



TRACK

March 2009



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

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

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

HISTORY AT THE SHRINE



(Photo courtesy D. Finlayson)

Honorary Life Member, Historian and former State Branch President Dr. David Holloway provided a brief history of the State Branch at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 8 February 2009. His interesting and informative address marked the **63rd birthday of the State Branch.**

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A very pleasant Melbourne summer's day (compared to the previous day, now known as Black Saturday) greeted a **few dedicated members and families** at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on **8 February** to celebrate the **63rd birthday** of the Victorian Branch. The birthday address was given by **Honorary Life Member and Past President Dr. David Holloway**. He spoke on the history of the State Branch from its formation in February 1946 until the mid eighties. The **RAAC Prayer** and the **Ode to the Fallen** were recited, a wreath was laid by **Tom James**, the **Last Post** and **Rouse** were played as usual with great feeling by **Musn John Mansfield** of the **4/19 PWLH band**.

The group then moved to the Shrine's western annex where a **sumptuous afternoon tea was enjoyed**.

It is our intention to conduct a celebration each year at **1400 hrs** on the **Sunday closest to the 7th of February** at our commemorative tree and plaque. Members are encouraged to find a bit of the **'Eldridge spirit'** and support this memorable day with their attendance.



(D. Finlayson)

Lined up for the Shrine service were (left to right) Ivan Maher, Stu McDiarmid, John Baker, Fred Coucher, Dave Bucknell, Jim De Francesco and Thomas Murphy.

Members and guests in attendance included – Daryl and Frances Pinner, Peter and Robyn Branagan, Godfrey Camenzuli and Kerrie Marshall, Tom James, Graeme Perkins, Bob Leonard, Graham Wright, Jim DeFrancesco, Gai and Sam Cooke. Vin and Dot Brennan with grandsons Max and Leon Pudebat, Ivan Maher, Ron Hogan, Graham Hogan, David Bucknell, John and Sue Hopkins, John and Margaret Kinton. Fred Coucher, Stan Rydel, Dr. David Holloway, Stuart McDiarmid, John and Sandra Baker, David Finlayson and his Mum Mrs. Joan Finlayson. The Shrine was represented by Colonel David Ford, AM (Retd) and of course **Musician John Mansfield from 4/19 PWLH provided his usual faultless support.**

The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donors

Sean Collins, J.E. Davidson, Kevin 'Bunny' Austin, John Belfield, Fred Upton, B.R. Clugston, Stu McDiarmid, Simon Williams, Leo Duncan, Donald MacEwan, Stephen Foster, Clem Mooney and Craig Burn.



The 'crowd' is assembled prior to the memorial service.



*A solemn moment as **The Last Post** is played.*

2008 KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

A fine summer's day greeted over 130 members, friends and families at the **2008 Christmas Party** celebrated at the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway on **Sunday, 21st December** in Lower Eltham Park. As in previous years we enjoyed our own exclusive picnic area at **Meadmore Junction** in the centre of the extensive layout. Santa arrived as usual on his own special and the two half hour sessions with our own dedicated train proved as popular as ever. Many thanks to **Rod and Sharon Westgarth**, their organising skills ensure that this premier social activity is a winner. The now well established sausage sizzle proved popular and will become a permanent fixture. A booking has already been made for **Sunday, 20th December 2009**, so get it into your diaries now! The volunteers at the miniature railway remain hopeful that the long awaited **refurbishment of the Meadmore Junction picnic area** will occur this year.



Santa's all time favourite helper Lauren Westgarth receives her final instructions

The following members and friends were in attendance:

Michael, Helen, Victoria and William Annett, John and Deidre Paterson, Daryl, Frances, Geoff, Tom and Jack Pinner. Lola, Carl, Annmaree and Mark Refardt. Rod, Sharon, Lauren and James Westgarth and Sean Doherty. Lisa and Chris Morris. Ian and Denise Smith, Meaghan and Glen Johnstone with Hanna and Connor. Lisa and Shane Crosbie with Jared and Sophie. Fiona and Matt Glen with Sam. Stan, Joy, Heather and Lyndal Rydel, Brett and Angie Clancy with Heath and Ruby. Grant, Susan, Georgia and Corey Ogston, Cindi, Ethan and Jack Kunaratnam. Vin and Dorothy Brennan with Sean, Max and Leon Pudebat. Tom Murphy. Peter, Regina, Christopher, Gavin, Stephanie and Nathaniel Still. David, Mitchell, Katherine and Ruby Jennings. David, Dione, Christian, Olive and Lorraine Flegg. Mandy, Dave, Jaimee and Harley Caleb. Jim, Judy, Kathryn and Robert Squires. Ann, Bob, Kellie, Nash, Kyle and Jada White.

Carol, Zoe and Shen Robinson and Neil Hammett. Graeme, Joan, Mia, Justin and Ashley Perkins and Jarryd McLean.

The Branagans also turned up including-Peter, Robyn, Chris, Chantelle, Nathan and Simone Tregenza.

Marilyne, Paris, Xavier and Kade Fitzpatrick. Godfrey Camenzuli and Kerri Marshall. Trevor and Julia Watts. Joan and David Finlayson. Peter, Glenniss, Allecia and Nathan Duncombe.

Tom, Sandra, Marcus, Yohji, and Hina James with Phil, Sarah, Val, Alan and Andrew Harrison.

In force were the Zsolt Clan including Andrew, Tom, David Michael, Debra, Sam, Daniel, Jacob, Taylor, Alison, Brooke and Justin.

Apologies were received from:

The Bucknell family, the Dave White family, Nicholas Watts and the Devine family.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The AGM was conducted at our new home - the Preston/Darebin RSL on Monday 16 February 2009. The status quo was achieved with the executive **Daryl Pinner, John Paterson** and **Godfrey Camenzuli** duly re-elected for another term.

The Vice Presidents are **Peter Still** and **Vin Brennan**, **Franz Holzer** was re-appointed the **Honorary Legal Officer** and **Roy Arnott** is happily continuing his role as **Honorary Auditor**. The general committee comprises **Tom Murphy, Tom James, Chris Morris, Trevor Watts, David White, Graeme Perkins, Rod Westgarth, Peter Still** and **Track Editor Peter Branagan**. **Bob Leonard** stood down after many years service and was replaced by **Jim Squires**. Welcome aboard.

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

Congratulations to Australia Day Honours recipients Maj Gen Craig Orme, WO2 Glen Armstrong and WO2 Dale Wallace.

ANZAC Day was a success in great weather, we were particularly happy to welcome 12 WOs/SGTs from the School of Armour to our ranks and all enjoyed the after march reunion at the Cricketers Club Hotel in South Melbourne.

Reserve Forces Day, first Sunday in July was a complete SNAFU, will be better this year!

Cambrai Dinner, saw 84 members and guests sit down with the Guest of Honour **Lt Col Roger Symons, CO/CI School of Armour** who delivered an informative and thought provoking address.

The **Children's Christmas Party** is more popular than ever, **Rod and Sharon Westgarth** and family deserve our thanks for running this social highlight, enjoyed by kids of all ages (see report this issue).

A word of appreciation to the committee for their efforts, with a special mention to **Godfrey Camenzuli** who has returned our financial position to one of strength and **Roy Arnott** for his sage advice and diligent auditing.

Comfort parcels are continuing to be distributed to our deployed armoured troops through the auspices of the Federal Executive. **Your kind donations** are utilised to support this very worthy endeavour.

During the past year we lost the following members – **Tex Hibberd, Bob Iverac, Sir John Young, Hec Brain, Craig McLindin, Gordon Barwell** and **Mick Green**.



The following members registered their attendance at the AGM:

Daryl Pinner, Godfrey Camenzuli, John Paterson, Roy Arnott, Graeme Perkins, Tom Murphy, Vin Brennan, Ron Hogan, Peter Branagan, Peter Still, Paul Sudul, Jim Squires, Ian Murphy, Bob Leonard, Stan Rydell, David White, John Brooker, David Finlayson, Tom James, Jim DeFrancesco and Andy Zsolt.

The following apologies were received:

Chris Morris, Paddy Devine, Rod Westgarth, Basil Tiligadis, John Baines, Trevor Watts and David Holloway.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Members,

It is with pleasure that I report to you on the Victorian Branch operations during 2008.

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

Today, you the members will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed restructure of the RAACA and I urge you to consider this move forward most seriously.

I would like to thank all members who gave up their time to work on the committee in 2008 particularly **President Daryl Pinner** for his expertise in keeping the Victorian Branch on track, along with **Treasurer Godfrey Camenzuli** who has restored the financial position with the help of **Roy Arnott, Daryl** and **Peter Branagan** for their efforts in the organization of the **Cambrai Dinner**.

Rod and **Sharon Westgarth** organized our annual **Christmas Picnic** which was once again a huge success, many thanks to the Westgarth family including **Lauren**, the consummate Santa's helper. Tom Murphy once again did a great job in ensuring that the *Track* newsletter was circulated. The production of *Track* was vested once again in **Peter Branagan** and **Graeme 'Diesel' Perkins** and I think you will agree that their usual high standard was maintained. **David White** has the job of keeping our website updated and has done a fantastic job.

This year saw the move from Coburg to the **Darebin RSL** who have made us very welcome, despite the move, our pre ANZAC reunion will still be held at **Coburg RSL** on **Sunday 19 April** starting at 1000 hrs

Finally, I would like to pass your appreciation to our Patron **Mick Annett** and trust that the role of Patron has been satisfying so far. Also our thanks go to the **CO/CI** and **RSM** of the **School of Armour** for their continuing support, it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

John Paterson

Thank You

The **raffle** conducted during our **Cambrai Dinner on Saturday 22 November 2008** raised **\$268:00** after costs. The money raised has been used to provide **comfort parcels to our deployed Black Hats**.

I wish to sincerely thank those members who have generously donated prizes for our raffles. **These donations contribute considerably to keeping costs down.**

If you have an item you wish to donate, please contact me on 9438 6168 so that I can include it on the raffle flyer. **Thank you for your ongoing support.**

Rod Westgarth
Convenor

TREASURER'S REPORT 2008

Members of the Victorian Branch, it is with great pleasure that I table my report for the year ending 31 December 2008.

As you can see by the financial report we had rather a good year to finish with a **surplus of \$1947:81**. This figure is down on 2007 as a result of considerably greater stock holdings.

It is pleasing to see members using the direct credit facilities to pay for their subs and the Cambrai Dinner. When you do so, please include your name and what you are paying for.

The account details for direct debit are:

Bank: DEFCREDIT

BSB: 803205

Account No: 20539919

Member No: 156140

Account Name: Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association

The Cambrai Dinner combined with the raffle produced a small profit of \$537:42 even though numbers attending were down on previous years. The success of the dinner relies on the great support from the **CO/CI of the School and the PMC of the Officers Mess. Peter Branagan** is to be congratulated on his organisation of the dinner whilst **Rod Westgarth** organised and **Trevor Watts** conducted the raffle.

On closing I wish to thank **Roy Arnott** for his patience and advice during the conduct of the annual audit and **Daryl Pinner** for his help with the banking and issuing of receipts etc. My thanks also to the hard working committee members for their support.

Membership Report 2008

The membership of the Victorian Branch is fairly steady with 257 members currently. During 2008 a number of members were deleted due to their serial offending non financial status.

The membership at the end of December 2008 was as follows:

Financial	161
Unfinancial	7
Hon Life Members	10
Paid Life Members	79
Total	257

On closing may I remind the membership that **subscriptions for 2009** were due and payable on the **1st of January**.

I urge any unfinancial members to help us keep costs down by sending in your subscription prior to us sending out reminder notices.

Thank You,
Godfrey Camenzuli

STOP PRESS

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF POST BOX NUMBER
NEW ADDRESS IS P.O.BOX 547 COBURG 3058

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS Inc (Victorian Branch)

ABN: 279 212 293 78

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE: Year ending 31 December 2008

2007	Income		2008
\$		\$	\$
5,770.00	Member Subscriptions		5,835.00
1,929.61	Interest		1,957.16
	Donations		
1,184.00	Association	527.55	
100.00	Boer War Memorial	0.00	
<u>781.50</u>	Troop Parcels	<u>687.00</u>	
2,065.50	Total		1,214.55
3,955.00	Cambrai Dinner		4,275.00
2,450.00	Sale of stock		4,349.90
147.20	Postage recovered		77.00
282.60	Raffles		507.50
16,599.91	Total Income		18,216.11
	Expenditure		
2,153.72	Cost of goods sold		3,876.72
	Postage		
157.50	general	139.20	
158.05	stock	159.60	
103.25	subscriptions	55.00	
<u>65.00</u>	PO Box	<u>70.00</u>	
483.80			423.80
37.60	Government fees		38.60
	Welfare		
732.90	Wreaths & death notices	169.14	
<u>100.00</u>	Other	<u>90.00</u>	
832.90			259.14
	Cambrai Dinner		
483.56	Drinks	205.50	
2,994.62	Catering	3059.68	
98.00	Postage	72.50	
85.00	Stationery	134.95	
<u>235.95</u>	Sundries	<u>264.95</u>	
3,897.13			3,737.58
685.65	Christmas Function	437.00	
<u>125.00</u>	Anniversary Function	<u>642.10</u>	
810.65	Total Functions		1,079.10
	Track		
387.35	Postage	351.94	
<u>1,838.00</u>	Printing	<u>2185.00</u>	
2,225.35			2,536.94
	Laminator		270.00
	Promotions		149.72
386.51	Printing & Stationery		369.56
351.00	Telephone - Internet		468.00
577.92	Telephone rental		157.25
37.50	Bank charges		37.50
493.20	Depreciation (Computer)		493.20
450.00	Scholarships		750.00
-627.24	Stock adjustments		15.71
77.50	Miscellaneous		
	RAACA Fed Ex		
214.00	Capitation fee	214.00	
192.60	Public liability insurance	664.95	
123.05	Special levy	160.5	
<u>485.10</u>	Troop parcel levy	<u>566.03</u>	
1,014.75			1,605.48
13,202.29	Total Expenses		16,268.30
3,397.62	Surplus/loss		1,947.81

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS Inc (Victorian Branch)

ABN: 279 212 293 78

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 31 December 2008

2007 \$		2008 \$
	Current Assets	
	Cash at Defcredit	
7,880.86	I-Saver Account	7,626.80
5,348.66	Working Account	7,194.81
<u>21,660.64</u>	Investment Account	<u>23,149.58</u>
34,890.16		37,971.19
4,990.70	Prepayment (Book Publisher)	
2,870.77	Stock	5,489.72
150.40	Interest Accrued	117.33
42,902.03	Total Current Assets	43,578.24
	Fixed Assets	
2,466.00	Laptop Computer	2,466.00
-1,479.60	Less: Provision for depreciation	-1,972.80
<u>986.40</u>		493.20
43,888.43	Total Assets	44,071.44
	LIABILITIES	
2,045.00	Subscriptions paid in advance	1,840.00
8,360.00	Life Membership subscriptions capitalised	6,800.00
10,405.00		8,640.00
38,507.57	Opening Balance Equity	38,507.57
-8,421.76	Retained earnings	-5,024.14
<u>3,397.62</u>	Net Profit/loss for year	1,947.81
33,483.43	Total equity	35,431.24
43,888.43	Total Liabilities and Equity	44,071.24

VALE

It is with deep regret that the Association advises the passing of **Colonel Leslie G. Coleman** who died on 22 November 2008.

Colonel Coleman enjoyed a long career in the Australian Army beginning with his graduation from RMC Duntroon in December 1938. When the 1st Australian Armoured Division was formed in 1942, the then Captain Coleman was posted as the Adjutant of 2/10th Armoured Regiment. Later after extensive service across Australia, he was chosen to go to Britain where he was attached to various armoured units participating in Operation Overlord, the allied invasion of Europe on 6 June 1944. By the end of the year Les was serving with the Guards Armoured Division then equipped with **Churchill tanks, as they crossed the Rhine River into Germany.**

Following his service in Europe, Les was posted back to Australia as OC A Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment (AIF) which landed on Balikpapan in July 1945 in support of Operation Oboe 2. Following his resignation from the Regular Army, Les enlisted in the Citizen Military Force in 1960 and was appointed CO of 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment, an appointment he held until 1962. Upon retirement he was granted the **honorary rank of Colonel.**

One legendary story about Les and a certain Lieutenant John Young (later Sir John Young, AC, KCMG, QC) concerned a US Army Jeep that was 'loaned' to the duo whilst undertaking liaison duties with US forces. Transfer of the jeep was administratively difficult and when it 'disappeared', Captain Coleman took the heat for the young Lieutenant. **Sir John's death was notified on 10 October 2008** and details of his life are included below. Many years later, both men became involved with 4th/19th PWLH, Les as the Commanding Officer and **Sir John as the Honorary Colonel.**

The Association also sincerely regrets the passing of **Sir John Young, AC, KCMG, QC** former Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of Victoria.

Sir John's army service began when he was studying at Oxford University and Britain declared war on Nazi Germany. Sir John was commissioned into the Scots Guards, at that time an infantry unit that later converted to armour. So began Sir John's service in the Corps. As a member of 6th Guards Armoured Brigade, he saw service from Normandy to Belgium and then onto the German Plains. Upon his return to Australia, he was admitted to the Bar, finally being appointed **Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Victoria's Lieutenant Governor in 1974.** That year he was also appointed Honorary Colonel of 4th/19th PWLH, a position he held for many years.

A memorial service for the life of Sir John was held in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne and was well attended by many members of the legal and military professions. The RAACA sends its sincere condolences to the families of these **two highly respected old soldiers.**

Tom James



AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

ANZAC Day lead up

The normal pre ANZAC Day commemorations will be held at the Coburg and Darebin RSLs on Sunday 19 April from 1000 hrs. **Members are encouraged to attend either one of these.**

ANZAC Day

The RAACA will form up at 1100 hrs in Collins St near the Melbourne Town Hall with step off time to be advised. As always we will remain flexible!

At the completion of the march the RAACA along with 4/19 PWLH Association and 1st Armoured Regiment Association will gather at the Cricket Club Hotel, corner of Clarendon and Thomson Streets, South Melbourne. **Melway reference 2K E4.**

Cost will be \$14;00 per head for finger food menu and drinks at bar prices. The Cricket Club Hotel has looked after us particularly well over the past three years and always provides excellent service with a warm welcome from the staff. **Further info can be obtained from Tom James on (03) 9583 5605.**

Black Hat Reunion

John 'Tubby' Brooker reported at the AGM on 16 February that the Federal Executive of the RAACA felt they were unable to organise the next Black Hat Reunion that is proposed for 2012. He further stated that the organising committee that ran the 2005 and 2008 reunions were unlikely to back up for a third time.

He also reported on the Back to Puckapunyal 40th anniversary of the battle of Binh Ba to be conducted over the weekend 4-5 July, one month after the national event in Canberra. This weekend will be organised by the 1st Armoured Regiment Association and will compliment the **60th birthday celebrations being conducted in Darwin at the same time.**

Generous Scholarship Announced

It was announced at the AGM by David Finlayson that his mother **Mrs Joan Finlayson** had decided to make a substantial donation to the association to be utilised in a form of apprenticeship scholarship for the benefit of member's children who were embarking on a working life that involved an apprenticeship. The details of this very generous initiative will be thrashed out by the committee in March. **Joan has made this offer in memory of her late husband Arch** who served with the 2/8th Armoured Regiment in WWII.

In more recent years they have been **great supporters of the Army Tank Museum.**



Mrs Joan Finlayson pictured following the birthday celebration on Sunday 8 February 2009