



**RACT POLICY STATEMENT**

**Office of the Deputy Head of Corps  
Royal Australian Corps of Transport  
Headquarters Army School of Transport  
Tobruk Barracks  
PUCKAPUNYAL VIC 3662**

**April 2020**

**STATEMENT NO 23**

**THE R.K. MAIR DINNER**

**This Policy Statement to be reviewed by: April 2025**

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

**JK WALK  
Brigadier  
Head of Corps  
Royal Australian Corps of Transport**

**AMENDMENT**

**RACT Policy Statement No 23 dated**

**April 20**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**RACT Policy Statements are available on the  
RACT website at [www.ract.org.au](http://www.ract.org.au) or by  
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[ract.hoccell@defence.gov.au](mailto:ract.hoccell@defence.gov.au)**

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**THE R.K. MAIR DINNER**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. During the Logistic Officer Basic Course (LOBC) the newest RACT officers are welcomed to the Corps with a dinner. In 1988, the RACT Committee decided to name the function the R.K. Mair Dinner in honour of the late Colonel R.K. Mair, MBE, RL. This function is normally held prior to the LOBC Dining in Night and is hosted by HOC.

**AIM**

2. The aim of this Corps Policy Statement is to specify responsibilities for, and the significance of, the name of the R.K. Mair Dinner to new graduates.

**EXPLANATION**

3. COL R.K. Mair, MBE, RL whose record of service is shown at annex A to this statement, was 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 RACT HOC Cell is responsible for organising the dinner. Liaison with HQ AST is to occur well in advance to ensure attendance by both the ARA and ARES LOBC students.

**CONDUCT**

5. The R.K. Mair Dinner will normally be conducted in the Tobruk Barracks Officers Mess and the following personnel should be invited:

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

**Annex:**

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

**COLONEL R.K. MAIR, MBE, RL**

**General**

- Robert Keane Mair was born in Kempsey NSW on 19 March 1913 and died on 23 April 2004
- His military service commenced 7 March 1939 and concluded 20 March 1963 (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 June 1940. Rose to the rank of CPL.
- Joined PMF 24 June 1940.
- 17 December 1941 appointed acting Lieutenant and posted as Adjutant 1st Australian Cavalry Division.
- 11 August 1942 transferred to AIF and posted as Adjutant 3rd Australian Armoured Division.
- 11 June 1943 promoted Temporary Captain.
- In 1944 served with Headquarters Merauke Force and Headquarters 11<sup>th</sup> Independent Infantry Brigade in New Guinea. It was here that he was awarded an MBE for dedication to service in the planning of force movements primarily by sea.
- 10 June 1944 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.
- December 1946 – March 1947. Deputy Assistant Director of Transport Headquarters Eastern Command.
- July – December 1947. Instructor Quartermaster Wing, AASC School, Ingleburn and later Puckapunyal.
- December 1947. Promoted Temporary Major.
- December 1947 - May 1948. Senior Instructor QM Wing AASC School, Puckapunyal.
- December 1948 – December 1949. Officer Commanding 101<sup>st</sup> General Transport Company, Randwick.
- December 1949 – August 1950. Deputy Assistant Director of Service Transport Headquarters Eastern Command.
- 1 July 1951. Substantive Major, 1 Supplementary Reserve Depot.
- October 1953 – April 1954. Instructor School of Tactics and Administration, Seymour.
- May 1954. Promoted LTCOL, Army Headquarters Melbourne.
- August 1958 – January 1960. Attached Australian Military Mission (US) for attendance at Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth.
- January 1960 – January 1961. Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor RAASC Centre, Puckapunyal.

- January 1961 – March 1963. Army Headquarters Canberra.
- 20 March 1963. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Military District and 6<sup>th</sup> Military District 1977 - June 1982.
- 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 March 1981.

### **School Contact**

- Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor 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 and was a founding committee member. His efforts include:
  - obtained railway carriages and rails, and
  - heavily involved in:
    - procuring glass internal display cases; and
    - procuring many of the exhibits housed in the internal display.
- Association with the Army School of Transport and Distribution Division, ALTC continued after his retirement and when Colonel Commandant 3<sup>rd</sup> Military District has attended most ROBC dinners.
- Is the only ex AASC/RAASC officer who remained in contact with the RACT.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport.
- Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.