



COMMENTARY ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2019 edition

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOHN DWYER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT COMMENTARY FEBRUARY 2019

Information in regard to our Annual General Meeting is in this edition of Commentary and provides an opportunity for Association members to contribute at committee level with all positions declared vacant and nominations called for. Please give me a call if you are interested and require further information or send of the nomination form to Secretary Noel Moyes.

Our last Commentary has a program of activities commemorative and social for the 2019 year with further detail provided closer to each event either through Commentary or flyer. The Centennial event of the return to Australia of the Tenth Light Horse Regiment AIF is an important additional event for the year with involvement of A SQN 10LH and the ARMY Museum.

Thank you to all members who have paid their annual fees for 2019 and in particular to those who made a donation to the Association in the past year. Our incoming revenue has ensured we can continue to part support membership events held during the year helped along by sponsorship which we hope to obtain more of this year.

The Australian Government is evaluating a draft report by the Productivity Commission into the DVA and associated matters and the response from our representative body at the national level is also in this edition of Commentary. It is also an opportunity to response to the needs of reservists particularly given the changed role and environment that has emerged in recent years.

All the best to you and your families in 2019 and look forward to catching up with you at our events over the year.

Yours In Armour

John Dwyer



**AGENDA FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TO BE HELD AT CAMBRAI HOUSE IRWIN BARRACKS KARRAKATTA
3PM SUNDAY 10th OF MARCH AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED**

OPENING

ATTENDANCE

**MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 HELD AT CAMBRAI HOUSE
SUNDAY 11TH OF MARCH**

BUSINESS ARISING

CORRESPONDENCE

REPORTS

Secretary Noel Moyes

Treasurer Ross Leighton

2019/20 COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

From nominations received

PATRON Col KEN ASHMAN (ret)

GENERAL BUSINESS

**Noel Moyes
Secretary
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association WA Inc
3rd of February 2019**

**NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION INC WA**

Name:

Position:.....

Positions on the committee are:

President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Commentary Editor; Advocacy and Welfare; Cambrai House Coordinator; Social Coordinator; Assistant Treasurer; Membership

Nominations to:

Secretary

RAACA WA Inc

25 Bentley St

Stoneville WA

Email secretary.raacawa@gmail.com

By 5th of March 2019

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

Financial Member Name:

.....

Appoint Financial Member Name:

.....

As my proxy for the RAACA WA Inc 2019 AGM

Signature **Date.....**

**Nominations and/or Proxy to be lodged with Secretary by
5th of March 2019**

Noel Moyes

Secretary RAACA WA Inc

3 February 2019

Remembrance Day at Cloverdale, Canada

One of our members who lives in Canada, Don Burgess, complete with Black Beret and Plume, attended and sent these pictures through. Well done Don.

(Don is indicated by the arrows)



VALE ASSOCIATION MEMBER TREVOR SUTCLIFFE

Trevor served in C SQN 10LH Regiment in the early 60's and joined the Association after attending the Centennial events at Northam in 2014 along with his good mate Jim Clark from Dongara. He was a diver and world expert on seashells operating a business out of Perth for many years. Our condolences to wife Marie and family.

COLONEL JOHN SUTHERLAND HAYNES OAM (Ret'd)

John is a past National President of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and President of the NSW Branch for many years. In that capacity the NSW Branch funded the establishment of the Boer War Memorial Fund to provide funding for the establishment of a commemorative memorial in Canberra for those that served in South Africa. He was upgraded from Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) to Member of the Order of Australia (AM) – announced on Australia Day 2019. The citation acknowledges his service to veterans in a number of capacities over many years and in particular through the National Boer War Association. John has worked for many years out of the RAACA NSW office located at Victoria Barracks and is a resident of Randwick in NSW.



RAAC CORPORATION RESPONSE TO PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION'S DRAFT REPORT INTO DVA AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Corporation represents the views of member organisations, of which we are one, at national level. The above enquiry is an opportunity to ensure the needs of past serving members of the ADF are supported fully by the Government of the day. The Executive summary of the report written by the Chairman Noel McLoughlin OAM MBA is the first initial response. The report also offers the opportunity to respond to the needs of Reservists given the changed role, activity and environment that has emerged in recent years.

The Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is a Department of State owned and paid for by Australian taxpayers, including veterans.

DVA is a 102-year old niche, specialist pioneer Department of State, delivering an enormous suite of pension and support services, to veterans and their families.

It is considered to be a market leader in the veterans' support sphere, with a durability and dominant brand awareness level throughout Australia and internationally, giving it a strategic competitive edge. It is considered world's best practice in the veterans support sphere.

As DVA's primary shareholders, taxpayers and veterans have a right and an interest to protect in ensuring their taxes are put to good use by the Commonwealth.

Public scrutiny of Commonwealth expenditure of public monies through various avenues including audits, inquiries and reviews, all operate to ensure transparency and integrity of operation in budgetary expenditure. DVA is currently enduring trial by fire in respect of a continuing procession of inquiries commencing in 2013 with the PSC Capability Review into DVA, culminating in this review.

The genesis for this level of scrutiny falls rightly, at the feet of DVA through its failure since the enactment of the VEA 1986, to grow and engage with, the ex-service community.

The enactment of MRCA 2004 exacerbated that failure. DVA's inability to adapt its practices and processes to be more responsive to veterans, in particular today's generation of veterans, led to the situation in which DVA now finds itself in, and which it is working hard and successfully, to rectify.

The Draft Report of the Review by the Productivity Commission (the Commission) into DVA, contains a raft of recommendations, some of which are tendentious and challenging on many fronts to say the least, and should be rigorously and vigorously challenged on the basis the Report pre-ordains and prejudices that all its recommendations will be accepted and actioned. The Draft Report's tenor suggests that the Commission (non-veterans), has taken an economic rationalist approach to DVA, failing completely to demonstrate any appreciation of veterans' needs and the unique nature of military service, to which it pays lip service.

The Draft Report is on its face, dangerous. It is an anti-DVA and anti-veteran document focusing, including abolition, on cutting costs. This is evidenced by its direct attack on DVA in Key Points (Draft Report p.2) where there is scant acknowledgement of the wider successes of the VCR/transformation process and a passing acknowledgment of the improvements in NLHC coverage.

It is attempting to achieve this by harmonising certain functions under the guise of generating operating and fiscal efficiencies, while advocating for DVA's abolition by creating a new agency within Department of Defence (Defence), a Department that is clearly not fit for purpose. DVA faces the greatest existential threat to its survival if the recommendation for its abolition is accepted by Government. Sacrificing DVA on the twin altars of political and financial expediency is unconscionable and indefensible.

The assertion that DVA is not fit for purpose is not supported and cannot go unchallenged.

The proposal to see DVA gutted and filleted, and devolved to a Department that is not fit for purpose, is dangerous. The IR implications through union intervention by the CPSU and possibly the ACTU, in concert with the Parliamentary Labor Party, are significant on both on an IR and political level, not to mention the veterans' and public's backlash.

Abolition will result in a truncated organisation being subsumed into an entity that has a capped budget with no fiscal flexibility as opposed to DVA's budget, which not capped with inbuilt fiscal flexibility. Similarly, DVA's abolition could very well see pension functions devolved by stealth to NDIS for rehabilitation any personal homecare assistance up to 65 years of age, and My Aged Care for over 65 years of age and a market-based compensation and insurance scheme established, also.

(Continued next page)

DVA's fitness for purpose has suffered damage through mistakes made over time, but not fatal enough to warrant abolition and destruction of 102 years of major and very hard-won learned experience in the field of veterans' support, treatment and welfare. Confusing legislative processes, a fragmented and risk/decision-averse public sector culture that was purely adversarial, processes-obsessed and not outcomes-focused coupled with statutes which clashed in their approach to veterans' support and management, created an atmosphere of such toxicity, that throughout the 1980s and 1990s, ESOs would not communicate with DVA.

The acknowledgment by the Secretary DVA at a forum at RSL on 21 November 2018, that the Department had failed its stakeholder group, is a brutally frank admission of the three sins of omission and failure to act, committed by the Department over a long period of time. These sins do not warrant any consideration of the abolition of DVA.

The transformation (rebirth) of DVA through Project Lighthouse and the VCR process, has been profound, positive and far-reaching. DVA are to be commended for the rapid and positive change it has embraced in approach and development of initiatives currently in operation, involving budget, staffing, training, IT, political, legislative and policy elements.

Notwithstanding the changes made and objectives achieved, DVA still has along way to go to repair the damage to its fitness for purpose and it is incumbent on ESOs as DVA's end-user cohort, to accompany it on that journey, through consultation, collaboration and cooperation. The change process under way must not be derailed on the basis of nothing less than a cost-cutting exercise, by destroying a task-specific Department.

DVA must be allowed to continue doing what it needs to do to modernise.

The analysis of the literature in respect of DVA's strategic management, suggests its transformation process accords with a number of Strategic Management Models, demonstrating that DVA is well-placed to survive as a standalone niche pioneer Department. DVA has confirmed its fitness for purpose, rebutting the Commission's assertions and re-establishing itself as the leading pioneer Department in the veterans' support sphere. The changes wrought by DVA's approach to its ongoing transformation, are profound and demonstrably positive. The evidence clearly establishes DVA's entitlement to survive as a standalone Department.

It begs the question, is DVA fit for purpose?

The unequivocal answer to that is, *yes it is*.

DVA must not be abolished.

RAACA WA

EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

DAY/DATE	TIME	EVENT	COMMENT
Sunday 27th January	1700	Committee Meeting followed by dinner at 1800	At John Dwyer's, 37 Barrington Ave, Champion Lakes
Possible multi-day event February 14th for a couple of days		Visit to Albany, visit various places of interest	Make own arrangements to go on this one. Liaise with Ross Leighton.
Saturday 23rd February	1000	Busy Bee includes Feb Committee Meeting followed by BBQ	Cambrai House
Sunday 10th March	1500	AGM followed by Afternoon Tea	Cambrai House
Tuesday 9th April	1300	Committee Meeting Preparation ANZAC events	Cambrai House
Thursday 25th April	0500	Kings Park Dawn Service	
Thursday 25th April	0900	ANZAC PDE Perth	
Thursday 25th April	1200	A SQN 10LH ANZAC EVENT	
Tuesday 7th May	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
Tuesday 11th June	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
Saturday 13th July	1000	Busy Bee and Committee	Cambrai House
Sunday 21st July	1200	Christmas in July	TBA
Tuesday 6th August	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
August Sunday TBC	1000	Old Boys Parade & return of XLH Centennial - possible at Burt St Fremantle museum	*** Proposal only at this time , several different bodies will have to be contacted and agree
August		Bus Trip	TBA
Tuesday 10th September	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
Saturday 19th October	1000	Busy Bee and Committee meeting	House
Saturday TBA October	1800	Beersheba Dinner	10LH ASN Function
Tuesday 12th November	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
Sunday 17th November	1200	Cambrai Parade and Luncheon	TBA
Sunday 8th December	1200	Christmas Function	
Notes:			
Committee Meeting Dates - include combination with Busy Bees to save having to attend twice		Committee meetings - Members welcome	
Event information in red to be firmed up as well as what will be held.			
***** the committee is also following up on the possibility that members <u>might</u> be able to attend the Unit range shoot later in the year, BUT this is not a guaranteed event.			

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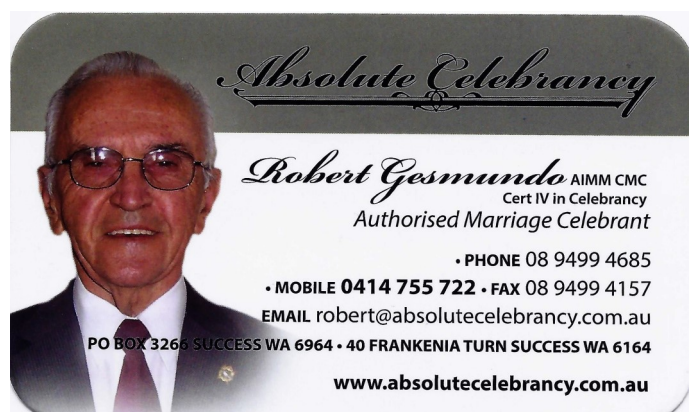
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If the job is too big or you don't have time or you just need help, some of our members may be able to assist with their expertise.

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<http://www.peregrineplumbing.com.au>

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