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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The first 50 years have been completed and we now focus on the continued enjoyment challenge and what the future will bring.

Of course it rests in our hands - we need to continue our membership drive, we need to have the members' active support at functions and in promoting our association.

1996 again saw some encouraging attendance, Anzac Day had an excellent turnout, Cambrai Dinner also saw very good numbers, highlighted with Honorary Life Membership Awards to Godfrey Camenzuli & John Paterson for their great efforts on our behalf.

My personal thanks to the committee, their efforts on your behalf and support to me with with their pro-active and enthusiastic approach.

"Track" continues to carry the message throughout our country, the standard remains high, Peter Branagan and Diesel Perkins doing a great job. Our long serving committee members Bill Maynard, Trevor Watts and the original J. Stan Lewis continue to give great service.

Supported by the 'almost' new boys Don Weedon, Tom James, Bob Leonard and Rod Westgarth.

And giving us all the inspiration and great support our patron Brigadier Ralph Eldridge.

So let us now face the new year with enthusiasm, join in to make the Victorian Branch strong and in turn our Association strong.

Daryl Pinner

Members,

SECRETARY'S REPORT



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It is with pleasure that I submit my report for 1996 in what has been an eventful 50th anniversary year. The milestone was celebrated most successfully with the release of a special port crock and commemorative envelope, the year culminating in the Annual Cambrai dinner at Puckapunyal.

Also making news this year was the transfer of the Federal activities from NSW to QLD, which we have been informed will be only for a period of 2 years and then put to other branches if they are interested in the running of the executive... this remains to be seen. The Victorian branch originally took up the fight to have this matter discussed prior to any decision being made, however it was made just the same. The effect of this on all states is far reaching with Association funds being expended on things such as the publication "Black Beret" which your committee feel is a waste of funds, as each State has their own newsletter to keep members advised and these funds could have been put to better use.

Also the Federal executive have passed various motions including the Annual subscriptions for all states to be \$20 per annum and capitation fees set at \$3 per member which means that this branch will be up for about \$750 to \$900 per year.

The committee are closely monitoring events and you can be assured that if it is believed decisions are wrong, then they will be contested.