

FORWARD

Newsletter #23 - December 2018



The official newsletter of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association

Dear Members It is almost the end of what has been another eventful year for the Association. The annual 41 Club BBQ was extremely successful with over 150 attendees. The commemorative challenge coins went like hotcakes, Tony Nobes' tank suit was a big hit in the Danny Brookes dodgy raffle, stories were told, the 11th November Armistice remembered and we had a great mix spanning generations.

It did remind us all that being a Black Hat is like entering an enduring family, linked by shared experiences, hardships and mateship. The 41 Club is our family home, regardless of links to the Corps, units served or in what capacity. The Association will continue to conduct the event for as long as it is supported. As a side benefit the Association will donate to the 41 Club from our profits of the day and purchase awards for the Soldier and JNCO of the year.

The legacy, romance and free spirit of the Light Horsemen may be long gone from the battlefield. Today's warfare is highly technical, challenging and demanding with its advanced equipment, pace and functionality, but the horse, the skill of the rider, their legend and our connection to their stories and achievements are the everlasting legacy and tradition that create the RAAC family. To quote; well, we do get \$1.35 a day, right? Best job I ever had! (Fury)

Let me thank and acknowledge Shayne Burley, Danny Brookes, the committee, CO, RSM, 41 Club committee and all the soldiers who assisted in running the event. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

I encourage you to attend as many functions as possible. The committee will in return ensure you receive adequate warning and details well before each function. The only reward for the hard working members of the committee is full attendance at functions which is indicative of a thriving Association.

Congratulations to Brigadier (retd) Steve Salmon who has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. Steve served the RAAC and the ADF for some 29 years, enlisting in 1977 and taking retirement in 2006. Welcome Steve. Farewell also to the outgoing RSM WO1 Peter Kirkman as he moves to RSM SOA. Many thanks RSM for your great and welcomed support to the Association.

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Finally let me publically acknowledge and thank my committee for a job well done in 2018. I personally greatly appreciate their support. I am assured that all members of the Association equally appreciate their tireless efforts.

Let me take this opportunity of wishing all Association members, their families and loved ones, all ranks of the Regiment and the RAAC a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2019. To our serving defence personnel and those deployed, the Association wishes them a safe and merry Christmas and a speedy return home.

Graeme Nicholas
President



NOTICES

25th Anniversary RAAC 41 Club BBQ

By Shayne Burley

The 41 Club name was derived from the Tactical Sign of the 4th Cavalry Regiment: 41.

This year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the the 41 club get together. 25 years ago it started out as some 4 Cav guys getting together at the 41 club to share a few beers and tales. Over the years it has evolved from meeting at the old club up at the dam (an old building reclaimed from Greenbank) to a more mixed get together on the 2nd Saturday in November every year.

This year's function was well attended by approximately 150 and was another increase from previous years and a sign of the growing popularity of the event. Members travelled from as far away as Far North Queensland and mid NSW. It was pleasing to note that members from as far back as the 1950's up to current serving members attended, getting together to share a few beers and tell their tales, lies and legends.

This year the function kicked off at 1300 and after the initial bottle neck at the front gate due to the current security level all attendee's had to be escorted to the club. Thanks to the guard for their assistance in escorting all up to the 41 Club. I noted that no convoy orders were issued and the cry of follow me I have a plan echoed orders from the past. After the entry fee and some purchases you would generally be assaulted for raffle tickets by the ever present Danny Brookes, thanks again for your assistance Danny.

Graeme Nicholas (President) welcomed all and thanked the CO for the use of the 41 Club. As it was the day before Remembrance Day a small service was conducted to remember past members of the Regiment & RAAC. At the conclusion of this Graeme handed over to Brett Lane for his rendition of Hallelujah Veterans Version. To say that it was very moving is an understatement; the passion can only be experience if you were there. Thanks Brett a fantastic job and a great voice.

Overall it was a fantastic day and as always it was great catching up with old mates and fellow Black hat members. The association has also decided to make a small gift to the 41 Club as without them we could not hold these type functions. Also, a special mention should be made to the soldiers that supported the afternoon and without their enthusiastic support these days cannot be the success that they are.

President Graeme's remarks are poignant and relevant. He spoke of the 41 Club being a family home where all in the RAAC family are welcome. It is part of the institution on joining the Corps and is for life. Please mark the date for next year's Black Hat Reunion, **10th November 2019** (2nd Saturday in November every year).

Editor's Note: Let us also thank Shayne for his excellent effort in organising the event and the committee for their efforts on the day (Sandy, Dean and Graeme) as well as Danny Brookes.



Please let a member of the Management Committee know if you are unwell and are happy for the information to be shared amongst the membership.



REGIMENTAL OFFICERS/SNCO -V- JNCO/SOLDIERS RUGBY GAME

On Wednesday 31st October 2018 the Regiment celebrated Beersheba Day with a Rugby Union match: Officer's/SNCO "V" JNCO/ORs. The CO kindly invited Association members to attend the game and cheer on their chosen team.

Prior to kick off, both teams practised their moves, warmed their bodies for battle and mentally prepared. A few "Get Evens!!" may have been on the cards. By the time the referee blew his whistle, the officers looked buggered and a little nervous. Those backing the Officers/SNCO cheered them on with words of encouragement "It's going to hurt"!!!! The RSM shrugged off the pressure as he ran on.

Kick off started with a gunfire toast where each other stared down the opposition. Then it started. After an initial arm wrestle of hits and dropped balls the JNCO/ORs team scored. Then they scored another, then another and wait: one more. This gave the Officers/SNCO valuable time to catch their breath behind the try line, a most considerate gesture by the JNCO/ORs. By half time all on the field were ready for a breather.

The second half saw the Officers/SNCO change tactics, and start to play the big forwards in a tight game. While the JNCO/ORs scored again, the tactic worked with a late try scored by the Officers/SNCO. Great jubilation was felt by the officers who were scoreless to then and avoided the embarrassment of a white-wash. The JNCO/OR looked perplexed that their solid defence was finally breached. As a wise person once said: "it aint over until the final whistle".

After the final whistle, the combatants took their sore and battered bodies for a well earnt ale at the 41 Club. Regardless of score, it was great afternoon, played in the right spirit which reflected the camaraderie of the Regiment. Well done to all.



RAAC CORPORATION LIMITED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Sandy Johns

The 2/14LRH(QMI) Association hosted the RAAC Corporation Ltd AGM over the weekend 12/14 October 2018. The AGM was held at the Kedron Wavell Services Club (KWSC).

The RAAC Corporation Ltd Executive Council is made up of 4 Directors, 11 Delegates from the RAAC Associations, including ours, and an Advisory Board of Senior Officers and Warrant Officers serving and retired.

The Corporation was created to provide a greater and more coordinated voice for all RAAC units together with their respective Regimental Associations. The Corporation co-ordinates matters at a National level where the interests of the Members of the Corporation require such co-ordination, e.g. Parliamentary Inquiries, DVA Workshops and creating submissions for the betterment of current and past serving members.

Conference participants were given a tour of Victoria Barracks, hosted by CAPT Adelle Catts on Friday afternoon. Welcoming drinks followed at KWSC. A good number attended and friendships rekindled with delegates from all parts of Australia.

Saturday saw the AGM proper get underway. After the normal AGM Reports. The Chairman, Noel Mc Laughlin, reported on the Corporation's activities during the year. The Directors have been diligent making representations to all levels of Government on our behalf. Each delegate presented a report on their respective Association. Topics discussed during the meeting included the problems of attracting and retaining a younger membership of the Associations, a briefing on the Corps to-day and the future and the proposed statue of General Chauvel in Melb.

The President and Management Committee thank Graeme Brown, Greg Peake, OAM, Phil Lilliebridge, CAPT Adelle Catts and the KWSC Management for their efforts in making the AGM a success.



PASSING PARADE

- LTGEN Henry John Coates AC MBE
11 June 2018, Canberra
- WO1 Frank Beattie OAM: 21 June 2018
- Patrick O'Loughlin: 5th September 2018.
- WO2 Mitch Anderson: 5th October 2019
- Association Member Ian McVie's wife Anne
18 November 2018

***Our thoughts are with all families.
May they Rest in Peace.***

VALE - LTGEN HENRY JOHN COATES AC, MBE

A TRIBUTE TO A RAAC SOLDIER, SCHOLAR, HISTORIAN AND GENTLEMAN

By Miles W Farmer LTCOL (Ret) OAM

Lieutenant-General Henry John Coates AC MBE

Born: 28 December 1932, Adelaide

Died: 11 June 2018, Canberra (Queens Birthday)

John was educated at Ipswich Grammar School for nine years where he was a distinguished scholar, sportsman and cadet matriculating in 1951, entering the Royal Military College (RMC) in February 1952, just as Princess Elizabeth became our Queen.

After graduation he was allocated to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) and was posted in 1956 to First Armoured Regiment (1AR), Puckapunyal, Victoria, which was equipped with Centurion tanks. Later that year the Regiment deployed to Melbourne to support the running of the Olympic Games. John was in command of the Regimental Guard at the Olympic Village, Heidelberg where he charmed the female athletes and given the name "Dreamboat" published in Pix that year - much to his chagrin. The following year he was married to Diana Begg of Adelaide while there and in due course they had three children. His brother officers drove across from Pucka to support him.

He was then posted as Adjutant to the 10th Light Horse Regiment (CMF) in Western Australia, during which time he studied and gained his first university degree. In 1963 he became a lecturer in Military History at RMC where he began a thesis on the Malayan Emergency, published later in 1974. It began his life-long interest in Military History with notable publications to follow.

He now travelled to Europe with his family to take up a posting as a squadron commander with the Royal Scots Greys in the British Army on the Rhine. The Royal Scots Greys was one of the UK's aristocratic regiments, and John was to serve with distinction in it, making lifelong friends.

Back in Australia John attended Staff College at Queenscliff, Victoria before taking command of "B" Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam in 1970. He served with distinction in Vietnam, including time as Brigade Major of 1st Australian Task Force at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy Province. He led a composite reaction force to support 7th battalion Royal Australian Regiment relieve Xuyen Moc, a remote village in the North of the province being attacked by elements

of the Viet Cong's D 445 battalion. Lt Col Ron Grey, CO of 7Bn remarked he thought *"Coates' action in personally taking the lead armoured personnel carrier into the village at full throttle was inspirational and an extraordinary feat of personal valour."*

After Vietnam he returned to Duntroon as Commanding Officer of the Corps of Staff Cadets and began the process of implementing the changes following the Fox Report of April 1970. A decade later he returned as commandant and found that some of the bad practices of "hazing" still existed. He systematically set about removing them and leaving Duntroon a better place.

1978-79 he was attached to the US Army's Armoured Training Centre at Fort Hood. He returned to Sydney on promotion to Colonel. 1981 John attended the Royal College of Defence Studies in the UK, and in 1984 he was appointed head of the Australian Defence Staff in Washington.

In 1987 he was head of defence policy development at Army Headquarters, Canberra before taking command of the Army as Chief of the General Staff (CGS) in 1990, and now a Lieutenant General. While CGS he worked to continue developing links with the armies of Pacific Nations and at his invitation, General Sudrajat, was the first chief of the Indonesian Army to attend the annual CGS Exercise.

John was made a Companion of the Order of Australia before his retirement in 1992. He now had time to pursue his academic interests and became associated with the Department of History at ADFA, the Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW) Canberra.

There are several works to his credit, but his masterpiece was *"An Atlas of Australia's Wars"* first published in 2001 by Oxford University Press. "Atlas" was an enormous undertaking involving countless hours with the cartographer researching and writing the essays to accompany the maps. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate.

Professor Peter Dennis of ADFA said that John *"was both a productive scholar and an engaging colleague truly exemplifying the idea of a 'soldier/scholar'".* In words every Duntroon graduate will remember so well John was ***"a gallant and erudite soldier"***.

(John is survived by Diana; Tina, Peter and Michael)

Calendar Of Events 2019

Date/Time	Event	Location	Organised By
05 Feb / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
09 Mar / 1300 (Sat)	Black Hat BBQ and Drinks	Victoria Barracks	BBQ & Beers for the Regt's Birthday 27 Feb
26 Mar / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
13 Apr / 1500hrs (Sat)	Annual General Meeting and Happy Hour	Kedron Wavell Services Club	President / Secretary
25 Apr	ANZAC DAY • Dawn Service • March • Post March	2/14 LHR Lines Enoggera Brisbane City Grand Central Hotel	March RSM tba
07 May / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
May (date tba)	Regimental Departure Parade	TBA	2/14 LHR 7 Bde
May (Date TBA)	Billy Singh Memorial Service	Lutwyche Cemetery	(Gympie Rd, Kedron)
02 Jun / 1000 (Sun)	Boer War Memorial Service	Anzac Square	Boer War Association Qld
8-9 June	Assn Tall Tales Camp Out and 4WD Activity	TBA	Committee
23 Jul / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
18 Aug (Sun)	Veterans Day	TBA	Committee
15 Oct / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
31 Oct	Beersheba Celebration	TBA	Committee
9 Nov / 1300 (Sat)	Black Hat BBQ and Drinks	41 Club	Committee
10 Dec / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary

THE GENERAL SIR HARRY CHAUVEL FOUNDATION (<https://www.chauvelfoundation.com>)



A bronze bust of Sir Harry Chauvel has been created and will be on permanent display in the Crypt at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. As there are no permanent commemorative sculptures of Sir Harry, this is an important development which has been made possible through donors to the Foundation. Louis Laumen's inspiration for the sculpture is the W B McInnes painting of Sir Harry, executed in 1938 and now held by the Australian War Memorial.

THE HARRY CHAUVEL FOUNDATION AMBASSADOR

The Foundation was recently delighted to appoint Major General Roger Powell as an Ambassador. Roger served with the RAAC and the ADF with distinction.



Solution to the Crossword in the July issue of Forward

2/14 LHR (QMI) Assn Inc.

CROSSWORD 2

Solution:

