



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.  
COMMENTARY**

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**PLEASE NOTE  
CANCELLATION OF  
COMMEMORATIVE  
AND SOCIAL  
FUNCTIONS UNTIL  
CURRENT  
RESTRICTIONS  
LIFTED**



**FROM THE PRESIDENT – Robert GESMUNDO**

To our fellow Members and the RAACA Team let start my first President's Message by saying that it is an Honour and a Privilege to serve you as your President. As a member of the RAACA Committee I have had the pleasure to work with a great Committee, in our Patron Col Ken Ashman (Ret), outgoing President John Dwyer, Secretary Noel Moyes, Treasurer Ross Leighton, Committee Members Dick Jones, Bob Norris, Ross Flint, Ian Goodall, Colin Davies and Peter Williams. I would like to personally, and on your behalf, thank them for their dedication and best interest in serving the RAACA Membership.

Ian Goodall due to personal reasons did not renominate and we respect his decision. Ian will be sadly missed as his active contribution to Committee decision was always in the best interest of the Membership especially in his role as the Editor of Commentary. Thank you Ian.

I would like to welcome and thank our Patron Col Ken Ashman (Ret) for accepting his position as our Patron and to dedicate his time, wisdom and support to RAACA. Thank you Ken. You would have received past President John Dwyer's Report which includes the election of the 2020 Committee. I also thank our 2020 Committee for once again nominating and welcome new Committee member Tony Beekwilder. I look forward to working with them as a Team always for the best interest of RAACA and its Members.

As we are all aware the Corona Virus has severely limited activities including ours. All organised Ceremonial and Social activities had to be postponed until further notice. This includes regular Committee meetings and we are in the process of setting up a system that will allow us to continue to work as a Committee.

Communications for our Members will be via Commentary and additional Bulletins to keep you informed on RAACA matters of interest. We will set a new date for the AGM, when allowed, and will keep you informed. Several items listed in the AGM Agenda will be discussed and we will keep you informed on any action taken by your Committee so that we keep progressing even under difficult conditions.

Maria and would trust you and your families had a Holy and Peaceful Easter and stay safe during this difficult current situation we are all facing.  
Thank you for giving me the honour and privilege to serve you as your President.

Yours in Armour

Robert

**Patron Col Ken Ashman (MSM USA Retd)**

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

**JOHN DWYER - PRESIDENT RAACA-WA 2017-2020**

During my 21 years as Patron of RAACA-WA I have been blessed, and the Association has been blessed, with a long line of competent and charismatic Presidents. John Dwyer, who is now retiring as President, is the most recent of these.

John brought to the position a great deal of knowledge and experience in corporate governance, particularly in the Not For Profit sector, at a time when it was most needed. As a Council Member and WA Representative, he played a leading role in the formation of the RAAC Corporation which replaced RAAC A National Organisation. He also negotiated a revised constitution for RAACA-WA and important lease extensions for our Cambrai House.

John's term also saw an improvement in Association communications with the development of the Website and more frequent issues of Commentary including an online version. He also initiated the recognition of members' birthdays.

John maintained the important liaison with A Sqn 10LH and developed a proposal to amalgamate their Old Boys Association with RAACA-WA, which remains under consideration.

John will continue his long service to the Association, previously as Secretary and then as President, by remaining on the Committee to look after communications. On behalf of all members I congratulate and thank John for his calm and considered leadership of our Association. I also acknowledge Annette's great support to John and to all of us.

I should also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Committee for their good work and to welcome the incoming Committee who look remarkably similar!



Ken Ashman

Colonel (Retd)  
Patron  
RAAC-WA

9 April 2020

**IRONSIDES MAGAZINE**

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps produces the yearly magazine Ironsides covering all aspects of CORPS activity during the year. We have received advice that the new edition is now be accessed through the web. WA content includes activities of A SQN 10LH, the Centennial event for the Return of the 10<sup>th</sup> held at the ARMY Museum WA and Association activities at the Federal and State levels. Interesting reading and in these times where more and more time is being spent at home comes at the right time. Hard copies will be available to Association members and we will work out a way to distribute to those who wish to have a copy.

The link to the Ironsides web edition is

<https://ironside.partica.online>.

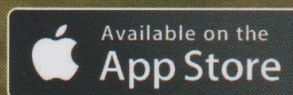




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**OPERATION HAMMERSLEY – FEB TO MARCH 1970**  
**Long Hai Hills Phuoc Tuy Province South Vietnam**



**ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES PRESIDENT ROBERT GESMUNDO**

I read an excellent suggestion how to Commemorate ANZAC DAY and that is – As a family you get up at dawn and at 0555hrs stand outside in front of your home, in your driveway, look up to the sky in remembrance and observe a one minute silence.

May I suggest that you consider this worthwhile moment on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020



## THE OLDER WE GET THE BOLDER WE WERE



### BREAKING CAMP –Don Sivyer

Breaking camp after 14 days sweating in the scenic spread of Lancelin's sandplains was never the highlight of any XLH exercise. Engaging weary troopers and others in the more mundane matters of pulling down and properly packing tents and related equipment was not what any military members enjoyed. During this day of hot September sun, when recovery of screens, pickets, rolling of ropes and cables and the location of 'lost' tools was underway, there was one onerous task which failed to attract volunteers; the filling of several bore holes over which hundreds of arses had parked to blurt their recycled rations.

The near new OC of HQ Sqn, anxious to ensure the unit's departure time was not compromised, looked at his watch and decided on a labour saving way to fill the bore holes AND to expedite the legitimate use of unutilized pyrotechnics. Stepping up to the nearest toilet seat (suitably situated over a 4meters bore hole) he dropped a grenade simulator into its depth and calmly walked away. A mere 4 seconds later (those unit members who trained in Gin Gin a few years earlier briefly remembered Meckering) the attention of the camp was directed to the clear blue sky. There, into the scented spring air, stretched and flying high, was a 20m (50/60 feet) column of various turds, paper matter and unmentionables, but satisfactorily, the resultant percussion collapsed the bore hole.

However, this most uncouth column was crowned with the ringed and twirling toilet top and flanked by parts of the dismembered toilet base and various other flutterings. This column of ex-military matter was then caught in an early sea breeze which, before it subsided, was spread over some 100 metres of the area !! Hearing the 'BOOM' the RQMS came bursting out of his still standing tent and looking aghast yelled, to no one in particular, " There's only 12 of those in Western Command !! " Brian Gibson, standing nearby, gently turned to the RQ and said, with a smile "Wrong RQ – Eleven now"

### Robert Gesmundo – 31 years of Community Radio

I started my Programme on 1 November 1989 at the unearthly hour of 2300 [hrs.to](#) 0100 hrs. Can you imagine the number of listeners at those times? The name of the Programme was and still is Voce Amica (Friendly Voice) and now it goes on air every Tuesday evening from 1800 Hrs. to 2000 hrs. The Programme is predominately English and Italian Music that takes you down memory lane but having said that, as the Announcer/Producer, I will always include community announcements approved by the Station and Major Events like ANZAC DAY, the Italian National Day and any other commemorative events.

On 29 June 1999 I introduced a 30 Minute segment called "The World of the Accordion" and to my knowledge it is the only dedicated Accordion Programme in Australia. This inclusion further supported that the programme is now listened world-wide as Radio Fremantle in on the Web. The Voce Amica – Friendly Voice programme stays on the Web for 7 days until it is over ridden by the new programme.

The programme supports local artists in both languages, Australia wide. My role is voluntary and has been for the last 31 years coming up this year.

To listen direct go to 107.9 FM Radio Fremantle Tuesday evenings 1800 to 2000 hrs.

To listen in your own time go the [www.radiofremantle.com](http://www.radiofremantle.com) select archives and select time of my programme

In 2014 I had the honour to be awarded Life Membership of Radio Fremantle for "my outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Radio Fremantle."

## MEMBERS CORNER

If you have an interesting hobby or activity especially during the current period and you think would be of interest to our readers please let the editor know with some text a couple of pictures please [jadanne14@gmail.com](mailto:jadanne14@gmail.com)



Dick Jones home isolation things to do.

Photo 1

I had an old hand drill and a lot of scrap timber and built a wood lathe  
It works a treat.



Photo 2

Construction of crystal sets and winding coils.



Photo 3

During the storm we had a few weeks ago, my container with the jeep and Blitz in it, part filled with water, damaging the cab of the Blitz. I rebuilt the cab, made a set of larger wheels and having plenty of time made a canopy for it.

The canopy was made from coat hanger wire and an old lap rug.

The lap rug I will add was from when I was young and bought my first motor bike, which was a BSA Bantam.



### WHO IS THIS MEMBER

WHY IS HE DRESSED THE WAY HE IS

WHAT IS HE DOING

FIRST CORRECT ANSWERS IN TO THE EDITOR WINS  
A BOTTLE OF WINE

Editor [jadanne14@gmail.com](mailto:jadanne14@gmail.com) 0419694549



### COLIN DAVIES

Colin has been looking after Cambrai House grounds and house for 7 years now and in that time has donated his time and equipment to the Association. He attends the house just about weekly and when this shot was taken had just replaced the edger blades and completed that job around the house. Colin is very proud of the self-propelled mower he donated to the Association