

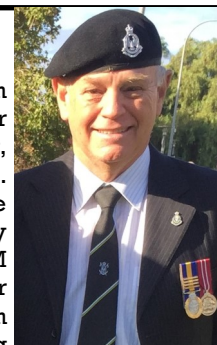
S A M R A G 207

Representing the Royal Australian Armoured Corps  
Corporation Limited in South Australia

January 2024, Number 62

**2024 COMMITTEE  
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We have reached the end of another successful year for the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association. Over the past 12 months we have had regular Old and Bold dinners, meeting together during the Annual General Meeting, the Stansbury get-together and an end-of-year function in December 2023. We have also had two Black Hat Nights, one at RAAF Edinburgh where we could see the Army's armoured fleet up close. The second was an address by the Commander of the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Brigadier Graham Goodwin CSC, APM who gave his reflections on command over the past four years. Brigadier Goodwin has now handed over command of 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade to Brigadier Tim Orders who was the Commanding Officer of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment during the bushfires of 2019 and 2020. During the year SAMRA members were also invited to attend the Beersheba Dinner, placement of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment's guidon and original standard in St Peter's Cathedral and the Cambrai Day parade at RAAF Edinburgh



SAMRA is a member of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Corporation which comprises representatives from all RAAC associations. This is the way that SAMRA can be represented at a national level and become involved with other Ex-Service Organisations and the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations. The RAAC Corporation Annual General Meeting was held in Canberra on 14 October 2023 and SAMRA was represented by our Vice-President James Kennelly. Some of the key points from the AGM were:

- A review of royal affiliations is taking place. Pending any outcome of the review, King Charles III will remain as Colonel-in-Chief of the RAAC.
- A trust to honour the memory of Colonel John Haynes AM is being established. This trust aims to provide for the welfare of RAAC unit members. Colonel Haynes had served in almost every RAAC unit and was a Quartermaster in 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> South Australian Mounted Rifles in the 1960's
- The Tank Museum in Puckapunyal had closed pending the building of a new combined armour and artillery museum that would be accessible without having to enter the Puckapunyal area. Funding for the new museum has been withdrawn and this will necessitate the redevelopment of current facilities in the Hopkins Barracks. A date for re-opening has not yet been announced
- Trade training for both Regular and Reserve RAAC units continues to be a priority as the impact of the "COVID bubble" continues to be felt.

Over the past few months there has been media reports on changes to the Army in South Australia, specifically that 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australian Regiment would move to Darwin and re-link with 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion RAR while personnel and equipment from 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment would move to 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment in Townsville as part of their normal posting cycle. It is understood that 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment would remain in Adelaide and become an innovation and experimentation unit. It is also understood that 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse will remain under command of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment. We wait to hear further news about these impending changes. The 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade will remain in South Australia and transition to a Security and Response Brigade

We also wait to hear move news about the future of Keswick Barracks. Media reports have indicated high level agreement of the transfer of the property to the State government and the possibility of this happening in two tranches over a number of years. Depending on the timing and sequencing on the transition, this may impact on units currently located in Keswick Barracks as well as the Army Museum of South Australia. There is a lot of speculation about the future of Keswick Barracks so it is good to only report on published reports.

As we farewell the old year and welcome in 2024, I wish all SAMRA members and their families every blessing for the Christmas and New Year period. Thanks to all those who have supported SAMRA during 2023. The world is a very different place to what it was in the grip of COVID in 2020 and hopefully the new year will be a great year ahead. *Nec Aspera Terrent—Malcolm Haynes*

A leader is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind.

*Nelson Mandela."*



El Alamein Army Camp Port Augusta 24 Mar 1963.



Committee member Bill McKeough once again placed the Remembrance Day crosses on North Terrace, Adelaide 2023.

Fun times in a Ferret Scout Car!  
Anyone got any good Ferret Scout Car stories from their time in the regiment?



I would like to tell you the Ferret suspension was so good each wheel drove so it was a true 4 wheel drive. Those that have served in the Cultana area know the ground there it's a bit of rough & tumble I remember on one occasion of finding a

open ended spanner on the engine hatch after a days exercise try that on any other vehicle.

#### Some driving characteristics:

- (a) the steering wheel, funny about that it was not like a car wheel but was placed in reverse followed the contour of the hill but low and behold any driver that had their thumbs inside the spokes and hit bumps you would find it taking your thumbs for a ride and such could be broken.
- (b) there was no such thing as a clutch that existed in a normal manual car. Part of the first parade service was to tighten the change bands by pumping each 5 times to tighten them up. It had a preselected gear box so you actually put the change lever in to the next band ( well alright gear) & when needed pump the change lever that you had preselected. How about that....
- (c) The Rolls Royce 6 cylinder engine did not have a sump but used a scavenger pump to circulate the engine oil.
- (d) Many a time I would closed up all hatches to either take a quick Kip on the drivers seat or the CC's nice & warm there with the transmission running under but I digress....
- (e) One never drove with your Beret in place you see the badge was pressed against against or near the hull. Such would ensure 2 bleeding dents in you head mit a few cusses.
- (f) the Ferret used 5 run flat tyres which meant it could not sustain a flat , it was a beggar to manually strip the tyre from the rim LAD where are you?

**LT Wayne Vantenac**

**The federal government has announced a major Australian Army restructure with several generalist combat brigades being moved into specialist combat brigades.**

The Darwin-based Australian Army 1st Brigade is announced to become a light combat brigade, the Townsville-based 3rd Brigade will become an armoured combat brigade, the Brisbane-based 7th Brigade will become a motorised combat brigade, and the Adelaide-based 10th Brigade will be raised as a fires brigade.

The 5th Battalion and the 7th Battalion will be re-linked to become 5th/7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment based in Darwin. The 1st Armoured Regiment, remaining in Adelaide, will act as an experimental unit to deliver and integrate emerging technologies.

Army's presence in Townsville will grow with it becoming the home of armoured vehicles, army attack, and medium-lift aviation.

Brisbane will be home to a motorised combat brigade with a focus on the ability to uplift and move personnel.

Darwin will see minor changes to the combat brigade, with a focus on light forces that are agile and quick to move. The number of Army personnel posted to Darwin will remain steady over time.

Adelaide will become future-focused, with key future long-range strike capabilities consolidated in South Australia. Accelerated and expanded Long-Range Strike (HIMARS) and Integrated Air and Missile Defence capabilities (NASAMS) will be based in Adelaide along with initially decreasing Army presence in full-time personnel numbers over the short term but is expected to return to current levels from 2028 onwards.

Personnel from 7th Battalion and 1st Armoured Regiment will post to new locations as their planned postings end or earlier if they choose. This will see most personnel posting in the December 2024 and January 2025 period. Source: **Selected paragraphs from the Defence Connect article dated 28 September, 2023, by Robert Dougherty.**



## GEORGE JOHNSON MM MEMORIAL PRIZE

SAMRA is pleased to honour the memory of George Johnson who was awarded the Military Medal on 6 August 1944 while serving with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Hussars in Normandy during World War Two. George later served in 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> South Australian Mounted Rifles as a Quartermaster Sergeant in B Squadron and was a long-time member of SAMRA.

The George Johnson MM Memorial Prize is awarded during the tenure of each Officer Commanding to a member of 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse for outstanding service to the Squadron. The prize allows the recipient to travel to England and while there, visit the unit's affiliated regiments, Queen's Royal Hussars and King's Dragoon Guards.



During the Beersheba Dinner in October 2023, it was announced that Daniel Braham was the latest recipient of the prize and a presentation was also made at 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment's Cambrai Day parade in November 2023. Daniel first enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve in July 2006 and posted to 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse after basic training. After completing two modules of initial employment training, Daniel enlisted with the Australian Regular Army in August 2008. He was sent to Puckapunyal for the ASLAV crewman course and posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment in Darwin. Daniel served 5 years in Darwin where he progressed as a driver, gunner and commander making it up to the lead callsign, Charlie, where he was responsible for navigating the Troop. Daniel discharged from the Army in October 2013 at the rank of lance corporal.

Still feeling a strong connection to Army and Defence, Daniel re-enlisted into the Army Reserve in January 2020. He went back to Kapooka and was reposted to 3<sup>rd</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse in December 2020. In the past 2 years Daniel has been a section commander in 2 troop and is now Troop Corporal. Daniel was promoted to Corporal on 5 December 2023. Other roles Daniel undertakes at the unit are the hazardous chemical and work health and safety rep and was recently appointed Treasurer of the Hopkins Club.

Outside of Army Daniel is partnered with Amy and lives with their mischievous 2-year-old daughter Zoe in Largs Bay. During the working day, Daniel has established himself as a safety professional for the Defence Science & Technology Group. Daniel is appointed as the Assistant Director Regional Safety and leads a team overseeing safety management with Science & Technology staff in SA, WA and QLD. Daniel enjoys maintaining connections with Defence through civilian employment and being able to offer part time service through the Army Reserve.

SAMRA congratulates Daniel on the award of the George Johnson MM Memorial Prize. We also thank Belperio Connell Lawyers, First Advice Solutions and Balthazar Café for their continuing encouragement as well as those members who have donated either directly or through raffles at SAMRA events.

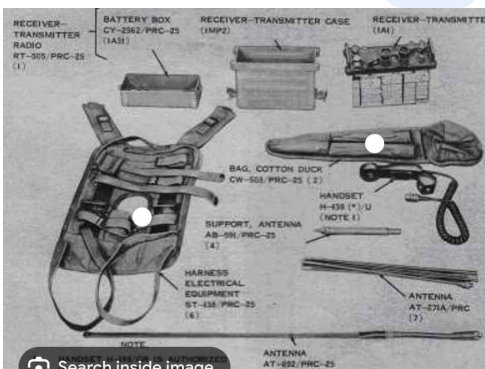






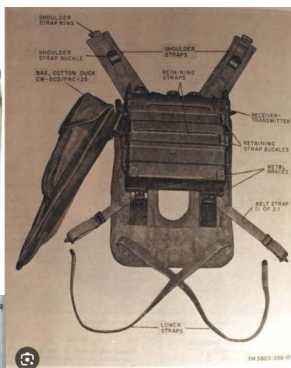
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The Albanese Government has selected Hanwha Defense Australia as the preferred tenderer to deliver 129 infantry fighting vehicles to the Australian Army, as part of a major transformation of the Army in response to Australia's changing strategic environment.

The Government has also decided that the new vehicles will be built in Australia at Hanwha's facilities in the Geelong region.

The project will deliver Hanwha's state of the art Redback infantry fighting vehicles that will provide high level protection and mobility for soldiers. The new vehicles will replace Defence's M113 armoured personnel carriers which were acquired in 1964.

The new **Land 400 buggies**, dubbed Redback and customised with heavy armour, weigh in at 42 tons, run a 1000-horsepower Rolls Royce (mtu) eight-cylinder diesel, can squeeze in 11 people (including three crew) and sport a Northrop Grumman Mk44 Bushmaster II 30 mm chain gun on the turret.



2023 SAMRA AFX AT STANSBURY CP

Best Melbourne Cup hat winners.





## **The 2nd Australian Division armoured combat brigade will transition to a security and response brigade from 2025.**

Under the upcoming changes, the 2nd Australian Division – largely part-time troops – will also take on the primary focus of security response and supporting integrated force manoeuvre across the north of Australia.

In the meantime, 2nd Australian Division brigades will maintain their locations across the country and Adelaide's 9th Brigade will return to the 2nd Australian Division while remaining a composite brigade of part-time and full-time personnel.

Commander 2nd (Australian) Division Major General David Thomae said the Defence Strategic Review provided a clearly defined task for the changes.

"We must generate, deploy, and then sustain security and response task units to protect key areas in Australia's north," MAJGEN Thomae said. "We must be able to do so quickly or at least with minimal warning time – the division must be able to fight tonight.

"The criticality of this mission cannot be overstated. The 2nd (Australian) Division must be ready to defend Australia and all that this entails.

"As part of a wider restructure of the Army, the 2nd (Australian) Division will transfer all university regiments under command of the 8th Brigade (Training) to Forces Command in July 2024," he said. "This will allow the 2nd (Australian) Division to be more operationally focused." Several changes to the training model for Army Reserve soldiers are also being introduced to get new soldiers into their units faster.

"From August 25, the Army began trialling a three-plus-two individual training model, providing three weeks of recruit training and two weeks of land combat training," MAJGEN Thomae said. "This will be followed by collective training tailored and focused on homeland defence tasks. "We must ensure that everything we do – the way we structure, train and equip ourselves – is focused on the task of protecting Australia, and this task only."

As Commander of Joint Task Force 629, MAJGEN Thomae said Army Reservists would play a key role in conducting domestic support operations, including humanitarian and disaster relief, with assistance from the regular Army and other services.

"The ADF has a wealth of recent experience in conducting operations in support of partner agencies, commencing with the 2019 and 2020 bushfires through to the COVID-19 response and, more recently, significant flooding events," he said.

"It allowed the ADF to develop deep and continuing relationships with other government agencies and emergency services across the country.

"The 2nd Division has been tasked with homeland defence before, we have a proud history and this is absolutely a combat multiplier.

"We will leverage our history, not be tethered by it, and adapt again to ensure the division is ready to serve the country in whatever way its government and people ask of us."

Source: Defence Connect, 16th October 2023

<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/land/12974-2nd-australian-division-to-transition-to-security-and-response-from-2025>

## **VALE SSGT MALCOLM BOYD**

Malcolm passed away on the 30th August 2023 with his family by his side. He served with 3/9 SAMR for eight years and has been a member of SAMRA for twenty one years.





#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1. Date of activity (month and year if possible)

2. Name and location of activity or exercise.

3. Names of any people you recognise  
(please be specific e.g. TPR Bloggs - second from left)

4. Vehicle ARN (if known)

If you have any anecdotes of the photo or the relevant activity, please let us know so they can be published in the next edition of SAMRAG.

We also appreciate contributions of any photos you have with as much detail on the photos as you can provide.  
Here is the next photo. Thank you for your assistance.



#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1. Date of activity— 1994

2. 3/9 Q Store, Smithfield.

3. L—R PTE Caroline Goldner, TPR Chris Lock, CPL Chris Payne, TPR Roy Griggs, SSGT Bon Jordan, CPL Sharon Molier (then Griffiths) and CPL Adelle Catts.

This photo was taken on Bon Jordan's retirement from the ADF.

4. **Where are they now?** Caroline Goldner joined the ARA, Adelle Catts moved to QLD and became a CAPT, Sharon Molier (then Griffiths) is working part time at the RAAF base Edinburgh. Bon Jordan later joined 49 ACU, rank of LT and was the Quartermaster for six years until reaching retirement age of 60 years.



Have you been to the Army Museum of South Australia lately? It is open on Sundays 12noon—4pm and Mondays 11am—2pm.



**The following items are available for purchase. All profits support the Association:**

- ASSOCIATION PLAQUES - \$40.00
- BLACK BASEBALL CAP EMBROIDERED WITH THE 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE ON THE FRONT AND THE WORDS 'SAMRA' ON THE BACK — \$20.00
- NAME BADGES—\$25.00
- BLACK POLO SHIRT, BADGE ON THE FRONT, WITH SAMRA UNDERNEATH— \$45.00 WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING SIZES IN STOCK 2XL = 3, L = 1 AND M = 1
- 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BLAZER POCKET BADGE - \$25.00
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**Place your orders with Bob Ireland, Mobile: 0421 846 592 please add \$11.00 for postage and packing. The preferred method of payment is via your financial institution using EFT, details are;**

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BSB—833 205, Account No—20760940, or send your payment to:  
SAMRA Secretary, 63 Barramundi Drive, Hallett Cove, SA 5158**



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MOUNTED RIFLES  
ASSOCIATION INC**  
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**We welcome to our  
new SAMRA  
member;**

**Nick & Karen Chance.**

**Service History:**

**25 Years RAAC – 1980 - 2005**

**23 years ARA – SGT 1AR,  
SOA 3/9 LH SAMR**

**2 Years Reserve – WO2 3/9  
LH SAMR**

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**Warwick is a former RAAC member who served with 1<sup>st</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> Royal New  
South Wales Lancers and is a current SAMRA Committee Member.**

## **2024 SOCIAL CALENDAR**

- **Thursday, 15 Feb— Old & Bold lunch at Café Balthazar, Pasadena Shopping Centre.**
- **Wednesday, Black Hat Night, March date and venue TBC.**
- **Thursday, 25 Apr—ANZAC Day LH Memorial Service at 0800 h, RSL SA march.**
- **Thursday, 16 May—Old & Bold lunch at the Victoria Hotel, O'Halloran Hill.**
- **Thursday, 25 July—Old & Bold lunch at the Seacliff Hotel, Seacliffe.**
- **Wednesday, 21 August—36th SAMRA AGM at the NM&AF club.**
- **Thursday, 19 September—Old & Bold lunch at the Earl of Leicester Hotel, Parkside.**