

RAAC CORPORATION
In unitate est fortitudo
(In unity there is strength)

The RAAC Corporation (the Corporation) was formally established through the ratification of the Constitution at the SOA on 6 October 2012. The Corporation was registered on 14 March 2012 with ASIC. It is a **Tier 1** public company, limited by guarantee, formed for a charitable purpose.

The AGM which we hope to hold in October, will be the first substantive meeting at which the Directors and Executive Council hope to discuss a wide range of issues.

Central to this will be the remits all Branch Council representatives have been asked to submit. Once these are prioritised, the Corporation will have a better sense of the issues that need to be taken up on behalf of our constituents.

Some of the issues submitted for the Corporation to consider, include:

- The matter of the beret;
- Superannuation issues;
- Remote locality provisions and allowances for members serving in remote areas; and
- Welfare matters for members returning from operational service

Since the death of Brig Ian 'Luigi' Bryant AM (Ret'd), I have been very fortunate to be able to meet monthly for a working breakfast with the Representative Honorary Colonel RAAC Maj Gen Roger Powell AM (Ret'd). Roger's advice to me as mentor and guide has been invaluable and I owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

The year has seen extensive efforts made to conclude the transfer of funds from the former RAAC Federal to the new Corporation as agreed to at the RAACA Congress last October.

The legislative issues that flowed from this decision are significant and will require further unpicking before the matter is successfully resolved.

The Corporation has been unable to secure the services of an Honorary Solicitor and continues to have its constituent Associations canvass former long-serving RAAC members to become members of the Advisory Board.

Advisory Board members will be those Board members who will, subject to consultation with and the guidance of the Executive Council, take issues up with the relevant levels of Government. They will be the SABOT round of the Corporation.

The Corporation is taking small steps as it learns to walk. Financial support through sponsorships is one of the challenges facing it, in this era of cutbacks in the private sector as well as across the whole of Government. The Corporation welcomes all donations and is very grateful to all donors.

Donations maybe made to Corporation via its bank account; viz

Commonwealth Bank
The RAAC Corporation Limited
BSB: 062-911
Account No: 10275892

The Corporation welcomes the establishment of the 2/14 LH Association and its eventual membership of the Corporation in the near future.

The Corporation also extends its warmest congratulations to Maj Gen John Cantwell AO CSC (Ret'd) on his appointment as the Honorary Colonel 2/14 LH Regt who succeeds Brig Maurie Meecham AM (Ret'd). Maurie now has his hands full with the new Association.

Here is a brief outline of the Corporation.

Membership

Corporation members are the ordinary paid-up members of any Association that supports a unit of the RAAC that is on the ORBAT. These Associations are known as Member Associations or ORBAT Associations. They have a seat at the table and are eligible to hold office and vote. They have Member status and Foundation Member status. This Includes State and Territory Branches of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association (RAACA).

The 1st Armoured Regiment Association will represent the School of Armour (SOA) which, although not an ORBAT unit, is central to the Corps. It is our *alma mater* and as the repository of the Corps history and doctrine, it has a critical role to play and is a very important voice. The 1AR Association will act as an advocate for the SOA in the same way Member unit associations support their ORBAT units.

Will the Corporation affect the way my Association is operating?

No. Unit Associations will continue to be responsible for their day-to-day operations, as they have always done. The Corporation is there to act on behalf ordinary grassroots members on matters affecting everyone - both serving RAAC and former serving RAAC members that require lobbying at the higher echelons of Government and the system.

Any issues members have are to be staffed through the relevant Association up to Council.

The Executive Council

The Executive Council (the Council) is made up of all Regimental and RAACA entities (Member Associations) and is truly representative in its membership of all stakeholders.

The Council must, consistent with ASIC policy, comprise at least three (3) Council Directors and a Secretary. These office-holders incur the responsibilities and duties of a Director of a Company including a fiduciary duty of care to all Ordinary Members through their Member Associations.

In order to ensure equity in voting, each member present regardless of size of membership, and eligible to vote is entitled to one (1) vote only and, if the votes are equal, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

The Council is there to receive, review and prioritise all issues forwarded to it by members for consideration and action. The Council will set the annual fee to be paid by Member Associations. The Council elects the Board.

The Council assesses and prioritises all submissions (remits) it receives from its constituents and then forwards these to the Board for lobbying action at the higher levels.

In other words, grassroots members have a say. That say goes to Council who then directs the Board.

Simply put, the Board and Council will hopefully apply the three characteristics of Armour – **Mobility, Flexibility and Firepower** through the application of their own personal, professional and corporate attributes.

The Advisory Board

The role of the Advisory Board (the Board) is purely advisory and carries no managerial or directorial authority over the Council, representing the Corporation. It will provide advice to the Council and will be subject to consultation with Council and pursue matters of policy as determined by the Council.

The Board's advocacy efforts will be directed by Council through a process of consultation and consensus with regard to what deserves the attention of its members, based on what is in the best interests of the Corporation.

The Board will elect its own Chairman and Deputy Chairman. It is the SABOT round of the Corporation.

The Representative Honorary Colonel and Head of Corps

The Representative Honorary Colonel, the Honorary Colonels, the RAAC Head of Corps (HOC) or any member still serving in either a full-time (ARA) or part-time (Reserve) role is ineligible to hold any position on the Advisory Board or Council.

This is necessary to remove any potential conflict of interest situation presenting itself if serving members in senior appointments, occupy any positions in the Corporation.

The Representative Honorary Colonel RAAC is *ex-officio* a member of the Advisory Board.

The RAAC Head of Corps (HOC) shall also be entitled to attend all meetings of the Advisory Board. Both may provide guidance to the Council on matters to be discussed and referred to the Advisory Board for action.

The Representative Honorary Colonel and HOC or their Delegates will be entitled to attend any Board or Council meeting. Their role is strictly *ex-officio* and they will not be able to vote.

As *ex-officio* members, both incumbents will be there to guide and advise Board/Council members on matters being considered for submission to Government.

Their high level of knowledge, expertise and advice at this level is considered to be crucial in ensuring the Corporation discharges its responsibilities in the manner expected, to the Corporation's constituent members.

Ex-officio Committees

There will be ample opportunity for both the Advisory Board and Executive Council to appoint *ex-officio* committees to examine policy issues and report back to the respective management groups.

CONCLUSION

The RAAC Corporation has a way to go before it hits its stride. There are still challenges ahead for it.

It will require the support both financial and other, to assist it in this regard. Any such support will be welcomed and appreciated.

Noel Mc Laughlin OAM MBA
Chairman
RAAC Corporation