

1st Armoured Regt report to the RAAC Corp AGM 11 Oct 2020

2020 The year that has turned everything upside down.

It has been an interesting twelve months where we have had devastating bush fires, floods and COVID 19 closing down the Country, with most state borders still being closed. Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID 19 the Members of the Management Committee have continued to carry out their responsibilities despite the difficulties; particularly those in Victoria.

Management Committee Meetings:

Since the last Association Report there have been five Management Committee meetings all held via Zoom. Some of the main points covered were:

- Overseas Care Packages were sent to three members of the Regiment serving in combat-related areas earlier this year,
- Certificates of Acknowledgement of their participation in Coral/Balmoral were sent to 34 Association members in late May/early June prior to the 52nd anniversary of those battles,
- The planned Zoom meeting with the CO and RSM has still not occurred primarily due to the commitments of the Regiment, initially with training at Cultana and more recently the Regiment's support of the civilian community because of COVID 19 in a variety of settings,
- New batteries for 169005 have been sourced and are available, but cannot be collected or installed due to the Stage 4 lockdown in Victoria as well as restrictions on the Museum and the use of volunteers,
- Revised Financial Statements for 2018/19 were prepared, submitted to all Association members via email and finally provided to Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV),
- The proposed Nominal Roll of Association members was approved, and the first version released on 22 July 2020 with just 105 names. The third version was released on 21 August with 205 members listed and the next version was released on 4 September. At this time the total who have provided their permission for inclusion is 215. Only 290 or so to achieve a complete list. A number of queries have been received as to whether the Association should include those former members of the Association who have passed to the green fields beyond. This issue is to be addressed at the next meeting,
- At the May Meeting a Sub-Committee was formed with the task of examining all aspect of Q Store Operations including products stocked and sold. The Sub-Committee is chaired by Dean Martin (the Bluebell) with Jim Semmens and Dick Stanios as members,
- At the June meeting a budget of \$500 was approved for the conduct of the AGM to be held at Broadford RSL on 12 September 20. The Stage 4 Restrictions imposed on Melbourne and Stage 3 Restrictions for the Mitchell Shire (which includes Broadford) means that the AGM is unlikely to proceed for some months. The alternative is to conduct the AGM using Zoom but identified issues include the validation of proxies and secret ballots if required. An approach will be made to CAV to seek an exemption to have the AGM within five (5) months of the end of our financial year if the situation in Victoria does not improve by the middle of October,
- A Sub-Committee was also formed at the June 20 meeting to examine and report on two nominations that had been received for Life Membership of the Association. Details of the nominations are to be released approximately three weeks prior to the AGM to enable all Association members to provide input, and
- At the time of writing this report, we have a total of 493 active members in the Association; this is an increase of around 117 since the AGM held on 14 July 2018 when the current Management Committee was elected.

Where to from here:

The Management Committee continues to focus on:

- Increasing recruitment, especially of the younger generation and our RAEME brothers,
- Continue drafting the By-Laws of the Association as well as forming a Sub-Committee to review the draft By-Laws,
- Identify areas for future spending that would encourage members to renew their memberships as well as attracting new members,
- Continue to recognise the passing of those former members of the Regiment, regardless of membership of the Association,
- Continue with the planning for the Associations Reunion in Port Macquarie 23/25 July 2021, subject to the COVID Pandemic which could result in the cancellation or postponement of the Reunion, and
- Consider changing the Honour Roll on the Associations Website. The Honour Roll currently has names on it that were either KIA or DOW whilst serving with other Units i.e. the AATTV and 3 Cav Regt in Vietnam.

The Regiment recently celebrated its 71st Birthday with a small gathering witnessing the cutting of the birthday cake with the rest of the Regiment committed to training and supporting the civilian community in a number of states because of COVID 19 in a variety of rolls.

This writer wishes to commend the Secretary for his continued work in making the Association a more effective and constitutionally resilient association for all members. We would not be where we are without his invaluable work.

C.M. Fenton, OAM.

RAAC Corporation Delegate