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# ARMOUR

Patron: Major General Dave Chalmers, AO CSC  
President: Brig. Rob Lording CSC . Editor George Baczocha

## ANZAC MARCH 2026

### Warning Order

This year the March will again commence in Elizabeth Street at Martin Place. All marching units will assemble to the North of Martin Place. The March will then step off and move along Elizabeth Street, past Hyde Park North and Hyde Park South, where the act of remembrance will take place as it passes the ANZAC Memorial. The March will continue to the intersection with Liverpool Street, where the marching contingents will turn to the left and the bands to the right; and the March concludes.

The ANZAC Day March is limited to persons who are eligible to be full members of the RSL. As in previous years, our participation is limited to persons who actually served with the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. Family members, should they wish to take part, should march with the 'descendants' group at the rear of the March.

### Forming Up Place (FUP)

Our form-up point (Position 20 as per the attached map) is along Chifley Square.

We welcome any of our fellows who have mobility problems; but they will need to have a mate to assist them. Please note that, due to crowd barriers and the size of the crowd, it is difficult to get off the March route once the March has actually commenced.

### Dress

Preferred dress for the March is suit or jacket, slacks, RAAC unit tie, full-size medals and decorations. The famous Corps black beret is recommended or a hat for those who need to have sun protection..

### Timings

The March commences at 0900 and takes some time to get around to our position to move off however unfortunately timings vary and we have no control over the progress of the March. We are scheduled to step off around 10am – but sometimes do not step off until well after that or as in recent years sometimes earlier. It is suggested that you arrive at the FUP at around the 0945 mark to ensure we all march off together.

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As in recent years we plan to march off in an Armoured Corps bloc with the RAACA (NSW) inc. leading off followed by the First Armoured Regiment (Vietnam). Hopefully if all plans come to fruition the band of the 1/15th RNSW Lancers will fit in around this position with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment (Vietnam) and the 1/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers following on. This should enable us all to hear the band and march appropriately.

### **The Reunion**

Once again, we have secured the lower ground floor room of the Civic Hotel, corner of Pitt and Goulburn Sts for our exclusive use with our own bar and toilets so you are encouraged to come on down and have a beer with your mates. We welcome partners and family members. However the space is limited but there is always the upstairs ground floor bar to handle any overflow. Just remember it's the Veterans day and seating should be left for them.

### **Getting to the Reunion from the March**

As the March will disperse in Liverpool Street, we will have to cross Elizabeth Street to get to our reunion venue. This can be achieved by walking south down Elizabeth Street to Goulburn St and turning right into Goulburn Street and walk two blocks to the Civic Hotel.

*Any enquiries can be directed to Mike Butler on 0401 966 989 or [mikebutler181@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mikebutler181@optusnet.com.au)*

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## **Corps Sitrep**



From: Krause, Michael MAJGEN <[michael.krause@defence.gov.au](mailto:michael.krause@defence.gov.au)>

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) remains in much the same shape as it did when I provided a status report in last copy of Armour. This in itself may not seem interesting but it is no mean feat; without in any way drifting into the political sphere, it is important for all to remember how tight resources are for our soldiers at present. While it is true that there has been an increase in Defence spending in real terms, the outlays are far exceeding the increase. In particular, the costs of the new submarines are eye-watering; the best way to think of the cost is to compare it to the total outlay normally spent on the entire ADF. That is how much the submarines will cost. So, while they should represent a most potent capability, the opportunity cost is being borne by the rest of the ADF.

With that sobering reality, we are still seeing new capability entering the Army and the RAAC as most of the cuts are being borne in operating costs, ie: training and maintenance.. I reported last time that the new M1A2 Abrams SEPv3 is now in service in Townsville with 2nd Cavalry Regiment and we have two squadrons of the new tanks now operational. They are relatively big 16-tank squadrons too.

The Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle Block 2 is being rolled out in 2/14th Light Horse (QMI). 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment in Townsville is now being equipped with armoured breaching equipment, the first time the Australian Army has had such a capability, as well as being equipped with an armoured bridge layer to finally return that capability to Army missing since the Leopard AVLB's retirement. 3 RAR (mech) should start receiving its first Infantry Fighting Vehicles early next year, and 4 Regiment will receive its first Self Propelled howitzers this year. So, two potent capabilities introduced into the Army for the first time.

Our Reserve regiments and squadrons remain committed to their role as part of the Regional Security Task Units, a critical role for homeland defence. Importantly, the Reserve units have now been given tasks that far better reflect cavalry roles. The Reserve COs have recently completed a concept of employment for light cavalry that gives excellent focus for the future. There are still issues with vehicle availability but these have been flagged to the chain of command.

This year for Army is an 'even year' which means no Talisman Sabre activity. This fact means that COs and their units can have a more focused training year to emphasize individual skills, crew, troop and squadron tasks without rushing to complete them by mid year. Having said that, our Reserve units will be involved in Exercise Austral Shield, practicing their ability to deploy significant distances to provide screening and security to vital assets and deployed forces.

Once again you can be proud that our RAAC soldiers are maintaining the high standards the Corps has always set, and remain at the forefront of combined arms and innovation.



**RSL**  
NSW

# 2026 Sydney ANZAC Day March Map



## KEY

- March Path
- Participant Flow
- C Cenotaph
- i Information
- Band Chute (Eastern side of Chifley Square)
- Limited Pedestrian Access
- T Train station
- L Light rail
- W Wheelchair Accessible Viewing Area
- P Public Toilets
- A Accessibility drop off/pick up
- T Taxi Rank
- M Music Free Zone
- M Metro
- B Bus stop

## CONTINGENT

- 1 Police Motorcycle Riders (V formation)
- 2 Mounted Police
- 3 HE The Governor
- 4 ADF Duty Band
- 5 RSL NSW Contingent including WWII Veterans
- 6 Women Veterans Network Australia including WRAAC
- 7 New Zealand Veterans
- 8 Australian Flags Contingent
- 9 Memorial Horses
- 10 WWI Unit Flags Contingent
- 11 NSW Police Veterans
- 12 Taxis
- 13 Royal Australian Navy and Merchant Navy led by Australian Fleet Commander
- 14 NSW Fire and Rescue Veterans
- 15 Australian Army led by Commander - Forces Command
- 16 WWII Army
- 17 ADF Veterans of the Korean War
- 18 Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
- 19 Head Quarters 1 Australian Task Force
- 20 Armour
- 21 Artillery
- 22 Engineers
- 23 Survey
- 24 Signals
- 25 A: Infantry (RAR)
- 25 B: Infantry (Reserves)
- 26 Special Forces
- 27 Army Aviation
- 28 Intelligence
- 29 Chaplains
- 30 Transport
- 31 Medical
- 32 Dental
- 33 Ordnance
- 34 Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
- 35 Educational
- 36 Public Relations Service
- 37 Catering
- 38 Pay
- 39 Legal
- 40 Military Police
- 41 Psychology
- 42 Nursing
- 43 Officer Training Unit
- 44 National Servicemen
- 45 Royal Australian Air Force led by Air Commander Australia
- 46 ADF Tri-Service Units
- 47 British & Commonwealth Forces
- 48 Entertainers + War Correspondents
- 49 Sydney Legacy and Families of Veterans Guild
- 50 Descendants of Veterans
- 51 Allied Veterans and Descendants
- 52 RSL marshals and SES

More information: [rslnsw.org.au](http://rslnsw.org.au)



## MEDIA RELEASE

22 September 2025  
For immediate release

### RSL Supports Veteran Processing Streamlining

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) has welcomed the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) streamlining its claims processing system aimed in part at curbing unscrupulous practices by some private providers.

Over the past few months, the RSL has become aware of increasingly concerning behaviours in the claims advocacy sector impacting on veterans, advocates and DVA officers.

The RSL has been consulted and the changes being implement by DVA to modernise its processes should assist in combatting these practices.

As well, the pending launch of the new Institute of Veterans' Advocates will add a new layer of professionalisation and regulation to the sector.

To further speed up the process, DVA is able to facilitate clinical assessment referrals through the [Independent medical opinions provider Australia | mlcoa](#) , avoiding delays often experienced by veterans waiting for assessments promoted by commercial advocates.

The RSL, through its State Branches, offers high-quality free advocacy and wellbeing support services to veterans across Australia. These services are underpinned by significant, ongoing investment of financial and organisational resources and training, and by a strong, long-standing strategic and professional working relationships with DVA.

Over the past three years, the DVA compensation claims backlog has been reduced significantly, and veterans and their families on average are now receiving their entitlements much sooner after the lodgement of claims .DVA is providing greater transparency around the claims process and the 'stop the clock' active claims processing is designed to encourage claimants to submit all required information in a timely manner.

The RSL had long called for sustained action to permanently reduce the DVA claims' backlog and delays in commercial providers obtaining clinical assessments contributed to this. The current initiatives are intended to speed up the process.

However, there is still a need for claims processing and transparency to be strengthened further and DVA's IT systems significantly improved to enhance linkages and communication with the Department of Defence and other Government Departments. The RSL is advised that this DVA work is in hand.

Veterans and their families make a significant social and economic contribution to our communities and are entitled to and deserve timely consideration of the compensation claims.

ENDS

National Media contact: Tony Harrison – 0417 318 178; [tony.harrison@rsl.org.au](mailto:tony.harrison@rsl.org.au)



# Presidents Report



## Outcomes of the Annual General Meeting

As advised in my last President's Report, the Executive Committee took several proposals to the Annual General Meeting of the Association on Wednesday 15th October, 2025 to change the Constitution. These included  
A new sub-paragraph to clause 39 to ensure RAACA NSW funds are only used in furtherance of the Associations objectives and not for direct or indirect disbursement to members other than for expenses incurred in conducting the business of the Trust.

In addition, Clause 45 was added to provide for the transfer of funds to another organisation with a similar purpose in the event the Association is wound up.

These changes were necessary to comply with requirements by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC). Each proposal subject of a Special Resolution which was passed. I extend my appreciation to our Treasure (Brendan Beckett) and Secretary (Andrew Hine) for the work done on these amendments.

### Amendments to Fees

The largest single cost to the Association is Armour. The average cost of a high-quality printed product (a standard we should maintain for the membership) is approx. \$3.00 per copy. The Executive aims to provide two, preferably three copies per year. To avoid an unsustainable drain on Association funds by printing a copy for every member, we will move to predominantly ELECTRONIC distribution. To that end:

With effect from 1 January, 2026 the Association will no longer seek payment of membership fees for each type of member category (Ordinary, Associate or Affiliate).

Fees will only be applied for those members who wish to continue to receive a printed copy of Armour. (\$10 per year/ \$25 for three years).

Those members who have paid for Life Membership, or who have been granted Honorary Membership, will continue to receive the printed version of Armour at no personal cost.

An electronic version of Armour will be sent to Members via email – Members should update their contact details (including email address) using the links below.

Member's wishing to continue to receive a printed copy should notify the Secretary in writing:

Secretary RAAC Association (NSW)  
21 Bangalla Road  
CONCORD WEST NSW 2138

Or via email to Membership and General Enquiries to:  
mikebutler181@optusnet.com.au

### Future Actions

The Executive Committee is now working to implement the changes to our membership fee structure and to reinvigorate our membership base with a focus on attracting current serving and more contemporary members of the RAAC. The Association is currently in a sound financial position, a position that must be maintained moving forward,

The Association will continue to increase the use of social media platforms, including the RAACA NSW website (raacansw.com.au), Facebook (facebook.com/RAACANSW) and Instagram. These enable quicker promulgation of information to our membership, and further enables members to interact through comments or submission of their own posts.

It also reduces the costs of producing and mailing each edition of Armour. Work is already well underway on the development of a new website with a refreshed appearance and the inclusion of more information relating to the Colonel John Haynes Trust and links to assist our RAAC community in obtaining access to services for welfare and support.

The Executive Committee welcomes feedback or suggestions regarding our efforts to reinvigorate the Association aligned to the objectives set out in our Constitution. We would also ask members for suggestions on the types of articles for inclusion in Armour and would appreciate photographs or stories to be published.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

## **Update**

The annual Beersheba – Cambrai dinner was held at the Victoria Barracks Officers Mess on Saturday 15th November 2025 where the Head of Corps, Brigadier Andrew Moss AM CSM provided a most enlightening address regarding the challenges faced by Army and the RAAC. The venue provided an excellent background for the dinner and the service was excellent. Planning for the 2026 Dinner has commenced and details will be shared in the near future.

In this edition of *Armour*, you will find a brief updated from Keith Schollum, Chair of the Colonel John Haynes Trust, regarding the distribution of funds for welfare, education and development. Members might note in this edition of *Armour* the endorsement of the Trust by General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC(Mil) CVO MC (Retd).

The Trust has supported several current serving members to undertake tertiary study in a range of fields, including Leadership and Management, Intelligence Analysis and Psychology which will contribute to their personal and professional development. The Trust is also providing funding for the daughter of a current serving RAAC member who has commenced University and aspires to be a medical professional within the Australian Defence Force.

In addition, welfare support has been provided to a former RAAC member to assist with medical costs associated with treatment for cancer as well as the daughter of a current serving member who requires therapy for learning and development issues. The Trust has also provided funding to assist with the cost of funerals for former members of the Corps in circumstances where the families were facing significant financial hardship.

I am confident that the Trust is meeting its objectives and that John Haynes would be proud of the support being provided to the RAAC community in his name.

The Trust is in a good financial position and has the capacity to provide additional funds but we need to spread the word and encourage our community to make applications. Details can be found in the Trust report and a link will be made available of the website to view a recorded version.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation for continuing contributions by our Executive Committee members and to wish Bob Ferrari and return to good health following his recent round of treatment.

Regards  
Rob Lording  
President, RAAC Association (NSW)

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## **THE RAACA NSW COLONEL JOHN HAYNES TRUST**

The Colonel John Haynes Trust, or Haynes Trust, is operating and during the first 18 months has distributed approximately \$45,000, of which \$16,000 was in support of welfare cases.

The Trustees consider welfare requirements as they are submitted and are able to provide quick access to funds when the need requires. As stated, WELFARE CASES can be applied for at any time of the year.

The timeline for EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT Applications (for funds use in 2027):

Applications were opened on-line at the HaynesTrust.org site on 1 July 2026

Applications close on 30 September 2026

The outcome of the application process will be announced in November 2026

Funds will be distributed to successful applicants by 31 December 2026, for use in calendar year 2027

The Trustees have reached out to the Corps via our Representative Honorary Colonel, Major General Michael Krause AM, in regard to potential support to Regimental Welfare Boards or the equivalent. The Trustees are hopeful that they can assist those that are still serving, as well as those of us who are former members of the Armoured Corps, and their families.

We are proud to share the endorsement that General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC(Mil) CVO MC (Retd) has provided for the Haynes Trust.

If you are in need of support, please go to the Haynestrust.org website and apply for assistance.

*(Short article together with the Sir Peter Cosgrove letter of support on page 7)*



GENERAL THE HONOURABLE SIR PETER COSGROVE AK AC(MIL) CVO MC (RETD)

To: My RAAC Colleagues, Past and Present, Regular Army and Reserve, and your Families, across the Nation

#### THE COLONEL JOHN HAYNES TRUST

The Colonel John Haynes Trust, or simply the Haynes Trust, is established and is now offering support to current and former RAAC members, and their families.

I've been asked to help promote the Haynes Trust to get the word out to the Armoured Corps community that funds are available to assist you in time of need.

The Haynes Trust provides financial assistance to support education and development, and to help those who may have a need for welfare support.

As the son of a proud Armoured Corps soldier, and having personally known and now fondly remembering John Haynes, I am extremely happy to endorse the Haynes Trust. I encourage you to check the trust website at [Haynestrust.org](http://Haynestrust.org) to get information on how you, your children or grandchildren can get support if you need it.

As I said earlier, I knew John Haynes well. He was a good man and had a tremendous sense of duty in supporting ADF, Army, and particularly Armoured Corps personnel. He worked diligently well into his 90's to support others.

John would be proud to know that during the first 18 months of operation, his Armoured Corps-focused Trust has distributed approximately \$45,000 to the Armoured community, \$16,000 of which was in support of welfare cases.

The Trustees advise me that they are able to help provide more support to the Armoured community, and that they seek to "spread the word" in regard to the availability of funding.

If you are in need of support, whether it be in regard to education and development or to help you in time of need, I encourage you to go to the Trust website – [Haynestrust.org](http://Haynestrust.org) – and reach out to the Trustees. The Trust is there to help you.

Good luck, and please, seek help if you need it.

ADDRESS: Level 13, 139 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
TELEPHONE: 02 9254 4002 EMAIL: [peter.cosgrove@pmc.gov.au](mailto:peter.cosgrove@pmc.gov.au)

## Vale

### Joe Tabone

It is with the greatest of sorrow that I advise the passing of my friend and colleague Joe Tabone. Joe passed away on the 7th December 23:30 at Blacktown Hospital. He had been ill for a short time, only a few weeks ago he greeted me every Sunday morning, he had the workshop open and I was arriving for gate duty at the Lancers Museum. Joe had served with me in the Regiment in the 1970s and 1980s. later we worked together on the Museum, for the most part as fellow committee members. Joe was for many years the Museum's treasurer, then when Bill Prosser became ill, he stepped into the role of vehicle supervisor, a role he held till he passed. That meant Joe was responsible until recently for the Museum's financial probity, then with keeping our historic vehicle collection running. Joe was a valued colleague who will be greatly missed. In private life Joe was spare parts manager for the Holden dealership in Blacktown. He was a devoted husband and father.

Our thoughts are with Rose and family.

Sincerely,  
John Howells  
New South Wales Lancers' Memorial Museum Inc

**Lest we Forget**  
**We regret to advise the passing of the following members**

Mr.	John	JL	Hicks	2/4 AR
Mr.	Robert	R	Alexander	HQ1ATF, 3 CAV
Mr.	Robert	RK	Lamont	Orange Sub Branch
Mr.	Bernard	BJ	Chester	Orange Sub Branch
Mr.	Chris	C	Osborne	2 CAV, 3/9SAMR, Armd Cntr
Mr.	Reginald	R	Pedergnana	2 CAV
Mr.	Stephen	S	Harper	1AR, 3CAV
Mr.		WJ	Simshauser	1 Aust Armd Bde ASC



**HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE**

Mr	Todd	TE	Miklich	1/15 RNSWL
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**Vale**

**Darryl Buffett**

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of a former member of 3 CAV (Vietnam A- Troop), RAAC, Darryl Buffett. He passed away peacefully in the Norfolk Island Hospital 23rd DEC, 2025 after a long battle with illness.... Darryl Buffett served in the same troop as Normie Rowe in Vietnam

Regards  
 Warren Finch,  
 President N.I RSL -sub branch

**Vale**

**William Prosser**

It is with great sadness that I report the passing yesterday of our friend, colleague and mentor William Prosser. Bill served with the Regiment when it was equipped with the Centurion rising to sergeant and highly respected; he left with the MBTs, M113s were not quite as regal. Soon after he started volunteering for the Lancers' Museum serving for many years on the committee of management in the post of vehicle supervisor.

Bill was a man of many talents, mechanic, book binder and salesman/manager. He applied all these skills to the Museum. He worked on the vehicles, re-bound all of our service manuals and the odd rare book, organised copying, binding and sale of our sought after vehicle servicing manuals. His work spanning the globe, all to the financial benefit of the Museum.

Bill's health has been deteriorating for a while, that has not stopped him from visiting regularly until recently with the offer of sage advice.

We will miss you Bill.

Regards,  
 John Howells  
 New South Wales Lancers' Memorial Museum Inc