



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS
ASSOCIATION WA Inc. Edition 6/2026

Cambrai House 2 Little Gibraltar Rd Irwin Barracks
Email: jadanne14@gmail.com Web: www.raacawa.org.au



Patron

BRIG Phil White
(RET) AM RFD

President

Ian Goodall
0414376756

Vice President

Bill Robertson
0400505460

Secretary/Editor

LM John Dwyer
0419694549

Treasurer

Barry Carson
0418163607

Committee:

LM Dick Jones
93075654

Tania Wells

0451037060

Colin Davies

0403654954



PRESIDENT IAN GOODALL

Since our last meeting we have had a couple of events, a visit to the HMAS Stirling training centre (re designated from museum) which was attended by eight members, the visit was informative and our guide was happy to answer questions that were asked of him.

The Black Hat Coffee this month was held at the 10th Light Horse Memorial in Stirling Park in Guildford followed by lunch at the Rose and Crown, it was well attended with 16 people attending, a mixture of RAACA WA members and 10th Light Horse Assoc. members.

Our next Black Hat Coffee will be at the Dome in Manning Road Manning on the 24th September at 10am, all are welcome.

I have been in contact with the RSM regarding the unit supplying a vehicle or two for our 80th celebration on 22nd November and he has confirmed there will be two vehicles attending the museum for our 80th. I will be following up on finer details of what is required from us.

The RSM has confirmed that there is a range shoots coming up, the 6th of November so far it looks like it will be a come and watch for our members, I will be asking again for more information and pass it on when it comes to hand.

On the 3rd of October there will be a busy bee at Cambrai House starting at 10am followed by a BBQ lunch for those attending the busy bee. Those attending are invited to observe the committee meeting that follows. If you wish to attend please let John Dwyer know so security passes can be organised.

Yours in Armour

Ian Goodall



EVENTS

BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING: 24th of September 10am to 12 noon at the Dome 144 Manning Rd Karawara

CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE: October 3rd 10am Cambrai House followed by BBQ lunch
Please advise Secretary John if you can assist. jadanne14@gmail.com 0419694549

80th anniversary Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association WA

BLACK HAT EVENT
SERVING AND EX SERVING MEMBERS AND FAMILY INVITED



Cambrai Day
Commemoration

- SUNDAY 22ND OF NOVEMBER 2026
12 NOON TO 3PM
- ARMY MUSEUM WA
BURT ST
FREMANTLE

*.AFV Display
.10LH Regt Display
.Entry to all exhibits
.Afternoon Tea provided*

Must register for tickets 0419694549
jadanne14@gmail.com



British tank destroys a tree en route to the battle of Cambrai
Cambrai, Armored Tank



27th Division In Action
World War One, Armored Tank



BLACK HAT EVENT – GUILDFORD

The regular Black Hat coffee morning was held in Guildford commencing with a commemoration service at the 10LH Memorial at Stirling Gardens. Those attending then met for lunch at the Rose and Crown where stories of old were shared and enhanced.



NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE – GARDEN ISLAND

Members of the Association were hosted by the Curator Sean on a visit to Garden island where the first port of call was the centre. The centre is proactive where those interested choose topics to research and in doing so enhance their capacity for logical thought and reasoning. Resources available to them enhance that approach.



We then visited a number of old gun emplacements built during WW2, located on the Eastern side of the island which is a national park.

The sea defence locations were extensive and included below ground bunkers, logistical support areas and connecting tunnels in some cases. No volunteers to check out the tunnels, home for many tiger snakes now.

Thank you to our host Sean



Speculation is building around a possible rotary gun-equipped Bushmaster protected mobility vehicle (PMV) designed to provide suppressive fire and counter increasingly common aerial drone threats.

Defence company Thales Defence recently spurred rumours of an up-armed Bushmaster prototype during a teaser video released to the public earlier this week, featuring both the new PMV and a rotary gun.

“The results of an innovative defence industrial ‘sprint’ undertaken by Thales Australia and our defence partners in NSW. A powerful prototype of a new sovereign Australian defence capability to protect Australian soldiers and other allied defence force personnel,” the company said.

The concept of a M23D minigun remote weapon station used for counter-drone warfare and fire support isn’t new to the company. A similar minigun-equipped Hawkei light armoured vehicle was shown to Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy as part of a LAND 156 project/Exercise Southern Arrow capability demonstration at Cultana, South Australia, in December last year.

In addition, the Australian Defence Force’s own Australian Army Combat Experimentation Group has previously trialled the use of headset-operated M23D minigun remote weapon stations on an M113 armoured personnel carrier during Exercise Talisman Sabre.

Earlier this year, Thales Australia secured an Australian government commitment of \$750 million to deliver 268 additional next-generation Bushmaster PMVs to be built at its facility in Bendigo, Victoria. Capability enhancements for the vehicles would reportedly include improved protection and mobility, advanced digital systems and increased adaptability to meet the evolving needs of defence operations, including increased capacity for carrying personnel and increased tow capacity, stronger additional armour, and the ability to carry more powerful weapons systems including roof mounted effectors.

In America, the US Army has also conducted live-fire testing of M134 miniguns mounted on M1 Abrams main battle tanks at Fort Bliss in Texas. During the testing, tank crews from the US Army’s 1st Armoured Brigade Combat Team (1st Armoured Division) utilised a roof-mounted and elevation-capable minigun, manually controlled through the commander’s hatch of the tank.

“This cutting-edge integration of high-volume rotary firepower with heavy armour amplifies the brigade’s combat versatility, giving Ready First the tactical edge in close quarters and complex terrain,” according to a statement published by the 1st Armoured Division.

Source Defence Connect 2nd June 2026

AUSTRALIA LAND ASSETS



M1A2 SEPv3 ABRAMS

MAIN BATTLE TANK



 CREW	 WEIGHT	 ENGINE POWER	 MAX SPEED
4	70.4 t	1,500 hp	67 km/h

AS21 REDBACK

INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLE



 CREW	 TROOP CAPACITY	 WEIGHT	 MAX SPEED
3	8	42 t	65 km/h

BOXER COMBAT RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE

RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE



 CREW	 WEIGHT	 ENGINE POWER	 MAX SPEED
3	38 t	720 hp	103 km/h

AS9 HUNTSMAN

SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER



 CREW	 CALIBER	 RATE OF FIRE	 MAX RANGE
4	155 mm	6 rds/min	40+ km

M142 HIMARS

ROCKET ARTILLERY SYSTEM



 CREW	 ROCKET RANGE	 PAYLOAD	 MAX SPEED
3	70–300 km	6 Rockets	85 km/h

M777A2 HOWITZER

TOWED ARTILLERY



 CREW	 CALIBER	 MAX RANGE	 RATE OF FIRE
8	155 mm	24.7 km	5 rds/min

NASAMS AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM



 CREW	 MISSILE RANGE	 TARGETS	 DEPLOYMENT TIME
3	2.5 – 25+ km	Aircraft, UAVs, Missiles	< 15 min


STRONG & MODERN
ARMOUR


LETHAL FIREPOWER
AT LONG RANGE


RAPID DEPLOYMENT
& MOBILITY


INTEGRATED AIR
DEFENCE


COMBAT PROVEN
CAPABILITY

ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES DVA

Discussions between Peak ESO bodies and the Government have been ongoing for some time and RAAC Corp has passed on the following information in regard to progress thus far. A background to what was being proposed is also included in this article.

From the discussion paper released on 31 August, and consultation sessions and discussions with Minister Keogh and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to date, the concessions include:

- the most vulnerable veterans will be exempt from the changes – no clinical review point
- assurances that the review that will replace the 12-session treatment cycle will be less onerous and affect fewer veterans
- a veteran's GP remains responsible for their care and treatment plan
- treatment continues while any review is underway, DVA continues paying the bills, and no veteran will be asked to repay any fees
- reviews will be conducted by DVA's clinical staff, not administrative or compliance staff
- veterans will see in real-time what providers have billed to their Veteran Card
- the checks will not focus on fraudulent behaviour – they will focus on a veteran's treatment.

The proposed changes to DVA-funded allied health services have understandably generated significant concern across the veteran community.

From **1 July 2027**, the Government intends to introduce a **\$5,000 annual threshold** for allied health services for Veteran Card holders. This will cover services such as physiotherapy, psychology, occupational therapy, podiatry, exercise physiology and social work.

The Government's position is that the measure is **not intended to be a hard cap on clinically necessary treatment**. Veterans who require more than \$5,000 of care will be able to receive additional funding where there is a demonstrated clinical need. The detailed process for obtaining additional treatment is still being developed, with consultation with veterans, families, providers and ex-service organisations commencing in August 2026.

There are some potential benefits. The Government argues that the threshold will help address inappropriate or excessive treatment by a small number of providers, while also removing the current 12-session treatment-cycle restrictions. It is also committing **\$169.7 million** to increase allied-health provider fees from July 2027, with the aim of improving availability and choice.

However, there are legitimate concerns. A financial threshold does not necessarily reflect an individual's clinical needs. Veterans living with complex physical injuries, chronic conditions or significant psychological issues may require treatment well beyond \$5,000 a year. The key issue will therefore be **how easily and quickly veterans can access additional treatment when they need it**.

There is also concern that veterans should not be disadvantaged because of poor practices by a small number of providers. As the RSL and other veteran advocates have pointed out, the focus should be on identifying and addressing inappropriate provider behaviour rather than restricting access to necessary treatment for everyone.

Our view is that clinically necessary care must remain available to every veteran who needs it. Any system introduced by DVA should be simple, transparent and responsive, with additional treatment approved quickly where clinically justified. Veterans should never be left without essential physical or psychological care because they have reached an arbitrary financial threshold.

This is an important issue for the veteran community, and we encourage veterans and families to stay informed and participate in the consultation process.

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
	8	SAT	Vietnam Veteran's Day
	19	WED	Sea power 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

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY THE 22ND OF NOVEMBER BLACK HAT AFTERNOON
VEHICLE DISPLAYS INCLUDING CURRENT 10LH REGIMENT
1PM TO 4PM

ALL BLACK HATS FREE ENTRY TO MUSEUM WITH AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED
REGISTRATIONS OPEN



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 _____