



## COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc  
2/2024 EDITION ANZAC EDITION

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### ANZAC DAY

#### Full info inside

#### Dawn Service

President Wreath  
Laying on behalf  
of all Corps Mem-  
bers Serving &  
Past 5.30pm

Coffee Plus Near  
Main Gate Follows

### PERTH MARCH

Association mem-  
bers and Black  
Hats Form Up  
8.45am St Geo Tce

## PRESIDENT MAJOR (Ret) BARRY CARSON'S ADDRESS

### OLD BOYS PARADE

There is no better depiction of raw courage than captured in Peter Weir's  
film "Gallipoli"

The date of the actual action was on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1915.

The location was a narrow bridge of land varying 30-50 metres in width on  
the heights of the Gallipoli Peninsula, between the landmarks of Russell's  
Top and Baby 700 known as the Nek.

The time was 04.23 hours local time.

An Artillery barrage had just finished 7 min early, but the Officers of the  
Australian Light Horse held men back until the appointed H hour for a  
charge at 04.30 hrs.

The 1<sup>st</sup> wave from the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Australian Light Horse 175 men in a 90-  
metre-long trench went over and were shot down by devastating hail of rifle  
and machine gun fire.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of 3 officers and 175 men also from the 8<sup>th</sup> scrambled over  
dead and wounded advancing forward towards the Turkish trenches about  
70 metres away but suffered the same fate.

It was then the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse mainly troopers making up the  
3<sup>rd</sup> wave, with approximately 150 all ranks from "A" Squadron  
and half of "B" Squadron that went over the top of their trenches  
having just witnessed what had happened and suffered the same fate  
under heavy fire as the first two waves.

Then with no orders or signal being given, men on the right flank of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
wave from the 10<sup>th</sup> went over before the attack was cancelled.

In total approximately 600 troops were involved in the assault at the Nek.  
234 were killed and 138 wounded in less than 45 minutes.

Official War Historian Charles Bean described the battle area as "a strip the  
size of three tennis courts" anyone who has visited there will attest to that.

Bean's description of the scene after the assault in the official history reads  
as follows.

Bean's description of the scene after the assault in the official history reads as follows.

"The Nek could be seen crowded with their bodies. At first, here and there, a man raised his arm to the sky or tried to drink from his water bottle. But as the sun climbed higher, such movement ceased. Over the whole of the summit the figures lay still in the quivering sun "

In those two waves .... the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment suffered 58 wounded and 80 Light Horsemen killed, making the supreme sacrifice for their country.

Their names are amongst the 301 soldiers commemorated on the Memorial in front of us.

During active service over the whole of World War 1, the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment suffered 237 killed and 479 wounded, with those dying of wounds shortly after the war included in the names on this memorial.

Amongst those who served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse in World War 1, the following decorations were awarded.

- 1 Victoria Cross (only one ever awarded to a Light Horseman)
- 1 Companion of the Order of St Michael & St George
- 3 Distinguished Service Orders plus 1 bar
- 1 Member of the Order of the British Empire
- 9 Military Crosses plus 1 bar
- 15 Military Medals
- 3 Meritorious Service Medals
- 48 Mentioned in Despatches
- 4 Foreign Awards

After action at the Nek, 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment was involved in the Battle of Hill 60 before being evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915.

Reverting to its mounted infantry role the Regiment saw the remainder of World War 1 in the Middle East taking part in numerous actions the more notable ones being – Battle of Gaza, Beer-sheba. Fall of Jerusalem, The Capture of Es Salt, The Great Ride and Crossing of the Jordan, Fall of Damascus where the Regiment was given the honour of leading the Australian Mounted Division and accepting the formal surrender of the City of Damascus on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918.

Today, before this Memorial, let us take the opportunity to remember and honour those men of the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, Australia.

Let us reflect on their deeds and courage, knowing they are resting in peace.

**We salute you.**

## RAAC WA PATRON HAND OVER

At the Annual General Meeting members present acknowledged our patron of 25 years COL Ken Ashman who retired from the position after 25 years as a confidant of Committee and members. Ken's ARMY service included Troop Commander of the APC Troop in Vietnam, Adjutant of 10LH Regiment, Commanding Officer of 1 ARMD Regiment, Service in the USA and Commander of 5 TRG Group here in Perth. He came to us with a background of ADF service very similar to our members in CAV and ARMD plus a knowledge of how those here in the West operated at all levels.

Ken has seen the Association grow during his time with the move to Cambrai House in 2005 providing a venue for the provision of welfare and advocacy services, HQ for the management and administration of the Association and a place for members and their partners to socialise. Off course many events have occurred over those years requiring considered advice from Ken. To that end he was awarded Life Membership of the Association.

Ken and Sue have been friends of all at numerous social events over that time. We look forward to mixing with them at future events.

BRIG Phil White retired and HON COL of the 10LH Regiment has kindly agreed to be Patron of our organisation. Phil joined 10LH and very soon Commanded his own troop culminating in his appointment as Officer Commanding A SQN. Some years later he was appointed to Command 13 BRIGADE and served with distinction in that position working to improve the professionalism of the units under his command and the people within it. I remember attending a potential recruit briefing and sitting along side in the adult group looking on was Phil in civvies observing the potential of the people at that event. He moved from the position with a 10LH flavour arriving at his farewell parade in a retired M113A1, flags flying and with the 10LH Horse Troop on the sidelines. From there he served in several other positions and has been the HON COL of the REGT for a number of years. He always represents the WA view within defence honestly and with determination. Welcome BRIG Phil (Ret)

## WELCOME PRESIDENT MAJ BARRY CARSON (Rtd)

Those present at the AGM also welcomed Barry Carson as President of the Association. Barry takes over the position following Rob Gesmundo's stepping down from the position. He joined the West Australian University Regiment (WAUR) in October 1964 and worked his way up through the ranks to Sergeant and received his commission as an Officer (2 Lt) in 1967 to finish in that unit as a company 2IC in rank of Capt. a few years later.

He was transferred out of WAUR being posted to the writing team at the Command & Staff Training Unit for the Subject One to Corporal course for the Army Reserve nationwide. After which establishing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force Methods of Instruction Team within the 11 Battalion Royal West Australian Regiment (RWAR) being responsible for all NCO promotion to ranks of Cpl, Sgt, and WO for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force Group. In Jan 1977 he was posted as 2IC of 10 Light Horse when the Regiment had just been reduced to one Squadron. Then in Jan 1980 posted SO 3 Operations at HQ Five Field Force Group for 2 years returning as a Major on 1 Jan 1982 to command A Squadron XLH finishing command on 31 Dec 1984 retiring to inactive service. Major Carson was awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration (RFD) in 1984.

Barry has been an active member of the committee focusing on a business plan, membership and interaction with the unit. He has also provided valuable assistance at Cambrai House.

## ANZAC DAY EVENTS

### ALL-ABILITIES SUNSET SERVICE—

**Location:** Flame of Remembrance, Kings Park, Perth WA

**Date:** Wednesday, 24 April 2024

**Time:** 4:45 pm - 5:40 pm

On the eve of ANZAC Day 2024, RSLWA will be holding an inclusive Sunset Service to remember and reflect on the brave men and women who have made so many sacrifices. This ceremony, with additional accessibility measures including audio description, wheelchair access, Auslan, low sensory facilities, ACROD parking, and DADAA assistance is open to all who wish to share the sunset and commemorate ANZAC Day.

**DAWN SERVICE—PRESIDENT BARRY CARSON WILL LAY A WREATH ON BEHALF OF CORPS SERVING AND PAST MEMBERS. MEMBERS MEET FOR COFFEE PLUS UNDER PALM TREES NEAR ENTRANCE TO PARK**

**Location:** State War Memorial, Kings Park, Perth WA

**Date:** Thursday, 25 April 2024

**Time:** 5:30 am - 7:00 am

On ANZAC Day 2024, thousands of Western Australians will gather at sunrise to remember those who lost their lives in conflict. In the half-light people of all ages and backgrounds will listen to inspiring words, join together to sing, and pause in silence to reflect and remember the sacrifices made by our brave men and women. The Dawn service is open to all who wish to join together in the beauty of Kings Park, share the sunrise, and commemorate ANZAC Day.

President Barry Carson will lay a wreath on behalf of all members of the Corps. Members attending to meet for coffee plus near the palm trees down from the Boer War Memorial main gate.

### GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

**Location:** Government House Gardens, St Georges Tce Perth

**Date:** Thursday, 25 April 2024

**Time:** 7:00 am – 9:00 am

On ANZAC Day 2024, the Government House Gardens will host a barbeque breakfast. Connect with the WA Veteran community at the annual ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast before heading to St Georges Terrace for the March.

The Gunfire Breakfast tradition dates back to the 1890's, where 'gunfire' referred to an early morning mix of rum and black tea, to provide a dash of courage before a day on the battlefield. The concoction started with English Army Soldiers and was quickly adopted by the Australian and New Zealand soldiers. RSLWA in collaboration with the Rotary Club will provide breakfast

**THE MARCH— THREE PACKETS RAACA WA ASSOCIATION, 1 ARMD REGIT ASSOCIATION, 3 CAV ASSOCIATION ALL BLACK HATS ARE INVITED TO MARCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION. PACKET COMMANCER BRIG PHIL WHITE (RET) RAACA WA CONTINGENT LED BY MAJ BARRY CARSON (RET)**

**Location:** St Georges Tce, Perth WA FORM UP BETWEEN BARRACK ST AND TRINITY ARCADE.

**Date:** Thursday, 25 April 2024  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 11:00 am

With more than 62,000 veterans in Western Australia, the ANZAC Day March in the City of Perth is a chance to recognise our service people as they march alongside their mates in a show of camaraderie and commemoration. ANZAC Day marches are held around the country, from the smallest towns to our largest.

Join us as we acknowledge the families of servicemen and women who have served and died in all conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The public is encouraged to come and watch the March and pay their respects to the service people marching and those they represent.

## **FAMILY & MATESHIP EVENT**

**Location:** Langley Park

**Date:** Thursday 25 April 2024  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Journey on to Langley Park to relax with family and friends after the ANZAC Day March. This event is free entry, and open to all service and non-service people alike. Enjoy live music, food vans, drinks, and activities for children. This family-friendly event presents interactive military vehicles and commemorative activities for all ages.

A promotional poster for the 10th Light Horse Regiment's ANZAC Day 2024 event. The top section features the regiment's crest on the left, which includes a crown, a swan, and the motto 'PROQUE ET PAVINA VINCERE'. To the right of the crest, the text reads '10th Light Horse Regiment welcomes you to ANZAC DAY 2024'. The middle section is a historical painting depicting a group of soldiers on horseback in a desert landscape, with a building and a cart visible in the background. The bottom section is a dark grey banner with white text: 'DATE: Thursday, 25 April 2024 || TIME: 10:30 - 18:00'.

**10th Light Horse Regiment welcomes you to**  
**ANZAC DAY 2024**

**DATE:** Thursday, 25 April 2024 || **TIME:** 10:30 - 18:00

## THE ANZAC XR AP

The ANZAC XR App will build awareness and understanding of some of the sacrifices made by members of the Australian Defence Force. We encourage our students and local community to appreciate and honour the service of Australian Defence Force personnel, past and present. The use of augmented reality is an exciting way to share Australia's military history. The App offers life-like projections of equipment, uniforms and vehicles, backed up by educational videos to provide an innovative teaching tool for students and community members alike.

Only a smartphone or tablet is required to participate and ANZAC XR is available for FREE download worldwide, on the Apple and Google Play platforms. Australian Heroes Digital AR projections of veterans who share their story of service, with supporting imagery and videos, as well as interactive features such as the App User being able to take a photo with the Avatar. We were honoured to share the stories of Keith Payne VC AM (Australian Army veteran) and WO1 Bruce Harvey (current-serving Clearance Diver). Locations of Military Significance 360-degree immersive experience of locations relevant to military history (1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) base at Nui Dat-Vietnam and in the trenches of Fromelles, France during WW1.

There is a supporting audio file providing educational information about the significance of the location. Vehicles, Uniforms and Equipment Our featured items are an M3 Stuart Tank, HMAS Ovens cold war submarine, WW1 Light Horsemen Uniform, current RAAF Weapons Systems Officer Uniform, Vickers Machine Gun, Lee-Enfield 303 Rifle and Morse Code Key. The App User can investigate each item close up and learn about their use by the Australian Defence Force. You can manipulate the viewing size so the projection can either be miniature or life size, which is very exciting when you are looking at a something like the WW2 tank. Each element is supported by historical imagery, sound files and short educational videos.

THANK YOU to our Sponsors and Supporters

For more information please contact [Claire.Hunt@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Claire.Hunt@education.wa.edu.au) Comet Bay College, 2 Allatoona Avenue SECRET HARBOUR WA 6173

Our two featured Australian Heroes, Keith Payne VC AM and WO1 Bruce Harvey Gallery of Honour Twelve augmented reality portraits 'hang in the air' in a virtual gallery. A mixture of Army, Navy & Airforce service men and women including ex-students, current serving ADF personnel and veterans. Three of which have supporting video interviews. Dates of Commemoration A simple pop-up message is built in to remind the App User of the most significant military dates of commemoration. ANZAC XR is a highly engaging, interactive App that employs the latest in augmented reality technology. This is a fun educational tool to use in the classroom,

### WEBSITE INFORMATION

**RAACA WA:**

[www.raacawa.org.au](http://www.raacawa.org.au)

**RAAC CORP:**

[www.raaccorpltd.org.au](http://www.raaccorpltd.org.au)

**RSL WA:**

[rslwa.org.au](http://rslwa.org.au)



## VALE FRANK ZANETTI

Frank's initial military commitment started with The National Service Scheme introduced from 1951 where young men over 18 years were called up for ADF service in the "CMF" now known as the "Army Reserve". Frank's final military service commitment was as a long-time member of the Royal Australian Armoured Corp Association.

It was Frank's part time CMF service which mainly took him away from his family on weekends and one night a week to learn military skills as well as spending time with his mates at 10LH Regiment. It was this history that endeared Frank so much to the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse and its "Esprite de Corp" which provided such an influence on Frank's parallel police career.

Frank's commanding stature often raised the question from those new younger troopers in the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse. "How do you get into a Ferret's armoured car through the crew commanders hatch Sergeant?" To which it is alleged Frank responded "Just use your will, strength and determination Trooper !!!"

It was this typical attitude and Frank's in born leadership skills that earned him the highest respect in both his military and police services careers. Frank loved his "C" squadron and being together at annual camps normally 14 days duration, always in the bush or sandhills around the Lancelin and Cervates areas.... living with his mates and making do with what only you had with yourself ... whether it be... a shovel for your toilet, a jerrycan for your ablutions, or tin rations for your food.

After retiring from part time service in 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse, Frank joined "RAACA" (Royal Australian Armoured Corp Association ) and continued to lead by example and giving freely of his time to attend marches, parades and functions without fail. Or sometimes it was just a busy bee to help a fellow member in need of welfare support.

Frank was always there armed with a rake, broom shovel. A true example of his commitment of service to others, ingrained deeply in his personal make-up.

(Edited from Franks Eulogy prepared by Barry Carson)

## AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL – HALL OF MEMORY

Plans to honour an unknown Australian soldier were first put forward in the 1920s but it was not until 1993 that one was at last brought home. To mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the body of an unknown Australian soldier was recovered from Adelaide Cemetery near Villers-Bretonneux in France and transported to Australia. After lying in state in King's Hall in Old Parliament House, Unknown Australian Soldier was interred in the [Hall of Memory at the Memorial on 11 November 1993](#). He was buried with a bayonet and a sprig of wattle in a Tasmanian blackwood coffin, and soil from the Pozières battlefield was scattered in his tomb.

The Unknown Australian Soldier represents all Australians who have been killed in war.