



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER 1 ARMD REGT ASSOC | APR – JUN 23 | NO. 97

# PARATUS

1ST ARMoured  
REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 16 930 055 791

W: [www.paratus.org.au](http://www.paratus.org.au)  
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**PATRON:** BRIG Ted Acutt (Retd)  
**PRESIDENT:** Keith (Mel) Meloncelli  
**SECRETARY:** Russ James  
**TREASURER:** Werner Golla



Callsign 22B moves past A1 Echelon vehicles at Cultana on EX PARATUS WALK – 13 May 23  
(Photo courtesy Russ Gannon - 1AR Past and Present FB Page)

## 1st ARMoured REGIMENT

Theatres of Operation  
Japan (1st Armd Car Sqn)  
Sth Vietnam  
Theatre Honour  
STH VIETNAM 1968-1971  
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:** Graeme (Wol) Walker  
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1ST ARMoured  
REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION INC.

Committee 2023

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## Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages

### Web Sites

1<sup>st</sup> ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.  
[www.paratus.org.au](http://www.paratus.org.au)

RAAC CORPORATION  
[www.raacorppltd.org.au](http://www.raacorppltd.org.au)

ROYAL TANK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
[www.royaltankregiment.com](http://www.royaltankregiment.com)

### Facebook Pages

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC MEMBERS ONLY  
[www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/)

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC SOCIAL PAGE  
[www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/)

1<sup>ST</sup> ARMoured REGIMENT FACEBOOK  
[www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/](http://www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/)



## Report from the Secretary - Russ James

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



## Secretary's Report

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

- Management Committee Meeting – 17 March 2023
- Membership Report
- Association Activities – next eighteen months
- Scholarships – sporting and educational
- New Members
- Donations
- Deaths
- Change of Address reminders

### ***Management Committee Meeting – 17 March 2023 via Zoom***

General business included discussion on:

- a. Honour Boards – for School of Armour (SOA). At that time, the Association was waiting on information from the School concerning the type of Honour Board required. Latest update is that photos of existing Honour Boards have been obtained, preliminary costings obtained from Burgess Signs in Seymour, wording for each of the Honour Boards is being determined and when finalised will be sent to SOA for sign-off as well as preparation of names of Students of Merit back to 2007.
- b. There was general discussion concerning the advantages and disadvantages of various options for the future disposition of ARN 169005. Since then, the Federal Budget has been released and all funding for a rebuild and move of the Museum has been reallocated. Our Tank is unlikely to move to a new location in the medium term. The Management Committee has proposed a new longer-term loan to the Museum. The Disposition Team has been placed on 'leave' for the immediate future.
- c. The Vice-President (Dean Martin – the 'spanner') advised that merchandise sales increased significantly when new items or designs were released in conjunction with major events such as the Port Macquarie Reunion and the Adelaide events of November 2022.
- d. The Secretary advised that a Birthday Lunch (74<sup>th</sup>) was being planned for the Broadford RSL on 8 July 2023. Update – 42 people have now registered for the lunch, but it is not too late if you wish to attend. Email the Secretary!

### **Membership – Current Situation**

As at 3 July 2023, the Association had a total of 499 active (financial) members with a further 11 members who were due to renew their membership on and after 1 February 2023. Reminder Notices have been despatched via snail mail and email.

In accordance with the Constitution, these 11 members are now classified as 'Inactive' and do not have any voting rights. Those that fail to renew by 1 August 2023 will be classified as 'Inactive – Resigned'.

However, such members 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 possible extension of membership.

## New Members

The Association would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since early March 2023:

Kathy Webber 21 March 23, Ken Burgess 28 March 23, Kevin Fletcher 29 May 23 and Gary Rechner 21 June 23.

## Donations

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

Michael Kuilboer, Hendryk Van De Duim, Ian Smith, Kathy Webber and Barry Clugston.

## Association Gatherings - \$10 per Association Member Subsidy

At the Management Committee held on 21 July 2021, a motion was passed that the Association would provide a subsidy of \$10 per head for gatherings of members in regional/remote areas to subsidise the cost of the meal. This was later amended to include all gatherings of Association members, whether in regional/remote areas or not. In recent times, this subsidy has been paid to offset direct members costs for a lunch at Richmond (Tasmania), at the Adelaide Cambrai Day 2022 events, at the Victorian Long Lunch and Tolmie Camping Trips.

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

Claims should be submitted to either the Secretary ([secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)) or Treasurer ([treasurer@paratus.org.au](mailto:treasurer@paratus.org.au))



**Another 'Black Hat' gathering at Epping RSL 25 May. Attendees from left to right include Brett Wardley, Tim Finn (ex 2 CAV), Trevor Watts, Dennis Austin, Chris Morris, Darren "DD" Brown (visiting from Brisbane) and Graeme Walker**

## 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](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)

## Future Association Events

**74<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lunch** – 8 July 2023, Broadford RSL, \$25 per head, contact Secretary

**Laying Up of Standard and Guidon** - 8 July 2023, at St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide. Must register with RSM of the Regiment at [grant.gripske@defence.gov.au](mailto:grant.gripske@defence.gov.au)

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Commemorate the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War** – Canberra, Commemorative Service on Friday 18 August 2023, Last Post Ceremony at AWM on Friday 18 August 2023, Meet and Greet at Civic Pub Lonsdale St, Braddon on Thursday 17 August 2023 (\$50 per head), Dinner at Civic Pub Lonsdale St, Braddon on Friday 18 August 2023 (\$30 per head). Register with [Johnbrooker592@gmail.com](mailto:Johnbrooker592@gmail.com), or contact [charliedearling1951@gmail.com](mailto:charliedearling1951@gmail.com)

**Victorian Camping Trip, Tolmie** – 29 September to 1 October 23, contact [vicrep@paratus.org.au](mailto:vicrep@paratus.org.au)

**Victorian Long Lunch, Cambrai** - 17 November 23 (to be confirmed), Emerald Hotel South Melbourne, contact [vicrep@paratus.org.au](mailto:vicrep@paratus.org.au)

**Cambrai Day events 2023– in Adelaide with the Regiment, 17 November 2023.** All former members of the Regiment are to be invited by the Regiment to attend the Cambrai day activity similar to the 2022 event. A Meet and Greet, or a Dinner, on the Thursday will depend on demand. Further details TBA when known. Contacts [reid54@bigpond.com](mailto:reid54@bigpond.com) or [secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)

**2024 REUNION, Adelaide, November 2024** – planning is underway to conduct a full Association Reunion around Cambrai Day activities at the Regiment in mid-November 2024. Requests for Quotations were sent by email to the Hilton Hotel, Intercontinental Hotel, Adelaide Convention Centre and the Adelaide Oval. An Expression of Interest is to be issued to all members around mid-July 2023. Functions to include Meet and Greet on Thursday evening, Cambrai Day activities (March, BBQ, etc) at the Regiment on Friday and full Reunion Dinner on Saturday evening. Other social activities may be organised depending on demand. Reunion Sub-Committee has been formed and includes Mark Reid (Chair), Werner Golla (Treasurer), Dean Martin (Merchandising), John Brooker (Senior Advisor), Graeme Walker (Comms), Malcolm Haynes (SAMRA) and Russ James (1AR Association Secretary). Actual dates in November will depend on the Regiment. Contacts [reid54@bigpond.com](mailto:reid54@bigpond.com) or [secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)

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## Vietnam War Commemorative Medallion Launched in Canberra

On 29 March the media launch for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War was held in Parliament House. Prominent Black Hats Noel McLaughlin and Peter Rosemond were invited to attend. Below are a few photos of the event. Further photos can be found at the DVA TV Flickr page. ([LINK](#))



The medallions are available for every veteran, and can be applied for by Vietnam War veterans, widows of veterans and other family members of veterans.

The launch of the medallions continues the Australian Government's recognition of this significant anniversary throughout 2023, culminating in a national commemorative service on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2023.

For more details on the commemorative medallion, including how to apply, or for more information about the other commemorative events planned, visit the DVA website: [\(LINK\)](#)



**Peter Rosemond CSC OAM is presented his medallion by the Prime Minister**



**Noel McLaughlin OAM is presented his medallion by the Prime Minister**



**Noel and Pedro enjoy a laugh after the ceremony**

# Coral Balmoral Cup 2023

**The Coral Balmoral Cup competition was contested at Puckapunyal in April. Hosted by the School of Armour, the competition decides the best tank and cavalry crew from across the Corps.**

This year's competition saw the School's training support squadron, B Squadron 3/4 Cavalry Regiment, take out the overall competition, also winning the cavalry crew award, the Wood Memorial Cup. The Regiment didn't disappoint, however, taking out the MacArthur Onslow Cup for best tank crew. The activity coincided with the Corps Conference allowing unit COs and RSMs to visit the competition participants during the event.



**Head of Corps, BRIG Chris Gardiner presents the winning tank crew from the Regiment with the MacArthur Onslow Cup. A proud CO and RSM in attendance.  
(Photo courtesy School of Armour Facebook page)**



**ASLAV CES checks ahead of vehicle issue to the crews from the four competing units.  
(Photo courtesy School of Armour Facebook page)**



# ANZAC Day Long Lunch

**The annual Anzac Long Lunch was held again in Melbourne. Victoria representative, Iain Reynolds, sent in the following report and photos of the event.**

The Victorian ANZAC Long Lunch was held on Friday 21st April at the Emerald Hotel South Melbourne, where Jane & the staff looked after us well. We had 16 members & 3 wives/guests in attendance for the day. Kevin Hunter OAM was in attendance after being awarded his OAM earlier in the week for services to the veteran community. All attendees had an enjoyable afternoon. It was good to see some old & new faces at the lunch as well as some members that have not been able to attend in a while.



(Photos sent in by Vic Rep, Iain Reynolds)

# ANZAC Day March - Melbourne

This year's ANZAC Day march & services were back on the calendar again. Unfortunately it seems that the numbers marching was down from pre-covid years. In total we had about 20 Black Hats marching behind the banner. After the march we broke into smaller groups & headed to various watering holes around Melbourne.



(Photo sent in by Herman Harberts)

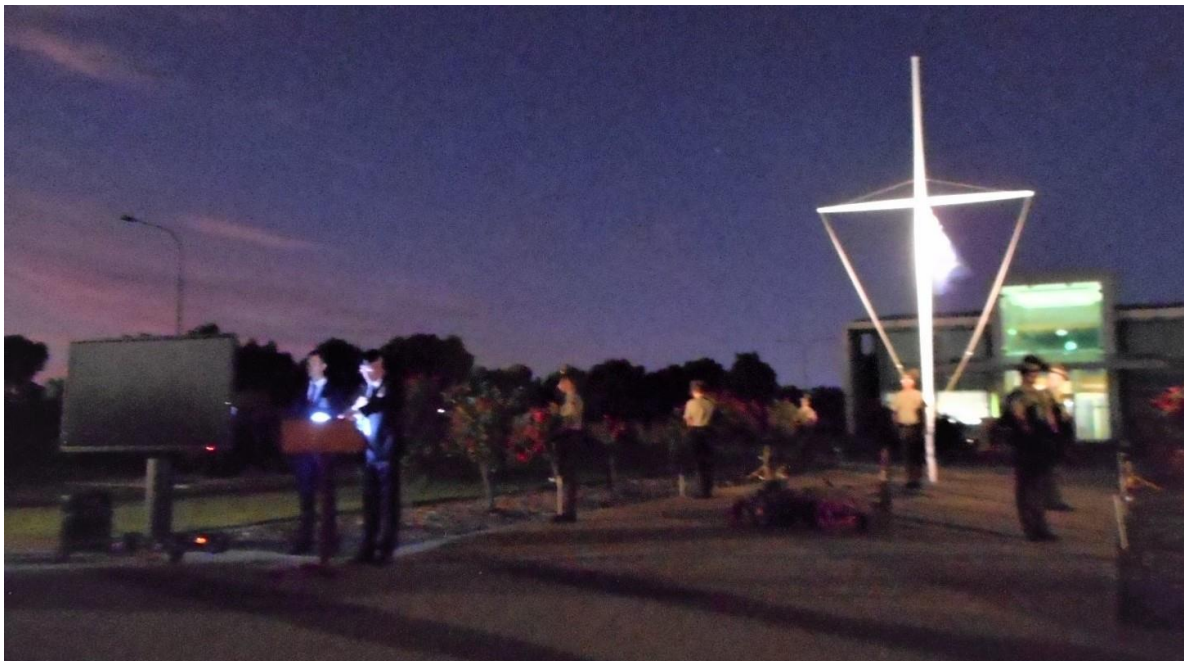


(Photo sent in by Vic Rep, Iain Reynolds)

## ANZAC Day – Around the Grounds



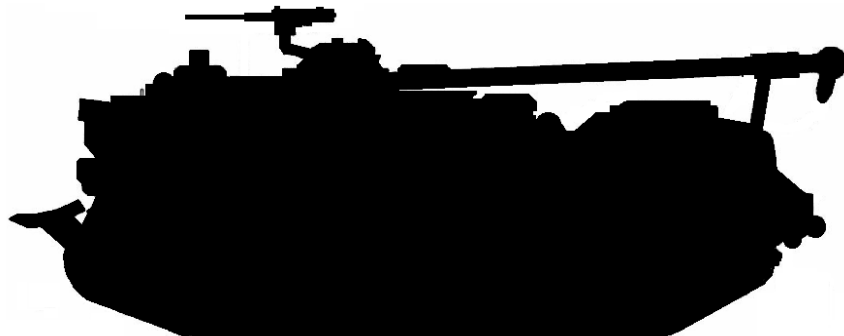
LTGEN Laurie O'Donnell AC MID, CGS from 1987 to 1990, delivers the ODE on ANZAC Day



Association LO to the Regiment, Mark Reid, delivers a reading at the Regiment's Dawn Service  
(Photo courtesy Russ Gannon)



**Mark Reid and Russ Gannon after the service  
(Photo courtesy Russ Gannon)**



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## **Crow Eaters Veterans Retreat Weekend 2023**

**The Annual veterans retreat at Quorn SA has been a great success once again. The organiser, Lou Walker OAM, has sent in the following excellent photos and report.**

**Well done Lou, another great weekend.**

2023 was the second year that the 'Retreat' was held over three days, initially a request from attendees from Victoria, it proved to be popular with all attendees. Rather than add a day on at the end this year, it was changed to start a day earlier, to allow for the organizer, me, to best utilise my available time.

Marry up point was the same location and time in Quorn SA as on other Retreats, but on the Thursday rather than the Friday. With all accounted for we made the 22km (about twice the cruising altitude of a commercial jet) trip to the 'Junction Outstation' and then allowed the attendees time to set up their living quarters before I gave a 'Welcome Brief' and issued routine orders for the various duties that each one was rostered for.



**Rear L to R: Shaun Clements, SC, Russell Wood, Graham Francis (Host), Alexx Wolf, Lou Walker, OAM, Richard James, Mark Reid**  
**Front L to R: Roger Martlew, Nick Chance, Doug Parkin, Val Francis (Host), Aussie Austin, Wayne Cailles, Andrew Rule, Barry Hodges, Kevin Davies**

The three days consisted of breakfast each of the three mornings, a BBQ on the Thursday and Friday nights (with local farmers attending as guests on Friday night) with bar snacks on each night, lunch for two days and a camp oven roast on the Saturday night. On Friday a games day was held between teams playing Quoits, Hookey, Darts, Golf and Trap Shooting at the conclusion. The winning pairs were Richard James and Aussie Austin.



**The Clay Shoot after the games competition, Safety Officer on the right is Alex Wolf and Barry Hodges is about to test his skills**

On Saturday morning we headed back to Quorn to contest the 'Annual Bowls Comp' at the Quorn Bowling Club. The winners for this were 'Team Alpha', consisting of Roger Martlew (Skipper), Lou Walker and Kevin Davies. Saturday night's roast consisted of 2 legs of lamb, 1 leg of prime goat, potatoes, peas, carrots and onions served with gravy and desert was Quandong Pie made by Barb Walker served with cream. Camp oven

chef was your truly. After dinner, presentations were made for the Annual 'Bowling Competition' and special presentations to Mark Reid, Richard James and Andrew Rule for outstanding achievement in attending all 'Retreats' (seven all up) that have been held in the Crow Eaters State. A presentation was also made to Lou Walker from the Bluebell attendees, Alex Wolf, Russell Wood and Doug Parkin.



**Pre-Camp Oven Roast Dinner Drinks on Saturday night 6th May 23. L to R sitting, partly obscured; Aussie Austin, Russell Wood, Doug Parkin, Kevin Davies, standing, Lou Walker and Barry Hodges.**



**Lou Walker and Mark Reid toast to another successful retreat weekend; Cheers!**

# Farewell to John Hawton

A large turnout of Association Members attended the funeral of John Hawton at Bunurong Memorial Park, Dandenong South, 15 June 2023.



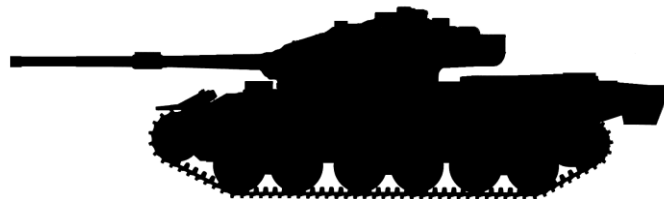
Pall Bearers for John Hawton; from left to right include Belinda Hawton, Graeme Jones, Craig Rogers, Barry Chambers and John Brooker. Out of shot is Robbie Hawton.



A Guard of Honour was formed for John Hawton's departure from his funeral. Members include: Alan Murphy, Barry Chambers, Chris McLeod, Gary McCabe, Graeme Jones, Iain Reynolds, Ian Smith, RAAC Corps RSM WO1 Jamie Adams, John Brooker, John Forrester, Ken Beatty, Peter Branagan, Peter Coutts, Peter Still, Reginald Buerkner, Russ James, Russell Stewart and Tony Harstedt.



**Family, friends and Association members gather after John Hawton's final farewell  
(photos courtesy John Brooker)**







1ST ARMoured  
REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION INC.

# 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 notified in the last newsletter:**

Ronald GRAUPNER (8 March 2019)

Anthony John TODD (1 January 2023)

Martin RUDELBACH (8 January 2023)

Stanley SIMPSON (10 March 2023)

David Robert LAWRENCE (15 March 2023)

Auric TOMLINSON (24 March 23)

Douglas Vincent LEAN (April 2023)

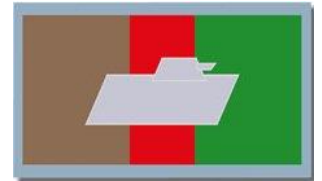
David AMOS (30 April 23)

Roger BICHENO (24 May 23)

John Edward HAWTON (6 June 23)



# REGIMENTAL NEWS



**The Regiment's Adjutant, CAPT Benjamin Peterson, has again furnished us with a SITREP of unit activities conducted since the last edition.**

The Regiment has been busy from March through June with the work-up, deployment and return from Exercise Paratus Walk in Cultana Training Area being the main training event. Before this, the Regiment conducted EX STEEL LION which saw a simulation exercise being conducted at Chauvel Lines involving all SQNs.

ANZAC Day saw multiple catafalque parties deployed far and wide around the state, as well as a Regimental March through the Adelaide CBD with the remainder of 9 Brigade. Following ANZAC Day, C SQN deployed into Cultana East first and conducted a training progression from individual through to Troop live-fire assessments and Troop dismounted Anti-Armour practices – of note the first element within Army to do either using the Hawkei vehicle.

A, B and SPT SQN deployed into Cultana West and conducted training progressions from individual through Troop live-fire assessments also. At the back end of May, C SQN came 'over the road' and the Regiment conducted a Battlegroup live-fire with four Combat Team live-fires over three days.

Finally, the CO and RSM travelled up to Darwin recently to attend Battle of Binh Ba commemoration events with 5RAR, but also collect the first Standard and Guidon of the Regiment. These will be ceremonially relocated to St Peters Cathedral in North Adelaide on the 8th of July. As a side note, all former members of the Association, family friends and associates are invited to the relocation of these devices.

Paratus!



**B Sqn provides the ANZAC Day catafalque party at Freeling, SA  
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**Association members among the visitors to EX PARATUS WALK  
(Photo courtesy Commander 9 Brigade [ @COMD9Bde ] Twitter page)**



**M1A1 Abrams crewman and 120mm practice ammunition on display at the firepower demo  
M1002 TPMP-T (L) and M865 TPCSDS-T (R)  
(Photo courtesy Russ Gannon - 1AR Past and Present FB Page)**



**A smiling Russ Gannon with ammunition; Mark Reid at right  
(Photo courtesy Russ Gannon - 1AR Past and Present FB Page)**



**C Squadron firing MDFW 84mm  
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**

08 Jun 23

CO and RSM commence the relocation of the Guidon and first Standard from Lone Pine Chapel, Robertson Barracks to St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide which will take place on 8 July 2023



(Photos courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)

## Regimental Parade – 15 June 2023

Honours and awards were presented; as well as promotions.

Honours and awards:

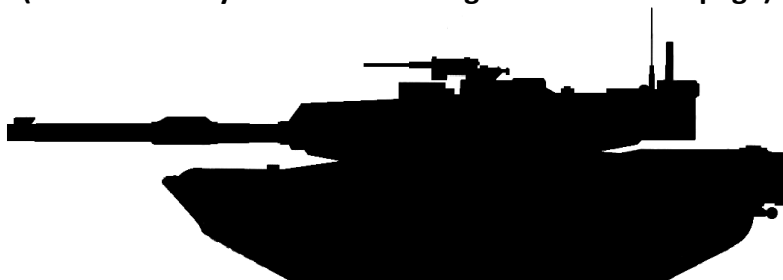
OSM (OP RESOLUTE), ADM, DLSM 2nd clasp, DLSM 1st clasp, DLSM

Promotions:

LCPL Szecko, LCPL Johnson, LCPL Hall, CPL Scott, CPL Hibbins-Leece, SGT Phillips  
(See the 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page for more photos and details)



Operational Service Medals (OP RESOLUTE) are presented by the CO at a Regimental parade 15 June 23.  
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)





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## Knock-off Note from the Editor

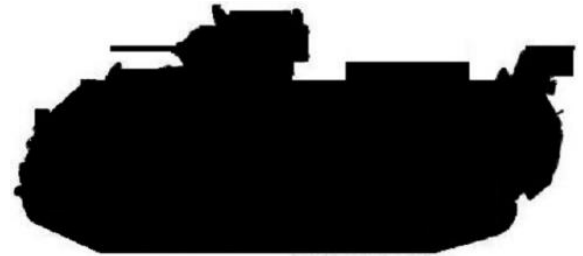
G'day All,

Another issue with plenty of news from around the Association and the Regiment. A big 'thank you' to all who have made contributions to this edition; your efforts are what keep the content recent and relevant. Particular thanks must go to the Regiment's Adjutant, CAPT Ben Petersen, who has once again provided a SITREP at short notice in spite of his, and the Regiment's, full schedule. Keeping the readership up to date on the unit's activities is much appreciated.

A few people have recently had difficulty in contacting me via the website email address [newsletter@paratus.org.au](mailto:newsletter@paratus.org.au). If you have sent something for the newsletter however received no reply or response, then please send your submission here: [graeme14b11a32a@gmail.com](mailto:graeme14b11a32a@gmail.com). Feel free to send in photos, stories or reports of association events both major and minor, current or past for the next edition.

If I don't see you at the Birthday lunch, I'll see you in the next edition.

Cheers,  
Wol Walker  
Editor



"Zero Papa; Out"

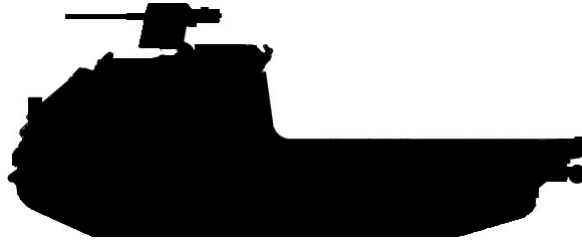
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C Sqn fire a Javelin ATGM  
Cultana – May 23 (Photo courtesy 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Facebook Page)

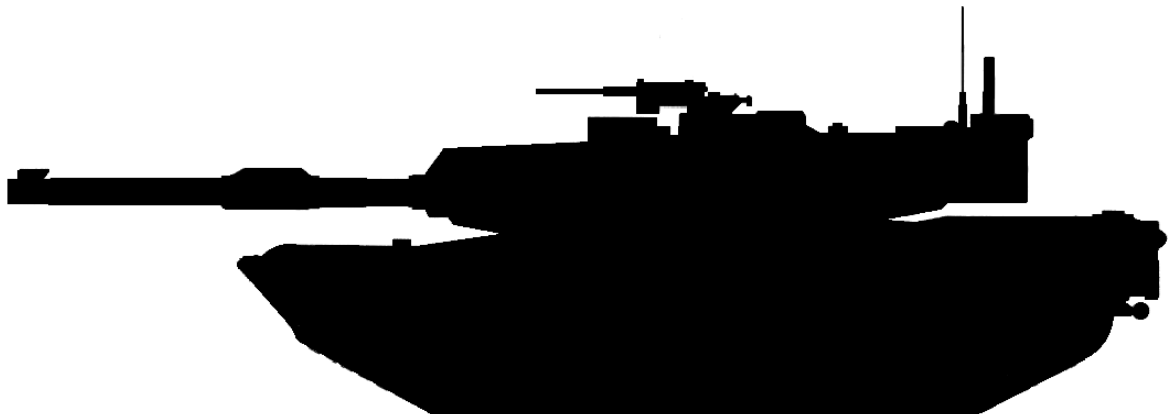
## NOTICES

*Have you moved, changed your email address or your Mobile Phone Number?  
If you have, advise the secretary to ensure you remain 'in contact'*



### *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.



## **1<sup>st</sup> ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION Q STORE**

Anzac Day is just around the corner (for next year) so make sure to visit the Q Store to ensure you are suitably attired for the day in your Association accoutrements.

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

