



## OFFICE BEARERS

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### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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#### Curator

Don Rae  
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### **Head of Regiment Saint Barbara's Day Message 2019**

*Gunners,*

I extend my greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier S Roach AM (Retired), and the Colonels Commandant for your Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations on 4th December 2019.

As we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day, let us reflect on what we have achieved in 2019 and prepare for new challenges in 2020. This year has once again been extremely busy with the usual tempo of exercises and operations, and significant work in the capability and modernisation areas to progress Gunner projects and introduce new equipment.

I congratulate all who will be taking up new appointments in January next year as Commanding Officers, Battery Commanders, and Regimental and Battery Sergeants Major. It is also a day when many are promoted to the next rank and recognised for their continued potential. To you, I pass on my congratulations for your ongoing commitment to the Royal Regiment and the Army.

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

RA Vagg DSC  
Brigadier  
Head of Regiment

28 November 2019

## NOTICE BOARD



Edition	Collation Period	Deadline to Editor	Editing and Preparation	Final Edition	Mail Out
2/2020	1/4/20 to 7/6/20	13/6/20	13/6/20 To 20/6/20	27/6/20	27/6/20
3/2020	1/7/20 To 5/9/20	11/9/20	11/9/20 To 18/9/20	25/9/20	25/9/20
4/20	1/10/20 To 5/12/20	12/12/20	12/12/20 To 19/12/20	19/12/20	19/12/20

To ensure that the printing deadline is met please observe the dates listed above. Items on any subject, or topic for inclusion in the newsletter are welcome and should be emailed to:

Bob Arnold on [arnold353@bigpond.com](mailto:arnold353@bigpond.com)

### WELFARE FUND OFFICER

John Bylevens is the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any welfare funding can contact John via email [info@artillerywa.org.au](mailto: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.

**For those who need a reminder – subs are due on the First of January each year**

#### RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2020

28 Mar   2 May   27 Jun   30 May   25 Jul   29 Aug  
28 Sep   31 Oct   28 Nov   19 Dec

#### 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

## Royal Australian Artillery Association

### President's Report

Fellow Gunners, The year seems to have gone so fast. Christmas is upon us with the last quarter having been a busy one with Gunner's Day and the Feast of Saint Barbara.

#### **Gunners Day 2019**

Gunners Day 2019, held on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of November was a success again. We had good attendance and weather.

The parade was led by Ken Hepworth with the salute taken by BRIG Gerry Warner AM LVO, our Patron. Reverend Katrina Holgate was joined by Bishop Jeremy James to conduct the Memorial wreath laying service. Led by the Pipes & Drums from the Australian Army Band - Perth, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 Battery RAA and members of the 56 Australian Cadet Unit (Fremantle) marched along Stirling Street turning into the footpath parallel to Meadow Street where BRIG Warner took the salute. The parade then moved into position around the War Memorial for the wreath laying service. Also in attendance was BRIG Peter Moore, Commander 13 BDE and RSM Picket.

We were fortunate to have the 9 REGT RAA Standard on display in the Garrison church. See photo. We were fortunate to again have Bishop Jeremy James and Reverend Katrina Holgate conduct the church service. Having the service and words to hymns projected on the screen in the church was a great initiative.

The Bishop's Father and brother were Gunners and he has indicated a desire to be involved in future years. They did a great job with the service.

I would like to thank CAPT Lib Ricciardone and the cadets from 56 ACU for their continued support for Gunner's Day and also thank the Pipes & Drums from The Australian Army Band – Perth for their support.

Following refreshments in the Church Hall the camaraderie was continued at the Rose & Crown hotel. A great day.

#### **Feast of Saint Barbara and BTY Birthday Dinner**

The dinner was a huge success with some 124 attendees. BRIG Neil Sweeney AM, Colonel Commandant 9 REGT and Deputy Commander 2 DIV hosted the Dinner on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of December. It was also attended by BRIG Peter Moore, Brigade Commander 13 BDE and our Patron BRIG Gerry Warner. It was a hot night and pre and after dinner drinks outside was well received.

It was great to see Grant White and Reverend James Tabor who had been absent for many years in attendance. James also presented an original and somewhat humorous grace, different to the normal Gunner grace.

It was a magnificent night with music provided by the

51 ACU Pipes and Drums and the Australian Army Band Perth.

This year the Association's award for the "Most Outstanding Soldier" was presented to GNR Austen Staples. The citation in short:

*"GNR Staples performance this year has been tremendous. He has developed his capability as a Mortarman during LFXs and as a Gunner with the Regular Army on the M777. After qualifying with military drivers licences, he supported Exercise Taliban Sabre 19 in Rockhampton in July and August this year. Committed to further developing his Artillery skills GNR STAPLES supported the 9 Regiment RAA Field Exercise SS19 during September. Soon after returning from the field, he attended the 3 Battery Western Australian Queen's Birthday salute in September and more recently, he attended Exercise Brolga Run in Townsville in October. He has been mentioned by the CoC from courses and exercises he has been part of."*

Currently, GNR Staples is deployed on Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB 128) in Malaysia from November 19 to February 20 performing the role of an Infantry Soldier that is beyond his Corps trade. The BSM accepted the award on his behalf and we congratulate him on his performance."

Rob Coales was promoted to LTCOL and is posted as Deputy Commander of the Cadet Brigade next year. Congratulations Rob; well deserved.

It was BRIG Sweeney's final dinner before retiring from the ARA and the BC, MAJ Duncan Anderson dined him out. We wish BRIG Sweeney all the best for the future.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Functions Sub Committee, Stan Davies, Tom Arnautovic and Peter Rowles for planning and organising the dinner.

This year's move to hold one dinner annually for the Feast of St Barbara has met with great acceptance and discussions will be held with a view to being the way we work in the future.

Put a place holder in your diaries for Friday 4 December 2020.

I would like to thank the RAA Association Committee for all their work during the year. It is greatly appreciated.

To all and your families, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May it be a peaceful and safe one to enjoy with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you in 2020.

Ubique

Bob Farrelly LTCOL

President, RAA Association

## THE AIMING POST

### Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society

### PRESIDENT'S SUMMER REPORT

**W**elcome Members to your latest edition of Aiming Post. I hope you will find it of interest.

With the 5.25" project developing- under the guidance of Committeeman Graham McKenzie-Smith, I wrote to the C.O. of HMAS STIRLING enquiring if he might release some empty 5" cartridge cases to us. The result was a visit by W.O.I Dean Watkins, RAN, who stated that Navy will supply "about twenty"! These will replicate the original cases and will appear in some of the ammunition alcoves in due course.

Tinley MLA visited the Tunnels in early October. He indicated that he fully supports our voluntary efforts to date. He also commented that he will support our "Historic vistas" interest in the soon to be published Environmental Management Plan and advised us of alternative funding sources for the proposed 5.25" turret fabrication.

Work will soon take place to remove the badly weathered road surface connecting the car-park with the newer road that runs up to the hillcrest. The new surface work will be wider and have shoulder reinforcement on both sides.

The new CCTV tower in the Council car park is now operational- pleasingly, we don't have to be involved in that security angle. The equipment is oper-

ated by Fremantle City Council who liaise through T.O.M.P. The recording is governed by the Police Surveillance Act. At the Society's annex at Irwin Barracks we recently became subject to the Defence Force "Regional Explosive Ordnance Audit". We subsequently decided to remove to LBHS, our collection of inert projectiles. We think that act will remove any undue attention coming our way at our annex at Karrakatta, from Defence.

Following on from Minister Tinley's visit, we will be issuing invitations to the Hon David Templeman, Minister for Local Government; Heritage, and in due course, the Hon Paul Papalia, Minister for Tourism to inspect our LBHS operation.

The Battery site again hosted the annual International Scout movements' communication setup. The organiser said that at the peak there were 200 parents and scouts on-site. Your Society is always prepared to involve itself in local community events, it's a win-win result for all parties. Scouts and supervisors slept over on the Friday and Saturday nights and left the Tunnels and C.P. in excellent condition before the first tour at 10am on Sunday.

In early November the Society was well represented at the 91<sup>st</sup> Gunner's Day commemorative service at Guildford. I was privileged to place the RAAHS's

wreath on the memorial. I congratulate our secretary John Blylevens on his organisational skills to set the function up- another smoothly run event. Guildford as a suburb, has a significant military history dating back to our early colonial days.

That specialist interest group- (and repeat customer), the Paranormal's of Perth, again occupied our Tunnels for five hours on a recent Saturday night in November. They were certainly keen! At night's end they were happy and so was our Treasurer!

To conclude this edition- in late November Society reps and uniformed reps met in the Hobbs drill hall at Irwin Barracks with family member descendants of J.O. Clough. Members are reminded that the artillery pieces there make up the Clough Collection. The extended family were delighted to show their younger members those items. J.O. Clough- a West Australian, had a distinguished artillery career in WWI- and his specialist skills were drawn upon again in WW2! This occasion brought home to me the "Historic" aspect of our Society. Members, on behalf of the Committee, may I wish you and yours, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*David Carter.*

*Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes. After that who cares?... He's a mile away and you've got his shoes!*

*Billy Connolly*



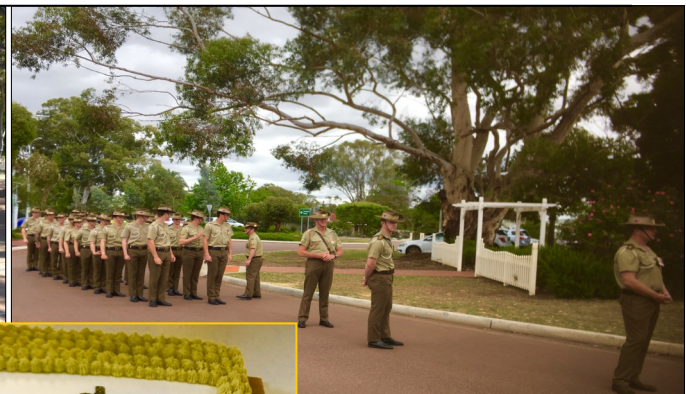
### GUNNER'S DAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2019

A good turnout of ex-servicemen/women, serving soldiers, family and interested parties attended this year's Gunners Day at Guildford.

event went perfectly with a cool day providing excellent conditions for the outdoor component. The Church Service was very moving.

Supported by a detachment of the Army Band and 56 Australian Cadet Unit the parade marched from Johnson Street to Stirling Square War Memorial with the salute being taken by BRIG Gerry Warner (Retd). A number of dignitaries attended including BRIG CP Moore COMD 13 BDE, Hon Ken Wyatt Member for Hasluck, Hon Michelle Roberts representing the Premier, Hon Donna Faragher representing the Leader of the Opposition, Kevin Bailey Mayor of Swan and many local representatives.

A highlight in the Church Hall afterward for a light luncheon was the contribution of an Gunner Cake crafted by the daughter of one of St Matthews parishioners (see photo below)







9 REGT STANDARD



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

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

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2020**

The Annual General Meetings of the two Organisations will be held at the Alf Adams Pavilion, Solomon Street Mosman Park on **Saturday 7th March 2020**:

RAA A WA members register at **0900 for 0930** hrs meeting

RAAHS-WA members register at **0945 for 1015** hrs meeting.

All Members are urged to attend.

Agenda for the Meetings will include:

Reports – President, Treasurer

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 ( Page 16) 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.

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THE ROYAL AUSTRALIA ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF WA (Inc)  
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WA (Inc)

Nomination Form: Management Committee - 2020

INSERT RAAA WA OR RAAHS-WA)

For election to position of:

(Insert President , Vice President , Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Sec, Assistant Treasurer, Committee Person)

Proposed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted by Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

*Signatures*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NB: additional nomination forms available from Secretary, (John: mob 043 869 5711  
info@artillerywa.org.au or photocopy this form.

☐

Tick box to the Association's nomination form requiring all candidates to confirm that they are not an undischarged bankrupt and do not have one of the specified criminal convictions. (see below)

**Act Requirements – Persons who are not to be members of Committee**

Under section 39 of the Act the following persons must not, without leave of the Commissioner, accept an appointment or act as a member of a management committee of an association:

a person who is, according to the Interpretation Act 1984 section 13D, a bankrupt or person whose affairs are under insolvency laws; a person who has been convicted, within or outside the State, of an indictable offence in relation to the promotion, formation or management of a body corporate; or an offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable by imprisonment for a period of not less than three months; or an offence under Part 4 Division 3 or section 127 of the Act

Section 39 only applies to a person who has been convicted of the above offences only for a period of 5 years from the time of the person's conviction, or if the conviction results in a term of imprisonment, from the time of the person's release from custody.



## BEREAVEMENT

Robert Brett Arnold 20 February 1956 - 17 December 2019

Members of the Leighton Battery Voluntary Guides and Cashiers Group will be saddened to learn of the passing of their Colleague Rob Arnold.

Rob succumbed to an aggressive illness and passed away peacefully whilst a patient at Bethesda Hospital, Claremont.

Rob was the elder son of Society Librarian Bob and Gloria Arnold to whom the Society extends sincere condolences.

## RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION

**Members are reminded that their 2020 Subscription is now due and may be paid:  
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.**

**Otherwise 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**

### *An item of general interest?*



Got into discussions with a friend on the subject of helicopters. He thought that one could not be purchased for less than \$1,000,000. Considered by many to be one of the world's most economical helicopters, the R-22 carries a base list price of about \$250,000 brand new. There are also plenty of excellent deals to be found on good-quality used R-22s, usually starting from around \$100,000–\$150,000.

Due to the R-22's cheap operating costs, it is often used as a training helicopter. This lightweight two-seater has very low inertia which allows it to be extremely responsive to flight control inputs. In short, it is fun to fly. However, the R-22 is not very forgiving of pilot-error or sluggishness and as such is not recommended for beginners or those without much flying experience. Now, before you decide to rush out and purchase one consider the training and licence costs.

OIL PAINTING OF AN M777 AND DETACHMENT BY  
MR PHILLIP POMROY



As some of you may be aware, in May 2017 the Australian Artillery Association very kindly presented the RAA with this large oil painting. The painting now hangs in the School of Artillery

A proposal was discussed at the Regimental Committee Meeting in February this year regarding prints of the painting, and it was agreed that there would be a run of 200 prints of which 50 would be numbered and signed by the artist.

The prints have now been produced and a low-res image is attached for your information. The only difference between the attached image and the hard copy prints is that the prints have a 40 MM white border for framing purposes. The overall dimensions of the prints are 672 mm x 415 mm

The signed prints will be sold for \$100.00 each, and the unsigned prints for \$35.00 each. Additional unsigned copies can be printed if there is a demand.

Individual prints will be available for purchase in November and I would therefore be grateful if you give this matter the widest distribution and place any orders through me.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Regards,

*Gary Down*

GM DOWN

Major

SO2 Head of Regiment RAA

Work: 03 5735 6267

## ENJOY A JIGGLE

A general and a captain walking down the street passed a number of soldiers, and each time one of them saluted the officers, the captain saluted back and said, "The same to you." "Why do you always say that?" the general asked the captain. "I used to be a private, too," said the captain, "and I know just what they are thinking."

An English soldier, an Australian soldier and a Russian soldier found themselves sharing a tent while on a military exercise and the conversation turned towards how well fed each of them was. "In the Russian Army we have 2000 calories of food a day," said the Russian. "Well," said the Englishman, "In the British Army we are given 4000 calories of food a day." "That's nothing," said the Australian, "in our Army we have 6000 calories of food a day". At this the Russian got very annoyed. "Nonsense," he said, "How could one man eat so much cabbage?"



The Company Commander and his Company Sergeant Major were in the field. As they hit the sack for the night, the CSM said, "Sir, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?"

The OC said, "I see millions of stars."

CSM.: "And what does that tell you, sir?"

OC: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you CSM?"

CSM.: "Well sir, it tells me that somebody stole our tent."

## The story of the men and women who are frequently described as The Forgotten Force.

**L**ess than six months after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 the Allies, led by the United States, had set up an occupation force on the ground in Japan, a country in ruins, and it's surviving people starving.

From 1945 to 1952, more than 16,000 Australians spent time in Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). While the American occupation forces, under Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur, took up residence in Tokyo, the Australian contingent were based around the southern port city of Kure.

The role of the occupation force was manifold: from demilitarising a former enemy and rebuilding its basic infrastructure to the high-minded ideal of bringing democracy to a country long under the yoke of Imperial rule.

The Australian experience of occupation encompassed power, prejudice and possibly violence, but it also engendered friendship and compassion. Early in 1947 BCOF had begun to decline and, by the end of 1948, was composed entirely of Australians.

The force was dismantled in 1952, as responsibilities in Japan were handed over to the British Commonwealth Forces Korea (BCFK). Some personnel stayed on to serve in the Korean War. Members of No. 77 Squadron, for example, had their "going home" celebrations interrupted by the news that they were to be sent immediately to Korea. BCOF ceased to exist on 28 April 1952 when the Japanese Peace Treaty came into effect.



KURE, JAPAN

### BCOF ANZAC DAY MARCH PRECEDING A MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Unlike the cruelty and total disregard for the well being of Australian POW by the Japanese during World War 2, those with whom we dealt in BCOF, and there were many, as they made up the bulk of the workforce, were the opposite. Mostly good natured, courteous and obliging. We can only wonder what the outcome would have been, if they had become the occupying force?*

Bob Arnold



## RAAHS-WA VOLUNTEERS LUNCHEON

About 40 volunteers and partners enjoyed a lunch at the Alf Adams pavilion in Mosman Park on Saturday 14th December 2019. On offer was hot and cold food, various salads, sweets and a selection of beer, wine and soft drinks.

It was a hot day but the AIRCON was cranked to full. It was a great opportunity to socialise with all the people who give their time freely to make the tunnels such a success.



### CORONATION OF KING GEORGE V AND QUEEN ALEXANDRIA

The Historical Society received a phone call last week from Setsuko Kudo (Sophie Hobbs), widow of the late John (Tally) Hobbs, who was paying a fleeting business visit to Perth from Honshu, Japan.

Sophie had brought with her framed invitations extended to the then Major J. J. Talbot Hobbs and Mrs Hobbs to attend the Coronation of King George V and Queen Alexandria in London, June 1902. She had located the framed invitations when clearing the home she shared with Tally in South Perth.

A little the worse for wear, they will however be a unique item in the other Hobbs memorabilia held by the Society.



Sophie Hobbs and Don Rae display the framed invitation





**COMBINED BTY BIRTHDAY/FEAST OF ST BARBARA**  
**FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER 2019**

On a very hot evening the annual Feast of St Barbara Dinner (this year combined with 3 Bty Birthday) was held at the recently renovated Hobbs Artillery Park. 122 Gunners and their guests enjoyed a quality meal whilst being entertained by both the Army and Cadet Bands. Special guests were BRIGs Sweeney (COL COMDT 9 REGT RAA), Moore (COMD 13 BDE) and Warner (Past Rep COL COMDT) and RSM 9 REGT WO1 "Reg" Grundell.

Youth and maturity were balanced by a good turnout of serving gunners and olds and bolds.

Special awards were presented to GNR A Staples (absent-RAA A WA Outstanding Soldier) and BDR D Mansfield (Gavin Bonser Award for best contribution to 3 Bty). Promotions included BDR Iles-Fealy and LTCOL Rob Coales.



## PRESENTATION TO TREVOR HICKS

Acknowledging his 30 years and 7 months service in the  
Royal Australian Artillery

Trevor following his discharge, was farewelled from the Regiment at the School of Artillery on the 1st and 2nd of November 2019. On the 1st, a Happy Hour in the Sergeants' Mess and on the 2nd his formal farewell and that of another two retired members.

WO2 Ian Hodgkins farewell address detailed Trevor's postings and appointments. It was filled with humour and brought much laughter and many supporting comments.



To 8233512 SGT Trevor Hicks

Congratulations and thank you For 30 years dedicated service to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.



COL A Langford (Director Combat Support Program) representing the Head of Regiment presenting a framed certificate to Trevor.