



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 3 / 15

October 2015



6" shield restoration during a recent Busy Bee
Leighton Battery Heritage Site



RAA Historical Company's restoration of an 18 pounder gun and ammunition limber
Canberra Airport July 2015.



Notice Board

Mark this dates in your calendars

GUNNERS DAY 2015

Sunday, 1 November 2015
Stirling Square, Guildford
Details see page 6

FEAST OF ST BARBARA DINNER 2015

GUNNER OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS & SNCO'S
Friday December 4, 2015
Hobbs Artillery Park Drill Hall
Details see page 6

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.

Inside this Issue – Main points

RAA Association WA		Aiming Post	
President's Report	3	President's Report	8
BC's Note	3	WW2 Service at Buckland Hill	10
Loyal Message	4		
Anniversary Message	5		
Gunners Day Flyer	6		

Next Issue – December 2015

Subs to your Association or Society are now due – RAA A 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,

BTY Birthday / RAA Corps Dinner

On Saturday the 4th of July Ken Hepworth represented the RAA Association at the BTY Birthday/ RAA Corps Dinner. The Association's annual award for the most outstanding soldier was presented to Gnr Bell. He joined the Australian Army Reserve in October 2013 and was posted to 3 Light Battery, 11/28 RWAR Battle Group. GNR BELL has been an asset to the Battery, he consistently volunteers and attends Battery activities including Battle Group and Brigade short notice tasks, always maintains his AIRN compliancy, maintains an excellent level of physical fitness and is a positive member of the Battery. GNR BELL epitomises the qualities of a soldier. He is held in high regard by superiors and peers. GNR BELL is a well-deserved recipient of the Most Outstanding Soldier Award for 2015.

Again a very successful night.

Gunners Day 2015

Our next major event will be Gunners Day 2015, which will be held on Sunday, 1st November. This is an important year being the centenary of the ANZAC landing and I 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 a light luncheon in the Church Hall and after to the Rose & Crown hotel for refreshments. See the advertisement for Gunner's Day for more detail.

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

Feast of Saint Barbara

The Association has taken responsibility for running the Feast of Saint Barbara which will be held at Hobbs Artillery Park on Friday 4th December. The dinner will be open to all Sergeants and above at a cost of \$80 per head. My thanks to Stan Davies, Peter Rowles and Tom Arnautovic for being the organising committee for this function and ensuring the tradition lives on.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of, and promote the Artillery WA website:

<http://www.artillerywa.org.au/>

Ubique,
Bob Farrelly

B.C.'s NOTE

It has been an extremely busy couple of months for the battery.

The Battery Birthday mixed dining in night was held on 4 July with nearly 100, current serving and past gunners and their partners attending Hobbs Artillery Park. It was truly a fantastic night and after receiving such positive comments I am confident that the venue will always remain at Hobbs Artillery Park. Congratulations again are extended to Gnr Bell who was awarded the best gunner.

In early August the battery deployed to Lancelin and conducted our live fire assessment for the Mount Schanck Trophy. Despite the horrible weather and trying conditions the battery acquitted themselves exceptionally well. This weekend was also the culminating point for the mortar operator course. This course was run non-continuously over Tuesday nights and weekends and has meant another 6 gunners are

qualified. This is an outstanding achievement and to have four tubes live firing was also fantastic and showed the assessors from 2 Div the real capability that 3 Light Battery are achieving.

The battery has also just completed the M2A2 Salute Course. Again we now have enough qualified Gunners to serve 4 guns for our 2 annual salutes, being the Australia Day Salute and the Queen's Birthday Salute. The latter will be held on 26th September this year at the King's Park saluting platform.

The next main event on our calendar is Gunners Day. This year this important day lands on 1 November. Again the battery will be marching and I look forward to catching up with current and past serving gunners on the day.

Ubique

Rob COALES
Battery Commander
3 Light Battery



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Brigadier A. G. Warner, AM, LVO,
Representative Colonel Commandant,
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Colonels Commandant, the Head of Regiment and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery for their message of loyalty, sent on the occasion of Royal Australian Artillery Day commemorating one hundred and forty-four years of dedicated service to Australia.

As your Captain-General, I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my good wishes to all troops who have returned from operations as well as to all members of the Regiment who are currently serving overseas.

ELIZABETH R.

1st August, 2015.

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 early next 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



Australian Army
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

15061161

Representative Colonel Commandant
Colonels Commandant
Commanding Officers
Battery Commanders
All Ranks 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 2015**

I would like to congratulate the Regiment on the occasion of its 144th Anniversary.

There are many celebratory events occurring which are associated with the ANZAC Centenary. I have no doubt that every RAA unit and associations have their special ways of commemorating not only their own anniversaries, but more so their collective contribution to our glorious past. We are also nurturing our linkages with our gunner brethren's overseas. We are planning to host goodwill sporting events and support other activities next year as part of our contribution to the Royal Artillery's tercentenary celebrations.

RAA Associations are making their presence felt this year. The RAA Historical Company's restoration of an 18 pounder gun and ammunition limber, complete with horse team and gun detachment has been a resounding success and is available to support commemorative events out to 2018. Congratulations to this worthy and proud endeavour.

I look forward to the various events around the Regiment to honour not only our illustrious history, but our recent endeavours on operations as well.

We are taking advantage of our current focus in training within a contemporary warfare environment. The RAA Command Post Exercise is in its third year. It strives to bring together all the artillery regiments and others within the realm of fire support to learn from each other and harness technological advancements of modern artillery. It is proving its worth as an annual training milestone for the Regiment. Our gunners are excelling in their roles as essential members of the combined arms team, be it as offensive support, modern surveillance and target acquisition, joint fires and battlefield coordination elements in large scale exercises such as EX HAMEL and EX TALISMAN SABRE.

Although most major elements have now returned from Afghanistan, the ADF's continuing fight against terrorism continues of which the RAA is a major player. Amidst our celebrations let us continue to think of our Gunners who are still deployed in various parts of the globe. Their families share in their sacrifices and it is incumbent on us to support them while they are away.

Let us also take the time to remember the many long serving members of the Regiment who have recently passed away and please join me in appreciating their service. They will be sadly 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, AM, CSM
Brigadier
Head of Regiment

C/- Headquarters School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal MILPO VIC 3662 +612 6266 0500
peter.gates@defence.gov.au
14 July 2015



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

GUNNERS' DAY

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2015

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 1st November 2015.

- 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, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 Light Battery RAA and members of the Australian Cadet Corps.

Reviewing Officer: BRIG Gerry Warner Representative COL COMDT Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Service will be conducted by Reverend Katrina Holgate
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.

FEAST OF ST BARBARA DINNER **GUNNER OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS & SNCO'S**

Further to recent "Warning Order"

Planning is well under way for the 2015 Feast of St Barbara Dinner.

Venue will be our esteemed **Hobbs Artillery Park Drill Hall**, the home of 'Gunners Western Australia'

We are looking to have a grand get-together of Gunner Officers, Warrant Officers & SNCO's

Invitations will be forwarded in early October and you are reminded to diarise **Friday December 4, 2015** and not miss this evening of camaraderie and catch up with Gunners past & present.

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!!

If you choose this method please quote:

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

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 the Spring edition of Aiming Post.

For those who have followed the progress of the Eagles and the Dockers I am sure you were well pleased with their efforts this season!

On the 4th of July several members and I attended the 67th Anniversary Dinner for 3rd Light Battery. The formal event was held at the Hobbs drill hall. The venue looked terrific as did the guests- with the ladies in their finery and the gents in suits/mess dress. Some 90 people attended- the company was excellent, as was the meal and Regimental Port.

To matters Leighton:

- A recent addition to the 'enlistment room' is a very impressive cabinet display of service medals and ribbons-all captioned. This beautifully lit display is a credit to members Bob Arnold, Don Rae and Merv Ward.
- Down in the tunnel commemoration room now resides a new Honour Board with the names of the 14 members of 3RD Field Brigade plus 1 from each of the 1ST and 2ND Brigades who were killed at Gallipoli. The 16 men were all from Western Australia. Member Phil Allen re arranged the lighting to complement the panel set.
- Members may recall member Malcolm Higham's models of the 6" and 5.25" gun floors and support tunnels. These have now been re-furbished. Member John O'Brien has been completing a number of R.A.A. figures that will further enhance these scenes. Both now sit inside a magnificent cabinet - back lit- thanks to the efforts of members Don, Ron, Merv and Harvey.
- A new cash register now has put a smile on the faces of our marvellous band of cashiers.
- The 6" shield is now ready for its final lift onto the barrel. Special cast steel footings will be bolted onto load bearing concrete pours. The shield weighs about 7 tonnes.

- Three new all weather data panels have now been cemented for public viewing. One sits before the Bofors L.A.A. weapon, the second before the 3.7" H.A.A. weapon and the third in front of the 1940's loading ramp.
- Members Stan Davies and Don Rae have progressed the concept of a full scale 6" gun barrel and shield to now having asked for construction quotes from several fabricators. The W.A. Planning Commission and T.O.M.P. have given permission to site the all-weather steel outline where it can be clearly seen by Stirling Highway traffic 7 days a week .Suitably captioned, it is another quality step forward for our tunnel complex.

The Society has now received the final draft of the Site Interpretation Plan. Members of a sub-committee are carefully examining it. The Plan will enable future requests for Lotterywest funding to be made with a higher degree of obtaining it.

Our two workshop stalwarts- Harvey Everitt and Phil Pougault have now fully rebuilt the 105mm pack howitzer the Society lent to the S.A.S.R. as a training aide. The gun only awaits its paint scheme. Well done those men!

Before concluding, I wish our esteemed member Merv Ward the best possible outcome on his recently diagnosed illness. Merv your friends in the Society are thinking of you and your family.

My thanks go to all members (and their spouses) who have advanced the Society's interests these past several months. In the next edition I hope to be able to introduce the wider membership to two new guides-in-training!

Best Regards,

David Carter.
President 2015.

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.

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.

WORLD WAR 2 SERVICE AT BUCKLAND HILL

When visiting Members of the RSL Dawesville Sub-Branch who served in World War 2 to obtain their war service details to register them for the "AIPP Reflections Project" I met Charles (Andy) Andrews. This Project is taking photos of the surviving War World 2 Veterans, and to present the photos to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra later this year,

While completing Andy's Registration Form, it became evident that he and his wife Linda June (Nee Smith) had also served on the 3.7 inch Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) Guns at Buckland Hill during World War 2. The Guns were part of the Defence of Fremantle.

As the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA (Inc) had recently refurbished and relocated the 3.7 inch HAA gun at Buckland Hill, my wife and I arranged to take Andy and Linda to Buckland hill to show them the work of the Society of refurbishing the 3.7 inch HAA Gun, and to help them bring back some memories. They thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Stan and Fay Davies



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.

Sandgroper is a West Australian family owned and operated camper trailer & caravan hire company that has a proud history of providing great customer service and a high quality camping fleet.

We want to give you the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors in comfort. Our hire fleet is suitable for the experienced off road adventure seeker or the family wanting to explore something different, in the great outdoors that Australia has to offer.

Our Fleet



KALBARRI KATE



RAPID RUBY

Maintained in an as new state, all Sandgroper Campers are of a high standard and are always cleaned and inspected before hire. They are easy to setup and can sleep a minimum of 6 people comfortably. Full Insurance is included in the hire rates and there are no hidden costs when hiring from Sandgroper Camper Trailers.

The fleet is hired out with all the basic camping equipment included from kitchen to sleeping. However if there is some specific equipment you may require these are available for hire – just ask.

So if you're looking for adventure and want comfort and quality at the same time then select from our fleet and have a hassle free getaway experience.

Call us today: 0459 783 871

Website <http://www.sandgropercamperhire.com.au/>