



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



Patron

BRIG Phil White
(RET) AM RFD

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Barry Carson
0418163607

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0403654954

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Ian Goodall
0414376756

Treasurer

LM John Dwyer
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Committee:

LM Dick Jones
93075654
Tania Wells
0451037060
Bill Robertson
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PRESIDENT BARRY CARSON

With the month of March just around the corner already two committee meetings, one busy b at Cambrai House and one black hat coffee morning at Joondalup shopping centre last month it seems like a flying start to the year.

At the last Committee on 7th February, it was a pleasure to welcome onto the Committee Bill Robertson and Tania

Wells both long serving and active members of the Association.

I commend to all our RAACA members our Black Hat Coffee morning at 10.00am on the last Thursday of each month where invariably our Life Member, Dick Jones tends too once again bring along an item which tends to captured the interest of most attending. Last meeting most guessed it to be a field telephone, but turned out when opened up to a small crystal radio that was from WW II and used by those involved with coast watch in both Australia and Overseas as well as used by our own WA based Special Services Regiment in late 50's and 60's

Early in February I had the pleasure of meeting the new RSM WO1 Adam Scott and the Adjutant CAPT Ameline Fraine. During the meeting the RSM confirmed that despite heavy unit commitments around Anzac Day period the unit had agreed that the unit would conduct the Old Boys Parade on Saturday 11th April 2026, timings for the morning still to be confirmed around the 10.00 - 10.30 am time frame. Firm details will be announced when received

Early February it was good to catch up with our Patron Brig Phil White AM, RFD, (Retd) to gain his thoughts in regard to proposed celebrations this year with RAACA WA Branch celebrating its 80th Anniversary, having been established in 1946. There was of course some thoughts discussed around the recent Government announcement of the possible relocation of the Military units located in Irwin and Leeuwin Barrack's to Palmer Barracks in Guildford.

Finally, I draw your attention to the forthcoming AGM and BBQ at Cambrai House at 12.00 noon Sunday 22 March 2026. In regard to nominations for the committee, thank you to those who have done so , with Secretary Ian advising nominations have been received for all positions excluding that of Treasurer by the closing date. If you have some experience in that area please consider and advise Ian prior to the AGM.

THANK YOU

The President and committee would like to thank all of our members who have paid for the 2026 year.



P1 President

P2 Cambrai House/Irwin Barracks

P3 Activities Schedule/
Busy Bee

P4 M1E3 Trials

P5 Membership

FEB 26 – Black Hat Coffee
Morning Dome Mt Pleas-
ant

MAR 22 AGM/BBQ Cam-
brai House 12 Noon



Address: Samichon Road, Karrakatta, WA 6010
Size: 61.50 hectares

Established in 1948 as a military training area, Irwin Barracks is located about 7km from Perth CBD.

Site Functions

This site serves as office space, logistics, live-in accommodation, Army Reserves and Cadet training facility.

Site Occupants¹

ADF²: 150-200
APS³: 10-50
ADF Reserves⁴: 1100-1150
Cadets⁵: 200-250

- People are and will remain Defence's most important capability.
- The Estate Audit recommendations will enhance Defence work environments, ensuring our estate is a key point of attraction for and is fit-for-purpose for both current and future members of our workforce. These improvements will strengthen the overall appeal of working for Defence.

Relocation Options

- Irwin Barracks personnel will relocate to Palmer Barracks (21km).
- Cadets will remain in the region and relocate to Palmer Barracks or a new lease at a community venue or school. Defence will engage with potential venues to facilitate this.

History and Heritage

- The Australian Government is committed to preserving and enhancing public access to historically significant sites and collections, including museums.
- Properties on the Commonwealth Heritage List have protections under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Government has an obligation to protect the Commonwealth Heritage Value of a property as part of any sale. Alternative heritage management options will also be considered.
- There is one Commonwealth Heritage Listing for Irwin Barracks, which comprises of two Army Magazine buildings.
- The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA / Royal Australian Artillery Association of Western Australia exhibit a small collection on the site. Public access requires escort / visitor sign in.
- A relocation option for the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA / Royal Australian Artillery Association of Western Australia collection is to move to the Army Museum of Western Australia (at Artillery Barracks, Fremantle) which is operated by the Australian Army History Unit.
- Where feasible, collections will be retained and preserved on-site. The Government will also explore partnerships with heritage organisations and trusts to support heritage protection strategies.
- Options will be explored with future owners to manage heritage obligations as a condition of sale.
- By ensuring historically significant sites and collections are accessible to the community, we help foster understanding of Defence's history, recognise the service and sacrifice of our people, and strengthen connection between the Australian Defence Force, the nation it serves, and the local communities we work within.
- Community engagement will inform decisions on preserving and enhancing heritage presentation and public access.

1 Approximate figures as at 31 December 2025
 2 ADF = Permanent members.
 3 APS = Australian Public Service staff.
 4 Reserves = Part-time members.
 5 Cadets = Youth development program participants aged 13 to 18 years.

CAMBRAI HOUSE, IRWIN BARRACKS, KARRAKATTA

The announcement in regard to the future plans for Irwin Barracks is encapsulated in the above fact sheet.

The Association is directly affected as Cambrai House has been located on site since 2004 proving a venue for the administration of welfare and pension assistance, membership support and social activities and location of our library and memorabilia.

The first tasks of the committee were to check on our current lease arrangements and secondly make known our presence in rented accommodation on the site. We have correspondence from the Department of Defence in regard to our lease advising our arrangements remain the same (4 years to run on the current lease) until divestment planning and arrangements are known. When that occurs and in what form is obviously a large task given the indication that all ADF and Department of Defence people will move to Palmer Barracks. We will be kept informed of progress.

On the second issue we have taken steps to ensure our presence on site and the support work undertaken by the Association on behalf of our members is well known to representatives in decision making areas at all levels.

In this our 80th year, as an Ex Service Organisation providing on ground services to all RAAC Corps members and through being members of the RAAC Corp, representing all RAAC ESOs throughout Australia at the national level, this is just another challenge to sort out a positive outcome for all our members.

Editor



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURD CORPS ASSOCIATION WA INC - ACTIVITY SHEET 2026							
Month	Date	Day	Function	Month	Date	Day	Function
Jan	13	Tue	COMMITTEE MEETING	Jul	14	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH		26	SUN	CHRISTMAS IN JULY
					30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Feb	7	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING	Aug	1	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
							NEK DINNER
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH		27	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE THROSSELL VC XLH memorial Guildford/Rose hotel
Mar	10	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING	Sep	8	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	22	SUN	AGM				
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH		24	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Apr	7	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING				
	11	SAT	OLD BOYS PARADE	Oct	3	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
	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	COMMITTEE MEETING
May	12	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING		20	FRI	CAMBRAI LUNCH
					26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING SOUTH
	28	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH	Dec	5	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
Jun	6	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING		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

Busy Bee, Committee meeting and BBQ on 7th February 2026

The busy bee 'started' on Thursday 5th with John and me looking at a ride on mower which was in good nick so we purchased it and transported to John's on the day. On the Friday I borrowed my niece's trailer and picked up the mower from John's, stored in my garage overnight then taken to Cambrai house for the busy bee on Saturday.

Once the mower was unloaded it took a little time to work out how the thing worked but worked it did, a great addition to our arsenal of gardening equipment. This will allow us to cull some of the older mowers. A big thank you to Tania Wells, Bill Robertson and our President Barry Carson for their efforts, Tania trimmed bushes and moved debris to a pile over the road where some of the fallen tree branches were located awaiting removal, Bill did some of the edges and Barry set a new standard for gardening, he rode his gopher around and used a whipper snipper on the grass the mower didn't reach. A GREAT EFFORT!

We then had the committee meeting with both Tania and Bill observing, for the first time we trialled using phones on speaker to communicate with Dick and Colin, this worked greatly. When we got to general business we had a discussion with both Tania and Bill about joining the committee, both agreed so Barry put forward a motion that they be accepted as committee members which was accepted by the committee quorum. WELCOME Tania and Bill to the committee. Barry had to leave after the meeting for personal reasons, so Tania, Bill and I had the BBQ and a relax after the morning's efforts. After we cleaned up the BBQ and with Bill's guidance managed to fit the new ride on and all the other mowers, edgers and BBQ into the shed. I gave my niece a big thank you from the committee for the loan of the trailer.

Ian Goodall

Thank you to all for the donations received in regard to the upkeep of the house. This year the money went towards the purchase of the ride on mower, much needed with the expanse of lawn at Cambrai House and very welcomed by those helping out at the busy bee.



The M1E3 Abrams is a [next-generation U.S. Army main battle tank prototype](#), designed as a lighter, more survivable, and fuel-efficient successor to current Abrams models. Featuring a hybrid-electric powertrain and an unmanned turret with an autoloader, it enables a three-person crew to operate from a protected, heavily armored hull capsule. [YouTube +4](#)

Key Features and Upgrades:

- **Survivability & Weight:** Designed for reduced weight to improve deployability and lower logistical footprints, while incorporating advanced armor and sensors.
- **Hybrid Drive System:** Uses a diesel-electric hybrid engine for 40-50% better fuel efficiency, providing longer range and silent watch capabilities.
- **Armament:** Equipped with a 120mm M256A1 smoothbore gun, an automatic loading system, and a remote-operated weapon station (CROWS).
- **Crew & Control:** Three-person crew (commander, gunner, driver) seated in the hull, utilizing fully digital, software-configurable stations with advanced AI-assisted systems.
- **Technological Focus:** Enhanced for modern warfare with advanced camouflage, reduced thermal/acoustic signatures, and drone integration. [YouTube +8](#)

The M1E3 is designed to handle future threats and is slated for field testing to inform production decisions for the next decade. [Defense News +1](#)



Development Context

The U.S. Army pivoted to the M1E3 program in September 2023, cancelling the planned M1A2 SEPv4 upgrade. This decision was driven by lessons from the war in Ukraine, which highlighted the vulnerability of heavy tanks to top-attack munitions and drones. By utilizing a **Modular Open Systems Architecture (MOSA)**, the M1E3 is designed for rapid software and hardware upgrades as battlefield technologies evolve through 2040. [Congress.gov +6](#)

The first four prototypes are scheduled to be operational within Army formations for testing throughout **2026**. [Congress.gov](#)



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURD CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Ian Goodall Secretary 8 Saintly Turn Byford 6122

Phone/message: 0414376756 email: 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 _____