

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR  
5/7 BATTALION (MECHANIZED), THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION 2021-2023**

**UPDATED September 2021**

**Introduction**

The first meeting of the Association was held at Moorebank Sporties Club in 2002. In 2003 members marched under the 5/7 RAR (MECH) Association banners for the first time on ANZAC Day. The Association owes a great legacy to its founding President, Mr Tony Blake, an ex-7 RAR member who offered his assistance to establish the Association, having never served in the Battalion. The Association then grew and went on to become a National Association under Ross Langford's leadership.

The intent for the Association was for everyone who had served in the Battalion, no matter what era, job or corps, to have an association to call their own, catch up with their mates, and look out for each other.

**Aim**

This strategic plan sets out the plan for the Association 2021-2023.

**5/7 RAR Association Committee**

The committee will generally meet virtually, monthly, as business requires. It consists of:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
State/Territory Representatives  
Immediate Past President  
Merchandise  
Webmaster/communications

Sub committees for the purpose of organising specific events, reunions, memorials or special projects will be formed as required.

## Objects of the Association

The objects of the Association are to:

- perpetuate the close bonds of comradeship and esprit de corps created by service in the 5th/7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment;
- guard the good name and preserve the interests of the Battalion;
- preserve the memory of those who died on service with the Battalion;
- provide referrals to relevant welfare agencies and/or welfare advice to Association members who request or require it;
- support any successor battalion(s) to the Battalion, in whatever way is practical and appropriate for the Association;
- watch over the interests of members and dependents of deceased members and to help those of them requiring assistance;
- promote and provide facilities for reunions and social events for members and their families, dependants and descendants of deceased members;
- become a Registered Charitable Organization should it become desirable to do so consistent with and in furtherance of the objects of the Association;
- raise monies by lawful means and receive gifts of any nature and / or bequests to be used in furtherance of the objects of the Association; and
- make donations to any worthy cause consistent with the objectives of the Association.

## Membership of the Association

Membership of the Association is as laid out in the Association Constitution

## Association Routine and Memorial Events

To establish a Battle Rhythm for the Association and the Committee the following yearly reoccurring dates are proposed:

DATE	EVENT	ASSOCIATION
1 March	Army Birthday	
21 April	Memorial 2 LT M.J. Jorgensen	
25 April	ANZAC Day	State marches and reunions
4 May	Memorial L/CPL W.R. Barnfield	
23 May	Memorial PTE P.A Wallpole	
27 June	Memorial PTE J.P. Wilts	
1 July	New Financial Year	
23 September	Memorial Malaysia Accident	
4 November	Memorial CPL B Taylor	
23 November	Regimental Birthday	
3 December or thereabouts	5/7 RAR (MECH) Birthday	AGM, State Drinks and Christmas Parties Association Report and Newsletter

*Table 1-Association Routine Events.*

## Significant Events

A list of significant events important to the battalion Battalion has previously been proposed in the 2017-20 Strategic Plan proposed. This was expected to allow for the Association to plan to commemorate significant events on a milestone basis. The various COVID outbreaks have not allowed the planned program to proceed and are unlikely to occur before 2022. Should the situation change, these events can recommence, especially for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the Battalion on 3 December 23.

## Proposed Calendar

From the significant event table and in recognition that we wish to grow the Association membership the following calendar is proposed:

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ASSOCIATION
2022	ANZAC Day	Canberra	
2023	ANZAC Day	Hobart	
2023	Battalion Birthday	Sydney/SE Qld (tbc)	Linking – 50 Year Celebration
2024	ANZAC Day	Perth	
2024	Cyclone Tracey	Darwin	Cyclone Tracey 50 Year Memorial Participation.
2025	Battalion Birthday	Sydney	Full Mechanisation – 40 Years

*Table 2- Proposed Calendar.* The aim of this calendar to is allow for maximum participation and so some dates have been adjusted to fall on similar dates that way only one subcommittee needs to be formed for the event.

## Communications

To grow the Association, we must communicate effectively.

- **Website**

A new website has been commissioned in September 2021, that is easy to use and protects all the content of the existing site whilst being fresh and vibrant.

A key deliverable of the new Website is an automated online membership and merchandise purchasing process that will make becoming a member and tracking the financial nature of members easier.

- **Social Media**

Social media should be used to drive traffic to the main Website. The Association does not intend to establish a social media presence but rather leverage off pre-existing social media sites such as the 5/7 RAR Facebook page. In order to drive traffic to the Website the amount of information contained within the social media channels needs to be moderated and limited. Announcements made on Social media should drive the party to the Website.

## Merchandise

A potential fundraiser is the sale of 5/7 RAR (MECH) merchandise. Merchandise, if not selected carefully, can become a financial burden on the Association. To allow for easy sales, the merchandise store will have PayPal and Credit Card payments linked to the bank account.

## **Museum**

The 5 RAR Museum at Robertson Barracks is the main area that the history of 5/7 RAR (MECH) will be housed and maintained. It is essential that the Association contributes generously to the 5 RAR Museum to ensure the ongoing care and protection of the history of the Battalion. The Association will identify a Museum Rep to act as an LO with the 5RAR museum to ensure the curator can source 5/7 RAR (MECH) info as required.

## **Welfare**

There are other organisations better financed and resourced to provide welfare support to Association members.

Asuitable associations will be identified and given a priority for financial support.

## **An Official History of 5/7 RAR (MECH)**

A key deliverable for the Association is an Official History of the 33-year career of 5/7 RAR (MECH). The target date for publication of the Official History is 3 December 2023.

## **Operational Tasks**

To achieve this strategy, the immediate operational tasks are:

- Grow the Association by 50 new members per year as a minimum whilst maintaining the existing members – ALL
- Manage the new Website with easier membership process
- Support to 5 RAR museum LO (should be Darwin based if possible)
- Support the History Project Manager and Editorial Team to develop and publish the Official History of the 5<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), The Royal Australian Regiment, Mechanized Tigers.
- Develop an appropriate model to merge the 5/7 RAR Association within the 5 RAR Association from 3 December 2023.

## **Conclusion**

We, the members of the Association have, by virtue of our willingness to support the perpetuation of Battalion's legacy, inherited a responsibility to ensure our Battalion's efforts throughout its powerful 33 years' service to our great country are honoured and commemorated in such a way that befits the blood, sweat and tears that each member of the Battalion sacrificed during its existence. How will we be remembered? Who will remember us? This strategic plan aims to better serve the needs of its membership and deliver a definitive official history published before the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the linking of the Battalions. This historic milestone will also mark the beginning of a transition period where we would like to transition to a sub-branch of the 5 RAR Association by 2026, the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the delinking. 3 December 2026 is the planned date to conclude the Association and migrate its members to the 5 RAR Association as a sub-branch. This consolidation will allow the history and record of 5/7 RAR to survive as part of the history of 5 RAR long after we are all gone, but never forgotten.