



# Artillery WA



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

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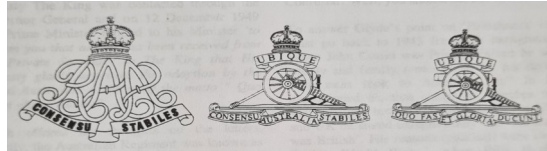
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## MOTTO OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY



The title ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY (RAA) dates from August 1899 when three State Permanent Artillery Regiments became Regiments of the RAA some months before Federation.

The Motto, "CONSENSU STABILES" had immense significance for the RAA in that it referred to its formation as the first Federal Regiment in the Australian Army established even before Federation.

Later, in 1913, the Siege Brigades adopted the motto "Consensu Stabiles" during the time of the Compulsory Training Scheme. Its translation, "Strong in Agreement" has a resonance with Federation rather than with martial inspiration.

From 1913 until 1939 the Gunner Badge worn by both the RAA and RAA (Militia) was similar to the Royal Artillery (RA) Badge except it displayed "UBIQUE CONSENSU STABILES AUSTRALIA".

On 3 May 1949, the Director Royal Artillery (Australia) proposed that the motto of the Royal Artillery – QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT – be adopted by RAA and this was agreed by the Adjutant General on 12 May 1949 and forwarded to the War office in London. On 28 July 1949 the Director Royal Artillery (UK), Major General S. B. Rawlins replied, *stating "it is most unlikely that any objection would be made to the proposal"* and laid out the procedure to be followed.

There followed a letter to the Minister for the Army who discussed the proposal with the Prime Minister – The Hon Ben Chifley – and contact was made with King George VI through the Governor General. On 12 December 1949, the Prime Minister replied to his Minister *"to inform you that advice has been received from the Private Secretary to the King that His Majesty gladly approves the adoption by the Royal Australian Artillery of the motto 'Quo fas et gloria ducunt'."*

Between 1945 – 1948, a period when the Interim Army was being massaged into the Regular Army, across the British Commonwealth a queue formed for Arms and Services to be granted the Royal Warrant. In 1948, the Armoured Corps, the Services Corps, Chaplains, the Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, the Medical Corps, the Ordnance Corps, and the Postal Corps gained the Royal Warrant.

Prior to this, the Survey Corps (1915) and the Australian Field Engineers (1936) gained theirs. In March 1949, the Royal Australian Regiment and the Royal Australian Infantry Corps was formed.

On 19 September 1962, the Royal Australian Artillery became the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

## UBIQUE

*With thanks to: CANNONBALL No 41 November 2000*



## NOTICE BOARD

**Web Site:** <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>

### ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTY WA

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted to the Editor Bob Arnold at [arnold353@bigpond.com](mailto:arnold353@bigpond.com)

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### 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.

### RAAHS BUSY BEES

Last Saturday of each month excluding December

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### LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm  
Adults \$10, Children \$4.

### OFFICE BEARERS

#### RAA ASSOCIATION

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Bob Farrelly

##### Vice President

##### Secretary

John Blylevens

##### Treasurer

Stan Davies

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Raymond Kennedy

Ken Hepworth

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\*\*\*\*\*

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##### Secretary

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Neil Lodge

#### Committee Persons

Mathew Adams

Phillip Rowson

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##### IT Consultant

Stan Davies

##### Curator

Don Rae

For those who need a reminder – subs are due on the First of January each year and may be paid directly to the treasurer or may be made direct to the Bank Accounts:

RAA Historical Society – BSB 066 103 Account No 0090 3744

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 22

*Fellow Gunners*

#### **Vale - Maj Peter Mahoney**

**I**t is my unenviable task to advise that our Vice President, Peter Mahoney passed away on 20 May, aged 68 having suffered ill health for some time.

The Army was a big part of Peter's life. He served for some 43 years and had made many friends.

Peter joined the Australian Army on 26 August 1975 with 11 RWAR but soon decided to become an officer and went to OCTU. He graduated in 1977 and was posted to 7 FD BTY RAA. In fact he and Wendy both marched into 7 FD BTY on the same day, and a romance blossomed.

Peter was on the gun line in the late 80s when 7 FD BTY won the Mount Schank Trophy as the best Reserve BTY in the country.

A highlight for Peter was the exercise with 4 FD REGT in the early 1980s at High Range (Townsville). As an FO he was chuffed when 7 BTY was able to report "Ready" before the ARA BTYs. During the exercise a mistake was fired and the CO ordered "BTY Right" to determine which BTY had fired the mistake. Peter was concerned that we had fired the mistake but was hugely relieved when it was found to be one of the ARA BTYs.

Peter served in every Officer position in the BTY and was BC on two occasions. I know that his artillery postings were the highlights for him. He also served in 5 TRG GP, Recruiting, on HQ 13 BDE, APA - Perth, Cadets and with the Army Knowledge Group.

Peter could always spin a good yarn. He was a dedicated, knowledgeable, conscientious and always out for a bit of fun.

Peter was part of the RAA Association for most his life and was a member of the Association's Committee and Vice President for over a decade.

Peter was also a member of the Armadale RSL and also a Warden of the Kings Park Honour Avenue group - a life dedicated to the Army and more importantly the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Our condolences to Wendy and their daughter Tara.

Rest in peace.

#### **Anzac Day 2022**

Anzac Day was a success following two years' absence with good weather and a reasonable turnout. We were let down by the RSL not providing the cadet support requested but at the end of the day all was well with some of our members carrying the flags. A number of people went back to Hobbs Artillery Park for drinks and camaraderie afterwards.

#### **150th Anniversary Commemorations**

As advised previously, 2022 is the 150th anniversary of formed Artillery in WA. I ask you all to reach out to members past and present to join the Association and participate in its activities and make them a success.

#### **Gunner's Day**

will be held on Sunday 6 November in Guildford. There will be a small change to the route of the March to overcome issues with road closures.

#### **Feast of Saint Barbara 2022**

The 2022 Feast of St Barbara will be held on Friday 2 December. It will again be open to all ranks and partners invited. See the invitation in this issue.

Save the dates!!

Ubique Bob Farrelly

LTCOL

President

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADNG INTO WINTER 2022**

Dear Members,

Welcome to my overview of events since March.

With the confidence of the public returning to outside site visits, has come a corresponding increase in visitor numbers to Leighton Battery. Also returning are out of hours tour requests from community groups like Curtin University, Scouts and Cubs, Arms and Armour Society and others.

We are experimenting with adverts in the Seniors Paper instead of the West Australian for the next several months- we will see if the visitor numbers justify the shift over that period.

The Society has secured a W.A. Heritage Council monetary grant that will be used to develop a specific concept plan for the 5.25" complex. The grant requires us to apply a matching monetary figure- which can be based on volunteer input converted to an hourly rate. That is what we will organise from busy bee and WAG members.

I would remind the wider membership that the Society is very reliant on the current members who staff our Annex at Irwin Barracks every Wednesday. (Wednesday Action Group). Rarely does a week go by without phone calls arriving requesting information about service men / women – usually of an artillery theme- these are dealt with promptly- but it all takes time. Being on Defence Department land also requires on going protocols to be followed – again time must be put aside for them. We often invite members of 3 Battery for morning tea- it is important to keep our profile 'alive' with those younger people- some of whom are surprised to learn the role that Coast Artillery played in Fremantle in WW2.

In May, two film units were permitted to use the tunnel complex. One was a student team from John Curtin College of the Arts and the other was from the ABC. One never knows what may eventuate from these P.R. ventures.

A sub-committee has now met to formulate a strategic pathway to introduce the RAAHS's plans for the 5.25" to a range of individuals and business owners in W.A. Ideally a source of funding may arise from them and would be suitably acknowledged by the Society. The Society has appointed a professional Interpretative Consultant to prepare a design layout for the facility .

In May our long-serving Secretary John Bylevens resigned due to his work load elsewhere. I thank John for his efficiency in shuffling all those papers along the way!

A replacement all-weather sign now appears every Sunday on the Stirling Highway verge. It catches the eye of traffic in both directions and informs people of the tunnel being open. Our energetic 'Busy Bee' members continue to address all sorts of tasks at the Battery site. If you would like to arrive as a first timer - don't be shy- it's on the last Saturday of each month from 8.30 A.[M](#) .

My thanks to all members who have helped the Society along since your last Aiming Post.

Kind regards,

David Carter.

### THE RAAHS LIBRARY

The Library is noted for its extensive cover of matters military from individual battles to single or multiple wars, individual equipments, biographies and autobiographies etc. etc. An example is a book (Library No 2722) published in 1919 titled "The Royal Regiment of Artillery at Le Cateau - 26 August, 1914 written by Major A.F Becke (late) R.F.A.

The opening paragraph, in part, reads:

*'The more closely it is studied the more certain it becomes that the Action fought by General Sir Smith-Dorrien and the troops under his command on August 26th, 1914, was not only a triumph for the British arms but had a most important bearing on the whole retreat. Indeed it is not too much to claim that future historians will pronounce Le Cateau to be one of the most important delaying actions recorded in history'.*

The Library is open on Wednesday of each week, and if you are, not authorised to visit us to read or borrow a book or books please give me a call on 0407329353 a day or two or beforehand and we will organise your admission to the Barracks.



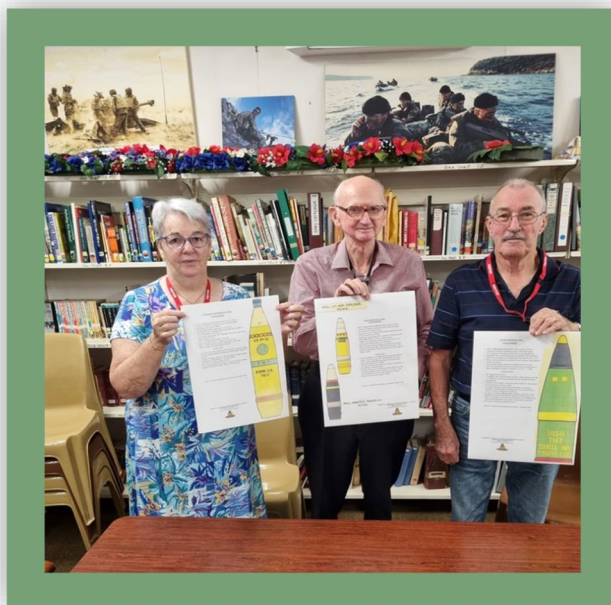
The following poem (Recall the Song of Hiawatha?) is from a publication of 140 pages first published in 1919 and republished a further 9 times by 1928. It is still available from England and one of the most enjoyable "reads" I have had. It is not on our library shelves but If you would like to have a loan let me know. - - - -Bob Arnold

### The Song of Tiadatha

Soon my wounded Tiadatha  
Carefully labelled like a parcel  
Started on his journey, Baseward,  
Fared, on his journey Baseward,  
Burning head and aching shoulder,  
Fared upon a swaying dhuli  
In an ambulance that shook him  
As you shake a medicine bottle  
Seemed to shake his very soul out.  
Rocking like a tiny dinghy  
When a choppy sea is running.  
One night in the Clearing Station,  
Then by train to Salonica ;  
And throughout the weary journey,  
In F.A. or Clearing Station,  
Came those everlasting questions  
Very dear to all the Ram Corps :  
" Unit, age and length of service ? "  
" Rank and Christian name ? " and what not

Till it seem to Tiadatha  
That the whole Ram Corps was round him,  
Armed with notebooks, armed with pencils  
Perching all about him,  
Often climbing up the tent poles ,  
Thirsting for these silly details,  
Reeling off these silly questions,  
"Unit, rank and length of service?"  
" Colour of your Mother's eyebrows?"  
"Christian names of all your sisters?"  
"Age of all your aunts and uncles"  
So it seemed to Tiadatha,  
To my fevered Tiadatha,  
Till he dropped to sleep and left them,  
Those tormentors and their questions,  
Left them as a railway carriage,  
Gliding gently from the station,  
Leaves the crowd upon the platform.

## VISIT TO RAAHS WA BRANCH AT KARRAKATTA



Left to right Susan Epps, Phil Angwin and Peter Epps,

The Vice-president of the Wanneroo RSL Sub-Branch, Mr. Peter Epps, and his wife Susan, joined members of the 'Wednesday Group' at Irwin Barracks on 5th April 2022.

Three Technical charts prepared by Phil were provided to enable the Wanneroo Sub-Branch to make up some Dummy items of ammunition for display purposes.

Peter expressed his appreciation of the charts and the detail contained therein and said that it greatly exceeded his expectations. He was obviously most impressed.

Historical aspects of Artillery and associated ammunition was the subject of some further discussion by those present.

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### ONLY IN THE USA

Yesterday I got my permit to carry a concealed weapon, so today I went over to the local gun shop to get a 9 mm handgun for home personal protection.

When I was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo the cashier said, " Strip down, facing me".

Making a mental note to complain to the government about gun control wackos running amok I did just as she instructed.

When hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader!

As a senior citizen, I do not get flustered often, but this time it took me awhile to get my pants back on.

I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to seniors more clear.

I still don't think I looked that bad I just need to wear underwear more often.



## GUNNERS BACK IN BUSINESS



**Gunnery crew members from 104 Bty 1 Regt, RAA, prepare an M777 155mm howitzer to fire during Exercise Barce at Shoalwater Bay training area.**

Gunnery crew members from 1 Regt sent an abundance of munitions down range during Exercise Barce, with the gun batteries honing small team skills to engage targets quickly.

Conducted in the Shoalwater Bay training area, the exercise was the first live-fire activity for the regiment this year, since being tasked to support Operation Flood Assist.

With many new soldiers in the unit, some gunners fired 155mm SMART anti-armour munitions for the first time,

yielding excellent results.

Time in the field was important for the gunners in 1 Regt.



“For some of the newer gunners, this is their first shootout as part of a regiment since their initial training, Gunners from 104 Bty 1 Regt, RAA, prepare an M777 155mm howitzer to fire during Exercise Barce at Shoalwater Bay training area.

**Gunner Rebecca Hayes, carries a 155mm round while preparing a Howitzer.**

“They have been learning the best ways to operate the gun and build trust while working with high explosives.

“Particularly with the new munitions, like the SMARt rounds, they’re all learning together and forming strong teams.”

Sgt Graham said there was a unique dynamic and camaraderie that was only seen on an artillery gun line.

“Teamwork starts in the barracks, but out here it’s developed through fatigue and hard work,” he said.

“Out here in the field there’s men and women cooperating day in, day out, lugging humungous rounds together, and operating as a small team with the guidance of the Number One



**.A Gunner prepares howitzer ammunition.**

“Everyone wants to be successful, and everyone wants to be the best.”

Maj Aron Foster said the gunners were eager to see how the 155mm SMART anti-armour munitions worked, and explained how they could be employed operationally.

“

*Continued Page 8*

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Barce has been an opportunity for the gunners to get their hands on a munition that they don't see in their day-to-day training," Maj Foster said.

"After being fired with an electronic time fuse, two submunitions are released that float down on a parachute, equipped with radar, looking for a thermal signature that matches dimensions that we've set. "Once identified, an armour piercing tungsten slug will be fired through that target.

"While high-explosive and proximity rounds are still effective against armour, the SMART rounds are specifically designed for targeting armoured vehicles.

"It's an effective munition against armour, and far better at disabling armoured capabilities."

Sgt Graham said some of the junior gunners progressed quickly in a short period of time. "Their skillset has advanced dramatically; they have impressed me and all the other senior soldiers," Sgt Graham said.

"We're now looking forward to seeing what we can achieve throughout the year as a regiment."

*Capt Taylor Lynch*

(Extract from ARMY, June 22 edition)



Students in an advanced Biology class were taking their mid term exam.

The last question was , *Name seven advantages of Mother's milk. The question was worth 70 points or none at all.* One student was hard put to think of a lot of advantages, but after some thought he wrote.

1. It is a perfect formula for the child
- 2 It provides immunity against several diseases.
- 3 It is always the right temperature
- 4 It is inexpensive.
5. It bonds the mother to child and vice versa
6. It is available as needed.

And then the student was stuck. Finally in desperation, just before the bell rung indicating the end of the test he wrote:

7. It comes in two attractive containers and it's high enough off the ground where the cat can't get it.

He got an A,



*The following poem was composed by Flying Officer A. T. Latham and a copy was included in memorabilia donated to the Society by a Member of 2/7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Regiment RAA who served throughout the Borneo Campaign – unfortunately nothing is known of F/O Latham*

#### WAR GRAVES TARAKAN

Will you walk with me in the heat of day,  
Till we come to the crossroads on the way  
Of a dusty road on Tarakan,  
To a scene in the scheme of the war's mad plan.

There are soldiers there in a little square,  
Who will breath no more of the dust-filled air.  
On the trails they died, by the road they rest,  
With the foreign soil on each manly chest.

On the crosses which mark the arid mounds  
Are the tales of courage which knew no bounds.  
"Killed in action" and "Died of wounds",  
But the wasted lives are the war's worst ruins.

You will see their mates at the gravesides stand  
Quietly, slouch hats held in hand,  
And you may grieve, as they will too,  
For the hopes and dreams which will not come true.

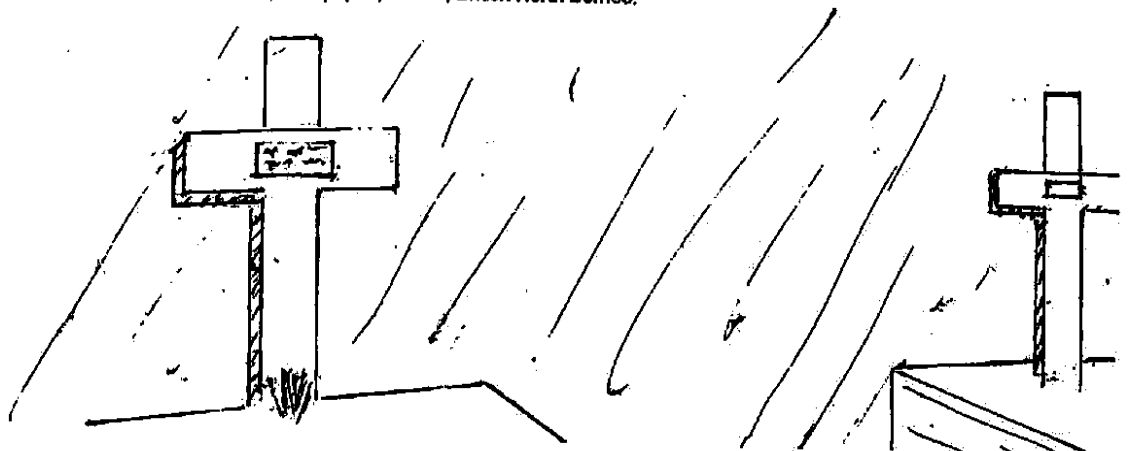
In death these men have but simple needs,  
No separate tracts for differing creeds;  
For the shoulders which never were cold in life  
Are together in death as they were in strife.

You may gaze at the flag which hangs from the mast  
To honour the men who were staunch to the last,  
And fancy you hear a quiet voice say –  
"Australia, my country, will you repay?"

"Will you warm my hearth, give daily bread  
To the hungry mouths which once were fed  
Through the sweat and toil of a fallen man,  
Who sleeps by the road on Tarakan?"

So when you return, by the dusty road,  
You may bear your share of a sacred load,  
With a pride whose flame ignited then,  
Will burn to the sound of the last Amen.

This year marks the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Borneo" Campaigns (May – August 1945) and includes the liberation of Tarakan, Balikpapan, Brunei, British North Borneo.



**HETERONYMS**

**Homographs are words of like spelling but with more than one meaning.**

**A homograph that is also pronounced differently is a heteronym**

**I think a retired English teacher was bored...THIS took a lot of work to put together!**

The bandage was wound around the wound.

The farm was used to **produce** produce.

The dump was so full that it had to refuse more **refuse**.

We must use **polish to** Polish furniture..

He could lead if he would get the lead out.

The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the **desert**..

Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to present the **present**.

A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.

When shot at, the **dove** **dove** into the bushes.

I did not object to the object.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

They were too close to the door to close it.

The buck **does** funny things when the does are present.

A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.

To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.

The wind was too strong for me to wind in the sail.

Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France . Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, two indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, , while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

**There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP.'**

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP?

Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP. We call UP our friends.

And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary.

In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP,

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary.

For now my time is UP so it is time to shut UP!

*With thanks to Tom Arnautovic*



We are all worms, but I do believe I am a glowworm - Winston Churchill.

Start every day off with a smile and get it over with. – W. C. Fields

In California, they don't throw their garbage away - they turn it into TV shows - Woody Allen.

California is a fine place to live - if you happen to be an orange - Fred Allen.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Farrelly, RFD  
President, Royal Australian Artillery Association  
(Inc)

REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF THE COMPANY OF

All Ranks, Past and Present of the Royal Australian Artillery  
(RAA)  
Partners and Invited Guests  
at the  
FEAST OF ST BARBARA 2022  
And  
Celebration of 150 years of formed  
artillery in WA

TO BE HELD IN THE  
HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK DRILL HALL  
KARRAKATTA  
FRIDAY, 2nd OF DECEMBER 2022 AT 1900 Hrs. FOR 1930 Hrs.

COST \$88.00 PER PERSON.

PAYMENT **BANK TRANSFER or CASH OR CHEQUE**  
**PAYABLE TO**  
**RAA ASSOCIATION BSB 066 163 ACCOUNT No**  
**00902583**  
**(PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME)**

DRESS – Current issued Mess kit (Retired and SERVING OFFICERS and SENIOR NCO'S).

GENTS - LOUNGE SUITS; LADIES - AFTER FIVE WEAR

POC & RSVP Bob Farrelly [bobfarrelly@live.com](mailto:bobfarrelly@live.com) or Tel 0417 981 615

Book by Friday 19th of NOVEMBER 2022 .

\*PRICE INCLUDES- PRE-DINNER - SHERRY, -- DINNER - WINE AND PORT.  
OTHER DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MESS BAR PRICES.





Ubique