



# Artillery WA



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

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## **THE STORY BEHIND THE REPLICA 5.25" TURRET**

In the late 1990s the Society Committee committed to "roof" the excavated Gun Emplacement and manufacture a replica 5.25" Gun Turret, complete with Barrel, to be mounted on the "roof".

Approval from statutory authorities was needed before any work could commence and submissions were lodged with the Town of Mosman Park, the WA Planning Commission and the WA Heritage Council. Fortunately, approval in principle was granted conditionally on presentation of detailed drawings and design.

Despite extensive research there were no detailed plans or specifications of the turret design from which working drawings could be produced for fabrication – only photographs of the post WWII era.

Time passed quickly and in 2015 the Society commissioned Maitland Heritage Engineering to design and produce drawings and specifications to fabricate the turret based entirely on photographs and interpretation and to design the concrete "roof" to enclose the Gun Pit and a Stairwell Enclosure leading to the Gun Floor.

A grant to roof the pit was submitted to LotteryWest who were sympathetic but pointed out the Society was ineligible to receive funding as it did not own the property! They did, however, recognize the facility had been exposed to the elements in excess of 25 years and concrete cancer was evident. They recommended the Town of Mosman Park apply for funding to arrest the cancer by roofing the opening and weatherproofing the facility. The Town reacted favourably. The design, detailed drawings and specifications were prepared by the Society's Consultant Engineer and the Town of Mosman Park appointed him to supervise the project. The brick enclosure to the Stairwell was sanctioned at the same time. Cost of the construction was covered by the LotteryWest Grant. Work was completed in 2020.

Final drawings and specifications for the Turret were submitted and approved by all three authorities. Society Major Projects Coordinator Graham McKenzie-Smith, in conjunction with Heritage Engineer David Katz, circulated the design material to selected steel fabricators requesting expressions of interest and Sheet Metal Fabricators (Spearwood) was awarded the contract in February 2021 with completion required by early 2022. This Project was to be funded from Society reserves. Due to COVID 19 complications and a severe shortage of steel plate the project slipped but on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the Turret was delivered to site for final assembly and erection.

The result is awe inspiring. It is an excellent replica of the original equipment emplaced at Leighton Battery in 1947 and a credit to all who engaged in the concept, planning, design and fabrication of the replica.

The way is now clear for the development of the entire 5.25" complex as a future Tour Destination.

See Page 5 for photographs of the Gun Mount and Replica Gun turret



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**ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTY WA**

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 10 June 2023 to the Editor Pat Bell at pbell35@hotmail.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 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.

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**RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2023**

**Last Saturday of each month**

**LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS**

**Sunday 10am-3pm**

**Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00**

**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**

## RAAA- President's Report March 2023

Fellow Gunners

Welcome back and Easter is almost upon us already.

I have had the pleasure of meeting the new BC MAJ Daniel Evangelisti. We wish him every success and look forward to working with him. In discussions we are looking to forge closer ties and as part of that are looking to arrange a visit for the BTY to the Leighton Tunnels on a Saturday in the not too distant future.

I represented the Association recently at the dedication of a new memorial in Stirling Square in Midland to recognise that Guildford was the home of the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse in WW1. It was also noted it was the home of the Artillery which is recognised with the two 25 pounder guns. Quite a stunning memorial of a trooper and his horse.

### AGM 2023

The AGM was held on March 5<sup>th</sup> along with the RAAHS AGM.

At the AGM the following were elected:

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

A warm welcome to Rob as the Vice President and to Andrew on joining the Committee.

### Anzac Day 2023

The Association will be marching in the City again this year. We have put in our request for cadets as flag bearers. Our patron, BRIG Gerry Warner has agreed to lead the Association in the march.

We are awaiting confirmation from the BTY regarding a dawn service and if there will be a function at Hobbs Artillery Park after the march. Additional information will be provided when we know.

LTCOL Rob Coales, CO WAUR has advised that Association members and Gunners generally are welcome to join his unit at the Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle if they wish.

### Gunner's Day 2023

**Gunner's Day will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of November. We have requested 56 ACU to provide a catafalque part again this year given the success last year.**

### Feast of Saint Barbara 2023

The 2022 Feast of St Barbara will be held on Friday 1 December. It will again be open to all ranks and partners. Save the date!

We are reviewing the format and venue currently and will provide an update as soon as decisions are made.

Thank you to the RAA Association Committee for all their work. It is greatly appreciated.

*Ubique*

Bob Farrelly

LTCOL

President

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO AUTUMN 2023**

Dear Members,

I hope you all are experiencing a smooth start to the new year.

My previous Report indicated our rising excitement re the 5.25" replica. Well, it now sits proudly on-site on the former Number One gun station. Coincidentally 1963 saw the last shoot (and subsequent demolition) of all three guns- 2023 sees the re-birth of one! I would invite members to stroll up the hill at any time to view it. It makes a dramatic statement to the eye.

All concerned- especially our V/P- are to be congratulated on the acquisition of this nationally unique replica.

A comprehensive Interpretation Plan for the five below ground rooms is in place and the sourcing of development funds is now occurring as a priority. To that end, two members and I recently met with our local Member at Cottesloe to discuss potential sources of funding- as a partnership arrangement- for the 5.25" display rooms. A copy of the Plan was given to him. Hopefully that meeting will be of real benefit to us.

The Plan has distinct themes happening in each space, with the layout presented to a high standard. At this stage we see the future visitor moving between the rooms at their leisure after experiencing the movement and sound activated 6" tunnel tour.

Later this year the Committee will sit down with Council to negotiate a new long-term Lease between our two parties- practice has proven that a generic Lease Document does not fit our unique "footprint" at Leighton Battery and we will make that apparent to TOMP.

7 Field Battery, (currently 3 Light Battery) our original sponser at Irwin Barracks, has again seen the periodic transfer of key staff for 2023. RAAHS welcomes the new Battery Commander- Major Daniel Evangelisti and his Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery WO2 Daniel Stasev.

Leighton Battery continues to require regular maintenance in order to present well to visitors. That is achieved through the on-going efforts of a core of members who continue to roll up on the last Saturday of each month. If you are a member interested in helping- arrive and you will be welcomed!

In conclusion, the AGM of 2022 authorised the sale of a surplus 25pdr field gun held by the Society. A sale was negotiated between a private collector and the Society. Final payment took place in February , transfer of ownership documents were signed and the gun was collected from Irwin Barracks later that month.

Enjoy the Autumn weather everyone.

David Carter.

## THE STORY BEHIND THE REPLICA 5.25" TURRET continued



The concrete slab covers the original Gun Pit and replaces the WWII steel cover.



This is the replica steel Turret with a fixed Elevation Barrel

**BEREAVEMENT**

**WENDY JUNE ARCHIBALD 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1954 – 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

It is with great sadness we advise the passing of our Member Wendy Archibald and convey our sincere condolences to her Husband James and their Family.

Wendy was a member of the Leighton Battery Voluntary Guide and Cashier Group and was well known for her friendly disposition in her dealings with fellow Volunteers and the many Site Visitors with whom she came in contact.

Wendy's Husband James (Jim) is a Committee Person, and Voluntary Guide, who introduced Wendy to her Cashier role in 2017 and the pair became yet another husband and wife Team of the Heritage Site Volunteers.

Wendy is survived by Husband Jim and their four children Tanya, Kim, Paul and Brad. She will be missed by all.

**UBIQUE**

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**3 BATTERY 9 REGIMENT ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY**

**CHANGES IN COMMAND**

December 2022 heralded another cycle of appointments in the Command structure of the Battery.

Battery Commander (BC) Major Neil Bailey transferred to the Inactive List and Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery (SMIG) Warrant Officer Simon Hastings transferred to Royal Australian Signal Corps in Melbourne. Unfortunately WO II Hastings departure was brought forward and the Society was not able to formally farewell him.

Major Daniel Evangelisti has been appointed BC and Warrant Officer Class II Daniel J Stasev replaces Simon Hastings as SMIG.

The Service profiles for Major Evangesti and Warrant Officer Stasev appear on pages 7 and 8.

## Biography – 8549739 Major Dan Evangelisti, RAA



Major Evangelisti was born in Port Hedland, Western Australia on 04 August 1986. He completed his schooling in Perth and briefly pursued a career in Town Planning and Land Development before enlisting in 2009. He graduated from the Royal Military College - Duntroon in 2010, commissioning into the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Major Evangelisti has worked in a variety of sub-unit, unit and formation appointments. He has held appointments within 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery as a Troop Commander, Training Officer, Battery Captain and Battery

Commander of the 132 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Battery. Major Evangelisti has qualified on the ScanEagle and Shadow UAS, building an extensive knowledge of UAS operations at the tactical level.

Major Evangelisti has seen operational service on Operation Slipper in 2012 – 2013 as a Troop Commander in Shadow Group Two; part of Combined Team Uruzgan (Afghanistan). Major Evangelisti was the Battery Commander of Task Unit 639.2.4 on Operation Resolute, the first TUAS unit deployed on domestic operations. These operational deployments provided experience in operation and command of unmanned aerial systems effects, planning, and conducting Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance operations.

From 2016 – 2017, Major Evangelisti performed SO3 roles within Headquarters 3rd Brigade. In these roles he gained experience in incident management, development of teams, personnel policy, planning skills, formation tactics and knowledge of the Combat Brigade. As the S35 of the headquarters, Major Evangelisti was the lead planner for 3rd Brigade's "Road to Ready"; culminating in Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 17. Major Evangelisti assisted in the planning of 3rd Brigade's response to the Tropical Cyclone Debbie disaster in North Queensland.

From 2018 – 2019, Major Evangelisti was an Instructor-in-Gunnery within Surveillance and Target Acquisition Wing at the School of Artillery; he instructed Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers in formation Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance planning and Unmanned Aerial Systems operations.

In 2020, Major Evangelisti was appointed Battery Commander 132 Battery, and achieved two capability milestones whilst in command – operation of the Shadow TUAS from Oakey over non-Defence controlled land, and deployment of a Shadow TUAS capability to Northern Queensland as part of Operation Resolute.

Major Evangelisti transitioned to the part-time Army in July 2021; in his civilian capacity he works as the Manager of Western Australian operations for Protegas Australia, an Intelligence Services Company that provides services to Defence, Government and Private clients. Major Evangelisti completed his studies for a Masters of Aviation Management through the University of New South Wales in 2020. He is married to Leah, a Primary School Teacher, and together they have a son, Nico (6), and a daughter, Steffi (4). He is an avid West Coast Eagles fan and his hobbies include motor-racing, fitness, soccer, cricket, basketball and reading.



**Warrant Officer Class Two  
Daniel James Stasev  
SMIG 3 Bty, 9 Regt RAA  
Hobbs Artillery Park, Karrakatta WA**

Warrant Officer Class Two Daniel James Stasev was born on 30 September 1990 in Perth, Western Australia. He enlisted into the Australian Regular Army on 10 March 2008. Whilst at Kapooka, he chose to undertake the role of a Gun Number within the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

On completion of his initial employment training WO2 Stasev was posted to 107 Battery, 4 Field Regiment in Townsville. WO2 Stasev remained within 4 Field Regiment until 2009 where he subsequently trade transferred into ECN 250 which was then, Operator Artillery Meteorology and Survey, completing his IET in 2010.

As WO2 Stasev progressed through the ranks, he was posted to STA Wing, School of Artillery, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment RAA, SASR and currently serves with 3 Bty, 9 Regt RAA.

In 2011, WO2 Stasev attended Shadow 200 training within Fort Huachuca, Arizona training alongside the US military in preparation for his subsequent deployment to Afghanistan. During this time, ECN 250 transitioned into what is now referred to as Operator Uncrewed Aerial Systems. WO2 Stasev has been able to represent his organization and trade with internal and external units over the years culminating in 2016 where he was awarded the Soldiers Medallion for his key contributions in developing targeting procedures between Crewed and Uncrewed Aircraft. This document was key in the success of enabling Army to functionally employ UAS in support of targeting effects, recognized by coalition partners through the incorporation of procedures into the Joint Fires Publications.

During his time in Army, WO2 Stasev has deployed on operations to Afghanistan (2012-2013) and was the Platoon Sergeant for 3 Platoon with RCB 127 in Malaysia. Awards include: the Australian Active Service Medal with clasp ICAT, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Australian Defence Medal, NATO Non Article 5 Medal with clasp ISAF, the Army Combat Badge and Army Soldiers Medallion.

WO2 Stasev is engaged to his long term partner Kiralee where they have two children, Bailey (10) and Savannah (9). He is an avid mixed martial arts and boxing fan with key intellectual interests in Human Behavioral Sciences and Psychology.



## Leighton Battery's 5.25in Primary Mission – Coast Defence or Anti-Aircraft?

### Part 2 (continuation of original article published Edition 4/21)

By Matthew Adams

In Edition 4/21 of the Aiming Post I covered the background to the 5.25in gun and mountings at Leighton and argued that the primary role of the 5.25 inch CD/AA Leighton Battery during World War 2 was to be “Anti Aircraft” with a secondary coast defence role. I also hinted that there was another layer to the story that commenced in 1947/48. This is that story.

In November 1945 the Australian Army adopted British Army nomenclature for categorization of coast artillery equipments, which included the terminology “Anti-Aircraft/Coast Artillery” for weapons with a primary anti-aircraft role (AA/CA), and “Coast Artillery/Anti-Aircraft” for weapons with a primary coast defence role (CA/AA).

In 1945 this posed no particular issue. At the time 802 and 803 AA/CA batteries, which manned South Beach and Leighton Batteries, had been disbanded towards the end of World War 2 with the batteries still incomplete. As stated in the previous article the guns had been purchased for anti-aircraft purposes, so they were AA/CA defences.

In 1946 two key activities took place. One was completing the procurement of the 5.25in equipments and the other was assessing and categorising Australia's ports for defences. From a primary function perspective there is letter with respect to the procurement dated 4 January 1946 when the Secretary of the Department of the Army wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Defence. This letter included a statement attributed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff that all future long range medium coast guns should be preferably 5.25in dual role due to higher rates of fire, greater range, higher ceilings than standard AA guns, protection for the gun crews offered by the turret, and the 5.25in being used by the Navy (which helped with efficiencies of servicing). In addition, a Secret Memo from Commander General Staff dated 25 July 1946 stated that the 3 x 5.25in gun battery at Leighton would be required for training purposes for fixed defences.

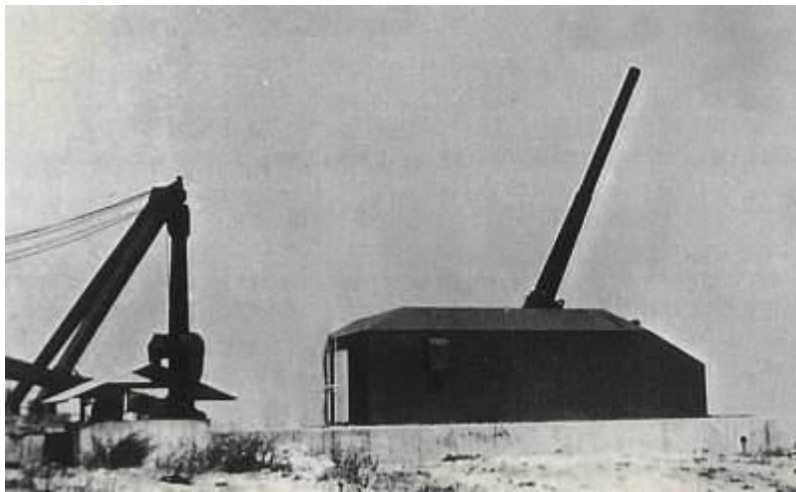
The other activity was the categorisation of ports for defence purposes, which is an essential process for determining the level of naval, air and land defences and their state of readiness in peacetime. Through this process Fremantle was assessed as Category B, which meant constructing defences with guns and supporting equipment ready to be installed at relatively short notice with defences to be operational within a specified period of notice. The other ports initially assessed as Category B in 1946 were Sydney, Newcastle, Darwin, Brisbane River and Manus Island, New Guinea. The notice period was set at 12 months.

In 1948 the Chiefs of Staff directed the development of Outline Plans of Defence, which were intended to be developed into full Defence Schemes once the Outline Plans were approved. This turned out to be an iterative process from 1949 to 1953 with the WA Local Planning Committee submitting their first draft of an Outline Plan of Defence for Fremantle in mid 1949. With respect to Leighton the Local Planning Committee described

the 5.25in guns as providing “a close defence role and covering the examination anchorage North West of Fremantle Harbour. This battery may in addition be given a limited anti-aircraft role.” A secondary argument was given in support of a secondary anti-aircraft mission.

The main reason for moving Leighton Battery from a primary anti-aircraft to coast artillery role related to the scale of attack anticipated. There were no potential enemies with aircraft capability to bomb Fremantle by 1950. But, there were countries with submarines and shipping that could approach Fremantle and submarines were considered the main threat.

So, how did this all play out with respect to Leighton Battery from September 1945 until 1962?



*5.25 inch Coast / AA Gun firing in the Anti-aircraft*



5.25 inch Coast I AA at Leighton Battery firing in the Coast Defence role.

The final installment of the article will appear in Edition 2/23

### 2023 Annual General Meetings

The RAA A WA and RAAHS-WA AGMs were hosted at the Alf Adams Pavilion on the 11 March 2023. Both were well attended by members of the organisations and were also open to those who could not attend in person using the Microsoft Teams Application. The opportunity also allowed the President of the RAAHS, David Carter, to issue Service Badges to Members.



John O'Brien  
25yrs



Ken Thurston  
20 yrs



Peter Kerr  
15 yrs



Phil Rowson  
15 yrs



Robert Steadman  
10 yrs

The highlight of the Presentations was the acknowledgment of Stan Davies' significant contribution to the Society over many years in the areas of Administration and Information Technology. Stan was presented the prestigious Acrylic Award reserved for Members who have rendered outstanding service to the Society.



Stan Davies being presented the Acrylic Award by the President of the RAAHS David Carter

## Fun and Games

Politicians never lie.

A politician was visiting a remote little rural town in Australia and asked the locals what the government could do for them.

"We have two big needs," said the townspeople.

"First, we have a hospital but no doctor."

The politician whipped out his iPhone, spoke for a while, and then

said, "I have sorted that out. A doctor will arrive here tomorrow.

What is your other need?"

The townspeople replied, "We have no mobile phone reception in our town".

## Things to learn from a Dog

1. Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
2. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
3. When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
4. When its in your best interest, practice obedience.
5. Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
6. Takes naps often and stretch before rising.
7. Run, romp and play daily.
8. Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
9. Be loyal.
10. Never pretend to be something you're not.
11. If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
12. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
13. Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
14. Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
15. On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree.
16. When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
17. No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout. Run right back and make friends.
18. Bond with your pack
19. Delight in the simple joy of a long walk

Now that you feel better for having read these, select one out and implement it immediately.