



TRACK

September 2008



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

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RAAC LEADERSHIP GROUP CORPS DINNER 26 JULY 2008



(Rear Row Left to Right) WO2 B. Heenan, WO1 P. McNeil, WO1 B. Clarke, WO1 P. Swinfield, WO1 C. Geoghegan, WO1 I. Cummings, WO1 A. Chirichilli, WO1 B. Dunn, WO1 M. Clarke, WO2 B. Oakley & WO2 D. Simpson.

(Front Row Left to Right) Maj G. McGowan, Maj A. Abbott, Lt Col C. Websdane, Lt Col D. Hayward, Lt Col R. Symons, Lt Gen L. O'Donnell, Maj Gen D. Chalmers, Lt Col E. Stevenson, Lt Col M. Chadwick, Lt Col M. Hanna, Maj H McKendrick & Maj K. O'Grady.

The annual RAAC Dinner was conducted on 26 July in the Tobruk Barracks OR's Mess. 190 members and guests farewelled a wealth of cumulative experience this year with 11 retired members in attendance to receive their Certificate of Service from Head of Corps – Maj Gen Dave Chalmers. They included: Brig Justin Kelly, Brig Spike McKaskill, Brig Ted Acutt, Col Steve Salmon, Col Robbie Van Kampen, Lt Col Tony Nobes, Lt Col Nick Keam, WO1 Steve Ager, WO1 Nigger Chappel, WO2 Tony Lynch and WO2 Simon Mason.



WO1 Steve Ager was congratulated on his 26 years service by Maj Gen Chalmers.



Lt Col Tony Nobes travelled from Brisbane for the timely recognition of his 34 years service.



WO1 'Nigger' Chappel

Lt Col Nick Keam

WO2 Simon Mason



Col Steve Salmon

Brig 'Spike' McKaskill

Brig Ted Acutt



Col Robbie Van Kampen served 26 years.



Brigadier Justin Kelly was awarded the 2008 Prince of Wales's Commendation as well as his Certificate of Service for 34 years. The POW commendation is awarded annually to a current or former member, sub unit or unit of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. "It shall be awarded for exemplary service, achievement, or a significant deed, embodying the values and ethos of the RAAC. The actions of recipients will have resulted in substantial benefit to the Corps."



The 2008 Dinner was the last official function for retiring Representative Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell. General O'Donnell has been the Colonel in Chief's representative since 1997. He was presented with a suitably engraved crystal decanter and glasses set contained on a glass tray. His final speech was a heartfelt farewell after some 54 years service to the Army and the RAAC. His successor is Major General Roger Powell, the current Honorary Colonel of 1st Armoured Regiment.

**CAMBRAI DAY
COMMEMORATION DINNER**

Saturday 22 November 2008

1900 for 1930 hrs

Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal

**Guest of Honour
Lieutenant Colonel Roger Symons
Commanding Officer/Chief instructor
School of Armour**

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

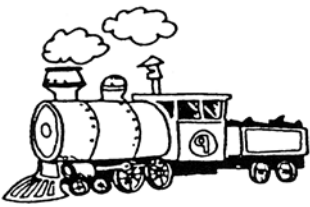
All enquiries to:
Daryl Pinner (H) 9359 4520
Peter Branagan (H) 5793 8171

On Sunday morning enjoy a sumptuous cooked breakfast
in the RAAC Officers Mess Outdoor Pergola

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket
Miniatures

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by 10 November 2008
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 booked Meadmore Junction (hopefully refurbished) for **Sunday 21 December 2008**.

As usual **Santa is timetabled to arrive by train at Meadmore Junction Station at 1300 hrs**. We have booked our first dedicated special to arrive at the picnic area at 1100 hrs with the afternoon service at 1400 hrs. Both these trains travel the extensive layout for 30 minutes and have proven very popular with all ranks in the past. If you miss the first boarding don't despair, the special will return to the Junction on the quarter hour for a change over of passengers. **Rod and Sharon Westgarth** put a lot of effort into organising this fun day, 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 you can take the family for a ride on their regularly scheduled trains at any time.

The now traditional **sausage sizzle** gives you the option of not having to pack a picnic lunch. Rod and Sharon will be only too happy to flog you a sausage or two! Remember 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 21 December 2008 from 1000 hrs.**

AROUND THE CORPS...

Head of Corps Structure 2008

The 2008 manning of the Head of Corps (HOC) is detailed below:

Representative Honorary Colonel: Major General Roger Powell, AM (Retd)

Head of Corps: Major General Dave Chalmers, AO, CSC

Deputy Head of Corps: Lieutenant Colonel Roger Symons (CO/CI School of Armour)

Staff Officer Grade Two Head of Corps (ARA): Vacant

Staff Officer Grade Two Head of Corps (GRes): Major Peter Branagan, OAM

Staff Officer Grade Two Head of Corps (Projects): Major John Baines, RFD

Regimental Sergeant Major RAAC: Warrant Officer Class One Ian Cummings (Corps RSM)

Unit Honorary Colonels

1st Armoured Regiment

Major General Roger Powell, AM (Retd)

2nd Cavalry Regiment

Brigadier Ian Bryant, AM (Retd)

2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI)

Brigadier Maurie Meecham, AM (Retd)

B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment

Brigadier Rod Earle, AM (Retd)

1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers

Major General Warren Glenny, AO, RFD (Retd)

A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse Regiment (SAMR)

Major Roger Burzacott, RFD (Retd)

4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment

Major General David McLachlan, AO (Retd)

A Squadron 10th Light Horse Regiment

Colonel Ken Ashman (Retd)

12th/16th Hunter River Lancers

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Donovan (Retd)



VALE

Former 3155744 Sergeant Lance Harry (Tex) Hibberd 10 September 1946 – 9 August 2008

Tex Hibberd was the son of the late Lt Col Harry Hibberd, Commanding Officer of 8th/13th Light Horse Regiment (VMR) 1955-59. Lt Col Hibberd was an original member of the association from 1946 and was a great supporter of the Victorian branch in its formative years. Between father and son they contributed some 60 years service together.

Tex was a long serving member of the Citizen Military Force originally serving with 33 Company RAASC at the South Melbourne Transport depot. He later transferred to 4th/19th PWLH where he served with the Transport Troop eventually qualifying as a B vehicle instructor and Trade Testing Officer. Tex also cross trained as an A vehicle crewman and served with the units B Squadron.

In his final years of service, Tex paraded with the 3rd Training Group at Puckapunyal in OR Training Wing where he instructed on Brigade training courses.

After retiring from the Army Reserve, Tex moved to Kyneton where he started his own security business. This move to country Victoria saw an end to Tex's active participation in the RAACA where he had been a committeeman for some years and Treasurer from 1977-81.

At his funeral service at St Paul's Anglican Church Kyneton on Tuesday 19 August, it was obvious by the size of the crowd that he was a popular and respected member of the local community. Both the Karlsruhe CFA Brigade and the Kyneton RSL were well represented and accompanied by Victorian Branch members Daryl Pinner, Dr. David Holloway, John Hopkins, Stan Rydel, Roy Arnott, Tom Murphy, Jim DeFrancesco, Terry O'Connell, Greg Sheppard and CO 4/19 PWLH Lt Col Mick Chadwick and RSM WO1 Brad Dunn formed a Guard of Honour after the service. Musician John Mansfield played his traditional haunting rendition of the Last Post. Also present were past members John Underwood and local ex Black Hat – Bob Ambrose.

Daryl N. Pinner, OAM
President



VALE

The committee regrets to advise of the recent passing of Lt Col Robert (Bob) William Iverac, RFD, ED of Springwood, NSW. Bob Iverac was commissioned 2Lt (Provisional) on 15 November 1956 into RAASC. He transferred to 4th Infantry Battalion in September 1957 then to 3rd Royal New South Wales Regiment in August 1963 prior to transferring to 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment in May 1966.

He served in A Squadron and later commanded Headquarters Squadron.

A transfer in his employment saw Bob move to NSW where he commanded the 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers.

Bob was buried on 22 August 2008 following a service at Christ Church, Springwood NSW. The association expresses its condolences to Bob's family and friends.

Tom James



DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT DAY

Sunday 31 August 2008

On a very wintry day in Melbourne a 'quality group' assembled to face the elements and take part in the annual Reserve Forces Day march and Commemoration. We could ask "where the bloody hell were you"?

Following a shortened march past the Reviewing Officer – Chief of Air Force - Air Vice Marshall Mark Briskin, AM, presentations were made to outstanding reservists and a commemoration ceremony was held.

Also present were National President, Major General Jim Barry, AM, OBE, RFD, ED (Retd) and Victorian President, Major General Greg Garde, AO, RFD, QC.

The march was led by a Colour Party and escort from 21 Squadron (City of Melbourne) RAAF, recognising service and commitment of RAAF Reserve members in peace and war.

The Black Hat contingent marched behind the 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment Association banner led by President Tom James and including – Alan Sedgwick, John Paterson, Stan Rydel, Roy Arnott, Dr. David Holloway, John Hopkins, Tony Peart, Ian Murphy, John Purcell, John Underwood, Peter Martin, Bob Burke, Jim DeFrancesco, Ron Hogan, Jim East, David Purvis, Graham Douglas, Jeff Heuston, Neville Scantlebury, Frank Kershaw (ex 8/13VMR) and Daryl Pinner. The two young lads supplied by Alan Sedgwick who carried the banner in extreme conditions deserve a special mention.

Well done troops – as I said "Quality not Quantity".

Daryl N. Pinner, OAM
President



Victorian Branch committee men Tom Murphy and John Paterson got their heads together at the RAAC Dinner on Saturday 26 July 2008.

Welcome to the Crew

Ron Hogan (rejoined)

Donations

John Williams, Gary Spencer and Bruce King