

FORWARD

Newsletter #27 - December 2019



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

Where has 2019 gone? Some would say that it was a very quick year or maybe I am just getting a bit older. First off, I would like to thank all the committee members who have supported me through the year. Without them the Association could never continue to grow as it has done in 2019.

I would like to recap on our achievements for 2019 and believe they were all very successful with the support of your committee members. To mention a few, there was the annual camp out at Samford (nearly burnt all the wood) and the annual 41 club family BBQ another successful day.

On 5th December, on behalf of the Association, I had the pleasure of presenting trophies to the regimental CPL and Soldier of the year as nominated by the Regiment during a brief to the regiment on 2020. We congratulate CPL W Naggs and CFN S O'Leary (unfortunately CPL Naggs was absent that day).

President Shayne presents Soldier of the Year trophy to CFN S O'Leary.



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As we wrap up 2019 I am happy to report that the Association is in a good position both financially and membership wise to continue with growth in the New Year.

For 2020 my aim is to continue with our growth and to continue to strengthen ties with the Regiment.

I would like to thank all those members who turned up to the functions during 2019 and hope you can make it to the functions we have planned for 2020.

I wish you all and your families, and our extended RAAC family, a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

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Shayne Burley
President



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members

The President and Management Committee welcome our new members:

- ◆ Ian Birbeck
- ◆ John Wilson
- ◆ James Dickson
- ◆ Frank Dickson

The President also announces the following Management Committee changes:

- ◆ Phil Lilliebridge resigned from the committee WEF 6th November. Phil has been a committee member since the formation of the Association and is a tireless advocate for veteran issues. The Association thanks Phil for his service to the Association and committee.
- ◆ Graeme Brown has an increased portfolio of Memberships and Merchandising.

The President is looking for fresh blood for the Committee. If you want to see the Association grow and prosper don't hold back: ring Shayne and nominate to join the committee.

And lastly from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

- ◆ The Annual 41 Club Black Hat BBQ made a Profit of \$1524.34 which will offset the cost of Care Packages to regimental members deployed to Task Group Taji of \$1435:86.

REGIMENTAL ACTIVITY

By WO2 Stuart Camac (Acting RSM)

The last three months of the year for the Light Horse Regiment has certainly been a hectic advance to contact as the campaign session of exercises and other field and support commitments have drawn to a close. At time of writing the Regiment is absorbing members back from the deployment to Iraq and is posturing itself ready to roll out for the training year of 2020.

The soldiers of the Regiment are excited and incredibly motivated for the conversion training to commence on to the new Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) in the coming implementation of the L400 program. The Regiment will see many of its crews trained in the initial roll out with the additional training of crews commencing later in the year.

The new BOXER CRV is an exciting time as the generational jump of technology has all involved, from the Brigade Commander down, assessing and hypothesising how to employ, implement and fight with it. For the older soldiers in the Regiment that saw ASLAV come into service, we look to the future and see amazing opportunities for training design and live fire manoeuvre activity prospects that will place the Regiment at the cutting edge of how Army views the RAAC and what we can achieve.

Nested directly with the new CRV is our evolving employment of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) that continuously prove to be game changers in how the Cavalry Troop operates. From MILSPEC UAS to off the shelf solutions, the capability now gives the Reconnaissance troop the ability to gain an increased situational awareness within the battle space that is far superior to operating without it.

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Future models and implementation of the assets will no doubt go through a trial process as we start to seek ways in which to incorporate UAS on a permanent basis into BOXER. Using our imagination, we are discussing the concept of crew commanders having the ability to have automated UAS launch and return functionality from the vehicle, giving individual crews the ability to scout forward of their own call sign in order to either identify and even co-ordinate and orchestrate offensive support effects.

On behalf of the Regiment, we would like to wish all members of the RAAC, Association members and the wider corps family a merry Christmas & safe new year.



ANNUAL 41 CLUB BLACK HAT REUNION

By Shane Lucas

The 26th Annual 41 Club Black Hat Reunion 9th November 2019 started with the usual confusion at the front gate which saw our illustrious President, Shayne Burley furiously flipping pages and checking off/making up names before valiantly leading the swathes of vehicle convoys to their ultimate destination: The 41 Club.

Once passing through the final check point and being relieved of a miserly \$10, the infamous watering hole that is the 41 Club opened up its riches and the afternoon was set up in earnest. The word of our annual shindig is obviously spreading as the official attendance was 119 including a couple of shaggy individuals from the West (W.A. not Ipswich), one slightly disorientated Northern Territorian and the usual rat bags from the southern states.

The afternoon progressed quite well with Danny Brookes performing his usual disappearing act : your money into his apron pocket cleverly disguised as a raffle. The support from the diggers manning the bar and BBQ was enormous. In my humble opinion, it



was the best stocked bar I've seen in years and had a little something for everyone. I'm sure that with the amount of cash we collectively relinquished over the bar we could very well secure the rights to at least one of the new Rheinmetall Boxers coming to the Regiment in the foreseeable future (The naming of which could possibly be one of the association raffle prizes next year) but I digress!

After many a brew and tall stories of days past, the afternoon concluded in a relatively orderly fashion until the 1830h cut-off, seeing the club close its doors to us for yet another year.



The great thing about our annual reunion is that it is open to anyone who served in a black hat regiment regardless of the regiment or Corps and is open to man, woman or beast! It would be great to see the

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attendance at this event continue to grow in the coming years but this can only happen if the word is spread by you – the members - so please do. Having said that it is only possible with the continued support of the Regiment, this is very much appreciated and is hopefully forthcoming for many years to come.

WNGO: the date for next year's reunion clashes with the 2 Cav reunion in Townsville which will run over the 'second Saturday in November' date we're accustomed to. Because of this and the obvious impact this will have on numbers to our event, we may need to move it to another date yet to be decided or approved by the Regiment. The President will liaise with the C.O. in the New Year and will advise you all by email when a decision is reached.

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RAAC HOC 2019

By Greg Hooper, CSM

The RAAC Head of Corps (HOC) Cell during 2019 has been manned by Brigadier Chris Mills, AM (former CO of 2/14th QMI) - HOC, Major Greg Hooper, CSM – SO2, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Brady – DHOC, Warrant Officer Class One Derek Simpson – Corps RSM and Warrant Officer Class Two Tim Finn – SO. The team which are all double hatted have worked throughout the year to keep the strategic aspects of the Corps on track and in sync with the broader Army objectives.

Over the last 3 years the HOC has led the Corps in establishing a shared and positive vision that is inclusive of ARA and Reserve and where the Corps is situated within Army as a key partner alongside all other combat elements to ensure that Australia has the best combat capability.

In order to achieve this HOC has taken the Corps through a process in redefining the key characteristics of the Cavalry force and developed designs for the ACR to evolve towards 2030 –a part of this is how we best structure to meet our task requirements throughout the full spectrum of conflict in support of Army.

HOC has also ensured the Corps is across the IIS of Land 400-2 and progressed proposals to better align the RAAC part time and full time force. He has strengthened the ties between the units and unit associations and encourage each of the command teams to reinforce their relationship with their association and how they support the individuals and units, and proactively encouraged the engagement of the RAAC Corporation as part of the Corps.

Brigadier Mills launched a key initiative in 2019 to ensure the Corps is capturing the living history of the Corps and the importance of recording the human history that we have in our serving and transitioned members, and the importance it plays in the educating new members of the corps. This initiative has been launched by the Corps RSM and established with co-operation of the Australian War Memorial. The HOC has also been actively engaged with the Australian History Unit in preparing for the eventual new Museum, this is looking particularly positive and something the Corps should look forward to.

Brigadier Mills during his tenure as RAAC HOC will conclude WEF Dec 19 and I would like to acknowledge his outstanding leadership to the Corps through a period of high tempo and change in order to prepare it to meet the challenges over the next decade.

The HOC team in 2020 will be led by Brigadier Hayward so the strong stewardship of the Corps will continue under his guidance. The remainder of the Staff remain unchanged.

Ironsides 2019 edition will be issued around the same time as the Corps Conference 2020 at Puckapunyal, which is scheduled for 19-21 Mar 20, with Corps Dinner on the evening of 21 Mar 20, which of course is open to all serving and non-serving SNCO and OFFRS.

Yours in Armour

Greg Hooper

TASK FORCE TAJI REPORT & CARE PACKAGES

By WO1 Jamie Adams, RSM

Members of the Regiment have served in the Middle East again this year, providing a sizable portion of Task Group Taji IX in Iraq. While deployed, Light Horsemen and women have been working in close partnership with the Iraqi Army's premier collective training school; the School of Infantry NCO Academy II (SINCO II, formerly known as the Baghdad Fighting School).

In a complex, increasingly uncertain operational environment the Task Group consolidated the progress of our predecessors, brought coherence to a range of training initiatives and drove innovations in support of SINCO II. Each day we worked alongside our partners as they sought to take greater ownership, grew in confidence and gained experience as instructors and mentors for the young Iraqi soldiers under their care.

Great relationships were formed between Light horsemen and their Iraqi instructor counterparts. On 19 November 2019, SINCO II was deemed at Full Operating Capability and have taken full control of the training mission and their future.

Once again our people have done an outstanding job upholding the traditions and good name of their name-sake Light horsemen in the Middle East.

The care packs sent by the Association were well received and distributed to all members on Beersheba Day as part of commemorations held here.

On behalf of the officers and soldiers of the Regiment deployed, I thank you all for holding us in your thoughts back home. All are now looking forward to a well-earned rest before undertaking challenges in the New Year, harnessing the skills and experience gained on operations to enhance Regimental capability.

THE REGIMENT ON SHOW



PROJECT LAND 400

LAND 400 aims to enhance the mounted close combat capability of the Land Force by providing armoured fighting vehicles with improved firepower, protection, mobility and communication characteristics to enable tactical success in the contemporary and future operational environment.

Army's core business is the conduct of sustained close combat. Only Army conducts this task in the ADF on behalf of Government. LAND 400 delivers part of that capability and is replacing some of the capability we already have – ASLAV and M113AS4 – in accordance with good military practice.

LAND 400 will deliver a Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV), an Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV), a Manoeuvre Support Vehicle (MSV) and an Integrated Training System (ITS).

LAND 400 will allow a staged retirement of the in-service Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) and the M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier fleets in line with their technical Life of Type & reducing tactical utility in the contemporary operational environment that involves increasing levels of lethality and complexity.

The highest priority for Army is to replace the ASLAV fleet with a CRV due to obsolescence factors that constrain tactical employment and increase the cost of ownership. These obsolescence factors cannot be mitigated through upgrade and without replacement starting in 2020, a capability gap will result.

The time required to apply the mandated DCP timelines through to 2nd pass require 1st pass approval this year, before the release of the Defence White Paper if this capability gap is to be avoided.

The IFV will replace the M113AS4 beginning in 2025. The M113AS4 LOT is expected to last as long as 2030 but its 'fit for purpose' suitability is decaying given current and emerging threats. It is not expected to be deployable for anything other than low intensity/low risk missions beyond 2025.

Army welcomes debate on LAND 400 and other capability issues. Debate and independent thinking on Army and how it does its business is an important part of understanding what we provide for the Government of Australia and its people. Army is prepared to provide background information to ensure that facts used in the debate are accurate and represent the most up to date information available.

The Boxer CRV (RAAC Units)



Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) — Boxer CRV is a development of the Boxer designed to fulfil the Australian LAND 400 Phase 2 requirement. It mounts the Rheinmetall Defence Lance modular turret system (MTS) fitted with the MK30-2/ABM cannon.[13] Other variants being developed for Australia are an Ambulance, a Command & Control, a Joint Fires, a Surveillance, and Repair & Recovery variants.



Rheinmetall Defence's KF41 Lynx Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV)

Land 400 (IFV)

Rheinmetall Defence's KF41 Lynx Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) and Hanwha Defense's AS21 Redback IFV have been shortlisted to compete against each other for the opportunity to provide Army with up to 450 tracked IFVs and 17 manoeuvre support vehicles.





Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

Information sheet

Purpose

This Information sheet provides information about the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant and how to apply.

What is the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant?

The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant encourages Australia to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service, and support veterans and their families.

The purpose of the Covenant is for the Australian community to recognise the service and sacrifice of the men and women who commit to defend the nation, and pledge their commitment to support veterans and their families.

The Covenant is supported by the Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath.

The Covenant provides employers, businesses, local community, veteran and sporting organisations the opportunity to commit to supporting veterans and their families.

Am I eligible?

You're eligible to apply for the Covenant (Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath) if you have served in the ADF in a permanent, national service, or reserve capacity. Your service will determine the components of the Covenant for which you are eligible.

How do I apply?

You can apply for the Covenant using DVA's online portal, MyService, at dva.gov.au/myservice. If you need assistance please call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) for help.

What is the Veteran Card?

The Veteran Card is a re-design of the existing DVA Health Cards (Gold, White and Orange). The new-look card will make it easier for Australians to recognise and respect the contribution that veterans

have made to Australia and for our veterans to connect with the broader Australian community.

If you already have a DVA Health Card

There are no changes to the DVA services and benefits that you receive with your current DVA Health Card. You can continue to use your existing DVA Health Card to gain access to health services and benefits until you are issued with a Veteran Card.

DVA Health Cards will gradually be replaced with the new-look Veteran Card, either when your current card expires or as part of the card replacement program, whichever occurs first. Please check that your postal address is up to date to ensure you receive the new card.

Examples of the new Veteran Gold, White and Orange cards



Example of current DVA Gold, White and Orange health cards



Calendar Of Events 2020

Date/Time	Event	Location	Organised By / Remarks
Jan or Feb tbc	CO/RSM/SSM Dinner/Pres	TBC	President
05 Feb / 1500hrs (Wed)	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
27 Feb (Thurs)	Regimental Birthday	TBC	TBC
11 Mar / 1500hrs (Wed)	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
25 Apr	Anzac Day Dawn Service Anzac Day Dawn Service Anzac Day Dawn Service	2/14 LHR Lines, Enoggera Brisbane City TBA	
13 May / 1500hrs (Wed)	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
16 May / 1500hrs (Sat)	AGM	Kedron Wavel Services	President / Secretary
May TBA	Billy Sing Memorial Service	Lutwyche Cemetery	31st Bn Assoc
31 May / 1000 (Sun)	Boer War Memorial Service	Anzac Square	Boer War Association Qld
13-14 June (Sat/Sun)	Tall Tales Camp	Baden Powell Park	Committee
29 Jul / 1500hrs (Wed)	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
14 Oct / 1500hrs (Wed)	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
31 Oct (Sat)	Beersheba Celebration	TBA	Committee
TBA (Oct or Nov)	Black Hat BBQ and Drinks	41 Club	Committee
12-15 Nov	2 Cav Regt Reunion		
9 Dec / 1500hrs (Wed)	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary

