



1st Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated

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2020 may have been the year that turned everything upside-down but 2021 is the year that has forced a lot of us to be flexible and adaptable, with many organisations and individuals becoming more reliant on technology to communicate via Zoom and Messenger for meetings and catching up with family. The other thing that COVID has shown us is that although our National Anthem now says “we are one”, most of our State Leaders are still singing the old lyrics causing problems for many of our members being unable to cross State borders to attend funerals of loved ones and to visit elderly family members.

Management Committee Meetings:

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

- Honour Roll – a number of inconsistencies were found in the Association’s Honour Roll published on the website and in the three-monthly newsletter. After considerable research, a range of options was presented to all Association Members prior to the last AGM. These options were included on the Proxy for the AGM and discussed at some length during the AGM. It was determined, based on a show of hands as well as the proxy votes, that the Association Honour Roll would include:
 - Those Killed-in-Action whilst serving with the 1st Armoured Regiment
 - Those Wounded-In-Action (according to the AWM and DVA criteria) whilst serving with the 1st Armoured Regiment
 - Those killed accidentally whilst in a training environment whilst serving with the 1st Armoured Regiment
 - A general acknowledgement of those former members of the Regiment who were KIA, WIA whilst serving with other units and those who have died since the end of a conflict and the death could be attributed to in part, or whole from wounds or illnesses suffered during a conflict, including peacekeeping duties.
- Affiliate and Associate Membership fees were reduced by 50% of the rate for Ordinary members
- Establishment of Educational and Sporting Scholarship Awards. The first Educational Scholarship was awarded to Amelia Balas in July of 2021. The Sporting Scholarship criteria have yet to be established.
- Major review of Q Store Operations and stock holdings was completed with a number of recommendations for future operations and commodities to be stocked.

- Reunion for Port Macquarie for July 2021 was deferred until July 2022 and a new contract negotiated with Rydges.
- Change of Association Patron to BRIG Ted Acutt.
- A major review of the Association has been completed and a number of changes made.
- The Association Nominal Roll (published on the Website) continues to grow, albeit very slowly, with around 270 names now included. Only 220 names to go!
- Disbursement of DVA funds of around \$31 to 27 Association Members (selected at Random) was not a great success with around 50% either failing to respond or refusing to accept the \$31 to offset Covid related expenses.
- Elections at the AGM resulted in a new Vice-President (Dean Martin, a former ASM of the Regiment and believed to be the first RAEME Vic-President of the Association), return of the Secretary and all State Representatives. All members were returned unopposed.
- 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 22/24 July 2022, which is still subject to the COVID Pandemic restriction, not only in NSW but all other Australian states.

An Association event to celebrate the Regiment's 72nd birthday was cancelled at short notice due to COVID. However, John Brooker (former President and Vice-President) organised a quick get together, subsidised by the Association, at the Broadford RSL which was attended by around 35 personnel, from Victorian regions, who were not in 'lock-down'. Cutting of the cake was undertaken, according to tradition, by one of our oldest former Regiment members and a young soldier from the Regiment who was on course at Puckapunyal.

C.M. Fenton, OAM
RAAC Corporation Delegate