



PARATUS

1ST ARMOURD
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 16 930 055 791

W: www.paratus.org.au

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PO Box 301, Mentone VIC 3194

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Australian Tank Corps – Brass Hat Badge – 1930 to 1942

1st Armoured Regiment Theatres of Operation

Japan

Vietnam

Battle Honours

- Coral - Balmoral
- Hat Dich
- Binh Ba

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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Editor's Desk

Peter Lukeis

comms@paratus.org.au

Due to a misunderstanding between the original author and the Association concerning permissions, the article that was provided on this page had been deleted.

Peter Lukeis
Communications Manager
On behalf of the **1st Armoured Regiment Association Committee**



Peter Lukeis

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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.raaccorp ltd.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

E: secretary@paratus.org.au

B: Bendigo Bank

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

BSB: 633-000 Account: 161498159



August 2020

Association in Lockdown

I am pleased to advise that various Members of the Management Committee have continued to carry out their responsibilities despite the difficulties imposed by Coronavirus restrictions; particularly those in Victoria. The only real difficulty now is bulk printing and distribution of information to those members who do not have internet access (often referred to as our 'snail mailers'!).

There can be no doubt that some of us, particularly those in Melbourne have experienced, or continue to experience, 'cabin fever' or 'bunker isolation syndrome'! Under normal circumstances facing such a situation would be difficult, but the situation is exacerbated by our fearless political leaders and their inept decision-making processes.

I would urge all members to 'ring-a-mate', or even two or more, on a fairly regular basis, even just to air your thoughts or vent your feelings against those who are supposedly in control, as well as those who continue to flout the restrictions. The catchcry of 'we are all in this together' starts to wear just a little thin when the rules seems to favour some groups over others. My thoughts go out to all those members who are in small business, sole operators, and those whose employment has been affected in any way.

Please do not hesitate to call a mate if you need to have a chat!

Management Committee Meetings

Since the last Newsletter (May 2020) there have been two (2) management Committee meetings; 18 May 20 and 23 June 20. The next meeting is to be scheduled for late August. Major points discussed at the last two meetings include:

- a. Overseas Care Packages were sent to three members of the Regiment serving in combat-related areas earlier this year,
- b. Certificates of Acknowledgement of their participation in Coral/Balmoral were sent to 34 Association members in late May/early June prior to the 52nd anniversary of those battles,
- c. The planned Zoom meeting with the CO and RSM has still not occurred primarily due to the commitments of the Regiment, initially with training at Cultana and more recently because of the Regiment's support of the civilian community in a variety of settings,

- d. New batteries for 169005 have been sourced and are available, but cannot be collected or installed due to the Stage 4 lockdown in Victoria as well as restrictions on the Museum and the use of volunteers,
- e. Revised Financial Statements for 2018/19 were prepared, submitted to all Association members via email and finally provided to Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV),
- f. The proposed Nominal Roll of Association members was approved, and the first version released on 22 July 2020 with just 105 names. The third version was released on 21 August with 205 members listed and the next version should be released on 4 September. At this time the total who have provided their permission for inclusion is 215. Only 290 or so to achieve a complete list. A number of queries have been received as to whether the Association should include those former members of the Association who have passed to the green fields beyond. This issue is to be addressed at the next meeting,
- g. At the May Meeting a Sub-Committee was formed with the task of examining all aspect of Q Store Operations including products stocked and sold. The Sub-Committee is chaired by Dean Martin (the Bluebell) with Jim Semmens and Dick Stanios as members,
- h. At the June meeting a budget of \$500 was approved for the conduct of the AGM to be held at Broadford RSL on 12 September 20. The Stage 4 Restrictions imposed on Melbourne and Stage 3 Restrictions for the Mitchell Shire (which includes Broadford) means that the AGM is unlikely to proceed for some months. The alternative is to conduct the AGM using Zoom but identified issues include the validation of proxies and secret ballots if required. An approach will be made to CAV to seek an exemption to have the AGM within five (5) months of the end of our financial year if the situation in Victoria does not improve by the middle of October.
- i. A Sub-Committee was also formed at the June 20 meeting to examine and report on two nominations that had been received for Life Membership of the Association. Details of the nominations are to be released approximately three weeks prior to the AGM to enable all Association members to provide input.

Membership Renewals

As many of you would be aware Membership is my pet subject and membership renewals provide an indication of members' general perception of the Management Committee. I am incredibly pleased to advise that 149 members, or 95.5% of members due to renew, did so. Only two (2) members emailed their resignations and another five (5) members could not be contacted. In accordance with the Constitution, these seven members were removed from our email lists on 1 August 20. Our next challenge will be on 1 February 2021 when 224 members are due to renew their membership of the Association. Reminder notices will be sent to those members in December/January.

Current Membership Numbers

As at 13 August, we have a total of 493 active members in the Association; this is an increase of around 117 since the AGM held on 14 July 2018 when the current Management Committee was elected.

At present the Association does not have a Recruitment Manager and we are largely dependent on existing members to encourage their friends to join. Anyone interested in this important role please contact me on: secretary@paratus.org.au.

I would urge all members to examine the published Nominal Roll and ensure that not only are they included but also their mates. If your mate is missing, give him a call to ensure that he is included on the Nominal Roll or joins the Association.

Where to From Here?

Whilst previously stated in Newsletters, the Management Committee continues to focus on:

- Increasing recruitment, especially of the younger generation
- Continue drafting the By-Laws of the Association as well as forming a Sub-Committee to review the draft By-Laws which should be ready in about four (4) weeks. Anyone who is interested in being co-opted for this very important work should contact me.
- Identify areas for future spending that would encourage members to renew their memberships as well as attracting new members
- Continue to recognise the passing of those former members of the Regiment, regardless of membership of the Association.

Donations since February 2020

Ian Hunter	Bob (Snapper) Snape
Phil Mahoney	Graeme Unmack
Doug Peel	Phil Reeves
Ron (Dinga) Bell	

New Members

Peter Cleland (24 May 20)
Geoff Watson (27 May 20)
Ron Scutt (3 June 20)
Doug Fitzgerald (24 July 20)
Chris Fredericks (19 August 2020)

Deaths

Brian Frank (Lofty) Harris (18 July 2020)
Lindsay John Millar (29 May 2020)
Stephen Ellis (Stretch) Hazell (March 2020)
Ruth Phoenix, wife of John Phoenix, (late May 2020)
Kenneth Graham Wilson (27 Apr 2020)

IMPORTANT

Contact Details – as indicated in the last newsletter it is important that our membership contact details are up to date. If in doubt, please advise the Secretary at secretary@paratus.org.au if you have changed your address, your phone numbers or your email address/s in the last couple of years!

1981 & 2005 - Two Interesting Years

Interesting Year 1981

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.

Interesting Year 2005

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.



"I certainly hope it doesn't take me as long to pay the bill as it did for you to get the part."



1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Honour Roll

Killed In Action

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

Died of Wounds

TPR M. Hannaford
WO2 T. Phillips

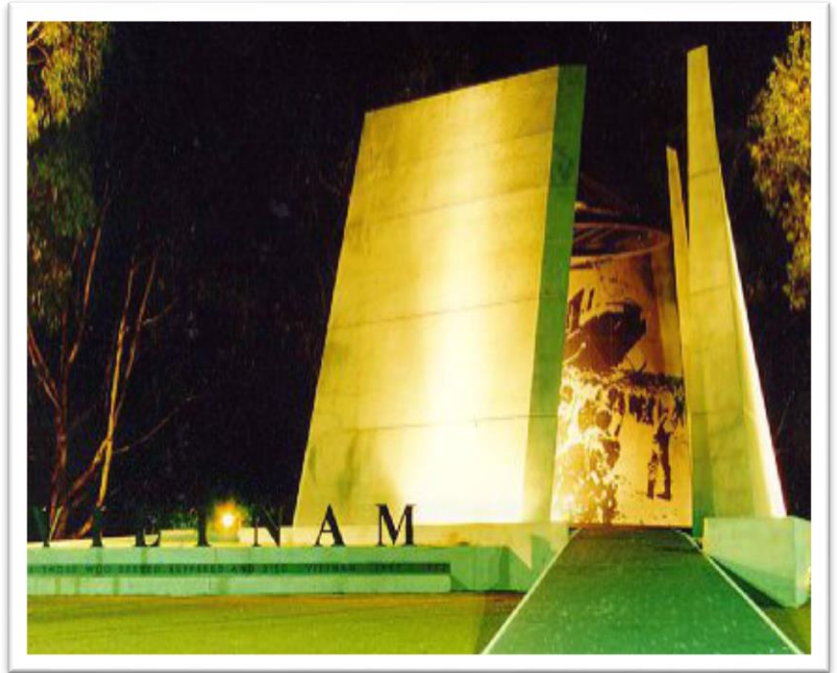
DOW Post-Vietnam

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)

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



Regiment's 71st Birthday

As you would no doubt be aware, the REGT recently celebrated its 71st Birthday, with a small gathering witnessing the cutting of the birthday cake by LTCOL Tim Orders and TPR Connor Hall.

As 1 ARMD REGT is still currently restricted in its use of social media, I've attached a photo of the cake and of the cutting itself for the association to use as it sees fit, including on your own social media pages if you wish.

Kind regards,

D.T.R. Coleman

Captain

Adjutant

1st Armoured Regiment



1st Armoured Regiment Association

Port Macquarie Reunion 2021 - Registration Form

1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Separate Registration forms are to be submitted for guests (two guests per form).
Places at the Reunion are to be reserved in the order that Registrations are received.
Registrations fees may be paid after the situation with COVID-19 is clearer.
**Registrations close 1 May 21 and full payment is required by 1 Jun 2021

Personal and Contact Details

	Title/Rank	First Name	Surname	Preferred Name	Member No
Name					
Wife/Partner					
Postal Address					
Home Phone		Mobile		Email	
Corps/Unit/Regiment/Squadron/Troop details including years and location served:					
Events				No. Attending	Total \$
Registration Fee – See Note 1	\$35 per person (Member and Wife/Partner)				
	\$40 per person for non-members				
I/We would like to attend the following functions:					
Fri 23 Jul 2021 - Meet and Greet	\$50 pp members	\$55 pp non-members			
Sat 24 Jul 2021 - Reunion Dinner	\$120 pp members	\$135 pp non-members			
Sun 25 Jul 2021 - Recovery Breakfast	\$15 pp members	\$17 pp non-members			
				Total Cost	\$
Special Dietary Requirements:					

Please Note: All travel and accommodation for the Reunion weekend are the responsibility of attendees.

Payment Details: When sending this completed form the registration fee may be paid, either by an electronic funds transfer to BSB: 633-000, Account No: 161498159 and Reference '**PM21 REG Surname**' **Important** Or by Cheque or Money Order to: Secretary, 1st Armd Regt Assoc, PO Box 301 MENTONE VIC 3194

Subsequent Payments: On receipt of this Registration Form, the Association Treasurer is to prepare and send an itemised invoice to the member's address. Lump sum, part payments or instalments are acceptable.

Disclaimer – In submitting this form, you agree to the following:

All members, their partners and guests attending the Port Macquarie Reunion do so at their own risk. The Association and Reunion committee accept no responsibility for personal injury, property damage or any loss that maybe suffered through participation in any event/s comprising the 1st Armoured Regiment Association 2021 Reunion.

Signature:

Date:

Scan or copy and Email to:

johnnya955@gmail.com, cc to Secretary@paratus.org.au

Or post to:

John Atkinson, Secretary, Reunion Sub-Committee
6 Forrest St, LAKE ALBERT
NSW 2650

Note 1. Due to the Coronavirus, Registration Fees do not have to be paid at this time. Any Registration Fees that are paid will be fully refunded if it is necessary to postpone or cancel the reunion due to Coronavirus.



1st Armoured Regiment Association Port Macquarie Reunion 2021

UPDATE
July 2020

'What's happening and Who's coming so far'

Welcome to the July 2020 Reunion update. COVID 19 continues to muddy the waters with State borders tightly controlled and Victorians locked out at every border, however, planning for the Reunion continues. 61 Registrations have been received, but we would like over 100. Please register if you plan to attend so that Reunion planning continues with a degree of certainty.

Expressions of Interest that were submitted last year are not the same as the Registration Form which provides the Reunion Committee with your firm intention to attend. It also provides you with a guarantee that spaces are reserved for you!

Registration forms are available in the May 2020 Association newsletter, on the Association Website <https://www.paratus.org.au/reunion-2021>, on the Members Only Face Book page (26 May 2020) or email the Secretary of the Association or the Sect. of the Reunion.

As previously advised, Registration fees do not have to be paid as yet, and any monies paid will be fully refunded if the Reunion is deferred or cancelled.

The Reunion Sub-Committee thanks all those who have registered. Now is the time to start thinking about who you might like to sit with at the Reunion dinner. The Seating Plan is to be based on tables of 10. If you are planning to sit with friends or family, please appoint a Table Captain to organise who will be on their table. All requests for seating preferences should be honoured, unless someone is booked on multiple tables.

The NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall Holiday Park (1800 636 452) have indicated that as far as possible Reunion attendees should be co-located in the following area: Cabins 29-36, 53&67 (4 berth), sites 18-27, 37-49, 54-65 (all no pets - pet sites are from 5th Ave down). When booking nominate site and advise that you are with the 1AR Assoc. Reunion.

Need only pay a deposit now, 24 hours' notice to cancel – 10% discount if 10 or more vans book (so far, they have 1 booking), area referred to is circled in black on the attached map.

Registrations have been received for the following:

Johnny Atkinson	Geoff & Den Baker
Dennis & Helen Britten	Barry Chambers
Ian & Wendy Cummings	Charlie Darling
Chris & Jan Fenton	Bob & Sue Ferrari
Roger & Sue Foote	Paddy & Debbie Garrigan
Brad Golding	Werner Golla
Chook Henry & Kris Witty	Phil & Sue Hoseason-Smith
Kevin & Angela Hunter	David & Vicki Key
Brian & Deidre Lewis	Des & Fran Mahar
George & Suellen Main	Dean & Denise Martin
David & Ann Maxwell	Neville & Terri Miller
Gary McNabb & Helen King	Mick & Judi Payne
Bill & Frances Morris	Phil & Brenda Rossiter
Mal & Carol Reardon	Graeme Unmack
Bill & Mary Stanfield	Trevor Watts
Phil & Beverley Vicino	John & Patricia Wilson
Brian & Margaret Hatfield	Dick and Iris James

If your name does not appear on the list and you believe you have registered then contact us immediately as your info could have been lost in cyberspace or the post.

Please note, if you want to take advantage of the Rydge's accommodation deal (last update) then contact Rydges in Port Macquarie direct on **(02) 6589 2888** rather than any other number.

Reminder - the link [portmacquarieinfo](#) provides full details of the area's attractions and amenities.

Questions and suggestions regarding these updates and the Reunion can be directed to

Mick Payne at jicknmudi@gmail.com or
John Atkinson at johnnya955@gmail.com

As Always - looking forward to seeing you in Port in 2021.

Port Macquarie Breakwall

MID NORTH COAST, NSW



Camping

- Powered site
- Unpowered site
- Allocation of unpowered sites only during the Christmas and Easter period.

Accommodation

- Riverside cabin
- Breakwall cabin
- Riverside cabin - 6 berth
- Riverside cabin - 4 berth
- Cheery breeze cabin
- Studio

Facilities

- Ⓜ Amenities
- Ⓜ Swimming pool
- Ⓜ BBQ
- Ⓜ Kiosk
- Ⓜ Playground
- Ⓜ Camp kitchen
- Ⓜ Dump point
- Ⓜ Bin station
- Ⓜ Fire extinguisher
- Ⓜ Fire hose reel
- Ⓜ Fire hydrant
- Ⓜ Evacuation meeting point





Latest Report from the Reunion Committee for the August Newsletter

Questions and suggestions regarding these updates and the Reunion can be directed to
Mick Payne at jicknmudi@gmail.com or
John Atkinson at johnnya955@gmail.com

The 1st Armoured Regiment Reunion for 2021 is planned for Port Macquarie, NSW. It is to be over three days with a Meet and Greet on Friday 23 July 2021, Reunion Dinner on Saturday 24 July 2021 and a Recovery Breakfast on Sunday 25 July 2021.

The 'Expression of Interest' (distributed in late 2019) was used to map out the reunion according to the wishes of the majority.

In February 2020, **Registration Forms** were sent out. Copies may be obtained from the Association website or by email from the Reunion Secretary or the Association Secretary. Completion and submission of the Registration form reserves a place at the Reunion.

The theme of the reunion is to focus on 'people and mateship'. The Reunion is seen as an opportunity to bring our widely dispersed membership - geographically, varying timeframes and ages - together to reflect on the good times we had when we served in our Regiment. Four (4) Reunion updates have been sent out this year. If you have not received these, please let us know as soon as possible. Topics covered in the updates include 'how to get there', 'where to stay' and Registrations to date. There was also an important '**STOP PRESS**' sent out by the Association in April indicating that the pandemic could result in the cancellation or postponement of the Reunion.

Due to the current uncertainties it was decided that Registration fees **do not** have to be paid at present and any monies paid are to be refunded in full if the reunion does not go ahead due to travel restrictions or border closures caused by COVID-19. However, assuming that the Reunion proceeds then Registrations close on 31 May 21 and all monies must be paid by 25 June 21. Lump sum or instalments payments are acceptable.

Payments can be made to the Association either by electronic funds transfer to BSB: 633-000, Account No: 161498159 and **Reference 'PM21 REG and your Surname'** or by Cheque or Money Order to: Secretary, 1st Armd Regt Assoc, PO Box 301 MENTONE VIC 3194

These members have registered for the reunion: -

Johnny Atkinson	Geoff & Den Baker
Dennis & Helen Britten	Barry Chambers
Ian & Wendy Cummings	Charlie Dearling
Chris & Jan Fenton	Bob & Sue Ferrari
Roger & Sue Foote	Paddy & Debbie Garrigan
Brad Golding	Werner Golla
Herman Harberts	Brian & Margret Hatfield
Chook Henry & Kris Witty	Phil & Sue Hoseason-Smith
Kevin & Angela Hunter	Dick & Iris James
David & Vicki Key	Brian & Deidre Lewis
Des & Fran Mahar	George & Suellyn Main
Dean & Denise Martin	David & Ann Maxwell
Gary McNabb & Helen King	Neville & Terri Miller
Bill & Frances Morris	Mick & Judi Payne
Roger & Rhonda Powell	Mal & Carol Reardon
Phil & Brenda Rossiter	Bill & Mary Stanfield
Brewsta & Lozza Tarran	Graeme Unmack
Phil & Beverley Vicino	Trevor Watts
John & Patricia Wilson	Ray Wood

If your name does not appear on the list and you believe you have registered then contact us immediately.

The link portmacquarieinfo provides full details of the area's attractions and amenities.

For any further information contact

Mick Payne jicknmudi@gmail.com or
John Atkinson johnnya955@gmail.com
0431583718

Thank you - looking forward to seeing you in Port in 2021.

NEW ARMoured CORPS UNIFORMS

Distinctive Design

New uniforms of the Australian Armoured Corps, consisting of khaki berets and strong khaki cotton overalls will soon become a familiar sight in the Army.

Colour patches of armoured division units have also been designed to a plan that has been developed by a staff officer of the First Cavalry Division (NSW) but will not be seen until the units near formation.

In the meantime a single colour patch of horizontal bars of brown, red and green, following the old tradition of "through mud and blood to the green fields beyond" has been approved to denote personnel who have already been allotted to the armoured division.

The new uniform of the Australian Armoured Corps represents a revolutionary departure from the tradition of the Royal Tank Corps. The Black beret, which previously had been the distinguishing headdress of officers and men of in the mechanised units, has been replaced by an Australian-designed khaki beret. The uniform, apart from parade or ceremonial dress, has been modelled on a design that has already been thoroughly tested. It is comfortable to wear and has plenty of pockets.

The khaki beret has been adopted because reports by Australians who served in tank units in Britain agreed that the black beret made the wearer unnecessarily conspicuous under modern service conditions. It is pointed out also that a climate such as that of Australia the heat of the sun, which is absorbed and retained in a black beret, is reflected and thrown off by a khaki beret.

Members of light armoured units of the AIF have, in the past, worn as overalls a modification of the AIF work-dress, which has not, however, proved suitable for work in tanks. One feature of the new overall is the elimination of projections, such as rank badges &c, and the substitution of woven badges.

Development of crash helmets of suitable designs is now taking place, and tests will take place shortly, probably by officers and NCOs who began training on Monday at the Army School of Mechanisation in the Seymour area.

From: The Argus (Melbourne) Wednesday 26th February 1941

Thanks to Bruce Scott (Facebook)

Subject: may newsletter, Clive steel

Hi Russ,

That picture of tank landing at Stockton'. That was my tank and I am the commander. I was Troop Sgt, the Tank on the left was the Troop Leader, Lt Streeting' out of your picture on the right is the Troop Corp. this was 4 Trp B Sqn.

I am amazed that there appears to be no record in the Regt History.

Just previous to this Photo the Army and the Regt were getting a lot of abuse from the Sydney Printed Press saying things like 'the Tanks would only be useful if the Enemy attacked Victoria'.

The Army put on a big exercise in the Singleton Area and it was decided that the Regt Tanks would be involved, so it was decided that a Troop would go by Sea another by Rail and lastly another by Road.

Problem was the Army had no tank transporters, so they came up with a trailer which had 12 Holden Wheels at the back. They used a Big Mack as the Prime Mover and another as a pusher at the rear all up with a tank on board was a 90 Ton load.

So our troop went first with a police escort what fun going down the old Hume Highway and Pretty Sally, when we hit Melbourne our first problem we hit Flemington Rail Bridge, my tank was first and the Cupola ring acted like a Scythe and started to sheer of rivet heads, we backed out of that and the police found another way round eventually arriving at Port Melbourne where we loaded onto the Clive Steel.

The Transporters went back to Pucks to pick up the next Troop going by Rail from Seymour, next problem the Tanks were too wide for normal traffic so could only be moved when there was no traffic from the opposite direction.

The Transporters went back to Pucka to pick up the last Troop which also included an ARV and a Bridge Layer.

When we arrived at Stockton we had to wait for about 10/12 days for the road unit to arrive then pick up the Troop from Rail Head then eventually pick us up.

I do not know how the Tanks got back, but if you look closely at the picture you will see that they are all Mk 3 versions when we got back to Pucka we received Mk 5's.

Regards H.G. Milne (Harry)

Even More
COVID-19

HUMOUR



So let's get this straight.
There's no cure for the virus that can be KILLED by sanitizer and hand soap

I washed a big load of pajamas so I would have enough clean work clothes for the coming week.

Is it too early to put up the Christmas tree as yet? It's just that I've run out of things to do.

Remember all those times when you wished the weekend would last forever. Well, WISH GRANTED! Happy now?

When this virus thing is over with... I'd still like you to stay away from me.

WHOEVER DECIDED A BOTTLE SHOP IS MORE ESSENTIAL THAN A HAIR SALON IS OBVIOUSLY A BALD HEADED ALCOHOLIC

If these last few weeks have taught us anything – it's that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet.

Just wait a second – so what you're telling me is that my chance of surviving all this is directly linked to the common sense of others?

People are scared of getting fined for congregating in crowds. As if catching a deadly disease and dying a horrible death wasn't enough of a deterrent.

If you believe all this will end and we will get back to normal once we re-open everything. Raise your hand. Now slap yourself with it!

The spread of COVID-19 is based on two factors:-

1. How dense the population is.
- and
2. How dense the population is.

People start coughing and worry that they have Coronavirus. I cough and just pray I don't pee myself...

Remember when you were little and all your underwear had the days of the week on them. Those would be helpful right now.