



# Artillery WA

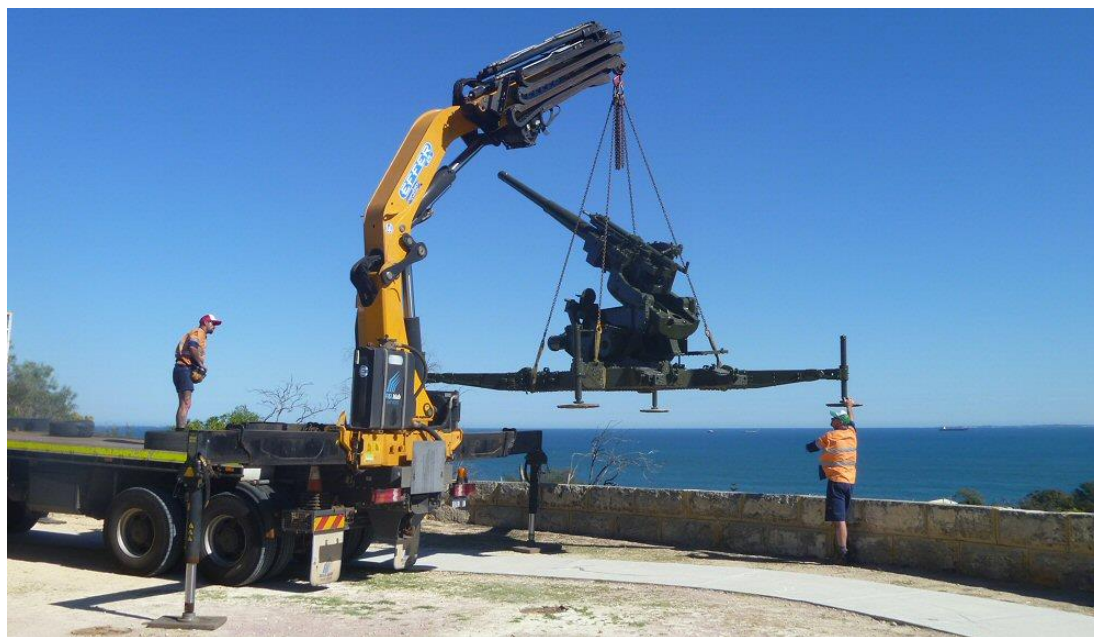


Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)  
Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>

Email: [info@artillerywa.org.au](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au)

Edition 3 / 14

October 2014



MOVEMENT OF GUNS AT LEIGHTON BATTERY



OUR ANZAC CONNECTION



# Notice Board

**Mark these dates in your calendars**

## **ANZAC Commemoration ALBANY 2014**

Thursday 30 October to Sunday 2nd November

## **GUNNERS DAY 2014**

Sunday, 9 November 2014

Stirling Square, Guildford

Details see page 7

### **RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2014**

25th Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 26<sup>th</sup> Apr

31<sup>st</sup> May 28<sup>th</sup> Jun 26<sup>th</sup> Jul 30<sup>th</sup> Aug

27<sup>th</sup> Sep 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 27<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 3:00 PM with tours of the tunnels every half hour.

### **FRONT COVER**

Leighton Battery Heritage Site: moving of the 3.7 AA Gun & 18 Pounder at Hobbs Artillery Park

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

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### **Next Issue – December 2014**

**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)

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



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

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Fellow Gunners,

#### **BTY Birthday / RAA Corps Dinner**

On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of July I attended the BTY Birthday/ RAA Corps Dinner. The dinner was well attended by about 90 people with the format reverting to the dinner and pre and post activities being held in Hobbs Artillery Park. COL David Thompson, Brigadier elect represented 13 BDE and set the mood for the night by acknowledging the original land owners of HAP, 3 Lt BTY and the Gunners.

The Association's annual award for the most outstanding soldier was presented to Gnr Carina Mangini who joined the Army Reserve in January 2006 as a Driver in the Transport Corp, posted to 7 Field Battery as a Gun Driver where she remained until 2012. In January 2013 with the establishment of 3 Light Battery, Gnr Mangini did a corps transfer to Artillery. She successfully completed the Basic Mortar Course in late 2013 and is currently employed as a Light Artillery Gunner. She is the first female soldier to have completed the Basic Mortar Course and is the first female Gunner in the Second Division. To recognise this achievement we had one of our member's, Ronnie Roach, the oldest female who served with artillery make the presentation. Most fitting!

Again a very successful night. Well done to the Bty and I would encourage all to attend next year.

#### **Farewell to LTCOL Scott Sullivan (Sully)**

For those not in the know, Sully is leaving Perth to take up employment with the University of Tasmania. He has wanted to go to Tasmania for many years and has finally achieved his goal. I would like to thank Sully for his work as a Committee Member of the Association and supporting the Gunner fraternity more generally. We wish Scott and Dee all the best on this new adventure.

#### **Gunners Day 2014**

Our next major event will be Gunners Day 2014, which will be held on Sunday, 9th November. We moved the day back a week to de conflict with the Albany centenary celebrations. This year will be significant as we are planning on having the Corps Banner brought over to mark the centenary of the commencement of WWI. In recognition of this important event I would encourage all Gunners to attend. We will form up at St Mathew's Church, Stirling Square, Guildford at 11:00 am and step off shortly thereafter. After the march we will have snacks in the Church Hall and after to the Rose & Crown hotel for refreshments.

I look forward to seeing you on Gunner's Day.

Ubique,  
Bob Farrelly  
LTCOL  
President, RAA Association

## **B.C.'s NOTE**

This year certainly has been a busy one for 3 Light Battery.

Saturday, 5 July saw the return of the Battery Dinner to Hobbs Artillery Park, a night where 100 current and ex serving gunners attended and celebrated in the fine Traditions of the Artillery. The set up was simply magnificent with both Mortars and the Guns holding Ground.

Again congratulations to Gnr Mangini and Bdr Chong with their awards received on the night.

I am confident that after the success of this dinner and the comments made by the official guests, that again next year the dinner will be held at Hobbs Artillery Park.

A week after the Battery Dinner, the Battery deployed to Townsville as part of Exercise Hamel. With the Queensland Gunners from 5/11 Light Battery we established a composite Battery of 6 tubes and two JFT (FO) parties.

The Battery provided organic indirect fire support to Battle Group Cannan during the course of the exercise. The value of the battery was vindicated with the Commanding Officer of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, requesting that the Battery remain in location to provide fire support to his Battalion.

This activity proved the capability of the Reserve Artillery and showed that there is a future in the Reserve for the Light Artillery. We have secured our own future and the Unit Entitlement for the Battery will now reflect an additional JFT and a JFECC Main complete.

We certainly received some positive coverage with the Army Newspaper writing an article about the Battery. This article can be found at [www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews](http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews).

The weekend of 24-26 October will see the battery live fire again at Lancelin. Plans are afoot to conduct a joint exercise in May 2015 with our brothers from 5/11 Light Battery. I will advise closer to the date the confirmation of this activity with a possibility of members of the associations able to observe the Battery in the field.

On a sombre note I was advised of the passing of Major Cliff Coggins in August. Cliff was the IG at 7 Field Battery from 2009 – 2011 and was the Senior Instructor in the Fire Support Wing at the School of Artillery. I was able to attend Cliff's funeral in Puckapunyal on Friday 15 August.

I look forward to catching up with as many of you in Albany in late October and of course at Gunners Day.

Ubique  
Rob Coales  
Battery Commander

### **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.**

**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**



**Australian Army**  
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

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14368722

**Representative Colonel Commandant  
Colonels Commandant  
Commanding Officers  
Battery Commanders  
All Banks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery  
Associations and affiliated friends of the Regiment**

**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY  
1 AUGUST 2014**

This year marks the 143rd Anniversary of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery's service to the Army and our nation. On 1 August we will be celebrating our glorious past mid recent illustrious history, our lineage mid customs of the Regiment through various events.

This year also marks the start of celebrations of the ANZAC Centenary mid the 100th Anniversary of the First World War. I would like to thank the efforts of those who were involved in celebratory events such as the First Shot Commemorative Ceremony at Portsea on 5 August and the Australian Artillery Association's 2014 National Gunner Dinner on 23 August in Caloundra. The Regiment have been invited to participate in the Royal Regiment of Artillery's Tercentenary Commemorative Events commencing in late 2014 to which I am sure we'll be providing a presence.

With most major elements now returned from Afghanistan, the Army is now focussing on the learning that accompanies our experiences from more than a decade of active service in various overseas operations mid reinvest in foundation war fighting skills. This strategic pause will now allow the Regiment to hone in on effectively harnessing advancements in all of its capabilities and new organisations. We are indeed at the forefront of modern warfare and we have barely scratched the surface in terms of the application of these capabilities.

Regardless of the remarkable equipment we possess, we should not forget that it is our people we must invest in as a Regiment. The ongoing training and education in technical mid tactical matters are an important aspect of the Regiment. The investment in our intellectual capabilities is at least equal to what we place in our mastery of the instruments of war that we serve with.

Amidst our celebrations let us continue to think about our Gunners who we still deployed in various parts of the globe. Let us not forget their families who bear the same sacrifices as the Gunners themselves. I also take the opportunity to remember those long serving members of the Regiment who have passed over the last year. Their service and mateship was a valuable contribution to Army and the nation and they will be missed.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonels Commandant, I congratulate all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and former, for their service.

Ubique

*PC Gates, CSM*  
Brigadier  
Head of Regiment

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Puckapunyal  
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[peter.gates@defence.gov.au](mailto:peter.gates@defence.gov.au)  
22 July 2014





Fellow Gunners

I have been unable to get the group into the National ANZAC Centre for the times we have available. This is a shame but we will still have our tour of all the buildings at the fort (now minus the centre) with the guides, so you will just have to come down another time for another visit – it may also be better as they will have ironed out the bugs and have improved the displays.

It looks like we will be getting a story in the *Albany Advertiser* about our group and the links the Battery and some of our members have to Gallipoli. Don Rae is organising a group photo in front of the 18pdr and the breach block of those available that are coming down to add into the news story.

- Chairs and eskies can be taken on the bus and can be locked underneath as no one else will have access to them when the buses are away.
- There is only one shower available in the old house for those who need one. No fighting in the queue – sharing is allowed.
- We have 2 coaches booked (100 seat max)
- We have a toilet in the old house plus 3 portables available at the camping site.
- All meals and drinks are your responsibility. There will be 2 large BBQ's and one small one available. There is a fridge inside the house with a gas cooktop and tea/coffee facilities. We have the BBQ area at the Fort booked for Friday and I believe there are food vans there too.
- My Address: 83 Nindrup Rd Mt Barker – Down Albany Highway from Perth, turn left onto Woogenellup Rd at main roundabout just North of Mt Barker with the coloured flags, then travel 10kms East to Nindrup Rd on left, 2<sup>nd</sup> property on left (look for very sparse passionfruit vines). Nindrup may be Mitchell Rd on some Navmans.
- There is plenty of room at the property but the issue will be power because I know all the grey nomads amongst you will have plasma TV's in your caravans so if you can be self-sufficient in that area it would help those tenting.
- Those attending the march (ex and serving members only) same attire as ANZAC Day.

### **This is now the plan**

30 1800 OCT 2014	Be in Loc, 83 Nindrup Rd Mt Barker for evening drinks. For those Artillery types the place will be known as Fire Base Vic (FB Vic)
31 0800 OCT 2014	Gunfire breakfast – bring something to add to the feast – bbq breakfast (FB Vic)
31 1000 OCT 2014	Depart FB Vic for Princess Royal Fort (pick up others on the way)
31 1100 - 1500 OCT 2014	BBQ area at the Fort is booked BYO lunch stuff . We have 2 tour guides for the Fort area (minus National ANZAC Centre). Deploy to Hide vicinity of the ANZAC Peace Park for Ceremonial Sunset and Harbor Lights events – bring folding chair and warm clothing – rtn to FB Vic
01 0600 NOV 2014	Gunfire Breakfast – as above (NOTE EARLY START)
01 0700 NOV 2014	Depart FB Vic and Deploy ANZAC Peace Park for Troop March

02 0800 NOV 2014

(we must be in place by 0900)and then the Service.

Time available in Albany for all street activities.

Redeploy to ANZAC Peace Park for Concert

– bring folding chair and warm clothing

– rtn to FB Vic

Gunfire breakfast – as above. End Ex.

There are ships open for inspection etc that you can go see for those interested at your leisure.

For more information on the events: <http://www.anzacalbany.com.au/anzac-albany-commemorative-events/>

Best contact details for me: 0448 796 144 or 9851 1495 after hours,  
[steve@farmerscentre1978.com.au](mailto:steve@farmerscentre1978.com.au)

Regards

*Steve Morrow*

0448 796 144



## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

# GUNNERS' DAY

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2014

All Gunners, their families, guests and other interested parties are invited to attend the Annual Gunner's Day parade and service at Stirling Square Guildford Sunday 9th November 2014.

- 11:00am: RV at St Matthews Church
- 11:10am: Parade forms up in church entry off Johnson Street. Guests and families seated at dais in front of memorial
- 11:15am: Parade steps off, follows path to church then south through Hobbs Gates, left onto Stirling Street, left into Meadow Street, past the saluting dais then left into memorial
- 11:25am: Wreath Laying Ceremony
- 11:45am: Gunner's Day Service in St Matthews Church
- 12:30pm: Light Luncheon in the Church Hall

The Queen's Banner, on loan from the School of Artillery will be paraded. Parade led by Australian Army Band Perth and the Australian Army Pipes and Drums Perth, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 Light Battery RAA and members of the Australian Cadet Corps.

Reviewing Officer: BRIG Stephen Coggin

Service will be conducted by Reverend Alison Gilchrist

Guests include Members of Parliament, Local Government, R&SL and other Associations.

Enquiries to Hon Secretary Royal Australian Artillery Association Western Australia (Inc): John Blylevens  
0438 695 711

As the nation celebrates the ANZAC Centenary, GUNNERS Day takes on a particular meaning having been conducted every year since 1928. It is a special day for remembrance and a great opportunity to catch up with Gunner colleagues, let's have a good attendance. Please spread the word.

## **BEREAVEMENT**

### **Major Clifford Coggins RAA**

It is with great sadness to advise that Major Cliff Coggins passed away suddenly in the early hours of Tuesday morning 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

Cliff will be remembered as the Instructor Gunnery 7 Field Battery RAA from 2009 until 2011 when he was promoted Major and employed at Leeuwin Barracks. Cliff transferred to the School of Artillery Puckapunyal in January 2013 and was Senior Instructor Joint Fires Wing at the time of his sudden demise.

Always a great supporter of RAA Historical Society, Cliff will be missed by all with whom he came in contact.

Cliff is survived by his wife Tracy and daughter Gemma.

*UBIQUE*

## **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 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.



**RAAA JACKET POCKET BADGE** – Actual size of Badge is 100mm wide x 90mm high - \$15

**RAA EMBROIDERED BERET BADGES** – Actual size is 55mm wide by 40mm high - \$10

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 \$15 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)**

### **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Welcome to this Spring edition of The Aiming Post. I hope all members are as well as your circumstances permit. To all those Eagles and Dockers fans among us, we can be well pleased with their efforts to date.

Since my last Address in June the Society's activities have continued in an orderly fashion. The Management Committee met every four weeks [and paid all the bills], the Wednesday team at Irwin Barracks met and dealt with weekly matters and your dedicated band of Cashiers and Guides manned their stations at the Tunnels every Sunday.

The large project at Leighton has been the re-location of a Bofors and the re-siting of the 3.7" gun. I can now report that both weapons look fantastic in their new emplacements.

A crane hire firm company was employed to transport the Bofors from Irwin Barracks via Stirling Highway - an eye catching event for morning motorists! The restoration of that gun is a credit to the members involved.

Of greater visual intrigue was the hoisting of the 3.7" gun- nearly six tonnes! The crane operators- Craig and Tony were very experienced and professional-space being at a premium everywhere- and yet when the gun became airborne and swung out over its escarpment I think I was not the only member present who held his breath for a moment! It was then swung onto the tray and that big vehicle ground its way onto the hill crest and re-hoisted it into its new home-unscratched.

The visual impact is immediate. A gleaming dark green gun contrasting against the yellow surrounds.

Now as the tour groups exit the C.P. they survey both guns at close range on their way to the complex. [There has not been a Bofors on-site for over sixty years]

Your President thanks all concerned with this undertaking-especially Mr Don Rae- Special Projects Officer-, who dealt with a myriad of rules and regulations and made arrangements throughout the exercise.

The Town of Mosman Park has also been active on-site. Winter rain and the undulating surfaces meant that truckloads of crushed limestone have had to be compacted over the areas away from the concrete paths to combat erosion- the end result looks good.

To the Tunnel tours. We again attracted good numbers throughout the quarter. In particular the recent school holidays- on one Sunday we processed nearly two hundred visitors between 10am and 3pm.

Those eagle eyed return visitors would also have noted that our Guides have now been outfitted with new shirts. A change of fabric and a new cut have lifted the spirits of all concerned- some Guides have also opted to purchase a pullover -very smart.

The 6" gun shields. Negotiations with Mornington Shire [Vic.] continue, with the actual ownership still being established- watch this space.

The Engineering Heritage Award occasion is still set for early December. That will recognise the unique nature of our Tunnels construction. A commemorative plaque will be presented to the Town of Mosman Park and the R.A.A.H.S. that item will be mounted at an appropriate location at Leighton Battery.

Our friends at S.A.S. [Regt] collected their two loan guns from us recently to run around the countryside doing what they do best with such things - some lads have all the fun. I wonder if they will offer us a visit to their Museum in return?

In conclusion, I was again asked to address a gathering of Cottesloe Seniors to talk about coast artillery and our Tunnels. This time my talk was just after their lunch- yes I did see a few battling to stay awake! One lady in particular scolded me early on for not looking at her as I spoke- turns out this lady had to lip read. She lost her hearing as a munitions worker in the English midlands district in W.W.2.

Enjoy the Spring flowers!

David Carter

President

### **A CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS A HOLIDAY.....so the saying goes !**

All was in readiness, well almost everything was in readiness, on Wednesday 13 August 2014, when the plans to move the restored Bofors gun from Irwin Barracks to Leighton Battery and the 3.7 inch Heavy Anti-Aircraft gun from its present location at Buckland Hill to its new "home" came to fruition.

The site to take the two guns had been embellished with limestone walls and new earth works and was, with some small cosmetic chores, ready for the emplacement of the guns.

Whilst the professional contractors had our full confidence we still believed a small army of Guides should be in attendance "just in case".

The move of the Bofors from Karrakatta to Buckland Hill went without a hitch resulting in the gun being temporarily placed adjacent to the Command Post until the cosmetic chores have been completed.

Next came the 3.7 inch gun....the contractors showed their skills, manoeuvring the large truck past the Six inch barrel and adjacent to the AA gun where they simply lifted it onto the truck. As I said "simple".

Returning from whence it came, past the Six inch barrel, proved a little more difficult in that the width of the gun was greater than the tray of the truck. Hard down on the RHS of the steering wheel and the removal of a small shrub allowed the vehicle to inch past the barrel and deliver the gun to its new "home". Again "simple" They say "horses for courses" Never a truer saying. The contractors were magnificent, and, as far as the Guides in attendance were concerned, their contribution was limited to comments of commendation.

What seemed to be a difficult job was easily achieved in the space of several hours by highly skilled artisans.



## **ANZAC ALBANY**

### **CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE SAILING OF THE FIRST CONVOY AIF**

Readers may recall the article by Steve Morrow in the March 2014 edition of the Newsletter in which he invited interested Members to use his Mt. Barker property as a base for the several days of events in Albany from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Approximately 100 members with family have accepted Steve's generous offer.

Anxious to highlight this excellent response, Steve arranged for press coverage with the *Albany Advertiser*. To provide a link with serving members of 3 Light Battery RAA and our Gunner heroes of 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade AFA, who served with distinction at Gallipoli and in France and Belgium, a group photograph of serving and ex serving Gunners who will be attending the Albany ANZAC Commemoration services was taken at Hobbs Artillery Park on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September.



The Breech Block from No. 3 Gun, 8 Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade AFA – the Gun that fired the last round at Gallipoli - a prized souvenir of the Gallipoli withdrawal is pictured being held by Major Rob Coales and Captain Will Smith.

A potted history outlining the link between today's Army Reserve 3 Light Battery RAA and 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade AFA was sent to *Albany Advertiser* for inclusion in their article. It is copied here for the interest of readers.

### **THE ANZAC CONNECTION**

Today's Army Reserve 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Battery Royal Australian Artillery has a direct link to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade Australian Field Artillery that was formed at the outbreak of WW1 as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division Australian Imperial Force.

3<sup>rd</sup> Light Battery is accommodated within Hobbs Artillery Park Irwin Barracks Karrakatta as part of 11/28 Battalion Battle Group. It is equipped with 81mm Mortars.

3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade complete with its 18 Pounder Field Guns sailed from Fremantle to join the Convoy that had assembled in Albany and proceeded to Egypt where it trained, as was thought at the time, for the conflict in France and Belgium. Instead of course, it embarked for Gallipoli, landing in early May 1915 and remaining in support of Allied Forces until the evacuation in December 1915.

Colonel Hobbs, who had commanded the Militia Artillery in Western Australia prior to WW1, was in overall command of all artillery on Gallipoli, Major Bessell-Browne commanded 8 Battery, the Western Australian component of 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade.

On the eve of the evacuation spasmodic fire from the Artillery was maintained to give the Turkish troops the impression that "it was business as usual". The deception plan worked and the Gunners were among the last Australian troops to make their way to the shore for evacuation.

To avoid Turkish troops using Allied guns after the evacuation, the breech block and sighting equipment was removed and taken offshore by the Gunners. The Gun to fire the last round prior to the evacuation was No. Gun 8<sup>th</sup> Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade. The breech block eventually made its way back to Western Australia and



was chrome plated and mounted as a Trophy for Skill at Arms Competition in 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade. It is now a prized artefact in the RAA Historical Society's Collection.

Post WW1 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade was maintained as a Militia Unit until the outbreak of WW2 when it was renamed 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment and formed part of the newly raised 6<sup>th</sup> Division, Second AIF that sailed for the Middle East in May 1940.

In July 1948 the Citizen Military Force was established and 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment was raised in Hobbs Artillery Park Irwin Barracks Karrakatta. With name changes and redesignation of roles we recognize 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Battery as the direct descendant of 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Brigade.



In the photograph above, a group of Ex Serving Gunners are assembled in front of the Historical Society's 18 Pounder Field Gun displayed within Hobbs Artillery Park and the Breech Block recovered from Gallipoli is held by the Gunner in the centre.

### **THE MORE THE MERRIER...**

March 25 was a bright and sunny day, just right to host 160 students from Iona Presentation College.

We had never imagined being able to cope with that many persons on one day, especially when there were time constraints.

Logistics, the art of managing the movement of bodies of troops, came into play. The group was split into two with each group entering the tunnels at different times. Each smaller group was again split into two and the entry to the tunnels was, not only at different times but from different entry points....the north and south doors.



At any one time there were 80 students in the tunnels. What made the event so successful was the professional manner in which the groups were handled by the Guides but also the discipline of the students. It was a very successful occurrence. Would we wish a similar event again? With the same Team of Guides...Yes !

## THE HISTORY OF HONOUR AVENUE KINGS PARK

The planting of trees as a dedication to individual Service personnel who gave their lives whilst serving their country in times of war seems to be an Australian innovation.

This unique practice originated in Ballarat, Victoria when in 1917 Mrs. Tilly Thompson of E. Lucas & Company, clothing manufacturers, proposed to her 500 "Lucas girls" on the staff that they raise funds to plant an "avenue of trees" to honour the local men who had been killed in World War 1. This they did and by 1919 they had planted 3912 trees along 22.4 km of the Western Highway. In all at least 128 avenues were planted in Victoria between 1917 and 1921, virtually every one a community effort.

The idea was taken up in Western Australia by Mr. Arthur Lovekin, a veteran journalist, editor and owner of the Daily News. He was also an original member of the Kings Park Board and in August 1918 submitted to the Board a design for the planting of trees as an Honour Avenue in May Drive which runs from the Lord Forrest statue to the Nedlands end of the Park that was originally known as "Circular Avenue" because it virtually encircled the entire Park.

The Park Board had accepted Lovekin's design for the Honour Avenue and the intention to create the Avenue was publicised. Applicants would be required to pay 10 shillings, made up of 1 shilling for the tree, 2 shillings for labour, 6 shillings and 6 pence for the plaque and 6 pence for paint. The Board carried out all the work including the acceptance of applications and allocation of the trees to the applicants.

The opening of the Avenue was planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1919, the fifth anniversary of the declaration of World War 1.

The verges on either side of May Drive were cleared and most of the timber burnt to avoid the cost of cartage. Fertilizer in the form of manure, most of which came from the Swan Brewery stables, was donated to the Park. Unemployed ex-Servicemen did much of the preparatory work.

This important project would not have got underway had not Lovekin donated 500 pounds (about \$25,000.00 in today's value) to cover the initial costs. In 1920, Arthur Lovekin and Sir William Loton, another Board Member, each donated 500 pounds to clear and plant Sugar Gums along what was then known as Forrest Avenue. In 1931, after the death of Lovekin, it was renamed Lovekin Drive in honour of the architect of these magnificent avenues. Lovekin is estimated to have donated funds of more than \$100,000.00 in today's value.

The ceremony on 3<sup>rd</sup>s August 1919 was conducted in torrential rain! On a given signal, relatives and friends planted the trees despite the weather conditions and a plaque was placed in front of each tree.

In his address to the several thousand present, Governor McCartney reflected:

*"That when this age had become a matter of history, and its incidents the subject of academic discussion, it might happen, perchance that the children and grandchildren of the present generation might come on a pilgrimage to the Avenue of Honour in that beautiful Park, to claim with finial pride kinship with someone or other of the trees which had been planted that day, and to draw from those silent monuments of a people's trust to brave men and great deeds, the inspiration to emulate them if ever, in the future, Her Majesty's words the cause of justice, freedom and right were threatened."*

In 1922 the Returned Services League (RSL), through a committee of its West Perth Sub-Branch, accepted the responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of the plaques. The Sub-Branch, later known as the Public Service Sub-Branch amalgamated with the Press Sub-Branch in 1973. In 1976, it combined with the Highgate Sub-Branch.

After WW 11 many requests for trees were received for dedication to Servicemen who died in that war and the Kings Park Board asked the RSL to arrange a dedication ceremony for the remaining 300 Sugar Gums in Lovekin Avenue. The authority for this was delegated to the Public Service Sub-Branch.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 1948 in Lovekin Drive before a very large gathering His Grace the Archbishop of Perth, Dr. R. W. H. Moline, MC, DD dedicated the Avenue to the memory of those who fell in the 1939 – 1945 War. The total number of plaques required for this dedication could not be produced in time as a consequence of which additional smaller ceremonies were held in 1950 and 1952.

Since 1952, up to and including the present, other ceremonies have taken place as and when suitable and approved applications have been received.



The Highgate sub-Branch of the R&SL has a dedicated group of Members who continue to maintain the existing Plaques and who arrange ceremonies for relatives of Veterans of more recent conflicts that qualify for recognition. Approximately 50 new Plaques are added each year.

The following statistics (current as at September 2014) are of interest:

ARMY:	WW1	991	Total:	1388
	WW2	394		
	Korea	2		
	Malaysia	1		
AIR FORCE:	WW1	2	Total:	163
	WW2	160		
	Korea	1		
NAVY:	WW1	1	Total:	22
	WW2	20		
	Korea	1		
ASSOCIATIONS:	WW1	7	Total:	15
	WW2	8		
Totals:	WW1	1001	Total:	1588
	WW2	582		
	Korea	4		
	Malaysia	1		

The Highgate sub-Branch is to be congratulated for the dedicated service of the Honour Avenues Group which has undertaken responsibility since 1976 for maintenance of this unique recognition of those who have served and made the supreme sacrifice.

#### **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.

#### **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
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**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.

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**BSB Number: 066-103**

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DETAILS ON TIE



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To purchase **7 Fd Bty RAA Tie** or **3 Lt Bty PT Shirt** Cut below and return to 3 Lt Bty ORs Canteen, Hobbs Artillery Park, Irwin Barracks, Stubbs Terrace, KARRAKATTA WA 6010 or for further details contact *Andrew Quarles*:

I would like to order 7 Fd Bty RAA Tie / 3 Lt Bty PT Shirt (circle choice/s)

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

3 Lt Bty PT Shirt

*(Ties are \$25 each. PT Shirts are \$25 each. )*

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