



Artillery WA

Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)
Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au> Email: info@artillerywa.org.au

Edition 1 / 10

MARCH 2010



7 Fd Bty RAA firing during the 1812 Overture December 2009 - The Esplanade, Perth



Craig Machin at the start of the Kokoda Track - Sept 2009
Read the full story inside



Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

ANZAC DAY – 25 April 2010

Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park Memorial Wall

Followed by Gunfire Breakfast.

March through Perth

Form Up Point – Cnr of St. George's Tce & Irwin Street

Opposite the Uniting Church Building

Parade will finish at the Esplanade for the service.

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2010

30th Jan	27 th Feb	27 th Mar	24 th Apr
29 th May	26 th Jun	31 st Jul	28 th Aug
25 th Sep	30 th Oct	27 th Nov	No Dec

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

The Leighton Battery Heritage Site is open on a regular basis every Sunday of every month from 10 AM to 3:30 PM with tours of the tunnels every half hour.

FRONT COVER

7 Fd Bty RAA firing during the 1812 Overture December 2009 - The Esplanade, Perth
Craig Machin at the start of the Kokoda Track - Sept 2009

Inside this Issue – Main points

RAA Association WA		Aiming Post	
President's Report	3	President's Report	6
ANZAC DAY Commemorative March Protocols	4	Leighton Battery plans	7
Badges for sale	5	Daring adventure by intrepid gunners	9
		7 Bty Merchandise	12

Next Issue – June 2010

.....

Subs to your Association or Society are now due – RAAA of WA (Inc) - \$ 15 RAAHS - \$ 25

We now have a Direct Debit facility – Please find the details in the relevant sections -

.....

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the contributions to the newsletter by the members, whose names appear with the corresponding articles.

Articles, editorial comment or book reviews for publication should be submitted to the editor, at: Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 92694544 Fax: 9269 4370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au

ADVERTISING

Anybody interested in advertising their business in **ARTILLERY WA** for a donation of \$ 10 (ten) per year, (four issues), both in printed and web site editions, contact
Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 92694544
Fax: 9269 4370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

Gunners' Day 2009 was another successful service with perfect weather.

The turnout was moderate with some familiar faces missing but those who attended were able to enjoy the camaraderie of the occasion. The afternoon tea held at the Rose & Crown function room drew mixed reactions. Although the room was well placed it seemed to divide our members and there were some concerns regarding value for money with very limited scones and tea provided. The committee have decided to revert for 2010 to an afternoon tea held at the Church with members free to adjourn to the hotel afterwards if they wish a stronger drink. A call for volunteers to assist will go out later to the event.

The AGM of 21 March was not well attended. However our Association is in a good financial position and has just over 100 members, most are financial. I remind members that we have a Welfare Fund that is available if members require it. Application forms and more details are available from the secretary.

The existing committee renominated and were elected unopposed;

President: Bob Farrelly
Vice President: Peter Mahoney
Secretary: John Blylevens
Treasurer: John Blylevens
Committee: Ken Hepworth
Committee: Wendy Mahoney
Committee: John O'Brien

We are seeking additional committee members. If you have a little spare time and would like to immerse yourself into achieving something for the gunner fraternity we have a role for you. It is very rewarding and a great way to re establish links.

The committee is also examining opportunities for instituting a corps dinner to allow all serving, ex serving members and guests regardless of rank to get together in a single function.

ANZAC Day 2010 is the next big event on our calendar.

There will be a Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park, followed by a Gunfire Breakfast. This event was well attended last year, and I encourage all members to make the effort to attend. Details of the form up place in St George's Terrace will appear in 'The West Australian'. I look forward to seeing you there. Additionally 7 FD BTY are welcoming all members of our association to share a drink and catch up with friends after the service at Hobbs Artillery Park.

Ubique

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President, RAA Association

ANZAC DAY Commemorative March Protocols



- All marchers should conform to forming up and marching 4 abreast
- Veterans should march directly behind their unit banner, accompanied by one carer if needed. That carer should be of an age where they directly assist the veteran.
- Veterans having difficulty completing the march are encouraged to use the transport provided, but must remain in the vehicle until the march is complete.
- If a veteran must fall out of the march, he/she should be directed to a Marshall for assistance. Unit associations should continue so as not to disrupt the movement of the march.
- NOK should march behind the veterans and be old enough to march the full distance without assistance. Please note baby prams are not permitted.
- NOK representation should be restricted to 1 per veteran. Attire should be neat and tidy out of respect to the fallen (torn denim, sporting attire, dirty joggers etc are not appreciated).
- Carrying pictures of relatives is not supported.
- NOK are to wear medals on the right breast (left breast is reserved for the original owners).
- Media services have been advised not to conduct interviews "on the move" during the march.
- Veterans are requested not to join or leave the march other than at the Assembly or Dispersal points.

We would be grateful if you adopted these guidelines and by doing so you will not only your fallen comrades and forebears, but you will also help maintain the ANZAC tradition we are all so proud of.

Source: RSL

Australia Day 2010

7 Field Battery conducted a ceremonial 21 Gun Salute for Australia Day 2010 at Kings Park. There was a smaller than normal turn out to watch the event, but those that did so thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. The GPO for the day was LT Moiler, whom commanded the Battery through the successful firing of the 21 rounds. The Battery then returned to HAP to clean up and for a well earned snag from the BBQ and beer or softy.



HELP US TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE

The RAA Association and RAAHS is keen to build up a data base of member's email addresses in order to send out occasional important information relating to GUNNER activities, for example the final live fire of the M2A2 by 7 FD BTY, Battery Birthday Dinner and the latest ArtilleryWA Newsletter which is now on-line.

Please send an email to john.blylevens@defence.gov.au if you would like to be included and when your change you email address, so we can keep up to date.

You can Now pay your Membership Fees by Direct Debit!

Members can go to any bank (or do it by electronic transfer) and make a deposit quoting The RAA Association's BSB and Account Number and your Name. The Funds will automatically be transferred to the Association's Account along with your name.

It's that Simple!!

*Please do not forget to include your name, so we know who the payment is from.
Thank You.*

If you choose this method please quote:

RAA Association of WA (Inc) – (Note: Some banks may require the full wording)

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066 163

Account Number: 0090 2583



RAAA JACKET POCKET BADGE – Actual size of Badge is 100mm wide x 90mm high

RAA EMBROIDERED BERET BADGES – Actual size is 55mm wide by 40mm high

To purchase Embroidered Jacket and or Beret Badges -
Cut below and return to RAA Association of WA (Inc) - PO Box 881 Claremont WA 6910

I would like to order an Embroidered Badge / Jacket Pocket Badge (circle choice/s) as advertised in the ArtyWA newsletter.

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ being for payment of _____ (Qty) Beret Badges

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ being for payment of _____ (Qty) J P Badges

(Badges are \$10 each. Jacket Pockets are \$25 each.)

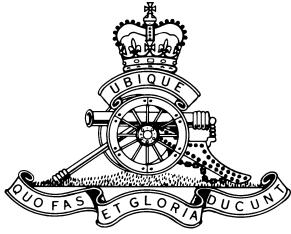
Name _____

Member of _____
(Name of Association or Society)

Street Name _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Please make cheques payable to RAA of WA (Inc)



THE AIMING POST

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society Of Western Australia (Inc)

Presidents Address

Presented at the AGM of The R.A.A.H.S. on 21 March 2010

The Society has faced a very challenging year as action was taken to meet the changes, not only because of the World Financial Problems, but also the necessity to increase income to meet future requirements.

As you are aware the Restoration Unit has readjusted to comply with the Defence Departments requirements as to the work which can be carried out. This means the limited income from the Restoration work carried out in the past for Local Government Bodies and others is no longer available.

The Society has a revenue stream from three sources

1. Membership
2. Buckland Hill Tunnels
3. Donations

Your Committee has expanded the Tunnel income by opening Every Sunday from 01 July 2009 with Newspaper Advertising. This has only been possible by the Volunteer Guides giving of their time. Each Sunday four guides and a cashier are required.

To these people we all owe our thanks.

In respect of the Donations, recently the Society received approval from the Australian Taxation Office who granted Tax Deductibility Status. In other words Donations are Tax Deductible.

The Society has just in excess of \$75,000.00 in Reserve.

It is desired to report that two our Committee Members are not standing for re-election:

Mary Coley, who is taking a years Leave which incorporates a trip around Australia and Barry Ellis
To each of you many thanks for your contribution

There will be a change of Secretary as Don Rae has advised due to commitments he is unable to continue in this role however, using the Army Principal of nominating a replacement, John Walsh has agreed to take on the job. That is Subject to his election

Also Stan Reid has recently joined the Committee.

It is desired to thank the Vice President David Carter, Secretary / Curator Don Rae, Treasurer Neil Lodge and the Committee Members for their support over the year.

In conclusion the Society intends to improve the Buckland Hill facility and it is anticipated the funds already held will meet the first stage of the work.

Bruce G. Campbell OAM
President

LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE

RE-DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PLANS

Those familiar with the Heritage Site will be aware of the unsightly wire fence surrounding the 5.25inch Gun Pit and a similar structure enclosing the stairwell leading into the emplacement. Originally erected as safety measures the structures are a visual pollutant and have little, if any, attraction.



In 2009, the Society received funding exceeding \$10,000.00 through Lotterywest to engage the services of a consulting engineering firm whose charter was to design and specify the roofing of the emplacement and provision of a suitable hatch cover to enclose the stairwell which would replace the wire mesh enclosures. The hatch cover design was to enable Duty Volunteers to raise the cover and allow access to the emplacement which is to be developed as an extension to the existing Tunnels Tour.

Further planning involved the re-development of the Number 2 6inch Gun Floor so that it would resemble the Number 1 Floor and the establishment of a Gun Emplacement adjacent to the Radar Shack to accommodate

the existing 3.7inch Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun and possible introduction of a 40mm BOFORS Light Anti-Aircraft Gun.

Finally, Member Roger Martin designed a structure to acknowledge the contribution of Navy, Army and Air Force personnel who guarded the approaches to Fremantle during World War 2. Entitled "The Place of the Sentinels" (we cannot refer to it as a memorial) it consists of three vertical steel columns set within a circle and bearing the badges of the three services and is planned to be erected at the visitor point of entry to the Site.

Before any of the projects can be commenced, approval must be sought from The Heritage Council and the Town of Mosman Park and we are pleased to advise that preliminary discussion with both organisations has been promising.

Final costing of these ambitious plans has not been completed but estimates suggest a minimum of \$150,000.00. Two separate applications during 2009 for funding through Commonwealth sources were unsuccessful – one on the grounds that the Society could not provide employment for disadvantaged persons during the construction phases of the proposed projects and the other, simply because there were too many applications for the available funding and we narrowly missed out!

You may recall from the last issue of ARTILLERYWA that the Society has been granted Deductible Gift Reciprocity from the Australian Tax Office which allows all donations of \$2.00 or more to be claimed by the donor as a Tax Deduction. This "attraction", we hope, may make our approach to potential donors more successful.

It is pleasing to report that the cost associated with the re-development of the Number 2 Gun Floor can be met from Society financial reserves.

Should any Member feel so inclined, donations toward the development costs will be most gratefully accepted. Please contact the Committee if you require more information or would simply like to discuss your personal views on the subject.

REPORT ON LEIGHTON TUNNELS WEEKLY OPENINGS

The Leighton Tunnels Site has now been open a weekly basis since early 2009.

Your management committee is pleased to report to members that the public response has been encouragingly strong to date. To the end of February this year, 1978 people have visited the complex. The average weekly attendance being 55 (ie 1978 / 36 weeks)

The numbers do vary according to weather and competing community events elsewhere. For example the hot months of January and February saw lower numbers arriving so the Committee reduced the standard set of four guides to three in response. The autumn months will see numbers climbed the extra guides coming back on duty.

Tour times remain 'as usual', but the 3:30 pm slot has been cancelled as visitor numbers have rarely warranted that later start time.

The monthly 'Busy Bees' continue to maintain the site in response to the extra number of feet passing through. Thanks are in order to all of our guides, cashiers and of course Frank and Enid Cahill, who as a group ensure the site is kept in a highly presentable fashion for our customers.

Member Neil Lodge continues to co-ordinate the regular weekly advertisements via *The West Australian* and the *Sunday Times*.

A number of our "out – of – hours" have also occurred to date ad advanced bookings are already being made for 2010. These groups are encouraged to book Wednesdays, and again thanks are due to the guides who also make themselves available on that mid week slot.

Your RAAHS continues to offer the public a unique in-sight into this special piece of WA/s Military History.

Ubique
David Carter.

DARING ADVENTURE BY INTREPID GUNNERS (Past & Serving)

In the December 2009 edition of *ARTILLERYWA*, we included an article about Wesley Bell who has been closely associated with the Society's activities at Leighton Battery Heritage Site as part of his achievement towards his Bronze Medal under the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The article described Wesley's participation in the Kokoda Trek undertaken by a group of past and serving members of 7 Field Battery, one of whom is Wesley's father Bombardier Pat Bell. Our congratulations to Warrant Officer Scott Parker who was the driving force in planning and bringing the adventure to fruition

In this issue we are pleased to include the group's daily diary compiled by Society Member (and past member of 7 Field Battery) Craig Machin, together with a selection of prints that graphically indicate the demands of the Trek. Those participating included:

WO2 Scott Parker; BDR Chris Starre; BDR Pat Bell; GNR James Didovich; PTE Carina Mangini; all serving members 7 Field Battery RAA; and, Craig Machin, an ex member of the Battery and Wesley Bell aged 15 years, son of BDR Pat Bell.



The WA contingent joined WO1 Harold Berry, the Trek Leader, WO1 Paul Richardson, a Physical Training Instructor and WO2 Cheryl Elston the party Medic in Brisbane prior to flying to Port Moresby by Air Nuigini where they met other members of the party bringing the group up to 20.



KOKODA TRACK TRIP DIARY 23 Sep-03 Oct 2009

23rd September

After staying the night at Sogeri Lodge we were taken by bus to Owers Corner to meet our guides and start the track, making our way to the first camp.

24th September

Leaving camp early we passed via Imita Ridge to the second camp at the village near Ioribaiwa Ridge.

25th September

As with most days we were up at 0500 and after warm up exercises were on the track by 0600, crossing many rivers and constant trekking up and down hillsides.

26th September

After our days trekking we camped at the village of Menari where LTCOL Ralph Honner made his famous address to the men of the 39th Battalion.

27th September

Today we crossed Brigade Hill and stopped at Efoji village for the night.

28th September

Today we ventured off the main track to see Myola, where the DC3's dropped supplies to the Diggers and on the way back to the track saw the wreckage of a B25 Mitchell Bomber.

29th September

Today was our first view of the Kokoda Gap which marked the start of our guide's tribal lands. Lunch was had at our stop at Templeton's Crossing, before continuing to camp at Eora Creek.

30th September

On leaving Eora Creek we stopped to see the Japanese mountain gun position, which was used to shell our field hospital on the other side of the creek. The site is littered with shell casings, machine gun clips, helmets, grenades and other equipment of war. After a rest stop at Alola Village we continued on to have lunch at the Australian Memorial at Isurava. After viewing the memorial and Kingsbury Rock, the site where Bruce Kingsbury won his Victoria Cross we moved along the track to the village of Isurava for the night.

1st October

After passing through the village of Deniki we then walked into Kokoda, finishing the track. Once we had seen the memorials and the museum, we were then taken to the village of our head guide where they invited us to open their new guest house with all the villagers performing a welcome for us in traditional dress

2nd October

As a storm the previous night washed out the bridge to Popondetta, we were unable to see the battlefield sites at Buna, Gona and Sanananda or get to the airfield to fly back to Port Moresby. With a call on the satellite phone a charter flight picked us up from Kokoda and flew us back to Moresby with good views of the track and the Owen Stanley Range along the way.

3rd October

We visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Bomana and among the rows of graves of the New Guinea Campaign we saw the graves of Pte Bruce Kingsbury VC, Lt Harold Bisset, who died in his brother's arms (Stan Bisset) near Isurava, Lt Alan Haddy of the 16th Battalion and Cpl French VC who won his Victoria Cross at Milne Bay. On the Memorial to the missing we saw among the names those of Capt Templeton, 39th Battalion, of Templeton's Crossing fame and Lt Col Key of the 2/14th Battalion.

4th October

On our last day we had lunch at the Royal Papua Yacht Club from where we could see the wreck of the MV Macdhui which was sunk by the Japanese and it's bombing filmed by Damien Parer.

All the members of the party returned home safe and sound to their various home towns and we returned home to Perth. Apart from blisters, sore muscles and some minor gastro cases we had no health problems thanks to our vigilant Medic Sheryl and our PTI Paul from Townsville.





WELFARE FUND and OFFICER

John Walsh is the contact person as the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any Welfare Funding can contact John via email at info@artillerywa.org.au or jfxwalsh@bigpond.com.au or by phone on 9269 4544, Wednesday mornings.

Access to Funds can be made by applying in writing using the Welfare Fund Form, which is available on request. *(From the Treasurer)*

The Association reminds Members that access to the Fund to help Gunners financially at a time of need is strictly confidential and all applications are treated as such.

NEW TOUR GUIDES – WELCOME



Are you keen to promote one of WA's premier military history sites to others?

Then you are welcome to join our team of guides who volunteer their time for a few hours on a roster basis once a month on a Sunday to conduct public tours.

This historic site is the World War II Gun complex built as a part of Fortress Fremantle Defence located at Buckland Hill in Mosman Park.

- You will be trained and coached
- You will be part of a friendly team
- You need to be able to climb steps
- Vacancies for Guides and Cashiers

For further information call David Carter 93673539 (after hours)

You can Now pay your Membership Fees by Direct Debit!

Members can go to any bank and make a deposit quoting The RAA Historical Society's BSB and Account Number and your Name. The Funds will automatically be transferred to the Association's Account along with your name.

It's that Simple!!

If you choose this method please quote:

RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc) - (Note: Some

Please do not forget to include your name so we know who the payment is from.
Thank You.

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066-103

Account Number: 00903744

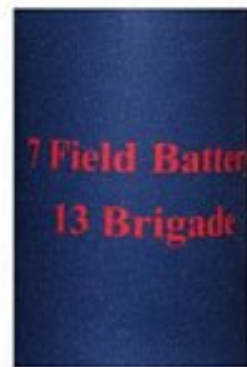
7 Fd Bty Merchandise FOR SALE



TIE



DETAILS ON TIE



STUBBY HOLDER

To purchase **7 Fd Bty RAA Tie** or **Stubby Holder**
Cut below and return to 7 Fd Bty ORs Canteen, 7 Fd Bty RAA, Irwin Barracks, KARRAKATTA WA 6010

For further details contact *Andrew Quarles*:
GNR/Bar member, 7 Fd Bty, KARRAKATTA WA 6010 Mob: 0403 988 961

I would like to order 7 Fd Bty RAA Tie / Stubby Holder (circle choice/s)
as advertised in the ArtilleryWA newsletter.

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty) 7 Fd Bty RAA Tie

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty) Stubby Holder

(Ties are \$25 each. Stubby Holders are \$5 each.)

Name _____

Street Name _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Please make cheques payable to '7 Fd Bty ORs Canteen'