



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURD CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc. Edition 4/2026

Cambrai House 2 Little Gibraltar Rd Irwin Barracks
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Editor

John Dwyer



I hope this finds you all fit and healthy. We did a lot of promoting for the Anzac Day Parade through various avenues being Commentary and several online sites, inviting past and present members of 10th Light Horse to join us. I represented the association at the Dawn Service and laid a wreath on behalf of the association, after I met up with Bill, who, with the assistance of his son and daughter-in-law had set up a Marque at the site we had advertised. There was only one other member, Jim Buchanan who attended. At the march we only had nine

that marched, this was a little disappointing after all the promoting we did. I continued to the unit for their gathering and caught up with Barry Carson and members of the unit.

I have contacted Norm Tempest, chairman of the 10th Light Horse Assoc., to arrange a meeting to further discuss possible ways for the two associations to come together, I will invite Phil White to attend as well. At present we will be inviting 10LH Assoc. members to join our activities where there is no cost to our assoc.

The Black Hat morning coffee at Dome Deep Water Point on 28th May was attended by Norm Tempest, Peter Williams, Dave Leadbetter, Wally Gibb and me. We are looking into alternative venue/s for this in the future.

We held a busy bee at Cambrai House and tidied up the yard, mowing the lawns and getting rid of more of the fallen tree. I thank those who put in a great effort.

Barry Carson attended a public meeting to get more information on the selling of Irwin Barracks; more will follow on this subject as we find out more.

The next Black Hat morning coffee will be held at the Muffin Break in Joondalup on Thursday 25th June at 10am.

Yours in Armour

Ian Goodall



THE VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS, TREATMENT AND SUPPORT ACT 2025

The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025 (VETS Act) will bring the three schemes for veterans' compensation and rehabilitation under a single Act: an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA).

Various entitlements will be enhanced, while allowances and other payments that had operated differently across the three Acts will be standardised from 1 July. All new claims for compensation and rehabilitation, regardless of when a veteran served, or when their injuries or diseases occurred, will be determined under the improved MRCA from 1 July onwards.

[Creating a simpler easier-to-use system for the veteran community](#)



Members, Family and Friends are invited to attend this year's Christmas in July Lunch at the Mt Henry Tavern 27 Manning Rd Como WA commencing 12 noon on Sunday July 12th in the function room. Roast Dinner \$20.00 (subsidised) or eat from the extensive menu at prices indicated less \$5. Door prize. Thank you to those that have already responded – the room is filling quickly so don't miss out.

Please advise Secretary John if you are attending by return email on message/phone 0419694549



SEAPOWER AND GUN ENPLACEMENT VISIT GARDEN ISLAND

The Curator of the Sea Power Centre located on Garden Island has invited us visit the Sea Power Centre and old gun sites located on the island in response to a possible invasion during war time. Members, family and friends are invited with the event slotted into our program for the month of August. Those attending would meet at the car park located on the mainland near the entrance to the bridge entry to the island. Bus travel will be provided, with guidance and commentary by members of the Sea Power Centre. Please note some of the sites may be difficult to access - in those circumstances it would be best to wait in the vicinity of the bus. Should you be interested in attending the planned event please advise by return email to jadanne14@gmail.com or message/phone the Secretary. 0419694549

GREAT WAR STORIES 1914-1919 LIGHT HORSEMEN & CAMELEERS of SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Our book presents detailed short story biographies of more than 60 South Western Australian men who volunteered for service in the First World War.

You will become emotionally connected to the soldiers as you follow each man's journey from birth until their final resting place.

So many of these previously untold stories highlight the men's dedicated and devoted connection to family and their local communities; there are numerous role models for today's and future generations.

Our South Western men were critically involved in a number of legendary battles, including Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine. They often fought against overwhelming numbers of enemy on most rugged ground and in highly unfavourable climatic conditions.

Amongst these awe-inspiring stories, you will grasp the dedication, devotion to duty, exceptional bravery and inseparable mate ship that thrust Australia onto the world stage. You will be consumed by some of the many courageous achievements of our South Western men, including:-

- The Narrogin Dentist accepting the enemy surrender of Damascus,
- The Kirup Farmer/Pastoralist who succeeded in stopping the Battle at The Nek Gallipoli,
- The Cranbrook Brothers who died 30 minutes apart at the Battle of Hill 60 Gallipoli,
- The Brunswick Junction Farmer who fought side by side at Hill 60 with Hugo Throssell VC,
- The Pingelly Farmer who became a leading and vital 10LHR Scout,
- The Bridgetown aboriginal soldier who served in both First and Second World Wars,
- The Denmark Farmer and his miraculous escape at Gallipoli,
- The Mount Barker Farmer who had 2 horses shot from underneath him in the same battle,
- The Harvey Farmer who helped quell the Egyptian Rebellion in 1919,
- The Dumbleyung Farmer who also served in the Boer War with Breaker Morant,
- The Dardanup Rhodes Scholar killed in action during the Battle of The Nek Gallipoli.

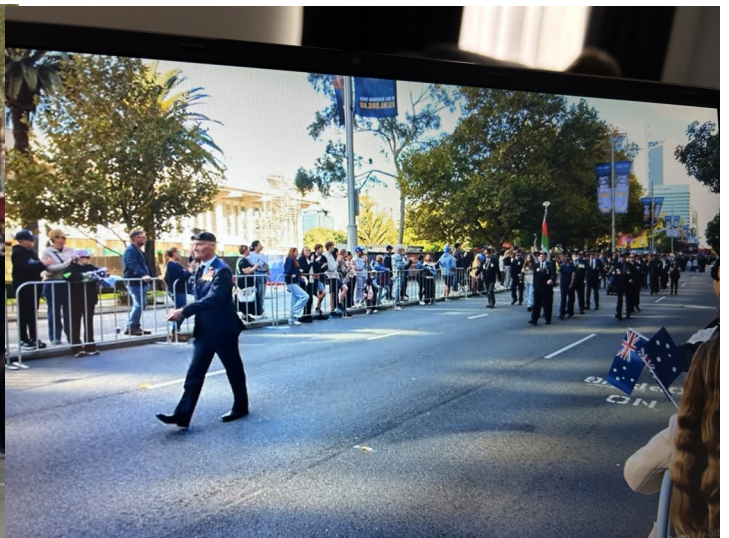
Jeff PEIRCE and Chris HANDLEY are honoured to promote the lives of these inspirational men, whilst saluting their service to our Nation.

[Home Page | greatwarstories1914-1918.com](http://greatwarstories1914-1918.com)

LEST WE FORGET.



Member Kingsley McGuire, family – 1 ARMD REGT



Patron RAACA WA Phil White



President RAACA WA Ian Goodall and members



3 CAV VIETNAM

ANXAC DAY PERTH MARCH 2026

Following on from the Old Boys Parade covered in the last edition of Commentary our President represented past and serving members of the RAAC Corps at the Kings Park dawn service – laying a wreath on there behalf. Than you to VP Bill Robertson for setting up the coffee plus venue at that event.

Leading the RAAC Associations contingent was our Patron BRIG (Ret) Phil White with Ian Goodall our President. Numbers were down on previous years, quite a few members preferring to join in other activities closer to home. Familiar figures in all three groups of the RAAC Contingent.



Month	Date	Day	Function
Jul	14	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	14	SUN	CHRISTMAS IN JULY
	30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Aug	1	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/ COMMITTEE MEETING
	TBA	FRI	Seapower and Gun Emplacement Visit Garden Island
	27	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE THROSSELL VC XLH memorial Guildford/Rose hotel
Sep	8	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	24	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Oct	3	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/ COMMITTEE MEETING
	29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING NORTH
Nov	10	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	22	SUN	80TH ANNIVERSARY RAACA WA
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING SOUTH
Dec	5	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/ COMMITTEE MEETING
	13	SUN	CHRISTMAS BBQ

**80TH ANNIVERSARY ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA
INC.**

To celebrate the contribution of many over the past 80 years an event will be held at the ARMY Museum on Sunday 22nd of November. Final arrangements will be advised in the next edition of Commentary. Please save the date for this important occasion in our history.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOUR CORPS

The **Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC)** is an [administrative corps](#) of the [Australian Army](#). It provides the Australian Defence Force's [Armour](#) capability, which performs the function of mounted combat. Armour combines firepower, mobility, protection and networked situational awareness to generate [shock action](#) and [overmatch](#) in close combat. Armour is an essential element of the [combined arms](#) approach that is employed by the Australian Army.^[2]

The RAAC is the senior arms corps within the Army and the custodian of the customs and traditions of Australia's mounted soldiers.^[3] The members of the corps are Army's experts in the theory and practice of [armoured warfare](#) and operation of [armoured fighting vehicles](#) (AFV). While all RAAC members are trained in the technical and tactical employment of armour, they specialise in either the Armoured or Cavalry career streams. Both male and female soldiers and officers serve within the RAAC as armoured vehicle crew. The corps includes both full-time Regular and part-time Reserve units and members. The RAAC provides policy guidance, trade management representation and administrative support for its members.

Origins [[edit](#)]

The RAAC's origins can be traced back to the [Australian Tank Corps](#) (ATC), formed in 1928.^[4] Around this time the distinctive headdress of Commonwealth armoured corps members, the [black beret](#), was adopted by the ATC which was affiliated with the Royal Tank Corps.^[5]

For most of the 1930s the ATC remained an embryonic organisation containing only a small cadre of permanent staff and the militia [1st Tank Section](#). At the outbreak of the Second World War the ATC had grown to two militia [light tank](#) companies. These, in conjunction with the militia 1st and 2nd Cavalry Divisions, which included the [Australian Light Horse](#) (ALH) regiments of First World War fame, comprised Australia's mobile mounted combat forces. In the early stages of the war, the ATC and ALH provided many personnel who formed the basis of the mechanised divisional cavalry and armoured regiments. In order to administer the growing number of units, including the [1st Australian Armoured Division](#), the **Australian Armoured Corps (AAC)** was formed on 9 July 1941.^[6]

The AAC absorbed the ATC and certain other personnel whose primary function was to operate, instruct or manage AFVs. As a result of the increasing mechanisation of the army, and commensurate waning of horse mounted troops, the ALH was also absorbed into the AAC on 8 May 1942.^[6] By this time many ALH units had converted to motorised units, such as reconnaissance and motor regiments, others had mechanised as armoured and tank regiments. At its height the AAC included the [1st](#), [2nd](#) and [3rd](#) Australian Armoured Divisions, the [3rd Australian Army Tank Brigade](#) and various training centres and regiments, located at Puckapunyal and Singleton ranges.^[7] While many individual units served overseas with distinction, by the end of the war these large formations were broken up and much of the wartime AAC was demobilised with the rest of the force. The Australian Armoured Corps was granted the ***Royal*** prefix in recognition of its service during the Second World War on 14 December 1948.^[8]

Australian Armoured Corps Royal Australian Armoured Corps



Badge

Active	9 July 1941 – present
Country	Australia
Branch	Armour
Type	Corps
Role	Mounted Combat
Size	3 regular regiments 5 reserve regiments and a training unit
Part of	Australian Army
Garrison/HQ	Puckapunyal
Nickname	'The Black Hats'
March	Radetzky March , Opus Number 228 by Johann Strauss Senior ^[1]
Anniversaries	9th of July 1941
Equipment	Armoured Fighting Vehicles
Commanders	
Colonel in Chief	King Charles III
Representative	Major General Michael Krause, AM
Honorary Colonel	
Head of Corps	Brigadier Andrew Moss
Corps Sergeant Major	Warrant Officer Class 1 Sean McElhinney

Insignia

RAAC Colour patch	
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Corps of the Australian Army

Combat
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Royal Australian Infantry Corps Australian Army Aviation
Combat Support
Royal Australian Artillery Royal Australian Engineers Royal Australian Corps of Signals Australian Army Aviation
Combat Service Support
Royal Australian Corps of Transport Royal Australian Army Medical Corps Royal Australian Army Dental Corps



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Ian Goodall President 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 _____