

TRACK



March 2016

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Where Were You?

When the Bugle Called
7 February 2016



(David Finlayson)

A poor roll up of members and families attended the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Victorian Branch in the Shrine of Remembrance Sanctuary on Sunday 7 February 2016. You missed the best bugle playing heard in the Sanctuary in a long time. Retired Musician John Mansfield exceeded his normal outstanding form.

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On a perfect summer's day a disappointingly poor number of members and guests attended Melbourne's **Shrine of Remembrance** on **7 February** to celebrate the **70th birthday** of the Victorian Branch. The **Ode to the Fallen** and the **Armoured Corps Prayer** were recited and a wreath was laid by **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** at our own commemorative tree and plaque on the western side of the Shrine. Congratulations to **Daryl and Frances Pinner** for their efforts to ensure the day was a success.



Charles & Alleyne Walsh (right) were flanked by Musn John Mansfield & wife Brenda



Peter Branagan laid the wreath watched by President Daryl Pinner and Shrine of Remembrance Trustee, Lieutenant Colonel David Ford



Joan Finlayson (left) was joined by John Baines, Lindsay Burke, Jim and Gloria De Francesco and Robert Toy



Singing with gusto were Ros & John Snelling, John Billings, Tom Murphy & Fred Coucher

The usual suspects included – Daryl & Frances Pinner, Peter Branagan, John & Diane Baines, Joan & David Finlayson, Charles & Alleyne Walsh, Fred Coucher, Tony Peart, John & Sue Hopkins, Robert Toy, Lindsay Burke, Werner Golla, Stan & Joy Rydel, Jim & Gloria De Francesco, Tom Murphy, Rod Westgarth, John Billings, John & Ros Snelling, and our resident bugler John Mansfield and wife Brenda. The Shrine was represented by Lt Col David Ford, CVO, AM, GM (Retd). **Apologies were received from** – Ian Smith, Godfrey Camenzuli, Kerri Marshall and Craig Burn.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The AGM was conducted at our current home – the Preston/Darebin RSL on Monday 29 February 2016. **Daryl Pinner** followed through with his assertion that he was not seeking re-election and consequently we find ourselves without a President. **John Paterson** put his hand up for another term as did new Treasurer **John Snelling**. The Vice President is **Tom Murphy**. **Roy Arnott** is happily continuing his role as **Honorary Auditor**. Soldiering on are **Rod Westgarth**, **Trevor Watts**, **Graeme Perkins**, **Ian ‘Icky’ Smith** and **Track Editor Peter Branagan**. Welcome to new face on the committee **David Finlayson**.

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

Congratulations to Australia Day Honours recipients – **Major General Craig Orme, AM, CSC** who was awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** for outstanding service as the Commander of Joint Task Force 633 in the Middle East and **Lieutenant Colonel Sean Benporath** who was awarded a **Distinguished Service Medal** for distinguished leadership in warlike operations whilst deployed on Ops Slipper and Highroad. **Major Mitch Watson** was awarded the **Conspicuous Service Cross** for outstanding achievement as the Officer Commanding, D Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment.

The **70th birthday celebration** of the **formation of the Victorian Branch** at the Shrine on **Sunday 7th February** was moderately successful.

Cambrai Dinner saw 58 members and guests sit down with Guest of Honour **Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Abbott** who delivered a most forthright and entertaining address. 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 success despite threatening weather which kept a few faint hearts away. **Rod, Sharon** and **Lauren Westgarth** continue to oversee an outstanding activity. **Tom Murphy** 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**. Two scholarships have been awarded this year; one to **Tom Bourke** of Wodonga and the other to **Rory Baines** of Beechworth.

A proposal to introduce **Affiliate Membership** to the State Branch was presented by **Peter Branagan** and **Ian Smith** and accepted.

The following members registered their attendance at the AGM:

Daryl Pinner, Godfrey Camenzuli, John Paterson, Roy Arnott, Graeme Perkins, Peter Branagan, Ian Murphy, David Finlayson, Tom Murphy, Rod Westgarth, John Snelling, Robert Toy, Brian ‘Lucky’ Leeder, Colman Moloney, Jim DeFrancesco and I.C. Smith.

The following apologies were received:

Andrew Abbott, John Baines, Trevor Watts, John Hopkins, Dr. David Holloway, Stan Rydel, Rod Jones and Lindsay Burke.

ANZAC Day



Some changes this year, form up on **Princess Bridge** adjacent to **Flinders St Station** at **0900 hrs** for a **0910 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.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2015

Members,

It is with pleasure that I report to you on the Victorian Branch operations during 2015.

Membership has remained stable over the past 12 months and the committee is continually monitoring the unfinancial member situation.

The RAAC Corporation held its AGM during October 2015 in Parramatta and no changes to office bearers occurred and was attended by most of the regimental associations. However the Corporation indicated prior to the meeting that they wanted to take control of the Hinton Scholarship Fund and were advised in no uncertain terms that they had no authority **whatsoever in the future of this fund at this stage.**

It was also resolved that the now defunct Federal Branch which still has not been closed down, will be proceeded to be done by Peter Still and Graeme Brown from the RAAC Corporation.

The Victorian Branch has distributed a number of Christmas hampers to our veteran members and Rod Westgarth has to be congratulated on his efforts in the organising of these.

I would like to thank all the members who spared their time and efforts to work on the Committee during 2015 including the President Daryl Pinner for his efforts in keeping the Victorian Branch on track, also Daryl and Peter Branagan for their efforts in the organisation of the Cambrai Dinner which was a moderate success and the innovative change to the buffet style dinner and the **excellent address given by the guest speaker.**

This year saw the resignation of our long serving and capable treasurer, Godfrey Camenzuli and it took John Snelling to step up and take over the duties, and has adapted to the role quite comfortably.

Rod & Sharon Westgarth organised our annual Christmas picnic and BBQ which was again a huge success and they are to be congratulated. Tom Murphy again circulated "Track" and has continued the good work as in the past. The production of "Track" rested on the shoulders of Peter Branagan and "Diesel" Perkins and I think you will all agree the **quality still remains most impressive.**

As always the Darebin RSL still makes us most welcome at their club and we thank them for their support.

The "Arch Finlayson Scholarship" fund which is designed to assist with trade apprentice students, is continuing to be awarded and would recommend that this be utilised if eligible. Two scholarships have been awarded so far this year.

Several book launches were completed at Puckapunyal during the year and the Association has designed a new banner for use on our official occasions.

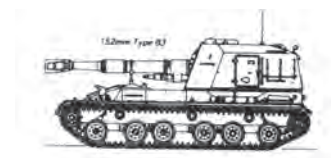
This year, the committee resolved to produce a perpetual trophy to be presented to the **'Cavalryman of the Year'** at the School of Armour on an annual basis.

Also, later during this meeting a proposal will be put to members to amend the constitution to allow for a new Affiliate membership type to be introduced and **you will be asked to vote on this matter.**

Finally, I would like to pass our appreciation to our Patron, Mick Annett, who had to resign from the position due to his overseas posting earlier this year and we are **currently in negotiations to appoint a new Patron.**

Also our appreciation also goes to the CO/CI and RSM of School of Armour for their support throughout the year and trust that this may continue for many years.

Thank you,
John Paterson



The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors

Mrs Joan Finlayson



TREASURER'S REPORT 2015

Members of the Victorian Branch, it is with mixed emotions that I table my first report for the year ending 31 December 2015.

The Branch achieved a very average year, recording a loss of \$114.05.

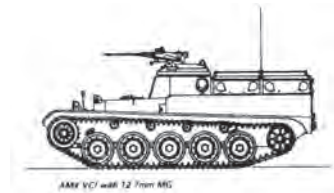
Donations for the year were well down totalling \$2069.00.

The 2015 Cambrai Dinner suffered a loss. For the first time we were 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 2015

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 2015 stood at 227 compared to 224 in 2014, broken down as follows:

Financial	134
Unfinancial	19
Hon Life Members	9
Paid Life Members	65

Thank you,
John Snelling



2016 AUTUMN PICNIC Sunday 27 March 2016

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.**



2015 KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

A cool summer's day greeted 97 members, friends and families at the **2015 Christmas Party on Sunday, 20 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 convenor **Tommy Murphy**.

A booking has already been made for **Sunday 18 December 2016**, so get it into your diary now.



(Meaghan Johnstone)

Young Amelia Glenn had no problems with Santa this year!

The following members and guests registered their attendance:

Peter Branagan, Chris, Simone, Chantelle & Nathan Branagan & Reilly Harper. Tim, Kim, Ethan & Keira Branagan. David & Jill Branagan. Emily, Caitlyn, Addison & Georgia Smedley. Tom Murphy, 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. Will Dean, Andrea, Brett, Heath & Ruby Clancy. Susan, Georgia, Corey & Ryder Ogston. Ethan & Jack Kunaratnam. Ed, Val & Zoe Plastow. Adam, Sally, Angus & Oliver Friend. Sharon, Rod & Lauren Westgarth, Jimmy Peile. Sally, Gemma & Ava Westgarth. Godfrey Camenzuli, Kerri Marshall & Ella Mannix. Frances & Daryl Pinner. Peter, Regina, Gavin & Nathaniel Still. Nicholas Zarafa, Laura Still, Ryan & Amelia Zarafa. Maree, Ren & Angela Proietto. Frank, Ayla, Indigo, Nicole, Ryder & Vicki Coxford. Chris & Lisa Morris. Andrea, Amelia & Rhys Foley. Robert, Andrew & Damien Cartledge. Demetru Theochari. Kate, Sam & Anastazia Innocenti. Bob Dacey Snr.

Welcome to the Crew

William R. Cameron Roderick McConnell



CAMBRAI DAY COMMEMORATION DINNER

**Saturday 19 November 2016
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 Officers Mess outdoor pergola area

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket
Miniatures

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by Friday 11 November 2016

Accommodation is limited



Around the Association

Two **Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarships** have been awarded this year. In early January, young **Thomas Bourke** from Wodonga, who is currently undergoing a motor vehicle mechanics apprenticeship, was awarded the first scholarship for 2016. He was closely followed by 17 year old **Rory Lennon Baines** of Beechworth who is currently studying to be a butcher.



Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship Trustee Peter Branagan presented the 5th Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship to young **Rory Baines** of Beechworth, Victoria on Tuesday 23 February. Appropriately, the brief ceremony was conducted at the memorial for the **2/8th Armoured Regiment** in the **Army Tank Museum's WWII Armoured Memorial**. The **2/8th** was Arch's WWII unit. The memorial is lovingly maintained by his widow Mrs Joan Finlayson.



Young **Thomas Bourke** (pictured above) of Wodonga, received his **Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship** back in early January. **Tom** is currently training to be a motor mechanic.

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.

Victorian Branch

ABN 279 212 293 78

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Show Off Your Association

	Items for sale		Postage
R.A.A.C.A	Tie	\$32.00	\$3.00
R.A.A.C.A	Pocket Badge.....	\$15.00	\$1.00
R.A.A.C.A	Plaque (Victorian Branch).....	\$35.00	\$5.00
R.A.A.C.A	Decal	\$ 1.50	\$0.60
R.A.A.C.A	Lapel Badge	\$11.00	\$1.00
R.A.A.C.A	Cap	\$10.00	\$5.00
R.A.A.C.A	Stubby Holder	\$ 6.50	\$3.00
R.A.A.C.A	Polo Shirt Size S, M, L, XL, XXL <i>Colour Black, Green, Burgundy</i>	\$23.00	\$5.00
R.A.A.C.A	Black Beret	\$30.00	\$5.00
	<i>(Please include Beret size)</i>		
R.A.A.C.A	Rugby Tops	\$30.00	\$5.00
	<i>Navy blue with white collar and Association Logo</i>		
R.A.A.C.A	Rugby Tops	\$35.00	\$5.00
	<i>Navy blue with denim collar and Association Logo</i>		
R.A.A.C.A	Chambray Shirts	\$29.00	\$5.00
	<i>Long sleeves, light blue with Association Logo</i>		
R.A.A.C.A	Brew Mug	\$10.00	Pickup only
	<i>with Association Logo</i>		
	Eldridge Book (Special)	\$30.00	Postage paid

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1. Prices are subject to change when current stock runs sold.
2. All items are inclusive of GST and subject to a charge for packing and postage.
3. Please include Cost of Postage.



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RAACA SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the benefits your Association provides are the scholarships available to eligible children commencing or completing their Secondary education. Applicants must be the children of a financial member; unfortunately due to financial constraints, grandchildren are not eligible for either scholarship at this time.

The Victorian Branch Scholarship is currently **\$150:00 per year** for the first two years of secondary school. Applications should be forwarded to the Secretary with proof of attendance by **28 February in the first year of qualification. A follow up application is required for the second year.** You must have been a financial member of the RAACA for a **minimum of five years to apply.**

The Brigadier F.B. Hinton, MC Scholarship which was a Federal Executive Scholarship is also administered by the Victorian Branch and currently provides **\$250:00 for each of the final two years of Secondary School.** Application including proof of intent to complete years 11 and 12 to our Secretary by **30 September in the applicant's year 10.**

There are no scholastic results required, however proof of attendance must be provided on the relevant School's letterhead paper. **Applicants must be financial members.**

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PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS (EXCEPT FOR E-MAIL)