



1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER 1 ARMD REGT ASSOCIATION | APR – JUN 26 | NO. 109

PARATUS

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



The changing face of warfare. 1st Armoured Regiment operated drones are prepared for flight during EX Black Prince 2 at Cultana Training Area
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)

1st ARMoured REGIMENT

Theatre Honours

STH VIETNAM 1968-1971

Battle Honours

Coral – Balmoral

Hat Dich

Binh Ba

Theatres of Operation

Japan (1st Armd Car Sqn)

South 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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- Crow Eaters Veteran's Retreat
- TOM Awards
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- 2027 Reunion EOI

EDITOR: Graeme (Wol) Walker
E: newsletter@paratus.org.au





PATRON
BRIG Ted Acutt, (Retd)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Keith Meloncelli
president@paratus.org.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Dean Martin (Blue Bell)
vicepresident@paratus.org.au

SECRETARY

Russ James
secretary@paratus.org.au

TREASURER

Richard (Dick) Stanios
treasurer@paratus.org.au

1 AR LO

Mark Reid
juniorvp@paratus.org.au

COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Gary McCabe
comms@paratus.org.au

RECRUITMENT MANAGER

Richard (Dick) Stanios
recruitment@paratus.org.au

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Chris Hodgson
Specialprojects1@paratus.org.au
Graeme Unmack
Specialprojects2@paratus.org.au

VIC REP

Iain Reynolds
vicrep@paratus.org.au

NSW REP

Currently Vacant
nswrep@paratus.org.au

SA REP

Mark Reid
sarep@paratus.org.au

ACT REP

Currently Vacant
actrep@paratus.org.au

QLD REP

Brian Hatfield
qldrep@paratus.org.au

NT REP

Currently Vacant
Ntrep@paratus.org.au

TAS REP

Andrew Walker
tasrep@paratus.org.au

WA REP

Pat Deeker
warep@paratus.org.au

RAAC CORPORATION DELEGATE

Chris Fenton OAM
liaison@paratus.org.au

SUPPORT

Q STORE

Vacant – Contact Secretary
storeroom@paratus.org.au

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Gary McCabe
itmanager@paratus.org.au

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/



First Parade - Editorial

Greetings fellow members,

A slight change in format with the editorial as a 'First Parade' to intro you into this, and future editions of Paratus.

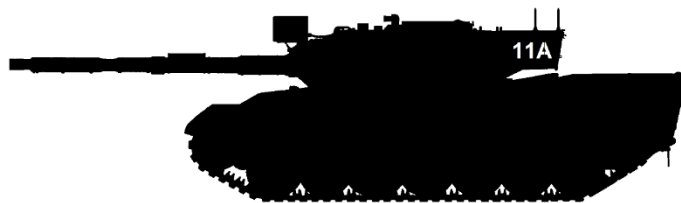
Mid way through 2026 already and the committee has commenced work on the 2027 Reunion with much work completed behind the scenes. More on that from the Secretary and there is also an Expression of Interest form at the end of the Newsletter. Get your responses in so the detailed planning can continue.

This edition of Paratus is as big as any, I've compiled; the Tolmie report from March, an Anzac Day roundup and the Crow Eaters Veteran Retreat in May. We've received an excellent, detailed update from the Regiment, who have been (and continue to be) involved in many innovative and new projects both home and abroad. Two Association Trainee of Merit awards were presented in recent weeks as well; great to see the new generations of tank soldiers achieving excellent results.

If you have a few minutes, please go back to the last edition of Paratus and see if you can identify any of the faces in Herman Harberts photos of C Squadron just prior to their deployment to Vietnam; no doubt there's a few faces that still need names.

If you have a photo or story from your Regimental days or of relevance/interest to the Association readership, please send it to: newsletter@paratus.org.au and/or: graeme14b11a32a@gmail.com. There will be room in a future edition for all submissions; no one misses out.

Cheers,
Wol Walker
Editor
One One Alpha; Out.



Association Gatherings - \$10 per Association Member Subsidy

The Association can provide a subsidy of \$10 per head for gatherings of Association members in any area to subsidise the cost of the meal. Any gathering of four (4) or more Association members for morning tea, 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)



Mixed Black Hat Dinner at Epping RSL - 13 June 26.
(Photo courtesy Peter Duncombe)



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:

- Membership Report
- Membership Renewals – the 2026 Membership Renewal Year
- New Members
- Donations
- Association Gatherings – Subsidy
- Proposed Association Reunion – Wagga Wagga, November 2027

Membership – Current Situation

As at 1 July 2026, the Association had a total of 529 active (financial) members. At this stage **29 members have not renewed** their memberships for the period 1 February to 30 June 2026.

This further loss of 29 members, following the loss of 28 members last year, is a worrying trend; this equates to a loss of just over 10% of our members in two years.

The Management Committee is not sure if the losses relate to the future of the Regiment or some communication issues that have been occurring with the Association's email delivery system (Mailchimp).

Regardless of the future of the Regiment, Association members may be assured that the 1st Armoured Regiment Association will continue, with gusto, provided that there are sufficient volunteers to undertake at least four or five of the major administrative functions.

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 January 2026:

Steven Massey, Stuart Williams, Christopher Marks, Grant Lane, Brett Hoy, George Phipps and Wei Huang.

Future Association Events

Association Gatherings - \$10 per Association Member Subsidy

See the previous page. At the Management Committee held on 21 March 2025, the subsidy of \$10 per member for social gatherings was reinforced.

Get a group together – morning tea, lunch, etc and contact the Secretary for your \$10 per head subsidy.

DO NOT leave it to others!

Donations

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

- **Mary Bell**
- **William Thompson**
- **Ian Tregenza**
- **Brian Slocombe**
- **Roger Powell**

Proposed Association Reunion – Wagga Wagga, November 2027

Association members should refer to Page 24 of this Newsletter to access details of the proposed reunion as well as the methods of indicating your intentions of attending the various reunion functions.

As of 2 July 2026, the following members, and partners, have indicated their intention to 'come to the party'!

Dennis and Rhonda Austin	Gary McCabe
Geoff and Denise Baker	Jim McKenzie
Chris and Ruth Bavistock	Christopher McLeod
Rob and Kate Breddels	Gavin McMahon
John Brooker	Gary McNabb and Helen King
Darren and Carmel Brown	Keith and Ann Meloncelli
Ian and Wendy Cummings	Jason and Sonja Mengel
Charlie Dearling	Neville and Terri Miller
Robert Dowie	Robin and Helen Millstead
John Duff and Masumi Yamamoto	William (Bill) and Frances Morris
Bruce and Katrina Ferguson	Graham Munsell and Eida Nyssen
Bob Ferrari OAM and Sue Ferrari	Alan and Jill Murphy
Robert and Rose Fleming	Greg and Brigitte Nicholas
Roger and Sue Foote	David Ritchie and Gail McIntyre
Brad Golding	David and Susan Pye
Herman and Roslyn Harberts	Mark and Gail Ann Reid
Steve Williams and Deborah Harper	Ian and Sue Roberts
John Harrison and Erica Tyler	Brandan and Alana Rodgers
Kevin Heyward	Peter and Vicki Rosemond
John and Lynda Howard	Richard (Dick) Stanios
Kevin and Angela Hunter	Bruce and Lorraine Tarran
Russ James and Bernadette McGill	Des and Betty Thompson
Robert and Lyn Kennard	David Tronerud
Geoffrey and Judith Lowe	Trevor Watts
Robert and Michelle Mackenzie	Alex and Enid Wolf
Dean Martin and Klaudia Simon	
Michael and Leanne Masterson	

The Association has also received verbal advice that at least another 10 or so members (including partners) intend to be with us. However, registrations have not yet been received.

Watch your emails for further updates as more detailed planning is undertaken!

March Tolmie Camping Trip

The Tolmie report didn't quite get to the last edition so here's Vic Rep Iain Reynold's report on the camping weekend on the Victoria Labour Day long weekend in March.



The Tolmie Camping Group held their camping trip over the Labour weekend. We had 12 members attend over the weekend, many arriving early during the week to conduct a reconnaissance and to hold ground waiting for the main body to arrive on Saturday. The set-up for this year's camping trip was the best ever that we have had since we started the camping trips way back in 2012 with very little.

Thanks to Tubby Brooker who brought up his projector and screen, therefor we were able to have movie nights with some training videos thrown in as well.

On the Sunday afternoon the Tolmie Social Club organized a band as well as the Tolmie Line Dancers. It was a great afternoon of entertainment & we thank the Tolmie community for always making us feel welcome when we were up there, especially Linda & Trevor for looking after us and also providing firewood.

A big thank you to Peter Swinfield for taking some of the load off me by purchasing his own trailer to share the load & haul half the load to Tolmie as it has gotten too big for one trailer and one person to manage.

It was great to see the popularity of the Victorian camping trip, that we even get interstate Ex-1AR people crossing the borders to attend, and couple of people even coming up for 1 night.

Anyone that has not attended one of the Victorian camping trips that are thinking of coming along should make the effort. It's a great way to catch up with mates over a beer & just chill out for the weekend.

Below is the list that attended the weekend.

Dick Stanios, Graeme Potts, Iain Reynolds, Keith Johnson, Max Hammond, Peter Keane, Peter Swinfield, Rob Breddels, Rob Splatt, Simon Williams, Tubby Brooker, Wal Ovenden.



Tubby & Potts relaxing in front of the Love Bug



Pottsy, Pete Swinfield, Peter Keane & Tubby



Wal Ovenden having a smoke & a rest after watching a couple across the oval exercise for an hour.



Believe it or Not! Simon "Pockets" Williams in a swag.



Steak dinner with peppercorn sauce, specially made by Peter Keane.



Movie night



Dick Stanios & Robby Breddels; who travelled down from NSW for the event.



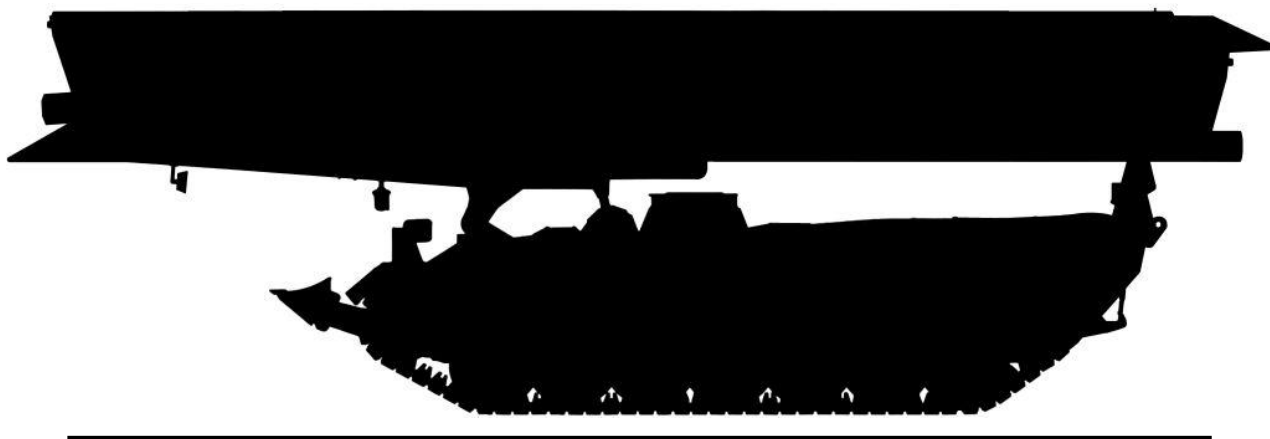
Iain Reynolds, Max Hammond, Wal Ovenden, Pete Swinfield & Robby Breddels enjoying the afternoon with a Guinness or 2 listening to the band.



The Band

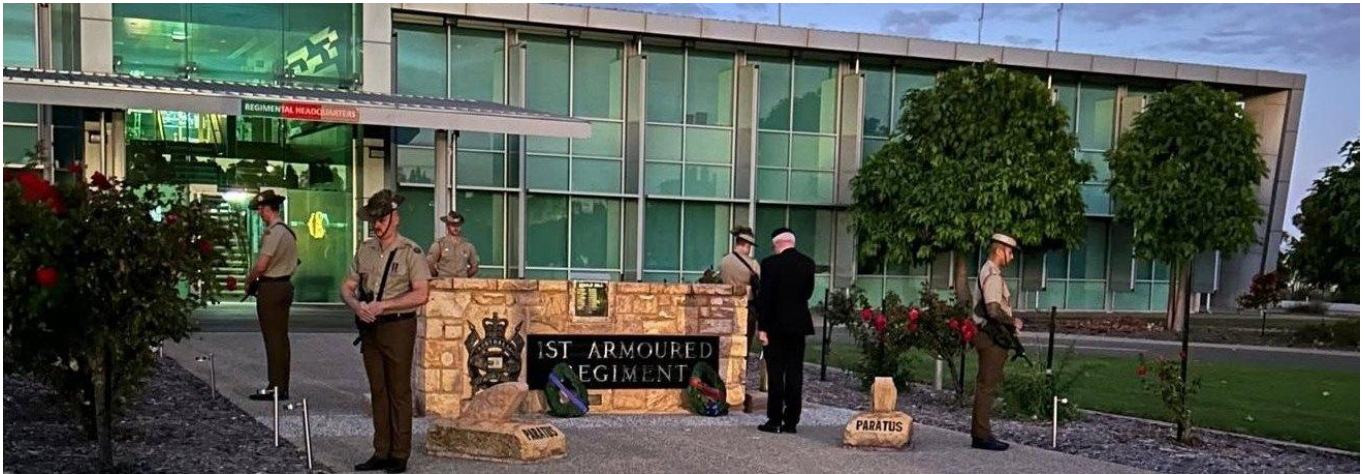


Wal Ovenden, Graeme Potts, Robby Breddles, Peter Swinfield, Max Hammond, Tubby Brooker, Dick Stanios, Peter Keane, Iain Reynolds, Keith Johnson, Bob Splatt (absent: Simon "Pockets" Williams)



Anzac Day

The Association showed up far and wide on Anzac Day. The following photos are just a small example of our members commemorating the day.



SA Rep Mark Reid lays a wreath at the Regiment's Dawn service.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)



Forming up in Brisbane; Luke Hickey at left holds the Association banner shortly before stepping off.
(Photo courtesy Tony Rigby via Facebook)



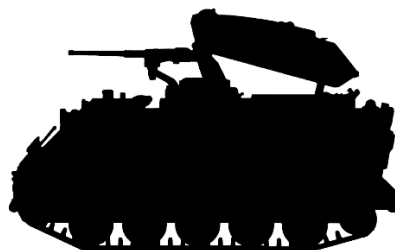
Melbourne based Association members at the end of the march.
(Photo courtesy Herman Harberts via the Association Members Facebook page)



**Vic Rep Iain Reynolds, Phil Cornish, Wally Ovenden and Max Hammond at the conclusion of the Dawn service in Hellfire Pass, Thailand. Along with Joe Linford, the group spent Anzac week in Thailand.
(Photo courtesy Iain Reynolds via Facebook)**



**Trevor Lowe at his local Anzac Day march.
(Photo courtesy Trevor Lowe via the 1st Armoured Regiment Assn Social Facebook page)**



Crow Eaters Veteran's Retreat

This year's Crow Eaters retreat was another great success; Lou Walker has sent in the following report and photos of the weekend.

Another successful 'Crow Eater's Veterans Retreat' run by veterans of the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc, has been conducted at the Junction Outstation, Quorn South Australia, with 14 die hard veterans travelling from NSW, VIC, far north SA and others from near and far in SA, who refused to yield to the fuel crisis, attending. Cost per attendee was \$80 and with the \$10 reimbursed by the Association, it was only \$70 per Association member! This equated to \$8.75 per meal for the eight meals supplied by the Retreat.

Activities for the Retreat consisted of bar snacks followed by a welcome BBQ on both Thursday and Friday afternoon and on Friday a 'Bush Games' afternoon culminating with a clay shoot. The winning team by one clay was Trevor Watts and Trevor Grantham. We then hosted a 'Veterans and Friends' BBQ with the Mayor of the FRC as the principal guest, along with local farmers and identities. All the guests support the Retreat in one form or the other and we all value their support. Once again, my gratitude to Alex Wolf for supplying the shot gun, shells, clays and clay dispatcher for our annual shoot at the Retreat.

On Saturday morning after breakfast, we headed back to Quorn to contest the 'Annual Bowls Comp' at the Quorn Bowling Club, won by Kevin Davies and Dennis Austin, followed by lunch on the green supplied by Barb Walker. Then a short drive to a sheep property for a shearing and wool classing demonstration, followed by tea/coffee, scones, butter and jam supplied by our hosts. Thank you to the owners, Jane and Richie Paynter.

On Saturday night the 'Camp Fire Roast Gala Dinner', consisting of 3 roast lamb legs, potatoes, carrots and onions with peas and gravy, cooked by yours truly was held at the main venue of the Retreat, followed by sweets of Quandong pies, made by Barb Walker and ice cream. After dinner, presentations were made to the winning pairs of the 'Bush Games Comp' and the winning pairs of the 'Annual Bowls Comp'. All winners were awarded individual prizes with the 'Annual Bowls Comp' trophy to be engraved with the winning team name, Team Stinger'.

Andrew Rule (Ruley, Asa), the Retreat charity fund raiser, reported that a sum of \$502 was raised during the Retreat for the RFDS. Well done to all and congratulations to the prize winners. All the prizes were donated by local sponsors. Total funds raised for the RFDS stands at \$3500.

After breakfast and location clean-up on Sunday morning we headed back into Quorn to say 'thank you' to the property owners, Graham and Val Francis, for their dedicated support for 11 years of the 'Retreat' being conducted.

2026 proved to be a challenge to all attendees because of the fuel crisis, but being who they are, their attendance made it another successful 'Retreat'. I believe the 'Retreat' is a valuable opportunity for those that attend to mix and talk to like-minded spirits and to rekindle friendships from days gone by and to expand on their stories of the time they spent as members of the 1st Armoured Regiment.

I would like to thank all attendees over the past eleven 'Retreats', 117 in total, for making the trip to Quorn SA and to reunite with fellow veterans and to continue the spirit of the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc. I hope to see old and new faces next year, health permitting, for another 'Crow Eater's Veterans Retreat'.

Paratus



Bush Games with the darts competition. Russell Wood throwing with Roger Martlew looking on.



Bush Games clay shoot to end the Bush Games with Mark Reid firing down range and yours truly operating the clay thrower.



Bush Games Quoits with Aussie Austin throwing and Russell Wood having a breather.



Bush Games, bean hole segment with Mark Reid throwing.



Bush Games Darts segment with Trevor Watts throwing.



Shearing and wool classing demo with Dennis (Duck) Parkin learning the skills of the roustabout.



Shearing talk from Ritchie Paynter describing the shearing hand piece.



Bowls Comp winners, Aussie and Davo after presentation of the trophy at the Gala Camp Fire Dinner.



Bowls Comp group photo of the ones that played.



Bowls Comp with Asa Rule bowling and Mark Reid awaiting to bowl.



Gala Camp Fire Roast Dinner with some absent when I took the shot.



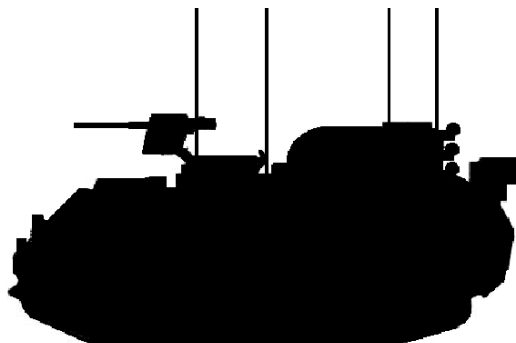
Group photo at our host's house, Graham and Val Francis. Trevor Grantham absent (early departure).



Presented to the Crow Eater's Veterans Retreat by Barry Hodges to be displayed at all future Gala Dinners.



Andrew Rule presenting Jane and Ritchie Paynter a memento of our visit to their shearing shed on behalf of the Crow Eaters Veterans Retreat.



Association Trainee of Merit Awards

The first tank gunner and commanders courses for 2026 have concluded; the Trainees of Merit were presented the Association awards by the Editor.



Trainee of Merit for the Subject 4 Corporal Tank Commander course which wrapped up at the end of May was LCPL K Stokman from the School of Armour. Promoted at the end of course, CPL Stokman served in 1st Armoured Regiment until the end of 2024. Newsletter Editor WO2 Graeme 'Wol' Walker presented the award.

(Photo courtesy LT Campbell, Tank Tp, B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt (AKA Spt Sqn))



Trainee of Merit for the Tank Gunners course completed in mid-June. Trooper L Koppen from 2 Cav Regt was the Trainee of Merit and was presented with the Association award by Newsletter Editor WO2 Graeme 'Wol' Walker.

(Photo courtesy WO2 McDonough, Gunnery 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:

Colin John (Pixie) Webster - 30 April 2026

Russell (Russ) Gannon - 21 May 2026

Leslie (Les) Lock - 22 May 2026

Ronald (Ron) Lesley Brown - 29 May 2026

Desmond John Wylie – 01 Jun 2026

Trevor Grantham - 08 June 2026

Dennis Crowe (RAEME) - 15 Jun 2026

Zev BEN-AVI - 16 June 2026



REGIMENTAL NEWS



The following comprehensive update has been sent in by the ADJT, CAPT Luke Stella who has just arrived overseas for PCC6 (see below for details). We are very grateful for the updates of the Regiment's activities, even whilst they are fully engaged in their experimentation, integration, training and development work.

Regimental Update: January – June 2026

The 1st Armoured Regiment commenced 2026 continuing the rapid pace that it set in 2025. The Regiment, fresh back from Christmas break, quickly got down to the business of preparing for its mid-year deployment to the United States, participating in Project Convergence Capstone 6 (PCC6). PCC6 will be the US Army's largest experimentation exercise conducted to date with anticipated participation of over 10 thousand soldiers from across the Five-Eyes Armies. As part of PCC6, the Regiment will form a Battlegroup (BG) incorporating attachments from across the 1st (Australian) Division, and the New Zealand Army, to form BG ANZAC. BG ANZAC will attach to 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division for their National Training Centre (NTC) rotation at Fort Irwin, California.

Training and Integration

From February to March, the Regiment welcomed a new intake of soldiers and officers. Members of the Regiment immediately undertook a wide range of individual courses essential to operational readiness. These included PMV-L driver and crew commander training, M113 AS4 familiarisation, F9 pistol qualifications, first aid certification, and various Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) qualification courses.

Over this two-month period, the Regiment successfully trained 424 personnel across 23 courses—an exceptional achievement that reflects the professionalism and dedication of its instructors.

In parallel, a small Regimental team deployed to the United Kingdom (UK) to participate in the Army Warfighting Experiment 2026. This UK hosted trilateral activity included soldiers from the UK, USA and Australia, and focused on swarm search and strike technologies, with an emphasis on the integration of artificial intelligence. The deployment provided valuable insights into emerging capabilities and reinforced the Regiment's role at the forefront of innovation.

Exercise Black Prince 2

Following an intensive individual training period, the Regiment shifted to collective training, deploying to Cultana to conduct Exercise Black Prince 2 (BP2). This activity provided squadrons with the opportunity to test and refine a new communications network, enhancing connectivity and coordination across the force.

More notably, BP2 marked a series of significant firsts for the conventional Army:

Use of First Person View (FPV) UAS strike at scale conducted during a Field Training Exercise (FTX)

The first FPV UAS fibre optic cable-enabled strike within an FTX

The first end-to-end production of equipment components using Advanced Manufacturing in tactical field conditions

These achievements highlight the Regiment's commitment to innovation and its ability to adapt cutting-edge technologies to operational scenarios.

Commemoration and Continued Development

The Regiment, as part of 9 Brigade, marched through Adelaide CBD during the Australian Defence Force's Anzac Day commemorations. Prior to the march, the Regiment held a Dawn Service, with representation from the Association participating with readings and a wreath laying. Notably this year, 9 Brigade had the honour of parading the Army Banner shortly after the Army's 125th birthday. Around the same period, selected personnel travelled to Puckapunyal to participate in the conventional Army's first FPV live-fire activity—another landmark step forward in capability development.

Preparation for Project Convergence Capstone 6

With PCC6 approaching, the Regiment shifted its focus toward large-scale integration and deployment. BG ANZAC was formed in May, with the Regiment welcoming attachments from 5/7 RAR, 8/12 REGT, 1 CER, 1 CSR, 1 CSSB, 3HB, 7 SIG, and the NZ Army.

After a week of in barracks equipment familiarisation training and .50 calibre weapons handling, the Regiment (now with attachments) returned to Cultana for Exercise Black Prince 3 (BP3). This activity focused on integration newly formed combat teams and exposing attachments to the experimental equipment the Regiment operates.

BP3 featured several live-fire activities, including:

FPV UAS strike operations (transitioning this skill to 5/7 RAR personnel)

The Army's first UGV live-fire activity, where two UGVs—each carrying 50 kg of explosives—successfully reduced both an obstacle and a bunker

.50 calibre live-fire qualification shoots for attached personnel

In addition, the Regiment achieved another milestone with the Army's first field-based manufacturing and successful flight of an FPV drone produced entirely in the field environment.

Looking Ahead

With deployment on PCC6 fast approaching, the Regiment is now firmly focused on battle preparation. Logisticians are working tirelessly to coordinate the significant air movement of personnel and equipment required for integration with the United States 4th Infantry Division.

During PCC6, BG ANZAC will provide a reconnaissance capability that can both sense and strike in depth for the division. The battlegroup has been tasked with forming the lead element of the division's central Brigade advance during the warfighting activity—an undertaking that reflects both the confidence placed in the Regiment and its demonstrated capability.

Throughout the first half of 2026, the Regiment continues to set the standard for Army's innovation and adaptation. As deployment to the US draws near, the Regiment looks forward to demonstrating its professionalism on the international stage.

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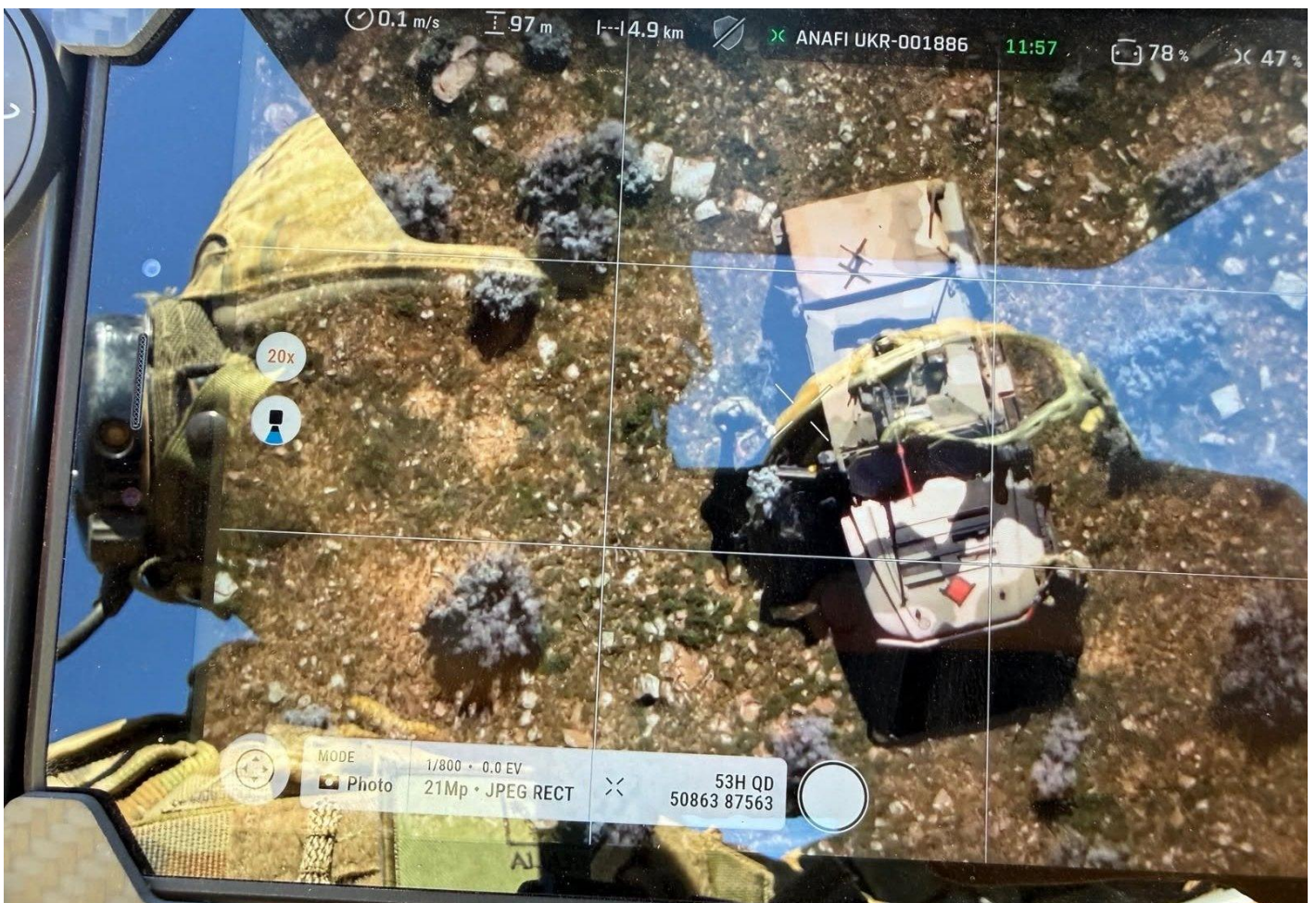
Further photos, video footage and details can be found on the Regiment's Facebook page can be found at this [LINK](#).



**1st Armoured Regiment members, as part of 9 Brigade at the Anzac day march in Adelaide.
(Photo courtesy 9th Brigade – Australian Army Facebook page)**



**First Person View (FPV) Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) strike serial during Exercise Black Prince 2.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**Operator's FPV screen view from a UAV during Exercise Black Prince 2.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**

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?

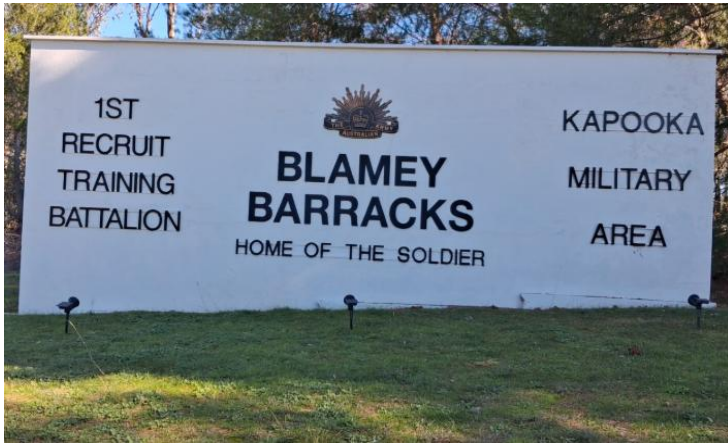
If you or anyone you know is considering pursuing claims through DVA and aren't too confident of the process or who to approach to commence your claim, please contact the Secretary who can put you in touch with an advocate to ensure your claims will be dealt with thoroughly, correctly and to ensure the 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](#)





This is the place for our next Reunion! November 2027

EOI – Expression of Interest

Events are likely to include:

1. Wednesday Evening - 10 November 2027 – Meet and Greet
2. Thursday Morning - 11 November – Remembrance Day March to Cenotaph
3. Thursday Afternoon – 11 November – Sightseeing, museums, etc
4. Friday Morning – 12 November – March Out Parade at 1RTB Kapooka
5. Friday Afternoon – 12 November – Free time, shopping
6. Friday Evening – 12 November – Reunion Dinner
7. Saturday Morning – 13 November – Tour of the 1st Recruit Training Battalion
8. Saturday Afternoon and evening - Troop and Squadron gatherings,
9. Sunday Morning – 14 November – potential for Recovery/Farewell Breakfast
10. Sunday – trip to Coral-Balmoral/Norden VC Memorial at Gundagai
11. Sunday Morning/Afternoon – individual recovery, sightseeing, golf, fishing, etc
12. Monday – 15 November - It is time to do your own thing!

REGISTER NOW – NO OBLIGATION - WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Reunion Sub-Committee must start planning!

RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW – NUMBERS MAY BE LIMITED

Complete the form over the page

or use your phone and select the QR code →.





Expression of Interest
1st Armoured Regiment Association 2027 Reunion
To be held in Wagga Wagga, NSW
Wednesday 10 November to Sunday 14 November 2027

To Register: Print this form and complete by hand or

Control Click on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/uW3W4K1rFP?origin=lprLink>

STEP 1

Name/Names _____ Partner _____

I / we intend to attend Reunion events

Yes

☐

Contact Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Member of (circle one only): 1st Armd Regt Assn, 1st Armd Regt, veteran of 1st Armd Regt, Black Hat, other

STEP 2

Do you intend to invite other family members or friends to participate in any of the Reunion Events? If yes, please provide names:

STEP 3

Please tick either the Yes or No box to indicate your likely attendance at:

(Until final details have been agreed, costs are indicative only and there could be a small % increase around 30 June 2027)

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Meet and Greet (Wednesday evening) - around \$65/70 per person | ☐ | ☐ |
| b. Remembrance Day March (Thursday morning) – no cost | ☐ | ☐ |
| c. March Out Parade at Recruit Training Battalion (Friday) – own transport | ☐ | ☐ |
| d. Reunion Dinner – (Friday) around \$110/115 per person | ☐ | ☐ |
| e. Visit to Recruit Training Battalion (Saturday) - \$20 for BBQ Lunch | ☐ | ☐ |
| f. Visit Coral-Balmoral/Norden VC Memorial in Gundagai (Sunday)- approx. \$65 | ☐ | ☐ |

Other Activities

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Partners Morning Tea (possibly Saturday Morning) \$20 per person | ☐ | ☐ |
| b. Recovery Breakfast (possibly Sunday Morning) \$25 per person | ☐ | ☐ |

STEP 4

Please complete and send this form before **30 June 2026** either electronically to:

Secretary@paratus.org.au with a copy to vicepresident@paratus.org.au

Or by hard copy to:

Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association, PO Box 301 Mentone Vic 3194



Our Objectives

The objectives of the 2027 Wagga Wagga Reunion Sub-Committee are to:

- Provide an environment that enables former and current members of the 1st Armoured Regiment and Armoured Corps, to socialise in relaxed social setting along with a degree of formality at our reunion dinner.
- Gather as many 'black hats' in the one location, from all eras; that is from the 1950s through to the current day.
- Provide an opportunity for former veterans to visit the Recruit Training Battalion and recall those 'heady days' of recruit training.
- Provide an opportunity for veterans and family members to tour recruit accommodations and witness the living standards many of us tolerated for 10 to 13 weeks when we first joined the Army. To understand the layout of the Recruit Training Battalion and barrack blocks prior to the demolition of older barrack blocks in late 2027. Black hat guides to explain future developments including relocation of Parade Ground!
- Meet and enjoy each other's company in a semi-formal environment that recognises older traditions as well as current societal norms.
- Provide a Reunion location (Wagga Wagga) that offers participants a range of potential activities in a rural setting whilst allowing veterans to reminisce our early military days!

Costings and Registration

Estimated events and registration costs may vary depending upon the number of attendees as well as economic factors. There will be a small additional charge for non-Association members (this does not apply to partners, and family members, who attend with an Association or Serving member).

Deposits of around 15% may be required in advance – invoices are to be issued by the Association so that bookings with venue/event operators may be locked in. Deposits are fully refundable in case of illnesses, etc.

Your Reunion Sub-Committee:

Dean Martin (RAEME) – Chair, Merchandise

Dick Stanios – Treasurer

Gary McCabe – Communications

John Brooker – Committee Member

Russ James – Secretary 1ARA

Mel Meloncelli – Committee Member

Chris Fenton – Seating Plans, Protocol

David Maxwell – Liaison with Wagga Wagga RSL Sub-Branch and RSL Club

Your response to the EOI is very important so that the Reunion Sub-Committee may proceed with planning.

Please register your response by following the link or completing the form on the previous page or the QR code