



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 1 / 16 March 2016



RAA FEAST OF ST BARBARA 4 DECEMBER 2015



FIRE SUPPORT AT POZIÈRES - JULY 1916



Notice Bound

Mark this dates in your calendars

ANZAC DAY - 25 April 2016

March through Perth Form up time will be at 0900hrs.

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

Please remember to wear your beret.

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

Details to follow via the website email or mail out

COVER PHOTOS - Tom Arnautovic & AWM E20141

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2016

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

30th Jan 27th Feb 26th Mar 30th Apr 28^{tht} May 25th Jun 30th Jul 27th Aug

24^{tth} Sep 29th Oct 26th Nov 31st Dec

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 commencing every half hour.

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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 -

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,

Gunners' Day 2015 was a successful service with a larger attendance than in the last few years. Thanks to the ANZAC Day Trust we were able to obtain a \$ 1,000 grant to assist with the day and catering. The move to use Subway for catering was a great initiative, providing more and better food and better value for money. The Association presented St Mathew's Church with a new flag stand which was meticulously crafted by Ken Hepworth. If you haven't seen it look for it on Sunday 6 November this year. Save the date. Following the formalities many attended the Rose & Crown Hotel for further refreshment and comradeship. We have been successful again this year in securing another grant of \$ 1,000 towards Gunner's Day 2016 from the Trust.

The Feast of St Barbara was a great event with about 50 in attendance. The Association has assumed responsibility for the dinner on a trial basis. Thanks to Stan Davies, Peter Rowles and Tom Arnautovic who volunteered, and were appointed by the Committee, to plan the dinner and did a wonderful job. It was a magnificent night with music provided by the Cadet Pipes and Drums. Unfortunately the night ran at a loss and I thank Stan, Tom and Peter for their donations to cover the short fall. They are tigers for punishment and have offered to organise the dinner again this year, which of course the Committee was quick to accept. In an attempt to increase the numbers eligible to attend this year's dinner, it will be open to full Bombardiers (or equivalent) and above.

The AGM was held on 12 March 2016 and coincided with the RAAHS AGM. Committee member John O'Brien has decided not to stand for re-election this year due to travel and family plans. John has been on the Committee since 2003 and has been the Editor of this publication and Webmaster for the Association and the Historical Society. A big vote of thanks to John. On that note, we are in need of a new editor and webmaster. Any volunteers, please let me or John Blylevens know. John O'Brien has offered to provide some training.

At the AGM the current committee, was re-elected:

President: Bob Farrelly

Vice President: Peter Mahoney

Secretary and Treasurer: John Blylevens

Committee: Ken Hepworth Committee: Wendy Mahoney

Committee: Vacant Committee: Vacant

Hon Auditor: Hugh Zimmerman.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee, let us know. It is not too onerous and we will provide training.

I would like to thank the Committee for their efforts last year and agreeing to stand again. A special note of thanks to John Blylevens and Ken Hepworth.

ANZAC Day 2016 is the next big event on our calendar. As with last year, the Brigade is holding a Dawn Service at Irwin Barracks on the top oval and a single Gunfire Breakfast. If you are attending please advise John Blylevens or the Historical Society so we can submit names to the BDE to assist with access and security arrangements. Details on timings to follow. The Representative Colonel Commandant RAA, BRIG Gerry Warner has been asked to lead the march in the city. Details for ANZAC Day to follow. The 11/28 Battle Group and 3 Light Battery are welcoming all members of the Gunner fraternity to share a drink and catch up with friends after the service at Hobbs Artillery Park as has been the past practice. Details of the form up place in St George's Terrace will appear in 'The West Australian'. Be there!!!

The 3 Lt Bty will be holding a Regimental Dinner for serving and past Gunners and their partners/ guests which will be held in July to coincide with the BTY Birthday at Hobbs Artillery Park. As this year is the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, the Battery is looking at this as a theme. Good shooting.

Ubique,
Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President, RAA Association

B.C.'s NOTE

2016 is my fourth and last year as the Battery Commander.

Our focus for this year is working towards our deployment on Exercise Hamel 2017. From 1 July will be entering the Readying Cycle of the Force Generation Cycle. To this end the battery will deploy to Wide Bay at the end of May for a 9 day exercise for both 11 and 13 Bdes.

For the Battery that means we will be Live Firing with our paired battery, 5/11 from Brisbane.

We will again head over east in October for the 3rd Brigade CATA, which acts as a certification exercise for Hamel.

The start of the year has certainly been busy.

The Battery welcomed Captain Nick Mahr and WO2 Scott Caswell as the new IG and SMIG in February. Both gentlemen bring with them a wealth of knowledge and expertise. WO2 Caswell's previous posting was as the SMIG at 5/11 Light Battery so he already is known by the Battery.

We were fortunate enough to have members of the Historic Artillery Company visit the Battery in February. It was apparent that the Units have a lot in common and it was great to be able to speak with fellow gunners, especially from such a famous and historic unit.

Preparations and planning are well and truly underway for ANZAC Day and once again I look forward to catching up with as many past gunners and family as possible at HAP.

Early planning has also commenced for the Battery Birthday in July. Further details to follow, but please mark Saturday 2 July 2016 in your calendars for the dinner.

Ubique

Rob COALES Battery Commander 3 Light Battery

AWARD RECOGNISES ARMY RESERVE ARTILLERY ROLE

It is often said that commitment and persistence pays off.

For Major Rob Coales, the reward was more than receiving an Army Commendation it was the satisfaction that he and his battery had confirmed the importance of light artillery within the Army Reserve's 2nd Division.

Under Plan Beersheba the future of Army Reserve artillery rested on providing indirect fire support using the 81 mm mortar.

Major Coales led a combined team of gunners from his own 3rd Light Battery and from the Queensland-based 5th/11th Battery on several exercises beginning in 2013 and culminating in Exercise Hamel in 2014.

Their job was to validate the light battery construct.

"Many people were sceptical about the future of Army Reserve artillery. We proved to everyone that we can make it work, that we can provide real capability within 2nd Division," he said.

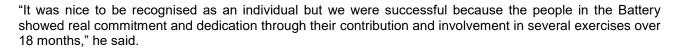
His efforts involved much travel to Brisbane and Townsville to work with 11th and 3rd Brigades during exercises, planning conferences and other training activities.

During Exercise Hamel 14 Major Coales commanded a battery of mortars, two Joint Fire Teams and a Joint Fires Coordination Centre under Battle Group Cannan supporting the regular Army's 3rd Brigade.

"This was the first time a light battery was used in a major exercise – it was a big test for us," he said

Major Coales received his Commander 2nd Division

Commendation from Brigadier David Thompson, AM, Commander 13th Brigade.



The Battery is not resting on its laurels with members taking part in a major joint fires exercise in Brisbane in May as part of their preparation for Exercise Hamel in 2017.

BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN GUNNERS CELEBRATE TRIPLE CENTENARY

British Army gunners made Perth's 3rd Light Battery the first stop on the Australian leg of their west to east world circumnavigation to mark the 300th anniversary of the Royal Regiment of Artillery (RA).

Ten soldiers from the Honourable Artillery Company took with them a ceremonial baton, designed to represent the RA's 300 years. It is being carried across the globe by RA gunners to arrive at their Regimental home in Larkhill on 26th May.

The London-based Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) is the oldest regiment in the British Army and the second most senior unit of the Army Reserve. It is focused on Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) skills.



At Irwin Barracks the HAC met their counterparts from 3rd Light Battery which made for a surprising reunion for the Battery's SMIG (Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery) Warrant Officer Class Two Scott Caswell and Warrant Officer Class Two Lee Kennedy leading the HAC contingent.

The Warrant Officers served together as parachute gunners in 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (7 Para RHA). WO2 Caswell, who transferred from the British Army nine years ago, was the Battery Sergeant Major of G Battery 7 Para.

RAA FEAST of ST BARBARA 4 DECEMBER 2015

















RAA Officers, Warrant Officers & SNCO's to diarise <u>Friday 2 Dec 2016</u> to ensure they do not miss out on wonderful opportunity to catch up with Gunner mates.

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	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		ne of Association or Society)			
Street Name					
Suburb: Po	ostcode 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 A.G.M. 2016.

Welcome to the Society's AGM for 2016. The re-location to the Alf Adams pavilion here in Mosman Park ensures our attendees can stretch out rather more than the Battery Command Post permits. A morning tea will follow the meeting.

I wish to open with a huge thankyou to the wider membership especially those who cannot be present, but who support the Society through their annual subscriptions which ensures a solid financial base for each year's operations.

I thank also the many members who attend the Tunnels and interact with the visiting public, also those who arrive each month for the on-going maintenance and specialist tasks there. Thanks also to the 'band of brothers' who arrive every Wednesday at Irwin Annex and attend to those essential jobs that always arise via post or phone.

Your Management Committee has again diligently carried out the tasks you entrust it to do on your behalf. We met on twelve instances, with meets lasting up to two hours apiece reflecting the depth of discussion needed when operating a substantial budget and the planning requirements for our projects.

Later this morning I will have pleasure in presenting new badges to several long serving members. Congratulations to each one.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the past twelve months has seen a number of interesting events occurring and I propose to summarise them now.

- After a series of co-operative actions the steel gun shield was re-united with its 6" barrel- one would have had to be standing there in 1945 in order to witness that equipment being re-moved on its way to Albany. It has come full circle.
- All the weapons at Leighton have had an anti-graffiti coating applied which appears to be effective.
- Several quality displays have been installed in the Command Post. They are fragile and therefore behind glass (models and medals)
- Several all-weather data panels were cemented above ground for walkers to read when we are closed.
- The Society and the operators of the Whiteman Park complex have struck a business arrangement whereby we act as consultants to help re-store their WW 1 German 77mm field gun. Members should remember we are now no longer able to undertake such heavy duty tasks at Irwin Barracks. An article on the Whiteman Park Gun appears on page 10: Editor
- The next complex task, our 5.25" site, has commenced with engineering heritage drawings done in order to roof the pit, with a view to fabricating a steel replica of that weapon system to take pride of place at ground level. Recent busy bees have commenced the removal of rubble obstructing the access passage connecting the gun pedestal and the adjoining engine room.

- Some eighteen months ago Society Curator Don Rae and I met with executives of Town of Mosman Park to clarify the responsibility of light and heavy maintenance needed for the Tunnels. I am pleased to state that the Council has now formally advised us some \$40,000 has been set aside for that task. Council will carry out all works we have advised when invited. Copies of the Scope of Works are available for members present to read.
- The Society has received and is acting on the ideas and concepts produced in our Interpretation Plan. This is our blueprint towards the future.
- The year 2015 saw yet another record for visitors 4,516 with no safety instances.
- Members may be aware of the media reports of the re-location of many Leeuwin Barracks units up to Irwin Barracks. To date we have not been made aware of any impact on our occupancy of our Annex site. Irwin will undergo a multimillion dollar upgrade over the next decade.
- Late last year saw the sad passing of members Doug Collins, Kevin Hamilton and Mervyn Ward. I
 was honoured to be able to speak of the input to our Society made by the latter two men at their
 respective funerals.
- Now approaching the construction phase is the 6" steel barrel/shield profile to be sited facing Stirling Highway traffic. This permanent structure will have an ongoing positive impact on our Battery visitor numbers perhaps embarrassing so we may need to crank up our guide numbers.

I will now conclude with a thank you to the Committee members who have renominated for the 2016 season. I also welcome the new members who joined us after the successful 3 Light Battery family B.B.Q. last December.

Members, the R.A.A.H.S. continues to be an efficiently run body in my opinion, with its volunteers undertaking a range of mundane and specialist tasks effectively and with good humour! Your Committee will continue to operate prudently within its financial base. Please promote your Society whenever you are conversing with someone rather younger than yourself.

Members let me sign off with- Go Dockers!, Go Eagles! and Go the mighty Red Legs!

David Carter. President.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

The Regular Army posting cycle caught up with Captain Will Smith and Warrant Officer Nigel Murphy in December 2015, both of whom were Members of the Society for the term of their posting to 3 Light Battery RAA in January 2014.

Will and Nigel were farewelled by President David Carter at the end year Lunch for Volunteers on Saturday, 28th November 2015 and both were presented with a framed print of the Les Bishop painting "ACTION STATIONS" depicting a 25pr Gun Howitzer of 2/3rd Field Regiment 2nd AIF in Cyrenaica in 1941.

Will has been posted as Technical Adjutant Joint Proof and Experimental Unit, Joint Logistics Command, and Nigel was appointed Battery Sergeant Major CSS Battery 8/12 Regiment based at Palmerston Barracks NT. We wish them well in their new environment and thank them for their support whilst at 3 Light Battery.

Will and Nigel have been replaced by Captain Nicholas Mahr and Warrant Officer Scott Caswell, both of whom have joined the Society.



Biography – 8561882 Captain Nicholas Mahr Instructor Gunnery, 3rd Light Battery

Nick grew up in the Southern Highlands, near the township of Bowral. He was educated at Oxley College, a small private Christian school in the area. In 2005 he lived in Colorado, USA as part of a student exchange program. He graduated high school in 2007 and was accepted into the NSW Police College, Goulburn. Upon graduation from the College he was posted to Macquarie Fields Local Area Command in South West Sydney. It was there that he served as a General Duty Police Officer.

Nick left the Police in 2010 after being accepted into RMC, a lifelong ambition. He graduated in June 2011 and was posted to 4th Regiment. It was here that he initially worked as BK CSS Bty (being a non ROBC qualified officer). This was followed by CPO, AADJT, TP COMD, FSO and FO. Nick was promoted to Captain in late 2014, and served as an FO in the newly raised 106 Bty. In 2016 Nick was posted to the 3rd Light Battery where he serves as the Instructor Gunnery.

Nick enjoys Rugby Union and a variety of other sports. He also has interests in real estate, business and travel. Nick was married to Sarah this year at their wedding in Sydney.



BIOGRAPHY – 8541386 WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO SCOTT CASWELL RAA-ECN 357-2 Manager Operations

Warrant Officer Scott Caswell was born in Scotland and educated in the Scottish Borders. He enlisted in the British Army in August 1985, before laterally transferring to the Australian Defence Force in March 2008.

Warrant Officer Caswell has enjoyed a highly successful career in the British Army where he achieved the Rank of Warrant Officer Class One. During his career in the

British Army he held several key appointments; Instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Battery Sergeant Major Oxford University Officers Training Corps, Battery Sergeant Major 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant and the Master Gunner 16 Air Assault Brigade. His last deployment was into Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 1. Warrant Officer Caswell has experienced the full spectrum of military operations during his 24 years of service in the British Army.

Since transferring to the Australian Defence Force Warrant Officer Caswell has held the following appointments, Sergeant Major Instructing Gunnery School of Artillery, Battery Sergeant Major 4th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery and Training Warrant Officer of 5th/11th Battery 25th/49th Royal Queensland Regiment. His last deployed was into Afghanistan on Operation SLIPPER.

Warrant Officer Caswell has seen over 30 years of service. His extensive military knowledge and experience have provided him with a keen eye for detail and the ability to always see the bigger picture. He has excellent communication skills across all ranks, in both formal and informal environments. These key skills enable him to have a positive impact on all aspects of unit management, training and administration both on operations and in the barracks.

His decision to transfer to the ADF has given him many opportunities to relay his operational experience, training and technical expertise. Warrant Officer Caswell has undertaken tertiary studies and enhanced his Training & Development background. He has successfully completed his Bachelors of Training & Development.

Warrant Officer Caswell is actively involved in youth development and has lead several overseas expeditions to developing countries with World Challenge.

Warrant Officer Caswell is married to Joanne and have a wee dog called Spirit they are also registered foster carers.

LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS!

During 2015, the Society was approached by the Curator of the Whiteman Park Revolutions Museum seeking advice in the restoration of a World War1 Krupp 75mm Field Gun that had been allocated to the then Pingelly Roads Board as a War Trophy in 1920. The Gun, serial number 546, is 1905 vintage and was sold to the Ottoman Empire by Krupp prior to WW1.

Whiteman Park is a subsidiary of the Western Australian Planning Commission and Department of Planning, and the Revolutions Museum had acquired the Trophy as a bequest from the late Lou Whiteman after whom the Park was named.

At some stage in its life the Gun had been totally neglected and somehow finished up minus wheels and mounted on a block of concrete totally exposed to the elements. Years of exposure led to the rotting of the trail and the saddle, basically leaving the barrel and recuperator, axles and shield bearing any resemblance to the original weapon.





The Revolutions Museum is committed to a restoration programme with the intention of recreating an acceptable resemblance of the Gun when captured by Australian Light Horse during the Sinai Campaign and completing the project to coincide with the Centenary of Armistice Day on 11th November 2018. Funding has been allocated by the Western Australian Planning Commission.

The Society has agreed to act in a consultancy role assisting in the supervision of stripping the components, determining a restoration plan acceptable to Whiteman Park, and the sourcing of avenues for the actual restoration. A consultancy fee has been agreed. Members Harvey Everett and Don Rae have undertaken the liaison role with Whiteman Park Revolutions Museum.

This project is a real challenge to the Whiteman Park Museum and the Society. Progress will be reported in future issues of ARTILLERYWA.



AV2769 Maureen - Rest in Peace

When 3 Transportation Squadron RAE was formed at Karrakatta, one of their first boats was AV2769 Maureen, a 112 foot Fairmile which had been built in Sydney in 1946. She was used for towing targets for the gunners at Leighton Battery as well as fast personnel transport to Rottnest and Garden Island, often with a fishing line trawled behind. With the closure of the Coast Artillery Branch in 1963 she was retained at Fremantle for a while but had left by 1968.

Not sure where Maureen went after that, but since 2001 (after a few modifications) she has been operating as a charter boat at Melbourne, taking up to 80 tourists on luxury tours around the Melbourne waterways as MV Challenger. The publicity blurb claims that 'Featuring soft charcoal leather seating in the Captain's lounge, a comfortable internal saloon and a spacious observation deck, she's perfect for any cruising function. With the ability to hold up to 80 guests, cocktail style, you can dance the night away on the hard wooden polished dance floor or enjoy the views from the outside covered areas as you embrace the scenic views'. Although she was not a tramp steamer, most of the sappers in the crew would not agree with this description in their time.



In May 2015 Challenger was being slipped at Hastings in Westernport, Vic for routine maintenance, but difficulties in raising her sufficiently to be properly placed on the cradle resulted in a broken back. She was demolished on site, so we have lost one of the last remaining Fairmile boats that came out of WW2

RIP Maureen

Leighton Battery Heritage Site Busy Bee Saturday 27th February 2016

Although a very hot day the Busy Bee was an outstanding success.

Photographer Peter Chalmers made a complete photographic record of the site. Peter is a member of a photographic club that toured the tunnels a fortnight ago and was so impressed by the site he volunteered to come back and take photos.

John Bly has provided some photo's (before and after) to give you an idea of the progress being made.













You can Now pay your Membership Fees (\$25 per annum) by Direct Debit!

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If you choose this method please quote:

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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.

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.

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 <u>john.blylevens@defence.gov.au</u> if you would like to be included and when you change your email address, so we can keep up to date.

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 payme	ent of(Qty)				
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Please find enclosed the amount of \$ being for payment of(Qty)						
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(Ties are \$25 each. PT Shirts are \$25 each.)						
Name						
Street Name						
Suburb:	Postcode	Phone				
Email:	s Canteen'					





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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)