



Artillery WA



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

Edition 2 / 15

June 2015



ANZAC DAY 2015



LEST WE FORGET 1915 - 2015



Notice Board

Mark this date in your calendars

3rd Light Battery 67th Anniversary Regimental Dinner

Hobbs Artillery Park
1800 hrs 4th July 2015
RSVP to Lt Slack-Smith NLT 1st June 2015
0425 366 156 or david.slacksmith@gmail.com

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2015

31st Jan 28th Feb 28th Mar 18th Apr
30th May 27th Jun 25th Jul 29th Aug
26th Sep 24th Oct 28th Nov 19th 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

ANZAC Day Parade Perth City

Inside this Issue – Main points

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Next Issue – October 2015

Subs to your Association or Society are now due – RAA of WA (Inc) - \$ 15 RAAHS - \$ 25
We now have a Direct Debit facility – Please find the details in the relevant sections -

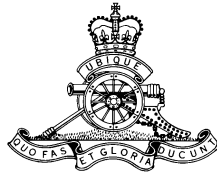
The Editor gratefully acknowledges the contributions to the newsletter by the members, whose names appear with the corresponding articles.

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

ADVERTISING

Anybody interested in advertising their business in **ARTILLERY WA** for a donation of \$ 10 (ten) per year, (four issues), both in printed and web site editions, contact

Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 92694544 Fax: 9269 4370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

The centenary of the Gallipoli landing saw a resurgence of public support. I attended the 13 BDE Dawn Service on the oval at Irwin Barracks. There was over 1,500 people in attendance and started with the traditional gunfire breakfast of rum and coffee before moving to the cenotaph erected. The service saw the dawn silence broken by machine gun fire as a prelude to the service. I along with the BTY COMD, MAJ Rob Coales laid wreaths in recognition of gunners who have served the country and paid the supreme sacrifice. I must say the BDE put on a professional service supported by the Army Band Perth and a lone piper.

The march through the city was well attended by both spectators and marchers alike paying their respects to both men and women of past and present conflicts, and ensured their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Following the march many returned to Hobbs Artillery Park to enjoy the camaraderie.

The next event in our calendar is the Corps Dinner that 3 LT BTY is holding for serving and past Gunners, their partners and guests. It will be held on Saturday 4 July 2014 at Hobbs Artillery Park, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

We have secured the support of Peter Rowles, Tom Arnautovic and Stan Davies who are working as a Sub-Committee to advise the main Committee on the options for the Feast of Saint Barbara which is planned to be held on the evening of Friday 4th December 2015. More will follow on this in the next issue.

Save the Date - Gunner's Day, 7 November at 1100 hrs at Guildford.

Ubique,
Bob Farrelly

B.C.'s NOTE

Three Light Battery continues to punch above our weight with another busy few months.

Certainly the highlight was the very successful Anzac Day event. It was fantastic to see so many fellow gunners and catch and commemorate the centenary of the first Anzac Day.

It was also great to again use the facilities at Hobbs Artillery and I know we will keep using these facilities for many more years to come.

We are heading out to Lancelin this month for a live fire activity; this will be our last shoot before we get assessed as part of the Mount Schanck Trophy in August.

We are planning another shoot towards the end of the year with a view of inviting family and friends to come and watch the boys and girls of the battery do what we do best!

More to follow on that...

I look forward to seeing as many of you all at the Battery Birthday Dinner on Saturday 4 July. This is a tradition that we certainly don't want to stop, so please pass the word and I want to break the 100 mark this year!

Ubique

Rob COALES
Battery Commander
3 Light Battery

INCREASED POSTAGE COSTS

Greetings fellow members.

We value your membership and for that reason the Artillery Committees have avoided any increase in annual subscriptions. Australia Post have signalled significant postage increases later this year which will swallow up most of the subscription income leaving insufficient funds to organise events and pay for operating costs.

For 2 years some members have agreed to receive their copy of ARTYWA electronically, not hard copy, we encourage members who can do this to notify the secretary john.bly@auspost.com.au .

All ARTYWA editions are available for viewing, printing or downloading in .PDF format on our website here: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au/archives/index.html>

The latest newsletter is also uploaded as soon as it's submitted for printing and so available about 2 weeks earlier than the mail. This is a valuable archive resource made available to members.

Ubique
John Blylevens

BOOK REVIEW

YOURS TRULY CAME UP SMILING

Passchendaele - July 1917

"Whilst on S.O.S that night I went out to the aiming post and there had my braces blown off by a shell burst behind me. The rest of the crew gave me up for lost. But bar from a bit of my braces missingyours truly came up smiling."

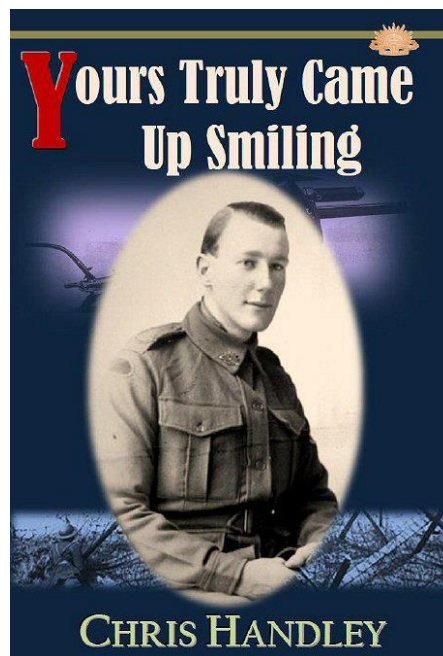
Serving with the 7th Field Artillery in the 27th Battery, 3rd Division AIF, follow the true story of gunner Fred Johnson through the battlefields of World War One as intricately described by local W.A. author Chris Handley.

After his return from the Great War Fred Johnson became a school teacher and later served as the headmaster at both Bunbury and Albany Senior High Schools.

Over 300 pages including many rare photos.

Another book proudly self-published by Digger Press

<http://www.diggerpress.com/>



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 if you would like to be included and when you change your email address, so we can keep up to date.

ANZAC DAY PARADE – Perth



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



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)



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear Members,

Welcome to another Perth autumn, great sleeping weather!

Since my March report, a number of interesting events have involved our members- So here goes;

In early April I attended an information evening at Irwin Barracks. It began with an inspection of the Pilbara Regiment's new all-wheel drive vehicle, a Mercedes Benz and their specialist watercraft. This was followed by a gathering at the Officer's Mess to hear the Brigadier detail the Brigade's activities. Though doubtlessly efficient in its duties, I sensed that the man power pool is thin. Perhaps the demise of the mining boom will flush out some recruits.

The RAAHS's key asset remains our members. Their on-going good humour and flexibility means that our roster system at the tunnels continues to work. We are a unique group offering a unique tour set up. Feedback continues to flow back from parties who have enjoyed their tunnel tour .I therefore award a mental pay rise to all guides and cashiers

Doubtless many of you attended the special ANZAC DAY service this year. At South Perth's dawn service the Turkish flag was flown and the Turkish national anthem was sung, as was the same for our New Zealand cousins followed by our own. Students of Turkish descent also made an address. It went across really well.

Before addressing the various tunnel matters I would like to acknowledge the past efforts of our friend and Member Mr Roy Smith. Roy has advised us that due to ill health he cannot continue as a guide. Roy your friends wish you the best possible recovery and hope to see you back on duty in due course.

Of necessity the Tunnels continue to absorb our time and efforts. Here is a summary of items over the past 10 weeks:

- The 6" shield- careful design of the mounting points for its 7 tonne mass and the site preparation are nearly done .R&L hiab services will do the lift
- Anti-graffiti coatings have been applied to the 6", 3.7", 40mm and the shield.
- Mounted at the May busy bee was a professionally prepared all weather panel detailing the anti-aircraft defensive measures in the metro area in W.W.2. Excellent photos and captions cover; Searchlights, Radar, L.A.A. and H.A.A. This panel is a fixture on south wall of the 5.25" radar shack- it allows out of hours walkers to see the adjoining weapons in a more complete sense.
- Early in April, Don Rae and I met with the C.E.O. and his executive team (T.O.M.P.), to discuss the heavy maintenance requirements at the Tunnels. That resulted in a satisfactory outcome for us as T.O.M.P. agreed to action the issue of concrete cancer above and below ground. Approach footpaths are also to be repaired

- The Command Post has had new lighting installed- thank you-Phil Allen and two display cases will soon appear with models in one and service medals in the other-thank you Merv WARD
- Special tours have proven popular again- Scouts/Cubs/Joeys, School students, Local residents and even a large turnout of Mormans who loved the tour and their picnic afterwards
- Finally our media star in the making- Member Neil Lodge-ably assisted a TV production that featured our Tunnels complex recently

I wish all members a pleasant next few months- perhaps you may keep an eye in the media for any updates re Point Peron W.W.2 re-development work- currently in progress

I close with thanks to member John O'Brien who produces this magazine every few months-I hope you agree it is a good read.

David Carter.
President 2015.

ANZAC Day 2015

Two of Hockey WA's premiere league teams, Victoria Park Xavier Panthers and Wesley South Perth Wasps play off for two Mid-season trophies. As part of the Melville Toyota League season, the men play off for the ANZAC Day Trophy, the girls play for **The Ronnie Roach ANZAC Day Shield**.

In 2011 RAAHSWA member Phil Rowson was approached by Vic Pk Panthers asking for a donation of an artefact pertaining to our military heritage that could be used as a trophy. The resulting trophy was a 15 Pdr cartridge case mounted on timber recovered from the old East Fremantle Football Club rooms.

It was such a hit, on its first outing that the girls wanted to contribute to the day as well but finding a suitable item for another shield that was relevant to female service was much trickier. Eventually RAAHSWA donated a Corps badge from the **WRAAC** (Womens Royal Australian Army Corp) Next we discussed the opportunity to "Name the Shield" with a living piece of our military heritage. We approached Mrs Veronica "Ronnie" Roach, RAAHSWA member and WW11 Gunner with the **AWAS** (Australian Womens Army Service) the predecessor of the WRAAC.

Ronnie was only too happy to lend her name to the trophy and so on ANZAC Day this year Ronnie and I were guests of Hockey WA at the Bentley Hockey Stadium to present the trophies. I had the privilege of reciting the oath before the games and then speaking to the teams afterwards. Ronnie handed over the Ronnie Roach Shield and then chatted with both teams of girls. Ronnie said it was important for young people to understand the importance of service to your community and having an attitude of never giving up in the face of challenge. Ronnie said she was a newcomer to hockey but enjoyed watching the games and was looking forward to awarding the shield in 2016.

For the record both games were won by South Perth Wasps. Ronnie and I are pictured with the victorious girls from Wesley South Perth Wasps who won 4 – 1.



WW11 GUN PLATFORMS TO GET MAKEOVER.

The remnants of Peron Battery at Cape Peron, South of Rockingham are to be restored and preserved. Although several attempts have been made in the past, this time, State and Local Government are combining under the stewardship of Phil Edman MLC, member for Southern Metropolitan Region. A committee comprising of Mr Edman, members of Rockingham council, Dept. of Parks and Wildlife, local developer Cedar Woods, RSL and RAAHWSA has formed to oversee the planning and development of the Cape as a whole with the Gun Battery being a focal point for the group.

Separating Shoalwater Bay and Cockburn Sound, Cape Peron was an ideal location for a defensive Battery. Known as K Bty it was the Southern-most arm of Fortress Fremantle and comprised of two M1918 155mm French designed and American modified guns, mounted on Panama Mounts (A round concrete and brick configuration with a steel rail for the gun trails to swing on) These weapons covered the southern approaches to Garden Island and the channel between Cape Peron and Garden Island.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 054025
155 mm M1917/M1918 gun - North west corner of Garden Island 1943 - AWM 054026

Two 18lb field guns also on the site covered the boom net between the mainland and Garden Island. Buildings on the site include ammunition magazines, communications bunkers and a very prominent observation post.

Today most of these buildings are derelict and one gun platform is very badly undermined, making rehabilitation seemingly impossible. Camp Kennedy, originally built to accommodate admin facilities and house troops on the edge of Mangles bay is completely demolished. Army Reserve soldiers from 11/28Bn RWAR recently conducted a training exercise, digging out some of the buildings, but work had to cease when asbestos was discovered on-site. Mr Edman has been amassing artefacts and militaria for future display and has an already impressive collection which he is planning to exhibit in a significant event planned for early 2016.



Redevelopment of Peron Bty is expected to take many years, working through the complex web of varied interests in the region but Mr Edman and the committee are determined to work together to provide an enduring link with our past.

KEEPING PACE IN THIS ELECTRONIC WORLD
(Moving with the times)

The Management Committee has made a number of initiatives to bring RAAHS into the Electronic World. While the majority of our office work and archival records has been computerised for some years, your Committee has moved forward to enjoy new-age opportunities.

1. Fremantle Map Application for your Mobile Phone;

- a. The Fremantle Map Application was created by a private firm in association with the Fremantle City Council and Fremantle Visitors Centre. The application is designed to advise people visiting or living in Fremantle of the variety of options that are available in Fremantle.
- b. The application can be downloaded from www.fremantlemap.com or from the Android Google Play Store, or Iphone App Store. When you have downloaded and opened the application, go to the "History & Heritage Icon" and then to the "World War 2 Tunnels at Leighton Icon" to get all the latest information on the tunnels.

2. QR Code;

- a. Have you noticed the "squiggle squares" now on most documents? These are QR Codes which when scanned in on your Mobile Phone will take you to the Website of the provider.
- b. QR Code will now be on all RAAHS advertising documents and signs and will direct the user to the Artillery WA Website.

3. Artillery WA "On-Line";

- a. Electronic copies of Artillery WA have been available for quite some time by letting John Blylevens know and providing him your Email Address. He will advise you by email when the next Artillery WA is available.
- b. You can download the full Artillery WA or simply read it on your computer or tablet.
<http://www.artillerywa.org.au/archives/index.html>
- c. With impending increases to postage, the Society will appreciate as many Members as possible making use of this electronic means of receiving your copy. Please indicate if you wish to join this scheme.

4. Internet Banking;

- a. For some time now you have been able to pay your annual subscription by transferring money to the RAAHS or RAA Assn bank accounts. To make the RAAHS Treasurer's task easier the Committee has approved the Bank Account to be operated over the internet. This will allow the Treasurer to access the bank balance and transactions in real time (not waiting for the bank statement to arrive) and with a double signature protocol, to pay accounts on line.

What is in store for us next??

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 or 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
- Vacancies for Guides and Cashiers For further information call David Carter 93673539 (after hours)

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.

3 Lt Bty Merchandise FOR SALE



TIE



DETAILS ON TIE



PT SHIRT

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)

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)
3 Lt Bty PT Shirt

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

Name _____

Street Name _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

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



10% discount to any current or former RAA or their families.

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Our Fleet



KALBARRI KATE



RAPID RUBY

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