

TREAD AND TRACK



A publication of the Defence Transport Heritage Tasmania

Issue 54 May 2024



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

051586

Launceston, Tasmania. 4 May 1943, members of the Specialists' Group of 12th Australian Infantry Training Battalion, greasing and making minor repairs to Bren Gun Carrier 3017. Left to right Sergeant C.M Keane and Private B.G. De Jersey.

Photo credit: Australian War Memorial

Editorial

Thanks to everyone who provided input to the newsletter. There is a large variety of information in this edition so should make for interesting reading.

I'm always interested in receiving input from other members to keep the newsletter content relevant so please think of anything you may be able to provide for future newsletters. The next newsletter (Issue 55) will be issued sometime in early August.

Also check out the Defence Transport Heritage Tasmania page on Facebook for more regular updates.

Ian Patrick – Editor

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From the President

Hi All,

What a busy few months of the year!

Hopefully things will quieten up from now on, with the next event being HAMST Fair in Hobart in October.

I have heard a lot of comments on how good all the vehicles looked on Anzac Day this year.

Well done all involved!

Ian finally got his carrier registered and made front page of The Sunday Examiner.

Hope someone kept a copy? Well Done.

Also, a big thank you to David (Pantha Tilt Trays Legana) for delivery and pickup of Ian's Carrier on the day at no cost. Much appreciated!

As an update to the proposed Incorporation of the Club, the Rules and Model constitution were circulated to club members in Late march with responses requested by mid-April. Several suggestions were received and the documents updated to reflect that. A special Committee meeting will be held in the next few months to discuss the way forward from here with the Incorporation.

Couple of other notes;

1. The club will not be ringing people if your vehicle registration or membership has expired.
2. Vehicle Regos- Refer details on Page 5:

Just want to make sure we are all on the same page;

- For VC Registration-you must be a financial member of an approved club.
- Have your membership card or a copy with you when driving (proof of membership)
- Fill in your logbook for the journey (Private or Club event)

If for some reason you forget to pay or renew your club membership, don't drive your vehicle.

" IT IS A REQUIREMENT"

Thanks

Brad Schramm

President DTHT

Upcoming Club Trips or Events Schedule

Below is a list of prospective upcoming events for Club members.

Details will be issued via email following confirmation if required.

Event	Location	Date and Time
2024		
HAMST Military History Fair (Refer attached invitation letter) RSVP by 13 May 2024	HAMST Club Rooms Glenorchy	12 and 13 October 2024
Tasmanian Heritage and Militaria Fair (Refer attached invitation letter)	AgFest Site 415 Oaks Rd, Carrick TAS 7291	29 November 2024 to 1 December 2024
Christmas Lunch	TBA	TBA
2025		
Annual General Meeting	TBA	TBA
Corowa Swim-in (Year of the Mack and Unimog)	Corowa	Monday 10 March to Sunday 196 March 2025

Please advise via email if you have any Club events ideas which you would like added to the schedule for the next Newsletter issue.

Information for Members

VC Registrations

Vehicle inspections are now able to be undertaken for people wishing to register a vehicle on Club (VC) Registration. Please contact a Club Office or Committee member as listed on Page 2 to arrange an inspection with a Club Inspector if you have a vehicle ready to inspect.

At this stage it is intended that the Club only allows VC Registration of Club themed vehicles (i.e. Military Vehicles).

Please also read the requirements of VC Registration on the Service Tas website so you are aware of how the VC Registration applies. Link below or search on the Service Tasmania Website for VC Registration.

[Apply to register a vintage vehicle or street rod | Service Tasmania](#)

Some key information extracted from the website is provided below:



Vintage and street rod registration is known as club event registration. You must be a member of a recognised car club to have vehicles registered under club event registration.

- *You will have conditions placed on the use of the vehicle including how many days per year you can drive it.*
- *You must have the vehicle inspected by an authorised official of a recognised car club. Contact your car club for details.*
- *If your application is successful, you pay a reduced MAIB premium and you do not pay motor tax.*
- *The vehicle must have been manufactured 30 years ago or more to be classed as a vintage vehicle.*
- *You can use the vehicle for a maximum of 30 days per year outside of club events*.*
- *You must carry a logbook at all times when you use the vehicle outside of club events.*

*Use of a VC registered vehicle can be considered a “club event” if the event is listed in the “Upcoming Club Trips or Events Schedule” in the club newsletter. This won’t use up the allowable 30 days of use per year.

Please note: Service Tasmania now require a copy of your Annual Club Membership receipt or proof of membership to maintain VC vehicle registrations. Also, your VC Registration with DTHT is only valid if you are a current financial member of DTHT.

Information for Members

Club Clothing

For members wishing to order a polo shirt or jacket with the Club logo, please see the “Club Items for Sale” section of the newsletter.



We’re also currently investigating the addition of Men’s Bisley drill shirts with the Club Logo as shown to the right.

These shirts will also be available at sometime in the near future. The sizing is very similar to the Club polo shirts. I assume the shirts are uni-sex although there is a womens shirt available in a similar style. Price range is around \$45 each with the logo.

Please contact Ann if you would like to order one of these shirts so we can work out numbers for the order.



Club Trips and Event Reports

War Animal's Memorial – By Ian Patrick

Brad and I attended the War Animals Remembrance Day at the Campbell Town Cenotaph on 24 February 2024. We were joined by a couple of members from HAMST with their vehicles for the Military Vehicle Display.



There was a good turnout of people and there were some very interesting stories told by the speakers about the exploits of animals serving during Australia's wartime.





Thanks to Terese Binns from the Northern Tasmanian Light Horse Troop for inviting us to attend.

2024 Wynyard Show – Photos By Steve Wilson



Photos from Steve Wilson who attended the Wynyard Show in mid-March with his carrier in support of the Wynyard RSL Sub-Branch.

Good work Steve. The carrier is looking great.

Corowa 2024 – Year of the Blitz 3 – By Brad Schramm

Both Ian and myself travelled up this year. Initially we were going to travel directly to Canberra to look at the War Memorial but due to other reasons decided not to go in the end.

I did a day sailing this year arriving in Geelong around 9pm. The temperature outside the ship travelling up Port Phillip Bay was a staggering 37 C. It was roasting.

The entire trip I was trying to book some accommodation for Sat night but had no luck due to the long weekend!

I decided to get off the ship and keep driving till I was too tired.

I ended up stopping at a service centre on the Hume Hwy near Glenrowan, sleeping in the back of the Ute!!! and being woken by horses.

The next morning I had a missed call from Ian who was only an hour down the road.

We decided to travel to Tumut and catch up with some of Ian’s mates who also collect military vehicles and along the way stopped at Holbrook for a break and a look at the Oberon class submarine in the middle of town.



Beautiful Rolling bare hills and mountains approaching Tumut and great views. Ian told me massive bushfires passed through the area back in 2019 and were once all covered with trees!

Driving up hills means driving down hills and hard on brakes so we gave the Perentie a rest at the bottom after the brakes were cooked.

Greg and his wife live on a farm on the outskirts of Tumut. We stayed a couple of nights on their property and they couldn't do enough for us both. To Greg and Claire a big “Thankyou”.



Greg was putting the final touches on his beautifully restored NR9 Mack truck which he was taking to Corowa for its inaugural trip.

Another friend of Ian's, David also living on a nearby property, and an avid collector was getting vehicles ready for Corowa, showed us some of his collection of Military Vehicles.





We departed Tumut Tuesday morning and had a quick look at Blowering Dam on the way, heading to Corowa and booked into the Corowa Caravan Park



Wednesday and Thursday pretty much hung around the Ball Caravan Park looking at vehicles and bits and pieces for sale, trying to find all the bargains!





Friday headed over to Bandiana Museum which never disappoints!





Back to Corowa had Chinese takeaway for tea and a few beers with mates, which was the last night for me.

Saturday, I didn't see the street parade in town but headed to the showgrounds to see what was for sale.

Greg had his bofors gun at Corowa and set it up for operation.

This gun has the post-war electronic upgrades with electric motors powering the gun elevation and traverse mechanism and also electronic sights as shown to the below. The bofors gun was being towed around Corowa by Warren from Goulburn's recently restored No. 6 Chevy Blitz Artillery Tractor.



I had to be on the boat Saturday night so departed Corowa around 6pm and arrived in Geelong about 1045pm with the ship departing at 1245am.

Back into Devonport Sun at 1145am.

Probably one of the best Corowa trips I have had and some words of advice;

Note 1 "Take plenty of cash".

Note 2 "Take plenty of cash".

ANZAC Day 2024

Photos below of the various ANZAC Day Parades from around the state attended by DTHT Members. Thanks to everyone who was involved.

Launceston Parade (Photos from Ann Eagling)

A letter of appreciation was received from the Launceston RSL for the DTHT support of the ANZAC Day Parade. A copy of the letter is attached to this newsletter.



As mentioned by Brad in his Presidents report, I would also like to include a shout out of appreciation to **Pantha Tilt Trays** in Legana who offered to transport my Carrier from Glengarry to Launceston for the Anzac Day parade free of charge. If you need any vehicles transported, I would highly recommend giving David a call: **0408 078 373**.



The carrier in the Launceston parade made it onto the cover of the Sunday Examiner:



Brad and Harry in the George Town Parade:



Military Vehicles

1923 Ford Model T – By Geoff Reddish

I bought this locally in muddy creek Legana. With broken starter and in a shed about 5 years.



It was the Legana bakery van (original configuration above) and was sold to a North Islander in 1975.

Apparently attended numerous car rallies over times. Not sure how it got back to Legana but the last owner was leaving for the UK this year after owning it for 5 years.

Everything seems complete but I'm having trouble getting it to start as I've never before used an engine with spark coils. This means no distributor and means lots of tricky fiddling.



This is how it currently looks in civilian ambulance trim:

I'll be setting it up as a military ambulance.

Military Vehicles

Carrier 2814 – By Ian Patrick

After many years of collecting, cleaning and assembling parts for Carrier 2814, it is now back to running and driving condition. This was more of an “original patina” refurbishment rather than a full restoration.

After finishing the suspension as I wrote about in the last newsletter, I fitted the tracks and the carrier was ready to drive.



My first attempt at driving the carrier was not a success with the clutch appearing to be stuck, not allowing me to engage a gear with the engine running. I could get it into gear without the engine running so started it in gear and drove to the end of the driveway. Not having an operating clutch, I switched the engine off and came to a stop, then put it in reverse and started it up again and headed backwards along the driveway. With the poor rearward visibility from the drivers position in the carrier and lacking a clutch I didn't get far before running off the side of the driveway so came to a stop and towed the carrier back to the shed.



The following weekend a group of fellow carrier owners, Brad, Barry and Mike dropped by and assisted in putting the finishing touches on the carrier.

The first thing to fix was the sticking clutch, Barry suggested a few things to free it up which seemed to work as it was now functioning correctly. Once that was fixed, I drove the carrier down the driveway and attempted the first braked turn to the right but that didn't work well. The carrier seemed to be lacking power, especially when trying to undertake a braked turn. As it turned out I was in third gear, thinking it was first gear until Barry pointed out that travelling forwards seemed to be a lot faster than when I was in reverse gear. After putting it in first gear there was a marked improvement to both the power and steering but was still difficult to turn to the right.

Brad was able to bend like a contortionist in the driving compartment and after some tinkering and adjustments to the steering linkages and brakes, the carrier was now steering well in both directions.

Brad then took the carrier for a spin in the paddock and all was going well until the radiator cap failed and spurted water out all over the place so the carrier was slowly driven back to the shed to cool down.



The next step was fitting the exhaust pipes to the carrier which required some ingenuity in order to get enough room to work beneath the hull. Brad suggested a spot near the culvert under the driveway and it ended up being a perfect location.

Mike and Brad did an excellent job of fitting the exhaust pipes beneath the carrier which made sitting in the back of the carrier when driving slightly more tolerable.

We finished off the weekend by refitting the engine cover and rear tool plate. All in all it was a successful weekend getting the carrier from basically stationary to drivable. Thanks to Brad, Barry and Mike for their assistance.

A few minor things still needed work such as the loss of cooling water through the radiator overflow pipe continuing to be an issue and more recently a blocked fuel system preventing the carrier from starting.



All issues have now been sorted and the Carrier passed its registration inspection on 6 April 2024 and was registered in time for the Anzac Day Parade in Launceston.

Military Vehicle History

A WWII Russian tank found with German markings after 56 years

Story sent in by Matt Daly

WW II Buffs will find this interesting...Even after 56 years (and a little tinkering); they were able to fire up the Diesel Engine!

A Komatsu D375A-2 pulled an abandoned tank from its archival tomb under the bottom of a lake near Johvi, Estonia. The Soviet-built T34/76A tank had been resting at the bottom of the lake for 56 years. According to its specifications, it's a 27-tonne machine with a top speed of 53km/h.

From February to September 1944, heavy battles were fought in the narrow, 50 km-wide, Narva front in the north-eastern part of Estonia. Over 100,000 men were killed and 300,000 men were wounded there. During battles in the summer of 1944, the tank was captured from the Soviet army and used by the German army (This is the reason that there are German markings painted on the tank's exterior. On 19 September 1944, German troops began an organized retreat along the Narva front. It is suspected that the tank was then purposefully driven into the lake, abandoning it when its captors left the area.

At that time, a local boy walking by the lake Kurtna Matasjarv noticed tank tracks leading into the lake, but not coming out anywhere For two months he saw air bubbles emerging from the lake. This gave him reason to believe that there must be an armoured vehicle at the lake's bottom A few years ago; he told the story to the leader of the local war history club 'Otsing'. Together with other club members, Mr. Igor Shedunov initiated diving expeditions to the bottom of the lake about a year ago. At the depth of 7 metres they discovered the tank resting under a 3-metre layer of peat.

Enthusiasts from the club, under Mr Shedunov's leadership, decided to pull the tank out. In September 2000 they turned to Mr Aleksander Borovkov the manager of the Narva open pit of the stock company AS Eesti Polevkivi, to rent the company's Komatsu D375A-2 bulldozer. Currently used at the pit, the Komatsu dozer was manufactured in 1995, and has 19,000 operating hours without major repairs.

The pulling operation began at 09:00 and was concluded at 15:00, with several technical breaks. The weight of the tank, combined with the travel incline, made a pulling operation that required significant muscle. The D375A-2 handled the operation with power and style. The weight of the fully armed tank was around 30 tons, so the active force required to retrieve it was similar. A main requirement for the 68-ton dozer was to have enough weight to prevent shoe-slip while moving up the hill.

After the tank surfaced, it turned out to be a trophy tank that had been captured by the German army in the course of the battle at Sinimaed (Blue Hills) about six weeks before it was sunk in the lake. Altogether, 116 shells were found on board. Remarkably, the tank was in Good Condition, with NO RUST, and ALL SYSTEMS (except the engine) in working condition. This is a very rare machine, especially considering that it fought both on the Russian and the German sides. Plans are under way to fully restore the tank. It will be displayed at a war history museum that will be founded at the Gorodenko village on the left bank of the River Narv.

Preparing to pull it out.



People from the nearby village come to look how it would be done.



Komatsu D375A-2 is ready to go.



Here it comes...



Through muddy shore of the lake





In mint condition.



Hosing off 62 years worth of "muck."





As far it has been known, after a small repair and service they were able to start its diesel engine.

They don't build 'em like they used to!

Club Items for Sale

DTHT Hats and Mugs are available purchase. Please contact Ann if interested. Contact details on page 2.

- Hats \$15.00 each (Available in green or cream colour)
- Mugs \$15.00 each



We now also have Soft Shell Jackets, Vests and Polo Shirts available for members via order (order to size). Please contact Ann if interested. Contact details on page 2.



- Soft shell jackets or vests with the Club Logo. Can also have your name embroidered on it. Around \$78.00 each
- Polo shirt with the Club Logo. Can also have your name embroidered on it. Around \$36.00 each

THE LAUNCESTON RSL SUB-BRANCH

of the Tasmanian Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Inc)

ABN 29 498 431 085

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26 Apr 24

Mr Tony Eagling
Defence Transport Heritage Tas
28 Ormond St
Launceston Tas 7250

Dear Tony,

Thank you for the support you gave to the Launceston RSL Sub-Branch in the conduct of ANZAC Day activities.

Your participation in this year's commemoration of ANZAC Day March was greatly appreciated by our members and those that attended the service. The service you provide to the ANZAC Day March is invaluable. Please pass on my personal thanks to all those Drivers that participated.

We look forward to your continued support and participation in future ANZAC Day services.

Yours sincerely,



Derek Bruce

Vice President
Launceston RSL Sub-Branch
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The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance
LEST WE FORGET



HISTORICAL ARMS and MILITARY SOCIETY of TASMANIA

PO Box 59 Kingston, Tasmania 7010

5th April 2024

Patron, Peter Hodge – *RDF RETD*

Dear Ann

The Historical Arms & Military Society of Tasmania (HAMST) is a non-profit society which endeavours to assist the community with military remembrance events. Its members have a passion for collecting and researching our military history to ensure this important part of Australian history is preserved.

Due to the success of the 2023 “Military History Fair” the Society is planning to again run this event in 2024. The event will be held at the HAMST clubrooms 322 Main Road, Glenorchy from 9am -3pm on **Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th October 2024.**

We are expecting an increase in military displays and as part of the fair would like to again offer Defence Heritage Transport Tasmania the opportunity to be part of this event with your military vehicles. The theme this year will be remembering the “Redball Express” (supply transport from Normandy to Berlin) and with that in mind we invite WW2 vehicles to be part of the convoy and other military vehicles/displays to be a stand alone display within the grounds.

We will have obtained all necessary council approval and public liability for the event. The area has good access and a separate solid road base and security, as it was previously the old bowling greens. Should your members be able to assist, the entry fee will be waived and there is sufficient area for camping on site with the use of the clubrooms should this be preferred. This year we plan to supply a mobile shower for your convenience.

Although the event is planned for some months away, we would ask RSVP: **13th May 2024** as this will allow us sufficient time for planning and to include your group in our advertising.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Kind Regards

Steve Denholm

Steve Denholm

(HAMST President) (stephen.denholm7@gmail.com) (0431089626)



SSAA Militaria Collectors Tasmania Inc

PO Box 350 Glenorchy Tasmania 7010

ABN 19 506 674 593

SSAA T17

Website: www.milcolt.org.au

Email: ssaamilcolt@gmail.com

Dear Invitee

We are thrilled to extend this invitation for our upcoming Tasmanian Heritage and Militaria Fair, an event that promises to be a celebration of Tasmanian heritage and military history. This fair will feature a wide range of historically significant displays, including military vehicles, artillery, a light horse display, medieval Armour, sword fighting, and firearms displays. In alignment with the Tasmanian Firearms Act of 1996, licensed firearms dealers will be present, with strict controls to ensure that no firearms or ammunition leave the event site. Additionally, we will have armed security guards on-site to ensure the safety and security of the displays overnight.

Event Date: (29th Setup) 30th November to 1st December 2024

Event Location: Quercus Rural Park utilising 5 sheds 21m x 30m, Function Centre with commercial Kitchen, Bar, Meeting Room and surrounding grassed areas. Optional use of function centre accommodation at rear or Camping in the grounds.

Objective: The Tasmanian Heritage and Militaria Fair aims to pay tribute to Tasmania's rich history, military heritage. The event will provide an immersive experience for attendees to view historical artefacts.

Event Highlights:

- **Historical Displays:** The fair will feature a wide variety of historical displays,
 - Military vehicles
 - Artillery
 - Light Horse display
 - Medieval Armour
 - Sword fighting
 - Displays of historical significance Firearms
- **Licensed Firearms Dealers:** Licensed firearms dealers will be in attendance, providing visitors with the opportunity to explore and purchase firearms. Strict arrangements will be made to ensure that no firearms leave the event site, and any sales will be scheduled for a later date at a licensed location. Approvals will be sort from Tasmania Police Firearms Services
- **Historical Firearms:** A collection of historical firearms, including swords and bayonets, will be on display, giving attendees an opportunity to learn about their significance in Tasmanian history. All Exhibitors will seek approvals from will be sort from Tasmania Police Firearms Services to display
- **Ammunition Displays:** Ammunition will be securely stored in locked display cases, any sales controlled by licensed dealers to ensure compliance with Tasmanian firearms regulations and strict guidelines set by the Tasmania Police and Firearms Services. Guidance and Approvals will be sort from Tasmania Police Firearms Services

Your presence at this extraordinary event would contribute to the success of our efforts to showcase and honor Tasmania's unique history and military legacy. Kindly RSVP by June 1st 2024

We look forward to welcoming you to the Tasmanian Heritage and Militaria Fair.

Best regards
Hugh Calvert

Show committee
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