



TRACK

March 2011



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STORM CLOUDS OVER THE SHRINE



(David Finlayson)

*Whilst storm clouds were threatening the **65th birthday celebration of the Victorian Branch** on Sunday 13th February 2011 at the **Shrine of Remembrance**; they did not dampen the enthusiasm of the small, **dedicated crowd in attendance.***

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A cool, overcast day greeted a few dedicated members and families gathered at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on **13 February** to celebrate the **65th birthday** of the Victorian Branch. Our guest of honour this year was **Mr Tim Whitford**. Tim presented a fascinating insight into the efforts of himself and **Mr Lambis Englezos** in having the mass grave at Pheasant Wood at Fromelles recognised and the bodies eventually being re-interred in a new Commonwealth War Cemetery at Fromelles. The **RAAC Prayer** and the **Ode to the Fallen** were recited and a wreath was laid by **Patron Michael Annett**. The **Last Post** and **Rouse** were played as usual with gusto by recently retired **Mr John Mansfield** formerly of the **4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment Band**.

Following a short commemorative service, the group moved into the annex where a **sumptuous afternoon tea and the presentation by Mr Tim Whitford** were enjoyed. Despite the lack of support from the membership, **it is our intention to continue to celebrate** the formation of the Victorian Branch on the **Sunday nearest the 7th February** at our own commemorative tree and plaque on the western side of the Shrine.



(David Finlayson)

MC Daryl Pinner was well supported by our resident bugler Mr. John Mansfield.

The usual suspects included – Daryl & Frances Pinner, Peter & Robyn Branagan, Vin & Dot Brennan with grandsons Sean, Max & Leon Pudebat, Andrew Zsolt, Graeme Perkins, Michael Annett, Godfrey Camenzuli & Kerri Marshall, David & Joan Finlayson, Fred Coucher, Thomas Murphy, Jim De Francesco, David & Karen Holloway, Stuart McDiarmid, John & Sue Hopkins, Andy & Jenny Clark, Barry & Joyce Davidson, Charles & Alleyne Walsh, Graham Wright, David Bucknell, Werner Golla, Tony Peart, Alan Spenceley, Ian & Kaye Murphy, John Baker, Rod & Sharon Westgarth, Jim & Judy Squires, John & Ros Snelling, Andy Brady, John Mansfield & Tim Whitford. The Shrine was represented by Lt Col David Ford, CVO, AM, GM (Retd).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

The AGM was conducted at our new home – the Preston/Darebin RSL on Monday 28 February 2011. The status quo was again achieved with the incumbent executive **Daryl Pinner, John Paterson and Godfrey Camenzuli** duly re-elected for another term. Veteran President Daryl has strongly indicated that this will definitely be his last term.

The **Vice Presidents** are **Vin Brennan** and **Rod Westgarth** with Tom Murphy returning to the committee benches this year. **Roy Arnott** is happily continuing his role as **Honorary Auditor**. The general committee has a new and leaner look with **Tom James, Chris Morris and Jim Squires** calling it a day. Soldiering on are **Trevor Watts, Tom Murphy, Graeme Perkins, Stuart McDiarmid, web master David White** and **Track Editor Peter Branagan**. A very welcome addition to the crew is long serving member **Basil Tiligadis** who will bring plenty of experience into the fold.

President Daryl Pinner delivered a comprehensive report including the following points:

Congratulations to Australia Day Honours recipient – Colonel Andrew Meacham.

The **65th birthday celebration** of the **formation of the Victorian Branch** at the Shrine on Sunday 13th February was moderately successful.

Cambrai Dinner saw 79 members and guests sit down with Guest of Honour **Brigadier Mark Holmes, Commander, Land Warfare Development Centre** who delivered a most insightful address.

The **Kid's Christmas Party** at Lower Eltham Park goes from strength to strength, **Rod, Sharon and Lauren Westgarth** continue to oversee an outstanding activity.

Thanks to **Godfrey Camenzuli** and **Roy Arnott**, the State Branch coffers are in good shape and we will continue to pass back to the membership the benefits of good financial management. A number of cost saving initiatives were proposed and the reduction of 'Track' issues from four to three per year was agreed.

Thanks also to the **Finlayson family** for the very generous provision of the **Arch Finlayson Memorial Scholarship**.

During the past year we lost the following members and old comrades – Brigadier Rohan Boyer and Mr Roger Bausman ex 4/19 PWLH Band.



The following members registered their attendance at the AGM:

Daryl Pinner, Godfrey Camenzuli, Roy Arnott, Graeme Perkins, Vin Brennan, Peter Branagan, Chris Morris, Ian Murphy, Alan Spenceley, Trevor Watts, Jim Squires, David Finlayson, Tom James, Charles Walsh, John Snelling, Stuart McDiarmid, David White, Dr David Holloway, Basil Tiligadis and Paddy Devine.

The following apologies were received:

Tony Archer, John Baines, Craig Burn, Stan Rydel, Michael Annett, Andy Zsolt, John Paterson, Tom Murphy, Tony Peart, Ron Hogan and Doug Caulfield.

ANZAC Day

Same arrangements as usual, form up in Collins St adjacent to the **Athaneum Theatre at 1100 hrs**. After the march meet at the **Cricket Club Hotel, Clarendon Street, South Melbourne**. **Don't forget your Black Hat**.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010

Members,

It is with pleasure that I report to you on the Victorian Branch operations during 2010. Membership has remained relatively stable over the past 12 months and the committee is continually monitoring the unfinancial member situation.

At the Federal Congress, the amalgamation of RAACA was discussed and the President will report on this. Also the Victorian Branch has been responsible for the sending of troop parcels overseas and Rod Westgarth has to be congratulated on his efforts to make this happen.

The annual pilgrimage at the Shrine was held on 13 February and was moderately attended. The address by **Mr Tim Whitford** was very well received.

I would like to thank all the members who spared their time and efforts to work on the Committee during 2010 including the **President Daryl Pinner** for his efforts in keeping the Victorian Branch on track, also **Daryl** and **Peter Branagan** for their efforts in the organization of the Cambrai Dinner. Without the likes of **Godfrey Camenzuli** looking after the finances of the Association, I doubt if the finances would be in the position they are today.

Rod & Sharon Westgarth organized our annual Christmas picnic and BBQ which was again a huge success and they are to be congratulated. **Tom Murphy** again circulated "Track" and has continued the good work as in the past. The production of "Track" rested on the shoulders of **Peter Branagan** and "**Diesel**" **Perkins** and I think you will all agree the quality has been most impressive.

David White has the task of keeping our web site updated, and has done a fantastic job. Also, I think you will agree that without these people and the others on the committee, the Victorian Branch would not be as successful as it is.

As always the **Darebin RSL** has made us most welcome at their club and we thank them for their support. **Stuart McDiarmid** is still negotiating with them regarding the display of our association honour board.

Also thanks to **Mrs Joan Finlayson** for her most generous donation in order to create the "**Arch Finlayson Scholarship**" **Fund** which is designed to assist with trade apprentice students and is now available. The first scholarship was presented to Nicholas Watts at a luncheon held at Darebin RSL on Sunday, 6 June 2010.

Finally, I would like to pass our appreciation to our **Patron, Mick Annett** and trust that the role of Patron is an enjoyable one. Also our appreciation goes to the **CO/CI and RSM of School of Armour** for their support throughout the year and trust that this may continue in the future.

Thank you,

John Paterson

The Victorian Branch Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors

Fred Holmes, Garry Spencer AM, Jason Franken, Tim Fanning, David England, M.R. Smith, Alan Spenceley, Chris Leihy, Brian Dunn, M.J. Fogarty, Alan Sedgewick, Peter Gilson, Donald MacEwan, Pat O'Hanlon, Ron Gillis, Basil Tiligadis.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2010

Members, it is with great pleasure I table my report for the year ending 31 December 2010.

We managed to again achieve a profit for the year as per the statement.

I wish to comment on a couple of items appearing on the long term liabilities mentioned on the balance sheet. You notice that last year we had a sum of \$3000.00 held under the Arch Finlayson Memorial Fund; these monies were held by the branch until the trustees for that fund established a bank account, this has now been done.

Also with the Life Membership the totals are decreasing yearly, the reason for the decrease is that I am amortising the numbers, whereas in two years time that figure will zero out.

Donations for the year were impressive and I thank the members who kindly donated.

The 2010 Cambrai dinner made a loss of \$154.00, the raffle conducted on the night raised \$477.20 providing valuable funds for the troop parcels. I wish to acknowledge the PMC's of the Officers and Sergeants Mess's at the School of Armour for the support and co-operation in helping to keep our expenditure down.

More and more members are using the direct debit facilities and I keep encouraging members who have internet access to use this service whenever possible.

On closing, I thank the committee for their efforts during year. And last but not least Roy Arnott, for again auditing the branches finances.

Godfrey Camenzuli

Membership Report 2010

The numbers are down on 2009 due to members being struck off for non payment of subscriptions, resignations and the passing on of some members.

The membership at the end of December 2010 stood at 239 broken down as follows:

Financial	150
Unfinancial	7
Hon Life Members	10
Paid Life Members	72



Welcome to the Crew
Tyrrell McGeever John Snelling

CELEBRATIONS AT THE SCHOOL

For three days in late February the **School of Armour** was in party mood with a number of activities programmed to celebrate the founding of the **Army Armoured Fighting Vehicles School** in February 1941. On Thursday afternoon the 24th, a birthday parade was conducted on the parade ground and the troops were accorded the rare privilege of being addressed by the only surviving student from the first course – retired **Major General C.M.I. ‘Sandy’ Pearson, AO, DSO, OBE, MC**. A memorial plaque listing the names of all soldiers to die during training at the School since 1941 was presented to the **CO/CI** by **Maj Gen Pearson** on behalf of **Mrs Joan Finlayson**. The parade was followed by celebrations in the Waler Club where a large birthday cake was cut by **Maj Gen Pearson, the CO/CI Lt Col Tony Archer** and the youngest soldier **Tpr Aaron Donnelly**.



(WO2 Joe Linford)

*On the birthday parade Maj Gen Pearson presented a Roll of Honour plaque on behalf of the **Finlayson family***

On Friday afternoon the 25th February, the recently occupied **Tpr Ian Bates Building**, the new home of Binh Ba Troop, was officially opened by the Head of Corps **Brig Roger Noble, DSC, CSC** and his Deputy, **Lt Col Tony Archer**. On Friday evening a grand dinner was held in the Tank Hangar with 250 members and guests present. The highlight of the evening was the official launch by **Maj Gen Pearson** of the book **‘The AFV School-Seventy Years of Training Australian Armour.’**





(WO2 Joe Linford)

*Cutting the 70th birthday cake were **Maj Gen Pearson, Tpr Donnelly and Lt Col Archer***



(WO2 Joe Linford)

*Guest of honour at the dinner was **Maj Gen 'Sandy' Pearson** seen here with Dining President **Lt Col Arche***



(WO2 Joe Linford)

*Retired **WO1 Neville Modystack** seen here with **SAI WO2 Dennis Barlow** travelled from **Herberton FNQ***

CAMBRAI DAY COMMEMORATION DINNER

**Saturday 19 November 2011
1900 for 1930 hrs**

Hopkins Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess
Puckapunyal

**Guest of Honour
Warrant Officer Class One Brad Dunn
RSM of the RAAC**

Cost: \$50:00 per head for members
\$60:00 per head for non members/guests

This function is our premier event for the year and as usual we are providing a quality guest speaker for your enjoyment

All enquiries to:
Daryl Pinner (H) 9359 4520
Peter Branagan (H) 5793 8171

On Sunday morning enjoy a sumptuous cooked breakfast in the Officers Mess outdoor pergola area

Dress: Lounge Suit or Reefer Jacket
Miniatures

Tickets posted out early September

RSVP by 07 November 2011

Accommodation is limited

URGENT NOTICE

Members of the Victorian Branch, it is with regret that we have to inform you that due to a computer malfunction we have lost all members details and therefore we are seeking your cooperation to **fill in and return** the form below.

We are also asking for members who have email to utilise the option of receiving “TRACK” by electronic means, this will deliver your copy faster and save the branch valuable funds by eliminating postage etc. We also encourage members to use the electronic funds transfer if you have internet banking.

Our plan is to also utilise SMS to inform members who have mobiles with any important **information that has to be passed on urgently.**

Thank you

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Family Name:.....

Given Names:.....

Address:.....

Suburb:.....**State:**..... **P/C**.....

Phone :(.).....**Mobile:**.....

Email:.....

Units served with relevant dates and brief details of service:

.....
.....

.....**Dates of:**

ENLISTMENT:.....**DISCHARGE:**.....

I would prefer to receive TRACK by email Yes/No Please circle



Newly elected President of the 8/13 VMR Association Maj John Baines (left) is pictured at the 70th Birthday Dinner with his committee - John Bauerle, Lt Col (Retd) Doug Hunter, Niel Russell and Graham Garvie