



**Royal Australian Armoured
Corps Association Inc.**
Victorian Branch

Print Post Approved PP 381827/00018
Price: \$1.00

TRACK



PATRON:	Colonel Michael H. Annett, CSC	
PRESIDENT:	Daryl Pinner OAM	(H) (03) 9359 4520
VICE PRESIDENT:	Peter Still	(H) (03) 5782 0123
VICE PRESIDENT:	Vin Brennan	(H) (03) 9338 8753
SECRETARY:	John Paterson	(H) (03) 9465 1418
TREASURER:	Godfrey Camenzuli	(H) (03) 9354 9251
EDITOR:	Peter Branagan OAM	(H) (03) 5793 8171

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~raacavic>

CAMBRAI DINNER 2009



(Photo by D. Finlayson)

Flanked by President Daryl Pinner and Vice President Peter Still, Major General Craig Orme, Head People Capability delivered the keynote address to the 2009 Cambrai Dinner in Keldie Hall, School of Armour on Saturday 21 November 2009.

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all members and their families.**

CAMBRAI DINNER 2009

The formal highlight of our social calendar – the annual commemoration of the Battle of Cambrai was celebrated at the **School of Armour Officers/Sergeants Mess** on **Saturday 21 November**. **Keldie Hall** was the venue that saw 81 members and guests enjoy an evening of memories rekindled, fellowship and camaraderie.

The **92nd anniversary of the battle** was celebrated with a **forthright and thought provoking address** by **Major General Orme** on the **challenges facing all ex service organisations in maintaining the linkages between associations and the currently serving and future members**.

Our treasured World War II comrades from Sydney made the pilgrimage again and honoured the memory of their mates with their **traditional Memorial Service** in the **Tank Museum's WWII Armoured Memorial**. The service was particularly poignant this year with the playing of the **Last Post** and **Rouse** by **Musn John Mansfield** of 4/19 PWLH.

Pictured below after their Memorial Service at the Tank Museum are (left to right) **Alan Barnham** (2/6th Armd Regt), **Geoff Morris** (1st Armd Regt AIF), **Doug Spinney** and **Kevin Austin** (2/6th Armd Regt).



(Photo courtesy Tom Murphy)

The following members and guests enjoyed the 2009 Cambrai Dinner.....

Daryl Pinner
 Peter Branagan
 Peter Still
 Maj Gen Craig Orme
 Godfrey Camenzuli
 Alan Spenceley
 Basil Tiligadis
 Roger Symons
 Kev Hunter
 Dal Crocker
 Roger Bicheno
 Michael van Poeteren
 Martin Craze
 Tony Peart
 Tom James
 John Baker
 Ron Hogan
 Peter Martin
 John Kinton
 John Mansfield
 Michael Annett
 Kevin Austin
 Alan Barnham
 Geoff Morris
 Doug Spinney
 John Baines
 Gordon Hastie

Paddy Devine
 Tony Crook
 Ivan Maher
 Joe Ludeman
 Bob Day
 John Brooker
 Trevor Watts
 Simon Williams
 Paul Sudul
 Stuart McDiarmid
 Bob Dacey
 Jim Squires
 Bob Stenhouse
 David Finlayson
 David White
 Rod Westgarth
 John Burke
 Bob Neate
 Tom Murphy
 Graeme Perkins
 Bob Leonard
 Bob Bourke
 Graham Wright
 John Hopkins
 Stan Rydel
 Dr. David Holloway
 Bill Maynard

John Paterson
 Steve Bird
 Graeme Millington
 Edwin Plastow
 Andrew Clark
 Angus MacEwan
 Greg Shepherd
 Vin Brennan
 Gavin Vigar
 Fred Coucher
 Josh Gay
 Rod Jones
 Lindsay Christensen
 Gary Simmons
 Jim DeFrancesco
 Rocky Gerzina
 John Mitchell
 Bill Turner
 Gordon Hunt
 Mike Cecil
 Brian Coward
 Andrew Zsolt
 Ian Tregenza
 Brian Webb
 Peter Duncombe
 Chris Morris
 Werner Golla



Roger Symons, Patron Mike Annett and Chris Morris enjoyed the night



Jim Squires and Bob Stenhouse at the Australian Armour Memorial



Enjoying the hospitality of the mess were (L to R) Godfrey Camenzuli, Alan Spenceley, Graeme Perkins, Stan Rydel, John Paterson, John Hopkins, Tony Peart and Fred Coucher



Alan Barnham celebrated his 89th birthday at the dinner

VICTORIAN BRANCH BIRTHDAY

**Sunday 14 February 2010
1400 hrs**

The 64th birthday of the Victorian Branch will be celebrated at the **Shrine of Remembrance** on **Sunday 14th February 2010** with a short commemorative service at our memorial tree and plaque (on the western or St Kilda Rd side of the Shrine).

Following the service, **refreshments will be served in the adjacent Shrine western annex**, the home of the Shrines impressive medal display and the current historical exhibition.

All members and spouses are urged to support this important activity, the setting, adjacent to Melbourne's most famous landmark is outstanding and the opportunity **to renew your acquaintance with this significant Melbourne precinct** is strongly encouraged.

To assist the organisers with afternoon tea catering, please contact the Secretary John Paterson by mail to PO Box 547 Coburg 3058, email john.paterson@optusnet.com.au or phone 9465 1418 to warn in for rations.

RSVP 05 Feb 10.

Patron's Christmas Message

As Patron I wish all members of the Association and their families a joyful and safe Christmas break.

The Victorian Branch has done great work throughout 2009 in supporting both former members of our Corps and those currently serving, especially the many who have been deployed operationally this year. The Branch has also played its part this year in useful discussions with the other State Branches on co-operating more effectively as a national Association. We know that we will need to harness our resources as efficiently as we can in future years to meet the needs of our younger Veterans, many of whom are RAAC members. We particularly think of those black hats currently deployed, and their family and friends at this time of the year, when they will be separated over Christmas. We wish them all a safe return and my best wishes to you all for a healthy and happy 2010.

The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors

Brian Webb, Brian Cook, Michael Annett, Robert Burke, Jason Franken, John Hopkins, Douglas Caulfield, Alan Spenceley, Dennis Fechner, Stuart McDiarmid and Joseph McGarry

STOP PRESS

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF POST BOX NUMBER
NEW ADDRESS IS PO BOX 547 COBURG 3058**

The Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship

Application Form

Applicants for the Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship must complete this form and mail to the address given below. The Scholarship is open to first year apprentices and is worth \$500.00.

Name:
(First name/s) (Surname)

Address:
.....
..... Post code

Telephone:

What is your apprenticeship?

Employer:

Employer's address:
..... Post code

Contact telephone number:

Registered training institute or TAFE

Name of financial RAACA member

Address:
..... Post code

Telephone number

You will need to enclose copies of or bring to your interview the following:-

- 1. A supportive resume in brief.
- 2. A copy of signed training agreement.
- 3. A copy of your enrolment at a registered training institute or TAFE.
- 4. A supporting letter from your employer.

After your application has been received the three Trustees of the fund will require you to attend for an interview at a time, **date and place to be advised.**

Return this form, together with all supporting documents to:-

**The Trustees
Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship Fund
RAACA - Victorian Branch
P0 Box 547
COBURG VIC 3058**

ARCH FINLAYSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Victorian Branch has been given an endowment to set up a scholarship fund to be known as the **Arch Finlayson Scholarship Fund**. The fund has been made available by Arch's family in memoriam of his service to the Corps and to the Association. **The Committee thanks the Finlayson family for this generous endowment.**

The objective of the fund is to **grant scholarships to first year apprentices**, with a maximum of two awards being made each year. **The first scholarships will be awarded and paid out in 2010. The amount paid to the successful applicant will be \$500.00**, however the Committee may, upon the recommendation of the Trustees, raise this amount.

The scholarships are open to the child of a member who has been a financial member of the Association for at least five years. Also a child of a deceased member, who was financial at the time of their death, may apply to the Trustees for a scholarship.

An applicant must be studying in a recognized vocational trade and **produce evidence of this to the Trustees.**

Payment of the scholarship will be made to the successful applicant upon the completion of the 90 day probationary period of apprenticeship. The Trustees will require evidence of such successful completion one same has been received from the employer of the applicant.

When making an application to the Trustees, the applicant must provide the following:

- a. A supportive resume.
- b. A copy of signed training agreement.
- c. Copy of enrolment at a registered training institution.
- d. A supportive letter from the employer.

Failure to provide any of the above documents may either delay the applicant's interview with the Trustees or have the application rejected.

Currently the Trustees from the Committee are **Peter Branagan OAM, Tom James RFD and Rod Westgarth**. All applicants will be required to have an interview with the three Trustees.

The application form is reproduced on page six opposite. If your child is eligible, then they may make an application for the **2010 study year on the form provided.**



Welcome to the Crew

Peter Thomas, Daryl Fisher and Doug Barr

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Members, as another year draws to a close, a year that started with the great tragedy of the 'Black Saturday' bushfires and their attendant horrific loss of life and property, to a reasonable Winter and Spring that brought forth better than usual rainfall and some salvation for our sorely pressed primary producers. We are particularly proud of the efforts of the ADF who once again **responded magnificently to the natural disasters we endured.**

We have enjoyed a year of healthy growth with the financial situation on a sound footing and social and commemorative activities well supported. In particular our annual Cambrai Dinner at Puckapunyal was a very successful night with a quality guest speaker in Major General Craig Orme and **over \$600:00 raised in support of our troop parcels for deployed RAAC soldiers.** Your response at Cambrai and indeed throughout the year has been magnificent. **Thank you all.**

And now as we go forward into the festive season, may I on behalf of your committee, wish you all good health, happiness and the safe negotiation of the next two perilous months. **May you find something good in your stocking!** In particular I would like to wish **Vice President Peter Still** best wishes on his return to Darwin. Peter we will miss your support and wise council. **Warmest regards to you all.**

Daryl Pinner

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 15th February 2010

1930 hrs

Darebin RSL Sub Branch

402 Bell St

PRESTON VIC 3072

Agenda

Apologies

Minutes of Previous AGM

Business Arising

Correspondence

Reports

Suspension of Standing Orders

Election of Office-Bearers

Supper

Election of Office-Bearers

President

Vice Presidents

Secretary

Treasurer and Membership Officer

Editor-Track

General Committee

Honorary Auditor

Honorary Legal Officer

**All nominations to the
Secretary RAACA Vic Branch**

PO Box 547

COBURG VIC 3058

Light supper provided

The 7th Light Horse Regiment 1914-19 by Lt Col J.D. Richardson

Book Review by David Finlayson

One of the ways Australians dealt with the myriad of emotions which followed the Great War was to commemorate the events and individuals who served. One cannot travel too far without finding a stone war memorial. **Charles Bean**, the Official War Historian started the tremendous task of recording the great campaigns and movements in print. On a smaller scale, many Regimental Associations gathered their stories together and published regimental histories.

When one looks at the yellowing pages of a first edition history, one can almost sense the various emotions that the original readers might have had: pride, grief, the remembering of past times, places and friends. As many histories were produced in small print runs and purchased by ex members and their families, many books are almost impossible to find. **Being highly collectable** those that appear on the market fetch astronomical prices at auctions. The few in public hands can only be read in the reading rooms of public libraries whilst wearing white gloves!

Lt Col Richardson's *The 7th Light Horse Regiment 1914-1919* is regarded as one of the rarest histories published, in 1919 the original print run was only 300 copies. First editions at auction have sold for more than \$5,000! Richardson's book traces the Seventh from formation in Sydney in 1914, Gallipoli 1915 and the long campaign which saw the Regiment advance from Egypt, Sinai, Palestine into Syria. Richardson proved an excellent witness to those momentous times and events as **he rose from a squadron 2IC** to be the Regiment's **final Commanding Officer** in 1917 and 1918. Fittingly the history closes with the Regiment's return to Sydney in 1919.

Michael Martin, ex 2/14 LHR and **Glenn Mason**, ex Green Howards, have formed Regimental Books. Their intention was to develop a specialty online bookshop which would both sell and republish regimental histories. Richardson's *The 7th Light Horse Regiment 1914-1919* is their first effort. Unlike previous efforts this edition has come to life with the benefit of modern technology. Lines have been individually scanned and reproduced using optical recognition technology. **This has meant that mistakes** that appeared in earlier editions have been removed. The font and printing style whilst maintaining the old charm is easier to read and appreciate; photos have also benefited from editing and reveal greater detail than earlier editions. The addition of an embarkation roll provides additional relevance to families and researchers. The final presentation of the book is outstanding: archival quality papers, cloth bound with a facsimile dust jacket all come together to make a first class product. **This edition has been limited to just 200 copies.**

Richardson's *The 7th Light Horse Regiment 1914-1919* can be purchased for **\$135** from www.regimental-books.com.au . This book will prove to be a valued addition to any library and no doubt become a **collector's item in its own right.**



4th Light Horse Memorial Association

Association President **John Baker** reports plenty of action during the lead up to and including the 92nd anniversary of Beersheba and the 91st celebration of the Armistice. The Shrine of Remembrance management had notified the Association that the original 4th Light Horse Memorial Tree was showing distinct signs of age and distress and needed to be replaced. On Thursday 20th August it was cut down with the intention of relocating the 4th Light Horse plaque to the AE2 submarine Gallipoli Oak. Following representations by **Heather Felstead**, a direct descendant of **Bill McKissack and Joseph Cook**, both ex 4th Light Horse and **John Baker**, Shrine staff agreed that the 4th deserved their own tree. On Friday 16th October the new tree – a **Queensland Cerris (Turkey Oak)** was planted in the new **Gallipoli Garden** which is located on the east side of the Shrine, between the flag poles and the horse trough. **Dedication of the new tree and plaque was carried out on Tuesday 10th November.** The plaque was created by Bastion who was responsible for the Beersheba plaque in Caulfield Park.



Association President **John Baker** planting the new 4th Light Horse tree 16th October 2009



On Beersheba Day at Rupanyup in Victoria's Wimmera, **Dr David Holloway** was the Guest Speaker at the unveiling of a **Memorial to Major James Lawson**. A Yorkshireman who had immigrated to Australia, **Major James 'Porky' Lawson** had been an hotelier at Rupanyup prior to the war. At Beersheba he commanded A Squadron and was **awarded the DSO for his actions on that day.**