



# 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](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au)

Edition 1 / 13

MARCH 2013

## UBIQUE EVERYWHERE



**WESTERN FRONT - WW1**



**BORNEO - WW2**



**KOREA**



**VIETNAM**

QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT  
WHERE RIGHT AND GLORY LEAD.

LEST WE FORGET



# Notice Board

**Mark these dates in your calendars**

**ANZAC DAY – 25 April 2013**

## **March through Perth**

Form up time will be at 0900hrs.

Please refer to *The West Australian* for location details for this year's march.

Please remember to wear your beret.

All are invited to attend the Anzac Day function at Hobbs Artillery Park after the parade.

**Details to follow via website, email or mail out**

### **RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2013**

26th Jan 23<sup>th</sup> Feb 23<sup>th</sup> Mar 27<sup>th</sup> Apr

25<sup>th</sup> May 29<sup>th</sup> Jun 27<sup>th</sup> Jul 31<sup>st</sup> Aug

28<sup>th</sup> Sep 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Inside this Issue – Main points**

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### **Next Issue – June 2013**

**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](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au)

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## **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Fellow Gunners,

Gunners' Day 2012 was a successful service. Following lightening and heavy rain we were fortunate that the weather cleared for the Parade. We started at 11 am with the support of the Army Band Perth and followed the traditional format with light refreshments in the church hall. BRIG Stephen Coggin was the Reviewing Officer. This was his first Gunners Day as Commander 13 BDE. By 1pm the formalities were completed and those that wished retired to the Rose & Crown for further refreshment.

The AGM was held on 16 March 2013 at 9:30 am at Hobbs Artillery Park at which the existing committee were re-elected;

President: Bob Farrelly  
Vice President: Peter Mahoney  
Secretary and Treasurer: John Blylevens  
Committee: Ken Hepworth  
Committee: Wendy Mahoney

Committee: John O'Brien  
Committee: Scott Sullivan  
Committee: Andrew Dunje  
Hon Auditor: Hugh Zimmerman.

I would like to thank the Committee for all their efforts during the past year.

ANZAC Day 2013 is the next big event on our calendar. Unfortunately there will be no Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park. The Brigade is holding only one Dawn Service in the barracks and a single Gunfire Breakfast. The exact location is yet to be determined.

Our Colonel Commandant, BRIG Gerry Warner has agreed to lead the march in the city. Details for ANZAC Day appear in more detail in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there. Additionally 3 Light Battery are welcoming all members of the Gunner fraternity to share a drink and catch up with friends after the service at Hobbs Artillery Park as has been the past practice. Details of the form up place in St George's Terrace will appear in *'The West Australian'*. I look forward to seeing you there.

The Association and 3 Lt Bty will be holding a Corps Dinner for serving and past Gunners and their partners/guests. The Dinner will be held on Saturday 6 July 2013 at Hobbs Artillery Park, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

Welcome to MAJ Rob Coales as new BC of 3 Lt Bty. We look forward to a continued good relationship with the Bty. As many would be aware 3 Lt Bty is under command of the 11/ 28 RWAR Battle Group (BG) and sharing Hobbs Artillery Park. The CO, LTCOL Chris Adams has set up a Working Group which COL Don Rae, the BC, MAJ Rob Coles and I will participate on to discuss the transitional arrangements for RAA matters. We look forward to fruitful discussions.

Ubique,

Bob Farrelly

LTCOL President, RAA Association



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**VALE**

**Frank Cahill**

**SSGT Bill Kerr**

**BDG Gavin Bonser**





## ORDER OF THE DAY

### **3<sup>rd</sup> LIGHT BATTERY, 11<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> BATTALION, THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA REGIMENT**

On 1 January 2013, 3 Lt Bty, 11/28 RWAR will be raised to provide the joint fire effects capability within 13 Brigade. 3 Lt Bty will be equipped with the 81mm mortar. Through its name, 3 Lt Bty links to the rich traditions established by those Western Australians who have served in the Royal Australian Artillery.

3 Lt Bty is the future of the Royal Australian Artillery in 13 Brigade. As a subunit of 11/28 RWAR, it will provide a career path for officers and soldiers in the joint fires domain. Using the mortar as a platform, capability for operating the weapon system, planning fire missions and calling for joint fires will be developed. These are all significant requirements under Plan BEERSHEBA, the Army's plan to respond to the complexity of future operators and this will give real opportunities to officers and soldiers to serve our nation.

A great deal of work has been undertaken and will continue to be done for the remainder of this year, in order to facilitate a smooth transition to the new command arrangements. Through the efforts of staff at 11/28 RWAR, 7 Fd Bty, and the Headquarters, 11/28 RWAR, with its artillery sub unit embedded successfully, will be postured to enter the 2013 training year ready to deliver capability to Army. I acknowledge the efforts of all staff in ensuring that the requirements to achieve the transition of 7 Fd Bty to 3Lt Bty, 11/28 RWAR will be met by the end of this year.

As with other Reserve units of the Royal Australian Artillery, 7 Field Battery, 3 Field Regiment RAA been disestablished after some 37 years on the Australian Army Order of Battle. The independent battery has provided sterling service to 13 Brigade and its predecessor formations. 3 Lt Bty can trace it's lineage to 1870 when the Union Troop of Western Australian Volunteers was raised through to the Boer War and both World Wars. The first Western Australian battery raised for World War 1, 8 Battery, served at Gallipoli and had the distinction of firing the last artillery round prior to the withdrawal from the Peninsular and later served on the Western Front.

In the Reserve context, 3 Lt Bty is a direct descendent of 3 Field Regiment which was formed in 1948 in the re-organisation of the Army following World War 11. 3 Field Regiment was reduced to one battery in 1975, 7 Field Battery. 3 Lt Bty's troops are named 7 Tp and 8 Tp. This nomenclature honours in lineage of Reserve artillery in Western Australia.

With the raising of 3 Lt Bty the future of the Royal Australian Artillery in 13 Brigade is assured. The mortar trade is sustainable and gives a clear pathway for light gunners (ECN 161) and leads to other relevant trades in the Reserve. There is a bright future for 3 Lt Bty officers and soldiers with possibilities to participate in force generation training activities such as Exercise Hamel, in preparation to serve with the Beersheba Battle Group during the Ready year. This is real. Plan BEERSHEBA gives the member of 3 Lt Bty a genuine role in the defence of Australia's national interests.

I warmly welcome 3 Lt Bty, 11/28 RWAR to 13 Brigade. It follows in the proud footsteps of 7 Fd Bty and preserves the artillery heritage of Western Australia. 7 Fd Bty has served the Brigade with distinction and is disestablished with a sense of dignity. The members transition to 3 Lt Bty and will continue this fine record of service. Good soldering to its artillery, officers and soldiers.

*S.A. Coggin, CSC*  
Brigadier  
Commander  
15 November 2012

### **CHANGEOVER OF BATTERY COMMANDER**

Major Robert Coales accepted the MAJGEN John Whitelaw sword from Major John Blylevens in a unit ceremony conducted on the last Tuesday training night of 2012 on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

The RAAHS-WA "issue" the sword to each incoming Battery Commander. This is usually at their XMAS Wednesday morning tea with the BC retaining the sword for their tenure.

1 January 2013 marks the dissolution of 7<sup>th</sup> Field Battery 3 Field Regiment replaced by 3 Light Battery fielding six 81mm mortars.



## **THE NEW BATTERY COMMANDER**

Major Robert Coales joined the Australian Army Reserve in December 1994.

In July 1995 he commenced officer training with the Western Australian University Regiment.

He was awarded his commission in February 1997 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Artillery Corps and subsequently posted to 7 Field Battery as a Section Commander.

In June 1999 he transferred to New South Wales with his civilian employment and was posted to 28 Battery, 7 Field Regiment where he was the Gun Position Officer.

In January 2003 Major Coales transferred back to Western Australia and rejoined 7 Field Battery as the Gun Position Officer.

In 2005 he was promoted to Captain and was posted to the Sydney University Regiment as 2IC Training Company.

In 2008 on return to Perth he was posted as a JFT commander with 7 Field Battery.

From September 2008 to April 2009 Major Coales deployed on Operation Anode as the personnel officer to the Solomon Islands.

He was the Battery Captain, 7 Field Battery in 2009 and 2010.

In 2011 and 2012 Major Coales was posted to E Troop 2 Squadron, Pilbara Regiment as a Troop Commander and a Patrol Commander in Carnarvon. He deployed on Operation Resolute in August 2011.

Major Coales was posted to his current appointment as the Battery Commander of 3 Light Battery on 1st January 2013.

Major Coales was educated at Christ Church Grammar School, graduating in 1993 and Murdoch University graduating in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts (Politics) Degree. He has also completed post graduate study and has a Diploma in Policing and a Graduate Certificate in Transnational Crime Prevention from the University of Wollongong.

In his civilian career, he is a Police Prosecutor at the Armadale Courts.

He is married to Jodie and has two children, Joshua 10 and Sophie 8. He enjoys fishing, tennis, four wheel driving and is an avid supporter of the Fremantle Dockers.

### **GAVIN BONSER**

Bdr Bonser enlisted in the Australian Army Reserve on 20 May 1989 and commenced his service as a gun number with 7 Field Battery, 3 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery.

Over the next 23 years he provided dedicated service to the unit and the Australian Army performing the duties of gun number, command post operator and as a forward observer assistant.

The values of the Australian Army are Courage Initiative and Team work.

Gavin epitomised these values. He was robust in his duties and always set the example for others to follow. He always put other soldier's needs and welfare before his own. He was a leader and strived to be the best, the best gun, the first gun into and out of action and the best FO Party.

Gavin had an infectious personality and a wonderful sense of humour. It's this personality and sense of humour is what we will remember Gavin by.

When Sir William Dean talked about the Spirit of ANZAC he could have been talking about Bombardier Gavin Bonser, *"It's about courage and endurance and duty and love of country and mateship and good humour and a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds."*

Gavin was awarded the Australian Defence Medal, Defence Long Service Medal and received a soldier's medallion for his dedication to the Australian Army Reserve.

The Battery and the Brigade will miss Bombardier Gavin Bonser.

May he rest in peace.



**AUSTRALIAN ARMY**  
**Head of Regiment**  
**Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery**

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

**SAINT BARBARA'S DAY GREETING 2012**

Fellow Gunners,

2012 has been a highly successful year for the RAA and has seen a continued high tempo with individuals and troops serving Australia overseas on a wide range of operations. Today as we celebrate as gunners, there are those whose tours of duty have concluded and who are looking forward to some well deserved time off at home, whilst the next rotations have deployed or are in the process of deploying. I would like to thank all gunners who have served overseas this year for your continued high levels of readiness and professionalism and wish you all a safe and speedy return to Australia. Our special thanks must go to your families for their enduring and unwavering support.

2013 will see the Regiment continue with the rapid pace of development as Plan Beersheba is implemented. The Air Land concept continues to mature and the Sense-Warn-Locate capability with the Counter Rocket and Mortar system continues to provide excellent capability on operations. We continue to embed the M777 Light Weight Howitzer and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System into the Regiments. The digitised Artillery capability will be further enhanced when the Digital Terminal Control System comes on line in late 2013, allowing a routine digital link from the observer to the gun for the first time in our history. The persistent success of the capability multiplier that is the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in Afghanistan underscores the professionalism of the Regiment in all of its integrated capabilities. As the Regiment masters these fundamental changes it is both an exciting and challenging time for all of us, regardless of rank and we continue to make very good progress towards our technical excellence goals.

2013 will also bring further changes to the Regiment in the Army Reserve. The conversion to the mortar based capability will conclude and be consolidated through the adoption of the new Light Battery sub-unit structures under Plan Beersheba. I must congratulate all members of the Regiment for their professional approach to planning and executing this significant change over several years. I am particularly encouraged by the commitment to formally acknowledge and mark for our history and heritage, with parades and celebrations across the country, the achievements of our retiring Reserve Regimental and Independent Battery organisations.

On 1 January 2013 the new sub-unit structures will be established and affiliated as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Light Battery of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment, 23<sup>rd</sup> Light Battery of 4<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Light Battery of 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Light Battery, of 10<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Light Battery, of 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Battery, of 11<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Western Australia Regiment. We can all now look forward to a new chapter in the proud Army Reserve RAA history and to forging new relationships with the Batteries and Battalions.

Today is also the official change of appointment of our Representative Colonel Commandant from Major General Tim Ford to Brigadier Gerry Warner. Colonel Commandant Southern Region, Brigadier Neil Graham and Colonel Geoff Laurie, Colonel Commandant Central Region also complete their tenure. Please again accept our thanks for your service to the Regiment over the years and we welcome your continued support less formally in the future. I would like to welcome Brigadier Peter Alkemade who has assumed his appointment as Colonel Commandant Southern Region.

Today, I ask that we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day reflecting proudly on the achievements of 2012 and eagerly anticipating the challenges ahead in 2013. I take this opportunity to congratulate those of you that will assume



command and leadership appointments in January 2013 as Commanding Officers, Battery Commanders, Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonels Commandant, I commend and thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and former, for their service. Enjoy your celebrations today.  
Ubique

**S. ROACH**

Brigadier  
Head of Regiment  
Telephone: (07) 3332 6321  
E-mail: don.roach@defence.gov.au  
4 December 2012

**ANZAC DAY VISIT TO BANKSIA HILL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTRE 2012**

In my capacity as 2IC of the WA Army Cadet Bde I visited Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre for their ANZAC Day Service in 2012. I accompanied the Regional Commander of WA Army Cadets, LtCol (AAC) Bob Barber and some others. The ceremony is held annually and fully planned, organised and conducted by the detainees themselves. The ceremony was attended by about 120 detainees.

Perhaps not so well appreciated is that there is a sub unit of the army cadets operating out of Banksia Hill, and I believe this is a first for the cadet organisation. The strength of the unit fluctuates and one might think the fewer the better ! However sub unit strength is generally about 10 -15 and all members are volunteers.

The aim of the initiative is to provide some life skills, in addition to the school curriculum they are taught, to young people who find themselves in the predicament where they end up there.

The day began with an honour guard that the COMD and myself walked through - at one point the COMD stopped at one young detainee and said " I see you're still here" to which the reply was " No I'm back! " with a big grin, quite amusing at the time were it not for the situation that had put him back "inside" for his second ANZAC day service. A cadet piper and drummer provided the musical backdrop to the day.

The detainees as part of their understanding of the traditions of ANZAC Day participated in several activities including the creation of a number of photographic montages of iconic ANZAC scenes in which they had created their uniforms and "sets"

The following poem "Lest we forget" was composed by the detainees and delivered during the ceremony

**LEST WE FORGET**

**A**ir raid shelter, damp and black

**B**ombs exploding, back to back

**C**hildren crying, adults too

**D**own the cellar – after you

**E**vacuees on the train

**F**arewells said in pouring rain

**G**one to live in some strange place

**H**oping for a friendly face

**I**n the city, parents wait

**J**ust to hear of their children's fate

**K**nowing that they have arrived

**L**eaves them thankful they've survived

**M**emories now not theirs to make

**N**o hugs or kisses: birthday cake

**O**nly painful loss is theirs

**P**arting sorrows, daily prayers

**Q**uick to jar them from their pity:

**R**aids repeating on the city.

**S**irens screeching, chaos calls,

**T**hunderous noise as buildings  
fall.

**U**nderground: imaginations,

**V**iolent earth reverberations.

**W**hy oh why? Despair abounds.

**E**Xit all, as fear resounds....

**Y**esterday for now is gone

**Z**eal for life and peace lives on.

Afterwards all adjourned to the hall for a morning tea where the pride the young detainees had in their achievement was quite evident with groups eager to explain what they now knew of ANZAC day and its meaning in front of their particular contribution to the display.

*Peter Mahoney*

## **GUNNER CONTINGENT TRAVELS TO BROOME FOR ANZAC DAY 2012** **70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF BROOME DURING WWII**

Last Anzac Day a small gunner contingent travelled to Broome to participate in Anzac Day celebrations.

Co-incidentally 70 years previously on the 3 March 1942 the Japanese carried out an unexpected bombing raid on a number of flying boats anchored in Roebuck Bay. In all, 109 people were killed and 68 of these were Dutch civilians and military personnel who had previously been evacuated from the Dutch East Indies. Remnants of the flying boats they were in can still be seen at Roebuck Bay during low tide.

It is interesting to note that in his speech given at Bedford Park in Broome to commemorate the event on 3 March 2012, the Netherlands Ambassador, Mr Willem Andreae said, and I quote

*"...Others, who showed remarkable acts of courage that day, are no longer with us. I would like to mention an indigenous man, Charles D'Antoine, who was refueling the flying boats that had brought in the Dutch when the Japanese attack began. He was a strong swimmer and did not hesitate to come to the rescue of a number of Dutch passengers, who otherwise would not have made it. After the war, the Royal Netherlands Air Force awarded him with a medal for his bravery"*

As a segue to the paragraph above, on 18 October 1966, Private Gordon D'Antoine, 5RAR, also from The Kimberley, was killed during a clearance operation on the Nui Thi Vai caves in South Vietnam. Research indicates the two men were related, with Gordon possibly being a nephew to Charles.

Gunners who travelled were Fred Morrell, Stew Davies, Alice Cockram, Peter and Wendy Mahoney. Once there, the group RV'd with resident gunners, Roger Harrison and Persine Aysing ( previously Tan ) who had escaped north some years before. Several days of intense fellowship ensued, with potential battery locations being reced relentlessly from Gantheaume Point to Cable Beach to Roebuck Bay and Matsos Brewery, both by day and night generally from the perspective of chairs millionaire and through the bottom of a glass of the finest of whatever was to hand.

Persine had conveniently changed services since her gunner days and had become the OC TS Broome the local Navy Cadet unit. This was extremely fortuitous as accommodation and some access to transport became available so a firm base was established. Thanks Persine ! Thanks also to Roger and Sandy for your hospitality and company, it was great to catch up.

At zero dark hundred hours Anzac Day morning all assembled in and around Bedford Park Broome where a sizeable crowd had gathered including a police contingent the size of which must have stripped every Kimberley police station of resources for the day. There was a large contingent also of veterans many of whom had come from far flung places. The parade stepped off to the chaotic but enthusiastic beat of a couple of cadet drummers and with the usual hop, skip and jump, change step routine, finally "marched" past the dias where LT Persine, ANC and a couple of other blokes (the Army and Air Force reps) took the salute. A poignant service followed during which the sun rose magnificently over Roebuck Bay and those present were able to contemplate the solemnity of the occasion while listening to the WW1 refrain "Roses of Picardy" which appeared to have been set to constant repetition.

At the conclusion of the service, 0730Hrs "Move to Alternate" was announced and the group executed a swift and speedy move to the Broome RSL where yet more fellowship at the sustained rate commenced.

All in all a great event and a memorable occasion; there has already been discussion around where the next Anzac Day "regional" event might take place. Once this has been decided advice will issue and it would be great to see as many as possible attend.

*Peter Mahoney*



## BROOME - ANZAC DAY 2012



Dawn Service March Past



A very happy band of ex-gunner vegemites !



Looking good seeing we'd been boozing since 7:30 am!



Alice Cockram, Persine Aysing, Roger Harrison, Wendy Mahoney, Fred Morrell, Stew Davies, Peter Mahoney

### 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, Battery Birthday Dinner and the latest ArtilleryWA Newsletter which is now on-line.

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



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### WELFARE FUND and OFFICER

John Blylevens 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](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au) or [john.bly@auspost.com.au](mailto:john.bly@auspost.com.au) or telephone 043 869 5711. 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.

**You can Now pay your Membership Fees (\$15 per annum) 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.**

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

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*Please make cheques payable to RAA of WA (Inc)*



# **THE AIMING POST**

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

### **PRESIDENTS ADDRESS - AGM**

Good morning and welcome.

I would like to open by thanking the defence personnel present for the use of these facilities for our AGM

The past year has seen a substantial amount of work done here at Karrakatta and down at Leighton Battery. The vast majority of it being behind the scenes. To all who have contributed their time on making our Society an efficient and effective body - I thank you one and all.

In particular I wish to acknowledge the work of the 2012 committee members. These members have met formally every month for 1.5-2.0 hours to ensure that all necessary Society matters are dealt with on the wider membership behalf. A number are re-nominating, which is a good sign, but I would encourage all members to consider nominating for committee positions in the future. I wish Stan Davies well as he vacates the Secretaries job in order to explore Australia with his wife for up to two years. In his place I welcome John Bylevens.

From the audited Treasurers Report members will see that our Society remains in a sound financial position. Members are of course reminded that our income is almost entirely generated from the weekly opening of Leighton Battery, so it is most important that we continue to maintain and develop it accordingly. You are all aware that our membership base is relatively small, but the regular payment of our annual subs is significant as it generates a dependable income stream to help offset the not inconsiderable costs of operating the Leighton site.

Addressing Leighton itself-we saw a record set last year for visitors. There were no safety incidents- which is a credit to the guide group. A development plan has been put in place and I would like to formally thank members Don Rae Neil Lodge and Roger Martin for the concepts and practical work carried out there. In the next few months work will commence on construction of a toilet, the cashier holds the key-outside the command post but built in sympathy with it. Getting these sorts of projects through the various Council and Government departments is not a quick process. The 2013 Committee will continue to plan for the development of the 5.25" site and the re-location of the 3.7" A.A. gun on the site.

Addressing matters here at Karrakatta- our restoration of the 40mm Bofors is now complete. This project was completed by members Harvey Everett, Phil Pounault and Ron Cahill. These gentlemen can be well satisfied with a job well done. Within the annex we have members pursuing areas of interest that are on-going such as our photo archives, member John Sanders, the uniform and equipment section, member Basil Twine, the lending library, member Bob Arnold, the office of our curator -member Don Rae and the work spaces for our treasurer- secretary. All these people, and others as circumstances permit, enjoy an excellent morning tea each Wednesday organised by member Ronnie Roach.

The use of the annex and workshop by our Society remains a source of some concern to us. Defence is somewhat cash-strapped these days - so we must not assume that our tenancy here is guaranteed. Our links to 7Field Battery remain firm through good PR arrangements, however the Battery he's been recently re-formatted and commands less floor-space than before, so our society must also give some ground too. An example is 11/28 staff occupying the Officers Mess and the possible loss to us of the Bessel-Browne display room. Should that eventuate we would hope that space might be made available in one of the rooms off the drill hall floor.

To conclude -our Society is only as strong as what each member makes it. I have seen talents on display from many past and present members and a willingness to give sizeable amounts of time to advance the Society's interests.

I am confident that members present and those unable to be here will continue to promote the Society's activities throughout 2013 and beyond.

My Best Regards to all members,

*David Carter.*

### **SERVICE AWARD - RONNIE ROACH**

Among the recipients of Service Awards at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at Hobbs Artillery Park on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013, was a very special Lady who has just celebrated 23 years of dedicated service to the Society. She is, of course, Ronnie Roach who has worked tirelessly in support of the Society's endeavours throughout that whole period of time.

Ronnie received the prestigious Acrylic Plaque reserved for those Members who have made an outstanding contribution over a period exceeding 10 years.

As an adventuresome young 18 year old, Ronnie enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service in 1942 and was allotted to Artillery. She trained as a Predictor Operator and was posted originally to 5 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery RAA and later to 29 Heavy Battery, first at Buckland Hill and later at East Fremantle, then Skinner Street and finally back to Buckland Hill. It was during her service that Ronnie made many lifelong friends among who were Enid and Frank Cahill.

Ronnie married Brian Roach after the war. Brian was an "N" Class Destroyer veteran and Ronnie became (and still is) involved in that Association. In addition she served as Honorary Secretary of the Heavy Anti-Aircraft Association's WA Branch until that organisation was wound up.

In the midst of all her commitments Ronnie joined the Society on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1990 and immediately became involved in the weekly activities. Her interest in Leighton Battery Heritage Site prompted her to volunteer as a Cashier and she has served in that capacity since the Official Opening of the facility in November 1997 until most recently. She is best known for her delicious scones, jam and cream served to the Wednesday Action Groups (WAGS) at Karrakatta!

We congratulate Ronnie on her Award and sincerely trust that she will continue her involvement with the Society for years to come.



David Carter presenting the Service Award to Ronnie Roach with Enid Cahill looking on.



## **AGM 2013**



David Carter presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Stan Davies at 2013 AGM

## **BEREAVEMENT**

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Frank Cahill on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012 following some months of poor health that affected his mobility. Frank would have celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

Frank was a veteran of the bombing of Darwin, serving in the 14<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery that met the brunt of the Japanese onslaught on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942 and lasted until 13<sup>th</sup> November 1943.

Post war he was an active Member of the Heavy Anti-Aircraft Association, one of the WW2 Unit Organisations that formed the amalgam from which the Society was established in 1988. Together with his wife Enid – herself a WW2 Gunner in the Australian Women's Army Service – Frank joined the Society on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1989 and was immediately committed to the team involved in the restoration of the WW2 Tunnels Complex at Leighton Battery. After the major restoration was completed Frank and Enid became regular members of the Leighton Battery Busy Bee Team, attending on a regular basis to the ever present tasks. Enid specialised in "housekeeping" and kept the Command Post spotless. Frank played his part in carpet cleaning and most importantly, took over as Chef for the all-important sausage sizzles!

One of the very important contributions made by Frank and Enid was the introduction of their Son Ron as a Member who is now well known as the Society's "Painter and Signwriter in Residence"!

Frank will always be remembered for his cheerful disposition and store house of witty stories.

Gone but not forgotten – Rest in Peace Frank

## **GUILDFORD CENTENARY 2013**

Local Guildford historian Barbara Dundas has formed a committee to plan celebrations for the centenary of artillery in Guildford. The earliest reference researched so far is 38<sup>th</sup> Battery in 1913 on the banks of the Swan River in Guildford. The committee is drawn from the Artillery Associations, 3 Light Battery (was 7 FD BTY 3 FD REGT) Guildford historians and the City of Swan.

### **WA EVOLUTION OF ARTILLERY**

1870 Union Troop of Western Australian Volunteers (3 officers/33 other ranks)  
1872 Western Australian Troop of Horse Artillery  
1872 Western Australian Troop of Volunteer Horse Artillery  
1882 Perth Volunteer Artillery  
1887 1 Bty Field Artillery  
1894 The two 12 pounder Armstrong Whitworth Breech Loading Field Guns replaced by two 9 pounder rifled muzzle loading guns  
1895 Artillery gun shed erected in Francis Street Perth  
1911 Compulsory military training introduced  
1911 14 Bty Australian Field Artillery  
WW1 8 Bty of 3 FD BDE and 16 Bty of 6 BDE: Quick firing 18 pounder guns  
1913 14 Bty and 20 Bty  
1913 37 and 38 Bty  
1915 37 Bty based at Perth, 38 Bty at Guildford  
1920 3 FD BDE consisting of 8 Bty, 38 Bty, 39 Bty  
1928 3 FD BDE consisting of 7, 8 and 103 Btys

The committee is looking at enhancing GUNNERS DAY 2013 (Sunday 3 November) by running it at the traditional time and place but expanding the invitation list.

Updates will be provided in each ARTYWA.



Guildford Centenary 2013 Committee

### **You can Now pay your Membership Fees (\$25 per annum) 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.

If you choose this method please quote:

**RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)** - (Note: Some banks may require the full wording)

**Commonwealth Bank**

**BSB Number:** 066-103  
**Account Number:** 00903744

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

## 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)

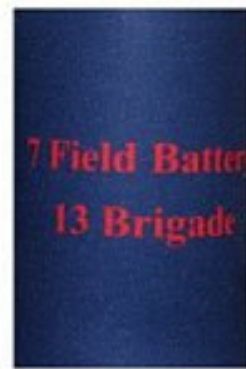
### 7 Fd Bty Merchandise FOR SALE



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*:

LBDR / PMC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt 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'*