

# FORWARD

Newsletter #49 - July 2025



The official newsletter of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association

**W**elcome to our second newsletter for the year and I hope you are all doing well. Our Association is now 12 years old, having been raised in 2013. I can report that we have one (1) Honorary Member, three (3) Life Members and one hundred and seventy two (172) other Members. We are financially able to make all our obligation for the year and have 78 % of your money invested.

**Anzac Day:** The weather was pretty cruel on the day however the dawn service at the Regt saw little to no rainfall during the service and the Association laid a wreath. The Regiment marched through town and looked superbly turned out as they marched past us as part of the Brigade and Army contingent. Our Association numbers were well down on previous years but again we were lucky with the weather as it didn't rain much while we were marching.

Again, we lined up with 3 Cavalry Regt, Vietnam Veterans & 1st Armoured Regt Assoc members.

**Corps Dinner:** I was fortunate to attend the annual Corp Dinner at the home of the RAAC and to catch up with members of the Corps. It was great to see the presentation for the Coral-Balmoral Cup and the Farewell of over 455 years of service from the corps. I was also lucky to be seated with the Hon Col and the CO. It was a great night, but my thin blood felt the chill of the Tank hangar.



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## CARE PACKAGES

**During the last week of June, members of the Association's Management Committee met to prepare Care Packages for distribution to Regiment members of A, B, C & Support Squadrons deployed to Ex DS and TS.**

**The Care Package also includes a copy of this July issue of FORWARD.**

**The AGM:** was held on Friday 23 May 2025 as advertised. See article in the newsletter. I would like to thank all those that attended and once again thank those in the committee who volunteered for re-election, without your commitment the Association would not be the success it is.

**41 Club Black Hat BBQ 8 Nov 25:** Once again the units Command Team has approved this annual get together and you should see an email coming out in the next couple of weeks. Please save the date in your calendars and when you get an email please forward it on to other Black Hat members, remember all are welcome especially families.

If anyone is experiencing difficulties, please do not hesitate to reach out. We the association will help in whatever way we can, even if it is just a chat on the phone or a coffee.

Please feel free to contact me on any matters that we may be able to assist you with.

My number is: 0431 700 696

**FORWARD!**

Shayne Burley



**Check out the YouTube video of a 2/14 LHR (QMI) Boxer on the 4WD 24-7:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwZMtU\\_4eic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwZMtU_4eic)

**OTHER GOOD READS!**

Ironsides Magazine:

<https://ironside.partica.online/>

2/14 LHR (QMI) Facebook page:

[2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment \(QMI\) | Facebook](#)

2/14 LHR (QMI) Association Facebook page:

[2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment \(QMI\) Association Inc - Facebook Group | Facebook](#)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The President and Management Committee welcome new members of the Association:

**Geoffrey Burton GILL**

**Andrew Mark STOCKS**

**ANZAC DAY 2025 ~ BRISBANE CITY**



Photographer:  
LCPL Luke Donegan



## CO'S REPORT

BY LTCOL TIM HURLEY



It gives me great pleasure to write to the members of the Association in my second year in command of the finest Regiment in the Australian Army. The officers and soldiers of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) continue to represent the very best of Australian society. Their attitude, work ethic and enthusiasm ensures that the Regiment remains postured to tackle the manifold challenges that current strategic circumstances demand. While there is always work to be done, the men and women of the Light Horse remain keenly focussed on warfighting as one of Army's eight battlegroups.

The transition between 2024-2025 heralded a number of structural and capability changes. In response to the Defence Strategic Review, Army directed that the Heavy Armour capability was concentrated in the Townsville-based 3rd Brigade. This saw the reorganisation of the Regiment as a 'pure' cavalry Regiment, with C Squadron transitioning from a tank squadron to a third cavalry squadron in January 2025. A number of soldiers and officers posted to the unit from 1st Armoured Regiment, and C Squadron has already made great strides in raising the sub-unit from scratch. They have enlivened by intent by quickly generating a warfighting mindset and have approached the challenge with vigour. While the divestment of the heavy armour capability was a sobering undertaking, the increased coherence and role clarity by virtue of focussing the Regiment on cavalry operations has already been evident.

Life in a Regiment is always busy and 2025 has been no different. In total, the Regiment will spend approximately three months in the first half of the year. We successfully completed Exercise Koster River - our Regimental live and dry fire exercise - over three weeks in March/April. Despite the difficulties posed by post-TC Alfred weather, the Regiment completed troop-level live fire actions on the eastern corridor of Shoalwater Bay. It was an arduous, and at times quite risky activity based on the amount of rain that fell over three weeks. But alas, as we always do, we managed to get the job done through grit and determination.

Army's marquee exercise, Talisman Sabre, is upon us and we are about to head out the door to Shoalwater for another seven weeks. We will complete Exercise Diamond Strike in June (Brigade live/dry training exercise) before immediately transitioning to Talisman Sabre. With concurrent actions related to

the introduction into service of the Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV), our people have been working hard to get our people and wagons into the field. We have had very little time to spare for the first half of the year, which has flown by. The tempo has, and will continue to, test the resilience of our people and the Regimental family, but I am confident that as always, the Light Horse will rise to the challenge and once again showcase Battlegroup Warhorse as one of Army's most highly capable, potent and versatile units.

The Regiment proudly marched on ANZAC Day this year which was a fantastic experience for all involved. The Association reunion will occur on Saturday 8 November and will be one of the most significant events on the Regiment's social calendar. I look forward to meeting our seasoned veterans once again this year, following on from what I thought was a fantastic occasion in 2024 where we also conducted the United Drumhead Service to consecrate the addition of the Iraq 2003-2011 theatre honour to the Regimental Guidons.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the changing of the guard between Colonel Steve Salmon and Brigadier Mark Brewer as the Regimental Honorary Colonel and Patron of the Association. The officers, warrant officers and seniors hosted Colonel Salmon at a dining-in night at the beginning of the year provided a fitting farewell. Throughout his six years as the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Salmon provided sterling service to all members of the Regiment, particularly the command team. I wish to publicly thank him for his leadership, guidance and investment in the Regiment and its people. I look forward to starting the next chapter with Brigadier Brewer, a former Commanding Officer of this fine unit, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience which will undoubtedly benefit the next generation of the Light Horse.

Thank you for all you continue to do for the Regiment and I very much look forward to catching up for a few beers at the 41 Club this year.

### **FORWARD!**

LTCOL Timothy Hurley  
CO 2/14 Light Horse Regiment  
(Queensland Mounted Infantry)

# Tall Tales Campout 2025



**S**aturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June marked this year's version of the Tall Tales Camp (TTC) 2025. The drama started a little earlier this year with Griffio attempting to cut a path down the now overgrown hill to the fire pit while carrying his essentials. We watched as he disappeared rapidly out of view, accompanied by many expletives as he tumbled to the bottom; the crescendo being the smallish tree he hit which shook so violently that it lost most of its foliage. This occurred not even ten minutes into it and before he had even cracked his first tinny! Unbeknownst to us at the time, this would become a familiar theme for the night.

After confirming that Griffio was right to continue, we moved to and established the hide and Danny got the fire started. This was even more important than it was in past years as the temperature eventually plummeted to a balmy 5 degrees. Shark bait again felt it part of his presidential duties to try and burn everything in sight, and all at once. At one point the flames resembled a T-34 on the Eastern Front.

Beers were already flowing as were the stories of days gone past and most reaffirming / achieving the title of the activity. There was a modest number of attendees this year with a few lads unfortunately having to pull out short notice, but we had a total of twelve with only ten staying the night. We even had a ring-in this year with Mick Kay representing the RAInf.

Renate and Dee again provided the catering and, as always, was much appreciated. Shortly afterwards while returning to the hide, George (Kiwi) Brown was the second casualty of the evening when he managed to locate and investigate the bottom of a small drainage ditch. Due to nightfall, he thought it prudent to use the fence line to feel his way back to his seat, but he inadvertently followed the wrong stringer and promptly ended up in said ditch. None of us

were even aware that this had happened as, unlike Griffio, he did not utter a word and managed to extract himself without any assistance. He did mention it later in the evening but only because his sunnies had fallen off and he couldn't find them by himself covertly! For the record, Browny hadn't had a drink, but we subsequently established that he is in fact night blind! Speaking of Griffio, his second indiscretion saw him set off to his ute for a resup with esky in hand. Returning shortly after and thinking better of using the same track as he did at the start of the night, he quite rightly opted for another, now well-established route to the position. For reasons known only to himself (maybe to make George feel better), he decided to double down and threw himself to the bottom of the hill again, releasing his grip on his now full esky and sending cans flying everywhere! Ironically, both men arrived at the event in the same vehicle – maybe there was a hole in the exhaust or something?

Anyway, the evening concluded a tad earlier than previous years, mainly because we ran out of firewood (BURLEY!!!), effectively forcing us to retire. Revelle was at about 0630h and with a cup of coffee, bacon and eggs for brekkie, and a brief search and rescue effort for Browny's sunnies (achieving mission success I might add), we then departed BP Park for another year.

Present: Shayne (Shark bait) Burley, Shane Lucas, Dean (Nigger) Chappel, Graeme Brown, Danny Brookes, Trevor (Griffio) Griffiths, Phil Lawler, George (Kiwi) Brown, Robert (Bob) Vonk, Ray (Sunshine) Jordan, Mick Kay and Obie the dog

Role of Honour: Griffiths (with bar) & Brown (Kiwi type).

AUTHOR: Shane Lucas



## SECOND TANK SQUADRON WELCOMED TO AUSTRALIAN ARMY'S 2ND CAVALRY REGIMENT



The Australian Army has officially welcomed a second tank squadron to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, marking the first time in the corps' history that a regiment has two tanks and cavalry squadrons positioned in the same location.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment officially welcomed the new heavy armour capability at a T4 raising ceremony on 23 April, following the formal establishment of D Squadron within the regiment in Townsville on 20 January this year.

Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Josh Higgins said this transformation rounded out the order of battle that had been developing overtime.

"This places us as one of the first pieces on the chess board in the 3rd Brigade's armoured realisation," LTCOL Higgins said.

"We now have 36 of the world's best tanks, complementing the combat reconnaissance vehicle capability we have."

D Squadron is postured to undertake further progression training throughout 2025 in preparation for its role within the Army's armoured amphibious brigade.

For the soldiers and officers of the regiment, their commitment to raising the new squadron will set up

future successes – according to Officer Commanding D Squadron Major Jodie McCart.

"I'm incredibly privileged and honoured to raise the squadron with the men and women behind me, and bring this new platform into service," MAJ McCart said.

"It is a huge responsibility to get it right because of the legacy it will leave, for not only me and the people that we are doing this with, but also to make sure we set up the brigade, in good order."

The ceremony showcased the regiment's capabilities, featuring a logistic resupply operation that was interrupted by a simulated attack, demonstrating the effective response from combat units in coordination with the main battle tanks.

LTCOL Higgins likened the regiment to its mascot, "Courage", symbolising strength and vigilance ... "Our unit mascot is the wedge-tailed eagle, a bird of prey," he said.

"The other squadrons in the unit represent the eyes and ears, and now finally we have the talons of the bird of prey."

**Source:**

DEFENCE CONNECT 02 May 2025

By: Robert Dougherty

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 23 MAY 2025

BY SHANE BURLEY

The AGM was held at the Kedron Wavell Services Club (KWSC) in the Board Room. Your committee is very grateful to KWSC for the support given to our Association and for allowing us to use the Board Room.

The President opened the meeting by inviting attendees to observe a minute's silence for those members that are not with us anymore. The meeting paused to pay respects to all those no longer with us.

The President also thanked Colonel Steve Salmon for his support over the last 6 years, his advice and counsel has been greatly appreciated. Steve will continue as a member, and you will no doubt see him at the functions throughout the year.

The President also congratulated and welcomed Brigadier Mark Brewer AM, CSC & Bar as our new Paton and the unit's Honorary Colonel. Mark may not be able to attend many functions as he is currently residing in Canberra.

## President's Report

Key points from the President's address were as follows:

- Note of thanks to KWSC for their ongoing support, including use of the Board Room for the 2025 AGM.
- The Association is now 11 years old and that we are financially secure.
- The Committee would continue to meet every two months at Legacy House.
- Thanked the Regiment's leadership team: CO, LTCOL Timothy Hurley and RSM, WO1 Bill Doodie for their continuing support.
- A report on recent events in the social calendar included the ANZAC Day.
- A summary of upcoming Association 2025 calendar events included:
  - Lunch at Beenleigh RSL; and
  - Support to the RAAC Corps / ADSO conference in October 2025.
- Bill Cross and Graeme Brown were acknowledged for their efforts publishing the quarterly Newsletter. The Web and Facebook pages are very professional sites that also contain notices on upcoming events and breaking news.
- The President thanked the members of the Association and Committee for their ongoing support.

## Treasurer's Report

Dean Chappel presented the Treasurer's Report including the audited Financial Statement for the year ending 31 December 2024. The report shows an operating deficit of \$131.00 and a balance of \$19,843.

The Treasurer stated the Association continues to be insured for public indemnity through the RAAC Corporation.

Note: The Policy is for Public Liability Insurance with ANSVAR INSURANCE, Perth WA. A copy of the policy can be made available on application to the Secretary.

## Election of the Management Committee

The notice of an Annual General Meeting and the newsletter stated that all positions on the management committee were declared vacant. Members of the management committee who agreed to re-nominate for their positions are as follows:

### Appointment

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer  
Secretary  
Assistant Secretary  
Membership & Media Member

### Incumbent

Shayne Burley  
Shane Lucas  
Dean Chappel  
Vacant  
Craig Whiteman  
Cory Holland  
Graeme Brown

The incumbents were elected by acclamation.

## General Business

The President gave a brief outline of the unit to include the current unit make up and the introduction of the Boxer vehicle and proposed field activities. Some upcoming events that I hope to see you all at:

- 20-Jul 25 Black Hat Catch Up Lunch Beenleigh RSL Mt Warren Park (Dean Chappel is organising);
- Black Hat Reunion BBQ and Drinks (41 Club) on 08 Nov 2025; and
- Calendar events as outlined on our web page

**Next Annual General Meeting** – Fri 22 May 2026 to be confirmed in our 2026 Calendar

# MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR STUART (STEAKFAT) HOLLOWAY

BY CORY HOLLAND



The memorial service for Stuart (Steakfat) Holloway was held at Launceston RSL, Tasmania, and was a deeply moving tribute to a man who left a lasting impact on all who knew him. The service was well attended by over 200 people, including family, friends, veterans, and former colleagues, reflecting the immense respect and admiration held for Steakfat within both the military and broader community.

Throughout the service, heartfelt speeches and shared memories painted a picture of the man Steakfat was - loyal, professional, caring, and always someone others could rely on. His unwavering dedication to his mates, his strong sense of duty, and his ability to lift spirits with his humour were recurring themes in the reflections of those who served alongside him. Steakfat was remembered as a genuine and courageous leader, someone who led by example, both in combat and in life.

The ceremony highlighted his distinguished service with 2CAV, the School of Armour, and 2/14 LHR (QMI), as well as his deployments to East Timor and Afghanistan, where his professionalism and bravery were evident to all who had the privilege of serving with him. Former colleagues shared stories of his camaraderie, his unwavering support for his mates, and his ability to inspire those around him, even in the toughest of situations.

In a particularly poignant moment, those in attendance reflected on Steakfat's enduring legacy, not just as a soldier but as a friend, a mentor, and a man who always had time for others. His warmth and humour brought people together, and his integrity and strength of character set him apart.

The association extends its deepest condolences to Steakfat's family during this difficult time. His loss is deeply felt, but his memory will live on in the hearts



of those who had the honour of knowing him. His service, his friendship, and his unwavering loyalty will never be forgotten.

***Rest in Peace, Steakfat. Your legacy of mateship and courage will always be remembered.***



# THE RAAC HERITAGE PROJECT

BY CORY HOLLAND

AResearch has been launched to assess the needs of Middle East veterans and their families. This initiative, supported by RSL Australia, aims to identify key challenges faced by veterans of recent conflicts, ensuring that services and support systems are tailored to their unique experiences. The study will contribute to ongoing efforts to enhance veteran wellbeing and policy development.

The RAAC Heritage Project is now underway, led by David Finlayson, who was appointed RAAC Corps Historian at the 2024 Corps Conference. The project involves compiling a publication titled *The Traditions, Customs, and Heritage of the RAAC*, which will document the rich history, customs, and traditions of the RAAC community. Associations are invited to contribute information about their history, leadership, and activities, ensuring their role in the Corps' legacy is preserved. The final document will be available in both PDF and e-book formats for all past and present members.

Recent veteran compensation and rehabilitation reforms have been introduced with the passing of the Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2024 in Parliament. From 1 July 2026, all new compensation and rehabilitation claims will be processed under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004, streamlining the claims process and making it easier for veterans to access entitlements. Veterans currently receiving payments will not be affected by these changes. More details can be found at [www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform](http://www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform).

In an effort to expand mental health support, the Federal Government has announced the establishment of Medicare Mental Health Centres across all states and territories. These centres will provide psychological and psychiatric support without requiring a Medicare or DVA Healthcare Card, ensuring accessibility for all individuals, including veterans. This initiative is particularly important for Canberra-based veterans, where a shortage of mental health professionals has been identified.

The DVA Aged Care Taskforce is currently seeking veterans and family members who have engaged in the process of accessing Residential Aged Care (RAC) services to share their experiences. The insights gathered will be used to improve veteran access to aged care programs and services. Participants will be invited to a one-hour interview via phone or Microsoft Teams to discuss their experi-

ences. Those interested in contributing to this project can contact [acc.taskforce@dva.gov.au](mailto:acc.taskforce@dva.gov.au)

The RAAC Corporation recently voted regarding the inclusion of information from the Brereton Report (Afghanistan Inquiry) at the Australian War Memorial. Of the 11 member associations eligible to vote, the results were 7 in favour of excluding the report, 3 against, and 1 abstention.

The RAAC Corporation acknowledges the recent passing of Brigadier John Edward Colvin, AM, RFD, ED and Colonel Lee Long, RFD. Their contributions to the Corps and the wider veteran community were deeply valued, and they will be remembered for their service and dedication.

The 2/14 LHR (QMI) Association continues to foster camaraderie among members, support the Regiment, and organize social events. The association remains dedicated to promoting the history and heritage of the regiment. The annual 41 Club Black Hat family day remains a highlight, bringing together over 150 attendees, including past and present members, in a celebration of service and tradition.



## GERMANY OFFICIALLY HANDS OVER CUTTING-EDGE RCH 155 ARTILLERY SYSTEM TO UKRAINE

On 13 January 2025, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius presided over a historic event at the KNDS Deutschland facility in Kassel, where the first 155 mm RCH 155 self-propelled artillery system was officially handed over to Ukraine. The advanced weapon system, produced by KNDS, was received on behalf of the Ukrainian Armed Forces by Ukraine's ambassador to Germany, Oleksii Makeiev.

The RCH 155 (Remote Controlled Howitzer 155 mm) combines the firepower of the Panzerhaubitze 2000 howitzer with the mobility of the GTK Boxer armoured vehicle, creating a highly modern and fully automated artillery system. This handover makes Ukraine the first operator of this state-of-the-art technology, even before the German Armed Forces. Minister Pistorius hailed the event as a testament to German engineering and international cooperation, emphasising its significance for European security.

### Strengthening Ukrainian artillery

The RCH 155 system offers Ukraine a major capability boost with its mobility, rapid fire-readiness, and ability to fire on the move. Its crew of just two—a commander and a driver—operates the fully automated turret, making it a highly efficient system. The wheeled configuration enhances operational flexibility and reduces vulnerability, while its range and agility ensure survivability in combat.

Ukraine will receive a total of 54 RCH 155 systems, sufficient to equip three artillery battalions. Six units are expected to be delivered in 2025, with training for Ukrainian operators already underway in Germany. The initial contract for 18 units was signed in 2022, followed by a supplementary order for 36 more in 2023.

### Continued support with Panzerhaubitze 2000 systems

In addition to the RCH 155, Germany has committed to delivering 54 Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers by 2027. These systems, mounted on tracked platforms, complement the capabilities of the RCH 155. To date, 36 Panzerhaubitze 2000 units have been delivered to Ukraine, including 25 from Bundeswehr stock. Some units have already seen action, while others have been lost in combat.

Germany has also played a vital role in training Ukrainian artillery personnel. Over 420 Ukrainian



*The RCH 155 is a 155mm self-propelled howitzer*

soldiers have completed training programmes on artillery systems, maintenance, and tactical deployment, showcasing their ability to rapidly integrate advanced technologies into combat operations.

### RCH 155: a milestone for German defence and industry

The RCH 155 represents a pivotal development for Germany's military capabilities as well. It is expected to become a central component for the Bundeswehr's medium forces. Plans are underway to procure 80 units for German forces, financed through the Bundeswehr's special fund. This procurement is part of a broader German-British collaboration, announced in 2024, to jointly purchase, evaluate, and optimise the system, securing hundreds of jobs in both nations.

Kassel, the production site for the RCH 155, holds a storied legacy in defence manufacturing, having produced Leopard 1 and Leopard 2 tanks for decades. Minister Pistorius praised the precision, determination, and teamwork of the KNDS workforce, underscoring their critical role in turning technological milestones into reality.

### A partnership for European security

The delivery of the RCH 155 marks a significant milestone in Germany's steadfast support for Ukraine, reflecting a commitment to European security and defence cooperation. As Ukrainian Ambassador Oleksii Makeiev noted, the provision of advanced systems like the RCH 155 ensures that Ukraine can defend itself effectively while fostering enduring partnerships with its allies.

## COMBAT ENGINEERING VEHICLES PUT THROUGH THEIR PACES AT PUCKAPUNYAL



Based on the M1 Abrams chassis, most of the 29 M1150 assault breacher vehicles and 17 M1110 Joint Assault Bridge, referred to commonly as combat engineering vehicles (CEV), are destined for the 3rd Combat Engineering Regiment (3CER).

Sappers were also training on a variety of front end attachments, including the combat dozer blade, the full-width mine plough and the excavator manipulator arm.

Project LAND 907 was instigated in 2021 and will see all 75 of its new M1A2 main battle tanks and 46 CEVs delivered by the end of the year.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Robert Barrera is a sapper, CEV course manager and program manager currently posted to the School of Armour, helping bridge the gap between engineering and armoured tactics.

“The School of Armour and the School of Military Engineering have been working together to support the development of doctrine as this is a new capability to Defence,” he said.

“Seeing the sappers from 3CER and soldiers from the School of Armour in these platforms is great because this has been a project that I’ve been supporting for a long time.

“To actually see it realised, to know that this capability is moving up to 3CER within the next couple of months, and to know that they’re going to be employing it later this year, seeing that come to fruition has been a big highlight.”

CEVs will allow sappers to conduct breaching, bridging and engineering all while protected under armour, increasing their survivability.

Corporal Liam Kelly, one of the sappers training on

the CEVs, said it was a “game changer”.

“Before CEV, we pretty much just rolled in dismounted into the bridge, basically,” CPL Kelly said.

“I think the new CEV is a great capability. It’s definitely going to increase our ability to perform breaching operations, and it’s also going to greatly increase the capacity at which we can provide that mobility support to our friendly forces and get them to move around the battle space.

“Being able to do it under armour, obviously, you’re a lot more defended. It’s going to take less soldiers in the breach, which is what you want. It’s going to be a lot faster as well.”

**Source:** Defence Connect, 13 June 2025 by staff reporter.

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### SPECS:

- **Armament:** One 155mm/L52 cannon
- **Country users:** Germany, Ukraine, United Kingdom
- **Designer Country:** Germany
- **Combat Equipment:** Automatic electrical gun laying system, a computerized fire control system, a radio data transmission connection, air conditioning, NBC (Nuclear, Bacteriologic and Chemical) protection system, and fire extinguishing in the engine compartment.
- **Crew:** 2
- **Armor: Hull:** STANAG 4569 Level 4  
Turret: armor protection against the firing of small arms and artillery shell splinters
- **Weight:** 39,000 kg
- **Speed Vehicle:** 100 km/h
- **Range Vehicle:** 700 km
- **Dimensions:** Length: 10.5 m; Width: 2.99 m; Height: 3.6 m

### Source:

German Ministry of Defence. – 14 January 2025  
By Lukasz Prus (Defence Industry Europe)  
GLOBAL DEFENCE NEWS – 19 January 2025

## M1A2 MINE PLOUGH



New M1A2 SEP V3 main battle tanks will be equipped with track width mine ploughs and combat dozer blades under a contract awarded to Pearson Engineering.

The SLICE vehicle interface kits will be equipped to the MBTs delivered to the Polish Armed Forces via US Foreign Military Sales this year. The kits are designed to enable a fighting vehicle to rapidly accept and operate a wide range of Front-End Equipment to facilitate independent battlefield manoeuvre.

SLICE does not require any modification to the vehicle based on a novel 'Plug & Play approach' that does not impact vehicle lethality or survivability. "This is an important contract for Pearson Engineering as we look to extend our support to the operators of various vehicle types," according to business development director Richard Beatson.

"Pearson Engineering will always be the home of the combat engineer and we're investing heavily in the next generation of capability to support specialist requirements.

**Source:** Defence Connect, 14 March 2025 by staff reporter.



## NEW F9 SIDEARM



The new F9 sidearm weapon system (F9 SWS) comprises a SIG Sauer 9mm P320 X-Carry Pro with red dot sight, torch and holster. It is supported by a non-lethal training kit and (WTSS).

WO2 Mark Biviano, of the Combined Arms Training Centre, said it was more than just a pistol: "The first thing you notice is that you are employing a system as opposed to simply a weapon, you receive all of the components of the system, and then you use all the components throughout your lessons."

The F9 SWS replaces the legacy self-loading Pistol 9mm Browning Mk3. Rollout started this year at 7 Bde and will continue throughout 2025. "It's not just a weapon upgrade - it's a complete shift in how we build deployable capability," WO2 Biviano said.

Supplied by Queensland-based NIOA Group, the new pistol is part of equipment being acquired under Land 300, which includes F7 fighting knives, new sniper rifles, a sniper surveillance system and FI5 personal defence weapon system (for limited users).

Participants must demonstrate accuracy and weapon handling across multiple distances.

In early March, a week-long train-the-trainer course was held at Amberley, where participants qualified to instruct others on the F9 SWS.

WTSS is now a key part of the training, allowing participants to progress through theory, drills and simulation before live-fire.

"There is a lot of application and reinforcement before you actually go on to the range," WO2 Moy said.

**Source:** ARMY News 3 April 2025. Photo: CPL Luke Bellman

## THE REAL STORY BEHIND AUSTRALIA'S GREAT EMU 'WAR' OF 1932 ...



### ... And Why They Lost - Twice!

Few world events are as simultaneously hilarious and thought-provoking as Australia's Great Emu War of 1932. True to its name, this extraordinary conflict saw armed soldiers pitted against emus (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*), large flightless birds native to the Australian outback.

The result? A decisive victory - not for the Australians, but for the emus. With their gangly legs, long necks and keen instincts, they proved to be more formidable opponents than anyone anticipated. A war that began with a strategic approach involving machine guns ended with these birds outsmarting their pursuers.

While this event has become a source of amusement over time, the circumstances leading to the war and the reasons for its failure highlight the remarkable biology and resilience of these birds and offer insight into human-wildlife conflict. It's also a reminder that Australians have a history of battling wildlife in unconventional ways.

### Who Fired The First Shots In The Great Emu War of 1932?

Following World War 1, the government incentivized wheat farming, granting land to returned soldiers to support their reintegration. By the early 1930s, however, approximately 20,000 emus migrated to Western Australia's wheat belt during their annual breeding season.

These incursions devastated crops, while plummeting wheat prices during the Great Depression compounded the struggles of the soldier settlers and other farmers. Because their breeding season had coincided with the post-harvest season when crops

were particularly vulnerable, the emus, searching for food and water, wreaked havoc on the farms.

A single emu can consume several kilograms of crops per day, and with tens of thousands of them descending upon the fields, the losses were catastrophic for struggling farmers. Seeking help, farmers turned to the government for a solution, which deployed soldiers armed with machine guns. The mission was simple: cull the emus and protect the wheat. However, simplicity in planning does not guarantee success in execution.

### Why the Emu War was a Military Operation turned Exercise into Frustration

The initial operation commenced in November 1932, with Major G.P.W. Meredith leading the charge. Armed with Lewis guns and accompanied by local farmers (many of whom were ex-soldiers themselves), they sought to ambush the emus. Yet, what seemed like an easy target quickly turned into an exercise in frustration.

The emus demonstrated remarkable group dynamics and evasion tactics. They would scatter upon sensing danger, making it nearly impossible to target more than one or two at a time. They were also fast. Their running speed (up to a blazing 31 mph) and zigzag running patterns rendered machine gun fire ineffective. One humbled soldier reportedly remarked that the birds seemed to possess "military tactics of their own."

After a week of skirmishes, with over 2,500 rounds fired and only a handful of emus killed, the operation was deemed a failure. A second operation followed later that month, but results remained dismal as these flightless birds continued to elude capture and culling.

*story continues next page ...*

### **Emu state barrier fence - emu wars**



... continued from previous page

By December, the government withdrew military forces and conceded defeat. The war officially ended with the emus' survival unchallenged and farmers still grappling with their crop losses.

### What makes Emus 'Immune' to gunfire?

One of the largest birds on Earth, second only to the ostrich, *Dromaius novaehollandiae* is native to Australia and well-adapted to surviving in the harsh outback environment.

Emus have strong legs that enable them to reach high speeds and allow them to traverse long distances in search of food and water. They are opportunistic feeders, consuming a variety of plants, seeds and insects. Their robust digestive systems allow them to thrive on sparse and nutritionally variable diets.

During breeding seasons, emus travel in large groups, which likely contributed to their ability to evade human intervention during the war. Social structures and group dynamics further enhance their survival, as individuals can act as sentinels, warning others of danger.

Moreover, their feathers provide insulation and camouflage, blending seamlessly with the Australian scrubland. Combined with acute eyesight and hearing

that allowed them to scatter immediately upon detecting approaching threats from far away, they were very difficult for the military to surprise, capture or shoot.

### What was the result of the Great Emu War of 1932?

The Great Emu War's comedic reputation hides serious issues about human-wildlife conflict. The farmers' struggle was emblematic of broader challenges in managing invasive or overabundant species, particularly in agricultural settings.

Modern wildlife management strategies emphasize coexistence and sustainable practices over militaristic solutions. And interestingly, the emus' resilience in the war earned them a place of respect in Australian culture.

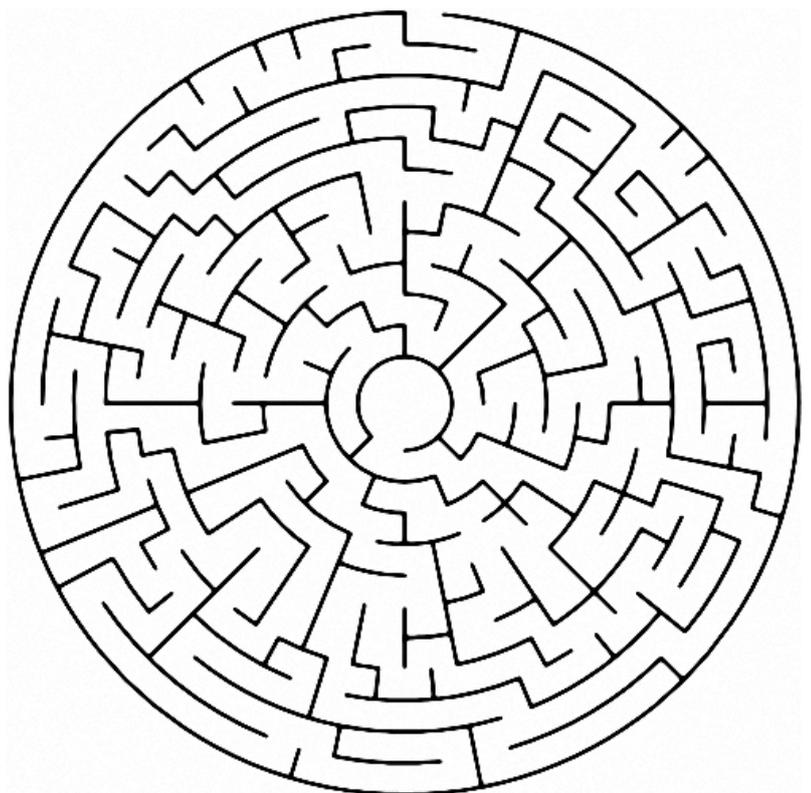
That's not to say *Dromaius novaehollandiae* was an unknown entity before the war. They are, in fact, featured on the country's coat of arms alongside kangaroos and are unofficially considered the national bird of Australia.

The very traits that led to their "victory" in 1932 - adaptability, persistence and resourcefulness - make them an enduring icon of Australia's unique biodiversity.

**Source:** FORBES by Scott Travers, Dec 26, 2024

**Can you find  
your way  
through the  
Maze?**

(Solution is on the next page)

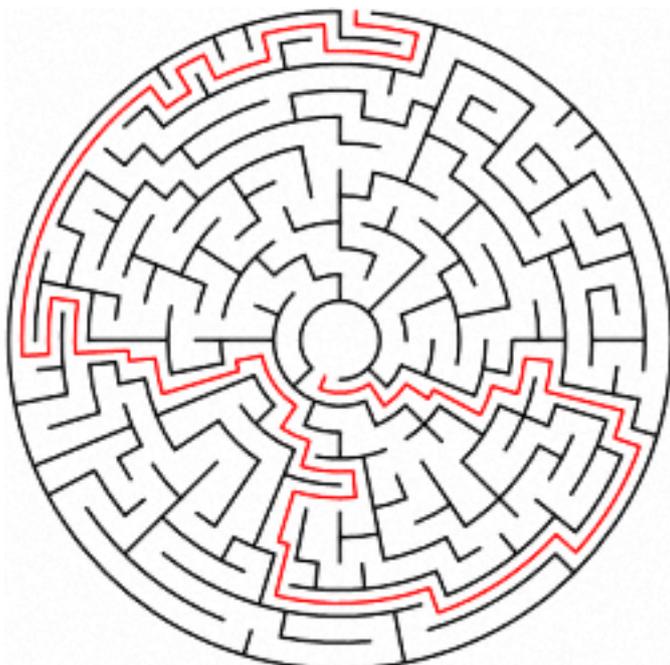


# 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date/Time	Event	Location	Organised By / Remarks
20 Jul 1200 (Sun)	<b>Black Hat Catch Up</b>	Beenleigh RSL, Mt Warren Park	Treasurer to Organise
21 Aug 1500hrs (Thurs)	<b>Management Committee Mtg</b>	Legacy House	President/ Secretary
23 Aug 1200hrs (Sat)	<b>Victoria Barracks Tour</b>	Petrie Terrace	Graeme Brown / CAPT Catts
13 Sep 1200hrs (Sat)	<b>Black Hat Luncheon</b>	K-W RSL	Committee
09 Oct 1500 (Thurs)	<b>Management Committee Mtg</b>	Legacy House	President/ Secretary
31 Oct (Fri)	<b>Beersheba Day Celebration</b>	TBC	Committee
08 Nov (Sat)	<b>Black Hat BBQ &amp; Drinks</b>	41 Club	Committee
Nov-Dec (Date TBA)	<b>Dine Out CO, RSM &amp; HON COL</b>	United Service Club	Secretary
11 Dec 1500 (Thurs)	<b>Management Committee Mtg and Xmas Drinks</b>	Legacy House Drinks loc tba	President/ Secretary
12 Dec (TBC)	<b>Regt end of year Parade</b>	Unit	Unit/SB
<b>2025 DATE TBA</b>	<b>RHEINMETALL TOUR</b>	<b>Redbank</b>	<b>RDA / Committee</b>
<b>NOTES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad hoc catch-up coffees: see details on our social media pages</li> <li>• Ad hoc bike rides and 4WD days: see details on our social media pages</li> </ul>		
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b>	2/14 FB: 2/14 LHR Association and Black Hats FB: Black Hats North Side Brisbane		

## Maze Solution

(Did you get it first go?)



# NOMINAL ROLL JUNE 2025

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME(S)	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME(S)	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME(S)
APPLEBY	GORDON MALCOLM	FALLEN	STAFFORD ERNEST	METRIKAS	DAVID
BALKIN	RODNEY JOHN	FARMER	MILES WILMOT	MILLAR	GARRY DAVID
BARLOW	PETER GEOFFREY	FAY	BOYD JAMES	MILLER	TALAN BENJAMIN
BARTHOLOMEW	COLIN EDWARD	FERGUSON	BRUCE MACMILLAN	MOLLER	PETER NEVILLE
BEAUCHAMP	PETER	FINLAY	ROBERT GRAYDEN	MORRIS	KEITH EDWARD
BELL	PAUL JAMES	FLOOD	ALAN	MOYNIHAN	JEREMY
BIRBECK	IAN WILLIAM	FLYNN	TREVOR	MURDOCH	GLYNN PATRICK
BIRD	RICHARD	GALLAGHER	CHRISTOPHER	MYERS	GREGORY FRANCIS
BIRD	STEPHEN RALPH	GAUDRON	DARRYL CLIVE	NOBES	ANTHONY JOHN
BISHOP	JOHN THOMAS	GIBB	ROSLYN RAE	NOFFKE	SELWYN GEORGE
BLYTH	COLIN ROBERT	GIBB	MALCOLM	O'DONNELL	MICHAEL MELLIN
BORDUJENKO	GLENN MICHAEL	GILL	GEOFFREY BURTON	O'GORMAN	PETER DARMID
BRETT	FREDRICK	GOMERSALL	ROSS LAWRENCE	O'BRIEN	GEOFFREY VINCENT
BREWER	MARK	GRIFFITHS	TREVOR	O'ROURKE	THOMAS JAMES
BRIDGEMAN	DARRYL ROBERT	HARBOUR	JUSTIN SCOTT	OVENDEN	ROBERT GEORGE
BROADBENT	DAVID GEOFFREY	HARDY	SIMON DESMOND	PATULLO	RODNEY DAVID
BROOKES	DANIEL	HATFIELD	BRIAN JOHN	PEAKE	GREGORY JOHN
BROWN	DARREN	HAYDEN	CHRIS	PEPPER	JOHN EDWARD
BROWN	CHARLES FRANCIS GEOFFREY	HAYES	BERNARD JAMES	PHILLIPS	KENNETH ROY
BROWN	GRAEME RODNEY	HENDERSON	ANDREW	PITCHER	GREG JOHN
BROWN	JASON BOURKE	HENSLER	JOHN	POOLE	ROBERT GEORGE
BROWN	DIANE LESLEY	HERBERT	JOHN PAUL	PORTER	STEPHEN
BROWN	GEORGE	HERMANN	BRUCE RONALD	PROUDFOOT	PETER CAMERON
BUNKER	COLIN LESLIE	HOHN	ROD JAMES	QUALISCHEFSKI	GEOFFREY LLOYD
BURFORD	MATTHEW THOMAS	HOLDEN	PETER DAMIEN	REDDAN	IAN LAURENCE
BURKE	ANTHONY JOSEPH	HOLDER	GARY JAMES	REWKO	PETER MICHAEL
BURLEY	SHAYNE	HOLDER	WENDY ANN	ROCHE	MICHAEL JAMES
BURNELL	JEFF	HOLLAND	CORY DARRYL KENNY	RUSHBY	PETER ROY
BURNS	CHRISTOPHER MARK	IZATT	DAVID JOHN	RUSSELL	GEOFFREY ALAN
BURROWS	GRAEME JAMES	JACKWITZ	KEVIN HERMANN	SALMON	STEVEN GARY
CASHIN	DANIEL GRAHAM	JARDINE-VIDGEN	GRAHAME LASCELLES	SARGENT	DARREN
CATTS	ADELE	JENSSEN	ERIK JOHN	SCAYSBROOK	JASON
CHALMERS	DAVID HUGH	JOHNS	ALEXANDER FRANCIS	SCHMIDT	DARRYL EDWARD
CHAPMAN	ROBERT GEORGE	JORDAN	BON BARRY	SCHURR	JASON DAVID
CHAPPEL	DEAN	JORDAN	RAY	SHEPHERD	KEITH EDWARD PATRICK
CHAPPEL	KAREN	KEARNES	JOHN SUMMER	SINCLAIR	TERRY ANDREW
CHETCUTI	WAYNE	KEENAN	PATRICK	SPATARO	GIUAEPPE
CHILDS	THOMAS EDWARD	KENNEDY	MICHAEL DAMIEN	STEPHENS	CHRIS
CHIVERS	ALEXANDER FRANCIS	LANE	BRETT	STEWART	TIMOTHY JAMES
CLARKE	BRADLEY ALLEN	LANE	RICKEY JOHN	STOCKS	ANDREW MARK
CLEGG	ANDREW	LANG	RODNEY IAN	STRICKLAND	MARK
CLEMENT	JAMES ANTHONY	LAWLER	PHILIP GEOFFREY	SULLIVAN	RUSSELL LEONARD
COKLEY	TERENCE PATRICK	LEGGETT	JOHN	THWAITE	MAURICE HENRY
COLEMAN	PAUL MCKENZIE	LESLIE	DEREK PETER	VONK	ROBERT WILLIAM
COUGHLIN	JOAN MARY	LILLIEBRIDGE	PHILLIP	WADESON	ANTHONY
COX	NIGEL BRENDON	LILLIEBRIDGE	PRISCILLA ELLEN	WAIT	GARRY JOHN
CRAWFORD	SCOTT MCIVOR	LITKOWITZ	TERRY DON	WALTON	KELLY
CROMBIE	DONALD SUTHERLAND	LOWE	TREVOR	WAYCOTT	WILLIAM GRANT
CROSS	WILLIAM PATRICK	LUCAS	SHANE	WEAR	RUSSELL BARRY
CROSSLEY	MICHAEL	LUNT	ANTHONY	WEBSDANE	CHRISTOPHER ANDREW
DABROWSKI	MICHAEL PATRICK	MAGILL	KIERAN ANTHONY	WHITEMAN	CRAIG
DEVRELL	CHRISTOPHER BRIAN	MARKS	CHRISTOPHER ROSS	WILCOX	DARREN ANDREW
DICKSON	FRANK ERIC	MARTIN	MICHAEL	WILDING	STEVEN JAMES
DIMMICK	GORDON JAMES	MARTIN	ROBERT BRUCE	WILLIAMS	PETER
DODD	ROY ANTHONY	MCCROHAN	SCOTT ANDREW	WILLIAMS	GREGORY ALAN
DUFF	IAIN A	MCDONALD	GLENN ANDREW	WILSON	DARRYL
DUNN	TIMOTHY JOHN	MCDONALD	WILLIAM JOHN	WILSON	JOHN ARTHUR WILLIAM
EFSTATHIS	VLASIS	MCMILLAN	ALEXANDER DAVID		
EHRICH	GRAHAM	MCNAMARA	GRAHAM LAWRENCE		
ELWELL	LEONARD JOHN	MCQUILLAN	MATTHEW		
ERIKSEN	JAMES ROBERT GEORGE	MEECHAM	MAURICE WILLIAM		