



TRACK

September 2007



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

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FAREWELL TO LEOPARD



The 58th birthday of the 1st Armoured Regiment was celebrated with a Readiness Parade in Palmerston on Saturday 07 July 07. Highlights included the retirement of the Leopard AS1 Tank after 30 years yeoman service and the introduction into service of the M1A1 AIM SA Abrams Tank.

Continued page 2.....

Welcome to the Crew

Alan Sedgewick (rejoined)

Two vehicles from 2nd Cavalry Regiment supported by guns from **8th/12th Medium Regiment** held ground on the 1st Brigade Parade Ground. **The Regimental Standard** was paraded under the auspices of **RSM WO1 Ian Cummings**.



M1A1 Abrams salute the Standard for the first time on the Readiness Parade.



Leopard tanks leave the parade ground for the last time in Australian service.



M1A1 Abrams tanks of 1 Troop A Squadron salute the dais as they leave the 1st Brigade parade ground. The Reviewing Officer was the Hon Peter Lindsay, MP-Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence and Member for Herbert. Principal VIP was Chief of Army-Lt Gen Peter Leahy, AC and Head of Corps-Maj Gen Dave Chalmers, AO, CSC, ADC. Host Officer was the unit's Honorary Colonel-Maj Gen Roger Powell, AM,(Retd).



Leopard Tank ARN 29399, call sign 3C fires its final rounds in Australian Army service prior to handing over the shoot to 1 Troop, B Squadron at Mt Bundy Training Area on 9 July 2007.



M1A1 Abrams tanks from 1 Troop, B Squadron continue to engage targets at Mt Bundy following the hand off from Leopard MBT call sign 3C on 9 July 2007.



The last Leopard Tank crew to live fire at the Mt Bundy Training Area on 9 July 2007 (from left) Tpr James Moore (operator), Tpr Michael Colley (gunner), Cpl Nicholas Zerafa (crew commander) and Tpr Craig Hancock (driver).

CAMBRAI DAY COMMEMORATION DINNER

Saturday 17 November 2007

1900 for 1930 hrs

Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal

**Guest of Honour
WO1 Donald G. Spinks, OAM
RSM of the RAAC**

Cost: \$50:00 per head for members
\$55:00 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

Make the most of your trip to Puckapunyal with a visit to the world class Army Tank Museum

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket
Miniatures

Tickets posted out early September
RSVP by 08 November 2007

Accommodation is limited

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Mark your diary now for the **Children's Christmas Party** at the **Diamond Valley Miniature Railway**, Lower Eltham Park (Melways reference map 21 H 10). We have resumed our traditional date of a week before Christmas so come and join us on **Sunday the 16th December**.

As usual **Santa is timetabled to arrive by train at Meadmore Junction at 1300 hrs**. We have booked our first dedicated special to arrive at the picnic area at **1100 hrs** and the afternoon train at **1400 hrs**. Both these trains travel the extensive layout for 30 minutes and have proven very popular with all ranks in the past. **Rod and Sharon Westgarth** put a lot of effort into organising this activity, so come out to Eltham and give the kids (**from eight to eighty**) a great day out.

Remember **we provide soft drinks and bagged sweets, you provide a suitably wrapped and labelled present for Santa to give to your children**. We also provide **complimentary rail tickets** so that you can take the family for a ride on their regularly scheduled trains at any time.

The newly introduced **sausage sizzle** was a big hit last year, so if you can't be bothered to pack a picnic lunch, Rod and Sharon will gladly flog you a sausage or two!

It is a condition of travel on the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway **that all those intending to ride the rails, must wear suitable, enclosed footwear**.

**So come along and join the fun on Sunday,
the 16th December 2007 from 1000 hrs.**

RAACA SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the benefits your association provides are the scholarships available to eligible children commencing or completing their secondary education.

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The Brigadier F. B. Hinton, MC Scholarship is administered by the Federal Executive and currently provides **\$250:00 for each of the final two years of secondary education**. Application including proof of intention to complete years 11 and 12 to our Secretary by **30 September in the applicant's year 10**.

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**The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges
the Following Donors**

John Howard Alan Hoseason Smith

AROUND THE ASSOCIATION.....

Treasurer and Membership Secretary Godfrey Camenzuli is pleased to remind members that annual subscriptions can now be **paid by direct debit into our account**, details as follows:

Account	Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association
Bank	DEFCREDIT
BSB	803 205
Account No.	20539919

He further advises that **membership renewals** and **Track newsletter** are also available electronically. **If you wish to avail yourself of these services, contact Camel** on glc14@bigpond.net.au or 14 Ann St. Pascoe Vale, Vic, 3044.

Light Horse Launch at *Raheen*

Raheen in Studley Park Rd Kew was the setting on **Sunday 20th May** for the launch of Reserve Forces Day in Victoria and also the launch of a wonderful project to produce and place a memorial to the **Australian Light Horse in Beersheba, Israel in April 2008**. This historic mansion, once the home of the legendary former **Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr Daniel Mannix** is now the home of millionaire philanthropists Richard and Jeanne Pratt. The Pratt Foundation is very generously funding the casting of a life sized Light Horseman by renowned Victorian sculptor **Mr. Peter Corlett to be dedicated at Beersheba on 28 April 2008**.

A number of luminaries including **Maj Gen 'Digger' James**, the **Hon Bruce Billson-Minister** for Veterans' Affairs and **Maj Gen Greg Garde** addressed the crowd and a vigorous description of the Battle of Beersheba was delivered by **Mr. John Cox** whose father **Jack** was awarded the **DCM** for his courageous actions during the battle.

(Below) Sculptor Peter Corlett with model of the Beersheba sculpture gets up close with a modern day Light Horse at Raheen on Sunday, 20 May 07.

(photos courtesy Michael Silver)





Veteran author Mr. John Cox regaled the crowd with the Charge at Beersheba.



Framed by 4/19 PWLH Lance Guard, Veterans Affairs Minister Bilson addressed the crowd.



John Baker and Tom James represented their associations on 20 May.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

The RAAC has lost some long serving veterans in recent months including **Lt Col Peter 'Punchy' Bourke** who passed away in **Brisbane on 11 June aged 71 years**. Punchy was well known and respected in the Corps and was the Officer Commanding C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment in South Vietnam 1970-71. Ex RAAC members at the funeral included **Doug Formby, Rod Earl, Neil De La Rue, Peter Goldman and Warren Hind**. He was laid to rest at the **Centenary Memorial Gardens in West Brisbane** following a Requiem Mass at **Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Kenmore** on 14 June.

Brig Ian Geddes was born in Tamworth, NSW on 4 February 1921. He enlisted in the **Sydney University Regiment** in early 1939 and a year later joined the **Royal Military College, Duntroon** from which he graduated in 1942. Allotted to the **Australian Armoured Corps** he saw active service in Borneo with the **2nd/12th Commando Squadron**. Following the war he served in the 66th **Australian Infantry Battalion (2RAR)** with the BCOF in Japan.

He experienced further active service during the Korean War with the British **1st Royal Tank Regiment** and again in Malaya in the 1950s with **2RAR** as OC Support Company and finally as Commander of the **Australian Army Assistance Group Vietnam** in 1972.

His more senior appointments included **SI, Tactics Wing JTC Canungra**, and **CO/CI of the Armoured Centre** in 1963-64. In 1965 he raised and was the founding Commandant of the Army's Officer Cadet Training Unit at **Scheyville near Windsor in NSW**. Established primarily as a training unit for **National Service officers**, OCTU produced over 1800 officers many of whom were to serve in Vietnam and/or reached senior rank in the Regular Army. Following this appointment he attended the Imperial Defence College (now the Royal College of Defence Studies) in the UK in 1968.

On his return to Australia the following year, he was appointed to raise and was the founding Director of the Joint Services Wing (JSW) of what was then intended to be the Australian Services Staff College at **Weston Creek ACT**. The JSW was redesignated the Australian Joint Services Staff College (JSSC) in July 1972 when it first admitted foreign students.

Following his service in Vietnam he commanded the 1st Task Force and prior to leaving the Army in 1976 was Chief of Staff at HQ Training Command.

In recognition of his contribution to military education in Australia, the complex that houses the Australian Command and Staff College at Weston Creek ACT has been named *The Geddes Building*. **Brigadier Ian Geddes** passed away at **Wahroonga, NSW** on Friday 27 July 2007.

Sergeant Kenneth Albert 'Pommy' Barnes was born in England on the 11th August 1930. In 1944 Ken joined the **Royal Marines in Portsmouth as a 'boy bugler'**. There is some discussion that his enlistment may have been slightly irregular as the official joining age was 15 years. Although details of his Royal Navy service are sketchy, he served on a number of ships including the battleship HMS King George V and HMS Forth. He must have enjoyed some overseas service as he was awarded the **Palestine Medal prior to his discharge in 1950** as the result of a collapsed lung for which he was awarded a service disability pension.

Following emigration to Australia, Ken joined the Australian Regular Army in May 1951 and was eventually posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment. In late 1953 he became Troop Sergeant, Reconnaissance Troop and undertook the physical training of his soldiers with great vigour. On one occasion he marched the troop to the foot of **Mt Puckapunyal and gave the order for them to climb it**, with the threat of last man to the top would be on mess duty for a week. He made sure he wasn't the last man up (see photo on page 10).

In late 1954 Ken was posted to 17 National Service Training Battalion in Perth WA as a recruit instructor. While posted to 17NSTB he had a motor cycle accident which eventually resulted in the removal of one knee cap.

In late 1955 he was posted back to 1st Armoured Regiment and with his family drove an Austin Tourer across the Nullabor to take up duties once again in Puckapunyal. He served with the regiment until **19 November 1956 when he was transferred to 2 Central Ordnance Depot**, where he served until his discharge on 8 May 1957.

Ken Barnes' service medals include the Palestine Medal, Atlantic Star, War Medal 1939-45, Defence Medal 1939-45 and the Australian Defence Medal.

All those who served with Ken or have had contact with him since would probably agree that he was the arch type 'Pommy Bastard,' however he also had the great respect of most, even though his abrupt manner never changed, something he was very proud of.

Kenneth Albert Barnes passed away at Sale, Victoria on **29 July 2007**.

Recce Troop at the Top of Mt Puckapunyal 1954



Rear Row (L to R) Sgt Alan Broadley, Tpr Don Willett, Sgt Ken Barnes, Tpr Neville Ralph, LCpl Joe Stokoe, Tpr Jim Meacham, Cpl John Cook and Tpr Vic Hicks.

Front Row (L to R) Tpr Kevin Rowe, Tpr Vin Brennan, Tpr Don Weedon and Tpr Max Murray.

Lest We Forget

Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust

In 2008 the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is offering financial assistance for up to 75 students under many different scholarship schemes. All schemes help the selected children of the Australian veteran community with the costs of tertiary education. **Applicants are considered for all schemes for which they are eligible.**

Applications open on 18 August, to apply you must be:

- a. Within the means test ie. eligible on assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full time education.
- b. Enrolled, or planning to enrol in a full time course of tertiary education in Australia by attendance at a university, TAFE or college. The course must be of one or more academic years length and at undergraduate level.
- c. The child or grandchild of a person who has operational service with the ADF, or if not has three or more years continuous full time service with the ADF.
- d. Under the age of 25 when applying, unless exceptional circumstances related to veteran's service exist.

To receive an application form, register interest on 1800 620 361. **Applications close on 31 October.**

AVCAT PO Box K978, HAYMARKET, NSW, 1240

Fax: (02)9281 9164

Email: vvt@accsoft.com.au

Web: www.accsoft.com.au/~vvt

Show Off Your Association

Items for sale			Postage
R.A.A.C.A	Tie (60th Anniversary).....	\$35.00	\$3.00
R.A.A.C.A	Tie	\$20.00	\$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	\$0.50
R.A.A.C.A	Lapel Badge	\$10.00	\$1.00
R.A.A.C.A	Cap	\$15.00	\$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	\$25.00	\$4.00
	<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>		

Please note:

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.



P.O. Box 384
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Email: glc14@bigpond.net.au

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