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GUNNERS' DAY SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2017

This year was the 89th GUNNERS DAY March and Service. A sizeable contingent of "olds and bolds", 3 LT BTY RAA, Australian Army Band and Army cadets followed the new route along the footpath adjacent to Meadow Street cutting out the requirement to control traffic.

The salute was taken by COMD 13th BDE's representative, LTCOL Bob Colligan CO 11/28 RWAR BG. Vice President RAA Association of WA MAJ Peter Mahoney officiated at the Memorial Service with REV Katrina Holgate in front of a crowd of about a 150 official guests, participants, family and friends.



LTCOL Bob Colligan, David Carter and Ronnie Roach

The weather was warm and the Church Service was very moving. The luncheon afterward was a perfect opportunity to enjoy a subway roll or cookie and from there many moved to the eastern regional RSL or Rose and Crown for camaraderie.



The Official Guests

(For further photos see page 8)

NOTICE BOARD



Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Deadline to Printer	Mail Out	
1/18	10/1/18 To 21/2/18	21/2/18	20/11/18 To 7/12/18	7/12/18	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.

For those who need it — a reminder, subs are due in the first of January each year.

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)

WELFARE FUND OFFICER

John Blylevens is the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any Welfare Funding can contact John via email info@artillerywa.org.au or telephone 043 869 5711. Access to funds can be made by applying in writing using the Welfare Fund Application 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.

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2018

27 January, 24 February, 31 March, 28 April,
26 May, 30 June, 28 July, 25 August,
27 September, 27 October, 24 November
29 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

G'day All,

This is the final report for the year and possibly the last you'll hear from me as we look forward to welcoming our prodigal President Bob back from his adventures in the NT.

Both Gunners Day and the St Barbara's Dinner for 2017 have now been and gone and once again both were successful.

I thought attendance was up this year at Gunners Day and the Reverend Katrina Holgate did a great job with the service. Her use of technology to broadcast the words of the service hymns onto the wall was great and proves that even in that environment one can't escape technology and its progress. I may be mistaken but I thought the usual mumbling through the hymns was replaced with greater clarity as people looked to the words on the wall rather than heads down looking at the hymn book. This was followed as usual by a light morning tea in the Church Hall and then a tactical withdrawal to the local watering hole for continued fellowship. An invitation was extended to visit the Bassendean RSL sub Branch for post event drinks and this was taken up by some; thank you Ashley Vince, President of the Bassendean sub Branch for extending the hand of hospitality.

St Barbara's dinner was once again masterfully managed by a sub-committee consisting of Stan Davies, Tom Arnavotic and Peter Rowles. Attendance was down a bit but it was more than tremendous to see Lou Grime there. Lou is facing a health challenge and it was marvelous to see him there getting involved in everything and displaying his usual good humour. I recall him presenting me, as a young officer, with an L&D report years ago for a missing finger and asking me what I intended doing about it just before BC's final parade. "Warries" were once again retold and as usual everyone laughed at the memories as if they were hearing them for the first time. I always enjoy this element of the camaraderie as stories can subtly change over time as recollections fade and age advances on us all.

While a few familiar faces were not able to attend due to other commitments some others who had not attended for some time did. As you know Bombardiers and Corporals now attend the dinner; last year from memory, two former members attended, this year it was great to see nine former and serving Bombardiers and Corporals attend the dinner. Together lets grow the overall attendance next year.

However we will need to mobilise some additional support for this event next year as most of the Hon sub-committee will not be available due to other commit-

ments. The fragility of relying on a few to do the lion share of the work in organizing such an event has demonstrated clearly the need to have a back up team in place. I will use this platform to ask members to consider becoming involved in ensuring this important event and the Battery birthday dinner proceed next year without interruption. I'm sure Stan has the most comprehensive step by step guide to organizing such events if his daily emails to members of the committee are any indication. Once again Stan thanks for your sterling efforts in making these events the success they have been.

This brings me to my ongoing point about connecting and staying connected to gunner mates old and new. This is hugely important and I continue to urge all members to make sure they make an effort in this regard. Some may not wish to and that's fair enough but others may simply not know how to go about it.

Next year will see the re-formation of Reserve Artillery units under the banner of 9 Regiment RAA. This is a welcome development from a Corps perspective but will bring with it its own set of challenges. I will leave commentary on that to the BC and am confident we will all be kept apprised as this initiative progresses

That's all from me for the moment; from Wendy and I, have a great Christmas and an even better New Year, stay safe and keep in touch and we'll see everyone in 2018.

Ubique

Peter Mahoney

Vice president

RAA Association WA



No one accuses the gunner of maudlin affection for anything except his beasts and his weapons. He serves at least three jealous gods—his horse and all its sadlery and harness; his gun, whose details of efficiency is more important than men's lives; and, when these have been attended to, the never ending mystery of his art commands him.

Leighton Battery a tribute to vollies

By JON DALY

The Royal Australian Historical Society met on Buckland Hill last Saturday to mark 20 years since the Leighton Battery tunnels and gun sites were reopened.

“We have put something like 20,000 hours of voluntary labour into the site over the past 25 years” the society’s president, David Carter said.

He was talking about the dedication of volunteers who had brought the site back to display condition. They also restored and reopened the tunnels that criss-cross under the Buckland Hill guns.

Mosman Park mayor Brett Pollock attended the event and said it was fantastic. “It is an important part of Mosman Park’s history and culture”, he said.

“When I was a young boy in the 1950s, I remember watching the guns fire at targets being towed along the coast. “I’d encourage everyone to come down and visit the site on Sunday Mornings.” The 115 –member society was formed in 1988.

Mr Carter remembers when he first became involved. “My dad was an ex-serviceman and the Society’s first president was an ex-serviceman – they were friends back in the 1950s,” Mr Carter said.



President David Carter opens the Ceremony



The Hon Colin Barnett address the Gathering

“I happened to bump into this guy 25 years ago and he

said, ‘Well you look young and foolish, do you want to come down to Leighton and help dig out the tunnels?’

”Twenty five years later, Mr Carter is now president and 23,000 have visited the Buckland Hill is“ This year we had a record of 4,500 visitors added to that number,” Mr Carter said.



A toast to the future of the Society

“The site itself is one of the very few physical reminders left of wartime for the people of Perth, short of going to Rottnest Island.” Leighton Battery formed part of a seven point artillery defence of the coast around the Port of Fremantle, Mr Carter said. Leighton Battery was called the Examination Battery and it had to have its two 6-inch anti-shiping guns ready to fire on any suspicious shipping movements in the area of water between Leighton beach and Rottnest Island,” Mr Carter said. These ships would have been German or Japanese and more than likely they would have been armed merchant vessels.”

Mr Carter said HSK Kormoran – the German ship that sunk HMAS Sydney off the Carnarvon coast – had been an armed merchant cruiser.

“That was the sort of ship that the [Leighton Battery] was designed to combat if they poked their noses in the range of Fortress Fremantle,” he said.

“It was also the only site with 5.25-inch guns anywhere in Australia. The three 5.25-inch guns replaced the two 6-inch guns that were there originally.

“For those reasons the Leighton Battery has been brought back to display conditions and it is a very good sample of [what people’s] grandparents or great grandparents would have experienced as young soldiers.”



Presentation of Awards to ARA Members Scott Caswell and Nick Mahr of 3 Light Battery in recognition of their support 2016 –2017.

THE AIMING POST

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

Welcome to your Summer edition of Aiming Post. I offer my compliments of the season to you all in advance of the Christmas activities!

In September, John Blylevens and I attended the Association's Briefing and Information night at Irwin Barracks. Brigadier Thompson mentioned that \$275 million is earmarked for further development of the site. Brigade strength to be about 1,100. Katanning Army Reserve depot has closed.

The Army now operates within a Three Year Force Generation Cycle: Re-set ,Readying, Ready .The Brigade is now in the latter phase as part of a Battle Group, supplying 290 soldiers to the 860 required. In the last few months three W.A. soldiers have received postings to Iraq and three to Afghanistan.

The Society again was one of the host sites for STOMP 2017 in mid September. This is a community based event for the districts young people. It went smoothly – We were appreciative of the level of enthusiasm generated by the youngsters!

October saw the Tunnels host the national re-union of 105 Field Battery Association. This ex-Regular Army Association rotates its annual re-union around the nation. The members were very impressed with our restoration efforts. That month also saw the site host a Scout Association event which involved using the Battery local as a communication hub for international calls to fellow Scouts.

Gunners Day 2017 was another well attended event at Guildford. Several R.A.A.H.S. members were present. I had the pleasure of presenting a wreath on behalf of our members. A service then took place in the colonial era church in Stirling Square .This was the 89th Gunners Day. Member Don Rae marching head up and eyes forward, took a tumble on uneven paving- fortunately he escaped with light wounds!

Merry Christmas to you all

David Carter

Purchased in Perth by Nick Brown from a fellow collector of Militaria Memorabilia.



Boer War Christmas Tin.

Filled with leaf tea.



The Base Reads
REGISTERED DESIGN
THE
BRITISH & BENINGTONS
TEA TRADING ASSON
LIMITED

118 Southwark St
LONDON

John Wilson Tin Printer Shirley Cole Maker

—STOMP—

The Mosman Park Youth Advisory Committee conducted their annual “STOMP” activity Sunday 17th Sep 2017. The activity had 25 teams of 2-6 children “treasure hunting” 14 check-points over a 3 hour period within Mosman Park ending in a lunch and presentations at the Town of Mosman Park building at noon.

Leighton Battery volunteer guides supported the activity that saw 95 children hunting answers to 10 questions about the historical aspects of the site. It was a fun activity that also allowed us to contribute to community within Mosman Park.



Looking for clues



Where do I go?



David & STOMP volunteers set up



David Re- ceives The Certifi- cate of Thanks

A Changing World

Forgotten are the silent scarred hills from not so long ago
Where once came screaming curses of friend and foe
Pain and misery etched in earth soaked blood
So many dreams and hopes lost in the mire of mud
Came the day white doves flew and church bells rang
Dancing in the streets and victory songs sang
Politicians preached of "peace and precious values for all"
For those lost in the hills came the sobs of bugle calls
Young and old gather on our special day of the year
To recall sacrifice in times of bloody strife and fear
Sadly, some still wet behind the ears with empty heads seek
fame
They demand revision of our past and for war, we were to
blame
Others intent on mischief to change our proud way of life
Slyly infect us with political correctness, so smothering and
rife
Space age bands blare with deceptive tunes called diversity
While old choirs no longer sing that the power of a nation is
unity
Illegal drugs, child abuse and faltering family structure too
Xmas trees and friendly Christian wishes on cards soon to be
taboo
Greedy inept politicians pick poor people's pockets for more
taxes
At schools, proven social skills and disciplines face sharp
government axes
On those now forgotten hills come the echoes of pain
As restless ghosts whisper of betrayal, again and again
Their youth stolen, dreams buried and a way of life lost bye
and bye
Can you hear the wails of all past generations as they ask
"why?"

Brigadier George Mansford AO Retired

Jamboree of the Air/Internet 20 -22 October 2017

The Leighton Tunnels were part of an international event, the Jamboree of the Air/Internet over 20-22 Oct 17. Organiser Haylie Clark and family stayed overnight throughout the period as many of the activities involved different time zones across the world.

Scouts and leaders from across the metro area cycled through a number of different activities at the site including ham radio and skype.

They had complete access to the site Friday evening to Sunday morning, then relocated to adjacent to the radar shack whilst tours were in operation Sunday. The RAAHS-WA were only too pleased to provide access to the site and be a part of this community event.



Haylie and crew



Preparing for the Brief



Move to the Stands

Gunners' Day 5th November 2017





The Army Band lead the March



The Wreath Laying Complete

A SIGNIFICANT LIST OF ARTILLERY ANNIVERSARIES - Part 3

Anniv	Date	Action, Decision or Event
	10 April 1937	<p>Death of Gunner Arthur Percy Sullivan VC. The manager of the National Bank at Casino, he was in London as part of the coronation contingent. He was struck by a cyclist, fell heavily on the pavement hitting his head on the kerb and died aged forty.</p> <p>He had enlisted in April 1918 as a heavy gunner, but arrived too late to see service in 1918. He volunteered for service in 1919 with a British unit in Russia where he rescued four members of his unit from drowning while crossing the Sheika River. He was decorated for his action under fire while serving with 45 Bn Royal Fusiliers.</p> 
70	30 Jun 1947 1 Jul 1947	<p>2 AIF Disbanded. Australian Military Forces comprised the Australian Regular Army and the re-raised reserve, the Australian Citizen Military Force</p>
60	21 May 1957 25 Jun 1957 31 Aug 1957 Oct 1957 1957	<p>111 Air Defence Battery raised Action near the Thai border with Malaysia A troop of 105 Fd Bty fires 101 gun salute – marking Malayan Independence 105 Bty tour of duty is completed having fired 88,000 rounds. 100 (A) Bty replaced them in Malaysia.</p> <p>1 Bde Group formed at Holsworthy 1 Fd Regt – 101, 105 Fd Btys & 102 Lt Bty. [101 Bty was formed from 104 Loc Bty] 103 HAA Bty remained at Middle Head and reformed as 111 LAA Regt 22 Fd Regt (SP) Victoria was disbanded</p>
50	14 Feb 1967 23 Feb 1967 May 1967 6 Aug 1967	<p>LT Michael Langley, 103 Bty FO, with B Coy 5RAR operating East of Long Hai Hills – Company caught in enemy minefield - OC, CSM, PI Comd + PI Sgt Casualties - 9 died and 20 wounded. Langley entered the minefield and provided first aid then assumed command of Coy, established a perimeter and local defence and maintained morale & fighting spirit - awarded MC</p> <p> MAJ Peter Badcoe, a former gunner served with AATTV as an infantry officer with regional forces. Over a period of time he displayed strong leadership and personal bravery leading to being awarded VC (posthumously). <i>Peter had joined the RAA Association NSW in Jun 1964 and was a member at the time of his death.</i></p> <p>4 Fd Regt replaced 1 Fd Regt, 106 Bty relieved 103 Bty, and 108 Bty replaced 101 Bty. Shortly after M2A2 equipment replaced the L5 gun.</p> <p>Lt Neville ('Nobby') J Clark, 7 Fd Regt was on Full Time Duty with 106 Fd Bty 4 Fd Regt. A Coy 7 RAR operating from Nui Dat during OP BALLARAT engaged 3 Bn 274 Dong Nai Regt, a VC Main Force unit. A quick attack ran into a similar response from the VC unit and both platoons were locked in a fire fight at close range. Aware that an attack was imminent, Clark called in repeated danger close missions during a monsoonal downpour that had the effect of breaking up the assault. The VC Bn withdrew after a four hour engagement. 106 Bty fired over 800 rounds over the period of one hour. Clark - awarded MC. In 2014 he received an OAM for services to education.</p>
40	Mar 1977	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II dedicated the RAA National Memorial at Mount Pleasant
30	1987 Sep 1987	<p>132 & 133 Div Loc Btys disbanded and 131 Div Loc Bty became an integrated ARA/ARES unit</p> <p>The Defence White Paper brought in a new organisation and Field Force Command became Land Command. Col Tony English became responsible for all the artillery units' training and technical standards, and assessments.</p>

A SIGNIFICANT LIST OF ARTILLERY ANNIVERSARIES - Part 4

Anniv	Date	Action, Decision or Event
20	1997	Saw the beginnings of the A21 Force restructure which proposed the Australian Army Joint Offensive Coordination and Targeting and indirect Firepower into all formation HQs, Motorised Inf Bns, Recon Bns and Cdo Regts. Enhanced surveillance and target acquisition and two Ground Based Air Defence organisation, an AD Bn and SHORAD (Short Range Air Defence Coy)
	9 Aug 1997	The 70th Annual Gunner Dinner (NSW) was the last held at the School of Artillery prior to the relocation of the Artillery Centre to Puckapunyal
10	2007	Australian gunners were embedded with British Units in Afghanistan and on operations in Timor-Leste and Iraq. <i>The RAAHC were completing the Post WW2 Commemorative Station beside the Memorial Walkway, North Fort.</i>
	24 Apr 2007	20 STA Regt conducted its inaugural regimental parade at Enoggera; 132 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Battery, 131 Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery and Combat Services Battery.
	July 2007	RAA Association NSW website commenced service as: http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/

A DAY ON THE FRONT LINE IN THE RARE QUIET TIMES - WORLD WAR 1



A typical day for a soldier on the front line (in April). Big attacks were rare, so most days were filled with uneventful routine.



Australian Army

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

All

16505291

All Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Associations and Affiliated Friends of the Royal Regiment

SAINT BARBARA'S DAY GREETING 2017

I extend my greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier AG Warner AM LVO, and the Colonels Commandant for your Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations on 4th December 2017.

As we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day, let us remember what we have achieved in 2017 and prepare for the challenges of 2018. I congratulate all who will be taking up new appointments in January next year as Commanding Officers, 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 loyal service. To you, I pass on my congratulations for your ongoing commitment to the Royal Regiment and the Army.

I also 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 and a safe return to their families.

Ubique,

Signed *C D Furini*

C D Furini AM, CSC

Brigadier

Head of Regiment

C/- Headquarters School of Artillery

Bridges Barracks

Puckapunyal

VIC 3662

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

6 November 2017



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

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2018

The Annual General Meetings of the two Organisations will be held at the Alf Adams Pavilion, Solomon Street Mosman Park on **Saturday 10th March 2018**:

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:

- Reports – President, Treasurer, Auditor
- Notices of Motion (where submitted)
- Long service recognition – RAAHS Members
- General Business
- 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.

Morning Tea refreshments will be available at the meetings.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION

Members are reminded that their 2018 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

Payment is preferred by direct bank transfer as below:

- * \$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.