



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS  
ASSOCIATION WA Inc Edition 1/2026  
Cambrai House 2 Little Gibraltar Rd Irwin Barracks  
Editor John Dwyer



**Patron**

BRIG Phil White  
(RET) AM RFD

**President**

Barry Carson  
0418163607

**Vice President**

Colin Davies  
0403654954

**Secretary**

Ian Goodall  
0414376756

**Treasurer**

LM John Dwyer  
0419694549

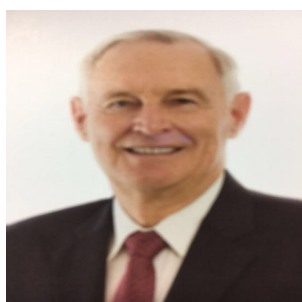
**Committee:**

LM Dick Jones  
93075654



MR PHILLIP WHITE  
AM RFD BRIG (RET'D)

*President Barry, committee and members would like to thank Phil for his continued patronage of the Association. Phil has retired as HON COL of the Tenth Light Horse Regiment but his leadership, commitment and service continues as a Trustee of RSLWA. (see Phil's background P2)*



I noted that Western Australia's Governor Chris Dawson has visited Bill Grayden AM to celebrate and reminisce on his remarkable life and career as a war veteran and MP. As cited by the Australian War Memorial, Mr Grayden – who is now 105 – served as a lieutenant during the Kokoda campaign in the Second World War; his uncle was a major with the 10th Light Horse in the First World War; and his father, Leonard Ives, was left for dead after he was shot through the chest less than a week after landing on Gallipoli on 25 April

1915. His father's incredible story of survival left an imprint on the family and the son, and when the Second World War broke out in September 1939, Bill was determined to enlist.

Mr Grayden became one thousands of young Australian troops who went to what is now known as Papua New Guinea as part of a last line of defence against an advancing Japanese Imperial Army. He finally returned to Australia in 1946 and was elected to the Western Australian State Parliament as the member for Middle Swan in 1947. He served as a state and federal MP until his retirement in 1993, earning the title of the longest-serving parliamentarian in Western Australia.

His service to country no doubt in part had its genesis in the legacy of his Father and Uncle who were members of the unit that became known "The Glorious Tenth". Many of our members have served in the unit or have links to it through the Association here in WA which was formed in 1946.

It is worthwhile noting that as a Corps Association many other members over that time have served in units throughout Australia and served their country in conflicts in the Korean War, Malayan and Indonesian, Vietnam and Gulf War along with many peacekeeping operations.

The challenge now for the Association is to provide membership services across the board that will support veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, peacekeeping forces and all current ex serving members of the Corps. We have the on ground resources, capacity and motivation to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

During this year we will place more emphasis on working to make sure the message becomes well known in regard to our Association. At our January meeting the Committee approved initiatives that will enhance our efforts in the above area.



Cover: Patron/President

Page 2: Phil White

Page 3: Events

Page 4: 10LH Harvey

Page 5: Army Museum  
Puckapunyal

Page 6: Stormer HVM

Page 7: Ukranian Tank/  
APC Conversion

Page 8: Membership Ap-  
plication

Note:

Scan barcode that will take  
you to web site and full  
edition of Commentary

# MR PHILLIP WHITE AM RFD BRIG (RET'D)

Now happily retired, Brigadier Phillip (Phil) White has had two parallel careers, one in the military (Army Reserve) and the other in education.

After graduating from officer training in 1977 Phil was posted to 'A' Squadron 10 Light Horse which he commanded from 1991-1993. After numerous staff and training appointments from 1998 – 2001 he was Commanding Officer of the Western Australian University Regiment before serving as Commandant of the Land Warfare Centre-WA from 2003 -2006. For this service Phil was recognised in the 2005 Queen's Birthday Honours list where he was appointed as a Member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia for "*exceptional services in the fields of leadership and training as CO WAUR and Commandant at LWC-WA*". From 2007 - 2008 Phil commanded the WA based 13 Brigade before retiring in January 2011.

To Phil's great delight he was appointed as the Honorary Colonel of the 10th Light Horse Regiment (the 'famous 10<sup>th</sup>') on 1 July 2011 – a position he still holds. In addition to being a Trustee of the RSLWA, Phil is also Patron of the WA Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association and the WA Light Horse Organisation. As well as military and leadership themed speaking events, for many years now Phil has been proud to speak at annual school, RSL and community-based ANZAC services in the weeks surrounding ANZAC Day.

In civilian life, Phil holds a master's degree in educational management, a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Graduate Diploma of Education. At the end of 2021, after 45 years of service, he retired as the Principal of Melville Senior High School but was recalled to duty in January 2022 as the Deputy Incident Manager (Schools) in the WA Education Department's COVID-19 Incident Management Team, a position he held until June 2022. Phil is married to Carol White who, after retiring as the Principal of Ashdale Secondary College now runs a part time (but busy) consultancy in educational leadership. Together they have three adult children and three beautiful grandsons. Besides mountain bike riding, Phil rides a road bike and for the fun of it regularly tackles the high mountain passes of the Pyrenees, the French Alps and the Dolomites in Italy.

## PROPOSED EVENTS:

### 80th Anniversary Function RAACA WA

Please contact any of the committee in regard to proposed events you may like to see added to the events schedule

Month	Date	Day	Function	Month	Date	Day	Function
Jan	13	Tue	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Jul	14	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH		26	SUN	CHRISTMAS IN JULY
					30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Feb	7	SAT	<b>CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Aug	1	SAT	<b>CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
					TBA	FRI	OLD BOYS PARADE
							NEK DINNER
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH		27	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE THROSSELL VC XLH memorial Guildford/Rose hotel
Mar	10	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Sep	8	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	22	SUN	AGM				
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH		24	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Apr	11	SAT	<b>CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Oct	3	SAT	<b>CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	24	FRI	STATE WAR MEMORIAL EVENING				
	25	SAT	DAWN SERVICE		29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING NORTH
	25	SAT	ANZAC MARCH AND UNIT	Nov	10	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
May	12	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>		20	FRI	CAMBRAI LUNCH
					26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING SOUTH
	28	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH	Dec	5	SAT	<b>CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
Jun	6	SAT	<b>CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING</b>		13	SUN	CHRISTMAS BBQ
	25	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH				

80th anniversary RAACA WA TBC

Jan-27 12 Tue committee meeting  
28 Thu black hat coffee north

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Jan 29th

Black hat Coffee Morning at Muffins Joondalup Shopping Centre. Commencing at 10am catch up with Association members. All ex serving members and friends of the Corps are invited.

### Feb 7

Working Bee/BBQ/Committee Meeting Cambrai House 0900 – 1200 Hours. Cambrai House is the centre of our membership services and administrative hub. It also houses Corps, Association and Membership memorabilia and an extensive library of factual Military history. Lawns are maintained to provide an outdoor venue. Please contact Secretary Ian if you are available to lend a hand and he will arrange Security entry into Irwin Barracks.

Cambrai House is located within Irwin Barracks and has been the Association HQ since 2004 since the old married quarters was leased from Defence, renovated by members of the Association and has been kept in good order since then.



# *Light Horse & Harvey History*

Harvey and Waroona district has a rich Military history going back to the early 1900's. In January 1900, the West Australian Mounted Infantry was formed and then in July 1903 it was changed to the 18th Australian Light Horse (WAMI) this included Harvey in "D" Troop "D" Squadron. July 1912 saw another change; they then became the 25th Light Horse (WAMI) Harvey still remaining in "D" Troop "D" Squadron.

The outbreak of WW 1 saw new LH Regiments springing up all over Australia, in WA on app. 10th October 1914 the 10th Light Horse (AIF) was formed and became part of the 3rd Brigade.

Between the wars there were small 10th LH Troops in in the country areas including Harvey, Hamel and Brunswick.

During WW 11 sections of the 10th LH patrolled the WA coastline on horseback and others trained in new mechanical vehicles while expecting a Japanese invasion, by 1944 the threat was over so they were disbanded and like after WW1 were redesignated as the Citizen Military Forces.

## Welfare and educational support available for RAAC soldiers, veterans and their families in time of need.

### The RAAC's Colonel John Haynes Trust

**As a serving or ex-serving RAAC member, if you or a member of your immediate family, requires assistance because of family trauma, emergency or an educational need you might qualify for a grant or financial assistance from the COL John Haynes Trust.**

A career RAAC soldier for 36 years, John enlisted in the CMF in 1948 and soon realised he wanted to pursue a military career. He transferred to the ARA, was accepted to Duntroon and graduated to Armour. He had the rare distinction of having served in almost every RAAC unit during his career. His long service included Vietnam in 1970.

He always had a strong passion for RAAC members' welfare, especially their families and War Widows. After retiring in 1984 John became a driving

force behind the introduction of the Armoured Combat Badge and as the National President of the RAAC Association he set the groundwork and drove the activity that achieved the construction of the excellent Boer War Memorial in Canberra to honour the Australian Light Horse, our horse mounted predecessors.

John died in 2020 bequeathing a substantial sum to the RAAC via the RAAC Association (NSW) which set up the Trust in his name to honour his wish of assisting RAAC members, and their families, when no other means of assistance is available.

**For more information, or an application form, visit the Trust's website:**

**[haynestrust.org](http://haynestrust.org)**

or email: [william.cross@haynestrust.org](mailto:william.cross@haynestrust.org)



**Colonel John Haynes AM**



Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association

### ARMY MUSEUM PUCKAPUNYAL OPENING ARRANGEMENTS

The Australian Army Museum at Puckapunyal will conduct a formal opening on the 14th of March.

The new centre will house the heritage collections from the Australian Army Artillery Museum and the Australian Army Tank Museum. It will collect, preserve and exhibit the history of artillery and armoured vehicles in Australia. There will be artefacts, icons and memorabilia to promote and commemorate Australia's light horse and armoured heritage.

The museum will be open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week from 10am to 4pm.

To ensure all base security requirements are met, all members of the public are asked to email the museum in advance with their preferred visit date and number of attendees.

The point of contact for the museum is [aahu.amp@defence.gov.au](mailto:aahu.amp@defence.gov.au)



# STORMER HVM



The Stormer HVM (High Velocity Missile) is a British mobile short-range air defense system, designed to provide a mobile, rapid-response anti-aircraft capability. It is based on the Alvis Stormer armored vehicle platform and is equipped with the Starstreak High-Velocity Missile system. The primary role of the Stormer HVM is to protect ground forces and key installations from low-flying aircraft, helicopters, and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). The Stormer HVM has been an important part of the British Army's air defense capabilities since the 1990s. It was developed as a response to the need for a mobile and effective short-range air defense system that could protect ground forces and key installations from low-flying aircraft and helicopters. The Stormer HVM is still in service with the British army and it was also exported to Oman. On Monday, April 25, 2022, the British Secretary of Defense announced that the United Kingdom would provide military aid to the country following the Russian invasion. As part of this aid, an undisclosed number of Stormer tracked armored vehicles fitted with the Starstreak HVM air defense missile system will be sent. In January 2024, it was announced that the British army had deployed Stormer HVM in Saudi Arabia to counter Houthi 'rebels' missile and drone attacks.

The Stormer HVM is fitted with the Starstreak missile weapon station armed with two blocks of four Starstreak missiles ready to fire. Another batch of 12 missiles is stored in the vehicle. The turret allows for 360-degree rotation, enabling the crew to rapidly acquire and engage targets from any direction. The turret also houses missile guidance and fire control systems. Two smoke grenade dischargers are mounted on each side at the front of the hull. The roof of the vehicle is fitted with an air defense alerting device (ADAD), supplied by Thales (formerly Pilkington) Optronics. The ADAD is an infrared thermal imaging surveillance system that is used

## SPECIFICATIONS:

Armament	Eight Starstreak surface-to-air missiles
Armour	Protection against the firing of small arms and artillery shell splinters
Weight Vehicle	13,000 kg
Country users	Oman, United Kingdom, Ukraine
Designer Country	United Kingdom
Speed Vehicle	80 km/h
Combat Equipment	Communication systems, day/night vision, laser range finder, tracking and detection systems, NBC protection system
Range Vehicle	600 km
Crew	3
Dimensions Vehicle	Length: 5.6 m; Width: 2.8 m; Height: 3.4 m

by close air defense units, to detect hostile aircraft and helicopter targets and direct weapon systems into the target area. Operating as an infrared search and tracking system in the 8 - 14 micron waveband, the alerter is designed to operate against low and fast-moving fixed-wing aircraft, as well as the latest generation of attack helicopters. The ADAD has a target acquisition range of 18 km for Fighter Ground Attack (FGA) targets and 8 km for helicopters.

*Source: army recognition group*



Close view of Stormer HVM Starstreak missile turret.



## TANK APC CONVERSION



### Ukrainian heavy infantry fighting vehicle prototype

Could Ukraine have deployed its only tank-based BMP-55 heavy infantry fighting vehicle against Russian troops?

On April 21, 2025, Military Informant shared new pictures of the unique Ukrainian BMP-55, a heavy armoured personnel carrier developed in the 2000s based on the Soviet T-55 tank chassis but equipped with a T-64 engine. This prototype, officially designated as a heavy infantry fighting vehicle (IFV), was created by the Kharkiv Armoured Repair Plant in collaboration with the Kharkiv Morozov Design Bureau (KMDB) as part of a broader initiative to modernize obsolete Soviet armoured vehicles. The concept behind the BMP-55 was to offer a robust platform for troop transport with substantial battlefield survivability, while making use of surplus or decommissioned T-55 tanks that no longer met frontline standards.

Despite never proceeding beyond the prototype stage, the vehicle has recently resurfaced in Ukraine, potentially close to the combat zone, suggesting renewed interest in, or opportunistic deployment of, available hardware in the current high-intensity conflict. The BMP-55 differs significantly from Ukraine's other heavy IFV project, the BMP-64, which is based on the T-64 chassis. While both platforms share a similar mission and design logic, transforming main battle tanks into protected troop carriers, the BMP-55 uses the older T-55 hull as its foundation but notably incorporates the more modern 5TDF multifuel engine from the T-64. This 700-horsepower (513 kW) engine is mounted at the front of the vehicle, forming part of a modular engine-transmission unit designed

for rapid replacement under field conditions. The engine's frontal placement is not only a logistical improvement but also a tactical one, as it adds a layer of protection for the crew from frontal assaults and explosive threats.

The prototype vehicle, developed between 2000 and 2009, features extensive armour modifications. The frontal hull is protected by 270 mm of armour, rated to withstand direct fire from 90 mm armour-piercing rounds and equivalent to Level 7 of the NATO STANAG 4569 standard. Side armour is 81 mm thick and reinforced with 20 mm anti-cumulative shields, protecting against PG-7VM grenades launched from RPG-7 systems. The rear armour is rated at 40 mm, providing Level 4 protection against 14.5 mm armour-piercing projectiles. The underside of the hull is composed of a layered composite armour scheme specifically designed to mitigate the blast effects of anti-tank mines like the Soviet TM-57, achieving protection in accordance with NATO Level 5 standards.

The vehicle's layout allows for a rear-mounted ramp, a significant tactical feature absent from most Soviet-era IFVs such as the BMP-1 and BMP-2. This configuration permits infantry to dismount under full armour protection, reducing exposure to enemy fire. The ramp also facilitates the movement of wounded personnel or logistical materials in and out of the combat compartment. The vehicle is crewed by three and can carry between eight and ten troops, depending on the internal configuration. The internal design is built around a compact and efficient layout, where the engine compartment at the front is followed by the driver and commander positions, and then the troop bay in the rear. This linear layout simplifies ingress and egress operations under fire.

In terms of armament, the BMP-55 is fitted with a remotely operated weapon station that mounts a 12.7 mm NSVT heavy machine gun. This system is paired with a launcher for anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) placed on the left side of the vehicle's roof. The weapon systems are independently operated, each with separate fire control channels. According to visual evidence from 2009 and early product cards, both systems were originally mounted on the prototype. However, the recently surfaced photos suggest that the NSVT machine gun has been removed and the ATGM launcher is incomplete or inactive, raising questions about the vehicle's current combat readiness. The vehicle's maximum road speed is variously cited as 60 or 70 km/h, and it has a stated operational range of up to 600 km.

*Source: Army Recognition - 24 April 2025*



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

Ian Goodall Secretary 8 Saintly Turn Byford 6122

Phone/message: 0414376756 email: [iangoodall1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:iangoodall1@optusnet.com.au)

**APPLICANT:** Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Other Names \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date Of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Details of Military Service including serial number, rank on discharge or current rank, units with whom you served.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Subscription \$ 40.00 per annum**

**WIFE/PARTNER/OTHER:**

Name of your wife/partner/other \_\_\_\_\_

(Or next of kin if applicable with address and phone number)

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_

[Mobile Phone](#) Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name desired on Name Plate \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Name Plate is available for Wife/Partner/other at a cost of \$10.00**

Wife/Partner/others name desired on Name Plate \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Joining Fee includes Lapel badge, this badge always remains the property of the RAACA WA and if resigning must be returned.

Remitted \$40 ☐ or \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ if Nameplate required for Wife/Partner/Other (please tick one)

Association Bank Account details for Direct Deposit

RAACA WA Inc CBA Warwick BSB 066 192 a/c 1032 9559 (please include your name)

I hereby apply to join the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association WA Inc and in doing so pledge to promote the objectives of the Association, maintain the spirit, comradeship and tradition of the Corps and abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Association in accordance with the Constitution of the Association.

DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_