



## Head of Regiment

### St Barbara's Day Message 2023

I extend my greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier S Roach AM (Retired), and our Colonels Commandant for your Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations on 4th December 2023.

As we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day, let us reflect on what we have achieved in 2023 and prepare for new challenges in 2024. This year has once again been extremely busy with the usual tempo of exercises, and significant work in the capability and modernisation areas to progress Gunner projects and introduce new equipment.

I congratulate all who will be taking up new appointments in January next year as Commanding Officers, Battery Commanders and Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors. It is also a day when many are promoted to the next rank, being 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,

Brigadier DJ Hill, AM  
Head of Regiment

4th December 2023

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable and Joint



# NOTICE BOARD



## OFFICE BEARERS

### RAA ASSOCIATION

#### President

Bob Farrelly

#### Vice President

Robert Coales

#### Secretary

John Blylevens

#### Treasurer

StanDavies

### Committee Persons

Wendy Mahoney

Raymond Kennedy

Ken Hepworth

Andrew Dunjey

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### RAA

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### President

David Carter

#### Vice President

Graham McKenzie-Smith

#### Secretary

Phillip Rowson

#### Treasurer

Neil Lodge

### Committee Persons

Matthew Adams

James Archibald

Andrew McAuliffe

Ian Randles

Stan Davies  
(IT Consultant)

Don Rae  
(Curator)

## ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 10 March 2024 to the Editor Pat Bell at pbell35@hotmail.com

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## RAAHSWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Membership Fees become due and payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.

Single Membership is \$25.00 per annum

Joint Membership is \$35.00 per annum

Payment may be made direct to the Treasurer –

by post : P.O. Box 881Claremont WA 6910

Direct Credit: Commonwealth Bank Acct 00903744

BSB 066 103

(Don't forget to include your name on the deposit so we can keep our records up to date)

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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

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## LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – December 2023

Fellow Gunners,

Happy New Year to all. I am sure the years go faster as we age.

### Gunner's Day 2023

Gunners Day 2023, was held on Sunday, 5th of November. The day went well with good weather but with smaller numbers than in recent years. The parade was led by Andrew Dunjey with the salute taken by myself as the Brigade Commander was unwell on the day. Reverend Katrina Holgate again conducted the Memorial wreath laying service. Led by the Pipes & Drums from the Australian Army Band - Perth, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 Battery RAA and members of the 56 Australian Cadet Unit (Fremantle) marched through Stirling Gardens. The parade then moved into position around the War Memorial for the wreath laying service. The cadets from 56 ACU again provided a catafalque party around the memorial which was well done. Following the wreath laying service we had the traditional church service followed by comradeship in the church hall and then at the Rose & Crown. Overall a successful event but with disappointing numbers from the past members. Let's take this as a challenge for 2024 to have a better turn out.

### Feast of Saint Barbara

The Feast of Saint Barbara dinner was held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at the ANZAC Club in the city. Whilst a quick fix after the caterer pulled out, I must say it was a huge success. Initially unsure if we would get 65 people at the new venue to break even I was happy with the final number of 79. A little less formal than the normal dinner but this allowed greater time for attendees to mingle and talk. The venue overlooking Government House and the river was superb and the time on the terrace on a fantastic evening made for an enjoyable night. It was a great night with music provided by the 51 ACU Pipes and Drums. Food provided by the RSL was of a high standard. This year the Association's award for the "Most Outstanding Soldier" was presented to GNR Connor Maguire. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Tom Arnautovic and Stan Davies for assisting in the organising the dinner. We will need to make a decision soon on this year's dinner. Hobb's Artillery Park has been the traditional home of the dinner, but with a lot of organising, setting up and packing away. The ANZAC club by comparison is a walk in- walk out dinner. The Committee will be discussing options with the BC. Put a place holders in your diaries for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November for Gunner's Day and Friday 7th of December 2024 for the next Feast of St Barbara.

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

Ubique,

Bob Farrelly

LTCOL (Ret)

President, RAA Association



## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO SPRING 2023



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING TOWARDS 2024.

Dear Members,

The previous few months has seen the RAAHS continue to apply its set aims and remain an efficient community centred organisation.

As outlined in Graham's Report the grant from DVA will allow us to progress the 5.25" Project and if we can secure a little more funding we can have the underground rooms ready for public inspection by the end of 2024.

Jim Archibald has been working tirelessly on the lighting and ventilation, the Busy Bee crew has been doing a lot of the leg work and Graham has been researching and liaising with the designer and I thank them all for their efforts.

In November we permitted a professional to complete a 3D LIDAR image of the Battery tunnels. This will permit a viewer to "see" what the tunnels look like on our home page. We expect the viewer will then want to come and see it for real!

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> of November was the 95<sup>th</sup> Gunner's Day. It was also the 151<sup>st</sup> year of formed artillery in W.A. Several RAAHS members were amongst the attendees at the ceremony at Stirling Square in Guildford. As society President I placed a wreath on the memorial.

Prior to the detailed fit out of the various 5.25" rooms in 2024, will be the professional painting of ceilings, walls and floors. The busy-bee members will do a thorough pre clean of all surfaces. The final colour will reflect that of the 1940's- light grey. The job is set for December.

Late November saw a school tour party of 48 being successfully conducted through our complex by three guides in the old-fashioned "lead and talk" manner. All were happy campers at the end!

The planting of numerous seedlings (native to the coastal plain), by the busy-bee men earlier this year has proven productive as the majority have now taken root and are flourishing.

As of early December, I wonder where the year went!

A varied range of tasks have been successfully dealt with in timely fashion. I thank all committeemen the WAGS, the Busy-bee team, the Guides and Cashiers and the RAAHS membership for your support.

Towards the end of 2023 saw the annual Feast of Saint Barbara event held at the AN-ZAC Club (RSL) and the RAAHS active volunteers luncheon held at the Alf Adams pavilion. Both events were well attended and most enjoyable.

I will not be seeking re-nomination as Society President in 2024.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

David Carter.  
President RAAHS



## 95<sup>th</sup> GUNNERS DAY 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Gunners commemorated those who fought and fell in the 95<sup>th</sup> GUNNERS DAY held 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Guildford. The weather was the best for many years although the numbers were less than last year. President RAA A WA, Bob Farrelly took the salute from the march past as BRIG Brett Chaloner COMD 13 BDE was a late apology. Bob complimented the standard from all participants. He thanked all those who assisted in the preparation and in participation to ensure this tradition continues.



The parade approaches the dais

### ORIGIN AND TRADITION OF GUNNERS DAY

In 1928 the Artillery Comrades Association decided with the cooperation of the Church and the municipality of Guildford, to hold the first ceremony of 'Gunners Day'. After discussion it was decided to hold the ceremony on the nearest Sunday to the 8<sup>th</sup> August (commemorating the Australian Forces breaking through the line at Villiers Brettoneaux in 1918).

On the day of the first ceremony, about 60 Ex-Gunners marched from the Railway Station headed by the RSL Band to the Church where a short service was held, followed by a wreath laying at the memorial with the Last Post. Every year since a GUNNERS DAY has been held at ST Matthews Church and Stirling Square War Memorial.



L-R WO1 David Nutini RSM 13 BDE  
LTCOL Rob Coales BRIG Steve Cain



The salute



Around the memorial



Association representatives



Wreath laying



Federal and Local Government representatives



Church Service



Enjoying luncheon



David Carter  
PRES RAAHS-WA

## An Aussie Poem

When the shearing sheds are silent, and the stock camps fallen quiet  
When the gidgee coals no longer glow across the outback night  
And the bush is forced to hang a sign, 'gone broke and won't be back'  
And spirits fear to find a way beyond the beaten track

When harvesters stand derelict upon the wind-swept plains  
And brave hearts pin their hopes no more on chance of loving rains  
When a hundred outback settlements are ghost towns overnight  
When we've lost the drive and heart we had to once more see us right

When 'Pioneer' means a stereo and 'Digger' some backhoe  
And the 'Outback' is behind the house, there's nowhere else to go  
And 'Anzac' is a biscuit brand and probably foreign owned  
And education really means brainwashed and neatly cloned

When you have to bake a loaf of bread to make a decent crust  
And our heritage once enshrined in gold is crumbling to dust  
And old folk pay their camping fees on land for which they fought  
And fishing is a great escape; this is until you're caught

When you see our kids with Yankee caps and resentment in their eyes  
And the soaring crime and hopeless hearts is no longer a surprise  
When the name of RM Williams is a yuppie clothing brand  
And not a product of our heritage that grew off the land

When offering a hand makes people think you'll amputate  
And two dogs' meeting in the street is what you call a 'Mate'  
When 'Political Correctness' has replaced all common sense  
When you're forced to see it their way, there's no sitting on the fence

Yes, one day you might find yourself an outcast in this land  
Perhaps your heart will tell you then, 'I should have made a stand'  
Just go and ask the farmers that should remove all doubt  
Then join the swelling ranks who say, 'Don't sell Australia out!'

Author credit- Chris Long  
Far North Queensland



## LBHS 5.25" Project Update

In October Leighton had a visit from Matt Keogh (Minister for Veteran's Affairs) and Kate Chaney (MP for Curtin) who came to announce the 'Saluting their Service' Grants for this year. RAAHS was awarded \$125,520 for the 5.25" Project. LBHS got good media coverage including segments on all four TV news broadcasts. This grant has allowed your committee to move the project along.

The viewing platform has been installed in the engine room and Jim Archibald has made good progress with both the lighting and ventilation infrastructure. The Busy Bee team has been working on preparing the site and the interior is being professionally painted which should be finished by Xmas. Taubman's made a very generous donation towards the cost of the paint.

The interpretation content has been drafted and Scott Watson from 'multistorey' is following on from the Interpretation Concept Plan he did last year to start on the detailed design. We have accessed multiple photos and newspaper cuttings from the West Australian which made them available at a reduced rate. Chris Williams (assisted by John O'Brien) is working on the dioramas which will be placed in two of the alcoves. Overall 2023 has been a good year for the project and 2024 will be the culmination of many years of work by the RAAHS volunteers.

Graham McKenzie-Smith  
Vice President

## **BREAKING NEWS**

As an early Xmas present LotteryWest told us on 20 December that our bid for a grant to complete the work on the 5.25 Project was successful and on 22 December Neil Lodge found an extra \$89,100 in the bank account. We all need to buy a Lotto ticket over Xmas.

Graham



## I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

This is a Christmas carol based on the 1863 poem "Christmas Bells" by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The song tells of the narrator hearing Christmas bells during the American Civil War

The following are the original words of Longfellow's poem

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
and mild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

## The AS9 Huntsman

Ahead of the planned construction in Victoria of the Australian-variant AS9 Huntsman in late 2024, the South Korean K9 self-propelled howitzers made their Australian debut at Exercise Talisman Sabre. Alongside the US HIMARS, the K9 made an impressive display at the firepower demonstration which was held at Shoalwater Bay Training Area on July 2023.

The Self Propelled 155mm Howitzer (SPH) will be known locally as the AS9 Huntsman, after the common Australian spider. The complete "Huntsman" weapons system will include the AS9 SPH and AS10 armoured ammunition resupply vehicle (AARV). The Australian Department of Defence signed a contract worth AUD1 billion (USD665 million) with Hanwha Defense Australia (HDA) in 2021 to supply 30 AS9 155 mm SPHs and 15 AS10 armoured ammunition resupply vehicles (AARVs) under the Land 8116 Phase 1 programme. There are further plans to acquire additional units later in the decade to ultimately equip two Regiments.

The AS9 Huntsman is a 52 calibre, 155 mm gun based on a KF-21 infantry fighting vehicle chassis.



AS9 SPH



AS10 AARV

Specifications	
<b>Mass</b>	K9 & K9A1: 47 t (46 long tons; 52 short tons), combat <sup>[3]</sup> K9A2: 48.5 t (47.7 long tons; 53.5 short tons), combat, with metal track <sup>[4]</sup>
<b>Length</b>	Overall: 12 m (39 ft 4 in) Hull: 7.44 m (24 ft 5 in)
<b>Width</b>	3.4 m (11 ft 2 in)
<b>Height</b>	2.73 m (8 ft 11 in)
<b>Crew</b>	5 (Commander, Driver, Gunner, 2 Loaders)
<b>Maximum firing range</b>	18 km (M107, HE) 30 km (M549A1, RAP/HE) 36 km (K310, BB/DP-ICM) 41 km (K307, BB/HE) 60 km (K315, BB+RAP/HE)



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

### THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION – WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC) NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2024

The Annual General Meetings of the two Organisations will be held at the Alf Adams Pavilion, Solomon Street Mosman Park on **Saturday 9th March 2024**:

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 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. Morning Tea refreshments will be available at the meetings.

### **RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION**

Members are reminded that their 2024 Subscription is now due and may be paid:

**Preferred** by direct bank transfer as below:

\$15 **RAA Association of WA** (Inc) CSB BSB Number 066 163 Account 0090 2583 (\$40 for 3 yrs)

\$25 **RAA Historical Society of WA** (Inc) CSB BSB Number 066 103 Account 0090 3744

If using this means, Members are reminded to include their name on the Bank transaction summary.

**Otherwise** on the day or by cheque or postal note addressed to the Treasurer of the relevant Association / Society at:

Post Office Box 881  
Claremont WA 6910



**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIA ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (Inc)**

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WA (Inc)**

**Nomination Form: Management Committee – 2024**

RAA A WA/RAAHS-WA

(Indicate RAA A WA or RAAHS-WA)

I hereby nominate:

(PLEASE PRINT)

For election to position of:

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

Proposed By:

Seconded By:

Accepted by Nominee:

(Signatures)

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

NB: additional nomination forms available from Secretary:

John: mob 043 869 5711 info@artillerywa.org.au or photocopy this form.

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

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

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

a person who is, according to the Interpretation Act 1984 section 13D, a bankrupt or person whose affairs are under insolvency laws;

a person who has been convicted, within or outside the State, of-  
 an indictable offence in relation to the promotion, formation or management of a body corporate; or  
 an offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable by imprisonment for a period of not less than three months; or

an offence under Part 4 Division 3 or section 127 of the Act

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