



PARATUS

1ST ARMOURED
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 16 930 055 791

W: www.paratus.org.au
ISSN 2208-2433 (Online)

PATRON: BRIG Ted Acutt (Retd)
PRESIDENT: Keith (Mel) Meloncelli
SECRETARY: Russ James
TREASURER: Werner Golla



“March Off!” LTCOL Henderson is farewelled from his final parade as Commanding Officer aboard callsign OC; ‘Hatdich’ - 08 December 2023 (Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment 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
E: newsletter@paratus.org.au





1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Committee 2023

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BRIG Ted Acutt, (Retd)

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1 AR LO

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Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages

Web Sites

1st ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
www.paratus.org.au

RAAC CORPORATION
www.raaccorpltd.org.au

ROYAL TANK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
www.royaltankregiment.com

Facebook Pages

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC MEMBERS ONLY
www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC SOCIAL PAGE
www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/

1ST ARMoured REGIMENT FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/



Report from the Secretary - Russ James

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:

- 2023 AGM
- Sporting Scholarship – Georgia Leonard
- Membership Report
- Association Activities – next 15 or so months
- New Members
- Donations

2023 AGM

The 2023 AGM was conducted at the Broadford RSL on Saturday 25 November 2023 with 26 members in attendance. I am sure that there were 27 members in the RSL, but one person failed to sign in!

Elections for President (Meloncelli), Treasurer (Golla), Liaison Officer to the Regiment (Reid), Newsletter Editor (Walker), Special Projects 2 (Unmack), Delegate to the RAACC (Fenton) and State Representatives (Deeker, Reid, Walker, Reynolds, Dearing and Hatfield) were conducted and all incumbents were returned unopposed. Chris Hodgson volunteered to fill the position of Special Projects One. There were no changes in Management Committee positions or responsibilities.

There was also no change in Membership Fees or the requirement to impose a joining fee for new members.

The Board of Management for ARN169005 now includes Peter Coutts who was selected to replace Peter Branagan on his resignation from the Board.

A budget of \$1,000 was moved, seconded and carried for the purchase of petrol, oils and lubricants (POL) for ARN 169005. A major oil change for the main engine and aux gen is required in 2024.

Association Sporting Scholarship

The Management Committee is delighted to announce that the Inaugural Sporting Scholarship has been awarded to Georgia Leonard, daughter of Michael and Dianne Leonard.

At just 14 years of age, Georgia plays in the Senior Women's Cricket team in her local area and has been selected to participate in the Northern Rivers Representative Team as well as the Goulburn Murray Girls' Under 14 Team. Georgia has also been registered to complete a two-day junior training camp for girls with the Melbourne Renegades Women's BBL team. The \$500 scholarship is to be used for new sporting equipment, team fees and travel to various competitions. We wish Georgia all the best for her cricketing future and hope that the Scholarship will provide an impetus into even greater endeavours.



Printed with the permission of Michael and Dianne Leonard

Membership – Current Situation

As at 14 December 2023, the Association had a total of 515 active (financial) members. This includes three (3) members who have failed to renew their membership but remain as members for six (6) months after their renewal date.

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 late October 2023:

Bob May 30 Oct 2023 (1972/76), Jason Mengel 1 Nov 2023 (2005/09), Grant Gripske 17 Nov 23 (2023), Connor Brown 22 Nov 23 (2014/19), Chris Hodgson 22 Nov 23 (1983/85), Michael Henderson 7 Dec 23 (2021/23) and Robert Jarvie 14 Dec 23 (2021/23).

Donations

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

Jim McKenzie, Bob Kennard, Ted Acutt, Michael Kuilboer, Ross Evans, Robert Rawlins, Mark Reid, Lou walker, Bill Stanfield, Roger Foote, Ron (Dinga) Bell, Bill Morris, Ian Tregenza, Karl Liffman, Kingsley McGuire, Col Shaw, Graeme (Ferret) Unmack and Dal Crocker

Future Association Events

Victorian Long Lunch, Anzac Day – April 24 (to be confirmed), Emerald Hotel South Melbourne, contact vicrep@paratus.org.au

Victoria – Tolmie Camping Trip – scheduled for 9 to 11 March 2024

South Australia – Quorn – scheduled for 2 to 5 May 2024

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. Quotes have been received from the Hilton Hotel, Intercontinental Hotel, Adelaide Convention Centre and the Adelaide Oval. These have been evaluated and two providers have been asked follow-up questions. It is hoped that a decision will be made before Christmas 2023!

An Expression of Interest is to be issued to all members before Christmas. 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), Alan Murphy (Member), Malcolm Haynes (SAMRA), Peter Papalia (3/9 LH) and Russ James (1AR Association Secretary). Actual dates in November will depend on the Regiment. Contacts reid54@bigpond.com or secretary@paratus.org.au

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 the Meet and Greet in Adelaide on 16 November 2023 and the Long Lunch in Melbourne on 24 November 2023.

It should be noted that a recent attempt to obtain funding for three members in Cairns, plus a few prawns and Balmain bugs was unsuccessful!

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) or Treasurer (treasurer@paratus.org.au)

Melbourne Black Hats Dinner – 26 October 2023



The final 'Melbourne Black Hats' dinner for 2023 at the Epping RSL on 26 October. Attendees from left to right include Brett Wardley, Dennis Austin, Dick Stanios, Graeme Walker, Peter Duncombe, Trevor Watts and Dave Hebbard
(Photo courtesy Peter Duncombe)



The 'Melbourne Black Hats' mixed dinner at Epping RSL on 09 December. Attendees included the Cummings', Watts', Finns', Austins', Duncombes', Simpsons', Meloncellis' Morris's and Brett Wardley
(Photo courtesy Peter Duncombe)

Cambrai Long Lunch

On 24 November Association members and guests turned out to the Emerald Hotel to celebrate Cambrai Day. Iain Reynolds provided the following photos.



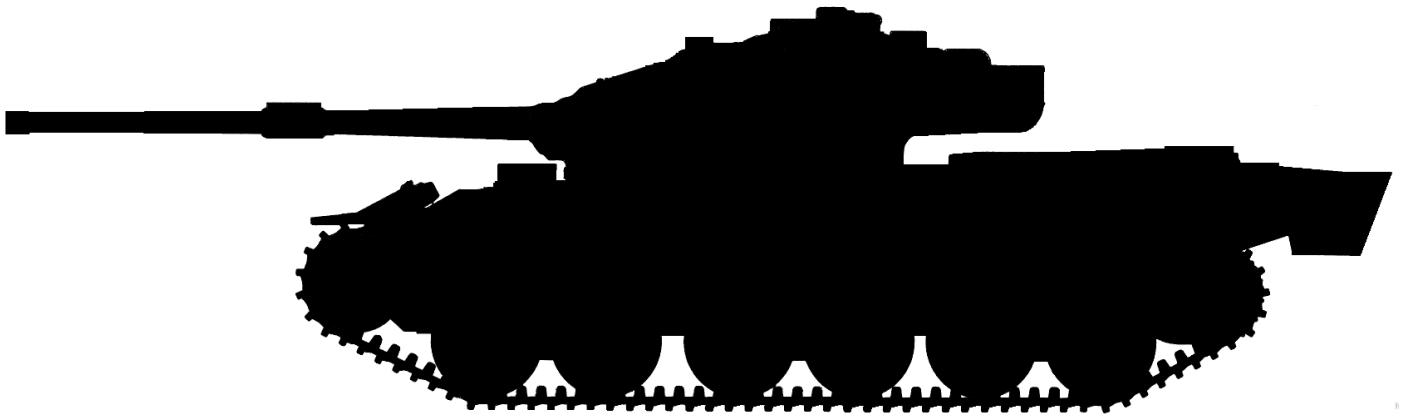
Bruce Richards, Russ James, Keith and Anne Meloncelli, Simon Williams



Noel Gellert, Herman Harberts, Dean Martin, Chris McLeod, Ray Wood, Darryl (Dinky) Toy,



Ray Wood, Darryl (Dinky) Toy, SangWan, Dave Thompson, Werner Golla



1st ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION Q STORE

The Association still has plenty of merchandise on hand, ready to post out to you. Take a look at the catalogue at the link below and fit yourself out with some new gear while it's still in stock.

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



Association Annual General Meeting

Broadford RSL – 25 Nov 23

A good turnout of 26 members, attended the AGM held at the Broadford RSL sub branch on 25 November. A good effort by Chris Fenton and Mark Reid who travelled respectively from Laggan in NSW and Adelaide SA.



Graeme 'Ferret' Unmack makes his point during the proceedings.



Proxy scrutineers Peter 'Bushy' Coutts and Dave Key look on thoughtfully while the Patron, Ted Acutt, signals his approval to John Blackwell's comments on '005' and the Tank Museum volunteer group.



Informal discussions and the usual tall stories over lunch

Cambrai Day Parade - 17 November 2023

Another big contingent of Association members and veterans attended the Cambrai Day Parade at RAAF Edinburgh and function at the Mick Rainey MM Club afterwards.



The Regiment mounts an Honour Guard prior to the veterans marching on. Eric Thompson and Graeme Jones are the first two members.
(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)



**The veterans march on
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



“**ing Awesome!” The RSM compliments the veterans on the standard of their march on drill.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**

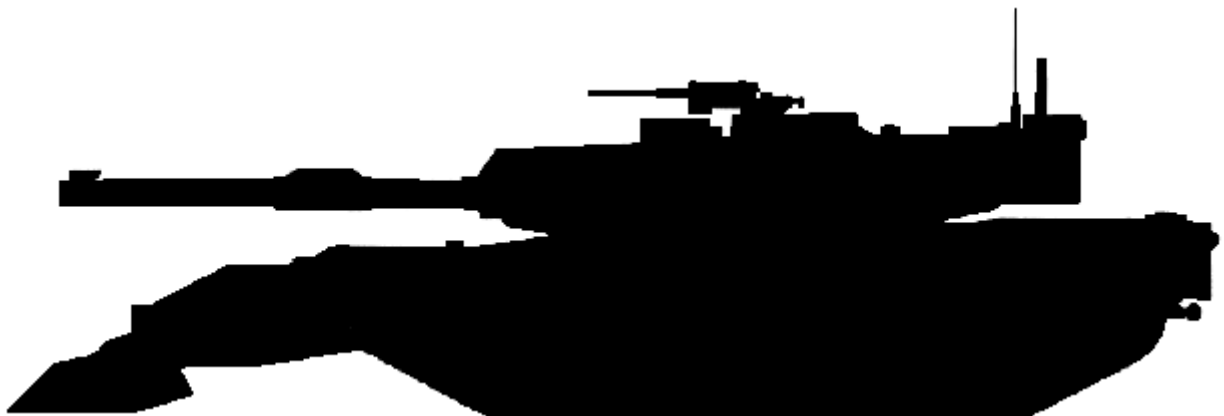




**The Regiment marches on
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**The Standard, Guidons and Band
(Photo courtesy Russell Gannon)**





**1980s A Squadron – Luke Hickey, Mick Masterson and Warwick Dent
(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)**



**Russell Gannon, Geoff Baker, Mark Reid, Warwick Dent, Alan Murphy, Bill Bates and Tony Rigby
(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)**



**Ferret Unmack, Denis Crowe, Chric McLeod, Gavin McMahon, Greg Lowe, John Eyre, Brian Slocombe
(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)**



**Marching on in style – John Skilton, Bob May and Karl Liffman are borne onto the parade ground by
M113AS4 APC.
(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)**



**Secretary Russ James presents the MAJGEN Bradbury trophy for Best JNCO to CPL Murphy of SPT SQN.
(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)**



**Chris Fenton, Geoff Baker, Eric Thompson and Brian Chapple with an old 'friend' at the Mick Rainey MM Club
(Photo courtesy Chris Fenton)**

More photos of Cambrai Day including presentation of the Hammersly Awards in the next edition.



1ST ARMoured
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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:

**Malcolm David PRICKETT
David 'Smiley' CURRAN**



REGIMENTAL NEWS

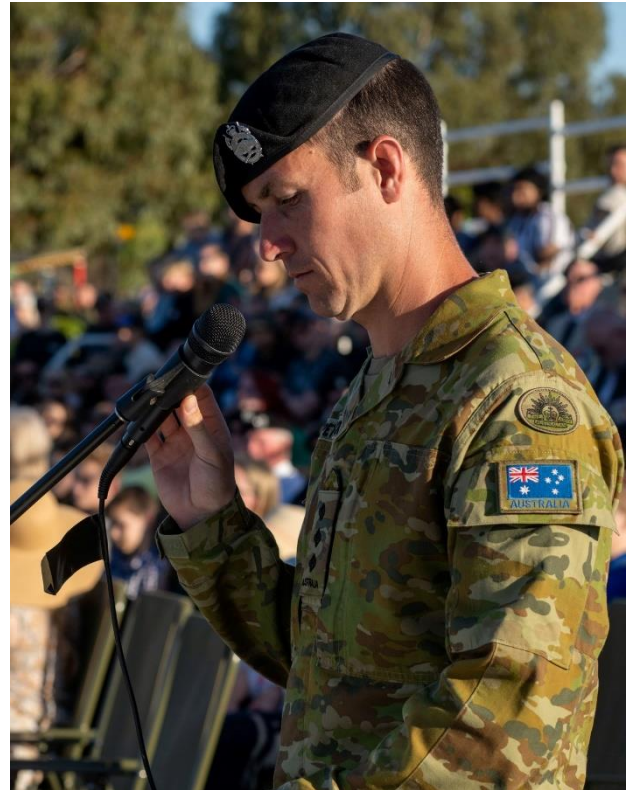


The Regiment's Adjutant, CAPT Benjamin Peterson, has provided his final update just prior to posting out of the unit, wrapping up a year of informative SITREPs of the Regiment's activities throughout 2023. Many thanks Ben, and good luck in your next appointment.

The Regiment has wrapped up the year with an excellent Cambrai Day parade, featuring another march-on by our veterans, a unique blank-fire demonstration and a big function in the Mick Rainey MM Club. The sense of pride and the comradery was and is at a high across all ranks – particularly in C SQN, who took out Champion Squadron for 2023. We also participated in the 'blood week' leading up to the parade, with fierce competition and good banter across all ranks. As the Adjutant, I received the notifications of the numerous hospitalisations and can confirm that there was nothing left on the sports fields!

The handover period has also now occurred for key appointments and LTCOL Jake Penley is now in command. We all look forward to some well-earned rest over the Christmas period after a big year of exercises, international engagement, courses and changes.

Paratus!



CAPT Peterson performs MC duties for the Cambrai Parade

The following photos highlight Regimental activities nearing the end of the year.



**Soldiers conducted PT and Leadership Challenge Exercises on 01 December.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**Soldiers conducted PT and Leadership Challenge Exercises on 01 December.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**





**Awards and promotions were presented, and the CO hand-over effected at the final parade for 2023 before a well-earned leave period - 08 December 23.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



**LTCOL J Penley signs the handover certificate and assumes command of the Regiment.
(Photo courtesy 1st Armoured Regiment Facebook page)**



CPL Murphy being presented with the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Trophy for the 2023 JNCO of the Year by the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Henderson and RSM, WO1 Gripske.

The Association has been presenting similar awards for the last 20 or so years. These trophies are intended for display in the family home of the recipient.



TPR Cummins is presented with the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Trophy for the 2023 Soldier of the Year.



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Knock-off Note from the Editor

Season's Greetings All,

2023 draws to a close and we're all winding up for the Christmas break or leave. Thanks for your readership throughout the year. As no one else was forthcoming at the AGM for the editor's job, it looks like you're stuck with me for another year or two. I hope you've enjoyed the last eight editions; I will endeavour to provide as much content and detail on Association and Regimental events as I can source, so stay tuned for next year's first edition; No 100.

I'd like to thank the Regiment's Adjutant, CAPT Ben Petersen for his regular updates from the Regiment for each of this year's editions. He has sent them through mostly at short notice and each has been very detailed, providing us with insight into unit activities throughout all of 2023. Outstanding. For more photos and details of the Regiment's 2023 activities and parades, be sure to go to the Regiment's Facebook page, at this [LINK](#)

Send your photos, stories or reports of association events both major and minor, current or past for edition 100 to newsletter@paratus.org.au. If you receive no reply or response, then please send your submission here: graeme14b11a32a@gmail.com.

Enjoy the Christmas season; drive safe,
arrive safe and I'll see you next year.

Cheers,
Wol Walker
Editor



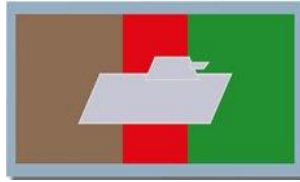
"Two Seven Foxtrot; Out"



D Squadron, mounted in M113AS4s conduct admin in-leaguer at Cultana – circa 2015

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.



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