



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc
1/2023 EDITION

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Patron

LM Col Ken Ash-
man
(MSM USA) (RET)
92862167

President

Robert Gesmundo
94994685

Vice President

Colin Davies
0403654954

Secretary

Noel Moyes
92952281

Treasurer

LM John Dwyer
0419694549

Committee:

Tony Beekwilder
95918663

LM Dick Jones
93075654

Barry Carson
0418163607

John Riley
0428828313

Commemoration
10LH Memorial
Stirling Square
Stirling St
Guildford WA
10am 12th of March

Black Hat Coffee Morn-
ings at the Dome Deep-
water Point 100 The
Esplanade Mt Pleasant
10am March 29

10LH Regiment
Freedom of Entry
Granting Parade
City of Perth
Cathedral Square
11.30am SAT 25TH



Greetings to all,

It is with great pride and satisfaction that I can say that our AGM held on 26 February 2023 was a great success.

The catering aspect was well done and congratulations for our Committee and volunteers who helped.

The grounds were immaculate due to the commitment of members attending the Busy Bee. They were thanked on the day.

Most importantly we have two new Committee Members in Barry Carson and John Riley. Welcome and I look forward to your dedicated contribution in Committee.

We did need to have an election for Vice President and Peter Williams and Colin Davies nominated for the position. An election was held and Congratulations of Colin Davies who was elected as Vice President.

I would like to thank Peter Williams for the many years he served on the Committee and wish him well as a financial Member of RAACAWA

What a great achievement that our Patron Col Ken Ashmen after 22 years as our Patron agreed to make it 23 years and I look forward to his leadership and expert advice during 2023 and beyond. Thank you Ken.

There are many activities coming up and these will be outlined in Commentary as will the new Committee.

In his address our Patron expressed disappointment that the XLH Association Committee decision not to continue discussion on the proposed amalgamation.

RAACAWA is an Association that respects, acts and acknowledges Traditional Military RAACA Events as well as Social activities for its members.

Speaking of Social activities, I cannot emphasise strongly enough to support our Black Hats Coffee Morning .

Speaking of Social activities, I cannot emphasise strongly enough to support or Black Hats Coffee Morning promoted in our Newsletter and direct to members via email. It is important that we all understand that although it is organised by RAA-CAWA it is open to ALL Black Hats

In conclusion I would like to thank all who attended the AGM, all apologies and all proxies.

We must remember that our partners play an important role in our activities Thank you partners.

Yours in Armour

Robert Gesmundo

President

1 March 23

PS; 1 March is the Birthday of the Australian Army.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS WA INC WEB SITE

A REMINDER OUR WEBSITE IS LOCATED AT WWW.RAACAWA.ORG.AU. THE WEB SITE HAS PAST EDITIONS OF COMMENTARY, UPCOMING EVENTS, APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERS, PHOTO LIBRARY AND THE LIKE. SHOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PHOTO GALLERY WITH PHOTOS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION PLEASE SEND TO



RAACA WA BITES

CAMBRAI HOUSE

Thank you to Colin Davies, Tony Beekwilder, Barry Carson and Ray Lederer for working on the lawns and gardens of Cambrai House prior to the AGM. John Dwyer completed the task of securing the records of the Association in hard copy format with soft copy backup since 2004. Thank you also to Colin in organising parking and seating on the day of the AGM.

MAINTENANCE TEAM

From time to time ground and house maintenance is required at Cambrai House. 3 to 4 people usually required at a time to suit them.. If you are interested in being part of the team which hopefully will comprise a number of members and we will be able to have a roster established. Please respond by email or phone Colin on 0403654954 or cda72604@bigpond.net.au

MERREDIN AND NUNGARIN W/E INCLUDING MUSEUMS

Planned for the weekend 17/18 June activities would include Merredin Military Museum afternoon, Merredin evening event, Nungarin Military and general museum breakfast 8am to 10am then museum viewing. Costs \$7 Merredin \$20 Nungarin inclusive of breakfast.

Choice: Travel Own Means for travel and Merredin Accomodation from tentage to B&B

Additional Cost: Hire Bus (Rental Charge) Cost dependant on numbers Volunteer Driver

If interested please respond by email to John Dwyer email jadanne14@gmail.com or 0419694549

Museum Visit: Nungarin Yes/No Merredin Yes/No Evening event Y/N

Bus Transport Ex Perth Burswood 9am Return Perth 5pm

Interested Yes/No

Stirling Square 10th Light Horse Statue

The City of Swan, the Swan Guildford Historical Society and the Guildford Association are working together for the installation of a memorial to the 10th Light Horse Regiment in Stirling Square, Guildford. This statue will highlight Guildford's links to the West Australian 10th Light Horse Regiment, which was formed and had training at Guildford. The unveiling of the 10th Light Horse Regiment statue will be held on the morning of Sunday, 12 March 2023 from 10am at Stirling Square, Guildford. For more information please contact Laurens West on 0409 379 486.

ACTIVITIES 2023 RAACA WA

Black Hat Coffee Mornings
Last Thursday of the Month
10am at the Dome Deepwater Point 100 the Esplanade Mt Pleasant
All black hats welcome no bookings just come along bring some memorabilia if you like

Committee Meetings
2nd Tuesday of the month 1pm
At Cambrai House Irwin Barracks
Any member welcome please contact Secretary who will organise entry into the barracks
(Please note MAR meeting on the 7th)

Stirling Square Guildford Tenth Light Horse Statue Unveiling
Sunday 12th of March 10am

10TH Light Horse Regiment
Freedom of Perth City
Cathedral Square
Saturday 11.30am 25th of March

Old Boys Parade
Sunday 23rd of April
11am 10LH Memorial Fraser Avenue Kings
(Light lunch supplied to members)

ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES 25th of April

Dawn Service Perth Wreath Laying Ceremony
Perth Parade
10LH Regiment Unit Function
Details closer to event

Weekend 17 and 18 June

Merridin and Nungarin Bus Trip inclusive of overnight stay

Merredin Military Museum
Nungarin Overnight Stay
Big Sunday Breakfast and Visit Nungarin Museum

ANZAC House Visit inclusive of Lunch at ANZAC Club
Wednesday 20th of September
Time to be advised

Sunday 26th of November
Cambrai Day Parade and Luncheon

Please note details of each event will be provided when developed

THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN ARMoured DIVISION

Comprised of volunteers the formation of the Division was announced in February 1941 around the same time an AFV School commenced providing a core course in tank warfare and a focus course in gunnery, wireless or driver mechanics each of six weeks. Although an Australian tank was being developed delivery time and availability changed to sourcing Grant tanks from the USA.

The initial intent of the Armoured Division was to go to the Middle East. With The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941 the Prime Minister John Curtin determined the Division would provide domestic defence against the Japanese. I

In February 1942 Singapore fell and air raids (64) commenced on Darwin. By August 1942 the Division under the command of General Horace Clement Robertson (Red Robbie) who new tanks and was a man of action moved the whole Division to Narrabri for tank exercises the largest seen in Australia up to that time.

October 42 to February 43 the Division moved to Western Australia. Officers and men thought they were heading to the Middle East from there but instead they found themselves in Mingenew well North of Perth as part of the defence perimeter circling the Perth area. 5000 troops were in that town at the time. The Division was broken up in 1943 with elements remaining in WA and others moving interstate or overseas.

“When you are in command of a SQN and have control of 16 twenty eight ton tanks with well trained crews you sense the power armour contributes within the brigade” CAPT H L Thomas was quoted as saying at a presentation well after the wars end.

Elements of the Division spent time at Moora and Perth up to 1944 and in February of that year were in the process of mothballing the tanks. On the 8th of March the Division was put on six hours notice of battle on the basis a concentration of ships had left Singapore and were heading down the coast past Lombok. These ships ran into a cyclone of the WA Coast 7-14 March changed direction to West and then headed back to Singapore.



Seeking Information about 10LH between 1956 and 1975

- I am in the process of trying to assemble an account of 10LH between the dates shown above, and am finding official information hard to locate.
- I have personal experiences of 10LH between 1960 and 1979, but need a lot of other ideas to cross reference the accuracy of my recollection.
- Accordingly, if you have ideas about this period would you please write to me at: 64 Tam O'Shanter Dv, Kirwan, Qld 4817 or email bevlbamford@gmail.com
- If you do contact me please include your regimental details, and add years of service and sqns involved.
- Below are a number of questions to help your recollections, **but please only use these as a guide**. It is not necessary to respond to all of them. Any ideas you have will be most appreciated.

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- 1 How did you come to join 10LH? What were the influences that led you to the Regt?
 - 2 What recollections do you have of your recruit training? When, Who, Where, What?
 - 3 What significant historical events took place during your service in 10LH? What part did you play and do you have any anecdotes about what happened?
 - 4 Did you take part in the HMS Bulwark exercise in January 1962? If so, please tell me whatever you can remember about this. Do you have any photos of the event that I can copy?
 - 5 What are your recollections about annual camps? Where were they and what did you do?
 - 6 What are your recollections of the change-over of uniforms and weapons that began in the early 1960's ?
 - 7 National Service was reintroduced between 1964 and 1967. Do you think this had any effect on 10LH as a CMF unit?
 - 8 Can you tell me approximately when C Sqn was disbanded during the 1960's
 - 9 The introduction of 1-1-3's began in 1969. Do you have any particular memories or stories about this event?
 - 10 During the late 1960's and early 1970's membership of, and recruits into 10LH began to drop drastically. What do you think were the reasons for this? Why did the Regt go downhill?
 - 11 What were your best experiences as a member of 10LH?
 - 12 What influences did ARA cadre staff have on the Regt?

Please note again: there is no necessity to respond to all of these questions. Just select any you consider are important and let me know what you think.

Also if you have any photos you are comfortable with me copying, please send them to me.

Thanks

Barry Bamford

MEMBERS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Charlie Koala
 Self-funded,
 not-for-profit advocacy's
 helping the well-being of
 past and present armed
 services personnel.



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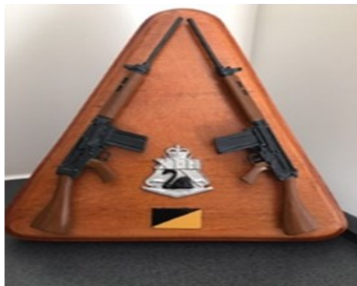
TOM
 PH: 0415031729

SPINIFEX
 BREWING CO



AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE LAGER
 PROUDLY VETERAN OWNED

375mL 2.95% Alc/Vol



NEED A PLAQUE - Tony Beekwilder
Tonybeek1942@gmail.com
 0409204336



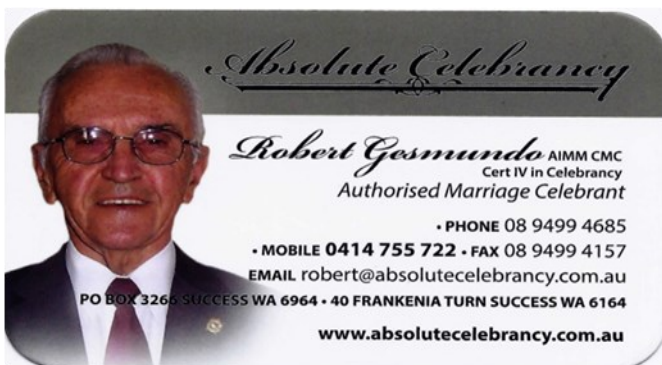
Dick Jones - Wooden Models
 Dickover60@hotmail.com



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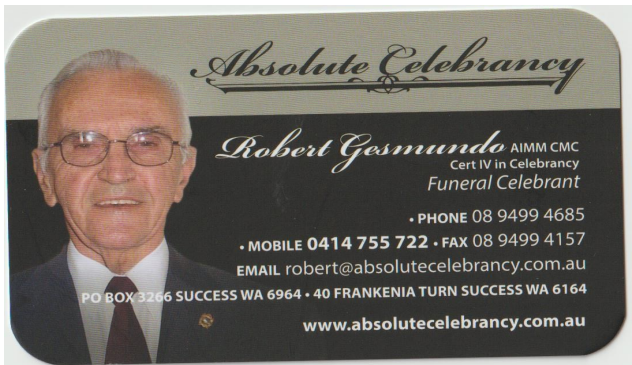
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