



# Artillery WA



Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)

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## **THE GENERAL WHITELAW SWORD TRADITION**

### **HISTORY OF THE TRADITION:**

GENERAL WHITELAW WAS THE SON OF MAJGEN J. S. WHITELAW WHO WAS MGRA AUSTRALIAN ARMY DURING WW2 AND POST WW2 WAS GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING 5<sup>TH</sup> MILITARY DISTRICT.

JOHN WHITELAW JUNIOR ENLISTED IN THE AIF IN WW2 AND WAS COMMISSIONED LIEUTENANT RAA AND SERVED WITH DISTINCTION AS A FORWARD OBSERVER IN THE ISLANDS CAMPAIGN.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF HOSTILITIES HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE REGULAR ARMY WITH A PERMANENT COMMISSION. FOR A SHORT WHILE HE WAS ADJUTANT 3 FIELD REGIMENT RAA KARRAKATTA AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN THE ARMY RETIRING AS CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

GENERAL JOHN WHITELAW MAINTAINED CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH RAA ASSOCIATION AND RAA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. IN 2003 HE WAS GUEST OF RAA ASSOCIATION AS REVIEWING OFFICER ON THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GUNNERS' DAY.

THE SWORD IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY – GENERAL WHITELAW “ACQUIRED” IT AT SOME STAGE OF HIS CAREER AND FELT THAT IT SHOULD BE RETURNED TO WA FOR SAFE KEEPING BY RAA HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WA.

AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, A SAM BROWNE BELT WAS PRESENTED TO RAA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY COL RAY REEVES, ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED REGULAR GUNNER OFFICER FROM WA – IT WAS CUSTOM MADE BY THE COLONEL AND THE BRASS FITTINGS WERE FASHIONED FROM A 25 POUNDER CARTRIDGE CASE.

THE SOCIETY DECIDED THAT THE SWORD AND BELT SHOULD BE OFFERED TO THE ARMY RESERVE BATTERY COMMANDER AT HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK KARRAKATTA FOR HIS PERSONAL USE ON ALL CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS AND BE RETAINED BY HIM UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF HIS APPOINTMENT. THEY WERE THEN TO BE OFFERED TO HIS REPLACEMENT DURING HIS TERM OF APPOINTMENT AND SO DEVELOPED THE “TRADITION”.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL (THEN MAJOR) ANDREW DUNJEY WAS THE FIRST RECIPIENT IN 2006 FOLLOWED BY MAJOR STEVE MATHERS IN 2007, MAJOR JOHN BLYLEVENS IN 2010, MAJOR ROBERT COALES IN 2013 AND, MOST RECENTLY, MAJOR JACKSON THOMPSON IN 2017.

MAJOR THOMPSON'S PRESENTATION WAS MADE AT HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK ON TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2017 BY SOCIETY PRESIDENT DAVID CARTER IN THE PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF 3 LIGHT BATTERY RAA. ALSO PRESENT WERE SOCIETY MEMBERS PHIL ROWSON, NEIL LODGE AND DON RAE.

## NOTICE BOARD



Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Deadline to Printer	Mail Out	In Time For
2	3/4/17 to 19/5/17	19/5/17	20/5/17 to 7/6/17	7/6/17	7/6/17	21/6/17	
3	5/7/17 to 19/8/17	19/8/17	20/8/17 to 7/9/17	7/9/17	7/9/17	21/9/17	
4	3/10/17 to 19/11/17	19/11/17	20/11/17 to 7/12/17	7/12/17	7/12/17	21/12/17	Christmas
1/2018	11/1/18 to 21/2/18	21/2/18	22/2/18 to 7/3/18	7/3/18	7/3/18	21/3/18	

**To ensure that the printing deadline is met please observe the dates listed above.  
Copy for publication in the newsletter is most welcome and should be emailed to  
[arnold353@bigpond.com](mailto:arnold353@bigpond.com).**

### RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2017

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

Welcome back all I trust you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. There is not much to report to members this being the first issue for 2017 and business only fairly recently recommenced.

As you will have seen in the December issue, the St Barbara's Dinner 2016 was indeed a great success and fortified with that success the sub-committee has commenced planning for the Battery Birthday dinner 2017 and the St Barbara's dinner. I would once again encourage past and serving Bombardiers to attend the dinner. Due to unit work commitments the date for the Battery Birthday dinner will be pushed back but more on that later.

On a sadder note Wendy and I attended the funeral of Brian Handcock on 11 March 2017 on behalf of the RAA Association. Brian was a long serving member of the Regiment and passed away after a long illness. He was very well known and respected by many of the older members. Don Rae also attended on behalf the RAA Historical Society and will prepare a comprehensive eulogy for publication in Artillery WA.

Brian lived for a long time in Narrogin and on one occasion myself and a gun detachment travelled down there to undertake a dawn salute on Anzac Day. The dawn salute passed without hitch and the noise of the round shattered the still air very loudly. I was concerned to learn from Brian that the gun had been aligned ( safe distance naturally) over the roof of one of the town's oldest residents. He quickly reassured me she was in the gathered crowd and had enjoyed the moment. He then pointed out his solution to our possibility of a mis-fire – an old blunderbuss that had generally been used to break the silence in previous years.

At the last St Barbara's dinner he was able to attend he apologized for his health but was told positively by one

of the subalterns "Don't worry sir ONCE A GUNNER ALWAYS A GUNNER – if we have to get you here on a stretcher that's what we'll do"

Vale Brian

That's all for this report – stay safe

*Peter Mahoney*

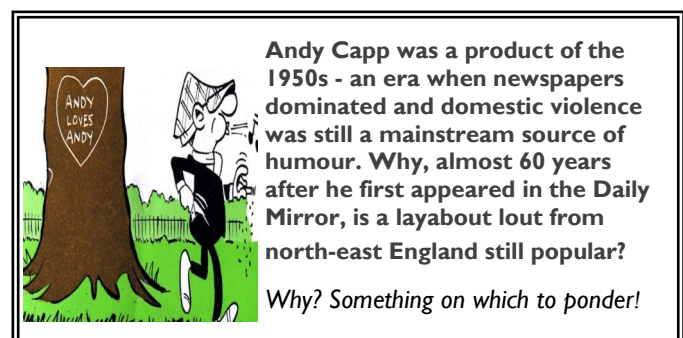
Vice president

RAA Association WA

This space was vacant and the comments below have no relevance to the President's Report. But, having concerns about the amount forgotten, (particularly in the last few years), they have brightened my day. And, in talking to the Wednesday morning regular tea drinkers I find that we are mostly birds of a feather and, just maybe, can all utter a sigh of relief.

***"Not remembering useless trivia and facts, gives our brains more capacity to think about and process more important things.***

Bob A



## BATTERY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

2017 has called and 3 Light Battery is busier than ever!

This year will see the battery combine with 5/11 Light Battery in Queensland and deploy as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division's 'Ready' Artillery capability for the entirety of the 2018 force generation year.

The battery will spend the next four months training up on the newest iteration of the F88 Austeyr (the **EF88**), learning how to wear army's newest load carrying ensemble (the 'SCE') and conducting a series of training weekends throughout the state in order to test and evaluate our skills before Exercise Hamel 17.

***On time, on target, never quit***



Beyond refining our martial skillset we continue to recognise and celebrate the key events that make us proud Gunners. We have seen in Australia Day 17 with the traditional 21 Gun salute from Kings Park, are currently squaring ceremonial uniforms away for Anzac Day and emails have begun flashing their way across my computer screen with the title "Battery Birthday 2017".

On that note I would like to extend an early invitation the Battery Birthday for 2017, due to be held on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2017. The Battery welcomes all past and present Gunners and associated persons to come enjoy a night of fine dining, music and the camaraderie that only Gunners truly have. Further details to follow but please feel free to email [glenn.tyriel@defence.gov.au](mailto:glenn.tyriel@defence.gov.au) if you would like to express early interest in attending the night.



**I look forward to meeting many of you over the year and retaining the strong relationship between all Western Australian Gunners and the Battery.**

Regards

*Jackson Thompson*

**BC 3 Light Battery**



## THE AIMING POST

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

Dear Members,

I hope the opening months of the new year have been pleasant and productive for you and yours.

Since my last Report to you, Society work has been progressing steadily. Our active members continue to do all the necessary tasks to present our showpiece - Leighton Battery in first-class condition to the public; numbers of which have continued to stay strong as have school and community groups who visit out of hours.

The complex project of roofing the 5.25 inch gun pit has progressed to the point where the Premier met with officials from the T.O.M.P., your President and local media on 30 January at the C.P. to hand over a cheque for \$25,000 from Lotterywest. Mayor Norris accepted it. Ron was very pleased that the Society has been so serious about the development of the Battery site.

In response to some vandalism to our site interpretation signs, we have adjusted our insurance cover going forward and have repaired the damaged ones.

A big thank you to the Busy- Bee stalwarts. Among various tasks they have now cleared the backlog of several tonnes of compacted building rubble we dumped into the 5.25 inch engine room. The work was trying. If it was not 38c in the sun, it was 100% humidity in the room.

On 31 January, I handed the General Whitelaw Sword to 3 Light Battery incumbent C.O. Major Jackson Thompson. He will retain it for the period of his command. Member Don Rae explained the significance of the sword to a parade of Battery gunners at Hobbs drill hall.

The Mosman Park R&SL has recently formed a

partnership with us. The aim is to add value to the Tunnel displays by small projects which they can fund. Member Graham McKenzie -Smith will identify such items.

With the outer surface changes over the past few years, we have now remodelled a brochure that each visitor receives on arrival. Our print run is of 5000 replacing 5000 of the originals. We have also updated our photo that goes into the newspapers.

I will conclude with my thanks to all concerned for the efforts you all make for the society. For members who cannot be as active as they would like to be, your support, even if it's your subscription only can only benefit the Society.

UBIQUE

*David Carter*

ps. I note that Lathlain's twin ovals is taking shape - maybe the Eagles can pick up some tips from the Mighty Daemons?

#### 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)

The Society's AGM was held on 18 March. The Society's last years Office Bearers were elected unopposed and we anticipate a successful 2017. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by the Society's President David Carter of Long of Service Awards in recognition of the considerable contribution made by:

- 10 Year – Ben Hobbs, Graham McKenzie –Smith
- 15 Year – Don Boneham, John Sanders
- 20 Year – Helen Glyde, Graeme Stephens, Basil Twine
- 25 Year – Alison Bird, Greg Frey

## IMAGES FROM THE AGM



Graham Stevens



Graham Mc Kenzie-Smith



Ray Bird accepts his wife Alison's presentation



Basil Twine

And how pleasing it was to see Ronnie Roach, and her always ready smile.



## **ANZAC DAY 2017**

Members are invited to attend Irwin Barracks for the ANZAC Day activities to be conducted by 13 Bde

### **Dawn Service:**

13 Bde will be conducting a Brigade Dawn Service on the top sports oval opposite 11/28 RWAR compound commencing at 0525 hrs on 25 April 17. All personnel of 11/28 RWAR BG are encouraged to attend, and are strongly encouraged to invite their families and friends. All Associations and their Members linked to 11/28 RWAR BG are welcome to attend and participate in the Dawn Service and ANZAC Day activities. All members wishing to attend should email [brad.pearce@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au](mailto:brad.pearce@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au) NLT16 2100 h Apr 17 to allow full gate access to Irwin Barracks ( no pass no access).

### **Traffic:**

To ensure that traffic congestion at the front gate is reduced during the surge period of ANZAC morning, the side gate on QUINTILIAN Road at 13 CSSB will be open and manned from 0415h to 0515h for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic for military members, Id-Card holders and their families only. The side gate on QUINTILIAN Road at 13CSSB will close to all traffic, both foot and vehicular WEF 0515h. The main gate will be open and manned from 0415h to 0515h for both the vehicular and pedestrian traffic for persons with a guest pass or military ID only. No pass will mean access will be denied to IRWIN Barracks. The main gate will close to all Vehicular traffic at 0515h when the front gate will close and no further access to IRWIN Barracks will be permitted. The front gate will be reopened to vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic from 0615h at the conclusion of the Dawn Service..

### **Parking**

Parking will be located at the old 11/28 Parade Ground. All other BDE members are to park as per normal work requirements.

### **Coffee Royale**

Coffee will be served from 0450 at the weapon shed directly opposite the top sports oval.

**Gunfire Breakfast:** The Gunfire Breakfast will be held at the OR's Mess at the completion of the Dawn Service - Timings 0600 - 0700. Catering services will output 400 sit down meals within the Mess facilities. These meals are designated primarily for the elderly and guests. 800 x breakfast rolls, tea and coffee will be made available in the ORs Mess Car Park, in four separate 11 x 11 tents. It is requested that service members utilise this area for breakfast, tea and coffee IOT allow the elderly and guess to utilise the Mess Facility .

**Transport to the Gunfire Breakfast:** A TPT shuttle service for attendees that need assistance will be provided by 13CSSB. Pick and drop-off location will be the top sports oval to the Irwin Barracks OR Mess.

**Post ANZAC Day March Functions:** The Gunners Institute Function is due to run from 1100h to 1630h, with all guests clear of Irwin Barracks by 1700h.

**BEREAVEMENT****BRIAN MCINTOSH HANDCOCK****17TH JULY 1937– 28TH FEBRUARY 2017**

**Brian was a Foundation Member of the Society, joining on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1988, and who totally supported the Objects of the Society, even after the onset of his debilitating illness.**

**Brian's link with Artillery came about during his National Service when he was posted to 24<sup>th</sup> Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment and promoted (along with his brother Ian) as a Lieutenant. Throughout his service Brian was influenced by the then Captain Jim McCallum who became the mentor for so many young officers and inspired them to cherish the opportunity to serve their Country as Gunners.**

**Whenever possible, Brian attended the Annual Feast of Saint Barbara – Patron Saint of Gunners –even after he had been confined to a wheelchair and reliant on two of his sons to bring him to the venue. On one occasion Brian apologised for his lack of mobility and remarked to the Dining President that he may not be able to attend in future. The reply epitomises the high regard in which Brian was held – “You will always be welcome – even if we have to get you here on a stretcher you will be welcome – once a Gunner always a Gunner”!**

**In his civil career, Brian made an outstanding contribution to the development of tourism in Western Australia, particularly in the regional areas. He devoted a great deal of time working with local tourist committees encouraging them to highlight the unique features of their area.**

**In the early years there was limited financial support from the State government, yet he was able to convince the respective local councils to become involved by providing tourism infrastructure and regular financial grants to enable the groups to undertake marketing and promotional activities.**

**Brian became a strong voice for regional tourism, and as such, earned the respect of people in both the public and private sectors of the tourism industry. He was of the “old school” where commitment, loyalty, respect and service delivery were paramount. He was focussed and determined to have the world learn about the wonders of Western Australia.**

**In this regard, he achieved a great deal. This true tourism ambassador will be sorely missed.**

**Brian is survived by his wife of 58 years, Nina, four sons and two daughters.**

**UBIQUE**



## ONCE UPON A TIME

**The following is an extract from one of the many literary treasures in the library :**

**W**ith such an Army I could go anywhere and do anything. Such were the words of one who, on that terrible Sunday at Waterloo, proved them to be no idle boast; and all for –English, Irish, Scotch – whose pride it is to belong to the mightiest Empire the world has ever known, they represent an accepted, indubitable fact. The British army, *can* go anywhere and do anything; whether it be beneath the glowing skies of India, amongst the scorching sands of Egypt, the tangled brush of New Zealand, the strange, historic, unfamiliar temples of China and Japan, the terrible dreariness of Crimean snows-no region is too remote, no task too hard. We are apt to smile at the seeming anticlimax of the boast made two centuries ago.

“ Under the tropic is our language spoke,

And part of Flanders hath received our yoke”

But after all it was no empty one, and foreshadowed, though in a faint degree, the sober fact of today. In Europe, the English flag floats over the frowning fortress of Gibraltar, the impregnable defences of Malta, the classic hills of Cyprus; in Asia the Empire of India owns as sovereign the Queen of England, and the spicy breezes of Ceylon’s isles fill and wave the folds of her standard; in America, “the loyal pines of Canada” sway above a populace British to the heart’s core; in Africa, The Cape of Good Hope welcomes the Emigrant to land which his forefathers took possession of nearly a hundred years ago; in Australia and New Zealand has a new England sprung up, with the strong, priceless heritage of the mother land, and the bounteous promise of its own stalwart youth. Over nearly a seventh of the habitable globe, over more its habitants, reigns Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India. And this mighty lordship has been obtained and held by the warriors of an island whose area is but little more than half that of France, and smaller by far than many a Russian *Province*.

### Battle of Bardia

A waning moon shone coldly,  
 On that bleak deserted plain,  
 And the last truck load of Aussies,  
 Moved up through blinding rain.  
 The transports moved on slowly,  
 Their human freight board,  
 The wheels kept turning westward,  
 Towards that vast Italian hoard.  
 They came at last two outposts,  
 First line of the defence,  
 And rested awaiting orders,  
 Easing nerves just slightly tense.  
 The hour of midnight soon drew near,  
 When they to their post did stand,  
 Awaiting for the time  
 To cross that no man's land.  
 The heavens shook as mighty guns,  
 Spewed forth the rain of steel,  
 While brave and firm  
 Our troops advance,  
 To fight for their ideal.  
 For three long days the fight went on,  
 Of bloody hate and pain  
 And there are many of our coppers  
 We will never see again .  
 But the hills no longer echo,  
 To the roar of mighty guns,  
 For Bardia has fallen  
 To Aussies gallant sons.  
 Now we can't forget our nurses,  
 Angels with hearts of gold,  
 Who nursed the sick and wounded  
 May their memory ne'er grow old.  
 And when this war is over,  
 And we are on the beaten track,  
 Our thoughts will keep turning backwards,  
 To mates that never came back.

Author unknown

ex libris -Neil Lodge

\$

### Just maybe you are interested!

#### Forbes' top ten:

- Bill Gates (Microsoft co-founder): \$86bn
- Warren Buffett (US investor): \$75.6bn
- Jeff Bezos (Amazon founder): \$72.8bn
- Amancio Ortega (Inditex founder): \$71.3bn
- Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook founder): \$56bn
- Carlos Slim (Mexican magnate): \$54.5bn
- Larry Ellison (Oracle co-founder): \$52.2bn
- Charles Koch (US businessman): \$48.3bn
- David Koch (US businessman): \$48.3bn
- Michael Bloomberg (Bloomberg founder): \$47.5bn
- **Trump (544th on the List): \$3.5bn**

#### Heard on the BBC:

### **Chuck Berry's Philosophy on Financial Management:**

*"Keep a couple of dollars in your wallet and the balance in your socks".*

**"Well .....some days you're the dog....and some days you're the hydrant."**

