



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 4 / 15

December 2015



GUNNERS DAY 2015





Notice Board

Mark this dates in your calendars

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Alf Adams Pavilion, Solomon Street Mosman Park
Saturday 12th March 2016

RAAA WA members register at 0900 for 0930 hrs meeting
RAAHS-WA members register at 0930 for 1000 hrs meeting.

(See page 7)

COVER PHOTOS - Zino Paterniti

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2016

30th Jan 27th Feb 26th Mar 30th Apr

28th May 25th Jun 30th Jul 27th Aug

24th Sep 29th Oct 26th Nov 31st Dec

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

The Leighton Battery Heritage Site is open on a regular basis every Sunday of every month from 10 AM to 3:00 PM with tours of the tunnels every half hour.

Inside this Issue – Main points

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Next Issue – April 2016

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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 -

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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

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

As another year draws to a close it is useful to reflect on 2015. I am sure it was February last week!

In March we had our AGM and of course ANZAC day in April which was a success. The centenary of the Gallipoli landing saw a resurgence of public support.

The March in the city saw a larger than normal attendance, both marching and spectators and was a reminder that the public have not forgotten the sacrifices of the men and women who fought in conflicts for our country.

The next event was the Corps Dinner in July hosted by 3 LT BTY for serving and past Gunners, their partners and guests. The Association's annual award for the most outstanding soldier was presented to Gnr Bell.

The 87th Gunner's Day was held on Sunday 1st of November at Guildford. It was also the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli and saw a good turnout. The Association presented Saint Matthews Church, our Garrison church and only one of three remaining Garrison Churches left in Australia, a flag stand to display our Corps flag. Out thanks to Ken Hepworth for designing and constructing the flag stand and the fine workmanship. The cooperation from MAJ Rob Coales, BC and 3 LT BTY members was greatly appreciated. The cadets from 53 ACU provided standard and flag bearers and as always did a fine job. We moved the catering to Subway which I think went down well.

Vale BRIG Doug Collins

It is with regret that I advise that our Patron, BRIG Doug Collins passed away in October.

Douglas Collins was born in August 1922. He enlisted in the Army 1939 in NSW. After WWII he served in 5 AUST Div in WA in the Militia Regiment. He joined 3 FD REGT RAA as a LT in July 1948 and progressed through to CO. He became COMD 2 Aust Task Force approx 1970.

He was a Foundation Member of RAAHSWA and for many years has been our Patron. Doug will be remembered as a passionate artilleryman.

The Association took responsibility for running the Feast of Saint Barbara which at the time of writing this will be held at Hobbs Artillery Park on Friday 4th December. My thanks to Stan Davies, Peter Rowles and Tom Arnautovic for being the organising committee for this function and ensuring the tradition lives on. We achieved an attendance of 52.

We congratulate MAJ Rob Coales who has been extended as BC. There was a proposal to post a non-gunner to the position which would have been a retrograde step. I understand it was HQ 2 DIV who stepped in to ensure the BTY was commanded by a Gunner. Sense prevailed.

As the year comes to an end, I wish all of you a very happy and safe festive season, and look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

Ubique,
Bob Farrelly

B.C.'s NOTE

As 2015 draws to a close and I reflect back on the year, I have a sense of pride in what the battery has achieved.

We have live fired twice, in May and August. The latter LFX we were assessed by members of 2nd Div and the battery acquitted themselves well. Members of the Battery attended the 11 Bde CATA in July where the feedback was again that the gunners did an exceptional job.

The Battery Dinner was an exceptional event and it was fantastic to welcome nearly 100 guests at the home of the gunner in WA, Hobbs Artillery Park. Gunners Day was particularly well attended this year, and the attendance at the Rose and Crown was certainly welcome.

I attended the first light artillery seminar in Sydney in September and Sgt Rob Toase and I have just returned from the RAA CPX at the School of Artillery in Puckapunyal.

This year we also farewell my two ARA members, Capt William Smith and Warrant Officer Nigel Murphy. Both have been a tremendous help to me and have made the Battery such a successful Unit. I wish them both all the very best, Wil in Sydney and Nigel in Darwin.

I look forward to the Gunner Officer Dinner at HAP on 4 December and look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

2016 promises to be just as busy with the battery being invited to attend the 4 Regiment live Fire in March, 11 BDE CATAs in June and October.

May you all have a wonderful and safe festive season.

Ubique

Rob COALES
Battery Commander
3 Light Battery

AN IMPORTANT TRADITION



St Matthew's Church's Rev Katrina Holgate. RAAA member Ken Hepworth and Brigadier Gerry Warner.

BRAVERY was celebrated by the Royal Australian Artillery Association who commemorated their 87th Annual Gunners' day with a march, wreath laying in Guildford last weekend.

The commemoration took place in Stirling Square followed by a service at St Matthew's on Sunday November 1. After the traditional march, led by a pipe band, a short service was held at the war memorial and community groups including Guild- ford Grammar School and Guildford Primary School presented wreaths.

The year 2015 is the Centenary of Anzac and the Royal Australian Artillery Association presented their Regimental Ensign to St Matthew's Church in Guildford, The Ensign was placed in a wooden stand that had been carved in jarrah by association member Ken Hepworth.

It is 102 years since the artillery made Guildford their base and later headquarters. In 1913 250 men of all ranks gathered in Stirling Square where they were welcomed by the Mayor of Guildford, the Governor and the Mayor of Midland. That year, the artillery developed Guildford as their headquarters and other regimental units were also based to the south of the town.

Gallipoli also had a special meaning to the cadets of the 37th and 38th batteries who were based at Guildford and embarked for Gallipoli in 1915. Their guns were some of the first to be landed at Anzac Cove and they fired the last round of the campaign on December 15th, 1915.

After the war the artillery chose to present their flag to St Matthew's Church that had been carried to the war front in Egypt, to the Somme in France and to Ypres in Belgium. St. Matthews became the Garrison Church of the Artillery and 10th Light Horse and The Gunners" Day March is the only regimental march of its kind held outside Anzac day in Western Australia.

Published in ECHO News Nov 2015

GUNNNERS DAY 2015



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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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.)

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Member of _____
(Name of Association or Society)

Street Name_____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

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**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)**

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION – WESTERN AUSTRALIA
(INC)**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2016

The Annual General Meetings of the two Organisations will be held at the Alf Adams Pavilion,
Solomon Street Mosman Park on **Saturday 12th March 2016:**

- RAA A WA members register at **0900 for 0930** hrs meeting
- RAAHS-WA members register at **0930 for 1000** hrs meeting.

All Members are urged to attend.

Agenda for the Meetings will include:

1. Reports – President, Treasurer, Auditor
2. Notices of Motion (where submitted)
3. Long service recognition – RAAHS Members
4. General Business
5. Election of Office Bearers

Notices of motion must be signed by the Proposer and the Seconder, and are to be lodged with the Secretary seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Nominations for election to the Management Committee shall be submitted on the enclosed form and lodged with the Secretary before the Meeting is declared open. Each nomination shall be endorsed with the signatures of the Nominee, Proposer and Seconder.

A BBQ and Morning Tea refreshments will be available at the meetings.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION

Members are reminded that their 2016 Subscription is now due and may be paid on the day or by cheque or postal note addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the relevant Association / Society at:

Post Office Box 881
Claremont WA 6910

Alternatively, direct bank transfer facilities are available:

- * \$15 RAA Association of WA (Inc) CSB BSB Number 066 163 Account 0090 2583
- * \$25 RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc) CSB BSB Number 066 103 Account 0090 3744

If using this means, Members are reminded to include their name on the Bank transaction summary.



THE AIMING POST

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

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear Members,

Welcome to the summer edition of Aiming Post.

Yet another busy period for your Society. Several busy bees and the regular meets at the Annex saw our essential business dealt with by the members.

The long awaited 6" shield move took place on Sept. 23rd. It was lifted professionally along the barrel without a scratch to either. A suitable paint scheme has been applied to the support structures and surrounds. We will soon attach a plaque to the shield's interior detailing its history and the organizations who assisted in bringing it to its present site. (See article).

The Site Interpretation Plan has now been checked by a sub-committee and Savagely Creative have been advised of our acceptance of its content. Most of the cost of that Plan was covered by Lottery West.

The next major plan is the 5.25" site. The Committee is agreed that the pit will be roofed to allow the gun floor to be used for display purposes. More exciting however is the firm idea of fabricating a replica turret and barrel as it was until 1963- when official demolition commenced. The concept is quite do-able, but will require the Society to make suitable approaches to a number of government departments. This will be the Society's boldest single venture.

As an introductory move we have commenced the removal of rubble that was filling the crawl space from the engine room to beneath the gun pedestal.

That was on onerous task indeed! Watch this space over coming months.

Several Guides have helped over recent months with sizeable school tours - one of which totalled 109 students- and there has been several groups of retirees- one of whom was a spritely 97! She decided the stairs might be a little too much.

A film crew from a local firm -Artemis Productions- also used our tunnels for specialist sequences.

We took on a rather special project on behalf of Whiteman Park They have a former trophy of war in the shape of a German 77mm field gun. It has rusted to the point that they have approached us to offer our specialist restoration knowledge. Members Don Rae and Harvey Everitt have travelled to York in order to extensively photo a restored 77mm. We have entered into a financial arrangement with Whiteman Park to cover our costs. We will liaise with firms to do the heavy restoration and those firms will charge Whiteman

Park directly. I might remind members that our changed workshop arrangements no longer permit us to attempt such work at Irwin Barracks.

The planned 6" barrel/shield steel outline has been put to tender. This is the item that motorists will see from Stirling Highway. Site works will commence early in the New Year. The Society expresses its thanks to Stan Davies for his work behind the scenes.

Last year the Society met with executives from Town of Mosman Park in order to arrange the need for heavy maintenance for structures above and below ground. I am pleased to announce that an agreement has been struck that will see professional work being carried out - at minimal cost to us. This is good news as over the life of the site unsightly rust and concrete cancer has become apparent to our visitors. The Society records it's thanks to T.o.M.P.

For you number crunchers out there- we ended last year with 3,787 visitors- as of the end of Nov. we have seen 4167- another pleasing figure.

Another successful Gunner's Day was held at Stirling Square- Guildford-attended by several R.A.A.H.S. members.

Rabbit foot anyone? Members who attend the Annex recently, breathed a collective sigh when they arrived to see a huge branch had fallen off a nearby gum tree- it JUST missed our building!

I will finish with my thanks to all members who are engaged with our Society -either active or otherwise. We are a highly specialised Society that can always do with younger people coming through. So please recommend us to as many of that demographic as you cross paths with.

Merry Christmas to all!

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.

THE LEIGHTON BATTERY 6 INCH MKXI COAST DEFENCE DISPLAY

After almost over 12 months since the Gun Shield arrived from Melbourne, it was “married up” with the existing MKXI Gun Barrel on 23rd September 2015.

The story surrounding the Society’s acquisition of the Shield has been told in detail in earlier editions of Aiming Post – see edition 4/14 December 2014 that includes the ABC’s Melbourne excellent article.

Design and fabricating problems delayed the completion of the project but like most things in life – it pays to be patient! Throughout the entire period, our benefactor, BAE Systems Australia, continued to support our efforts including site visits by their Williamstown Personnel.

Since the marrying up we have repainted the concrete apron and plinth that supports the Barrel and the finished product is splendid.

An appropriately worded plaque recognising all who took part in this venture is in the course of preparation and on completion it will be permanently attached to the Shield. Once in place it will feature in a coming edition of Aiming Post.

The photos supporting this article demonstrate the skill of our Hi-aB contractor who carried out the task without a scratch!



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)

BEREAVEMENTS

MERVYN CHARLES WARD

4TH December 1931 – 14th November 2015

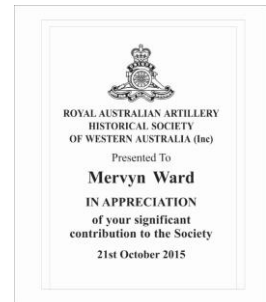
Sadly, the Society has lost another esteemed Member. Diagnosed with mesothelioma in August this year, no doubt a legacy from his lifetime career as a Builder, Merv lost the battle on 14th November.

Merv joined the Society as a result of his curiosity as to what was happening at Buckland Hill – the site of the Leighton Battery Heritage Site in Mosman Park. He offered his services and when asked “what can you do” he just shrugged and said “most things”! Well, that was in the early 1990’s when our restoration programme had only just started. Some 20 years later, and indeed right up until four months prior to his passing, Merv was still actively contributing.

In fact, when one examines what has been achieved at Leighton Battery, there is hardly a single project that does not bear his signature. A remarkable man and dedicated Member, Merv will be missed by all with whom he came in contact.



Coincidentally, on Saturday 24th October, at his home surrounded by his family, President David Carter accompanied by Don Rae presented Merv with the Society Acrylic Plaque reserved for Members who have made an exceptional contribution to the Society over many years. The significance of this gesture was recognised by the family who placed it on Merv’s Casket at the Funeral Service held on 19th November 2015.



You will be missed Merv but not forgotten

KEVIN LESLIE HAMILTON

4th April 1930 - 18TH November 2015

One of the Society’s stalwarts, Kevin passed away on 18th November 2015 following a long illness that prevented him from actively participating in his favoured pastime – restoring Field Guns.

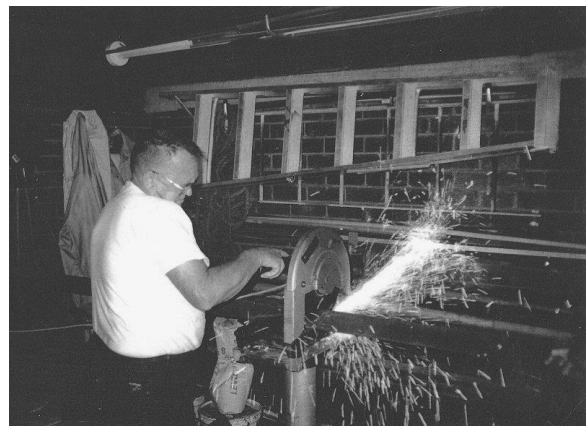
Together with a number of his close colleagues from Army Reserve days, Kevin engaged in the detailed restoration of a 25 pounder Gun Howitzer, setting the standard in perfection for which he became so well known.

At about this time, the Society had commenced the daunting task of restoring the Leighton Battery Heritage Site in Mosman Park and Kevin became a driving force in tackling the enormous challenges that emerged. Patiently he applied his many skills to help create many of the permanent fixtures that we see today.

One of Kevin’s weaknesses was a troublesome shoulder that insisted in “popping out” when he was in the middle of an important task. He learned through visits to hospital how to manoeuvre it back into place and would ask a mate to help him do this to avoid “down time” on the job.

In recent years Kevin’s health deteriorated eventually causing him to move into a nursing home. It was here that he passed away peacefully on 18th November 2015 bringing to a close nearly 25 years of dedicated service to the Society.

You will be remembered with great respect Kevin



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Account Number: 00903744

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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*:

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as advertised in the ArtilleryWA newsletter.

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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.)

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Street Name_____

Suburb:_____ Postcode_____ Phone_____

Email:_____

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RAPID RUBY

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