



# Artillery WA



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## THE BOMBING OF DARWIN

19 February 1942



**An earlier time of worry and concern,  
which some will remember.**

**Did it produce the widespread fear  
that exists today?**

## 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 18/9/19	25/9/20	25/9/20
4/2020	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 Blylevens 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

2 May 30 May 25 Jul 29 Aug 28 Sep 24  
Oct 28 Nov 19 Dec

**Cancelled until further notice**

#### LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

**Cancelled**

**until**

**further notice**

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MARCH 2020

Fellow Gunners

Welcome back and I trust you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

What a crazy start to 2020. Firstly fires across Australia, particularly in the East and now closer to home, Australia and the world is confronted with Coronavirus (COVID-19). These events have brought out the best and worst in people. The way the Australian population got behind the fire victims and provide support is to be commended. Equally the way some have approached the Coronavirus is unimaginable. Fighting over toilet paper and panic buying, hardly reflecting Australian values and support for our fellow Australians. In past conflicts Australians have worked to help each other through hardship. Something we must do now. Be kind to others and seek to support them.

#### **Anzac Day**

As you are no doubt aware all ANZAC Day services have been cancelled for this year. I understand there will be a service telecast to commemorate the day. It is important that we remember the sacrifices of those who have served and fought for this great country and laid down their lives.

There is a proposal that we should all conduct our own driveway dawn service at 6 am on 25 April and play the last post. Whether you do this or not I would urge you to do something to remember.

#### **Gunners Day 2019**

Gunners Day 2019, 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. 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.

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.

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

The new format for the dinner combining the BTY Birthday/ Regimental Dinner with the Feast of Saint Barbara 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, Commander 13 BDE and our Patron BRIG Gerry Warner. It was a hot night and pre and after dinner drinks outside were well received.

It was great to see the soldiers from 3 Light Battery in attendance as it was 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.

The Association's award for the "Most Outstanding Soldier" was presented to GNR Austen Staples. Unfortunately he was not there in person as he was on exercise.

Congratulations to Rob Coales who was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Rob is Deputy Commander of the WA Australian Army Cadets.

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I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Functions Sub Committee, Stan Davies, Tom Ar-nautovic and Peter Rowles for planning and organising the dinner. They have offered to do the same this year with support from CAPT Brad Pearce.

The move to hold one dinner annually for the Feast of St Barbara has met with great acceptance and has been decided as the way we work in the future.

The 2020 Feast of St Barbara will be held on Friday 4 December. It will be open to all ranks and partners invited. Stan Davies has already commenced planning for this year's dinner. It behoves us all to reach out to members past and present to join the Association and participate in its activities.

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

### **AGM 2020**

The AGM was held on 7 March and coincided with the RAAHS AGM.

At the AGM the following committee, was elected:

President- Bob Farrelly  
Vice President- Peter Mahoney  
Secretary- John Blylevens  
Treasurer- Stan Davies  
Committee- Ken Hepworth  
Committee- Wendy Mahoney  
Committee- Raymond Kennedy; and  
Committee- Rob Coales.

A big thank you to Stan Davies for taking on the role of Treasurer which John had also been doing for the past few years.

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

### **Vale**

It is with some sadness I advise the passing of Les Beckham during 2019.

*Ubique*

**Bob Farrelly**  
**LTCOL**  
**President**

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

Dear Members,

In December last year the RAAHS was represented at the TOMP's annual Volunteer Recognition Evening. I noted that some community members had been volunteering for nearly forty years!

After showing Dr David Honey MLA the Battery site in early 2019, I enjoyed the Christmas party he hosted at his Stirling Highway office – I made sure he was updated on our 5.25 project before he sampled too many ales.

Also in December another pleasant social event (Christmas party) was held to recognise the efforts of Society tunnel guides, cashiers, busy bee workers, Wednesday H.Q. members and their time deprived better halves. My thanks to the Committee members who made it happen. It was lovely to see our Society's 'Senior Member', Mrs Ronnie Roach, in attendance.

Exiting times ahead with construction work underway on the 5.25" site. In mid- January the contractor completed the concrete roof above the gun pit. A further month was required for it to cure. The contractor is Colgan Industries- who specialise in historic restorations.

In the 2020 Australia Day Honours List appeared the name of Society member Graham McKenzie-Smith. His award falls within the Member (AM) General Division. He has been recognised for significant service to military history preservation and forestry. On behalf of the membership of the RAAHS, I congratulate Graham on his award.

In mid- February, under the pretext- 'any publicity is good publicity', your President and Vice- President were photographed looking meaningfully out to sea from the 6" Observation Post. The image and an article titled 'Battle For Buckland Hill' appeared in the Western Suburbs community newspaper. The theme was about the balance between retaining existing native shrubs and the minimal pruning that we require to open up the 'historic

vistas 'that a visitor would expect to see from the gun floors out to the Examination Area and Rott-nest. T.O.M.P. are now awaiting permission from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to instigate staged pruning.

Early March saw the installation of safety screening around the top of the post W.W.2 radar hut. This was a TOMP initiative at their expense.

March 7<sup>th</sup> was our A.G.M. All business was dealt with in 80 minutes. I was pleased to present Long Service badges to several deserving members. One point was raised for general consideration for the 2021 AGM- that the RAA Association, and the RAAHS merge. Both groups have limited memberships and might benefit- please think about this item and feed any comments back to the respective Committees.

The next construction item for the 5.25" site is the entry point above the current open stairwell. It will resemble the 6" entrance alongside, and will secure the site. The area will then look a lot better when the old wire mesh safety screen is removed.

We will be seeking a quote to fabricate the turret and barrel from a local firm who is currently finishing the replica 155MM gun for the site at Point Peron. That replica will look impressive when set on its original Panama Mount, which was built in WW2 to cover the gap across to the south end of Garden Island.

As of March 22<sup>nd</sup> we closed the Tunnels to public tours. This was done in accordance with W.A. Health Dept. advice. That of course safeguards our members who would have been on duty . Our landlord-TOMP- was advised.

**Kind regards,  
David Carter.**



# PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE NAME BADGES AT THE RAAHS AGM ON 7 MARCH 2020



Peter Mahoney



Jenny Twine



Wendy Mahoney



Mary Coley

## NOT PRESENT AT THE AGM

**15 year service** – Daphne Sanders – joined 17 .3.2004.

John Walsh joined 22.9 2004

**25 year service** – Harvey Everett – joined 16.8 1994.

Wayne Henderson joined 26.1 1994

**30 year service** – John Bylevens– joined 1.8. 1989.

Richard Lawler joined 1.9. 1989

Anne Rae –joined 1.4.1989



## WIRRAWAYS OVER ROTTNEST 1942

*In the lifetime of many of us, Australia manufactured railway rolling stock including locomotives, motor vehicles, washing machines, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, clothing and footwear and the list went on and on.*

*You will be hard pressed today to find an Australian manufactured bicycle, a shirt, or a pair of shoes and the list goes on and on.*



The Wirraway (an Aboriginal word meaning "challenge") was a training and general purpose military aircraft manufactured in Australia by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation (CAC) between 1939 and 1946. It was an Australian development of the North American NA-16 training aircraft. The Wirraway has been credited as being the foundation of Australian aircraft manufacturing. During the Second World War, both Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) deployed a number of Wirraways into combat roles, where they served in a makeshift light bomber/ground attack capacity, striking against the advancing forces of the Empire of Japan. While the type had been primarily used as a trainer and general purpose aircraft, being present in small quantities within the majority of front-line squadrons for these purposes; the aircraft was often pressed into combat when required. Typically, fighter versions of the Wirraway were operated over theatres such as New Guinea to perform ground attack missions and other Army co-operation tasks over extended periods until more advanced aircraft had become available in sufficient quantities. On 12 December 1942,

the Wirraway achieved its only shoot-down of an enemy aircraft—thought to be a Mitsubishi A6M Zero at the time, but later determined to be a Nakajima Ki-43 Hayabusa—while flown by Pilot Officer John S. "Jack" Archer.

Following the end of the conflict, the Wirraway was operated for over a decade as a trainer by the RAAF, the newly formed RAN Fleet Air Arm, and the squadrons of the Citizen Air Force.


During 1957, the last of the RAN's Wirraways was retired, having been replaced by the newer jet-powered de Havilland Vampire; as the CAC Winjeel came into squadron service, the RAAF phasing out its remaining fleet of Wirraways during the late 1950s.

Officially, the last military flight to be performed by the type was conducted on 27 April 1959. Notably, the Wirraway had also functioned as the starting point for the design of a wartime "emergency fighter", which was also developed and manufactured by CAC, known as the Boomerang.

### **VOLUNTEER BUSY BEES**

Each month on a Saturday a team of RAAHS members offer their time, skills and energy, to develop improve and maintain the facilities at the Leighton Battery Heritage Site.

As with most organisations volunteers are needed and welcomed and should you feel that you would like to help **just turn up**.

The dates are shown on page 2 of each issue of **Artillery WA** 

( Below is an example of the notice sent to volunteers.)

### **LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE: BUSY BEE**



You are invited to attend the LBHS Busy Bee **8.00am Saturday 25th January 2020** followed by a BBQ lunch.

#### **TASKS:**

- Vacuum/sweep tunnels
- Sweep/mop kitchen and toilets
- Whippersnip around the AA Guns (David has purchased one)
- Itemise ordnance stored in CP, make way for incoming RAN 5in cart cases
- Fit shroud over external power points on MaryLoo
- Fit new cistern to CP internal toilet

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- A sunny disposition
- Casual, comfortable clothing
- Depending on tasking: a pair of gloves, sun screen, hat and sunnies





## GENTLEMEN OF THE ARTILLERY



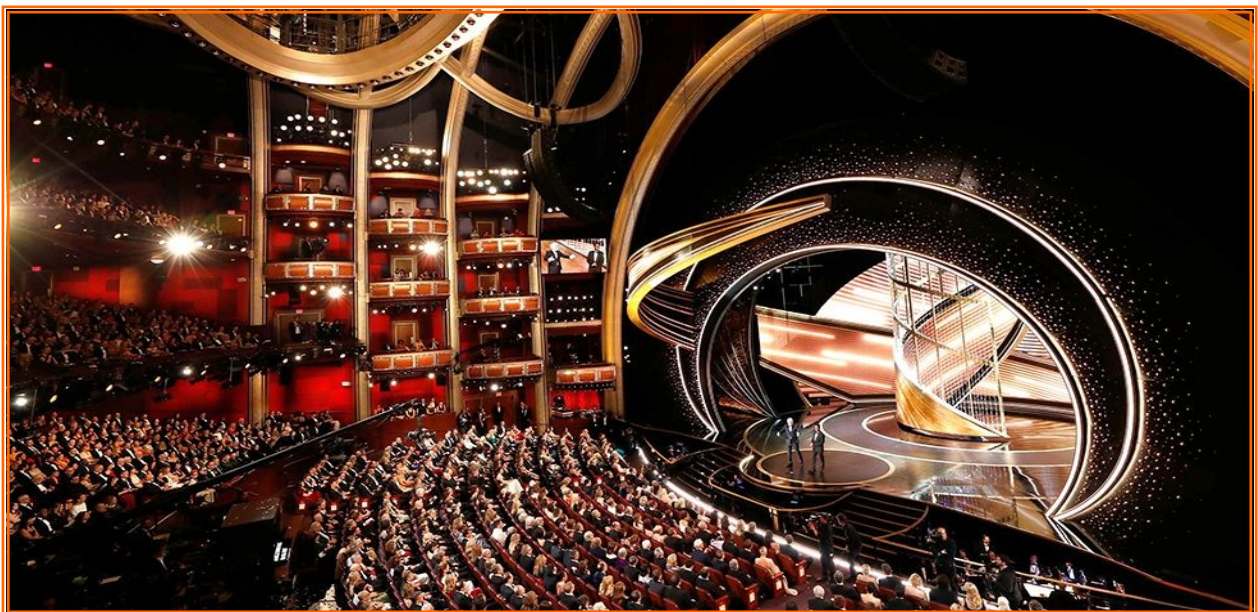
**Artillery adds dignity to what would otherwise be a vulgar brawl....Frederick the great**  
**Gunner time is always right; it might not be correct, but it's always right.**

*Gunner saying*

**The guns, thank God, the guns....Rudyard Kipling**

**God fights on the side with the best artillery....Napoleon**

**The gun is the rallying point of the detachment; it's flag, its banner. It is that to which the men look, by which they stand, with which they fall. As long as the gun is theirs they are unconquered, victorious; when the gunner is lost, all is lost. It is their religion to fight until the enemy is out of range or until the gun itself is withdrawn, or until both it and the detachment are in the hands of the foe....Unknown**



*Maybe your invitation was lost in the mail!*  
*Never mind there is always next year?*



In our library there are many rare and valuable books including, The Great War, Volumes 1-6, Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918 (pictured), Her Majesty's Army Volumes 1-3, and the Franco German War, Volumes 1-2,

### An excerpt from "The Franco German War - Volume 1

*"The history of the antagonism between Celt and Teuton is nearly, if not quite, as old as the history of Christianity. The two great races of north western Europe have been in collision for ages over a large extent of territory; and, by some remarkable ethnological law, it generally happens that the Teuton is the victor. This animosity has been exhibited in a striking degree between the French and German peoples. Both powerful, haughty, and warlike, they have always been prone to dissension, and quick to seek in open hostilities the assuagement of their mutual jealousy: Occupying neighbouring lands, they have unfortunately possessed no clearly-defined natural boundaries, such as might be in themselves actual boundaries against mutual cupidity or aggressiveness.*

Having read so far it may personally demand of you that you not put the volume down. However, sadly because of the frail condition of most of these valuable publications they cannot be taken from the library, but, if you wish to continue your reading, a phone call on any Wednesday, will enable us to approve your entrance to Irwin Barracks and for you to sit and read to your heart's content. And, join us for a well catered morning tea at about ten o'clock at the nominal fee of \$0.00 on a return to normalcy.



"Curiosity is, in great and generous minds, the first passion and the last."

"I hate mankind, for I think myself one of the best of them, and I know how bad I am."

"He who makes a beast of himself gets rid of the pain of being a man."

"Men know that women are an overmatch for them, and therefore they choose the weakest or the most ignorant. If they did not think so, they never could be afraid of women knowing as much as themselves."

"A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it."

"Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect."

"There can be no friendship without confidence, and no confidence without integrity."

"The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken."

Samuel Johnson

# 5.25 PROJECT



Planning to improve the 5.25in gun pit at Leighton has been going on for years but works actually commenced in 2019 with the first stage, enclosure by a concrete dome funded by LotteryWest being completed in Mar 20. RAAHS-WA Curator Don Rae and Vice President Graham McKenzie-Smith have been the driving forces to get the project underway and completed.

- Further works subject to funding are:
- the enclosure of the stairwell entry
  - erection of a lightweight replica gun-house with barrel on the concrete dome
  - installation of a diesel engine, generator and switchboard currently stored at Irwin Barracks into the engine room
  - the fitting out of the interior rooms with ammunition and displays in line with an approved interpretation plan

Members and volunteers will be kept up to date on ongoing progress.

PHOTO 1	Turret 05	In its heyday	PHOTO 2	0220	What it used to look like
PHOTO 3	Drone Photo 3	The cavity-an aerial view	PHOTO 4	2739	Inside-the formwork support
PHOTO 5	2741	Curing concrete dome	PHOTO 6	1242	Switchboard and engine





