



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc
5/2023 EDITION October

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President Robert Gesmundo

Greetings fellow members.

I hope this report finds you well.

Our Commentary Newsletter is full of information, and I commend it to You.

Our visit to Nungarin and Merredin to visit the local military museums and socialise with a dinner in Merredin and at the Nungarin Street Fair Sunday morning was an enjoyable event. a

I also keep highlighting our Black Hat Coffee meet as it is an excellent way of sharing friendship and quality time with our membership. It is held every last Thursday of the month and details are in Commentary. This month we are moving North.

Details of our upcoming events at the Perth Mint and an invitation to attend the 2023 Cambrai dinner are included in this edition.

In conclusion, as always, I ask for your support on the work done by your Committee and any suggestions are always welcome.

Stay well and stay safe.

Yours in Armour

Robert Gesmundo

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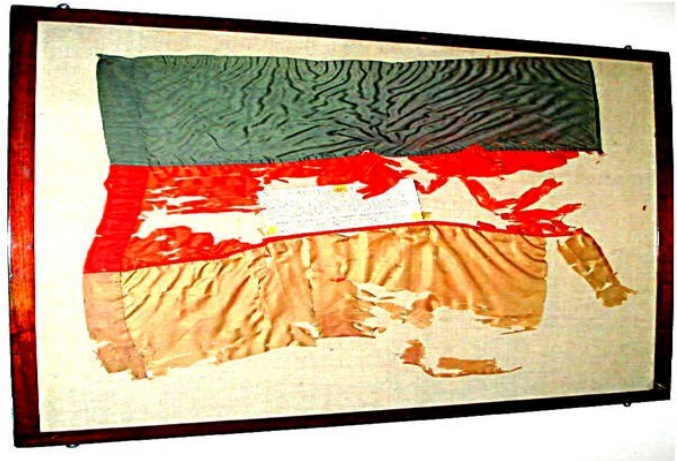
PERTH MINT VISIT – LUNCH GROVENOR HOTEL

A visit to the Perth Mint has been organised for Wednesday the 18th of October commencing at 10.30am (meet at 10.15) for tour (\$22) or alternatively visit to the retail shop area prior to heading over to the Grosvenor Hotel 339 Hay St opposite the the Perth mint for a meal at 12 noon

Please phone Tony Beekwilder 95918663 if you are intending to participate for both the tour and lunch or for lunch only. A response by the 3rd of October would be appreciated. Or let our Secretary know if you will be attending at secretary.raacawa@gmail.com



ADF CAVALRY AND ARMOUR RAAC



ORIGINAL FLAG FIRST TANK BATTLE CAMBRAI

CAMBRAI PARADE AND LUNCHEON

RAAFA CLUB 2 BULLCREEK DRIVE BULLCREEK
1200 HOURS MONDAY 20TH OF NOVEMBER 2023

Parade at the RAAFA Memorial

3 Course Lunch (introduction wine/Beer/Soft Drink) and coffee

Dress: Association with medals or equivalent

Cost: Members and Partners \$45 per person

Guests: \$60 per person

President Robert Gesmundo and the committee invite you to attend the remembrance day parade for all who have served in the Corps and a celebration luncheon on the day recognising our Corps. This annual event is a time for reflection and socialising with fellow members, partners and friends.

Confirmation of attendance by Payment to the RAACA WA BSB 066192 Account 10329559 Reference Your name, or by cheque to Treasurer RAACA WA 37 Barrington Avenue Champion Lakes WA 6111 Mobile: 0419694549. Please advise if you have any dietary requirements

Any Queries: President Robert Gesmundo 0414755722 or Sec Noel Moyes 92952281



ACTIVITIES 2023 RAACA WA

PERTH MINT—GROSVENOR HOTEL
18TH OCTOBER 10.15AM FOR TOUR
12 NOON FOR LUNCH AT GROSVENOR HOTEL
NO NEED FOR BOOKINGS FOR TOUR MEET AT AMIN GATES

Black Hat Coffee Mornings
Last Thursday of the Month
26th of October next event

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
NOVEMBER 14TH

Any member welcome please contact Secretary who will organise entry into the Barracks

CAMBRAI DAY PARADE AND LUNCHEON
RAAFA CLUB
2 BULLCREEK DRIVE BULLCREEK
Monday 20th of November
PARADE 12 NOON FOLLOWED BY LUN H
PARTNERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME

Christmas Sausage Sizzle
Cambrai House Irwin Barracks
12th of December 12 noon

Merredin /Nungarin Museum Road Trip – John Riley

The Overnighters at Merredin reported they had a great time, the trek up there was uneventful, the museum was worth the visit, their meals and company were memorable. Then on to Nungarin for breakfast. The trip up on Sunday with my shotgun (Gabby) was filled up with discussing the “old days” and the people we had known.

On arrival at Nungarin we checked out the markets and straight to the museum as the time was getting away from us, we met up with the members that were there and were amazed at the amount of old machinery, tools, armored vehicles, trucks, spotlight etc it is a great restoration for the town. We wandered around with the members and had a lot of reminiscing. There was a lot of experience with the guys, to explain what it was like driving these old machines.

Dick Jones turned into the SSM again.....Later when some of the crew were leaving, some photos were taken, we grabbed an afternoon coffee before we all hit the road home.

The travelers that attended were happy they had made the trip, it was great to see Ken and his daughter make the trip on Sunday as well. I would like to thank all the Members that made the effort to attend I thought it was an enjoyable event.



THE ODE AS ADOPTED BY THE
WA BORNEO POW ASSOCIATION.

A verse taken from Dame Mary
Gilmore's Poem.

“They are not dead; not even broken
Only their dust has gone back home to
the earth;
For they, the essential they, shall have
rebirth
When a word of them is spoken.”



Australian Army

Armour and Artillery Museum

Update

Museum works 2023

The cancellation of the new Combined Arms Heritage and Learning Centre as a result of the Defence Strategic Review has now seen the staff commence a project of redevelopment of the current facilities at Hopkins Barracks which some date back to WW2. This has been directed from AHQ and has involved a huge amount of effort by the staff and The entire museum is closed to the public and is now a work site. Chauvel Hall is completely dismantled internally (by staff and volunteers) in preparation for rebuild, which includes, painting, updated electricity, new display cabinets, flooring, carpets and toilet facilities to professionally showcase the Armour and Artillery Heritage collections indoors.

All the artefacts in the Chauvel Hall have been professionally wrapped and stored and the old museum shop has now been rebuilt into office space for the Curator and staff.

The Hall of Technology has also been partially stripped and is currently being used as storage. Planned works include replacing all electrical systems, repair ceilings and walls, paint and bring the old WW2 hanger up to current WH&S standard.

The external vehicle displays will now be arranged into themes, these being; Reconnaissance, Command and Control, Manoeuvre, Offensive Support, Mobility and Survivability, Trials and Evaluation and Training the Soldier. Movement of vehicles into these new locations has commenced by the staff and the help of the Leopard ARV and an MRV as tow vehicles.

Vehicle hanger space will be updated with new guttering, new drainage, rebuilt paving area, updated electricity connection, interpretation boards and sails to protect the vehicles from the extremes.

22 Engineer Regiment is now in the process of rebuilding the entire hanger storage area (graveyard) with new roads, drainage and hard standing flooring so that the overflow of Armoured and Artillery platforms can be stored for future use. This also includes the erection of a new large Igloo structure using shipping containers to enhance the storage area. New outside public toilets and a new staff brew/lunch demountable has been purchased and soon to be installed.

The various memorials that were located around the museum have now been removed and professionally relocated to their own memorial wall at the Puckapunyal Memorial Park.

Work also continues with the preservation of the entire Heritage collections including the Artillery collection to ensure they are in a condition that is suitable for display to the public. Dismantling of the old Tank Museum displays has been a huge challenge and is in full swing so as to ensure we have a full 50/50 representation of the Armour and Artillery vehicles and artefacts for display when we reopen.

Australian Cruiser Tank Sentinel AC1

Work on the museums Sentinel Cruiser Tank AC1 is now finished having been completely rebuilt to an operational condition over a period of more than three years. This includes the turret, engines, transmissions, clutch, electrical system, armament, communications. An outstanding effort by our dedicated volunteers in ensuring a piece of Australian WW2 history is preserved for all to see.

Centurion Tank MkV/1 ARN 169005

The 1st Armoured Regiment Association Centurion Tank continues to be maintained by the museum volunteers and used by the museum for courses and is one of our showcase vehicles within the collection. It remains in very good condition.

Leopard AS1 Bovington Tank ARN 27735

The gift of an Australian Leopard AS1 to the UK Bovington Tank Museum has been ongoing for many years however we are now in a position of loading our Leopard on a ship bound for the UK. A few more admin hurdles to get over but hopefully we'll be able to load this Leopard in November.

Leopard/M113A1 Fleet

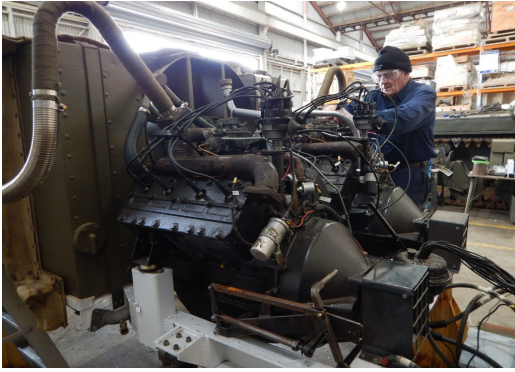
In between the current museum rebuild work an ongoing program of 6 monthly services to our large Leopard and M113A1 fleet continues. This is to ensure that these hard working iconic vehicles of the RAAC remain in working and serviceable condition for all to see. Noting that the 60th Anniversary of the M113A1 will be held in 2024, the museum will be heavily involved seeing that we have all variants and types since trials began.

In between all this monumental work the museum has remained open for the numerous Australian Army courses that visit and use the museum's facilities for training and assessment purposes on a regular basis.

The museum is very busy and the hierarchy thanks the outstanding efforts of our very small band of volunteers and reservists who have worked tirelessly to date in dismantling the old museum and preparing all the platforms for display. Thanks must also go to the School of Armour and the Recovery Mechs who have helped us out immensely with their heavy lift capability.

The new and improved Armour and Artillery Museum will hopefully be open to the public (free of charge) in late 2024.

Sentinel AC1 ARN 8030 during the three engine rebuild phase.



The final fitting of the rebuilt Sentinel Turret; Mr David Mills, Mr John Blackwell & Mr Peter "Bushy" Coutts



RAAC Memorial Plaques that have been removed from the Tank Museum and now have a new home at the Puckapunyal Memorial Park

Yours in Armour,
Peter
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Australian Army Armour & Artillery Museum
Puckapunyal
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11 Oct 2023