



Artillery WA



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

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March 2024



ANZAC DAY

**REMEMBRANCE FOR THE FALLEN
RESPECT FOR OUR EX-SERVICE MEN & WOMEN
PRIDE FOR THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE SERVICE AND SCARIFICE OF WEST AUSTRALIAN GUNNERS WHO HAVE AND ARE STILL SERVING IN AREAS OF CONFLICT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

**THE GREAT WAR GALLIPOLI FRANCE BELGIUM
WORLD WAR II MIDDLE EAST GREECE, CRETE, SYRIA
NEW GUINEA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, BORNEO
KOREAN WAR
BORNEO CONFRONTATION
VIETNAM CONFLICT
EAST TIMOR
IRAQ
AFGHANISTAN**



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(Curator)

ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA

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

RAAHSWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Membership Fees become due and payable on 1st 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)

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.

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2024

Last Saturday of each month

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00



RAAA- President's Report March 2024



Fellow Gunners

This will be my last report as President. After 15 years it is time to have a new President with closer ties with the current Army. A link to the current hierarchy is important for the future of the Association and getting business done. To that extent LTCOL Andrew Dunjey has agreed to take over the reins as President. Andrew is currently serving on HQ 13 BDE. I will not be leaving the Committee, rather filling the Vice President role to assist Andrew. I believe this is in the best interests of the Association going forward. I will also be travelling much more which limits my availability.

Gunner's Day 2024 - Sunday 3rd November

Gunner's Day will be held on Sunday 3rd of November. We have requested 56 ACU to provide a catafalque part again this year given the success last year.

Feast of Saint Barbara 2024 - Friday 6th December

The 2022 Feast of St Barbara will be held on Friday 6th December. It will again be open to all ranks and partners. Save the date!

I would like to thank the RAA Association Committee for all their work during the year and my Presidency. It is and has been appreciated.

Ubique

Bob Farrelly

LTCOL

Vice President

Formal Dedication Of The Battle Of Crete Memorial At Kings Park

The formal dedication of the Battle of Crete Memorial will be conducted at the Saw Avenue precinct, adjacent to the Rats of Tobruk Memorial on Saturday 11 May 2024, assembling at 10:00 AM for the commencement of Service at 10:15 AM.

The Service will be conducted by the HON. Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia and His Excellency Mr. Stavros Venizelos, Ambassador of Greece.

Following the Dedication, A Wreath Laying Service will take place, marking the 83rd Anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

Dress for the Service: Business Attire / Uniform (with Medals)

The Dedication is the culmination of years of planning by the Greek Australian R&SL and the Battle of Crete Memorial Committee.





**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO AUTUMN 2024**



Dear Members,

I hope you enjoyed the festive season and have returned to your normal routines for the new year.

In January another milestone was reached with the complete paint out of the 5.25" complex. This was done professionally using paint products generously donated by Taubmans (WA Division). With the specialist lighting now installed the effect on the eye is dramatic.

Also now installed are two electric fans which will ventilate the interior spaces. One vents up through the replica turret and the other via the original engine room exhaust passage. Above that one sits an external double "chinaman's hat" vent, inside a protective cage. The combined fan sounds are unobtrusive.

The set of 5.25" replica shells have been painted and have had their authentic period technical markings applied. Thanks to members Ron Cahill and Phil Angwen for their painstaking attention to detail. A matching number of brass cartridge cases (ex RAN donation), were sent away to be slightly shortened- thanks member Phil Rowson.

Late last year we allowed a Perth based film crew to use the tunnels for a 72 hour competition. I was happy to supervise their team from 10 AM to 10PM(!) The result is a light hearted sci- fi effort. Here is the link you can view it from. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXPcE20gDM8>).

Ahead of the March AGM, a bedside presentation of the Society's Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Member Ken Thurston. Ken put in many years of effective service with the RAAHS.

Sadly, the Society lost two veteran members early this year. Vale, Malcolm Higham and Robert (Bob) Eggleston. Both men will be remembered through their constructive work in the 6" tunnels. The Society was represented at both family services.(D.Rae and D.Carter).

The next phase of 5.25" development is underway via the services of "multistory. Interpretation, museum, cultural & visitor experiences". RAAHS supplied the themes and data, this firm designed the text and photo displays and then sent the material off to a printer. RAAHS and a local Men's shed then combined to mount the finished products in the ex-ammunition alcoves beneath the turret. The three remaining rooms will also be fitted out.

In late February your Vice President and I were invited to the office of Minister Paul Papalia to receive a framed certificate recognising the LotteryWest grant we received earlier this year. The Minister recalled visiting the Tunnels when his boys were in high school.

In response to a TOMP OHS recommendation, RAAHS have now installed special handles at both tunnel interior doors, enabling any person with damaged hands to exit. We have also installed De-fibrillators at the 6" tunnels and at the Command Post as a necessary precaution.

Our AGM was held on the 9th of March. All Agenda items were carried out. I was pleased to hand out name badges signifying long -service by members to the Society, also several Certificates of Appreciation were presented, and I was especially pleased to award member Neil Lodge the Plaque, which is our highest recognition of service to the RAAHS.

I was humbled also to receive a Plaque- I thank the Committee accordingly.

I thank all members for the support you have given to the Society to date and welcome committee-man Jim Archibald as the new 2024 RAAHS President.

David Carter.



RAAA AGM 2024



The AGM was held on March 5th along with the RAAHS AGM. An interesting start when the access code provided didn't work. A phone call to the City of Mosman Park and advice the Ranger would attend. After some time John Blylevens tried the roller door to the servery to find that it wasn't locked; so we had access to the building but not the tables and chairs. After a long wait we decided to hold the meeting outside where there was some limited seating.

At the AGM the following were elected:

President- Andrew Dunjey

Vice President- Bob Farrelly

Secretary- John Blylevens

Treasurer- Stan Davies

Committee- Ken Hepworth, Wendy Mahoney and Rob Coales.

Congratulations to Andrew on being appointed as President.

We discussed the future format of the Feast of Saint Barbara. Options discussed were a dinner at the Anzac Club, a cocktail type event every two years and a dinner in the alternate year, or a dinner at Hobbs Artillery Park(HAP). The HAP option was not seen as the best given the effort in arranging and the cooking facilities. After some discussion the Anzac Club was agreed. It is walk in – walk out. There was concern that if we change the function from a dinner we risk losing it as has occurred in other States. We will have a dinner with a cash bar and only port provided.

The Ranger never did arrive.





RAAHS AGM



This year's AGM became an Alfresco event when the Town of Mosman Park failed to allow us access to the table & chair storeroom at the Alf Adams Pavilion. Following the Presidents order of "Move to Alternate!" the meeting proved the Artillery Battle Honour "Ubique" is well suited as we were able to convene on the speaking circle outside the pavilion to conduct the meeting!

All reports were well received, no notices of motion were presented and following presentations of Long Service Badges, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Ian Randles, Barry Ellis and John Blylevens.

Plaques for Outstanding Service were presented to Neil Lodge & David Carter.

Don Rae gifted the Society an Honour Board, listing Outstanding Service Plaque Recipients.

Don also presented incoming President Jim Archibald with Business Cards noting his elevation to the loftiest of offices in the Society and John Blylevens with a new hat to replace his aged and very well travelled cap.

The Management Committee treated outgoing President David Carter to lunch at Bib & Tucker on Leighton Beach in recognition of his 12 years of successful stewardship of the society.

The New Committee:

- President - James Archibald
- Vice Pres.- Graham McKenzie-Smith
- Secretary- Philip Rowson
- Treasurer- Andrew McAuliffe
- Committee -
 - David Carter - LBHS Convenor
 - Don Rae - Curator
 - Stan Davies - IT Specialist
 - Neil Lodge
 - Ian Randles
 - Matthew Adams



Ian Randles- Certificate of Appreciation



Don Rae presents Outstanding Service Board



Barry Ellis - Certificate of Appreciation



David Carter - Outstanding Service



Neil Lodge - Outstanding Service



John Blylevens - Certificate of Appreciation



Biography - Lieutenant Colonel 8252825 Andrew Mark Dunje, RAA

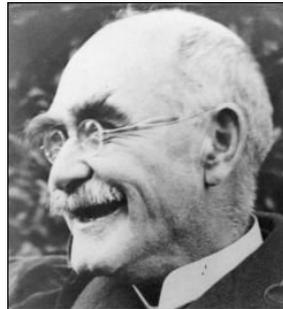
Lieutenant Colonel Dunje enlisted in the Army Reserve as an Infantry Private on 12 July 1986, being posted to 16 Battalion, the Royal Western Australian Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Dunje undertook Officer Cadet training in the Officer Cadet Training Unit, 5th Training Group from January 1988 to August 1989. He graduated as a Second Lieutenant and was posted as a Platoon Commander to 13 Field Supply Company, Royal Australian Ordnance Corps in August 1989.

Lieutenant Colonel Dunje undertook a corps transfer to the Royal Australian Artillery in September 1991, being posted to 7 Field Battery, 3 Field Regiment. Whilst in 7 Field Battery he fulfilled the appointments of Section Commander, Gun Position Officer, Forward Observer and Battery Captain. He was promoted to Captain in January 1997. During that time, Lieutenant Colonel Dunje also served as a Troop Commander in 2 Squadron, the Pilbara Regiment from May 1993 to May 1995 due to a civilian employment change.

He was promoted to Major in January 2004. Lieutenant Colonel Dunje was appointed as Battery Commander of 7 Field Battery where upon commanded the Battery from January 2005 to December 2007. In 2006, 7 Field Battery was awarded the Mount Schanck Trophy for the most effective Artillery Unit within the 2(AS) Division. Upon finishing his period of sub-unit command in 2007, Lieutenant Colonel Dunje was posted as a Career Manager to the Army Personnel Agency Perth where he served until commencing as a student at the Australian Command and Staff Course (Reserve). Following promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he assumed command of Western Australian University Regiment in January 2014 for 3 years. From January 2017 to December 2019, LTCOL Dunje served on the directing staff of ACSC(R) at the Australian War College, followed by 3 years in the G7 Collective Training branch of HQ 2 (AS) Division. In 2020, LTCOL Dunje served on OP Bushfire Assist followed by OP COVID Assist in JTG 629.6. In 2022, LTCOL Dunje deployed as an Operations Planner in the US led Combined Joint Task Force on Operation Inherent Resolve in the Middle East.

In his civilian capacity, Lieutenant Colonel Dunje is employed as a Relationship Executive in the Commonwealth Bank. He is married to Donna and has 4 adult children.

If—



IF you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

Rudyard Kipling



Boxer CRV (Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle)

At Eurosatory 2014, Rheinmetall presented the Boxer IFV (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) variant, this was equipped with the Rheinmetall LANCE 30mm two-man turret. Combining the Boxer inherent high level of protection and the unique mobility with the latest turret technology, the IFV variant presented state-of-the-art capabilities to face the requirements of the time.

LAND 400 Phase 2 came into place in June 2023 to modernise Army's Armoured Fighting Vehicle capability, which will provide mounted support to Defence operations for decades into the future, but most importantly will enhance the safety, security and protection of Australian troops. The Boxer CRV will replace the Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, which has seen extensive operational service since its introduction in 1996.

The Boxer CRV will operate in a range of environments, from the littoral environment of our near region, to contested complex urban environments. The high levels of protection, firepower and mobility provided by the vehicle will enable sustained operations, varying from peacekeeping to close combat.

Defence has contracted Rheinmetall Defence Australia to deliver and support 211 Boxer 8x8 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (Boxer) for the Australian Army.

The Boxer CRV will be delivered in two blocks, known as Block I and Block II.

Under Block I, Rheinmetall Defence Australia has delivered the first 25 Boxer CRVs (12 Reconnaissance and 13 Multi-Purpose Variants) to Defence, which are currently in use with Army and demonstrating high levels of availability and notable levels and performance.

The remaining 186 Boxer CRVs (known as Block II) are currently in the design and testing phases respectively.

The vehicles will be split across 5 variants:

- Reconnaissance
- Repair
- Recovery
- Command and Control
- Joint Fires and Surveillance.

The majority of these Block II CRVs will be built and assembled in Australia at Rheinmetall Defence Australia's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence facility in Redbank, Queensland.





ANZAC Day 2024

Gunners,

The ANZAC DAY march in Perth will be conducted similar to last year, specific form up details will be provided soon.

[RSL Western Australia | ANZAC Day \(rslwa.org.au\)](http://rslwa.org.au)

3 BTY is conducting:

1. **DAWN SERVICE** at Hobbs Artillery Park with a Gunfire breakfast afterward.
ARRIVE: 5.30am - parking inside the boom gate and turn left
DRESS: Jacket and tie with medals (preferred)
COST: gold coin donation
RSVP: Close of business Mon 22 Apr - please include your telephone number and any family/friends you are bringing in order to get you into Irwin Barracks and allow for catering
2. **LUNCHEON FUNCTION** after the Perth march and service at Hobbs Artillery Park including burgers, sausages and salad
COMMENCE: around noon
DRESS: smart casual
COST: gold coin donation
RSVP: Close of business Mon 22 Apr - please include your telephone number and any family/friends you are bringing in order to get you into Irwin Barracks and allow for catering

Any questions?

johnblylevens@gmail.com 0438 695 711





BEREAVEMENTS

It is with much sadness that we advise the passing of two of our long serving Members:

MALCOLM HIGHAM **11TH August 1927 – 21ST January 2024**

Malcolm, a retired farmer from the Williams District, joined the Society on 8th February 1991. He brought with him a vast knowledge of military history, particularly that of the Western Australian Colony's contribution to the Boer Wars. He was a Member of the Boer War Association WA Branch and visited South Africa frequently – particularly Westralia Hill so named by the State Colonial contingents that fought there with distinction.

Malcolm was a skilled model maker and two exceptional examples of the 6 inch and 5.25 inch Gun Emplacements are displayed at the Leighton Battery Heritage Site Command Post. Another outstanding example is of the 5.5 inch Medium Field Gun displayed at the Society's Office at Irwin Barracks.

For some years Malcolm carried out the duties of Librarian.

Failing health prompted his retirement from actively assisting the Society and his recent years were spent in a retirement home. Malcolm's life partner Pip pre-deceased him some years ago. He is survived by a son, two daughters and numerous grand and great grandchildren.

ROBERT EGGLESTON **28TH March 1945 – 16TH February 2024**

Rob introduced himself to the Society on 1st October 1992 expressing his interest in Artillery as he had served as a National Serviceman in an Artillery Regiment in South Vietnam 1966 – 1967. He was immediately made welcome!

Rob was a very practical "amateur" bringing with him many manual skills that fitted him admirably to the ongoing tasks associated with the restoration of the Leighton Battery Heritage Site – many similar tasks are still "work in progress"

Another skill Rob possessed was photography – not only taking photographs but being able to develop, print and enlarge film images – in the days prior to digital cameras! He assumed the responsibility of converting the Society's considerable donated collection of WW II photos and negatives setting up what is today a credible archive.

Rob's dedication to the Society was evident in his willingness to become a Committee Person and a regular volunteer at the Leighton Battery monthly Busy Bee sessions – maintaining both commitments until failing health prevented him continuing.

After a lengthy period of ill health Rob eventually passed away peacefully surrounded by his Family. He is survived by his wife Anne, son Luke, daughters Ashe and Kate and two grandchildren.

Malcolm and Rob may have passed away but they will not be forgotten.

UBIQUE



For the Fallen

By Laurence Binyon, 1914

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation,
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

UBIQUE