



## **RACT POLICY STATEMENT**

**Office of the Deputy Head of Corps  
Royal Australian Corps of Transport  
Army Logistic Training Centre  
BANDIANA VIC 3694**

**25 Aug 2011**

**STATEMENT NO 23**

**THE R.K. MAIR DRINKS**

**This Policy Statement will expire on:**

**25 Aug 2016**

**Issued by the Head of Corps Royal Australian Corps of Transport for application within the Royal Australian Corps of Transport.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.W. Bottrell'.

**A.W. BOTTRELL, CSC and Bar  
Brigadier  
Head of Corps  
Royal Australian Corps of Transport**

VERSION CONTROL DATA	
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## **RACT POLICY STATEMENT NO 23**

### **THE R.K. MAIR DRINKS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Corps receives new graduates from RMC twice per year. During the LOBC for each graduating class, the newest officers are formally welcomed to the Corps. In previous years they have been welcomed at a formal dinner. In 1988, the Corps Committee decided to name the dinner the R.K. Mair Dinner. In recent years the format has changed to drinks hosted by the HOC. These drinks are held prior to the LOBC dining-in-night and are known as the R.K. Mair drinks.

#### **AIM**

2. To specify responsibilities for, and the significance of, the name of the R.K. Mair drinks to new graduates.

#### **EXPLANATION**

3. COL R.K. Mair, MBE, RL whose record of service is shown at Annex A to this Statement, is a most significant affiliate of the RACT. As his record of service shows, he had wide experience in important appointments in the RAASC and the Army. On his retirement he tirelessly continued to support and foster both the Corps and its members.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

4. The Corps Manager is responsible for organising the drinks. Liaison with ASLO, ALTC is to occur well in advance to ensure attendance by both the ARA and GRes LOBC students.

#### **CONDUCT**

5. The R.K. Mair Drinks will normally be conducted in the V.C. Lowerson Club, North Bandiana and held in a semi-formal setting, to which the following personnel should be invited:

- a. new graduates attending the LOBC,
- b. the HOC, or his representative if unavailable,
- c. the DHOC as the senior RACT Officer in the area,
- d. all RACT Officers serving in the Albury-Wodonga Military Area, and
- e. other personnel as available.

#### **Annex:**

- A. COL R.K. Mair, MBE, RL - Record of Service

**ANNEX A TO  
RACT POLICY STATEMENT NO 23  
DATED 25 AUG 11**

**COLONEL (RETIRED LIST) R.K. MAIR, MBE, RL**

**General**

- Robert Keane Mair was born in Kempsey NSW on 19 Mar 1913 and died on 23 Apr 2004
- His military service commenced 7 Mar 39 and concluded 20 Mar 63 (24 years).
- His involvement with AASC, RAASC and RACT encompassed 50 years.

**Military Career Highlights**

- Commenced service with Militia and served with 1 Mobile Veterinary Section until 24 Jun 40. Rose to the rank of CPL.
- Joined PMF 24 Jun 40.
- 17 Dec 41 appointed acting Lieutenant and posted as Adjutant 1st Australian Cavalry Division.
- 11 Aug 42 transferred to AIF and posted as Adjutant 3rd Australian Armoured Division.
- 11 Jun 43 promoted Temporary Captain.
- In 1944 served with HQ Merauke Force and HQ 11 Indep Inf Bde in New Guinea, and it was here that he was awarded the MBE for dedication to service in the planning of force movements.
- 10 Jun 44 he was wounded by three pieces of shrapnel after saving 12 wounded men in a sea landing operation. He was evacuated to Australia but was left with a limp, in 1963 these injuries forced him to leave the Army.
- Dec 46-Mar 47. Deputy Assistant Director of Transport HQ Eastern Command.
- Jul-Dec 47. Instructor QM Wing, AASC School, Ingleburn and later Puckapunyal.
- Dec 47. Promoted Temporary Major.
- Dec 47-May 48. Senior Instructor QM Wing AASC School, Puckapunyal.
- Dec 48-Dec 49. Officer Commanding 101 General Transport Company, Randwick.
- Dec 49-Aug 50. Deputy Assistant Director of Service Transport HQ Eastern Command.
- 1 Jul 51. Substantive Major, 1 Supplementary Reserve Depot.
- Oct 53-Apr 54. Instr School of Tactics and Administration, Seymour.
- May 54 Promoted LTCOL, Army HQ Melbourne.
- Aug 58-Jan 60. Attached Australian Military Mission (US) for attendance at Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth.
- Jan 60-Jan 61. CO/CI RAASC Centre, Puckapunyal.
- Jan 61-Mar 63. Army HQ Canberra.
- 20 Mar 63. Retired and granted the military title of Colonel.

### **Contact with Corps**

- AASC 1939-1948.
- RAASC 1948-1973.
- RACT 1973-1991.
- Elected President RAASC Association in 1964.
- Continued as President RACT Association from 1973.
- Colonel Commandant of 3MD and 6MD 1977 - Jun 82.
- Appointed Representative Colonel Commandant RACT by Her Royal Highness Princess Alice when she visited the Army School of Transport in 1979.
- Relinquished appointment of Representative Colonel Commandant 17 Mar 81.

### **School Contact**

- CO/IC RAASC Centre 1960-61.
- Memorial Wall. As President of the RACT Association was very involved in the development from concept to dedication
  - suggested bluestone instead of brick,
  - obtained the inner wheel,
  - found the stone mason to cut the circle for the wheel,
  - obtained the bluestone from the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, and
  - attended the dedication on ANZAC Day 1983 (approximately six months from concept to dedication).
- RACT Museum. As the Representative Colonel Commandant was instrumental in the Museum becoming a reality. Was a founding committee member and is still serving on the committee. His efforts include:
  - obtained railway carriages and rails, and
  - heavily involved in
  - procuring glass internal display cases
  - procuring many of the exhibits housed in the internal display.
- Association with the Army School of Transport and Distribution Division, ALTC has continued since his retirement. Since becoming Colonel Commandant 3MD has attended most ROBC dinners.
- Is the only ex AASC/RAASC officer who has remained in contact with the RACT.

### **Miscellaneous**

- On 21 Feb 46 he was awarded the MBE for outstanding service to 11 Aust Inf Bde whilst located at Merauke (Dutch New Guinea), particularly for planning administration of force movements, primarily by sea.
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport.
- Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.