



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 3 / 10 SEPTEMBER 2010



Aussie Gunners in Afghanistan





Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

Annual SNCO Dinner

Date: Friday 22 October 2010 Start Time: 1900h for 1930h Details see Page 9

GUNNERS DAY

Sunday 7th November Form up 11:00 Parade 11:30

Followed by Service at St Matthew's Church, Stirling Square Guildford.

Then fellowship in church hall.

****** NOTE : New starting time this year *****

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2010

30th Jan 27th Feb 27th Mar 24th Apr 29^{tth} May 26th Jun 31st Jul 28th Aug 25th Sep 30th Oct 27th 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

Gunners from Cutler Troop wait for the order to fire during a mission at Forward Operating Base Budwan, Helmand Province.

Cutler Troop - members from, 4th Regiment Royal Artillery, 'A' Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment and 107 Battery, 4 Field Regiment

Images from Dept. of Defence

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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.

When I accepted the role of Vice President it was on the basis that the role was largely symbolic with much kudos and had nothing to do - just as I like it as those who know me will attest. Since then I have lead the Artillery contingent on Anzac Day and only yesterday was informed that as our President, Lt Col Bob Farrelly was about to decamp our shores and head to Washington for 10 weeks, could I turn my attention to writing a piece for this Edition of the Newsletter, and by the way could it be ready yesterday!

He will be undertaking an Advanced Management course at Harvard, a much sought after program with about 120 invited participants. The participants work six and a half days per week and get little time off. I've been on course with Bob in the past and am confident he'll make time to enjoy himself, where there is a will there is always a way - good luck and remember to bring me back a fridge magnet.

The principal upcoming event in our calendar is of course Gunners Day 2010. To confirm previous advice, this year it will be conducted on Sunday 7 November 2010 at St Matthews Church, Guildford. Timings have changed slightly and parade assembly is at 1100 hours for an 1130 hours step off. The church service will commence at 1200 hours followed by light refreshments at 1300 hours in the Church Hall.

Since the last edition The Association has made a donation of \$50 and obtained an inscribed brick paver - shown later in this edition - which has been set into Australia's pathway of remembrance which was initially developed in 1994 as a walking track around the periphery of the Royal Australian Artillery national Museum.

Construction of the present Memorial Walk commenced in 1999 and is still underway with some of the monuments yet to be completed. The Memorial Walk is in honour of any Australian who has served in the defence of Australia in peace or in war. A series of five monuments link the pathway, constructed with pavers donated by friends, families, relatives, local organisations, clubs and corporations recognising their own or relative's military service. One of the benefits of the Walk is that it generates funds for the maintenance and development of the Museum.

Make time to visit North Fort Museum site at Manly and take the walk when you are next in Sydney its well worth the effort. Should you wish to participate in this historic project, it's not too late. Further details can be found at www.northfort.org.au

Wendy and I visited Sydney in April this year and spent a day taking in the old school of Artillery and the North Fort Museum before taking the legendary and perpendicular Darley Road down into Manly for lunch at the Corso. Your president and I (as will many others) have many "fond" memories of staggering back up Darley Road at o dark hundred hours after enjoying ourselves in order to make an appearance on the course the next morning! Where there is a will there is a way.

Sadly of course the school is no more in that singular location, when we visited the OR's accommodation had become the HQ for the latest showing of the Biggest Loser show and the Australian Federal Police had taken over both the old SGTS Mess and the Officers Mess as we found out when peering through the window of the legendary "blue "room when we were asked what the "h***" did we think we were doing trying to take photos of a secure facility! Sometimes progress sucks

That's enough from me - on with the edition.

Peter Mahoney Vice President



AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Head of Regiment Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Bridges Barracks, PUCKAPUNYAL VIC 3662

The Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Dear Sir,

I request that you submit for Her Majesty's consideration the following loyal message from the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery:

The Colonels Commandant, the Head of Regiment, and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, convey m Her Majesty, our Captain General, their respect and loyalty on the occasion of Royal Australian Artillery, Day, 1st of August 2010, commemorating 139 years of dedicated service to Australia.

20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment continues its successful support to operations in Afghanistan while Royal Australian Artillery instructors support the First Mentoring Task Force training Afghan gunners in Oruzgan Province. The close ties with the Royal Regiment of Artillery continue with gunners from 4th Field Regiment on operations with 4th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery in Helmand Province. Afghanistan and gunners from 1st Field Regiment have now commenced their pre-deployment training with 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

This year our special thoughts are with our gunners and their families who continue to prepare for and support operations throughout the world.

Ubique,

Yours faithfully,

T.R. FORD, AO Major Genera] (Retired) Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

28th June 2010



Major General T. R. Ford, AO, Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Colonels Commandant, the Head of the Regiment and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery for their kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of Royal Australian Artillery Day which will commemorate one hundred and thirty-nine years of dedicated service by the Regiment.

As your Captain General, I much appreciate your continued support and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned for a most memorable day.

ELIZABETH R.

1st August, 2010.



MEMORIAL

WALK

Certificate

Congratulations on becoming a part of the Australia's Memorial Walk, a History of Australia and Australians at War. A limited edition paver engraved with your personalised message will be laid at North Fort, North Head, Manly.



By joining the Memorial Walk you have ensured your paver will become a permanent part of North Fort History. Your paver will serve for many years to come as a unique memento of your involvement.

For the Board

62nd Battery Birthday 7 FD BTY 3 FD REGT

A good turnout braved the cold at the 62nd Dinner celebration of 7 FD BTY, 3 FD REGT Birthday Saturday 3rd July 2010. Although some familiar faces were missing (the list of apologies was substantial) there were plenty of our members present and an excellent attendance of serving gunners.

Despite the best attempts of the organisers to provide portable oil and electric heating, the Hobbs Artillery Park drill hall was cold! However the evening flowed seamlessly and diners enjoyed the company, the venue and a top quality meal.

BRIG Gerry Warner, the incoming Colonel Commandant introduced himself and proposed an entertaining Toast to the REGT. Our president, Bob Farrelly was the representative for the 13 BDE COMD as he was unavailable to attend. Bob presented the "Most Outstanding Award" for GNR P Sonter to SGT Lane, the BG as GNR Sonter was on his Mortar Course. MAJ Steve Mathers, the BC gave an update on 7 FD BTY and changes within 13 BDE.

A thoroughly enjoyable night.









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.

TALIBAN ATTACK GOES UP IN SMOKE

By Sgt Andrew Hetherington

THE most crucial fire mission so far for the fifth rotation of Australian artillerymen serving with the British Army on Operation Herrick involved creating a life-saving smokescreen. The 14 members of 4 Fd Regt are working with British counterparts from 4 Regt Royal Artillery at Forward Operating Base Budwan in Helmand province. They are known as Cutler Troop – named in honour of Sir Roden Cutler, VC.

The SM, WO2 Brett Donaldson, said since their arrival three months ago the gunners had been engaged in more than 30 fire missions and fired more than 300 rounds. "The most significant mission we had was when we fired smoke rounds on June 15," WO2 Donaldson said. "Between a patrol base 3km to our south and our FOB boundary, a couple of platoons of soldiers came under sustained small-arms and RPG fire and were pinned down." Fortunately the soldiers had not suffered any casualties, but it was not looking good for them as insurgents were moving to their location. "We fired an extremely rapid self defence smoke mission in support of them," WO2 Donaldson said. "Within five minutes we had built up a smokescreen and in 15 minutes we'd fired 50 smoke rounds.

"The two platoons were able to safely withdraw back to their patrol base." After the fire mission the gunners received an unexpected radio message. "The observer sent us a sitrep over the radio expressing his utmost gratitude for the job we'd done," WO2 Donaldson said. "It meant a great deal to the blokes as undoubtedly we saved some lives that day. We don't usually get feedback like that, as all we mostly get is a battle damage assessment."

The L118 105mm guns the 4 Fd Regt men use at FOB Budwan are similar to the L119 currently used in Australia, with a few different features. The British L118 is capable of firing smoke, illumination and high explosive rounds out to more than 17km. "The ammunition we use here gives us a longer range than what the Australian guns use," WO2 Donaldson said. "These guns have also been upgraded with an automatic pointing system that runs off an inertial navigation unit and a GPS." The gunners have been using the L118 to good effect during fire missions. They even came up with a plan to use one of the guns in an unorthodox way to support ground patrols outside the FOB.

"We have a gun platform close to the FOB wall above the Hesco barriers, where we use an L118 as a direct fire gun. "We haven't needed to fire it yet, but it's been a deterrent to any Taliban from having a go at any of the patrols out when we move the gun there." He said he was happy with the way the gunners had performed so far. I'm extremely proud of the blokes. They've participated in training they've never undertaken before, they're working with a foreign army, away from home and their deployment began seven months before they arrived in Afghanistan," he said. "With all these obstacles they've performed exceptionally well."

The gunners are living in dusty, hot conditions where temperatures are more than 50C during the day and 30C at night. They are constantly sweating and replacing their lost fluids with water or sports drinks. They face the constant threat of indirect fire from the Taliban and on numerous occasions have received reports over their radio that an attack could take place at any time. They're on call day and night, waiting for a fire mission to be announced through loudspeakers so they can fire rounds at insurgents in and around the green zone on both sides of the Helmand River, less than 50m from the FOB wall. At the FOB the 36 British and Australian gunners share the walled and secure space with Danish tanks, mortars and infantry, British engineers and a British ground-to-ground rocket detachment.

Between fire missions they either man a machine gun on picket, conduct weapons and first-aid continuation training, participate in small-arms and heavy weapons range shoots, perform gun maintenance, go to the FOB gym, play cricket and volleyball with British and Danish soldiers, or just keep cool by lying low.

"For the gun crews it's just a matter of putting all the data into a touch screen and the pointing system will find which direction the gun needs to be facing," WO2 Donaldson said. The 4 Fd Regt gunners are due to return to Australia in October.





Heavy metal: Gnr Tim Murphy loads a cartridge case into the breach of an L118 (left) and, with British gunner Ryan Robertson, removes the flash suppressor from a gun barrel (above).



SOURCE: Army The Soldiers' Newspaper: Edition 1242: August 19, 2010



Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA 2010 Committee: (L to R)

John Blylevens Secretary /Treasurer

Andrew Dunjey Committee
Bob Farrelly President
Wendy Mahoney Committee
Peter Mahoney Vice President

John O'Brien Committee & Editor ARTYWA

Ken Hepburn Committee Scott Sullivan Committee



The

Warrant and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Of 7 Field Battery, 3rd Field Regiment

Wish to invite all serving and ex-serving WO's and SNCO's who have been posted to the unit to their

Annual SNCO Dinner

Date: Friday 22 October 2010 Start Time: 1900h for 1930h Finish Time: Who knows!

Cost: \$50.00

Dress: Jacket and Battery Tie (can purchase one on the night) with miniatures

Place: Hollywood/Subiaco Bowling Club

42 Smyth Road Nedlands 6009

RSVP: 1st October 2010 to SGT Scott McMahon scott.mcmahon@dec.wa.gov.au or 0433759377

Please indicate if you would prefer Red or White wine with dinner

Cheques payable to: 7 Fd Bty OR'S Canteen

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 \$I		being for payment of	ing for payment of(Qty) J P Badges				
(Badges are \$10 each. Jacket Pockets are \$25 each.)							
Name		Member of					
Street Name		(Name of As	ssociation or Society)				
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

The continued support of the 116th LAA Association represented by the State President - Gordon Hull - presented to the President a cheque for \$1000.00, which will go towards the further development of the Leighton Battery Heritage Site.

A photograph was taken of the occasion unfortunately the camera was stolen before this could be transferred to our records.

Our apologies to Gordon Hull However the cheque did not and has been banked.

On behalf of the Society thank you for the generous support

The opening every Sunday of the Leighton Tunnels is continuing to receive support by the visitors and this is only possible because of Volunteer Guides dedication.

If you know of anyone who could be interested in joining the Volunteer Guides please advise.

The Town of Bassendean has donated a WW1 gun barrel to the Society. This was manufactured by Rheine Metall and for some time was buried; however restoration work will be commenced.

UBIQUE

Bruce G. Campbell OAM

LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE UPDATE

Members are advised that our showpiece to the general public continues to attract favourable feedback from visitors.

Several cosmetic upgrades have occurred trough the efforts of the busy-bee team:

- Our electric chain saw has good a workout removing tea-trees obstructing the B.P.O. view to the south
- Progressive work in the C.P. is occurring, in particular the elevation of the cashiers position (as part of perimeter borders to the main display room)
- Temporary screening of the kitchen doorway sending a more professional "entrance" from the guides room into the main space.
- Architectural drawings for the proposed public toilet (used only on open days) have been prepared.
 These will go to the Mosman Park Council in due course.
- The remodelling of the main interior wall displays will be prefabricated so that removal or replacement can happen in the short interval between Sunday openings: A work in progress.

- New directional signs are now being placed in visible positions each open day by guides.
- Your Society now has a pair of two-way radios which guides now employ when security checks are carried out down in the car park. We have had instances of opportunistic smash and grabs of valuables from visitor's cars earlier this winter. The past several weeks has seen no problems – perhaps the steely gaze of our radio equipped guide there is enough!

Thanks to all guides and busy bee members for your ongoing efforts,

David Carter.

<u>Princess Royal Fortress - Volunteers Needed Urgently</u>

We have been requested to include this article by the City of Albany in case any of our country members are interested in helping out. *Editor*

The Princess Royal Fortress located on Mt Adelaide in Albany WA, built in 1893 as the first Federal defence in Australia, is now operated by the City of Albany. The Fort relies solely on the entry takings to maintain and enhance the displays and original buildings, features and gun displays.





The guard house is open 8 hours a day 363 (closed Christmas and Easter Friday) thanks to their wonderful volunteers, quite a few of whom are ex-servicemen and women themselves.

The Princess Royal Fortress is currently in desperate need of Guard House volunteers to greet visitors and take entrance fees, tour guides to escort tour groups around the fort and volunteers to man the retail shop/research facility.

All Forts volunteers are given uniforms, small amount of travel allowance, training, regular catch-ups including morning teas and a lot of support from the Council staff.

Website: The Princess Royal Fortress http://www.forts.albany.wa.gov.au/

Any interested volunteers can contact:

Amanda Porritt
Administration Officer Community Development
City of Albany
PO Box 484
Albany WA 6331
P: 9841 9391
F 9841 4099

E amandap@albany.wa.gov.au

FORTRESSES of the DARDANELLES

In June this year, I visited Turkey and organised to have a guided tour of the Gallipoli Battlefields. While most of the regular tours only 'did ANZAC' my wife and I decided that we wanted to see more of the sites from that campaign, so booked an individual tour, with our own driver and guide to get us to some places in ANZAC that were not on the usual route and where members of Pauline's immediate family had served and fought in 1915.

The first day we drove from Istanbul, met our guide in Ecebat and then spent time exploring the ANZAC Lading Site and surrounds, before crossing over to the Asian side of the Dardanelles to stay the night in a hotel in Çanakkale. On the second day we visited the Cape Helles region where the British Landings were made and amongst the sites visited, some were the Turkish Gun Batteries that defended the Dardanelles, and performed valiant tasks in repulsing the Naval Incursion by Allied Warships in March 1915.

For a **COASTAL ARTILLERY** aspect on a Gallipoli visit, I have compiled some details, with images of the sites we visited.

John O'Brien

Editor

NAMAZGAH BATTERY

Directly across the Narrows of the Dardanelles, Çannakale Boğazi in Turkish, lies the magnificent fortress of Kilitbahir, the Lock of the Sea. Like Çimenlik Castle at Çanakkale, Kilitbahir was built by Sultan Mehmet II, the Conqueror, in 1452. The two fortresses guarded the Narrows from any fleet coming from Europe to assist Constantinople (Istanbul) then under siege by Mehmet.

On the road south of Kilitbahir are a number of old earthen gun ramparts and concrete ammunition bunkers such as the Rumeli Hamidye Rampart and the large and impressive Namazgah Rampart. They were built in the 1890s and formed in 1915 part of the defence system of forts, ramparts and mines set up to prevent foreign naval passage of the straits. The great heavy guns which were sited here are long gone but the gun positions are still visible and one can imagine, on 18 March 1915, the shells being conveyed up from the ammunition bunkers to keep the guns firing during the Allied naval attack.





Just south of the Namazgah Rampart is a reminder of the struggle here on 18 March as the Allied warships shelled the forts and ramparts. Facing out to sea is a great bronze statue, placed here in 1992, of Corporal Seyit from the village of Edremit-Havran. Seyit, stripped to the waist, carries in his arms a 275 kilogram shell for his gun battery at the Rumeli Mecidiye Rampart. Seyit, a timber cutter, was apparently famous in his village for his great strength and capable of walking around with a log under each arm. At Seyit's battery on 18 March the machinery which brought the shells to the guns broke down, so he personally carried them. The particular shell in the statue is probably meant to be the last the battery had on that day when Seyit took it to the gun and fired it himself. Supposedly, it hit and sank the British battleship HMS *Ocean*, but what actually crippled the warship may have been one of Captain Hakki Bey's mines from the *Nusret*. Accounts vary, but the Corporal Seyit statue is certainly a tribute to the Turkish gunners who stood firm against the shelling of the Allied warships on a number of occasions in February and March 1915.





ERTUĞRUL BATTERY

The Ertuğrul Battery is located across from the memorial to Yahya Çavuş. In 1915, it was one of the five fortified emplacements protecting the entrance of the Dardanelles Strait. The Ertuğrul Battery had two 240 milimetre Krupp guns, though both had been destroyed during bombardments prior to the naval attack of March 18.

On the morning of April 25, after a preliminary bom-bardment by British war-ships ahead of the landing, Turkish soldiers took up position in the ruins of the Ertuğrul Battery and rained small-arms fire on the British troops coming ashore at 'V' Beach below them.

The emplacement was built in the 1890s and three of its partly buried magazines are still intact today. The barrel and part of the mounting of one of the Krupp guns also lies in the remains of the battery. Unfortunately, the battery's ramparts and its surroundings were greatly altered by work carried out in early 2006, turning the historic position into a ceremonial site paved with modern stones.





KABATEPE MUSEUM

This modern museum is located in the Gallipoli Historic National Park, and is a starting point for most tours to the ANZAC Landing Sites. In the forecourt stands 3 Turkish Field guns, overlooking the azure blue of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and the headland which was then known as Gaba Tepe was the site of an artillery battery which constantly harassed the ANZAC troops around ANZAC Cove to the north throughout the Gallipoli Campaign.



ASKERI MUZESI

In the grounds of the Askeri Muzesi (Amy Museum) in Istanbul there is one of the guns that defended the Dardanelles and another statue of Corporal Seyit, the most famous Turkish Gunner. Inside the museum there are also many artillery pieces that trace the history of guns in the Ottoman Empire and contain many pieces captured in wars fought by the Turks.





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.

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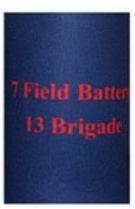
Please do not forget to include your name so we know who the payment is from.
Thank You.

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

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Please find enclosed the amount of \$_	being for paym	ent 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.)							
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Street Name							
Suburb:	Postcode	Phone					
Email:							
Please make cheques payable to '7 Fd Bty ORs Canteen'							