



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS
ASSOCIATION WA Inc Edition 7/2025
Cambrai House 2 Little Gibraltar Rd Irwin Barracks
Editor John Dwyer



Patron

BRIG Phil White
(RET) AM RFD

President

Barry Carson
0418163607

Vice President

Colin Davies
0403654954

Secretary

Ian Goodall
0414376756

Treasurer

LM John Dwyer
0419694549

Committee:

LM Dick Jones
93075654



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 13th.

Planning Day 1300 hours
Cambrai House

Jan 29th

Black hat Coffee Joondaluo
Shopping Centre

Feb 7

Working Bee/Committee
Meeting Cambrai House
1000 – 1200 Hours

P2 – Draft Schedule

P3 –

Dear Members, family and friends within the RAACA WA Community. The President and committee take this opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New year. To those of you in ill health we are thinking of you, in particular at this time.

To members of the ADF, particularly those serving overseas at this time, a special mention, keep safe and you have our support and recognition of your valuable contribution to the Australian community.

A draft plan for 2026 is at page 2 of this edition and will be firmed up at the January committee meeting. Please contact a committee member if you have any ideas for additional activities during the year.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA INC - ACTIVITY SHEET 2026

Month	Date	Day	Function		Month	Date	Day	Function
Jan	13	Tue	COMMITTEE MEETING		Jul	14	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH			26	SUN	CHRISTMAS IN JULY
				D R A F T		30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Feb	7	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING		Aug	1	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
						TBA	FRI	OLD BOYS PARADE
								NEK DINNER
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH			27	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE THROSSSELL VC XLH memorial Guildford/Rose hotel
Mar	10	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING		Sep	8	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	22	SUN	AGM					
	26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH			24	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH
Apr	4	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING		Oct	8	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
	24	FRI	STATE WAR MEMORIAL EVENING					
	25	SAT	DAWN SERVICE			29	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING NORTH
	25	SAT	ANZAC MARCH AND UNIT		Nov	10	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
May	12	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING			20	FRI	CAMBRAI LUNCH
						26	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING SOUTH
	28	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE SOUTH		Dec	5	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING
Jun	6	SAT	CAMBRAI HOUSE WORKING BEE/COMMITTEE MEETING			13	SUN	CHRISTMAS BBQ
	25	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH					

PROPOSED EVENTS:

80th Anniversary Function RAACA WA

Please contact any of the committee in regard to proposed events you may like to see added to events schedule



CAMBRAI PARADE AND LUNCH – RAAFA CLUB

LT COL Jason O’Keefe, Commanding Officer of the Tenth Light Horse Regiment was our guest and speaker at the luncheon. He and Vice President Colin Davies laid a wreath at the RAAFA Memorial along with other members of the Association. A lunch was then enjoyed by members and guests where the Old got Bolder with past exploits whilst serving with the Corps.

LT Col Jason addressed the group where he reminded us of the events that took place at Cambrai during WW1 which was the genesis of the day becoming the commemorative and birthday for Armour and those that have served in the Corps since that event. He then briefed us in regard to activities of the Regiment and those who currently serve where it was good to learn of the regard the regiment continues to have as a major contributor to ADF activities here in the West.

Jason was presented with a RAACA WA plaque and we thank him for acknowledging past members of the Corps and in particular ex Tenth Light Horse members through his presence and support of the Association.

Thank you to those who attended, Dick Jones for organising the commemoration service and Secretary Ian for conducting the raffle with prizes donated by individuals and the Association. It was also good to see our IPP Robert and his wife Maria at the event and to catch up with members and guests who attended.



COMBAT DOZER BLADES BECOME CRUCIAL EQUIPMENT FOR REDBACK IFVS



Combat dozer blades will be integrated onto the Australian Army's new Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

Combat engineering company Pearson Engineering announced it had been engaged in the contract under LAND 400 Phase 3.

In addition if operational requirements call for it, the combat dozer blade can be swapped out for a mine plough, counter-improvised explosive device roller or surface clearance device without further mechanical design or intervention.

The contract follows the extensive risk mitigation activity in Australia to prove the operational functionality and durability of the combat dozer blade.

Initiatives to localise the supply of the front-end equipment are underway with the formation of a team of suppliers that will provide fabrications, hydraulic components, harnesses, assembly and testing as part of Pearson Engineering's Australian industrial content commitment.

"This is an important milestone in our continued collaboration with the Australian Defence Force which goes back almost 20 years," said Richard Beatson, Pearson Engineering business development director.

"It builds on the in-country integration, training and support that we are providing as part of the LAND 907 program for both the M1 main battle tank and combat engineering vehicle and furthers our commitment to localising M-AIT.

"We understand and appreciate the challenges involved in being a provider on the other side of the

world and we have built into our plans our ability to support the project from within the Commonwealth." The Combat Dozer Blade will be integrated with Redback via a Pearson Engineering vehicle interface kit which is designed to accept a wide range of FEE from within Pearson Engineering's range of products.

With the initial integration of the combat dozer blade made, Redback has been future-proofed with the ability to adapt according to mission set.

The company counts among its end user base for combat dozer blades various countries across North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Each variant is designed specifically to accommodate vehicle characteristics and operational requirements.

Source: COMBAT CONNECT 23 April 2025

By: Robert Dougherty



**I'm going to pray like mum...
Oh God, oh God, don't stop, oh God,
Jesus, yes, oh God!**

THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD – BRIEF HISTORY



The Great Ocean Road was built by approximately 3,000 returned soldiers between 1919 and 1932 as a memorial for those who died in World War I. The project was a massive feat of manual labour, using explosives, picks, and shovels to carve the road through treacherous coastal terrain to connect remote communities and open the area for tourism. The private Great Ocean Road Trust oversaw the construction, with the road being officially opened in 1932 before tolls were eventually removed in 1936 and the road was handed over to the state government.

A 243-kilometer stretch along the southeastern coast of Australia, is the world's largest war memorial, built by returned soldiers after World War I. Its history is a testament to engineering ingenuity, a post-war employment initiative and a vision for connecting isolated coastal communities.



Historical Points

- **Pre-Construction Isolation:** Before the road, the rugged Victorian coast was accessible only by sea

or rough bush tracks. Plans for a coastal road had existed since the 1880s but gained momentum only after WWI.

- **A Plan for Employment and Remembrance:**

William Calder, Chairman of the Country Roads Board, proposed using funds to employ returned soldiers on road projects. Geelong Mayor Howard Hitchcock expanded on this, forming the Great Ocean Road Trust as a private company in 1918 to finance the project and create a permanent memorial to fallen servicemen.

- **Construction (1919-1932):** Approximately 3,000 returned soldiers worked on the road in basic camps, using only picks, shovels, wheelbarrows and explosives to carve a path along the cliffs. The work was arduous and dangerous, with several workers losing their lives.

- **Funding and Tolls:** The Trust secured funds through private subscriptions and borrowing, with the plan to repay the debt by charging a toll once sections opened. The first section, from Eastern View to Lorne, opened in March 1922, with tolls in place.

- **Official Opening:** The entire road from Torquay to Allansford was officially opened on November 26 1932, and dedicated as a war memorial. Howard Hitchcock, the driving force behind the project, died just before the opening.

- **Gift to the State:** The tolls were abolished in October 1936 when the Great Ocean Road Trust handed the road over to the Victorian State Government as a gift.

- **Modern Recognition:** In 1962 it was deemed one of the "world's great scenic roads". In 2011 the Great Ocean Road was added to the Australian National Heritage List, ensuring its preservation.

Today, the road is a major tourist attraction, famous for iconic landmarks like the Twelve Apostles, a stunning testament to the natural beauty and the incredible human effort that forged this unique highway.





ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Ian Goodall Secretary 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 re-

turned. 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 _____