



OFFICE BEARERS

RAA ASSOCIATION

President

Bob Farrelly

bobfarrelly@live.com

Vice President

Peter Mahoney

anji42n@ozemail.com.au

Secretary/Treasurer

John Blylevens

John.Bly@auspost.com.au

Committee Persons

Wendy Mahoney

anji42n@ozemail.com.au

Raymond Kennedy

r.kennedy09@gmail.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President

David Carter

David.Carter@education.wa.edu.au

Vice President

Graham McKenzie-Smith

grimwade4@iinet.net.au

Secretary

John Blylevens

John.Bly@auspost.com.au

Treasurer

Neil Lodge

neillodge@westnet.com.au

Assistant/Sec/Treas

Sue Lawrence

lawrencesl@westnet.com.au

Committee Persons

Mathew Adams

Mathew10@hotmail.com

Phillip Rowson

Phil.Rowson@cf-direct.com.au

IT Consultant

Stan Davies

sftdavies@bigpond.com

Curator

Don Rae

devar@iinet.net.au

THE FEAST OF SAINT BARBARA

On page 9 you will read the Greeting from Head of Regiment, Brigadier Craig Furini, CSC addressed to all past and serving Gunners in Australia recognising the Feast of Saint Barbara.

Saint Barbara is the Patron Saint of Gunners and she is honoured by all Gunners throughout the Commonwealth by holding a "feast" as close as possible to 4th December each year.

On Friday, 2nd December, Past and Serving Gunners assembled for Dinner at Hobbs Artillery Park to celebrate the 2016 annual event. Host for the occasion was the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier Gerry Warner, AM, LVO, and the principal Guests included Mr. Peter Aspinall, State President Returned and Services League, and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Colliigan, CO 11/28 BN RWAR BG.



Peter Aspinall

Highlights of the evening included a stirring address by Mr. Peter Aspinall reflecting his experiences as a Forward Observer during the Battle of Long Tan, the 50th Anniversary of which was commemorated on 18th August 2016. More than a coincidence was the presence of Mr. Peter Treleven who served with Peter Aspinall during Long Tan and whose article appeared in the September Edition. Peter Aspinall received a great ovation at the conclusion of his address.

Another highlight of the evening was the Dining Out of Sergeant Trevor Hicks who had completed in excess of 30 years Reserve and Full Time Service.

On behalf of all serving members of 3 Light Battery, Major Robert Coales presented a framed print of an M2A2 Howitzer deployed at a Fire Support Base in Vietnam. Trevor responded thanking all and announced that he will shortly transfer to NSW.



MAJ Coales - Presentation to SGT Hicks

In his address, Major Rob Coales announced that his term as BC 3 LT BTY concludes 31.12.2016 and spoke of the highs and lows of his experiences over the past 4 years. Rob will be replaced as BC in 2017 by Captain Jackson Thompson.



A Time to Reminisce and Enjoy

L to R - Phil Rowson, Mal Seaton, Lou Grime, Fred Morrell, Stewart Davies, Greg Frey, Tom Arnautovic

It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives. The act of dying is not of importance, it lasts so short a time.

NOTICE BOARD



Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Deadline to Printer	Mail Out	In Time For
2017 1	4/1/17 to 19/2/17	19/2/17	20/2/17 to 7/3/17	7/3/17	7/3/17	22/3/17	
2	3/4/17 to 19/5/17 19/5/17	19/5/17	20/5/17 to 7/6/17	7/6/16	7/6/16	21/6/17	
3	5/7/17 to 19/8/17	19/8/17	20/8/17 to 7/8/17	7/8/17	7/8/17	17/8/17	
4	3/10/17 to 19/11/17	19/11/17	20/11/17 to 7/12/17	7/12/17	7/12/16	21/12/16	Xmas

To ensure that the printing deadline is met please observe the dates listed above.
Copy for publication in the newsletter should be emailed to arnold353@bigpond.com.

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2017

28 January, 25 February, 25 March, 29 April
27 May, 24 June, 29 July, 26 August, 30 September,
28 October, 25 November, 30 December

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

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

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners

Our President Bob Farrelly is sunning himself in Darwin for the next few months so it has fallen to me to provide the final report for the year. I can't promise that it will have the gravitas of a Brexit announcement nor the bewilderment of another recent presidential event but here goes.

In many respects 2016 has been eventful and it is pleasing to see that while other related organisations are slowly dwindling the RAA Association WA has adopted initiatives that will see the Organisation continue into the future.

By the time this goes into publication the 2016 Feast of St Barbara will have been and gone, and I anticipate another success. The difference this year has been the inclusion of past and serving Bombardiers. I know there has been some reservation from a few around broadening the invitation base but this sentiment fails to accept the reality of the patent situation many organisations such as ours face these days. I wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of Stan Davies, Tom Arnautovic, Peter Rowles and others in ensuring this important gunner event continues to be recognised in an ever more difficult cost climate. It behoves us all to reach out to members past and present to join the Association and participate in its activities.

Feedback from the BTY Birthday/RAA Corps Dinner was very positive and another first inasmuch as the theme commemorated the 50th Anniversary of Long Tan and we were fortunate to have the pleasure of the company of a number of Artillery Veterans and a Member of D Company, 6 RAR who all participated in that significant engagement. During the course of the dinner I was very pleased to hear the Veterans express how touched they were to have received

“Arty” recognition in the form of a Commemorative Coin presented to them by the BC, MAJ Rob Coales.

Gunners Day 2016 ran well and dare I say it but I thought attendance was once again up on previous years. There was a slight departure this year from previous years with the Bible Society of Australia offering “The Gallipoli Bible” to all members past and present in recognition of their service. If any members who weren't at the service wish to receive a copy of this Bible I invite them to contact me on 0400408285 and I'll see if I can arrange for a copy.

MAJ Rob Coales concludes his posting this year and I'd like to acknowledge his tireless efforts over the last three years at ensuring that the Artillery Profile remains prominent in WA. I know that at times it has been a problem and that his successor will have a difficult act to follow. Rob moves on to Staff College and has also decided to stand for Office at the next State Election – Best Wishes Rob. Captain Jackson Thompson takes on the role in 2017 and on behalf of the Association I'd like to wish him all the best and ask that he continue to promote the RAA Ethos.

Finally I'd like to wish all a happy and safe Festive Season and look forward to catching up with everyone in 2017.

Ubique

Peter Mahoney

Vice President

BATTERY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Someone said all good things must come to an end, and so it is for me and my time as the inaugural Battery Commander of 3 Light Battery.

As I write this and reflect on my four years I can't help but think of the highs and lows and all the range of emotions I have experienced in that time.

I don't think anyone or anything could have prepared me for sub unit command and certainly not at the time that the Battery come under command of 11/28 Infantry Battalion.

It would be impossible for me to accurately express in words what I felt and the challenges I had in those first 6 months of 2013. In fact I shielded most of my emotions and challenges from almost all in the Battery because I knew that the Battery would succeed, it had to.

I reflect upon the sudden death of a great member of the Battery in Gavin Bonser. His death in February 2013 was at a time when the Battery was grieving for its identity and this tragic death forged us a Battery to be resilient and to remember Gavin and his qualities. The turn out by current and past Gunners at Gavin's funeral was outstanding and I was humbled to be asked to carry his Coffin.

I am proud that his legacy will live on through the Gavin Bonser Award which is presented annually at the Battery Birthday Dinner.

Of course there have been many successes. The participation of the Battery on Exercise Hamel 14 where we validated the Second Division Light Artillery Construct is a highlight. So too was the successful transition of Gunner Carina Mangini as the first female light gunner and more recently being advised that Gunner Jason Greenwell successfully passed the Officer Selection Board and will commence Officer Training in January 2017.

The Battery has continued to provide capability and we have had several members of the Battery deploy on Transit Security Element and also to Butter-

worth.

Key to the success of the Battery over the last four years has been the Battery Command Team. All of whom I have enjoyed working with and whom I am forever indebted to.

I have been extremely fortunate to have had quality ARA Staff over my journey. Captain James Tarpley (now a Battery Commander in 4 Regt) Captain William Smith and Captain Nick Mahr. The latter two spent time as the Battle Group Adjutant and both did a great job. All these officers assisted me and were of great benefit to other Battery Officers.

To the SMIGs that have been posted to the Battery over my time, Dave Nutini, Nigel Murphy and now Scott Caswell have all been instrumental in the growth of the Battery and in particular Soldier Management.

I am a better officer for my experiences with the six fine men.

The Reserve Senior NCOs and Officers I have had over my posting have been outstanding. In particular the support I received in my first year from my BSM, Warrant Officer Dave Worcester was amazing.

At the risk of singling out an individual who has supported me over the last four years, I must acknowledge Sergeant Rob Toase. As the BC Ack Rob and I have spent many a trip to Lancelin and Bindoon, Brisbane and Townsville and we have had many a discussion about the intricacies of the Battery, Artillery, 13 Brigade and the world! Toasey thank you for your honest opinion and being an effective sounding board.

Sergeant Toase has stepped up in the last 11 months as acting BSM and is performing well. He will continue to be a vital cog in the Battery command wheel.

Finally I must acknowledge the RAA Historical Society, their President David Carter and fellow members for their support and friendship.

(Continued on Page 10)

THE AIMING POST

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of Western Australia (Inc.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Cricket Season. But how about those Doggies! And what a change at Lathlain Park! I can now report that all the heavy maintenance tasks at the Battery Site have been finished to a good standard. This was a T.O.M.P. Venture, funded by them.

The Gun Profile beside Stirling Highway is definitely lifting our weekly tour totals; we have had to put on a 5th guide sometimes to help carry the load. To that effect we welcome back member and guide Caroline Lehman from a spell of family duties. As of mid October, we have had 3,727 visitors through Leighton. We finished last year with 4,516-(in 2006 that figure was 1,579).

The Busy Bee Team headed up by John Blylevens has been actively digging further into the B.O.P. access tunnel to see if it does head off towards a re-entrant visible from the outside approaches. The tunnel roof is loose and the lads are using a shovel with a very long handle!

In early September, several Committee Members and I met with the Town's new C.E.O. and gave him a first class tour of the Battery Site. He commented that we have developed a most impressive set of displays

Our main project remains the 5.25 inch pit. Funding will be by Lottery West via T.O.M.P. There are a lot of essential actions involving as the project advances, which are in the capable hands of member Don Rae. The work will be complex and the Committee agrees that T.O.M.P will act on the Society's behalf in calling for tenders for the work as it arises. As a timetable of work is presented to the Committee it will be made known to the membership through Aiming Post.

Looking further down the track is a concept which is rather unique and very exciting! We know the Defence soldiers did their long and tedious duty spells during the war, but they have nothing to commemorate that fact in the Fremantle locality. Members familiar with the Battery Site will know that the former location of the 3.7 inch gun is now

vacant.

The concept is currently titled the Silent Sentinels. Envisaged is a series of graceful curved metal poles each top of the metal star replicating the Southern Cross star grouping. By having this lit at night a really special effect is produced for anyone passing on foot or by vehicle along the Highway. The finished display will have glass interpretive panels at the base, also lit at night.

The site is not a memorial, rather a commemorative display. The Committee has met with a representative of a firm who has done quality work on the Army's behalf elsewhere and we are very impressed with the computer generated images they have put forward as a discussion concept. No timetable is arranged as costings are yet to be supplied and it would not be cheap. Aiming Post will keep you updated.

I wish to finish with my congratulations to the Guide/Cashier team who have continued to put in their time and skills to inform our public guests of the Tunnels Complex. They see a wide cross section of personalities and ages among the visitors and yet all situations are dealt with smoothly. Also my thanks to the stalwarts at our H.Q. who deal with the weekly tasks - you can't beat good logistics.

Members, your Committee and I, wish you and yours, a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Always, Sir, set a high value on spontaneous kindness.

As peace is the end of war, so to be idle is the ultimate purpose of the busy.

Dr. Johnson

The Elswick Guns

Very early in the Boer War, Royal Artillery Guns were found to be inadequate for the field operations encountered. The Royal Navy came to the rescue by taking guns off its warships, constructing home made gun carriages and taking them into the field. One of these guns was the 12 pounder naval gun which proved to be an ideal fit for field operations.

Seeing this and sensing a commercial opportunity, the Armstrong Whitworth company who produced the naval guns saw an opening for an army version and so offered the War Office their field version of the 12 pounder gun. This was a significant improvement over the naval version customised to field operations as it had a factory fitted recoil system and wheels. Certain other parts had commonality with both the 12 and 15 pounder Royal Artillery guns. Six guns were produced as prototypes.

The key advantage this weapon had was its sights were calibrated out to 8000 yards, clearly out-ranging Boer artillery.

The War Office was not remotely interested. There the matter might have rested but for an eccentric brewery heiress Lady Meux. She bought the guns from

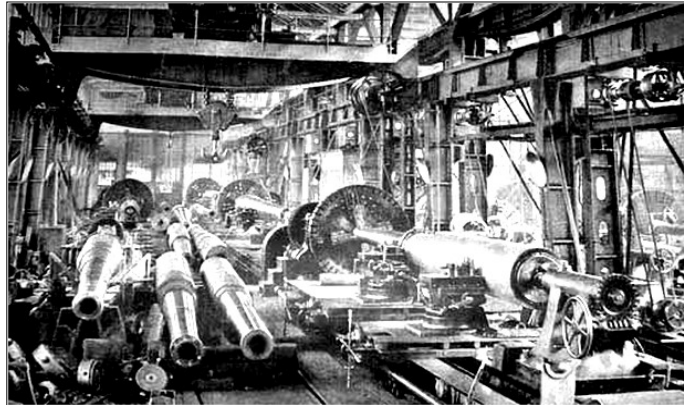
Armstrong Whitworth and presented them personally to Lord Roberts on his way out to South Africa. It was then suggested that a military artillery battery, which actually included some of the Armstrong Whitworth workers from the Elswick works then going to South Africa, should be equipped with these guns and so it was. Thus men who had made the guns actually got to fire them in action in South Africa. One of these guns

ended up supporting Australians in Ingouville William's column in 1901-1902. The slightly comical aspect of all this became apparent at the end of the war when it was discovered that because Lord Roberts owned the guns personally, the British army could not dispose of them without his permission. Ultimately, through various negotiations, Lord Roberts presented the guns as guardians to various locations in South Africa and in the UK.

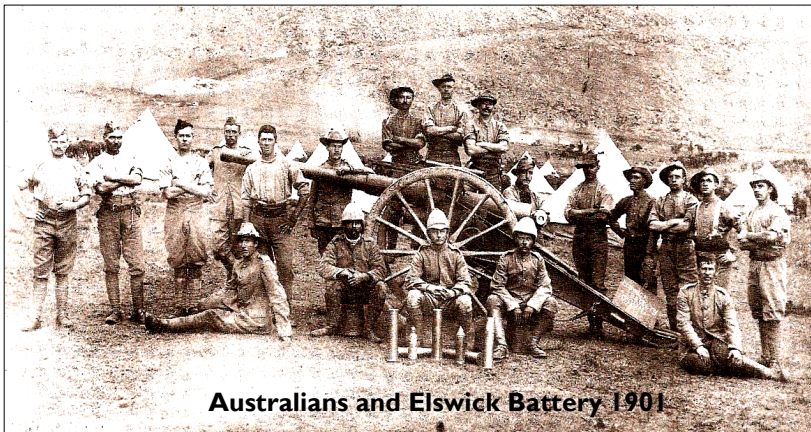
Whilst one gun was cut up for scrap in World War II, five of the guns remain, including one held by the successor to the Elswick battery in South Africa, 203 Elswick Battery Royal Artillery, a Reserve formation.

David Deasey

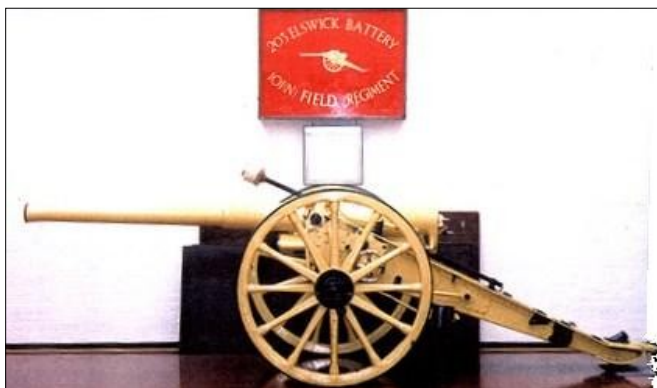
(With thanks to the National Boer War Memorial Association)



Elswick - No 6 Gun Lathe Shop - 1898



Australians and Elswick Battery 1901



THE ELSWICK GUN

88th GUNNERS DAY 6th November 2016

The annual GUNNERS DAY Parade and Service at Stirling Square GUILDFORD was well attended this year with approximately 120 serving, ex serving, families and guests enjoying the fine weather (shame about the flies). Unfortunately there were road works along Johnson Street and verge which forced a slight adjustment to the route however BRIG Gerry Warner took the salute on Meadow Street as per normal.

The first GUNNERS DAY occurred in 1928 and it is still going strong, a testament to the will and longevity of Gunners. Next year there will be a slight change with all timings being advanced by one hour. A selection of photographs of the day follows.'

John Blyleven



The flags marched from St Matthews



Wendy Mahoney, Ken Hepworth and Peter Rowles



BRIG Gerry Warner with wife Gerri displays bible donated by Bible Society to all military members



Detachment from the Australian Army Band leads to St Matthews Church



Formed up at the Memorial



L – R LTCOL Madden 13 Brigade (obscured) BRIG Warner
Colonel Commandant MAJ Mahoney Vice President
RAA Association WA

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 7



Members of Gunner Associations march to St Matthews led by Ken Hepworth



Wreath Laying
RAAHS President, David Carter (top right)



Australian Army Cadets carrying Gunner Flags and Banners



Derrick Paternoster and Phil Rowson



Fellowship



Onlookers at Ceremony

**Australian Army**

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

I5895547

**All Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
Associations and Affiliated Friends of the Royal Regiment****SAINT BARBARA'S DAY GREETING 2016**

I extend my greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, BRIG AG Warner AM LVO, and the Colonels Commandant, for your Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations on 4th December 2016.

As we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day, let us remember what we have achieved in 2016 and prepare for the challenges of 2017. I congratulate all who will be taking up new appointments in January next year as Commanding Offices, Battery Commanders and Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors. It is also a day when many are promoted to the next rank and recognised for their service. To you, I pass on my congratulations for your ongoing commitment to the Royal Regiment and the Army.

I congratulate and thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and retired, for their service and I wish all Gunners serving overseas good shooting at the safe return to their families.

Ubique,

Craig Furini CSC

Brigadier

Head of Regiment

C/- Headquarters School of Artillery

Bridges Barracks

Puckapunyal, VIC 3662

E-mail: c.furini@defence.gov.au

15 November 2016

(Continued from Page 4)

So too the RAA Association of WA Lt Col Bob Farrelly and fellow members. At all times I have promoted both Associations to current Gunners and look forward to continuing my association with both groups.

I wish my successor Major Jackson Thompson all the best and I am confident that the Battery will continue to provide Capability.

So it is now my final time as the BC to sign off.

“49 OUT!”

Ubique

Rob Coales

Battery Commander

THE CRETE PLAQUE AND SHIELD

The mounting and framing of the replica Society Plaque and the Rethymno Shield mentioned in the front page article of the September 2016 Edition is now complete and has been hung in the Reception Centre at Leighton Battery Heritage Site.



The inscription reads:

THE BATTLE OF CRETE 20TH MAY – 1ST JUNE 1941

A REPLICA OF THE PLAQUE PRESENTED BY THE SOCIETY TO THE RETHYMNO MILITARY MUSEUM IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF CRETE APPEARS ABOVE. ALONGSIDE IS THE RETHYMNO MUSEUM SHIELD PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY AS A BOND LINKING THE TWO ORGANISATIONS.

MAJOR I. J. BESSELL-BROWNE, MBE, A FOUNDATION MEMBER AND PAST PATRON OF THE SOCIETY WAS SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE ANZAC FORCE THAT DEFENDED RETHYMNO. HIS DAUGHTER SUSANNA AND SON GUY MADE THE PRESENTATION TO THE MUSEUM ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY AT A CEREMONY AT RETHYMNO ON 25TH MAY 2016.

RAAHS - WA VOLUNTEERS BBQ LUNCH SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2016

The annual volunteers lunch was held at the Brian Mann Pavilion MOSMAN PARK again this year with a turnout of 40 Guides, Cashiers and Saturday Maintenance Volunteers. The weather was hot but the air conditioning was cool with ample food and refreshment. President David Carter presented outgoing Battery Commander 3 LT BTY MAJ, Robert Coales with a print from the Society. Rob is scheduled to attend Staff College, a qualification required for promotion to LTCOL. David also thanked all members of the RAAHS-WA for their ongoing commitment and support, encourage your friends to join.



L to R Michelle, Ronnie and Anne



Head Chef Barry Ellis dressed for the occasion.

Check out those shirts on Basil and David



Two Phils



President RAAHS-WA, David Carter, presents a print to MAJ Rob Coales



Sue and Fay



David Thanks the Volunteers



L to R -Krys Kerr, Robert Mitchell and Jenny Twine

Sandgroper

Camper Trailer & Caravan Hire



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/>

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)