

FORWARD

Newsletter #52 - April 2026



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

KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED AND CONNECTED

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2026.

This newsletter is intended to keep members informed, connected and up to date with what's happening within our community. We look forward to sharing more regular updates throughout the year.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of two respected members of the CORPs. We extend our sincere condolences on the passing of John Bishop, one of our valued members. John's contribution and presence will be remembered by many and he will be greatly missed.

We also note the passing of General Lawrence O'Donnell, whose service and leadership leave a lasting legacy. Our thoughts are with family, friends and all those who served alongside him during this difficult time.

Please see enclosed further information on these two great and valued members of the Corps

Recent Event – Luncheon at Gaythorne RSL

Our recent luncheon held at the Gaythorne RSL was a wonderful success. It was great to see members come together in a relaxed setting to share stories, reconnect and enjoy each other's company. Events like these are an important part of maintaining the strong sense of camaraderie within our Association. We thank everyone who attended and contributed to making it such an enjoyable occasion. *(Photos from the luncheon are included in this newsletter.)*

Upcoming Events

ANZAC Day

A significant day of remembrance and reflection. We look forward to seeing members attend services and represent the Association.

Once again, we will be marching through Brisbane alongside the 1st Armoured Regiment Association and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

- RV: 1030 hrs
- FUP: George Street (between Charlotte & Mary Sts)
- Look for our Association banner

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Tall Tales Camp

An excellent opportunity for members to get involved, connect, and take part in what promises to be an engaging and memorable experience.

This year, the camp will be held at 144 Mayfield Rd, Cedar Creek, and will feature a collection of military vehicles, including a Centurion tank and other historic vehicles, with the possibility of members being able to drive or ride in them around the area.

Further details regarding dates, requirements (fuel, equipment), and attendance will be shared shortly.

Member Support

If anyone is experiencing difficulties, please don't hesitate to reach out. The Association is here to support you in any way we can, even if it's just a chat on the phone or over coffee.

You can always contact me regarding any matters you think we might be able to assist with. My number is 0431 700 696.

Shayne Burley
President



BLACK HAT LUNCH - MARCH



There was a good rollup of Association members, partners and friends for the Black Friday/Black Hat luncheon at Gaythorne RSL last month.

The event provided an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends and fellow Black Hats.

Great atmosphere, food, company and banter – what better excuse to leave home on a Black Friday!

FIRST BATCH OF NEW BOXER CRVS NOW BUILT



The first batch of Australian built Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles (CRV) have rolled off the assembly line at Rheinmetall Defence Australia's facility at Redbank, Queensland.

The first seven Boxers have now been completed, marking a major milestone for Australia's sovereign defence industry.

A total of 211 Boxers will be built for the Australian Defence Force under the partnership with Rheinmetall Defence Australia, boosting domestic supply chains and creating high-skilled jobs nationwide. This includes the 25 Boxer CRVs built in Germany and already in service with the Australian Army. The partnership with Rheinmetall Defence Australia (RDA) also underscores growing defence industry collaboration between Australia and Germany to deliver critical capabilities for both militaries.

More than 50 Australian companies have been contracted to support RDA in delivering the new fleet of Boxers, providing work for more than 500 people around the country. In addition to these Boxers, RDA will also produce more than 100 Australian made Boxer Heavy Weapon Carrier vehicles for the German Army, in a contract worth more than \$1 billion to the Australian economy.

"This announcement reflects the Albanese government's commitment to a future made in Australia that is providing superior protection and firepower to our ADF personnel but also supporting industry and creating jobs around the country," Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy said.

"We proudly welcome the first seven Australian-built Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles, a world-class capability forged with Australian expertise and Australian steel to protect our soldiers on operations.

"Rheinmetall Defence Australia, their industry partners and a highly skilled Aussie workforce have partnered to deliver this homegrown capability for our ADF. But this partnership with Rheinmetall also shows how closely Germany and Australia are working together on critical military capabilities."

Boxer CRV variants include reconnaissance, command and control, joint fires and surveillance, repair and recovery. The reconnaissance variant features a turret fitted with a 30mm automatic cannon and an anti tank guided missile system.

SOURCE:- DEFENCE CONNECT 27 March 2026

By: Robert Dougherty

ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Anzac Day Timings - the RSM has advised these should be same as last year.

If attending the Dawn Service at Gallipoli Barracks, names and licence numbers are required for entry via Wanimo Gate. Security will be in place to check details upon arrival.

Please forward details immediately to the Association Secretary to ensure access is approved.

Gallipoli Barracks Timings:

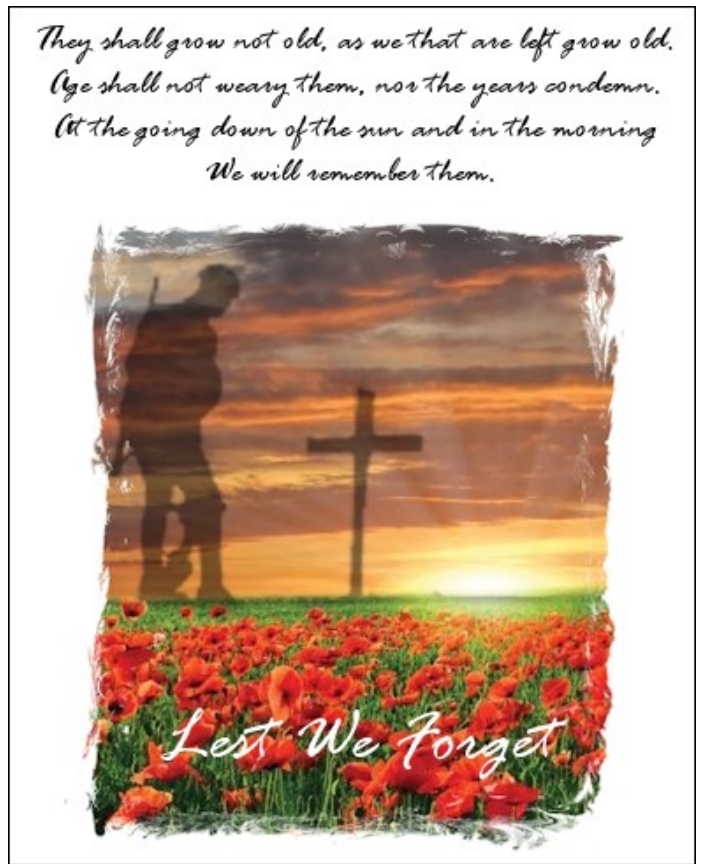
- 0300-0500 Wanimo Gate Open
- 0430 Gun Fire Breakfast 41 Club
- 0530 Service commences in front of RHQ, there should be seating
- 0600 Return to 41 Club
- 0830 All clear the Barracks.

Brisbane CBD March Timings:

We will be marching alongside the 1st Armoured Regiment and 3rd Cavalry Regiment Associations. Look out for our Association's banner.

- 1030 RV & FUP: George Street (between Charlotte & Mary Sts)

RV after the CBD march is the Gaythorne RSL.



CO BIO LTCOL THOMAS JOHNSON

Lieutenant Colonel Johnson commissioned into the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) in 2008 following graduation from the Australian Defence Force Academy with a Bachelor of Business. He completed officer training at the Royal Military College Duntroon and was subsequently allocated to the RAAC.



He has since served in a broad range of regimental, instructional and staff appointments, developing extensive expertise in armoured operations and leadership at the tactical, operational and strategic levels. His early career included command of armoured troops within the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) in the 7th Brigade, followed by sub unit command at the School of Armour. These formative roles provided him with a strong foundation in armoured platforms, doctrine and combined arms employment.

LTCOL Johnson has deployed twice—first in 2012 as a tactical commander of a Mentor Team in Afghanistan, and later in 2016 as a United Nations military observer and operational planner. During his UN service, he worked alongside troop contributing nations in Lebanon and served in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation Headquarters in Jerusalem as a Future Plans Officer.

At the operational and strategic levels, he has served as a planner within the US Army's I Corps Future Plans branch, focusing on Indo Pacific regional partner operations and joint force entry planning. He has also served as the Deputy Director of Current Operations at Headquarters Joint Operations Command. In these roles he contributed to large scale partner and allied planning, joint force entry concepts and ADF contingency operations, gaining valuable insight into Australia's evolving strategic environment.

LTCOL Johnson holds master's degrees in Business (UNSW) and Defence and Strategic Studies (ANU). He is a widower and has three sons—Arlo, Remy and Felix. As a family, they enjoy outdoor activities including cricket, snow skiing, golf and travel.

LTCOL Johnson assumed command of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) in January 2026 and remains committed to serving in future Army, Joint and representational roles in support of Australia's defence capability

RSM BIO WO1 SHANE SMITH CSM

WO1 Smith was born in Southern Queensland in January 1974 and enlisted into the Army Reserve in 1991. He transferred to the Regular Army in 1994, and was allocated into the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. As a junior soldier, WO1 Smith was posted to a multiple armoured units.



WO1 Smith was posted to the School of Armour as a sergeant in 2004; where he completed trade testing qualifications, specialising in Cavalry Gunnery. WO1 Smith was then posted to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry), as a cavalry troop sergeant.

In 2009, WO1 Smith was posted to School of Armour on promotion, where he served as the Warrant Officer Instructor Cavalry at Gunnery Wing. This role prepared him for his next posting back to 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry). WO1 Smith is a subject matter expert in the form and function of sub-unit, unit and formation level tactical command posts.

In 2020, WO1 Smith was posted to the Armoured Vehicle Division within Capability and Sustainment Group, where he filled the role Operations Warrant Officer of the Land 400 Phase Two, Boxer Training Team. In 2021, Warrant Officer Smith was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One and appointed as Senior Instructor of the Boxer Training Team.

WO1 Smith's operational service includes; deployment to East Timor in 1999 on Operation Warden with INTERFET as an armoured personnel carrier crew commander, a United Nations deployment to East Timor in 2002 on Operation's Tanager and Citadel with the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment Battalion Group as an armoured personnel carrier section commander. In 2007 he deployed to Iraq on Operation Catalysts as a cavalry troop sergeant with Over Watch Battle Group (West). WO1 Smith has also deployed on various domestic support operations; including, Operation QLD Flood Assist Two and Operation Civil Assist 2019.

WO1 Smith's individual honours and awards include: an Army Silver Commendation, an Army Bronze Commendation, a United Nations Force Commander's Commendation, a Commanding Officer's Commendation and a Conspicuous Service Medal.

WO1 Smith enjoys spending time with his wife Rebecca, and their three sons; Patrick, Will and Xavier.

ADF DRONE TEAM WINS AGAIN



ADF drone pilots clinch sixth consecutive win at Military International Drone Racing Tournament

More than 76 drone pilots from around the world attended two series of military first-person view (FPV) drone racing competition at Randwick Barracks (NSW) earlier this month, including tactical and racing events.

Teams included those from the Singaporean Army, Australian Army, Australian cadets, Royal Australian Air Force, the UK Army, UK Royal Navy, the Philippine Army, Canadian Army, Indonesian Air Force, UK Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Navy, Australian Veteran Drone Racing Team, DroneShield, BMS Racing and CubePilot.

Australian Army placed first, followed by the Singaporean Army in second and the Australian Army Cadets in third.

“The Aussies and Brits have already kind of formalised it (drone racing) into a military sport, and for us in the US, we have had no version of that (to date),” US Air Force research labs Team USA leader Major Nicholas Guilbeault said.

“There’s a tonne of benefits to that (collaboration with Australia and the UK), which are great, and then also you can tie it directly to the tactical relevance.

“These FPV drones add another tool to the tool chest ... For the Air Force, I’d say more of like a base defence, point defence aspect. The ability to use these as counter-UAS systems.

“In a time when we’re trying to get recruitment and get people interested in joining the military, you show the ability to do something that’s fun and something we’re used to in a gaming sense or a competition sense. And then you can very easily show the next transition down, where you can just serve your country doing something that is not only fun but relevant.

“I think being able to involve like the younger (Australian) cadets here and see that transition through (to military service) is awesome.”

Drones were limited to a five-inch quad drone with a maximum weight of one kilogram.

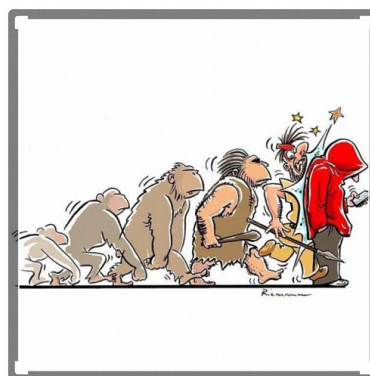
“The five-member Philippine Army contingent, composed of an officer, two enlisted personnel and two reservists, was invited in the competition as part of the Australian Army’s 125th founding anniversary celebration,” according to a statement from the Philippine Army.

“Competing in high-speed first-person view drone events that tested piloting agility, precision targeting and tactical manoeuvring, the feat highlighted the organisation’s commitment to keeping pace with the rapidly evolving field of drone warfare.

“As unmanned aerial systems continue to play an increasingly critical role beyond the traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, the Philippine Army steadfastly capacitates its regular forces and reserve units in meeting the demands of the fast-changing global security landscape.”

SOURCE:- DEFENCE CONNECT
18 March 2026 - Robert Dougherty

**Artificial Intelligence:
Not as great
a threat as
natural
stupidity.**



A GIANT OF THE RAAC HAS PASSED



57033 Lieutenant General Lawrence (Laurie) George O'Donnell, AC MID (1933-2026) passed away on 20 March 2026.

General O'Donnell was born in Quairading, Western Australia. He graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1954, where he was awarded the Queen's Medal, and was commissioned in the RAAC. As an exchange troop leader, he served with the 1st King's Dragoon Guards and was dispatched as part of the British army response to the Malayan Emergency in 1957. As a Major, he was posted to 3rd Cavalry Regiment and deployed to Vietnam where he was Mentioned in Dispatches.

His long and remarkable career serving Australia was characterised by excellence in many roles, including Deputy Chief of General Staff (1984 - 85), Field Force Command, (1985 - 86) Land Commander (1986 - 87) and finally as Chief of the General Staff (1987 - 90).

After retirement he also served as the HONCOL of 1st Armoured Regiment and then the Representative HONCOL of the RAAC. His commitment and contributions to service for the Australian Army was recognised when he was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1986 and a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1989. His success was characterised by his generosity of spirit and is testament to his wisdom and compassion.

JOHN BISHOP ~ CELEBRATING OF HIS LIFE

A wonderful turnout including a number of our Association members marking a fitting tribute to John's dedicated service.

The attendees caught up with others whom they had not seen for quite a long time. The photo of Barb and all the men showed only all blokes, but many wives, relatives and female friends were also in attendance.

John was truly loved by many.



M1E3 ABRAMS MBT MAKES PUBLIC DEBUT

The US Army display, manufactured by Roush Defence, was shown to media and public earlier this week as the next generation of armoured warfare for the US military and potentially other allied armies, such as the Australian Army.

The new main battle tank will reportedly focus on digital systems and interchangeability in capability to move with the rapid pace of evolving technology. The system will allegedly be powered by a commercial diesel engine, a crew of three and, potentially, use an autoloader for its 120mm smoothbore main gun.

It's speculated that the M1E3 display also featured an R400 remote weapon station with a top-mounted Javelin anti-armour missile.

Earlier this month, EOS Defense Systems USA announced it had secured a contract to deliver remote weapon systems to prime contractor General Dynamics Land Systems for integration onto a US Army ground combat vehicle.

“The initial award is for approximately US\$22 million and is expected to result in a signed contract before the end of the year. Work will occur over the next two to three years, with future production efforts expected to extend past 2030,” EOS said.

“EOS will deliver an enhanced RWS, designed specifically to meet the Army’s operational requirements. Manufacturing will take place at EOS’ facility in Huntsville, Alabama, further establishing the company’s presence in the US defence market.” US media organisations have reported that the US Army plans to build four early M1E3 prototypes and full production is planned with General Dynamics Land Systems.

The previously announced M1E3 Abrams Main Battle Tank modernisation program is envisioned to “fight and win against future threats on the battlefield of 2040 and beyond”.

“We appreciate that future battlefields pose new challenges to the tank as we study recent and ongoing conflicts,” according to comments made by Brigadier General Geoffrey Norman, director of the Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Cross Functional Team.



“We must optimise the Abrams’ mobility and survivability to allow the tank to continue to close with and destroy the enemy as the apex predator on future battlefields.”

The US Army will continue to produce the M1A2 SEPv3 at a reduced rate until production transitions to the M1E3 Abrams, and the Army will carry technologies forward into the SEPv4 Abrams modernisation effort.

“The Abrams Tank can no longer grow its capabilities without adding weight, and we need to reduce its logistical footprint,” said Major General Glenn Dean, program executive officer for Ground Combat Systems.

“The war in Ukraine has highlighted a critical need for integrated protections for soldiers, built from within instead of adding on.” Initial operational capability for the M1E3 is anticipated in early the 2030s.

Source: 15 January 2026 By Robert Dougherty



26 MORE GCS MECHANIZED DEMINING MACHINES TO BE DELIVERED TO UKRAINE



Photo by Ministry of Defence

Currently, 62 GCS-200 mechanized demining machines are in operation across various regions of Ukraine. This year, their fleet is expected to be expanded by another 26 units.

Representatives of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine visited the production facilities of the Swiss-German company Global Clearance Solutions in Germany, which develops and tests GCS demining machines. The visit was held at the invitation of the leadership of the company's Ukrainian branch.

The GCS-200 unmanned multi-purpose platform, units of which were delivered last year to a military unit of the Support Forces Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, comes in several modifications. As a tracked vehicle, it boasts exceptional maneuverability, allowing it to turn on the spot with a minimum radius of roughly four meters.

The project is financed by international donors, including the governments of Germany, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Lithuania, as well as through the United24 platform.

Using mechanized demining machines reduces the risks for sappers and accelerates the land clearing process. This was emphasized by Colonel Yevhenii Zubarevskyi, Head of the Mine Action Organization Department — Deputy Head of the Mine Action Directorate of the Main Directorate of Mine Action, Civil Protection, and Environmental Safety.

“Global Clearance Solutions is a global leader in manufacturing robotic demining systems, with its equipment deployed by the Ukraine’s Armed Forces, the State Special Transport Service, the State Emergency Service, and the National Police.

The equipment is actively deployed in the demining of Ukrainian territory. These are reliable, modern systems that have demonstrated their effectiveness in carrying out operations. It is important to note that the company delivers a comprehensive range of services to the Security and Defence Forces, including training and technical support for its machines. In addition to mechanized demining machines, Global Clearance Solutions is developing cutting-edge technologies to automate the demining process, utilizing UAVs and sensors to detect explosive devices,” said Yevhenii Zubarevskyi.

*Source: MINISTRY of DEFENCE of UKRAINE
03 March 2025*



AUSTRALIAN-MADE AS9 HUNTSMAN SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS MADE IN VICTORIA



Hanwha Defence Australia and Aurizn have welcomed the first three Australian-made AS9 Huntsman self-propelled howitzers made in Victoria.

The vehicles were made at the Hanwha Armoured Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Victoria with Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles in attendance, alongside other guests including supply chain partners from around the nation.

Joining the three vehicles (Batch 1 consisting of two AS9s and one AS10, made in South Korea) announced in February last year, these new vehicles represent high-technology vehicle manufacturing coming back to the Geelong region.

Aurizn has successfully delivered a critical secure communications capability for Hanwha Defence Australia (HDA) under the Commonwealth's LAND 8116 Phase 1 program for the Huntsman family of vehicles. Aurizn partnered with Hanwha Defence Australia to design and integrate a secure communications solution that enables sensitive information to move safely between different onboard networks, ensuring operational information can be shared without compromising security.

The capability was developed and rigorously tested at Aurizn's ITAR-Controlled Systems Integration Laboratory in South Australia. Hanwha Defence Australia representatives participated directly in acceptance testing activities at the facility, validating performance prior to a staged rollout across vehicle platforms. "Modern defence capability relies on secure, resilient digital connectivity," Aurizn chief executive officer Rebecca Humble said.

"This milestone reflects the strength of Australia's sovereign engineering expertise and the trust

placed in local industry to support the Australian Army's future force."

Aurizn continues to work with Hanwha Defence Australia to support ongoing rollout and sustainment activities.

LAND 8116 Phase 1 will deliver the Australian Army's AS9 Huntsman self-propelled howitzers and AS10 armoured ammunition resupply vehicles, providing protected mobile fires capability to the manoeuvre system of armoured vehicles and contributing to Australia's evolving defence posture.

"Seeing the first Australian-made AS9s come off the production line and drive their first laps around our test track is a milestone that we're all very proud of," HDA and UK/Europe CEO Ben Hudson said.

"This program will see a game-changing capability introduced to the Australian Army underpinned by a strategic partner in Hanwha Defence Australia. With the K9 User Community now 11 nations strong, the AS9 variant pushes the boundaries of the platform."

SOURCE: DEFENCE CONNECT 27 February 2026

By: Robert Dougherty



BOLD AND LOYAL : THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

Australian Light Horse in World War I

The Light Horse Regiment holds a special place in the hearts of all Australians. The mere mention of the Light Horse conjures images of brave men on their trusted Waler mounts, displaying great horsemanship and courage. The Light Horse Regiment is a reminder of the powerful bond between men and their horses. This bond was forged through years of shared hardships and triumphs, and it is a testament to the strength and fortitude of both man and beast.

Before the war

Before World War I, the Light Horse Regiments were mainly used for territorial defence and reconnaissance. Their role included maintaining order in remote areas and patrolling Australia's vast expanses.

Soldiers who joined the Light Horse

When World War I began, many soldiers with horse experience eagerly joined the Light Horse. These men were skilled horsemen, often from rural backgrounds, and brought their horses with them when they enlisted.

Horses in the army

The horses used by the Australian Light Horse were known as Walers, a sturdy and resilient breed well-suited to the harsh conditions of warfare. They were valued for their endurance, strength, and adaptability.

Light horsemen in combat

As Mounted Infantry, the light horse were not cavalry, but rather had to do the same job as all infantry, with increased mobility. This allowed them to be tasked with reconnaissance, screening patrols, and protection of other troops, whether halted or on the march, from surprise attack. They would operate in sections of four in battle. The lead rider would bring the horses to safety and either stay with them or secure them and join the fight himself when they were close enough to join.

Service in Gallipoli

The Light Horsemen and their mounts saw action in several theatres of war, including Gallipoli. Although they had initially been deployed as infantry without their horses, the Light Horse played a crucial role in the Gallipoli campaign, providing much-needed reinforcements and participating in critical battles such as the Battle of Lone Pine.

In 1917, while most light horsemen were serving in the deserts of Egypt and Palestine, some also saw action on the Western Front at Bullecourt, Ypres and Passchendaele. However, the most famous engage-



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16048

ment involving the light horse was the Charge at Beersheba in October 1917.

The Charge at Beersheba was a courageous and bold attack by the 4th Light Horse Brigade. Eight hundred men galloped across miles of open desert, bayonets in hand, to storm the town. The Turkish defenders had expected the troops to dismount and fight on foot, but instead the 4th and 12th Light Horse regiments charged on, leaping the defenders and taking the town and its vital water wells. This speedy victory turned the tide in the Allied push into Gaza and Jerusalem.

What happened to the Australian Light Horse?

After World War I, the Australian Light Horse units were disbanded. Their horses were mainly left behind due to quarantine restrictions. Some light-horse units continued to serve in Australia but eventually transitioned to mechanised infantry and cavalry units.

Where did the Australian Light Horse fight in WW1?

The Australian Light Horse fought in Gallipoli, the deserts of Egypt and Palestine, and the Western Front at Bullecourt, Ypres, and Passchendaele. How many light horsemen died at Beersheba? 31 light horsemen were killed during the Charge at Beersheba.

When was the last charge of ALH?

The last charge of the Australian Light Horse was the Charge at Beersheba on 31 October 1917. How many Australians died at Beersheba? In total, 31 Australians were killed in action during the Charge at Beersheba.

What happened to the horses of the LH Brigade?

Due to quarantine restrictions, most of the horses of the Light Horse Brigade were left behind after World War.

continues at the bottom of next page ...

FINAL M1A1 ABRAMS TANK DELIVERY TO UKRAINE



Australian M1A1 Abrams tanks bound for Ukraine are unloaded in Europe after arriving from Australia on a cargo ship. Photo: LCDR JA Thompson

Australia has confirmed delivery of all 49 M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks to the Armed Forces of Ukraine under previously announced military assistance.

The majority of the M1A1 tanks were handed to Ukraine in July 2025 and are already in use, according to Defence.

A final delivery was made in December this year, with the latest main battle tanks meeting a direct request to Australia from the government of Ukraine. “The M1A1 tanks equip Ukraine with the capability it needs to defend itself against Russia’s illegal and immoral invasion. The delivery of the M1A1 Abrams

tanks represents our support to Ukraine and our commitment to uphold the global rules-based order,” according to a public statement from Australia’s Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group.

“Thank you to our people from the Australian Defence Force and Public Service as well as contracted organisations working across Australia, at sea, and in Europe who supported the delivery from Geelong through to Ukraine.”

As was announced in January 2022, the Australian Army M1A1 Abrams are to be replaced by the M1A2 fleet. To support the transition, the Australian Army will retain a small number of M1A1 Abrams tanks to assist the introduction of the new M1A2 fleet.

“These tanks will deliver more firepower and mobility to the Ukrainian Armed Forces and complement the support provided by our partners for Ukraine,” Australian Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy said.

“As we face a challenging geostrategic environment, it is important that we continue to work together with our partners around the world to deter aggression and coercion and protect the global rules-based order.”

SOURCE: DEFENCE CONNECT
19 December 2025 | By: Robert Dougherty

... cont. from previous page

Commemorating the Light Horsemen

The courage and dedication of the Light Horsemen continue to be remembered and celebrated in Australia. Memorials, museums, and commemorative events pay tribute to these brave soldiers and their trusted mounts, ensuring their legacy is preserved for future generations.

Source:

The Military Shop – Canberra ACT

Karla Rey - Australian Light Horse - August 15th, 2024



May the 4th be with you!

NEW UNCREWED GROUND COMBAT VEHICLE



BAE Systems Australia has successfully put its new uncrewed ground combat vehicle through a demanding series of trials, marking a significant milestone in the development of Australia's next-generation autonomous land warfare capabilities.

The trials focused on the ATLAS uncrewed ground vehicle, short for Autonomous Tactical Light Armour System, a modular, uncrewed platform designed to operate alongside main battle tanks and combat reconnaissance vehicles on the modern battlefield.

According to BAE Systems Australia, the testing campaign assessed the vehicle across multiple levels of autonomy, ranging from remote teleoperation and waypoint-based navigation through to advanced "sense and avoid" autonomous driving.

The company said the vehicle is now operating as a fully functional prototype demonstrator.

ATLAS was publicly unveiled at Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition in September 2024 and has since been the focus of an intensive development and test program. The effort reflects growing interest within the Australian Defence Force and allied militaries in autonomous systems that can increase combat power without placing additional soldiers in harm's way.

BAE Systems describes ATLAS as a "combat multiplier", a platform designed to add mass, mobility and firepower while reducing exposure to risk for crewed forces. The vehicle has been engineered to be fast, highly manoeuvrable and capable of oper-

ating across difficult terrain and in harsh environmental conditions, allowing it to keep pace with both tracked and wheeled combat vehicles.

A key feature of the ATLAS Collaborative Combat Variant is its modular payload design. In its assault configuration, the vehicle is fitted with a lightweight, medium-calibre automated turret known as VANTAGE turret, purpose-built for uncrewed platforms. The VANTAGE system integrates BAE Systems' passive multi-spectral Automatic Target Detection, Tracking and Classification System, enabling high levels of automation. The company said this reduces operator workload, supports one-to-many control of multiple uncrewed vehicles, lowers the probability of detection and shortens the time between target identification and engagement.

Andrew Gresham, managing director – defence delivery at BAE Systems Australia, said the rapid progress of the program demonstrated the maturity of the underlying technologies.

"In just 16 months, we have gone from launching ATLAS at Land Forces to operating a fully functional prototype demonstrator," Gresham said.

"ATLAS has been developed to give soldiers a clear advantage on the modern battlefield, delivering the dull, dirty and dangerous tasks that are expected in a high-risk combat environment." He said the company is now actively engaging with potential customers, both in Australia and overseas, as interest grows in autonomous and collaborative combat systems.

The latest autonomous driving trials follow a structured test program that has included factory acceptance testing and live-fire trials of the Vantage turret system in Slovenia in May 2025. BAE Systems said each stage was designed to incrementally prove the platform's survivability, lethality and autonomous performance.

ATLAS is being promoted as a sovereign Australian capability that can increase combat power without increasing manpower, while allowing soldiers to remain at a safer distance from the most dangerous tasks on the battlefield – a concept increasingly central to future land force modernisation efforts.

SOURCE: DEFENCE CONNECT

19 February 2026 By: Stephen Kuper

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date/Time	Event	Location	Organised By / Remarks
Apr 16 1500 (Thurs)	Management Committee Mtg	TBC	President/ Secretary
April 25 (Sat)	ANZAC DAY • Dawn Service • March • Post march beers	2/14 LHR QMI Lines Enoggera Brisbane City TBC	TBC by RSM Committee to Organise
May 02 (Sat)	Corps Dinner (Arrival Drinks Fri 01 May)	School of Armour (Accom/Travel at own expense)	Via Secretary to Tim Finn
May 14 1500 (Thurs)	Management Committee Mtg	TBC	President/ Secretary
May 22 1500 (Fri)	AGM + Member/Guest Dinner	Gaythorne RSL	President/ Secretary
Jun 20/21 (Sat/Sun)	Association Tall Tales Camp	TBC (Samford)	VP to Organise / Brett Lane
Jul 19 1200 (Sun)	RAAF Amberley	Amberley RAAF Base Heritage Centre visit	GB Membership / Details TBA
Aug 20 1500hrs (Thurs)	Management Committee Mtg	TBC	President/ Secretary
Aug 23 1200hrs (Sun)	Black Hat Family Lunch	Greenbank RSL	Assistant Secretary / PAYG
Sep 19 TBAhrs (Sat)	Wine Tasting & Family Picnic	O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Winery	Committee / Wine Tasting or BYO. Hampers available.
Oct 08 1500 (Thurs)	Management Committee Mtg	TBC	President/ Secretary
Oct 31 (Sat)	Beersheba Day Celebration	TBC	Committee
Nov 07 (Sat)	Black Hat BBQ & Drinks	41 Club	Committee
Dec 10 1500 (Thurs)	Management Committee Mtg and Xmas Drinks	41 Club TBC	President/ Secretary
Dec Date TBC	Regt End of Year Parade	Unit	Unit/SB
NOTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Friday there is a catch-up coffee at 1000hrs at Pepper and Salt Keperra Shopping Centre • Ad hoc catch-up coffees as detailed on social media ... 2/14 FB: 2/14 LHR Association and Black Hats FB: Black Hats North Side Brisbane 		

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

The President and Management Committee
welcome a new member of the Association:

Dean CLEMENTS

NOMINAL ROLL APRIL 2026

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