

**The 12th/16th HRL and 24th Light Horse Regiments Association
Annual Report to the RAAC Corp AGM 11 Oct 2020**

With the onset of the pandemic, like everything else, the activities of the Association were severely affected. Because I was away in February, deployed on Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST, we postponed our AGM until March. By then the restrictions imposed on everyone meant that the AGM was postponed indefinitely.

Fortunately, the funeral of our departed comrade, Major General Iain Spence, was able to be held in March, with no restrictions on who could attend. While only a few members of the Association were able to travel to Canberra, the Regiment was able to send a strong representation of serving members. In addition, the 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers provided members of its band. The funeral was very well attended which reflected the very high regard Iain had in the Corps and the wider Army community. I counted at least six Major Generals or above.

Unfortunately, we were not able to conduct a memorial service for Iain in Armidale so that members of the Regiment, the Association, as well as Iain's friends and work colleagues could pay their respects. It is currently planned to hold the service in early 2021.

For the last two years, I have been collating a database of Association members and the names on the list so far total over 340. This has enabled me to improve or establish contact with past members of the Regiment and inform them of news and events. In addition, the Commanding Officer, LTCOL David Fisher, has sent them all a couple of letters updating them on what the Regiment has been doing.

We have also created a Facebook page which is also used to publish news, as well as post historical photos to elicit comments from our old and bold – some generate some very interesting comments not to mention humorous stories.

And finally, the Regimental Museum in the depot at Armidale has been continually updated and improved by a long serving member of the Regiment and the Association, WO1 (ret'd) Doug 'Darkie' Lennox. The collection is impressive and until the social distancing restrictions kicked in Doug had been conducting tours for local school and community groups

Let's hope 2021 is a bit closer to normal,

VIRTUTIS FORTUNA COMES