1st Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated

ABN 16930055791
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secretary@paratus.org.au

Minutes for
Management Committee Meeting
Held Using Zoom Technology on 1 August 2025

The meeting was opened by the President, Mel Meloncelli, at 1902 hrs. He thanked all those in attendance for giving their time on a Friday evening.

1. **Attendees**: The following members were in attendance:

   Mel Meloncelli, Dean Martin, Russ James, Dick Stanios, Graeme Walker, Mark Reid, Iain Reynolds, Brian Hatfield, Chris Hodgson, Chris Fenton, Gary McCabe and Graeme Unmack.

2. **Apologies** – (**Secretary)** – Pat Deeker.

3. **Distribution of Information:** Copies of all documents tabled and/or discussed at the Management Committee meeting were electronically distributed to all Management Committee members prior to the meeting.

4. **Item 23/26 - Minutes from Previous Meeting** (13 June 2025) – updates were provided on outstanding issues:

   a. **Communication Tools Update** – Gary McCabe (Comms Manager) advised that quite a number of Face Book access requests had been denied as the people concerned were not members of the Association. Gary further advised that work had continued on the website including significant improvements of the view for those accessing on their mobiles. He also advised that links to other sites had been updated. Next step included linking the Q Store to an Ecommerce application. See further discussion below concerning the potential implementation of Dropbox.

   b. **Armoured Vehicles at the Bendigo RSL –** the Secretary advised that there were three armoured vehicles at the Bendigo RSL – a Centurion, Leopard and 113. David Key had advised that the Leopard had recently been 'refurbished' and should not need any attention apart from a good wash. However, both the Centurion and the 113 needed some TLC. Secretary is to visit Bendigo RSL in November and determine the requirements before organising a team, and resources (mainly by donation) as well as working with the RSL.

   c. **Donation to the Epping RSL** – the Secretary advised that the $200 donation to the Epping RSL for the conduct of the AGM had been finalised.

   Minute 10 of 2025/26 - it was moved Mark Reid, seconded Graeme Unmack that the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**

5. **Item 24/26 – Minute No 11 of 2025/26 - Membership Decisions Made via email (Secretary)** – it was moved Russ James, seconded Mark Reid that the membership for Nicholas Coles be approved. **CARRIED**

6. **Item 25/26 - Correspondence In (Secretary) –** emails relating to membership renewals, advice of deaths and illnesses, Q store orders, letters from members, merchandise orders, invoices, emails from Patron, LTCOL Mick Henderson, RSM, etc.

7.

8. **Item 26/26 - Correspondence Out** (**Secretary)** – Membership emails, renewal emails and letters, invoices, membership cards and membership badges, email to Haynes Trust, emails to LTCOL Henderson, RSM, etc. No other significant outwards correspondence.

9. **Minute No 12 of 2025/26** - moved Russ James, seconded Brian Hatfield that the Correspondence Report be accepted. **CARRIED**

10. **Item 27/26 - Membership Report (Secretary):**

a. Current Membership = 544 (29 July 25) increase of 168 since July 2018. There are currently only three (3) members for this year, who have indicated that they do not intend to renew their membership. However, there are now 24 members who have not renewed by their renewal date. This includes 18 from 1 Feb 25. These are to be placed on the 'inactive' list as soon as possible.

b. Membership renewals for 2025 – 164 members due to renew. 154 Renewals Notices sent so far and 130 (84%) of these have renewed. The Secretary and Treasurer still chasing 18 members who were due to renew on 1 February!

c. A further 10 Renewal notices are to be sent between now and the end of the year.

d. The average of years renewed has increased from 2.76 years for last years to 3.07 years for this year. Whilst this means there are a few more dollars in the bank, it also means a slight decrease in total membership fees received as the average membership fee is slightly less.

e. The Secretary indicated his personal disappointment at the lower-than-expected membership renewal rate and advised that all members – who were due to renew – had been contacted by email, snail mail and messaging on at least four occasions.

Minute No 13 of 2025/26 - moved Russ James, seconded Chris Hodgson that the Membership Report be accepted. **CARRIED**

11. **Item No 28/26 - Treasurer's Report (Treasurer)** – advised that the Profit and Loss report for the period 1 July 2025 to 1 August 2025 had been distributed prior to the meeting (Copy included at Annex A). The Treasurer indicated that caution should be exercised when interpreting the report as all member fees for the Financial Year (2025/26) had been included, but only one month of expenditure had been incurred. The President asked for questions.

Minute 14 of 2025/26 As there were no questions, it was moved Dick Stanios, seconded Dean Martin that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **CARRIED**

12. **General Business**

- **Item 29/26 – Implementation of Dropbox for storage of electronic objects, especially photographs –** there was a wide-ranging discussion on the potential implementation of 'dropbox'. This matter had been raised at the AGM where it was proposed that 'dropbox' with a capacity of 5 terabytes be acquired at a cost of $277 per annum. The AGM determined that this should be further investigated. Major discussion points included:
  - ❖ Integration with WIX **-** would provide ability for members to share photos as well as search for photos submitted by other members,
  - ❖ Sharing and ownership including copyright issues,
  - ❖ Benefits to be achieved,

- ❖ Issues for the indexing of objects for easier retrieval. Suggestion made that a database form (Microsoft Access) be provided for members to add indexing information,
- ❖ Responsibility of contributors to provide adequate indexing information,
- ❖ Capability for users to search the database of objects,
- ❖ Association to reserve the right 'not to publish',
- ❖ Association could not guarantee permanent retention of electronic objects,
- ❖ Use of electronic objects (photos) by unauthorised persons, and
- ❖ Potential for a soft opening (restrict number of photographs to be initially loaded).

On completion of discussion, it was determined that additional research and investigation be undertaken before a decision was made.

- **Item 30/26 – Donation to the Regiment to Assist in the Commissioning of an oil painting (Secretary) –** advised that the Regiment had asked the Association for a donation that would assist in the commissioning of an oil painting of King Charles III inspecting the Regiment's Guard of Honour at the Sydney Opera House. A copy of the proposed painting had been distributed at the AGM. Regrettably, the proposed painting was not regarded as representative of the Regiment. Representations have been made to the Regiment, and it was believed that a new 'outline' is to be produced. It was determined that a decision concerning a donation be held in abeyance until the new 'outline' was available.
- **Item 31/26 – Minute No 15 of 2025/26 - Donation to the Seymour Walk for Upgrade to the Vicotria Cross Panels** - Secretary advised that a request (see Appendix 2) for a donation had been received from the President of the Vietnam Veterans Association (Mitchell Sub-Branch) so that a new Victoria Cross Memorial could be constructed as part of the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour. After discussion, it was moved Mel Meloncelli, seconded Gary McCabe, that the sum of $500 be donated to assist in the upgrade of the Victoria Cross panels. **CARRIED**
- **Item 32/26 – Minute No 16 of 2025/26 – Request for Funding for Battery Pack for use at Tolmie** – Iain Reynolds requested that the Association provide funds not to exceed $310 to purchase a lithium power bank and 240 volt charging adapter. The equipment is to be used to power lights and the projector used on Association camping trips at Tolmie. After discussion concerning alternatives, product life, maintenance, etc it was moved Iain Reynolds, seconded Mark Reid, that a sum not to exceed $310 be expended for the power pack and 240 volt charging adapter. **CARRIED**
- **Item 33/26 – Invitation to Attend Cambrai Day Activities in Adelaide 2025 –** the Secretary advised that invitations had been received from the Regiment to attend the Cambrai Day Parade on Saturday 22 November 2025, the BBQ following the Parade and the Regimental Ball that night at the Adelaide Oval. The Secretary indicated that an Expression of Interest would be released to determine if there was sufficient interest to conduct other activities in Adelaide around the same time. Wol Walker had previously volunteered to manage the activities, ably assisted by Mark Reid on the ground in Adelaide.
- **Item 34/26 – Absence of Secretary** – the Secretary advised that he would be absent for a period of almost three months. During his absence, the following secretarial duties would be carried out as indicated:
  - ❖ Notifications of serious illnesses, palliative care, deaths and funerals – Communications Manager (Gary McCabe),

- New Memberships, Membership Renewals, etc – Treasurer (Dick Stanios)
- Email Distribution (via MailChimp) – Communications Manager,
- Australia Post – Treasurer,
- Payment of Accounts – Treasurer and Vice President (Dean Martin),
- Q Store Functions – Treasurer,
- Cambrai Day Parade and Regimental Ball – Graeme 'Wol' Walker, and
- Management Committee Meetings – Treasurer.

There being no further business, the President thanked members for their attendance and input.
The meeting closed 2031 hrs.

Russ James
Secretary
1st Armoured Regiment Association

Annexes:

A. Financial Report – 1 July to 1 August 2025
B. Request for Donation – VVAA Mitchell Sub-Branch

Profit and Loss

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc
For the period 1 July 2025 to 1 August 2025

	1 JULY-1 AUG 2025
Trading Income	
Interest Income	37.05
Membership Income	8,569.43
Merchandise Sales	139.50
Total Trading Income	**8,745.98**
Cost of Sales	
Purchases	294.83
Total Cost of Sales	**294.83**
Gross Profit	**8,451.15**
Other Income	
Donations Received	101.25
Total Other Income	**101.25**
Operating Expenses	
Bank Fees	7.39
Communications	246.29
Consulting & Accounting	124.00
Donations Paid by the Association	200.00
Event Outlays	300.00
General Expenses	56.37
Printing & Stationery	98.50
Stripe Fees	2.81
Total Operating Expenses	**1,035.36**
Net Profit	**7,517.04**

Annex B to
Management Committee Minutes
1 August 2025

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
Mitchell Sub-Branch, Seymour
Home of the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk

Mr John Phoenix OAM, President
e: seymourindustrial@bigpond.com
cc: vvaamitchell@outlook.com

Friday 20th June 2025

For the attention of Veterans, Members,
Patrons, Family and Friends.

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk is back in the forefront of our minds at Seymour's Vietnam Veterans Mitchell Sub-branch, as our Victoria Cross panels need to be upgraded.

More than 50 years after his death, Private Norden DCM was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross in October of last year for his *"conspicuous acts of gallantry"* during the Battle of Coral-Balmoral on 14th May 1968. Pte Norden's peers finally succeeded in having his DCM overturned, with the Victoria Cross having been awarded in its place. This is particularly significant as it is the first Victoria Cross awarded to a service person in Vietnam who was not a member of the Australian Army Training Team.

We are very pleased to advise that, as shown above, the Mitchell Sub-Branch have been busy designing the new Victoria Cross memorial for The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour. This memorial will now include a glass panel for Pte Norden VC, and will also allow space in the gardens for additional panels, should the need arise.

The new memorial has been carefully designed to be sympathetic to the 80 metre long glass wall, but will now be sited opposite the Centurion Tank at the other end of The Walk.

We have begun the necessary fund-raising to upgrade The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk, and we would be tremendously pleased to have your support. Any donation, large or small, would be incredibly helpful to us for achieving our goal of $90,000.

The bank details for the fund-raising are as follows:

Account Name:	Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk
Bank Name:	GMCU
BSB No:	803 - 078
Account No:	100 060 747

For those who haven't visited The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour for awhile, please stop in, as the trees and grasses have matured beautifully and are a stunning backdrop to this peaceful and healing memorial to our Vietnam Veterans. And remember to visit in the evening, when the Wall is lit from within - it is an experience that you'll never forget.

We sincerely appreciate your past support of The Walk and we hope that you might find it possible to help us again for the new Victoria Cross memorial.

Sincerely,

John Phoenix OAM
President