



Vol. 33 Issue 6 **NEWSLETTER** November 2023



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President's Message

Greetings Members,

Thanks to the committee for their hard work throughout the year, in particular for organising events and proving the value of good back briefs. Without your efforts and input, outcomes might not have been as successful as they were.

Thanks to those who have accepted reselection and the new /returning members, including myself. Discharging from the Army on January 14 2024 will provide me with more time to devote to managing the role. Owing to a family issue I was unable to attend the pre-luncheon AGM, but as the saying goes, family is important.



I was amazed at the turnout for the luncheon and had some great conversations with old colleagues. Congratulations to those who received prizes in the raffle, which was well supported. A special mention to Clive for reaching the BOTS qualification requirements. I am sure the treasurer will miss his contributions.

The update from Dennis Scanlan regarding the memorial recognising the two soldiers who were killed undertaking flood relief tasking, was outstanding and informative and I look forward to attending the event.

If possible, could we have someone put up their hand to take on the role of "Oversight of the membership list", they would need to attend committee meetings and their role would be to manage the membership list.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas. Stay safe and drive safely if you are travelling over the Christmas period.

Until next year .

Cheers.

Kev

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Making Payments

To make it easier for the treasurer, who by default is also managing the membership list, when making any payment to the ATA account could you please, for each transaction:

- Put your name on the transfer detail
- Email the treasurer to advise that you have made the payment (including detail such as numbers and names of people attending if it is a function)
- If paying for more than one thing e.g. your membership dues and a function, please do these as separate transactions.

Have you paid your annual subscription to the ATA?

As we get older (and let's face it, one glance around the dining room at the Christmas lunch would confirm that most fall into the 'older' category) time goes faster. So, yet another 12 months goes by without you noticing it and those reminder notices (various annual medical check-ups for example) arrive in your letterbox, email or message inbox and your first reaction is disbelief—because you are confident you were there only a few months ago. Well, the same applies to your ATA annual subscription. If you can't remember if and when you paid it last, you are likely out of date.

COLONEL COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS



PAR ONERI

Brigadier Cris J Anstey (ret'd) CSC

Colonel Commandant RACT—South Queensland Region



The RACT's 50th anniversary celebrations this year have given us the opportunity to reflect on the outstanding service provided by both past and present members of the Corps. The RACT continues to enjoy an outstanding reputation which is the result of the efforts of every person who has served in its ranks.

The support requirements for Exercise Talisman Sabre meant the local birthday celebrations for our serving members were postponed until late October when a military skills competition for regional units and detachments was held at Enoggera. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event with soldiers from Amberley joining RACT detachments from Enoggera and the event hosts, 5 Tpt Sqn. At the end of the competition, it was a tie between Charlie Troop, 5 Tpt Sqn and the 2/14 LHR detachment. In the good-natured spirit of the event, a tie-break involving the consumption of hot dogs was decided upon. Charlie Troop prevailed in a tightly fought engagement!



Mil Skills Comp – Tyre Change



Mil Skills Comp – Truck Pull

November also saw the presentation of the inaugural 'Warrant Officer Class One Alan (50 Cal AI) Murdoch Annual Junior Leadership Award' at 5 Tpt Sqn. This award, based on the statue of "The Driver" in Melbourne, is a lasting and very fitting tribute to the memory of an outstanding soldier and terrific person who left us far too soon. The award was presented by Al's wife, Margaret, to CPL Brent Murray for exemplary service as a junior leader in the Squadron. The moving ceremony, in front of the whole unit, was attended by Al and Margaret's children as well as a number of old friends. Not the least was our very own Lionel Rose who, according to Margaret, was the driving force behind the award being created.

In closing I wish to remind all members of the dedication service for a new memorial to two RACT soldiers, CAPT Ian Kerr and CPL Neville Hourigan, who



The Warrant Officer Class One Alan (50 Cal AI) Murdoch Annual Junior Leadership Award

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died while operating a LARC-V in the Bellbowrie area during support operations in response to the '74 floods. It will be held on Sunday 28 January 2024 at Booker Place Park, Birkin Rd, Bellbowrie, commencing at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome. There is a separate article regarding this event in the newsletter.

For those interested in the details of what happened back in '74, there is a very comprehensive description at the following website: <https://moggillhistorical.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/The-LARC-Incident-1974.pdf>

In closing, I wish all members a very festive Christmas and look forward to catching up again in the new year.

Cris Anstey



Margaret Murdoch and Lionel Rose after the presentation of the award

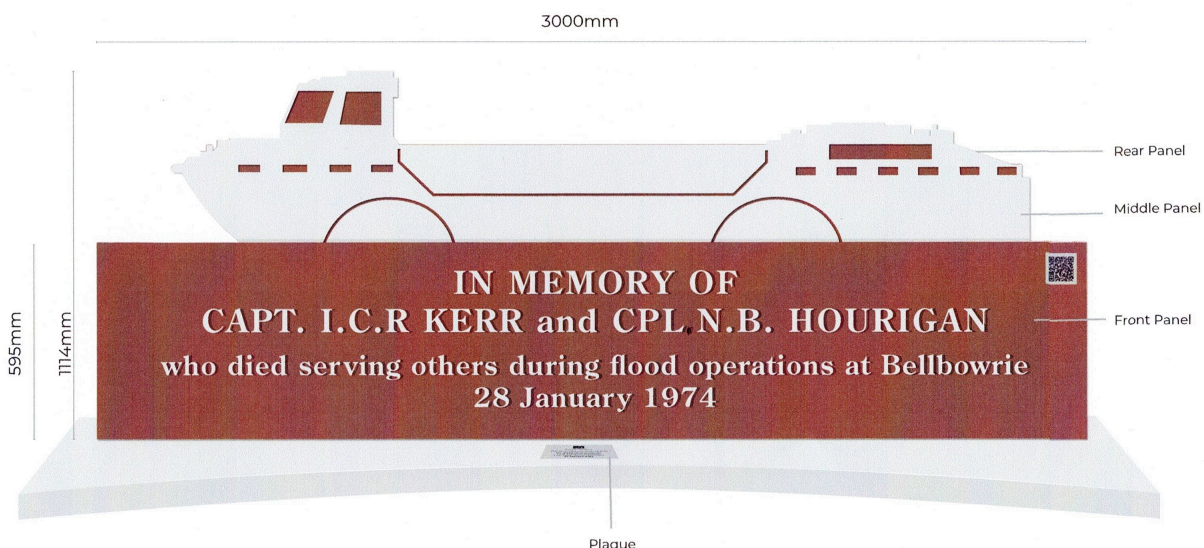
BELLBOWRIE MEMORIAL UPDATE

Another matter that many of you will have been following in previous newsletters is the planned memorial in Booker Place Park, Bellbowrie to remember CAPT Ian Kerr and CPL Neville Hourigan who died serving others during flood relief operations at Bellbowrie on 28 January 1974.

The memorial design, (featured in the last newsletter) has now been signed off by Brisbane City Council. Dennis Scanlan advises the Council has appointed a landscape company to undertake the landscaping work for the memorial, and in conjunction with the sculpture creator, have started work which is expected to be completed by Christmas.

The memorial, as illustrated below, will feature a LARC V made from triple steel with the LARC V image made from stainless steel. The memorial will remember the supreme sacrifice of CAPT Ian Kerr and CPL Neville Hourigan and a QR code attached to the memorial will direct people to the Moggill Historical Society Website where the story of the incident is explained.

It will be unveiled by the Lord Mayor at a public ceremony at Booker Place Park, Bellbowrie on Sunday 28 January 2024, commencing at 1100.



WO1 (“50 Cal Al”) Alan Murdoch Memorial Junior Leadership Award



The inaugural award presented to CPL Brent Murray, by Al’s wife Margaret

In the last two newsletters, members were made aware of the WO1 (“50 Cal Al”) Alan Murdoch Memorial Junior Leadership Award and were able to read a little about Alan Murdoch who sadly passed away on 22nd October 2021. Information was also provided about the RACT 50th anniversary event at which the inaugural award was to be presented.

It is unfortunate that access restrictions limited attendance, but Lionel Rose has reported (as has BRIG Cris Anstey in his COL COMDT report in this newsletter and previously in person at the ATA Christmas lunch) that the event was a great success and well attended by Al’s family members, friends and those who had served with him.

In his speech at the event, Marc Baumback described Al Murdoch as someone who had ‘an elite magnetism and influence on soldiers and officers of all Corps’ and that they elected to create a Junior Leadership Award in his honour, for soldiers serving in 5SQN as it was one of his most favoured units.

Marc added that Al ‘was a tenacious, focussed, empathetic and highly professional soldier. He was respected universally for ‘living’ the professional beliefs, actions and mindsets that define Army’s values. He led, he influenced, he gave counsel and he acted always with conviction and belief. His humour and positive mindset were contagious and at times, annoying and disarming when times were bad.

He believed that leaders and great soldiers existed at all levels; that they simply wanted to be challenged: and that to achieve that they needed to feed with situations, opportunities, aided by encouragement, inspiration, empathy and a distinct sense of purpose.’

The award is a depiction of an established and respected statue, titled ‘The Driver’ that resides at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.



Representatives of the Award Committee—L-R Marc Baumback, Lionel Rose, PUD Stephen Fleming. (Absent: ‘Tich’ Tyson and ‘Grumpy’ Sharp)



In attendance L-R Marc Baumback Garry McGrath Peter McNamara, and Graham Hogden

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The WO1 Alan Murdoch Junior Leadership award will be awarded annually to a junior leader within 5Sqn, who best reflects the leadership attributes demanded by Army and reflective of the spirit of WO1 Murdoch.



CPL Brent Murray being presented with the certificate by the CO of 7CSSB, LTCOL Amber Humphreys (RACT).



The Alan Murdoch Memorial Junior Leadership Award. Flanking the Driver on the left is Al's Record of Service and on the right is the story of the man Al Murdoch. Hanging below is an open shadow box for the winning participant's details engraved onto brass plates. The award is mounted in the entrance of 5 Sqn headquarters.



Family attendance – Al's mother, sister and brother.

MEMBER NEWS

Farewell to Peter McNamara

A group of friends had a fantastic afternoon, farewelling Peter McNamara who is relocating to Perth with his family. Carl Edwards described Peter as 'an absolute gentleman and wonderful human being' and wished him and his family well on their new adventure, stating 'Perth's gain is Brisbane's loss'.



L to R rear row: Kiwi McGrath, Robbie Nicholson, Douglas Wigg, Lionel Rose, Carl Edwards, Mick Glasson, Garry Westhead, John Gardiner.

Seated L to R: Rita McGrath, Peter McNamara, and Dee Edwards

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Anyone moving, or has changed telephone numbers or address would they please notify the Roll Keeper at vicepresident@armytransportassociation.asn.au

New ATA Committee

The AGM, held before the Christmas lunch, resulted in few changes to the committee membership – thanks to the willingness of some to remain in roles, Kerry Cooper being prepared to return after a brief break and Leigh Smith (following the meeting) agreeing to accept the assistant secretary role. The positions and contact details are provided on the newsletter cover.



Here is your committee for the next twelve months. From the left Graeme Beuth (Secretary), Leigh Smith (Assistant Sec/Treas), Kevin Chalmers (President), Kerry Cooper (Vice President), and Roy Packer (Treasurer), with Trevor Butler (Committee Member) on the right.

Absent: Committee Member Glen Huntley.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Over 70 members and guests attended this year's Christmas lunch at the Geebung RSL, which once again treated us very well. The January newsletter will feature the usual photographic record of the event - thanks again to the photographic skills of Richard Bennett. In the meantime, congratulations to Clive Coles, the latest recipient of the ATA 'BOTS' award, with which he was presented at the lunch.

As a reminder, the qualification requirements are:

- ◆ You have served as a member of RAASC, RACT, or RAE (tn).
- ◆ You have attained the age of 80 years of age, and
- ◆ You are still standing perpendicular on this planet earth and retaining bodily warmth.



The raffle was as popular as ever with attractive prizes. Thanks to Ron Butcher; who declined to take the entire contents of the box of wine (which he had won) many more winners were able to secure a couple of bottles to take home.

Congratulations to raffle winners : Gary Pardella, Cris Anstey, Nathan Mitchel, Ron Butcher, Eugene Rataj, Wendt Careter, Leigh Smith, Geoff Dunkley, and Kerry Cooper.

Thanks also to our Colonel Commandant Cris Anstey for an update e on both past and upcoming events and Denis Scanlan for additional comments about the progress of the Bellbowrie memorial project (see page 4)

Our committee is once again to be congratulated for organising a successful event. The touches such as the individual gifts for each member attending (pictured on the cover of this newsletter) are always appreciated .

-Editor