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Head of Regiment St Barbara's Day Message 2020

I extend my greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier S. Roche AM (retired), and the Colonels Commandant for Saint Barbara's Day, on 4th of December, 2020.

Unfortunately, in the current climate, many activities to mark this important day will have to be scaled down or perhaps even cancelled. However I still encourage you to take the opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved in 2020 and prepare for new challenges in 2021-in particular 150th Anniversary commemorations. 2020 has once again not only been extremely busy, but also unique in the challenges it has presented to us all as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. You have risen to these challenges due to an enduring Regimental culture that is based on a strong welcoming identity that binds past, present and future Gunner generations with an ethos that strives for excellence.

I congratulate all who will be taking up new appointments in January next year as Commanding Officers, Battery Commanders and Regimental Battery Sergeant Majors. 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.

Ubique,

Signed

RA Vagg, DSC
Brigadier
Head of Regiment
4th December 2020

NOTICE BOARD



*The Colonel Commandant and All Ranks of
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery extend
Greetings to the Representative Colonel Commandant and
All Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery,
on Saint Barbara's Day, the fourth day of December,
Two Thousand and Twenty.*

Artillery WA 

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Collation</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Editing</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Mail out</u>
1/21	6/1-11/3	11/3	14/3	18/3	25/3

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

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.

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

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2021

30 Jan 27 Feb 27 Mar 24 Apr 24 29May
26 Jun 31 Jul 28 Aug 25 Sep 30 Oct 27 Nov

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

The Tunnels are currently closed due to Covid 19 Restrictions.

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Fellow Gunners,

Looking forward to 2021. It has to be better than 2020. With bushfires and Covid 19 it has been a stressful year. It was great to hear the support 3 BTY provided to both these events and I am sure we would all congratulate the BTY personnel for their efforts. That said I am sure you will, like me, be grateful for living in Australia and more so Perth and the relative freedom we have enjoyed.

The end of the year has been a busy one with Gunner's Day and the Feast of Saint Barbara without too much disruption.

Gunners Day 2019

Gunners Day 2019, was held on Sunday, 1st of November and despite poor weather was a success. Attendance was down due to the poor weather particularly with the olds and bolds.

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 Army 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 Brett Challoner, Commander 13 BRIG and RSM Jo Downes.

I would like to thank MAJ John Blylevens 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.

Feast of Saint Barbara

The dinner was again a success despite Covid 19 limiting attendance to 100. See Stan Davies report in this edition for more detail on the dinner.

It was a magnificent night with music provided by the 51 ACU Pipes and Drums and the Australian Army Band Perth. Food provided by Prestige Caterers was again of a high standard.

This year the Association's award for the "Most Outstanding Soldier" was presented to BDR Chris Barfield who is currently on deployment with TSE99 until 02 Apr 2021.

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

Put a place holder in your diaries for Friday 3rd of December 2021.

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 2021.

Ubique,

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL

President, RAA Association

THE AIMING POST

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to another edition of Aiming Post. I hope you will find items of interest among these pages. My thanks to the article contributors and to editor Bob Arnold. (Please contact Bob if you have an article you think will interest our Artillery minded readers. His details are on the front cover.)

In the Classics they say you can't go wrong with a good haircut- well that certainly applies to the landscape around the Battery site now! The Council's contractors have done a job to open up the seawards view from both the O.P. and the gun floors, and plant some ground cover too.

The development plan for the 5.25" site has been lodged with Council. Busy-Bees will concentrate on the interior clean out. The stairwell exterior has been cement rendered to match the concrete around the gun position. An anti-graffiti coating will be applied to its (tempting) walls.

Work is well underway to re-format the 6" shell room. The opening move was to strip the surfaces back to original brickwork. On the south wall is now mounted a 5.25" and a 6" shell (both inert). Remaining walls have large format shell store images and illustrated histories of coast artillery weapons. The floor will be prepared for the painting of rows of 6" shell outlines.

In late September we took delivery of twenty five, 5" cartridge cases, courtesy of the RAN. These will be re-sized and cleaned up ready to appear in some of the 5.25" ammunition alcoves.

As of mid October the State government announced the delay to Phase 5 restrictions. The Committee is guided by the 2 square metre rule and therefore we will not re-open for tours until the end of December. (I would not be surprised if it was delayed into the new year.)

Our Guides /Cashiers attended a bbq on-site in late October to be shown the various alterations to the complex over the past seven months and to discuss possible changes to our existing tour format with Phase 5 in place.

Speaking of Guides/Cashiers:

RAAHS has really benefited from the volunteered time and skills of members who act in the above roles. If you are a member who lives in the metro area, are comfortable with speaking in public and are of average fitness- please consider the Guide aspect. You will not be thrown in the deep end! Contact me via A/H 93673539 or david.carter@education.wa.edu.au.

Gunners Day 2020 was the 92nd held. Several Society members were amongst the attendees. I had the honour of placing our wreath on the memorial. I noticed that its keystone was placed in November 1920 by Governor Newdegate, a hundred years ago this year.

Senior officers present included BRIG Chaloner-COMD 13 BDE, BRIG Warner- Past REP COL COMDT RAA, and LTCOL. Farrelly- President RAA A WA.

Sunday November 8th saw a group of Society members attend a live fire exercise at Lancelin range complements of 3 Light Battery's skilled 81mm mortar crews! We observed the impact zone and saw both H.E. and Smoke (Red Phosphorous). Morning tea was held at the mortar line itself.

I will conclude this eventful twelve months, by wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Carter.

THE SILENCE OF THE GUNS

By NX12891 W.S.T. Stacey (Bill) July 2002

Take post, the gunner listens
As a call for action comes,
But time and age and history
Have put silence to his guns.

His mind may sometimes wander
To times too long ago
To the fury of the battle
That only gunners know.

He'll think about his comrades
And the crew that once they were,
And he'll feel that special friendship
That only gunners share.

Take Post, the call to action
Will always be his theme
As he fights ongoing battles
To achieve his lifelong dreams.

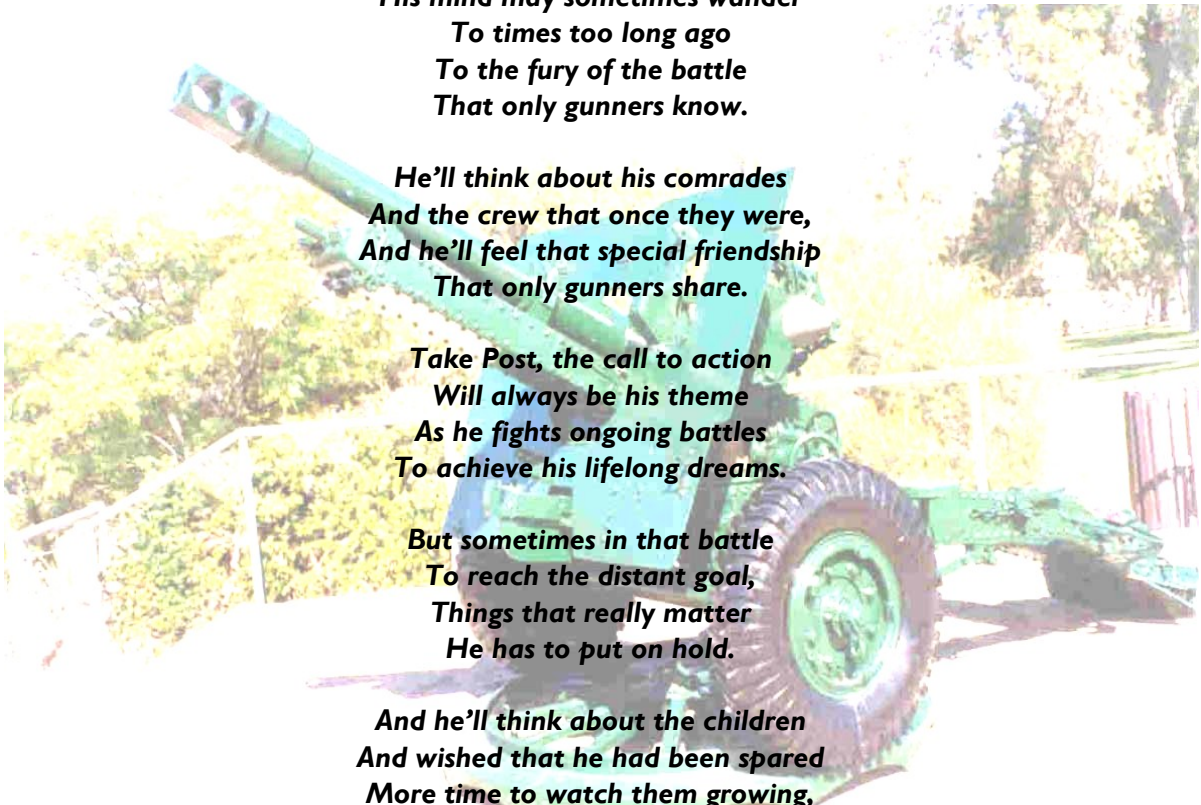
But sometimes in that battle
To reach the distant goal,
Things that really matter
He has to put on hold.

And he'll think about the children
And wished that he had been spared
More time to watch them growing,
And to tell them that he cared.

But his eyes will often glisten
As time has made its mark,
To see his grandkids playing
On the gun that's in the park.

And he'll tell of his workings
And the journeys that they made
But not about the horror
And the parts that he had played.

Sometimes he'll sit and ponder
On that transcendental arc,
While the gun stands mute and silent
On its platform in the park.



The 1940 Tour de France



This rare picture shows the winner of the 1940 Tour de France in the final straight to the finishing line. German riders filled the first thirty places. The race was disputed as unfair by the English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Ireland and Belgian competitors who, due to incompetent team management, confused orders and training, and generally muddled instructions, took the wrong turn and ended en mass at the seaside port of Dunkirk.

The controversy didn't finish there.

The event was staged before the South Africans, Australians, New Zealanders and Canadians could arrive and, despite showing up well after the start of the event, the Italians were still allowed to put riders into the field, taking places 31 to 35. As for the French ... to the surprise of many, they buckled under the pressure and gave up after the first leg.

The Americans, although asked to attend, dismissed the event as of little importance. A stern rebuke from the Japanese in December 1941, made them reconsider and they arrived in France in time for the 1944 Tour which they won, after a dour struggle for the first time since 1918



The greatest joy a man can know is to conquer his enemies and drive them before him.

To ride their horses and take away their possessions.

*To see the faces of those who were dear to them bedewed with tears,
and to clasp their wives and daughters in his arms”*

—Genghis Khan

“Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun”

—Mao Zedong

\$\$\$\$\$ FINANCE \$\$\$\$\$

Due to the Corona Virus the Society has not been able to conduct Tours of the Leighton Battery site since March of this year

As a result, our income during this period has slumped dramatically. As a comparison, the income from Tours during the period from the end of March until the end of December for the last 3 years has been:-

2018	\$20,240.
2019	\$18,817.
2020	Nothing.

Despite the lack of meaningful income we have been able to carry out necessary maintenance and continue restorative activities which will result in improved Visitor experience when we are able to recommence guiding.

Our Income in these months has been limited to Interest on Investments and Membership Fees. There remain amongst our membership some 20 Members who have yet to pay their Annual Fee for 2020. The collective amount is not large but as "every dollar helps" we would appreciate receiving these funds



FRED & EMMA

Fred and Emma were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Fred suddenly jumped into the deep end.

He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there.

Emma promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled him out.

When the Head Nurse Director became aware of Emma's heroic act she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considered her to be mentally stable.

When she went to tell Emma the news she said, 'Emma, I have good news and bad news.

The good news is you're being discharged, since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of the person you love...

I have concluded that your act displays sound mindedness.

The bad news is, Fred hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you saved him. I am so sorry, but he's dead.'

Emma replied: 'He didn't hang himself, I put him there to dry.

How soon can I go home?'



ST BARBARA'S DINNER

4 December 2020



The annual St Barbara's Dinner, celebrating the "Protector and Patron Saint of Gunners" was held at Hobbs Artillery Park on the 4th of December 2020, being the first Friday in December.

101 serving and retired Gunners, their wives, partners and guests attended the Dinner, prior to which in observance of Covid19 protocol all tables, chairs and other items, were "Deep Cleaned and Social Distancing Seating arranged". Hand Sanitizer was ready available.

The 3 Battery RAA Commander, MAJOR Duncan Anderson was the Dining President and he was accompanied by 6 members of 3 Battery RAA and their guests at the Top Table.

Brigadier AG Warner AM LVO read the letter from the Master Gunner St James Park, LT GEN Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB DL sending greetings and best wishes to all Gunners in the world for St Barbara's Day.

The presentation of Awards, "The Best Gunner", "Gavin Bonser" and "Long Service Award" and the promotion of a Bombardier to the rank of Sergeant were made between the serving of courses, allowing time at the conclusion of the meal for the farewell of WO2 Joseph Millington on posting to Townsville QLD after 3 years with the Battery, and to WO1 Jeff Murray who will be retired early in January 2021



RONNIE ROACH OFFICIAL GUEST 2020 DINNER



The above is a photo collation of the 2020 dinner. Anyone wishing to have raw photos for printing please let me know and I will forward. - Tom Arnautovic <toma51@bigpond.com> or telephone 041 992 358

A

smaller than usual but respectable crowd attended GUNNERS DAY Sunday 1 Nov 20. Steady rain and the COVID-19 pandemic even sent out a link allowing people confined to home to watch on their mobile, computer or smart television.

The incoming BDE COMD BRIG Brett Chaloner attended with his RSM WO1 Jo Downes. Ken Wyatt, Michelle Roberts

Bishop Jeremy James and Reverend Katrina Holgate were very pleased with the service and continue to provide the GUNNERS DAY SU



Wreath laying



Marching in the Rain



Overflow into the



Rob Coales and Bob Farrelly



David Carter and



Church service



BRIG Brett Chaloner



**Bishop Jeremy
Reverend Katri**

SUNDAY 1 NOV 20

COVID-19 restrictions kept some away but St Matthews Church projected the church service into the Church hall and

, Tjorn Sibma and Kevin Bailey represented Federal, State and Local government.

ANNERS with an enduring tradition that many other Arms would envy.



Michelle Roberts and Barbara Dundas - Long Term Supporters of GUNNER'S DAY



Gerry Warner takes the Salute



Raymond Kennedy



A sea of umbrellas



Ross and Shirley Knapp



James and Tina Holgate



Take up Position



Greg Frey, Ron Cutten and Derrick Paternoster

Annual Volunteers Luncheon

The Society held the annual volunteer's luncheon Saturday 12th December 2020. This is our means of recognising the valued contributions of our volunteer workforce without which we could not operate.

The turnout was marginally less than last year but of course we have also had the Covid19 pandemic wreaking havoc on tunnel tours having suspended operations in Mar 20 until a date to be decided in 2021.

You will see from the photos that a good time was had by all.

John Blylevens



Bob and Phil



Socialising



Sharon and Andrew



Vera, Ken and Jilian



Jim and Derick



Don and Jacinta



Graham, Robert and Stan



David and Roy



Peter and Phil



Fay and Rona



The Workers in the kitchen



Pat and Carmel



Phil and Lina



Muriel and Krys

REPLICA PEW STILL FOR SALE



As the result of restoring the Projectile Store (previously referred to as the Room of Reflection) the Society offers this Pew for sale.

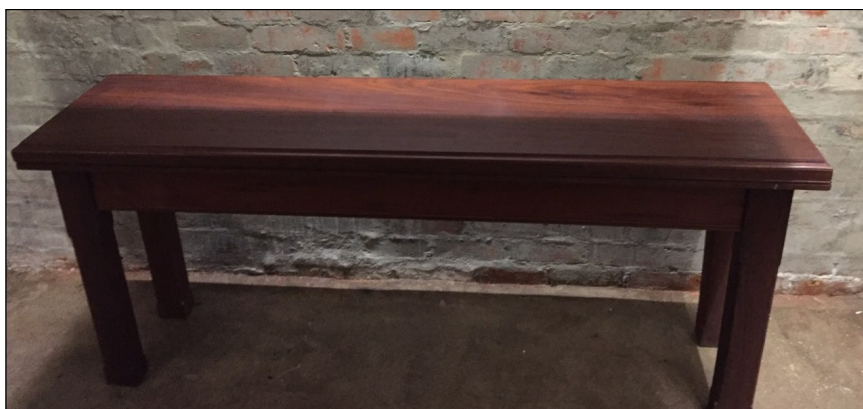
Crafted from century old reclaimed Jarrah by Late Member A. W. (Bill) Hepton, the Pew measures 186cm wide x 55 cm deep and stands 98 cm high.

The Pew, and the table below. may be inspected at Leighton Battery by prior arrangement. Indications of interest to purchase should be directed to (08) 9269 4544

ALSO FOR SALE

Jarrah Table 180 cm wide x 44 cm deep x 76 cm high

Crafted by A.W. Hepton



THE ARMY REORGANISES AGAIN

The 2020 Defence Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan, released on 1 July 2020, outline a new strategy for Defence and the capability investments to deliver it. The Strategic Update set out the challenges in Australia's strategic environment and their implications for Defence planning. It provided a new strategic policy framework to ensure Australia is able – and is understood as willing – to deploy military power to shape our environment, deter actions against our interests and, when required, respond with military force.

The following analysis of what this means for the Army was published in the Newsletter of the Military Historical Society of Australia

The Australian Army will undergo a massive reorganisation in the next eight years which will see additional combat brigades raised, a dedicated rocket artillery and missile brigade raised, an existing brigade refocused to digital warfare and the Army Reserve structure completely reconfigured with units equipped with next generation weapons and situational awareness capabilities.

The new expanded 21st Century Order of Battle is revealed in the **Land Operational Concept Document** which outlines Army's plans for a 2028 Army Objective Force.

8 Brigade which currently controls the Army's training units will be re-rolled as 8 (Joint Fires) Brigade to control in the incoming NASAMS 2 Ground Based Air Defence System entering service next year (Project Land 19 Phase 7B), the Long Range Fires Rocket Artillery and Long Range Missile capabilities to be acquired under Project Land 8113 and the Land Based (Anti Ship/Strike) Missile System to be acquired under Project Sea 4100.

The three existing Combat Brigades will expand to four, with major re-rolling of entire brigades and the raising of a (fifth) high readiness Total Work Force (integrated Reserve) combat brigade with substantial combat power in Western Australia to finally redress the ground combat imbalance in the western third of the nation.

Major changes include the splitting of the Palmerston NT/Edinburgh SA based 1 Brigade into two separate brigades with substantial re-rolling of individual units. Under the proposed 2028 Army Objective Force, 1 Brigade will remain in Darwin and re role as an amphibious/littoral/light combat manoeuvre element with the existing 5 RAR, 8/12 Regt RAA, 1 CE Regt, 1 CS Regt and 1 CSS Bn, but be augmented with a re-raised 4 RAR (Amph) in Pre Landing Force configuration. The Army's 10 Force Support Bn will re equip with new Littoral Manoeuvre - Light vessels to replace the inservice LCM8 and eventually field the Littoral Manoeuvre - Heavy amphibious platforms which will be concentrated at Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin with a detachment operating from the unit's existing Ross Island Barracks in Townsville.

Continued overleaf

Continued from Page 13

The former *1 Brigade* units at Edinburgh Defence Precinct (SA), *7 RAR(Mech)* and *1 Armd Cav Regt* will form the foundation of a fourth combat brigade designated *9 Brigade*, rolled as a heavy armoured combat manoeuvre element. Augmenting *7 RAR (Mech)* and *1 Armd Cav Regt* at *9 Brigade* will be *9 Regt (RAA)*, (the former warehouse for the Army Reserve's 81mm mortar equipped light batteries) which will become regular and re equip with the next generation 155/52L AS9 Self Propelled Howitzer and its supporting AS10 Armoured Ammunition Resupply Vehicle and *9 Fd Sqn RAE* who will be equipped with the next generation Heavy Armoured Capability Systems (assault support). The current Army Reserve *9 CSS Bn* logistics unit and *144 Sig Sqn* will be augmented with significant full time personnel to support the *9 Brigade* operations. The Tasmania based *12/40 Bn* will be rerolled as a Regional Force Surveillance Unit specialising in lower latitude operations and presumably the Army Reserve *10/27 Bn* and *3 Fd Sqn* will find roles within the brigade.

Both the Townsville based *3 Brigade* and the Brisbane based *7 Brigade* will retain their current order of battle, but re-equip with new weapons, situational awareness and sensor systems as they enter service. *2 RAR (Amph)* will retain its current role as a Pre Landing Force, but may be returned to *3 Brigade* for administration purposes.

The WA based *13 Brigade* will be transformed almost completely with a single infantry unit (what will it be called *11116/28/44 Bn ??*), *13 Fd Sqn* which will expand to have a construction troop, an ISR element (*A Sqn, 10 LH Regt*) equipped with Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle - Light and a 155mm artillery battery equipped with M-777A2 Lightweight Towed Artillery (so *3 Lt Bty* get their guns back) and the usual support units. All units will have increased ARA staff.

Other major changes in the proposed *2028 Army Objective Force* are the complete reorganisation of the existing regular *6 Combat Support Brigade* which will be rerolled as a digital warfare brigade focused on Information Warfare, Signals Intelligence, multi spectrum Intelligence and an entire regiment of the cryptically designated '9358'. *6 CS Bde* will see its existing *16 Air Land Reg* (Ground Based Air Defence) transfer to the redesignated *8 (Joint Fires) Brigade* and *20 Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment* will be transferred to *16 Aviation Bde*.

Special Operations Command will group its units within a new configuration designated *Special Operations Bde* with the same structure (minus *2 Sqn SASR*) with an additional Army Reserve commando company being raised in South East Queensland within the *1 Cdo Regt* structure.

More to follow as we get a clearer picture of the proposals under the *2028 Army Objective Force*.

Graham McKenzie-Smith



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

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION –
WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2021

The Annual General Meetings of the two Organisations will be held at the Alf Adams Pavilion,
Solomon Street Mosman Park on **Saturday 6th March 2021**:

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 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.