95, and production from 1996. Between 1980 and 1985 the project bottom line estimates went from \$638 m for 650 vehicles to possibly \$1 bn. Early in 1985 the project was deferred for five years but then in July 1985 was cancelled.'

Bernie sent me these words after he saw the recent copy of Paratus.

"Thank you for sending the Paratus news. I enjoyed reading it, especially about Mt. Bundy. I was sent on a mission to scout out a site for a tank training area at one point in my career and found the Mt. Bundy area - I recall the owner at the time was willing to sell to the Army at a time many land-owners would not. Good to hear it is still in use.

On reading that a Leopard tank was sent to Bovington, I was reminded that when I did the Tank Technology course there in about 1965, at the end of that period Alan Vickers (C Sqn 2ic 1968) and I were sent to Germany to look at their new battle tank the Leopard. When we got to test drive, it we learnt that the speed and braking system were far superior to the Centurion.

As I recall I dislodged both the commander and Alan when I applied the brakes in the same force I would have used in the Centurion.

Little did I know then that about 20 years later I would be the project officer to purchase the Leopard for our Corps."



Project LAND 400-3 - AS21 Redback IFV. (Photo courtesy the ADF Image Gallery)

B&P 02 - DUSTOFF!

The following text and photo was sent in by Bill Barlow.

G'day Russ,

I had this photo clarified as good as the photo shop could and have a few more details.

Date – 08 March 1970. **Grid ref** 613629 - Approx half-way between Xuyen Moc and Dat Do and I think 8 RAR.

Barry Chambers (CC 3A) gave them his own stretcher to carry the casualty. I would think it would be of interest to the personal involved if they could be located online somehow.

Thanks, Bill Barlow

If you have any further details regarding this photo, please contact the Secretary or Newsletter Editor.



Using the stretcher provided by CC CS 3A, the casualty is moved to the MEDIVAC helicopter.

(Secretary's Note: Barry Chambers has advised that he was not required to complete an L&D when he failed to hand in his stretcher!)

(Photo courtesy Bill Barlow)

B&P 03 - 169063 Restoration

Recently joined affiliate member, Mike Wanatabe, has sent in the following photo of Centurion 169063 which he has spent considerable time restoring.

Did you serve on or spend time working on 169063 during your service? If so, send in your story.



169063 looking in great condition resulting from Mike's restoration efforts. (Mike Wanatabe Photo)

B&P 04 – Volunteer Recognition

Earlier this year Bob Sheppard was recognised by RSL WA for his volunteer and advocacy work, being awarded an Australia Day Medallion and featuring in the July edition of RSL WA's "Listening Post"

AUST DAY Medallion (photo and text from [RSL WA Sub Branch Signal](#) - Feb 25)

Bob qualified Advocate Level 1 in August 2010 and Advocate Level 3 in December 2011. It is of note that this is a volunteer, unpaid position. During this time, he has assisted over 700 veterans in submitting their claims.

Bob's attitude is one that claims need doing, and quickly, so he is on-call 24/7 for his veterans. This includes hospital and home visits within the CBD, suburbia and country using his own personal transport. He works from both RSL WA Central and from his home office on other days. Bob has completed claims for veterans in WA, SA, QLD, VIC and NSW. His knowledge of the rules and regulations involving the various Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation and Compensation acts are second to none.

Bob has also been successful in the conduct of appeals at the Veterans Review Board where initial claims have been dismissed through lack of evidence. He has managed to have numerous claims reconsidered that has changed the outcome to the benefit of the veteran.

Bob Sheppard has worked tirelessly for the veteran community. No task is too big, and his dogged support in ensuring a satisfactory outcome for the veteran has gained him a reputation as a battler for veterans and their families regardless of their location and background.



RSL WA celebrated the achievement of three individuals at Anzac House who were recipients of Australia Day Medallions: Anne Stedman, Robert Sheppard and John Rolfe.

Celebrating our volunteers - Article from "The Listening Post" July 2025 edition.

National Volunteer Week was held on 19-25 May 25 and RSL WA would like to take the opportunity to thank all our wonderful volunteers for their time and dedication in contributing to our organisation.

Whether it be street appeal collectors, Anzac Day support, assisting the poppy ladies or being a mid-week volunteer, we are grateful for the many individuals who support our mission.

One such volunteer, Bob Sheppard, humbly goes about his work as a volunteer advocate for RSL WA.

With the help of RSL WA mentors, Bob started learning the Advocate role in 2010. By the end of 2011, he had completed his level three training.

Having been a volunteer Advocate for 15 years, Bob's volunteer work has personal significance to him.

"I volunteer for two reasons. First and foremost is to assist ex-service personnel like myself who may find it daunting navigating the Veteran's Entitlement Act to achieve a suitable outcome for any service caused injuries" he said.

"The second reason is that volunteering helps me keep my 'little grey cells' active and gives me a reason to stay mentally active." Bob said he is grateful to be able to make a difference in someone's life.

"The most enjoyment comes when clients have their mental health conditions and injuries recognised as being service-caused and hearing back from them or seeing their smiles knowing they can now get on with their lives," he said.

Bob is just one example of the many volunteers who help us make a difference in the lives of those who have served and continue to serve our country. To all our volunteers, we thank you for your support.

OP HAMMERSLEY Awards

SA representative Mark Reid was on hand on 10 December 2025 to present the OP HAMMERSLEY awards to A Squadron. In addition, the A Squadron Soldier of the Year award was presented, and the Squadron also farewelled the OC, MAJ Ben Peterson and SSM WO2 Damien Brooks.



Flanked by the OC and SSM, SA Rep Mark Reid addresses A Squadron.



Crew Commander of the Year - CPL Zacary Szecko.



Driver of the year - TPR Joshua Andrews.



Non-Crewman of the year - CPL Daniel Lane.



Soldier of the Year TPR Kai Smith receives the WO1 Lou Walker OAM Outstanding soldier award.



SSM A farewells OC A Sqn.

Association Trainee of Merit Awards



The latest Tank Gunner course concluded on 31 October. TPR Jack Crossman from 2nd Cavalry Regiment was the trainee of merit for the course and was presented with the Association award by the Senior Instructor of Gunnery Wing, CAPT Holland.

(Photo courtesy Gunnery Wing)



The final Association award for 2025 was presented to the Trainee of Merit for the Subject 4 Corporal Tank Commander course which wrapped up in early November. Newsletter Editor WO2 Graeme 'Wol' Walker presented the award to Trainee of Merit LCPL B. Sullivan of 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

(Photo courtesy WO2 Mick Morton – WOIT, Tactics Wing)



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:

Richard (Rick) George PRIEST on 23 September 2025

Allan Hoseason-SMITH on 27 October 2025

Douglas (Doug) John BLACKNEY on 14 December 2025

REGIMENTAL NEWS



The request for a Regimental update was sent quite late and so a response had not been received at the time of publishing. The following photos highlight the conclusion to a very busy year for the Regiment as the experimentation regiment under the Army Accelerated Capability Pipeline (AACP).

For more photos and details of the Regiment's end of year activities and parades, head over to the Regiment's Facebook page, at this [LINK](#).



CPL Sanchez receiving the JNCO of the Year award at the Regimental Ball, 22 Nov 25 at the Adelaide Zoo. SA representative, Mark Reid presents the Association award.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)



PTE Summers receiving the Combat Service Support soldier of the Year award.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)



**CFN Zammit receiving the CFN of the Year award.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**COL Penley addresses his final parade as CO.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**TPR Edmonds receiving the RAAC Soldier of the Year Award.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**The Regiment's incumbent CO, LTCOL Sebesfi joining COL Penley on parade.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



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Knock-off Note from the Editor

Greetings fellow members,

First up; an apology for the spelling and grammatical errors in the last edition's Knock Off Notes. Quite poor form on my behalf, so for a bit of homework, I've compiled and added a "Words 'n' Things" ready reckoner to remind myself to check and check again (see the last page after the Notices).

Welcome to the final edition of "Paratus" for 2025. Quite a few activities around the Association; great to see members getting out and about and catching up for formal and informal events. The Association awards for Tank Gunner and Commander courses have been awarded to the next generations of tank soldiers in Army. In speaking to their instructors throughout the year, I can say that the newer generations of 'tankies' are of the highest levels of training that we could expect. Bravo to all those who have passed their courses, and their instructors alike.

The Regiment has been kicking goals all year in the experimentation role, deploying personnel across the country and the globe bringing current and emerging technology to the battlespace at development speeds never before seen in Army. They are to be congratulated for their commitment to the role in an environment that is globally changing from week to week.

If you have a chance over the break, dig out some of your old photos, take a photo or two of your crusty old 'memories' from your trunk or send in your 'Where are they now?' photos and notes. Send them straight to: newsletter@paratus.org.au and/or: graeme14b11a32a@gmail.com.

Enjoy the end of year break. If you're travelling; please do so carefully, thoughtfully and sober. Arrive and return safely and I'll see you next year in Edition 108.

Cheers,
Wol Walker
Editor



"Three Four Charlie – Out"

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](#)



Common Grammatical and Spelling Mistakes Corrected

Advice – recommendation, suggestion or guidance

Advise – to give advice, inform or make aware

Bear – put up with, tolerate endure, support, uphold or sustain.

Bare – to expose or uncover, clear or basic

Bier – a stand on which a corpse, coffin, or casket is placed to lie in state or to be carried to the grave.

Beer – do you even need to ask?

Bought – to buy something; “I bought new tyres for my car.”

Brought – to bring something; “I brought my hearing protection to the range.”

Breach(es) – break, violate, contravene, infringement. A breach of safety etc.

Breech – type of birth; baby born feet first

Breeches - also called knee breeches. knee-length trousers, commonly worn by men and boys in the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries.

Core – the centre or central part of

Corp – abbreviation for Corporation; “Suncorp”

Corps – body of troops; Royal Australian Armoured Corps

Corpse – body of a deceased human / animal

Copse – small group of trees

Affect – influence, shape, change, have an effect on

Effect – result, consequence or outcome

Ensure – to make sure, make certain or guarantee

Insure – to assure, indemnify or underwrite (ie car / house insurance)

Enquire – ask, find out (general use)

Inquire – formal investigation, examination or inquest (formal use)

Hanger – implement for hanging clothes on; coat hanger.

Hangar – shed, shelter, storage place; a vehicle or aircraft hangar.

It's – it is; “It's a hot day today”

Its – shows possession; “The CLU is in its stowage box”

Loose – not fixed in place, not attached.

“Connect the loose end of the tow rope to the vehicle.”

Lose – cease to keep possession of.

“Did you lose your ID tags?”

Poor – lacking sufficient money to live at a standard considered normal in a society; of a low or inferior standard or quality

Pore – any tiny hole or opening that allows the passage of liquid

Paw – the soft foot-like part of a mammal, generally a quadruped, which has claws

Pour – flow rapidly in a steady stream, rain when falling heavily – pouring with rain

Principal – primary or first; head administrator at a school

Principle – basic assumption or ethical standard. ‘To stand by your principles’

Specific – precise, detailed, avoiding vagueness

Pacific – a large ocean located between the Americas and Asia

Or – an alternative to; A rifle or machine gun?

Ore – a type of rock that contains minerals that can be extracted; eg. Iron ore

Oar – an implement used for water-borne propulsion

Awe – an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration or fear

Sight – the ability to see; to notice or observe something/someone; to aim a weapon or device

Site – an area, lot or plot. An area on which a town, building or other installation is constructed. A website

Sort – type or variety. To arrange or separate

Sought – required or wanted. Sought after

Stationary – **immobile**, not moving

Stationery – office supplies and things used for writing

There – position or place; “The vehicle is over there”

Their – belonging to; “This is their vehicle”

They're – they are; “They're located near the vehicle”

Though – Although, even if, however

Thought – contemplation, idea, belief, theory

Thorough – careful, meticulous or detailed

Through – from beginning to end, throughout, in the course of, due to or finished

Throw – toss, chuck, pitch or bowl

Threw – past tense of throw

Tyre – rubber, pneumatic rubber or malleable steel wheel covering (UK / AUS spelling)

Tire – wear out, tire out or fatigue. (Also US spelling of rubber wheel etc)

Where – position or place; ‘Where is Puckapunyal?’

Were – past tense; “We were at Puckapunyal”

We're – we are; “We're from 2 Cav Regt”

Wear – an article of clothing/equipment; “You are to wear Dress Order 2A” **OR**

Gradual degradation by constant use of clothing, machinery or other object; to wear out.

Ware - manufactured articles of a specified type, eg "crystal ware"

Which – used to ask for something to be identified from a range of options. “Which colour do you prefer?”

Witch – someone with alleged magic powers.

Weather – the state of the earth's atmosphere

Whether – used to indicate alternatives; “I'm not sure whether X or Y is correct”

Wether – a castrated male sheep or goat

Your – shows possession; “Where is your vehicle?”

You're – you are; “You're on piquet at 0330h”

Yaw - rotation around the vertical axis. Usually relates to aircraft or flight dynamics

Wine – alcoholic substance (liquid) made from grapes

Vineyard / Winery – place that produces wine

Whine – moan, whinge or complain

Whinery – person or place that produces wine