



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

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DECEMBER 2010



GUNNERS DAY 2010





Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

RAAA WA and RAAHS of WA

**Sunday morning - 14th March 2010
Hobbs Artillery Park**

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2011

29th Jan 26th Feb 26th Mar 30th Apr
28th May 25th Jun 30th Jul 27th Aug
24th Sep 29th Oct 26th Nov 31st 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 Day – Sunday 7th December 2010

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Next Issue – April 2011

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

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

Another year over and where did it go? The principal highlights were;

- The AGM in March (lightly attended)
- Great crowd turn-out for ANZAC day but a reduced gunner presence
- The 7 FD BTY Dinner in July was a great success. In 2011 it is intended to combine this into a Corps Dinner
- Gunners day in November (lightly attended)

We are keen to increase attendance at all of the above and welcome feedback or suggestions that you might have to achieve this.

Western Region has a new Gunner Colonel Commandant. Bill Ritchie handed "over the baton" to Brigadier Gerry Warner at the Gunner Officer Dinner 3rd December 2010 after 4 years of service in the role. I thank Bill for his efforts and welcome Gerry to the role.

As we approach the festive season I would like to thank the committee for their tireless efforts in coordinating events and wish all gunners and their families a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

Ubique,

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President, RAA Association

COLONEL COMMANDANT WESTERN REGION

Colonel Bill Ritchie, Gunner COL COMDT WR, announced the appointment of his replacement, Brigadier Gerry Warner at the annual Feast of Saint Barbara dinner held at Hobbs Artillery Park Friday 3rd December 2010. Bill spoke briefly of his own history and the changes in artillery within his 4 years as COL COMDT before "passing the baton" on to BRIG Warner.

Brigadier A.G. Warner, AM, LVO, BSc (Hons), Dip Mil Stud, FAICD

Gerry Warner is Chief Executive Officer of the RAAF Association in WA which provides retirement units, residential aged care and welfare to RAAF veterans and the community more broadly.

He graduated from the Royal Military College in 1971 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Artillery. He then completed the Section Commanders (Field) Course at North Head before serving as a troop commander in 16 LAA Regt at Woodside South Australia. He returned to Woodside for later postings as BC HQ Bty 1976, Adjt 1980, BC 111 AD Bty (Lt) 1981-82 and CO 16 AD Regt 1989-90. Towards the end of his regimental command 16 AD Regt prepared and deployed RBS 70 detachments to the Gulf War on board HMAS Success. During his regimental service he participated in major exercises in Singapore, Malaysia and Germany. As COMD 5 Bde/COMD Liverpool Military Area in 1998 BRIG Warner exercised a range of command responsibilities in relation to 23 Fd Regt and 8/12 Mdm Regt.

Gerry's varied military career following graduation from Duntroon included extensive command experience, tours on the personal staff of Governors-General, pivotal operations and personnel staff appointments and UN peacekeeping on the Golan Heights and in Southern Lebanon. He was the senior Defence

representative in Western Australia in 1996-97 and in his final posting was Chief of Staff Land Headquarters in Sydney during a range of intense operational tempo including support to the Olympic Games. His responsibilities took him to Australian deployments in such places as Cambodia, Bougainville, Malaysia, East Timor, Eritrea and Mozambique.

Her Majesty the Queen appointed him Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO) in 1988 and he was made a Member of the order of Australia (AM) in 2000. He is a graduate of Australian Army Command and Staff College 1983 and US Army War College 1994.

After separation from the Australian Regular Army in 2003 and settling in his home state, he was appointed to the independent committee convened by the Board of Western Power to report on the power supply crisis in February 2004. Since then and in addition to his CEO employment he has served as a Sessional Senior Member of the State Administrative Tribunal, a member of the Mental Health Review Board and a Member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal where he sits on many veterans' matters. BRIG Warner is also a trustee of the WA Government ANZAC Day Trust.

During October 2007 to March 2008 Gerry also served on an independent panel of three appointed by the Prime Minister to review the awards stemming from the Battle of Long Tan in 1966 and the merits of further service medal recognition for former RAAF Ubon personnel.

Gerry is married to Gerri and they both enjoy reading and walking. Gerry is also a keen but inelegant swimmer, enjoys developing his competence in the kitchen and suffers the highs and lows of being a Fremantle Dockers supporter.



Brigadier Stephen Cain addresses the diners. BRIG Warner sits to the immediate left

WERE YOU EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS?

The department of Defence has identified that Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and Australian Public Service (APS) employees may have been exposed to asbestos during their defence training with 105mm M2A2 Dummy Drill Bags. Current and retired ADF members and APS employees who think that they may have been exposed and would like to have their asbestos-related medical states evaluated, are encouraged to contact the 1800 Defence phone number (1800 333 3623) and register with the defence asbestos Exposure Evaluation Scheme. More information can be located on the Department of defence website <http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/asbestos/>

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BC HANDOVER 17 NOVEMBER 2010

Major Steve Mathers, BC 7 FD BTY, 3 FD REGT from 1 January 2008, formally handed over the reins to John Blylevens at a ceremony conducted at Hobbs Artillery Park today (17th November 2010). Bruce Campbell, President of the RAAHSWA received the MAJGEN John Whitelaw sword from Steve and then presented it to the incoming BC.



Steve will be leaving for France shortly to oversee the development of a major mining operation in Guinea through his civilian employment. Although excited at the prospect of an extended stay in France and a very challenging project, he will be disappointed not to be able to continue his military career during this period. However he relishes the opportunity to visit the plethora of historical military sites readily available and promised to send photos and articles of as many sites as he can visit.

John Blylevens was pleased to accept the sword that the RAAHSWA present to each incoming BC for the duration of their appointment. It is a fitting reminder of the traditions of the Army and Artillery in particular. Members are encouraged to talk to Don Rae about the history of the sword as he can provide some very interesting anecdotes about how it came back to the RAAHSWA after a long and hitherto unexplained absence.



The Wednesday Afternoon Action Group (WAGS) were on hand to offer congratulations.

HALE

We have not had any new members in the last quarter.

VALE

We regret to advise the following vales in September 2010;

54517 WO2 David Michael (Mick) LEWIS on 29 September 2010.

Mick served in the Army for 20 years and was posted to the following units:

Kapooka - Recruit Training	School of Artillery - Trade Training	102 Fd Bty – Singapore
107 Fd Bty – Vietnam	HQ Bty - 1 Fd Regt Brisbane	103 Fd Bty - Brisbane – Vietnam
101 Fd Bty - Brisbane – Vietnam	Proof & experimental Estab – SA	A Fd Bty – Holsworthy
Recruiting – Perth	Posted back to A Fd Bty – Holsworthy	108 Fd Bty – Townsville - Rhodesia
7 Fd Bty – Perth		

Richard William HOWELL

Richard was born on 29 March 1947. He graduated from the Officer Cadet School Portsea in December 1969 and was appointed to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Richard completed a full range of corps and non corps, regimental, operational and staff postings both in Australia and overseas. A review of the printout of Dick's postings show appointments to Air Defence, Field, Regular, Army Reserve, District Headquarters, Central Army Records Office (CARO), Defence Headquarters and Papua New Guinea. Richard attended Staff College Camberley UK and the Australian Joint Services Staff College, as well as being a member of the directing staff at the Army's Command and Staff College at Queenscliff.

Dick was in 105th Field Battery waiting to go to Vietnam with 1st Field Regiment when Australia's commitment to that war ended in December 1972. However his subsequent overseas service with the UN as an observer in Damascus and Cairo in 1980-81 together with Camberley in the UK and as the Head Australian Defence Staff (HADS) in Papua New Guinea broadened his experience in compensation. It was acknowledged that Dick had a very charismatic way with words and people. His selection for Training Officer with the Army Reserve in Perth, handling NCO postings at CARO, command of 102nd Field Battery, Staff College directing staff in Australia, Director International Policy in Canberra and as HADS PNG illustrates the recognition, confidence and high regard the Regiment, Army and Defence had for these attributes.

He was a great people person. Richard had extensive experience in leading and directing teams in high level international environments and meetings to help develop and implement international Defence policy. His experience in negotiations with senior international officials focusing on the South West Pacific and South East Asia regions as well as his practical experience as a military commander and diplomat in PNG, Defence Intelligence and security, gave him a unique place among his peers. Richard Howell was without question a devoted family man, a gentleman, considerate, compassionate and a professional with strength of character in every form. Dick never laughed, he chuckled. He could find the humorous side of almost any situation and emphasise his remarks with his characteristic chuckle. It is also said that natural disaster was a close companion of Dick's. He was at Wacol during the Brisbane floods of 1972, Darwin during Cyclone Tracey in 1974 and adjutant of 4th Field Regiment in Townsville when another cyclone hit that city.

After 34 years' service, Richard joined the Defence consultant "PSMC" in Canberra which specialised in Defence training area design and environment management. He was the Support manager and principal coordinator and the Australian Management Working Group representative in the JCTC AS/US Combined Management organisation (CMO). He had just returned from a World Joint Training Scheduling Conference in Colorado and was at home when he suddenly developed chest pains and passed away.

His funeral details will be published in the Canberra Times on Saturday 2 October. His sudden and untimely death comes as a traumatic shock to his loving wife, Mary, three adult children (Allison, Andrew and Mark), their partners (Davin, Rachel and Michelle) and five grandchildren (Madison, Charlotte, Thomas, Grace and Matilda). The Gunner community and his Defence friends offer their condolences and support to Mary at this time of need.

Vale Richard William Howell – a charismatic and very professional Officer, broad military strategic planner and a devoted family man. Gone to the Great Gun Park up above, all too early at only 63 years young.
Ubique

Pictures from GUNNERS DAY 2010



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 _____

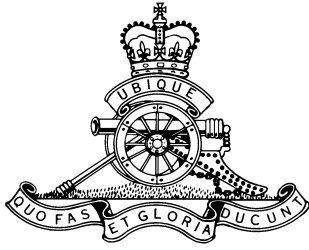
Member of _____

(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

Since my last report the Society has continued to improve and upgrade the Command Post including replacing the original carpet.

This is part of a long-term plan to ensure the facilities are up to the standard required by the public.

On the 16th October a special tour by the Vietnam Veterans of the complex took place and it was pleasing to be able to show them over.

The Society will be loaning the AMWAF two pieces from our Ordinance Collection for the Artillery barracks Centenary Display during the end of November / first week of December

As this is the last publication before the festive season the writer and your committee extends to you a merry Christmas and may 2011 be up to your expectations.

UBIQUE

Bruce G. Campbell OAM
President

LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE UPDATE

Members will be pleased to experience the newly laid carpet in the 5.25" Command Post at Leighton battery site. The management Committee decided to 'bit the bullet' and spend a portion of the Society's funds on this overdue project. For visiting public the colour, texture underfoot is a pleasant surprise against all military hard edges on the site.

Remodelling of the CP interior is progressing and to date presents nicely to the eye.

The Guide Group has been busy with a steady Sunday Trade and several out of hours groups have come in on evenings or Saturdays, out of necessity. The two sizeable groups were from the Deaf Association and a Vietnam Veterans Re-Union Group. Also high Schools and Scout packs have taken advantage of our services.

Essential maintenance above and below continues to occupy the time of the Busy-Bee Toilers on each ending Saturday of the month, except December. There is a listing of those dates on the 2nd page of this newsletter.

All guides should now have the roster for the opening quarter of 2011

Merry Christmas to all of the Society members and their families.

David Carter.

ENGINEERING HERITAGE AWARD

Earlier this year, Engineering Heritage Western Australia successfully nominated the Fremantle **Fortress-Rottnest Island World War II Coastal Defence Facilities** for Engineering Heritage Australia's highest accolade, an Engineering Heritage National Landmark award.

Representatives of the RAAHS, Rottnest Voluntary Guides and invitees from engineering, railway and military heritage groups, together with family of past civilian and military personnel joined the Rottnest Island Authority and the Engineering Heritage fraternity in a Commemoration Ceremony and luncheon in the Picture Hall before travelling to Oliver Hill where the visitors were enjoyed a mini tour of the H1 gun.

Recognition of Rottnest's military past as an Engineering Heritage National Landmark is a powerful message to decision makers on the importance of preserving the Island's World War II military assets for future generations.

Don Rae, never one to miss an opportunity, held brief discussions with Engineering Heritage management after the Ceremony, and is hopeful further discussion next year will lead to the Leighton Battery tunnels receiving a similar accreditation.



Colonel Michael Page, Assistant Commander 13 Brigade addressing the Ceremony



Owen Peake, National Chair and Don Young, WA Branch Chair flanking the Engineering Heritage National Landmark Plaque donated to the Rottnest Island Authority

4TH BRIGADE ANA GUNNERS

The Afghan National Army's 4th Brigade achieved another milestone on 26 July 2010 following the successful firing of **122 mm D30 Howitzer artillery guns** at the heavy weapons range inside the Multi-National Base in Tarin Kowt.

The 4th Brigade "Gunnery" underwent months of training and gunnery drills under the tutelage of **Australian artillerymen** from the 1st Mentoring Task Force prior to the test fire mission.

The event marked the inaugural firing of artillery by the 4th ANA Brigade and proved another capability in the 4th Brigade's arsenal. The event was attended by Commander of the 4th ANA Brigade, Brigadier Hamid and the Commander of the Combined Team Uruzgan, US Colonel Jim Creighton.



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)

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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



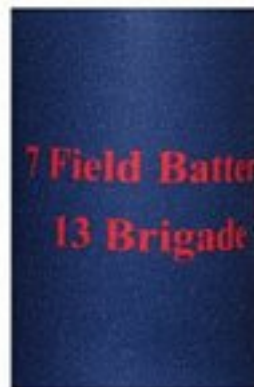
TIE



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'



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
Head of Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

I2143961

**Representative Colonel Commandant,
Colonels Commandant,
Commanding Officers,
Regimental Sergeant Majors,
All Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery,
Associations and affiliated friends of the Regiment.**

SAINT BARBARA'S DAY GREETING 2010

Traditionally, we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day in a variety of ways across the Regiment. Today, I ask you to include in your reflections our achievements of 2010 and the challenges ahead of us in 2011.

2010 has seen a continued high tempo with individuals, troops and batteries serving overseas on operations and at home. Today as we celebrate, there are gunners on operations looking forward to their return to Australia whilst other rotations are preparing to deploy over the Christmas and New Year period. I would like to thank those who have deployed this year for your professionalism and commitment and wish you all a safe and speedy return to Australia. Our special thanks go to their families for their continued and valued on-going support.

2011 will see the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery continue to change as we develop the Air Land concept, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Counter Rocket and Mortar capabilities, enter into service the M777 Light Weight Howitzer and digitise many of our command and control systems. Together these and other initiatives will modernise the Regiment and greatly enhance our contribution to the combined arms fight.

This year we have continued to benefit from the high quality support afforded to us by the Representative Colonel Commandant and the Regional Colonel Commandants. These elder statesmen of the Regiment provide valuable service to the Regiment. I would like to thank Colonels A.T. Piercy and W.A. Ritchie, who have completed their appointments, for their efforts and welcome Colonel I.F. Ahearn who has assumed his appointment as Colonel Commandant Eastern Region and Brigadier A.G. Warner who has been appointed as the Colonel Commandant Western Region.

Congratulations to those of you that will assume key appointments in 2011 as Commanders of Units, Sub Units and Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors. Make the most of your opportunity.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonels Commandant, I congratulate and thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and former, for their service. Enjoy Saint Barbara's Day.

Ubique

D.P. COGHLAN
Brigadier
Head of Regiment

Telephone: (02) 62651883
E-mail: david.coghlan@defence.gov.au

4th December 2010