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ARMOUR

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

Lieutenant Colonel Lee Trevor Long RFD



Joined 1/15 RNSWL as a trooper in August 1963. He was trained as a Centurion tank gunner before qualifying for promotion to Corporal, on promotion he was posted as a crew commander and troop Corporal.

He continued to rise through the ranks to Sergeant and was posted as a SHQ troop Sergeant. He subsequently applied for a commission and having passed selection and the formal examinations was appointed a second lieutenant on 5 Nov 1971.

He was the last of the Regimental officers to be commissioned under this scheme as OCTU became the principal commissioning option.

At the time he was commissioned the Regiment was undergoing an organisational change to an RAAC regiment, which was intended to have one squadron of APCs, one of tanks and one of Cavalry.

Unfortunately the CMF regiments were not issued tanks but were required to perform both the APC and cavalry roles. During his early officer career he performed as a troop leader in both disciplines. During the regimental phase of his career he filled a number of staff (RTA/RSO) postings and was 2IC of a cavalry squadron. After posting to 2 Training group he returned to the Regiment as OC A Squadron and commanded a full squadron during the Dusty Whaler series of exercises in Bourke, NSW.

At this stage of his career he undertook a number of external staff postings to HQ2 Div and HQ Col Armd Field Force Comd. During this phase he completed the Tac 5 course for promotion to LTCOL, passing with distinction. He was then posted to 2 Training Group as senior instructor Intermediate Wing and promoted to LTCOL 16 Dec 1986.

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In 1988 he returned to the Regiment as CO thus completing a full circle. Given that the Regiment has such a high profile in Parramatta the demand for participation by the CO in community affairs is always high and as this was the Bicentennial year that demand was more intense. Ceremonial activities including commanding the tri service parade in which all the three service units that had been accorded the Freedom of the City of Parramatta exercised their rights.

His first year in command saw the Regiment returning to its old stamping grounds of Puckapunyal for the first time since it surrendered its Centurions, this time in C130 aircraft rather than by troop train. During his final year as CO he reorganised the two sabre squadrons into separate training and operational squadrons by relocating those members who required training during the year into the training squadron and concentrating trained individuals into a squadron whose focus was on Improving operational skills. Also that year the Regiment exercised its Freedom of the City of Sydney.

Following his command he completed a number of staff and instructional postings in 2 Training Group, HQ 2 Div and HQ LHQ before being promoted to Colonel on 15 Dec 1995 and being posted to the Army Command Staff College in Queenscliff, Victoria, initially as Director Officer Development and then as Deputy Commandant. These roles were invaluable and provided the opportunity to influence the post commissioning officer training of full and part time officers. In 1999 he was posted as Director Army Personal Agency - Sydney responsible for managing and promoting the 3700 officers (up to the rank of major) and NCOs in NSW.

Colonel Long retired on 2 August 2000 on reaching the then mandatory retirement age of 55. In 2012, Colonel Long succeeded General Glennly as the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. On 1 January 2019 Colonel Long stood down from the position of Honorary Colonel, handing over to Brigadier Phillip Bridie AM ADC.

In civilian life Colonel Long was an executive of Qantas Airways and a Director of the Biometrics Institute (a non profit organisation).

Colonel Long passed away on 12 February 2025 after a long and debilitating illness.

A full autobiography for Colonel Long can be found in the latest edition of Lancers Dispatch.



Presidents Report



At the Annual General meeting held in September 2024, there were a number of changes in the Executive Committee of the RAAC Association (NSW) and I would like to extend my appreciation for the contributions made by our immediate Past President, Colonel Rob Shoebridge and long-time members of the committee, Bill Cross and Terry Moore, who have stepped down. We have also welcomed some new members to the Committee in Major General Michael Krause AO and Brigadier Philip Bridie AM.

It was with great sadness that we farewelled Colonel Lee Trevor Long RFD who passed away in mid-February following a long battle with ill health. Lee was a former Commanding Officer of 1/15 RNSWL and a long-time member of the ExCo as well as a member of the RAAC Corporation Advisory Board. We are greatly indebted to him for contributions and advocacy.

Over the course of the last few months, the Executive Committee (ExCo) has been undertaking a review of the Association's activities including a review of our aims and objectives as set out in our constitution:

- To support the welfare of serving and former members of the Corps
- To perpetuate the bond of comradeship gained through military service between members of the Association
- To foster heritage of the Corps, and of the units of the Corps
- To preserve the memory of those members of the Corps who have died on operations or on duty
- To represent the interests of serving, and former serving members of the Corps and their families.

The review has confirmed the validity of these objectives, however it is clear that we need to undertake further

work to transform the Association to become a more contemporary membership based Ex-Services Organisation. Our Association has been predominantly based on the generation of RAAC members who served during World War II through to the Viet Nam War and we have seen a decline in membership over the last decade or more. As a result, the committee will be focused on initiatives to attract membership of current serving RAAC members at enlistment, through service and before separation. In addition, we will be looking at other successful contemporary organisations to understand the 'value proposition' for membership. We will also need to enhance our social media presence through multiple streams including our website, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. These will be used to provide updates relating to the Corps, relevant information relating to DVA and outcomes from the Royal Commission in Defence and Veterans Suicide as well as Events such as Anzac Day. These are just some of the initiatives being considered and the ExCo would welcome contributions from our membership in regard to the aims, objectives and services we provide.

As noted elsewhere in this edition of Armour, we have received several generous donations from members which has greatly improved the financial position of the Association. However, the Association has not levied membership fees for more than a decade and has relied heavily on the interest accrued from existing funds to cover the costs of our operations. The printing and distribution of hard copies of Armour are a considerable cost and now exceed the funds available. As a consequence, the size of the publication and the frequency of publication has been reduced in recent years. The transition to an enhanced social media presence, including the distribution of Armour via email, will reduce these costs and offer an opportunity to increase the frequency of publication. Nevertheless, we will look to continue the hard copy publication but may need to levy a fee for those members who wish to receive the publication in this way.

I commend this edition of Armour and am sure that you will find the update on the Corps from the Representative Honorary Colonel, Major General Michael Krause, of great interest as well as the report on the Colonel John Haynes Trust.

Rob Lording

COLONEL JOHN HAYNES TRUST

Website: Haynestrust.org

The RAACA NSW Colonel John Haynes Trust is now established and has provided the first grants to serving and former serving RAAC personnel or their family members in November/December 2024. 2024 was the first year in which the Trust was operational and the Trustees used this inaugural year as somewhat of a test-run.

The haynestrust.org website was published during 2024 and has been proven to be a stable and confidential site through which to obtain information and to communicate with the Trustees via the contact details or by obtaining access to application forms, for either education or development purposes or for welfare support.

In our first year of operation, five grants in the order of \$3000-\$4000 each were provided for education or personal development, and one grant was provided for welfare support to a serviceman's widow.

Trustees are now asking serving or former-serving RAAC personnel, Regular Army, Reserve or National Service, and their relatives for two generations, and their step-children, spouses, widows and widowers to see if the Colonel John Haynes Trust may be able to support them.

All details are provided in the haynestrust.org website, including details on how to seek information through a contact portal.

Applications for education and development open on 1 July 2025 for allocation of funds for calendar year 2026. See the website for details.

Applications for welfare support will be assessed as they are received, so please access the website for information.

The Colonel John Haynes Trust was created on John's bequest to help the RAAC Community, so please reach out – the Trust is here to help.

Keith Schollum
Chairman



Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association (NSW) Inc

RAAC Update

Representative Honorary Colonel – Major General Michael Krause

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps has a tradition, like most other corps and similar armoured corps in other countries, of appointing senior officers to fulfil an honorary position to represent the interests of our various regiments. Most of you will be aware that His Majesty Charles III is the Honorary Colonel of RAAC, and I was appointed on 1 Jan 25 to be his and the Corps' Representative Honorary Colonel, assuming that position from Major General Craig Orme. Within NSW, we have two additional honorary colonels, being Brigadier Phil Bridie for 1/15 RNSWL and Major General Tony Rawlins for 12/16 HRL.

I thought it might be useful for readers of *Armour* if I use this opportunity to update you on where I think the Corps is at. I am very aware that it is often hard to keep up with the change that is constant within Army and consequently in RAAC.

Army, along with the other Groups and Services, is still being informed and shaped by the Government's Defence Strategic review and the Department's response, the National Defence Strategy. In short, this asks Army to do two broad tasks as part of the Joint force. The first is to provide homeland defence, particularly to critical Defence infrastructure and bases that allow power projection, and the second is to provide an expeditionary capability to influence and shape operations to Australia's north. The first task has been made the primary mission of our 2nd Division, its headquarters located at Randwick in NSW, and the second task is the primary mission of our 1st Division, its headquarters at Enoggera in Queensland.

For the 2nd Division, there has been a fundamental change in the expectation of our part-time soldiers. The traditional role of the part-time, or Reserve as it was referred to, was to provide round-out to the Regular or full-time force. This is no longer the role of the part-time force (although nothing precludes it from still doing so); the part-time force now has specific tasks to fulfill the task of defending Australia. 2nd Division has the role to protect our bases, particularly some of the critical ones in the North from which Navy, Airforce and some missile systems will project from. We also have to accept, as we are reminded by a recent mission down our east coast by foreign naval vessels, that our cities and key civilian infrastructure are also vulnerable. Civil defence, something we have been fortunate to not have to worry to much about in the past, is now an immediate task that 2nd Division is also tasked with considering. For our armoured units, this means plenty of work to do, and work that is very much a traditional cavalry task. Far from lifting infantry around in Bushmasters, our part-time cavalry units now have the task to deploy over considerable distances, screen and guard our critical structures, and, when necessary conduct light offensive tasks. It's something our Light Cavalry can really get their teeth into and is a very welcome step forward. Both 1/15 RNSWL and 12/16 HRL are moving quickly to embrace their role in this new role. The personnel strength of both of these units is very pleasing; there is still work to be done, however, in ensuring these units have the right equipment in sufficient quantities to fulfil their roles. There are not sufficient PMV-Ls (the Hawkeye vehicle) to fulfil all tasks and there are still significant training burdens to qualify sufficient NCOs. But these issues are at least recognised.

For the 1st Division, there has been considerable change. Many of you will be aware that about 10 years ago the Army restructured its brigades into like-brigades so that, instead of 1st Brigade being our armoured brigade, 3rd Brigade being our light Brigade and 7 Brigade being a motorised brigade, each of the brigades was structured identically. Our armoured units also became standard Armoured Cavalry Regiments (ACR) as part of Plan Beersheba. These saw 1st Armoured Regiment, 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 2/14th LH QMI eventually all structured with one tank squadron and two cavalry squadrons, after a temporary experiment with one tank, one cavalry and one APC squadron. These brigade structures have now been changed; it may look like a turn of the wheel but the real change is that the brigades are now back under Divisional control so that Army will fight as a Division, not as separate independent brigades. This allows specialisation in the brigades. 1st Brigade is now a light littoral brigade, 3rd Brigade is structuring as our armoured brigade, and 7th Brigade remains as a motorised brigade, all now back under command of our 1st Division. What this means for our armoured units is that we are moving away from standard ACRs; 2/14 LH QMI is restructured as a pure cavalry regiment of three cavalry squadrons; 2nd Cavalry Regiment is still currently structured as an ACR with two cavalry squadrons and one tank squadron, but will gain an additional tank squadron in April this year and become a hybrid unit, and 1st Armoured Regiment remains in Adelaide with no armoured squadrons, except 3/9 SAMR. The RHQ of 1st Armoured Regiment remains a battle-group headquarters, but its subordinate units have been tasked as an experimental unit to explore the use of modern technology on the future battlefield. Our armoured units are not only changing their structure but are also reequipping with the Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (Boxer) and with the new version of the M1 tank, the

(Continued on page 5)

M1A2. We lack the dismounted capability in our cavalry squadrons that anyone who understands cavalry knows is not an add-on but an integral part of the cavalry team. So, considerable turmoil and some interesting opportunities.

3rd Brigade is changing the equipment of almost all of its units: 3 RAR (Old Faithful) will trade in its old faithful M113s for the Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicle, a very advanced vehicle that will provide an extraordinary leap forward for our infantry, our engineers in 3 CER will be equipped with armoured breach and bridging vehicles based on the M1, and the Army will finally get SP artillery when 4 Regt equips with the Huntsman AS9 artillery. All of this while relearning how to project, operate and sustain our forces in our region. There is plenty to do.

The RAAC remains at the forefront of the change in Army. As modern warfare continues to change in its character, the skills, ethos and nature that we have always prided ourselves as the bedrock of our profession remain in high demand. It is with great pride that I look around our Corps and see the solid spring-board that will propel us into the future.

To all who proudly wear the black beret, and for the many who support them, I thank you for your service to your regiments, your Corps, your Army and Your Nation.

Call for Donations

The costs that we incur in maintaining the Association have risen over the last few years, particularly the costs of printing our journal, *Armour*.

We decided to produce a printed version, as well as an electronic version, as a service to those of our members who do not possess electronic connectivity or who simply prefer a hard-copy to read at their leisure. All these costs are rising, but our Association revenue is not, and for that reason we seek your donation. Be assured that your money will support our engagement with our members, and not to other matters.

We keep our office costs to a minimum, and do not provide any reimbursement, remuneration, allowance or refreshment to our Executive Committee members for their participation in the management of the Association.

Should you wish to donate, the banking details are:

1. Electronic Funds Transfer to Defence Bank BSB 833205, A/c No 20539747 indicating your Surname and the text 'Donation'.
2. Or you can pay by cheque payable to "RAACA NSW" and send it to:

The Treasurer RAACA NSW
c/o LTCOL A Hine
Building 001 - HQ Forces Command
Victoria Barracks Sydney
34A Moore Park Road
PADDINGTON NSW 2021

The President, Brigadier Rob Lording CSC, and the Executive Committee, gratefully acknowledge the following Donors who have most generously provided funds to facilitate both the ongoing production of this Journal, and the operation of the Association.

Donations FY24/25 as at 12 March 25

John Bell	Patricia Lovegrove	Laurie & June O'Donnell
K&DT Lennox	Brendan Beckett	Dave Chalmers
Chadwell Sutton	Margaret Roughan	SE Hart
Caw Chant	Andrew Turner	John Scales
Peter Beauchamp	Edmund Keogh	Christopher Osborn
H Rogerson	Kingsley R McGuire	William Burgher
David Harris	David A Finlayson	James James
Maurie Meecham	Craig Haydock	Phillip Bridie
Mike Butler	Bernard Richards	Allen Heathcote
Roger Powell	DJ Rouse	

Sydney ANZAC Day March Update No.2

This update is to inform ships, units, squadrons and associations of the criteria for participating in the Sydney ANZAC Day March and provide some general guidelines. It is important that this information is disseminated as widely as possible.

We ask that people keep an eye on the RSL NSW website at rslnsw.org.au

Please note the form up location for British & Commonwealth Forces remains in the new location of Phillip Street. Please refer to the march map for details

Step off times

As the number of veterans marching is unknown before ANZAC Day there will be wait times in the form up area. The Order of March outlines times in which your serial stepped off from Martin Place last year. Your serial should expect to begin moving from the form up area to Martin Place approximately 10 minutes before your step off time, a marshal will advise at the relevant time. We encourage your participants to plan ahead and consider what time they arrive in the CBD to avoid long wait times.

We also ask that participants do not stand in the sun, formed up waiting to go, for a long period. The marshals will be coming around each street to ensure your serial is ready to go as your step off time nears.

Act of Remembrance

The Act of Remembrance will be observed as you pass the Anzac Memorial on Elizabeth Street.

Signage will be positioned in the correct area, along with a large wreath in order to assist leaders with giving the eyes left command.

At this command, veterans in civilian dress are to remove their hats, place their right hand over service medals and keep in that position until the unit leader gives "eyes front".

Heads are to be turned towards the Anzac Memorial when passing it. Banners and Flags are to be dipped. Defence Force formations are to salute the Memorial as they pass it.

Dispersal Point

Formations will be dismissed under the direction of Dispersal Marshals, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Police and SES volunteers in Liverpool Street, east of Elizabeth Street.

Dismissal is to be kept brief and formation commanders are requested to refrain from taking salutes etc as it is essential that the roadway not be blocked for those following close behind.

This year water stations will be available in Hyde Park near the dispersal area, cups and a limited number of refillable bottles will be available at these stations. We also ask that there is no milling around or photos taken at the entrance to Hyde Park near the fountain and all participants move as far into Hyde Park as possible. Any milling around this area will impact those marching behind you.

Dress code and wearing of medals

ANZAC Day is our most significant day of commemoration and dress should reflect the dignity of the occasion. Business attire is appropriate.

Veterans and serving personnel wear their decorations on the left chest. Many people choose to remember deceased relatives by wearing their medals. You are welcome and encouraged to wear your relative's medals to ANZAC Day, however, please wear these on the right-hand side of your chest.

Fraudulent wearing of medals, where a person is implying that the medals are their own, is an offence under The Defence Act 1903. Known or suspected cases of fraudulent medal wearing should be reported to the AFP.

For more information please visit defence.gov.au/medals

ANZAC Day website and information

Reminder that information for ANZAC Day 2025 is on the RSL NSW website and will be updated as the day approaches. Please head to rslnsw.org.au

Should you have any questions in relation to ANZAC Day, this update or information provided on the website, please get in touch with ANZAC House on the below details:

Phone: 1300 679 775

Email: support@rslnsw.org.au

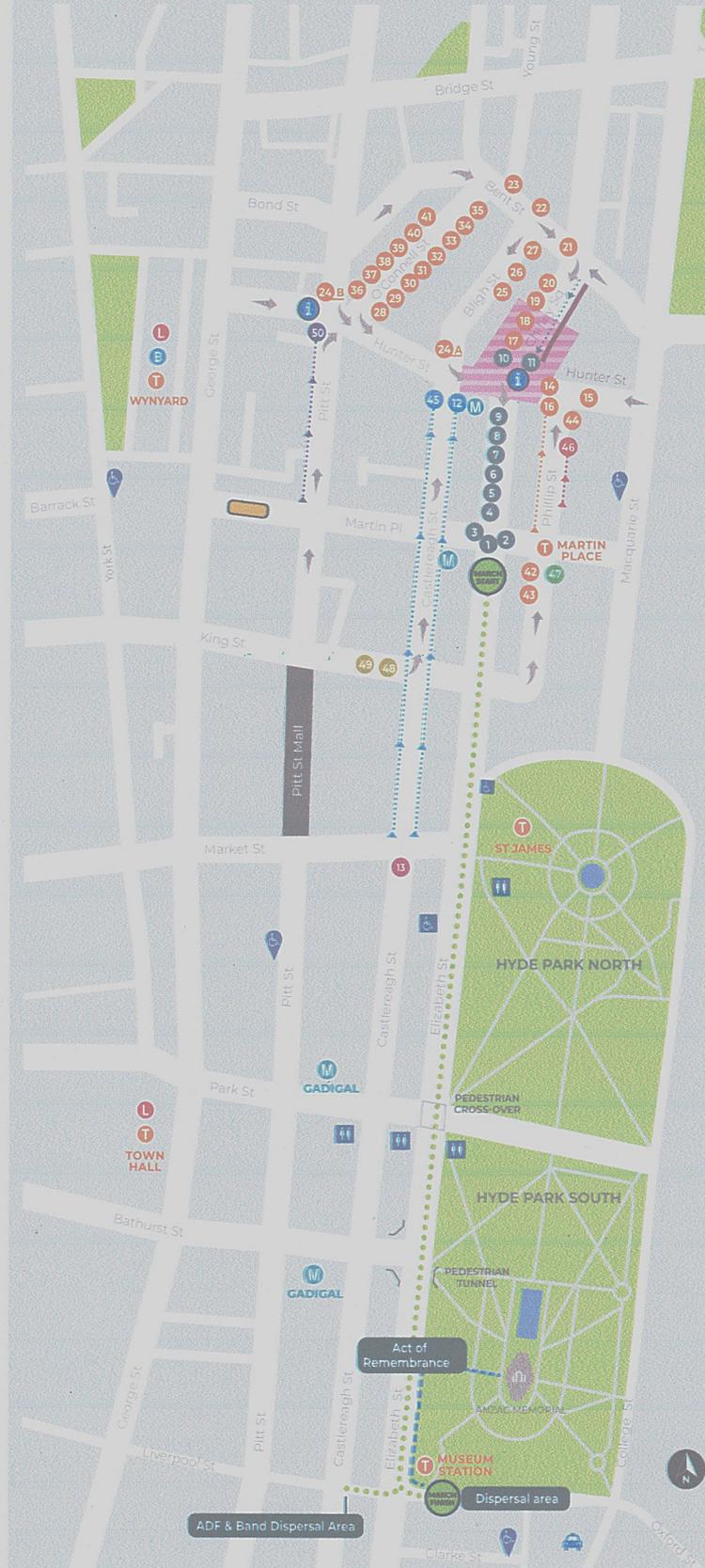
HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Mr Alan AD Hitchell Ex ARES 1/15 RNSWL, RNSWR



RSL
NSW

2025 Sydney ANZAC Day March Map



KEY

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

CONTINGENT

- 1 Police Motorcycle Riders (V formation)
- 2 Mounted Police
- 3 HE The Governor
- 4 ADF Duty Band
- 5 RSL NSW Contingent
- 6 New Zealand Veterans
- 7 Australian Flags Contingent
- 8 Memorial Horses
- 9 WWI Unit Flags Contingent
- 10 NSW Police Veterans
- 11 Taxis
- 12 Royal Australian Navy and Merchant Navy led by Australian Fleet Commander
- 13 NSW Fire and Rescue Veterans
- 14 Australian Army led by Commander – Forces Command
- 15 Signals (100th Anniversary)
- 16 WWII Army
- 17 Australian Korean War Veterans
- 18 Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
- 19 Head Quarters 1 Australian Task Force
- 20 Armour
- 21 Artillery
- 22 Engineers
- 23 Survey
- 24 A: Infantry (RAR)
- 24 B: Infantry (Reserves)
- 25 Special Forces
- 26 Army Aviation
- 27 Intelligence
- 28 Chaplains
- 29 Transport
- 30 Medical
- 31 Dental
- 32 Ordnance
- 33 Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
- 34 Educational
- 35 Public Relations Service
- 36 Catering
- 37 Pay
- 38 Legal
- 39 Military Police
- 40 Psychology
- 41 Nursing
- 42 WRAAC
- 43 Officer Training Unit
- 44 National Servicemen
- 45 Royal Australia Air Force led by Commander – Air Command
- 46 British & Commonwealth Forces
- 47 Entertainers + War Correspondents
- 48 Sydney Legacy and War Widows
- 49 Descendants of Veterans
- 50 Allied Veterans and Descendants
- 51 RSL marshals and SES

More information: rslnsw.org.au

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

Mr.	Robert	RAC	McDonald	8/13, 2Cav, 4/19
Mr.	Alfred	A	McEwan	1 AR
Capt	Lionel	LA	Bailey	3 Cav
Mr.		AJ	Plant	1,2,3, 4 Cav,4/19, 12/16
Mr.	Ian	IA	Laurie	1 AR
Mr.	David	DK	Appleton	2/5 AR, 1AAC Sqn, BCOF
Mr.		AJ	Standing	1/15 RNSWL
Mr.	Alan	AJ	Beusnel	Orange Sub Branch
Mr.	Dave	D	Blackman	1/15 RNSWL
Mr.		PW	Frost	2/7 AR
BRIG	John	JE	Colvin	12/16 HRL
Mr.	Vincent	V	Strohmayr	1/15 RNSWL
Mr.	Barry	B	Follington	12/16 HRL

Vale
Dave Blackman

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of our friend and colleague Dave Blackman. Dave served in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s reaching the rank of Corporal. He will long be remembered as a Centurion and M113 crew member, and a great friend to all those with whom he served.

David will also be remembered for his skill as an artist, providing the Museum with vibrant paintings of centurions in the wilds of Puckapunyal and Blacktown RSL with many commissioned works.

Sincerely,
 John Howells
 Secretary Royal New South Wales Lancers' Association

Vale

Captain Dr Ronald Hughes Cable RFD Retd

It is with sadness that I let you know that our friend and colleague Captain Dr Ronald Hughes Cable RFD Retd passed away 25 November 2025 after a long illness; he was 90. Ron was the unit's Regimental Medical Officer from 1966 soon after he was commissioned until 1982 when a heart attack in the field precluded further Regimental Service.

Ron's commitment to the Regiment and its soldiers was passionate. He was there at Putty, on 28 September 1971 rendering every assistance possible when a Ferret Scout Car rolled killing Trooper Joe Caruana. His medical advice to all ranks especially those in senior postings was direct and relevant. His interest in the skills of our corps meant he could drive and shoot as well as any of us. He wore regimental not RAAMC uniform accoutrements and forsook postings out of the unit involving offers of promotion; he was that committed to the Regiment.

In his civilian career, Ron was the Medical Superintendent of Parramatta Hospital. He served his nation and the Parramatta community with energy and commitment.

When he retired from the Army Ron did not stop serving the Regiment, he was Vice President of the Lancers' Association for many years until his health deteriorated recently.

Sincerely,
 John Howells
 Secretary
 Royal New South Wales Lancers' Association