

TRACK

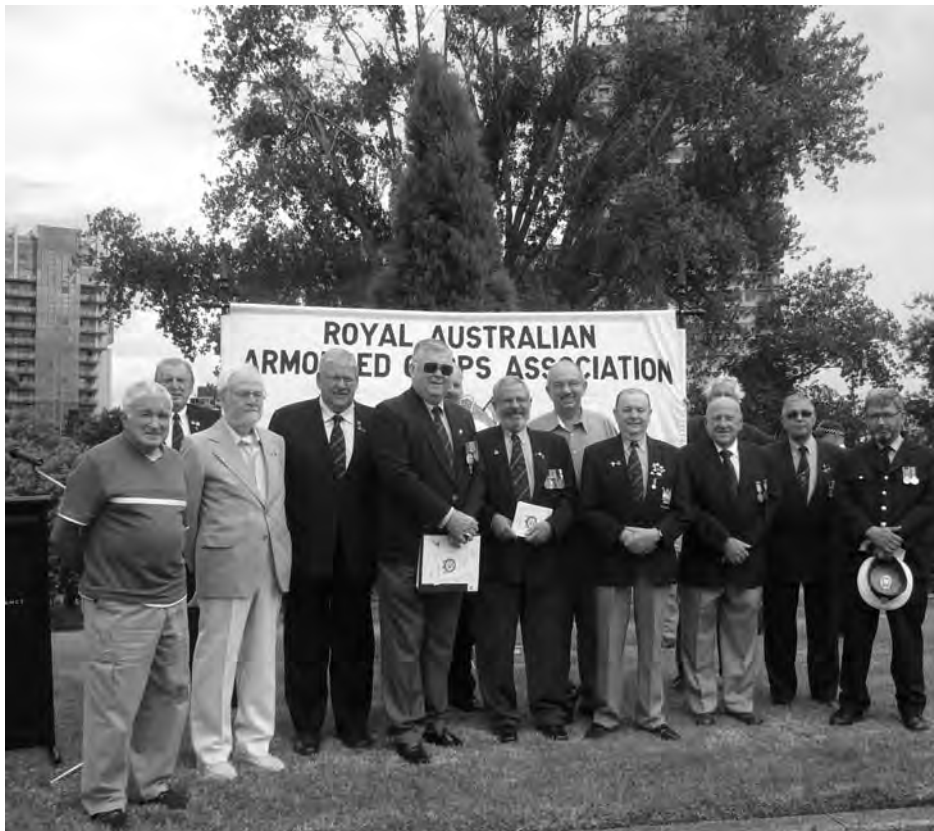
March 2012



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GATHERED AT THE SHRINE 12 FEBRUARY 12



(Robyn Branagan)

The usual suspects included Vin Brennan, Tony Peart, Stan Andrew, John Hopkins, Daryl Pinner, David Finlayson (obscured), Godfrey Camenzuli, Peter Branagan, John Paterson, John Snelling, Graham Wright (behind), Jim De Francesco and David Bucknell.

Continued page two.....

A cool, overcast day greeted a few dedicated members and families gathered at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on 12 February to celebrate the 66th birthday of the Victorian Branch. Our guest of honour this year was Mr David Finlayson. David presented a briefing on his soon to be published book 'To The Green Fields Beyond'- a biographical history of all those who have given their lives whilst serving in the Light Horse and Australian Armour since 1939. The Ode to the Fallen and the Lord's Prayer were recited and a wreath was laid by Godfrey Camenzuli. Unfortunately due to the unavoidable absence of one of Melbourne's finest buglers – Mr John Mansfield; The Last Post and Rouse sputtered from a cantankerous PA system.

Following a short commemorative service, the group moved into the annex where a sumptuous afternoon tea and the presentation by Mr David Finlayson were enjoyed. Despite the lack of support from the membership, 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.



(David Finlayson)

A large part of the small crowd in attendance

The usual suspects included – Daryl & Frances Pinner, Peter & Robyn Branagan, Chantelle & Nathan Branagan, Kim & Ethan Branagan, Vin & Dot Brennan with grandsons Max & Leon Pudebat, Andrew Zsolt, Tiny O'Shea, Stan Andrew, Godfrey Camenzuli & Kerri Marshall, John Paterson, David Finlayson, Fred Coucher, Jim & Ria De Francesco, John Hopkins, Graham Wright, David Bucknell, Werner Golla, Stan Rydell, Tony Peart, Ian & Kaye Murphy and John & Ros Snelling, **The Shrine was represented by Lt Col David Ford**, CVO, AM, GM (Retd). **Apologies were received from** Tom James, Will Anderson, Tom Murphy, Roger Bicheno and Basil Tiligadis.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

The AGM was conducted at our new home – the Preston/Darebin RSL on Monday 20 February 2012. The status quo was again achieved with the incumbent executive **Daryl Pinner, John Paterson** and **Godfrey Camenzuli** duly re-elected for another term. The **Vice Presidents** are **Stuart McDiarmid** and **Tom Murphy** with **Vin Brennan** and **Rod Westgarth** returning to the committee benches this year. **Roy Arnott** is happily continuing his role as **Honorary Auditor**. Soldiering on are **Trevor Watts, Graeme Perkins, Basil Tiligadis, John Snelling, web master David White** and **Track Editor Peter Branagan**.

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

Congratulations to Australia Day Honours recipients – Major General John Cantwell, AO, DSC. Brigadier Damien Cantwell, AM. Brigadier Phil Bridie, AM and Mr Barry Clugston, OAM.

The **66th birthday celebration of the formation of the Victorian Branch** at the Shrine on Sunday 12th February was moderately successful.

Cambrai Dinner saw 86 members and guests sit down with Guest of Honour **WO1 Brad Dunn, RSM of the RAAC**, who delivered a most forthright and entertaining address. Much credit to **John Baines, Peter Branagan** and **Major Bryan Gough**.

The **Kid's Christmas Party** at Lower Eltham Park goes from strength to strength, **Rod, Sharon** and **Lauren Westgarth** continue to oversee an outstanding activity.

Thanks to **Godfrey Camenzuli** 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. The production of a once-off all purpose membership card and the reduction of 'Track' issues from four to three per year was successful.

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

The **ongoing lack of information on the proposed Ironsides Corporation continues to frustrate the executive**. At this stage we are **not in a position to make an informed proposal** to take to the membership.

The following members registered their attendance at the AGM:

Daryl Pinner, Godfrey Camenzuli, John Paterson, John Baines, Jim DeFrancesco, Roy Arnott, Graeme Perkins, Vin Brennan, Peter Branagan, Ian Murphy, Tom Murphy, Stan Andrew, David Finlayson, John Snelling, David White and Rod Westgarth.

The following apologies were received:

Tony Archer, Chris Morris, Stan Rydel, Andy Zsolt, I.C. Smith, Paddy Devine, Trevor Watts, Craig Burn, David Holloway, Basil Tiligadis and Stuart McDiarmid.

ANZAC Day

Some changes this year, form up in **Flinders St East**, adjacent to **Federation Square** at **1100 hrs**. After the march meet at the **Cricket Club Hotel**, Clarendon Street, South Melbourne. **Don't forget your Black Hat**.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2011

Members,

It is with pleasure that I report to you on the Victorian Branch operations during 2011. Membership has remained relatively stable over the past 12 months and the committee is continually monitoring the unfinancial member situation.

At this time a decision has not been made re the formation of the 'Ironsides Corporation' and more info is required before an informed outcome can be agreed.

The Victorian Branch has been responsible for the sending of troop parcels overseas and **Rod Westgarth** has to be congratulated on his efforts to make this happen. The sausage sizzle held at Coburg Bunnings in October was very successful in raising \$1368:50 towards the deployed troop parcels.

I would like to thank all the members who spared their time and efforts to work on the Committee during 2011 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 organization of the Cambrai Dinner. Without **Godfrey Camenzuli** looking after the finances of the Association, I doubt if the finances would be in the position they are today.

Rod & Sharon Westgarth organized 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 again on the shoulders of **Peter Branagan** and "**Diesel**" **Perkins**.

David White has the task of keeping our web site updated, and has done a fantastic job. Also, I think you will agree that without these people and the others on the committee, the Victorian Branch would not be as successful as it is.

As always the **Darebin RSL** has made us most welcome at their club and we thank them for their support. **Stuart McDiarmid** is still negotiating with them regarding the display of our association honour board.

Also thanks to **Mrs Joan Finlayson** for her most generous donation in order to create the "**Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship**" **Fund** which is designed to assist with trade apprentice students and is now available. The second scholarship was presented to **Mitchell Caulfield** at a luncheon held at Darebin RSL on Sunday, 10 July 2011. **Mrs Finlayson** was presented with a Victorian Branch '**Peter Wren Certificate of Merit**' at the luncheon for her significant support of the Victorian Branch.

At the Cambrai Dinner, **Kevin Austin**, **Doug Spinney** and **Alan Barnham** of the 2/6th Armoured Regiment Association and **Geoff Morris** of 1st Armoured Regiment (AIF) Association were awarded Honorary Life Membership of the RAACA. Unfortunately Geoff Morris suffered a massive heart attack on Australia Day and passed away at the age of 90 years and three months. **Vale Geoff**.

Finally, I would like to pass our appreciation to our **Patron, Mick Annett** and trust that the role of Patron is an enjoyable one. Also our appreciation goes to the **CO/CI and RSM of School of Armour** for their support throughout the year and trust that this may continue in the future.

Thank you,

John Paterson

The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors

Garry Spencer AM, David England, Brian Cook, Alan Sedgewick, Peter Gilson, John Snelling, Niel Russell, Clem Mooney, Stephen Foster, Ron Hogan, Pat O'Hanlon, Ron Gillis and Basil Tiligadis.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2011

Members, it is with great pleasure I table my report for the year ending 31 December 2011.

We enjoyed a successful year with a profit of \$3578:52.

Donations for the year were impressive and I thank the members who kindly donated.

The 2011 Cambrai Dinner made a profit of \$526:30, the raffle conducted on the night raised \$541:00 providing valuable funds for the troop parcels. I wish to acknowledge the PMC's of the Officers and Sergeants Mess' at the School of Armour for their support and co-operation in helping to keep our expenditure down. In particular Major Bryan Gough is to be congratulated on his support and enthusiasm.

More and more members are using the direct debit facilities and I keep encouraging members who have internet access to use this service whenever possible.

On closing, I thank the committee for their efforts during year. And last but not least Roy Arnott, for again auditing the branches finances.

Thank you

Godfrey Camenzuli

Membership Report 2011

The numbers are slightly down on 2010.

The membership at the end of December 2011 stood at 238, broken down as follows:

Financial	144
Unfinancial	12
Hon Life Members	12
Paid Life Members	70



Welcome to the Crew

Graeme John Moore Don Rodwell (re-joined) Graham Garvie

2011 KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

A perfect summer's day greeted 105 members, friends and families at the **2011 Christmas Party on Sunday 18 December**, celebrated at the **newly 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 well established sausage sizzle was well patronised. A special mention to Santa's long serving helper **Lauren Westgarth** who has suffered Santa's terrible jokes for 10 years and has done her best to keep the old fella's mind on the job!

A booking has already been made for **Sunday 16th December 2012**, so get it into your diary now.



(Robyn Branagan)

The kids waited 'patiently' for Kerri Marshall to take her photo prior to getting down to the real business of the day!

The following members and friends registered their attendance:

John and Deidre Paterson, Tom Murphy, Rod, Sharon, Lauren, Adam, Sally, Gemma, Ava and Dawn Westgarth and Jimmy Peile. Peter, Robyn, Chris, Chantelle and Nathan Branagan with Simone Tregenza. Tim, Kim and Ethan Branagan. Jill and David Branagan. Sam, Kirsty, Isobel and Alice Branagan. Craig, Anita and William Burn. Ian and Denise Smith. Meaghan, Glen, Hannah and Connor Johnstone. Fiona, Matt, William and Sam Glenn. Lisa, Shane, Sophie and Jared Crosbie. Tom and Sandra James with Sarah and Andrew Harrison, Jason, Mackinley, Braydon and Benson Steel. Vin and Dot Brennan with grandchildren Sean, Max and Leon Pudebat. Stan and Joy, Heather, Lyndal Rydel and Chris. Brett, Andrea, Heath and Ruby Clancy. Susan, Georgia, Corey and Ryder Ogston. Daryl and Frances Pinner. Annemarree, Carl and Lola Refardt. Liam Riseley and Rachael Webster. John and Sue Hopkins. Peter, Regina Chris, Gavin and Nathaniel Still. Laura and Nick Zerafa and baby Amelia. David and Joan Finlayson. Andrew, Ruth and Jarryd McLean also Justin, Mia and Ashley Perkins. Godfrey Camenzuli, Kerri Marshall and Ella Mannix. Ted, Val and Zoe Plastow. Sally, Adam and Angus Friend and John Snelling.

CAMBRAI DAY COMMEMORATION DINNER

**Saturday 17 November 2012
1900 for 1930 hrs**

**Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal**

**Guest of Honour
Major Darren Rosemond
Officer Commanding B Squadron
3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment**

**Cost: \$50:00 per head for members
\$60:00 per head for non members/guests**

This function is our premier event for the year and as usual we are 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 05 November 2012

Accommodation is limited



Certificate of Appreciation

*The Royal Australian
Armoured Corps Association*

*Many thanks for your generous
support.*

*From the soldiers of the Mentoring
Task Force.*



Chris Smith
Lieutenant Colonel
Mentoring Task Force – 3

30 December 2011



MENTORING TASK FORCE - 3
Multi-National Base Tarin Kot
Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan

The Secretary
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association
PO Box 547
Coburg VIC 3058

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Commanding Officer, officers and soldiers of Mentoring Task Force - 3 to express our gratitude to you for being part of our operations here in Afghanistan through the generous support you have provided to us.

Whilst you have not left home in Australia and physically come here to Uruzgan Province and worked alongside the men and women of the Task Force, your gifts have helped to make all the difference to soldiers working in difficult and dangerous conditions for this nation of Afghanistan and for Australia; in effect, you *have* been with us.

I have probably worn out the keys on my computer's keyboard saying this in letters and emails, but the soldiers have consistently said to me that they have been overwhelmed with the gifts from Australia and they never knew so many people at home cared so much about them and what they are doing. You have been part of this great show of support, and, from where I sit as Task Force Chaplain, I can tell you that your involvement has been a tremendous boost to our officers and soldiers.

As our tour draws to a close, it is fitting that we express our heart-felt thanks to those who have supported us and helped make the mission the success which it has been. I know we leave Afghanistan a better place than we found it and it is our hope and confidence that the good work continues with future rotations of Australians and that the people of this nation one day enjoy the freedom and prosperity which are our daily experience in Australia.

Enclosed is a certificate of thanks for you, signed by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Smith. Please accept this as a token of our appreciation, and once again, on behalf of the Task Force, my sincere gratitude for your contribution and support.

Blessings!

Chaplain John Saunders
Padre MTF-3

22 December, 2011.