



**Royal Australian Armoured  
Corps Association Inc.**  
Victorian Branch

# TRACK

December 2010



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<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~raacavic>

## CAMBRAI DINNER 2010



*(Photo by D. Finlayson)*

*Brigadier Mark Holmes, MVO – Commander, Land Warfare Development Centre  
at Puckapunyal delivered  
the keynote address to the 2010 Cambrai Dinner in Keldie Hall, School of Armour  
on Saturday 20 November 2010.*

**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
to all members and their families**

## CAMBRAI DINNER 2010

The formal highlight of our social calendar – the annual commemoration of the Battle of Cambrai was celebrated at the School of Armour Officers/Sergeants Mess on Saturday 20 November. Keldie Hall was the venue as usual and saw 79 members and guests enjoy an evening of memories rekindled, great fellowship and camaraderie.

The 93rd anniversary of the battle was celebrated with a forthright and comprehensive address by Brigadier Mark Holmes on the current and future activities of the Corps and the Army.

Our treasured World War II armoured comrades from Sydney (less Alan Barnham) made their now traditional annual pilgrimage to Pucka and honoured the memory of their mates with a simple wreath laying ceremony in the Tank Museum's WWII Armoured Memorial. Musician John Mansfield from the 4/19 PWLH Band delivered the Last Post and Rouse with his typical skill and style.



*(Photos courtesy D. Finlayson)*

*Pictured above during the remembrance ceremony from left to right – Geoff Morris (1st Armoured Regiment AIF), Musn John Mansfield 4/19 PWLH (at rear), Doug Spinney, President 2/6th Armoured Regiment Association, Peter Austin, grandson and carer of Kevin 'Bunny' Austin (right), long serving Secretary of the 2/6th Armoured Regiment Association.*

**The following members and guests enjoyed the 2010 Cambrai Dinner....**

Bill Allen  
 Michael Annett  
 Tony Archer  
 Kevin Austin  
 Peter Austin  
 John Baines  
 John Baker  
 Doug Barr  
 Peter Branagan  
 Vin Brennan  
 John Burke  
 Bob Burke  
 Godfrey Camenzuli  
 Lindsay Christensen  
 Andrew Clark  
 Fred Coucher  
 Brian Coward  
 Martin Craze  
 Dal Crocker  
 Tony Crook  
 Robert Dacey  
 Robert Dacey Jnr  
 Bob Day  
 Jim DeFrancesco  
 Paddy Devine  
 Des Fergusson  
 Terence Fergusson

David Finlayson  
 Rocky Gerzina  
 Gordon Hastie  
 Max Hayes  
 Brian Heenan  
 Ron Hogan  
 David Holloway  
 Mark Holmes  
 John Hopkins  
 Trevor Hyde  
 Richard James  
 Tom James  
 David Jess  
 Rod Jones  
 Bryan Kesby  
 Connor Knaggs  
 John Knaggs  
 Angus MacEwan  
 Ivan Maher  
 John Mansfield  
 Bill Maynard  
 Stuart McDiarmid  
 Tyrrell McGeever  
 Peter McNeill  
 Geoff Morris  
 Tom Murphy

Bob Neate  
 John Paterson  
 Tony Peart  
 Graeme Perkins  
 Martin Pignatelli  
 Daryl Pinner  
 John Purcell  
 Stan Rydel  
 Alan Sedgwick  
 Garry Simmons  
 John Snelling  
 Alan Spenceley  
 Doug Spinney  
 Jim Squires  
 Allan Tanner  
 Barry Taylor  
 Ian Tregenza  
 Michael Van Poeteren  
 Gavan Vigar  
 Trevor Watts  
 Brian Webb  
 Don Weedon  
 Rod Westgarth  
 David White  
 Graham Wright  
 Andy Zsolt



*Berets all round!*



*Included in the crowd were Bob Burke, Fred Coucher, Tony Crook, Diesel Perkins, Brian Heenan and Peter McNeill*



*Terence & Des Fergusson presented Lt Col Archer with some memories of Brig M.A. Fergusson (pictured)*



*Patron Mick Annett responded to the Guest Speaker on behalf of the State Branch*

# VICTORIAN BRANCH BIRTHDAY

**Sunday 13 February 2011  
1400 hrs**

The **65th birthday** of the Victorian Branch will be celebrated at the **Shrine of Remembrance** on **Sunday 13 February 2011** with a short commemorative service at our memorial tree and plaque (on the western or St Kilda Rd side of the Shrine).

Following the service, **refreshments will be served in the adjacent Shrine western annex** where a short address will be delivered by **Mr. Tim Whitford** who has been heavily involved with the discovery and relocation of **missing Australian war dead at Fromelles, France**.

**All members and spouses are urged to support this important activity**, the setting, adjacent to Melbourne's most famous landmark is outstanding and the opportunity to **renew your acquaintance with this significant Melbourne precinct** is strongly encouraged.

**To assist the organisers with afternoon tea catering**, please contact the Secretary John Paterson by mail to PO Box 547 Coburg 3058, email [john.paterson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:john.paterson@optusnet.com.au) or phone 9465 1418 to warn in for rations. **RSVP 04 February 2011.**

## Patron's Christmas Message

As the Victorian Patron I have been tremendously impressed by the work of the Association in 2010, under the able leadership of Daryl and the other Committee members.

The comfort parcels that have gone to RAAC soldiers currently deployed is a great initiative and I know are very much appreciated. The introduction of new scholarships and the sustaining of existing ones also underlines the importance of the Association's support for our veterans and their families.

During the year there have been discussions and proposals on welding the various State Branches into a more cohesive force for advocacy at the national level when really important issues affecting all Black Hats, young and old, arise. The beret decision was an obvious example of such a topical issue in 2010. But regardless of what we wear on our head, the strength of our Corps and Association is the Esprit de Corps and crewmanship that binds us all together. The mission of looking after one another, especially those wounded and the families of those who have lost a loved one will always be our "Corps Business".

I have again been proud to be your Patron this year and our thoughts are with those currently deployed and their families and friends – may we see them all return home safely in 2011 and my best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a healthy and productive 2011.

**Michael Annett**

### **The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors**

Darryl Fisher, Tim Costa, Brian Cook, Michelle Carson, Clem Mooney, Bruce King, Kevin Heyward, Doug Barr, Bob Burke, Kevin Austin, Barry Clugston, David Finlayson, Peter Jarratt, Tony Peart, Duncan Cruickshank, Andrew Clark, John Hopkins and Doug Spinney.



## SOCIAL CALENDAR.....

Mark your diary now for the **Children's Christmas Party** at the **Diamond Valley Miniature Railway**, Lower Eltham Park (Melways reference map 21 H10). We have re-booked **Meadmore Junction** (currently undergoing extensive refurbishment) for **Sunday 19 December 2010**.

As usual **Santa is timetabled to arrive by train at Meadmore Junction Station at 1300 hrs**. We have booked our first dedicated half hour special to arrive at the picnic area **at 1100 hrs** with the afternoon service at **1400 hrs**. Both these trains traverse the extensive layout for 30 minutes and have proven very popular with all ranks in the past. If you miss the first boarding don't despair, the special will return on the quarter hour for a changeover of passengers. **Rod and Sharon Westgarth** put a lot of effort into organising this fun day, so come out to Eltham and **give the kids (from eight to eighty) a great day out**.

**Remember we provide soft drinks and bagged sweets, you provide a suitably wrapped and labelled present for Santa to give to your children.**

The now well entrenched **sausage sizzle** gives you the option of not having to pack a picnic lunch. **Rod and Sharon** will be only too happy to flog you a couple of bangers or a track pad or two!

**Remember it is a condition of travel on the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway that all those intending to ride the rails, must wear suitable enclosed footwear.**

**So come along and join the fun  
on Sunday 19 December 2010 from 1000 hrs.**



**Welcome to the Crew**

**Tony Archer**

## PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**Members, as another year draws to a close,** a much better year without the calamitous natural disasters that we endured in 2009 and the breaking of the drought to a point where our primary producers are almost crying 'enough.' Once again the ADF responded magnificently to the task of helping out those affected by floods and storm damage.

**We have enjoyed another year of healthy growth with our financial position very sound** and the majority of social and commemorative activities well supported. In particular Reserve Forces Day in July; and our annual Cambrai Dinner at Puckapunyal in November was the standout. Guest speaker Brigadier Mark Holmes updated our visitors with an entertaining and informative presentation. **Almost \$500:00 was raised by the raffle in support of our deployed troops.** We have also received **over \$600:00** in donations for the same cause, an outstanding result. **Thank you all.** The only down side to the year was the poor attendance at the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine in February. **Please consider your attendance on 13 February 2011.**

**Now as we go forward into the 'silly season,'** may I on behalf of your committee, wish you all the compliments of the season and best wishes for 2011. **May you find something good in your stocking!** **Warmest regards to you all.**

**Daryl Pinner, OAM**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday 21st February 2011**

**1930 hrs**

**Darebin R&SL Sub Branch**

**402 Bell St**

**PRESTON VIC 3072**

#### **Agenda**

Apologies  
Minutes of Previous AGM  
Business Arising  
Correspondence  
Reports  
Suspension of Standing Orders  
Election of Office-Bearers  
Supper

#### **Election of Office-Bearers**

President  
Vice Presidents  
Secretary  
Treasurer and Membership Officer  
Editor-Track  
General Committee  
Honorary Auditor  
Honorary Legal Officer

**All nominations to the  
Secretary RAACA Vic Branch  
PO Box 547  
COBURG VIC 3058**

**Light supper provided**