



**COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER**  
**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURD CORPS**  
**ASSOCIATION WA Inc**  
 Edition 6/2024 New Year Edition  
 Editor John Dwyer



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(RET) AM RFD

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0403654954

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*To all Black Hats current and past serving, particularly those serving overseas, Happy New Year to you and your loved ones.*



President Barry Carson

Happy New year to you and your families. In wishing you all well please keep in mind all our ADF people serving on operations domestically and overseas and their families supporting them at home. To those of us with health or other problems all the best and you are in our thoughts.

Since our last commentary the RAAC Corp conference was held in Canberra. The conference includes a session in regard to the Hinton Trust established to support RAACA Association family in their primary education.. As the original intent is now outlived its purpose it has been proposed that research be undertaken to move those funds to the Haynes Trust designed to assist with emergency funding for those serving and non serving members of the Corps. Details were forwarded at the time the Haynes trust called for applications earlier on this year.

Our regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Black hat coffee function for October was different being held on 24<sup>th</sup> October at the XLH Statue Memorial in Guildford followed by an informal luncheon at the Rose and Crown hotel nearby. Our Patron attended following a quick dash from a RSL Trustees meeting in Perth, as we took the opportunity to reflect on the original birthday when the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horses Regiment was founded.

The 22nd November saw our wreath laying at the Air Force memorial – RAAFA Village – Bull Creek followed by the traditional luncheon and address. This year’s address was given by OC B Sqn XL Mar Ashley Cogdon with slides of the exercise held in July around the Derby area in NW of WA. The meal and facilities were first class with those attending appreciative of the presentation made by Ashley.

28<sup>th</sup> November was Black hat coffee day held at Joondalup Shopping Centre. This event as a monthly regular and it is intended to continue during 2025 moving between Metro North, South and Central locations.

7<sup>th</sup> December was XLH’s family day at the unit which saw the annual awards and promotions presented. Also it was CO’s Lt Col Daniel Wright final activity before handing over command of the unit to Jason O’Keefe. The RAACA was well represented.

Recently we have lost two Association stalwarts in Ray Lederer and John Riley. Both Ray and John served with 10LH over a number of years. Ray was known for his fitness and smart dress with his bush skills integrated into his leadership of Assault groups. John, known to many as an affable person who would assist in anyway served with HQ support groups over a number of years. Both forged lifetime friendships through their service with 10LH.

Thank you to those who responded to the draft schedule of events 2025. That document has now been firmed up and is contained in this edition of Commentary. Apart from regular events a visit to Stirling Naval base including lunch, a bush weekend and a visit to the RAAF Base Perce have been included.

On behalf of all the members thank you to those that have made donations or supported our raffles with gifts. Your support helps us to subsidise most activities during the year.

Yours in Armour

Barry Carson

President

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURD CORPS ASSOCIATION WA INC - ACTIVITY SHEET 2025 (DRAFT)

Month	Date	Day	Function	Month	Date	Day	Function
Jan	14	Tue	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	Jul	8	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH		6	SUN	BLACK HAT LUNCH
					31	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Feb	11	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Aug	12	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	19	WED	SASR MUSEUM VISIT				
	27	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH		28	THU	THROSSELL VC (Hill 60) Guildford
Mar	11	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Sep	9	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	22	SUN	AGM		21	WED	DAY BUS TRIP
	27	THU	BLACK HATCOFFEE EAST		25	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE
Apr	15	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Oct	14	THU	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	20	SUN	<b>OLD BOYS PARADE</b>				
	24	WED	STATE WAR MEMORIAL EVENING		30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING NORTH
	25	THU	KINGS PARK DAWN SERVICE				
	25	THU	ANZAC MARCH AND UNIT	Nov	11	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
May	13	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>		27	SUN	CAMBRAI
	15	WED	DAY BUS TRIP				
	29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH	Dec	9	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
Jun	10	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>		14	SUN	<b>CHRISTMAS BBQ</b>
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE EAST				

NOTES 1. REGULAR EVENTS ARE CONFIRMED DATES



## Kahlil Fegan DSC AM

Repatriation Commissioner

This incisive article by Commissioner Fegan (Published in Edition 40 of VetAffairs) addresses a range of current issues and in particular addresses the value of serving and past serving members in the Community. Well worth reading. Editor

### Some personal reflections on a year as Repatriation Commissioner

I write to you just over 1 year into my role as your Repatriation Commissioner and in continued appreciation of the opportunity to serve the veteran community. Noting this role has been in existence for more than 100 years, I believe these last 12 months have been particularly impactful in the veteran ecosystem.

We have seen new leadership engrain them-selves at the head of the DVA and the ADF. The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has released its monumental findings and 122 recommendations. The harmonisation of our complex legislative systems is before the Parliament; and throughout, our veteran-related issues have featured dominantly in our media and social consciousness.

Whilst I have immersed myself in each of these matters, and many others, it is my learnings regarding why we have veteran related legislation that have been personally most impactful. Australia has veteran legislation because as a nation we made a commitment to support our veterans at the start of the First World War. As a country, we have honoured this commitment to varying degrees, and have arguably the most generous and comprehensive veteran support legislation in the world. But why is it comparatively so good?

In its infancy and as engrained in the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920-1941, our young nation's intent was to support our detrimentally impacted veterans and families by giving them a 'leg up'. To give those who were wounded the ability to work. To support a widow to raise the next generation, provide a farm to a veteran to help feed a growing nation. It was about recognising the value of veterans and investing in them and their families so that they could continue to support Australia.

Our veterans represented the best of our young workforce and we needed them – during time of war, and afterwards. Hence, not only was our legislation an obligation, in many ways it was an investment in our country's future.

This is, I believe, why the basis of our legislation is comparatively so good.

My other learning has been about the immense value of our volunteer service organisations and the role of society. Here I have encountered and worked with hundreds of outstandingly wonderful people, deeply committed to supporting those in need and filling what will be an inevitable gap between what Government can do and what a veteran may need.

I cannot thank and acknowledge these many people enough. I have seen them work throughout the night, donate their own money, and give up valuable family time to support others. I have experienced the impact these people and organisations can have, particularly when they work in collaboration with DVA and others. It's a beautiful thing and impressive manifestation of the commitment this nation made more than a century ago.

My third and final key learning regards our veteran challenges. The Department can only do what Government-endorsed legislation enables it to do. It can only spend money, award grants, and provide services in strict compliance with laws and regulations. This is life. DVA aspires to be 'world's best practice' at that which it can do, and our society has an important obligation to do what DVA can't. Here society and others must work in partnership with DVA in order to provide whole and connected support down to the local level.

Much like at the end of the Second World War, Australian society needs to recognise the immense value of our large veteran community. Society must willingly seek to invest, to enable our veterans and families to contribute meaningfully, in big and small ways to our country. Yet unfortunately many in society see veterans as potentially broken, suicidal, needing welfare, angry and abusive. We know this is far from the truth but why do so many in the general community see us this way - as 'Broken Diggers'?

This disappointing and highly inaccurate depiction undermines our collective value and compromises our reputation - none of which is good for us or Australia. Now, as our nation faces new security challenges, we have an opportunity to refocus and highlight the immense value of veterans - whether serving or not.

As a veteran community let's more passionately celebrate and highlight veteran achievements. Let's proactively reiterate that veterans are worthy of investment because they are professional members of our society who have received some of the world's best training. They are experienced sailors, soldiers and aviators, non-commissioned officers and officers with a wealth of experience. They are successful business owners, accomplished public servants, and elders who can teach the young much about resilience and teamwork. They are valuable members of our society and should be invested in, not undermined.

We should be celebrating the resilience and strength of Australian veterans and their families.

It's up to all of us. If we can improve societal perceptions, we will do much to reinforce the value for Australia of veterans, their families and service. Please - next time we see or hear of one of us who may be unwittingly undermining this message - can we encourage them to reconsider?

More importantly, let's tell our story and demonstrate our strength. By doing so, society will be more inclined to recognise the merit in enabling a veteran and complementing between what Government can do and what a veteran or family may need. After all, this is why we as a nation made a commitment to support our veterans more than 100 years ago.

### The Australian Veterans Brain Bank

I recently made the decision to donate my brain to the Australian Veterans Brain Bank after my death.

It is a highly personal decision but one that I hope will assist us to better understand brain disorders among veterans in the future.

During my military service, I was exposed to blasts, concussions and other traumas.

I take the view that if I can do something after my passing to help ensure that the next generation of Australian veterans is better supported through increased knowledge of how service impacts them, then I should.

If you're interested in pledging your brain, I encourage you to find out more information at: [www.veteransbrainbank.org.au](http://www.veteransbrainbank.org.au).

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

8 Saintly Turn Byford 6122

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

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Other Names \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**(If Retired, Pre Retirement)**

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

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

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

(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 at a cost of \$10.00

Wife/Partners name desired on Name Plate \_\_\_\_\_

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

Annual Subscription \$ 40.00 Total \$50.00 (to be enclosed) and covers period 1 January to 31 December.

Joining Fee includes Corps 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 Partner (please tick one)

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.