

Track

March 2017

Patron:	Brigadier P.A. Acutt (Retd)	
President:	Vacant	
Vice President:	Vacant	
Secretary:	Vacant	
Treasurer:	John Snelling	(M) 0402 857 428
Editor:	Peter Branagan, OAM	(H) (03) 5793 8171

Where Were You? When the Bugle Called Again 12 February 2017



(David Finlayson)

*A disappointing roll up of members and families attended the 71st anniversary of the formation of the Victorian Branch in the Shrine of Remembrance Sanctuary on Sunday 12 February 2017. Retired **Musician John Mansfield** was again in support and as usual his playing of the **Last Post** and **Rouse** was first class. Pictured above is our banner in the Shrine Sanctuary supported by **Robert Toy** (left) and **Tony Peart**.*

Continued page two.....

On a cool summer's day a disappointingly small number of members and guests attended Melbourne's **Shrine of Remembrance** on **12 February** to celebrate the **71st birthday** of the Victorian Branch. The **Ode to the Fallen** was recited and a wreath was laid by **Mr. Brian 'Lucky' Leader and Major (Retd) Peter Branagan, OAM.**

Following the commemorative service, the group moved into the Western Annex where a **sumptuous afternoon tea** was enjoyed. **It is our intention to continue to celebrate** the formation of the Victorian Branch on the **Sunday nearest the 7th February** in the Shrine Sanctuary. Congratulations to **Daryl and Frances Pinner** for their efforts (particularly the afternoon tea), to ensure the day was a success.



(David Finlayson)

Peter Branagan and Brian 'Lucky' Leader laid the wreath watched by (left to right) Frances Pinner, Kerri Marshall, Godfrey Camenzuli, John & Ros Snelling and Brenda Mansfield

The usual suspects included – Daryl & Frances Pinner, Peter Branagan, David Finlayson, Charles & Alleyne Walsh, Fred Coucher, Tony Peart, Robert Toy, Rod Westgarth, John & Ros Snelling, Brian 'Lucky' Leader, Godfrey Camenzuli and Kerri Marshall and our resident bugler John Mansfield and wife Brenda.

The Shrine was represented by Lt Col Don Reid (Retd).

Apologies were received from – Ian Smith, Joan Finlayson, Ivan Maher and John Baines.

The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors

Joan Finlayson Jason Franken

Welcome to the Crew

Paul Baker

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

The AGM was conducted at our current home – the Preston/Darebin RSL on Monday 27 February 2017. A typical number of hardy individuals attended but unfortunately there was no Presidential or Vice Presidential material amongst them! **Peter Branagan** was appointed to conduct the meeting and despite his best efforts, no nominations for those two positions were forthcoming. Unfortunately as a result of a recent illness, **John Paterson** indicated that he was also unable to continue as Secretary at this time. **John Snelling** is carrying on as Treasurer. **Roy Arnott** is happily continuing his role as **Honorary Auditor** as is **Honorary Legal Officer Colman Moloney**. Also soldiering on are **Rod Westgarth, Trevor Watts, Graeme Perkins, Ian ‘Icky’ Smith** and **Track Editor Peter Branagan**. Welcome to new face on the committee - **Robert Toy**. Fronting up for his first official activity was newly appointed Patron – **Brigadier Ted Acutt (Retd)**. Welcome Ted.

Immediate Past President Daryl Pinner delivered a comprehensive report including the following points:

Congratulations to Australia Day Honours recipient – **Dr David Holloway, OAM**. David is currently the Patron of the 4th Australian Light Horse Regimental (Memorial) Association and served this state branch for many years as Trustee Brig F.B. Hinton Scholarship Fund, President, Vice President, committee member and Editor of Track. He is the author of a number of historical publications including a biography of our former Patron - Brig Ralph Eldridge, OBE.

The **71st birthday celebration** of the **formation of the Victorian Branch** at the Shrine on **Sunday 12th February** was moderately successful.

Cambrai Dinner saw 55 members and guests sit down with Guest of Honour **Major Peter Branagan, OAM (Retd)** who delivered a most entertaining address entitled “**Aspects of Cambrai.**” Over \$600:00 was raised by the raffle that will be used to provide Christmas hampers for veterans and to support organisations such as **Soldier On**.

The **Kid’s Christmas Party** at Lower Eltham Park was a great success despite threatening weather which kept a few faint hearts away. **Rod, Sharon** and **Lauren Westgarth** continue to oversee an outstanding activity. **Kerri Marshall** and **Ed Plastow** conducted a very successful raffle on the day with proceeds contributing to the next Christmas party.

Thanks to **John Snelling** and **Roy Arnott**, the State Branch coffers are in good shape and we will continue to pass back to the membership the benefits of good financial management.

Thanks also to the **Finlayson family** for the very generous provision of the **Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship**.

The following members registered their attendance at the AGM:

Ted Acutt, Daryl Pinner, Godfrey Camenzuli, John Paterson, Roy Arnott, Graeme Perkins, Peter Branagan, Ian Murphy, David Finlayson, Rod Westgarth, John Snelling, Robert Toy, Brian ‘Lucky’ Leeder, Colman Moloney, Jim DeFrancesco, Peter Coutts, I.C. Smith, Bob Burke, Colin Carrington, Stan Rydell, Trevor Watts and Peter Axton.

The following apologies were received:

John Baines, Craig Burn, Bob Neate, Andy Zsolt, Josh Gillman, Basil Tiligadis, Paddy Devine, John Hopkins, Dr. David Holloway, Rod Jones and Lindsay Burke.

ANZAC Day

Some changes this year, form up on **Princess Bridge** adjacent to **Flinders St Station** at **1100 hrs** for a **1110 hrs** step off. After the march meeting is at the **Rising Sun Hotel, cnr Raglan and Clarendon Sts., South Melbourne**. **Don’t forget your Black Hat.**

TREASURER'S REPORT 2016

Members of the Victorian Branch, it is with mixed emotions that I table my report for the year ending 31 December 2016.

The Branch achieved an improved year on 2015, recording a modest profit of \$306:33.

Donations for the year were well down totalling \$1955:50.

The 2016 Cambrai Dinner enjoyed a small profit. Under current arrangements we are obliged to pay the full labour costs as the messes are unable to assist us now. I wish to acknowledge the PMC's of the Officers and Sergeants Messes at the School of Armour for their support and cooperation in staging the dinner.

More members are now using the direct debit facility and I strongly encourage them to do so.

On closing **I thank the committee** for their efforts in achieving a satisfactory outcome.

Last, but not least, **Roy Arnott** for auditing the State Branch books.

Membership Report 2016

The membership of the Victorian Branch is still in good shape, although we need to concentrate on recruiting some younger members.

The membership at the end of December 2016 stood at 209 compared to 227 in 2015, with a number of chronic unfinancial members being delisted.

Financial	137
Unfinancial	0
Hon Life Members	8
Paid Life Members	64

Thank you,
John Snelling

2017 AUTUMN PICNIC Sunday 26 March 2017

Will be held once again at the RAAC Memorial & Army Tank Museum. As a result of the upgraded security requirements at Puckapunyal, **you are requested to arrive at the security checkpoint at 1030 hrs** so that following the issue of passes you can proceed to the Tank Museum unescorted. A driver's licence is the best form of ID and all adult persons must be identified. I will endeavour to have your names registered with Wilson Security prior to your arrival.

2016 KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

A cool summer's day greeted 98 members, friends and families at the **2016 Christmas Party on Sunday, 18 December**, celebrated at the recently renovated **Meadmore Junction** in the centre of the extensive **Diamond Valley Miniature Railway** layout. Santa arrived on time in his own special and the two - half hour sessions with our own dedicated train were fully booked out. Many thanks to **Rod and Sharon Westgarth**, their time and dedication ensure that this event is a winner. The now established sausage sizzle was well patronised. A special mention to Santa's long serving/suffering helper **Lauren Westgarth** and to raffle sellers **Ed Plastow and Kerry Marshall. Denise Smith** donated the bulk of the raffle prizes for which we are extremely grateful. **Lindsay Christensen** also made a significant contribution to the raffle's success.

A booking has already been made for **Sunday 17 December 2017**, so get it into your diary now.



(Fiona Glenn)

As usual, Santa arrived on his own dedicated tram! Hannah Johnstone enjoyed Santa's visit – I think!

The following members and guests registered their attendance:

Peter Branagan, Chris, Simone, Chantelle & Nathan Branagan. Tim, Kim, Ethan & Keira Branagan. Ian & Denise Smith. Meaghan, Glen, Hannah & Connor Johnstone. Lisa, Shane, Jared & Sophie Crosbie. Fiona, Matt, Sam, William & Amelia Glenn. Winnie & Colin Glenn. Joy & Stan Rydel. Andrea, Brett, Heath & Ruby Clancy. Susan, Corey & Ryder Ogston. Ed, Val & Zoe Plastow. Adam, Sally, Angus & Oliver Friend. Sharon, Rod, Lauren & Ace Westgarth, Jimmy Peile. Adam, Sally, Gemma & Ava Westgarth. Godfrey Camenzuli, Kerri Marshall & Ella Mannix. Maree, Ren & Angela Proietto. Ayla, Indigo, Nicole, Jeff, Ryder & Vicki Coxford. Chris Lisa & Madeline Morris. Andrea, Mark, Amelia & Rhys Foley. Robert, Andrew & Damien Cartledge. Kate, Sam & Anastazia Innocenti. Rod, Bev, Ash, Wendy & Hayden (Trooper) Jones. Darcy, Flynn, Ryan, Paul & Cath Everest. Elizabeth, Joe, Spencer & Riley Connolly. Graeme, Justin, Ashley & Amy Perkins with Jarryd McLean. David & Joan Finlayson with Carolyn Knaggs.

CAMBRAI DAY COMMEMORATION DINNER

**Saturday 18 November 2017
1900 for 1930 hrs**

Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal

**Guest of Honour
TBA**

Cost: \$60:00 per head for members
\$70:00 per head for non members/guests

This function is our premier event for the year and as usual we will be providing a quality guest speaker for your enjoyment

All enquiries to:
Daryl Pinner (H) 9359 4520
Peter Branagan (H) 5793 8171

On Sunday morning enjoy a sumptuous cooked breakfast
in the Chauvel Courtyard at the Officers Mess

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket
Miniatures

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 10 November 2017

Accommodation is limited

The RAAC Annual Dinner.....25 February 2017

The annual RAAC Conference Dinner was held on Saturday 25 February in the School of Armour Tank Hangar (The Bopper). The five retiring members totalled **243** years of service and included Brig M.J. Holmes, AM, MVO 29 years, Maj J.E. Baines, RFD 48 years, Maj D.D. Fleming, OAM 41 years, Maj A.G. Smith 42 years, WO2 K. Beasland 40 years, WO2 W.D. Preedy, ESM 22 years and WO2 G. McCabe 21 years. **Maj Stephen Cassidy, 2 Cav Regt** was announced as the recipient of the **2017 Prince of Wales's Commendation** and a very surprised **Mr Noel McLaughlin** was awarded a well deserved **RAAC Certificate of Recognition**.



(Joe Linford)

Maj John Baines' lengthy service was acknowledged by Head of Corps Brig Chris Mills



Senior retirees Brig Mark Holmes and Maj John Baines enjoying some Heavy A!



(Joe Linford)

Retiree Wayne Preedy (centre) was well supported by WO2 'Freddy' Krieger and Lt Joel Martin



John Blackwell (right) and Maj Peter Branagan (Retd) enjoyed a no pressure evening



Mr Noel McLaughlin, Chairman RAAC Corp received a RAAC Certificate of Recognition

Retired WO2 Wayne Preedy with HOC

Around the Association.....

Property member Daryl Pinner is pleased to advise the following items from the QM store are **on special** and **available for immediate despatch**:

RAACA Chambray Shirt, Blue, Short Sleeves, Size XL Qty Two - \$29:00

RAACA Chambray Shirt, Blue, Short Sleeves, Size 2XL Qty Two - \$29:00

RAACA Chambray Shirt, Blue, Long Sleeves, Size 2XL Qty Four - \$29:00

RAACA Chambray Shirt, Blue, Long Sleeves, Size 3XL Qty One - \$29:00

RAACA Brew Mug, Qty 10 - \$10:00

All item prices less 10%

Urgent Notice Special General Meeting Monday 3 April 2017

As a result of decisions made at the AGM on 27 February, a Special General Meeting has been called to **ratify several changes to the Constitution including the important proposal to introduce Affiliate Membership to the State Branch**. The meeting will be held at **Darebin RSL, 402 Bell St Preston at 1930 hrs**.



(Joe Linford)

The Head of Corps Brig Chris Mills (centre) surrounded by the RAAC command group, were gathered for the annual RAAC Conference held at the School of Armour 24 – 25 February 2017.

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.

Victorian Branch

Office Bearers 2017

PATRON

Brigadier Ted Acutt (Retd)

PRESIDENT

Vacant

EDITOR TRACK

Peter Branagan, OAM 1145 Sugarloaf Creek Rd
Sugarloaf Creek 3658
(H) 5793 8171
pbranagan.armourdale@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

SECRETARY

Vacant

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP

John Snelling
43 Brooksby Sq
Balnarring 3926
0402 857 428
john@snelling.com.au

PAST PRESIDENT & PROPERTY MEMBER

Daryl Pinner, OAM
21 Elsa St
Fawkner 3060
(H) 9359 4520

COMMITTEE

Trevor Watts
7 Hanton Pl
Epping North 3076
(H) 9408 1595
(W) 9358 8255
trevor.watts8@bigpond.com

Graeme Perkins 10 Rubida Crt
Boronia 3155
(H) 9762 1273
(M) 0448 863 925

David Finlayson 61 Gladstone Rd
Briar Hill 3088
(M) 0409 256 765

finlaysondave@optusnet.com.au

Ian Smith 14 Harrington Dve
Kilmore 3764
(H) 5782 2510
icky.1@bigpond.com

WEBMASTER

Lew Postlethwaite 665 Swan Reach Rd
Johnsonville Vic 3902
lew@tintank.com.au

HONORARY AUDITOR

Roy Arnott, OAM 43 Rubicon St
Reservoir 3073
(H) 9442 5205
arnotr@optusnet.com.net

HONORARY LEGAL OFFICER

Coleman Moloney, LLB, B.Ec
Level 8
221 Queen St
Melbourne 3000