



The Master Gunner St James's Park,
Lieutenant General M R Elviss CB MBE, extends his
greetings and best wishes to all ranks, serving and
retired, of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and of the
Commonwealth Royal Regiments of Artillery, on
St Barbara's Day 4th December 2025.

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(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 2026 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 :
18-50 Samichon Road, Irwin Barracks, KARRAKATTA.6010

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 2026

Last Saturday of each month

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (WA) PRESIDENT'S REPORT DECEMBER 2025



Dear Fellow Gunners,

2025 seems like another blistering year in terms of the speed in which the year flew by. I suspect that I and others will be saying the same thing this time next year.

Putting my HQ 13 Brigade hat on, in October the Brigade hosted a company size contingent from the Indian Army, 3rd Gurkha Rifles Regiment conducting Exercise Austrahind 25 in Perth surrounds and Bindoon. This was a high profile international engagement exercise in which the two Armies shared in the exchange of ideas with their opposite numbers and exercised a degree of

Interoperability. This developing partnership with the Indian Army will likely continue to grow in prominence in ensuing years.

Early November also saw the 97th anniversary of Gunners Day on a weather and picture perfect day. I have no doubt that Gunners of the past would be immensely pleased that the Royal Australian Artillery Corps continue to recognise this important commemorative service. Thank you to all who organised the event and enabled it to occur.

The next noteworthy event in the Gunner calendar is Friday 5 December when we will celebrate the Feast of Saint Barbara at ANZAC House at the Perth RSL. The dinner will be well attended which is great to see. It represents a terrific occasion to get together with fellow Gunners and renew acquaintances and congratulate the winners of the Best Gunner and the Bonser Awards. The committee along with the Battery Commander are keen to hold the Feast of Saint Barbara at Hobbs Artillery Park in 2026 as it has been way too long since this occurred.

Finally, on behalf of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA, I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and new year.

Ubique.

Andrew Dunjey
LTCOL
President, RAA Association of Western Australia



AustraHind 2025
Parade at 10LH



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT DECEMBER 2025



This is the time of year when we pause and reflect on aims, ambitions and achievements during the past 12 months. By comparison, 2025 has been less demanding from the Society's point of view – particularly when compared with 2024 which saw the completion and opening of the 5.25" Major Restoration Project on 7th December that had been the centre of our endeavours for several years. However, this does not mean we have been "sitting on our hands" looking for something to do!

Perhaps the most significant project in our sights for some years is the erection of a replica camouflage cover for the 6" Gun Emplacement to represent the netting widely used during WW II. To replicate a WW II rope and hessian net poses an unacceptable high level fire hazard. The Society's Consulting Engineer, David Katz, is currently working with Don Rae and Graham McKenzie-Smith to design an alternative that will bear some resemblance to the original. Numerous "cosmetic" tasks are planned for the Leighton Battery Heritage Site to maintain its attraction to visitors – the numbers of whom continues to grow. I thank our Team of Guides and Cashiers who continue to willingly accept the challenge to ensure our visitors enjoy their experience – well done!

On November 2nd I attended the Annual Gunner's Day Ceremony at St. Matthews Garrison Church Guildford and laid a Wreath at the Memorial. The weather was perfect for the occasion but unfortunately the number of "retired" Gunners on Parade was noticeably less than in past years. I am aware that there is some dissention between the RAA Association and the Guildford Historical Society concerning the date of the inaugural service. We Gunners believe that August 1928 was the date the first parade was held, according to notes compiled by BRIG GEN A. J. Bessell-Browne, the architect of the Service, whilst our Guildford Historical Friends contend it was 1930 as they have no trace in Church and Newspaper Records for the 1928 era. As the centenary is approaching I sincerely hope that our RAA Colleagues can resolve the issue.

I am advised the appointment of Head of Regiment will change this year. BRIG Damien Hill, AM CSC, is to be posted after 4 years in the chair. The appointment for 2026 is BRIG Andrew Langford, AM who will take up the posting in January 2026. I look forward to meeting BRIG Langford when he first visits 3 BTY 9 REGT RAA and will extend him an invitation to visit Leighton Battery Heritage Site.

The contribution now being made to the Newsletter on a regular basis, by 3 BTY 9 REGT RAA is most welcome. I congratulate MAJ Brett Fowler BC, and his Regular Army Staff, CAPT Michael Rutherford IG, and WO II David Devlin SMIG, for their presentation of articles describing the widely diverse activities in which the BTY and REGT now participate. Gunners of my era could hardly imagine BTY Personnel receiving a Remote Pilot's Licence recognizing their skill in the operation of Unmanned Aerial Devices – or Drones as we now know them! I hope our Members and Readers find interest in the articles.

Finally I need to confess my absence on two occasions this year – the first, a trip to the Antarctic and the second, most recently a further trip to Vietnam. I find it remarkable that the Management Committee claim they hardly missed me and that everything ran smoothly! It does make you wonder!

I extend to all members and Readers my very best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and hopefully a Peaceful New Year.

With my kind regards,

Jim Archibald



KATANNING WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION

Contributed by Ray Galliot



Around 18 months ago, RSL Highgate members Lindsay Morrison and Ray Galliot initiated a review of the Katanning Fallen Soldiers Memorial and war trophy Turkish field gun, both of which needed refurbishment. Elements of the war memorial were slowly deteriorating and in need of work to bring it back into a condition befitting the memory of those locals and members of the wider community who had given their all for Australia in times of war. The war trophy cannon had suffered in the elements since its installation in 1919.

The memorial area has been restored to close to original condition albeit now incorporating acknowledgement of the Korean, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.



Katanning Fallen Soldiers Memorial Circa 1925 with Turk field gun in place

The memorial was built by A. W. Dobbie & Co. Ltd. Of Perth, and paid for by subscription by the locals of the district. It was first unveiled by Colonel H. B. Collett, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. 28th Battalion A.I.F. on the 14th November 1920. The war trophy field gun was originally placed to the left of the obelisk and was moved to the side of the memorial proper in the 1930's.

The obelisk is a squared tapered granite spire with bronze plaques attached and the names of the fallen from World War's One & Two and is topped with a statue of an Australian soldier from World War One.

There are plaques and plinths recognising all conflicts since WWI and the awarding of Victoria Crosses to two Katanning soldiers - Lt Alfred Edward Gaby (1892-1918), soldier and labourer, who was born on 25 January 1892 at Springfield, near Ringarooma, Tasmania where he followed one of his brothers to Katanning where he worked as a labourer, and Private Percival Eric Gratwick VC (19 October 1902 – 26 October 1942).

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KATANNING WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION

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War Trophy Field Gun. The town of Katanning applied for and was granted a World War One war trophy being a captured Turkish 75mm field gun. This gun has an interesting history being manufactured by Krupp industries of Essen, Germany in 1908 with the serial number '615'. There is little known of its disposition within the Turkish military until its capture in Palestine by the Australian Light Horse in 1917. It is believed that the field gun has been in position at the memorial since 1920.

Information from the RAAHS newsletter Aiming Post Sep 2000

Although the Turkish Army had a sizeable artillery arsenal consisting mainly of German plus a few French guns, during the First World War it was apparently necessary to supplement the artillery component with more German guns manned by German and Austrian personnel. As a result of this, not only were weapons with Arabic marking captured, but also German owned and operated guns.

The 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment operated at both Gallipoli and in Palestine and with the other Light Horse Regiments captured complete batteries of guns towards the end of the campaign. There appears to have been 14 guns allocated to the Regiment and appropriate towns in the 1920-21 distribution of weapons, to serve as memorial guns. Thirteen of these can be traced in the records and a further gun which is not shown or cannot be recognised is at Corrigin.

Of the fourteen guns only five appear to be in existence today comprising one 75 mm Mountain Gun, one 105 mm Howitzer and three 75 mm M03 field guns which were part of a special Turkish Army purchased before 1914. Details of the weapons inexistence are:

Field Gun No.615 - The War Memorial Park at Katanning is the site at which this weapon is displayed. It was manufactured by Fr. Krupp of Essen.



The field gun has now undergone full stripping, rust removal and other works required in order to halt further deterioration by McDougall Weldments, Cuballing, and the wheels have been fully rebuilt by Mr Wayne Henderson. (L) - Restored (R) - Unrestored.

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KATANNING WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION

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The rededication ceremony was conducted on Saturday 25th October 2025 with the principal address presented by Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, representing the Governor, His Excellency Mr Chris Dawson. Colonel Natalie Wigg, HQ 13 Brigade, spoke on the two VC recipients. The parade included mounted Lighthorsemen from the 10th Light Horse Bunbury Troop and period uniformed soldiers from the 11th Battalion Living History Unit, Geraldton.

Lt Gaby VC was a member of the 28th Battalion AIF and received the Victoria Cross for action on 8th August 1918. Gaby was acting as commander of 'D' Company, which was committed to an attack around Villers-Bretonneux, France, during the Battle of Amiens. When the advance was checked by a large German force about 40 yards beyond the wire, Gaby found a gap and approached the strong point under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. He emptied his revolver into the garrison, drove the crews from their guns and captured 50 prisoners and four machine-guns. Three days later, on 11 August 1918 while leading his men during an attack at Lihons, he was killed. Gaby is buried at the Heath Cemetery in Harbonnieres, France (see <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1658wbMKRr/?mibextid=wwXlfr>)

His VC and other medals are now held at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart. Members of the Gaby family attended the service and laid wreaths in his memory. The RSM and Soldiers from 11/28 RWAR (Bunbury and Albany depots) formed the Catafalque Party and Flag Marshalls for the service. The 11/28 RWAR Mess in Irwin Barracks is named the Gaby VC Club.

Pte Gratwick was a member of the 2/48th Battalion (a SA unit) and, on the night of 25/26 October 1942 (exactly 83 years prior to the service), during the second Battle of El Alamein, Egypt, Gratwick charged a German machine-gun position by himself and killed the crew with hand grenades. He also killed a mortar crew. Under heavy machine-gun fire, Gratwick then charged a second post, using his rifle and bayonet. In inflicting further casualties, he was killed by machine-gun fire. Gratwick is buried in El Alamein Commonwealth cemetery, his VC is displayed at the Army Museum of WA.

Ray Galliot

Secretary

28th Battalion (The Swan Regiment) Association



Mrs Darrilyn Dawson with RSM and Soldiers from 11/28 RWAR



KATANNING WAR MEMORIAL



Images of the Gun before and after restoration.





3 BTY 9 REGT RAA October to December 2025



Since the beginning of October, 3 Battery has actively engaged in significant events and exercises that showcased our growing capabilities and strengthened partnerships within the Australian Defence Force and with international allies. The highlight of this period was Exercise AUSTRAHIND, a two-week bilateral training activity at Irwin Barracks and the Bindoon Training Area. During this exercise, 3 Battery supported 13 Brigade in a combined operation with the Indian Army, delivering advanced Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities to a multinational force. This exercise allowed the Battery to demonstrate enhanced operational effectiveness and interoperability in a complex training environment. Our personnel also conducted subject matter expert exchanges with their Indian counterparts, fostering professional development and reinforcing strong ties between our forces.

In early December, 3 Battery celebrated St Barbara's Day, the patron saint of artillery, with a formal dinner at the Perth RSL. LTCOL Andrew Dunjey, President of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Western Australia, hosted the dinner and welcomed distinguished guests including LTCOL Raymond Brin, Commanding Officer of 9 Regiment RAA, and WO1 Mathew Craig, Regimental Sergeant Major. The following day, 3 Battery joined members of 13 Engineer Regiment for a friendly competition and BBQ, strengthening camaraderie and celebrating our shared patron saint.

Several individuals achieved outstanding recognition during this period. LT Sophie Taggart earned the title of Student of Merit for the 2025 Regimental Officers Basic Course. GNR Munns received the Gunner of the Year Award, and GNR Kolichis earned the prestigious Bonser Award. The Bonser Award honours BDR Gavin Bonser, a former member of 3 Battery who tragically passed away. His family established the award to recognise a Battery member who demonstrates the values of mateship and camaraderie that BDR Bonser exemplified throughout his service.

The year finished on a significantly high note, with 3 Battery winning the 2025 Mt Schanck Cup, which recognises the best-performing sub-unit within 9 Regiment RAA. This award recognises 3 Battery's outstanding performance, professionalism, and contribution to the Regiment. Some of the judging criteria included 3 Battery's ability to engage above its weight class, support to Austrahind and continued commitment to support other Brigades, which was done despite being geographically dislocated from the remainder of the unit. The CO announced the winner at the Feast of St Barbara, which made the night extra special for current and former members. One of the BC's personal highlights of the night was hearing from former members about their connection to the Mt Schanck Cup and the pride they had with it being won yet again by the Gunners of the West.

As we close out the year, 3 Battery remains focused on maintaining high standards and building on the successes achieved during this busy and rewarding period.

Ubique,
Major Brett Fowler
BC 3 BTY 9 REGT RAA



3 BTY 9 REGT RAA St. Barbara's Day 2025



In celebration of St. Barbara's Day, 3 BTY 9 REGT RAA and 13 ER came together for a series of games on the Main Oval at Irwin Barracks.



Tug-o-war



Tug-o-war commences



Gun Race



Gun Race



Trebuchet Catapult



The Battery Competitors



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



**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2026

The Annual General Meetings of the two Organisations will be held at the Alf Adams Pavilion, Solomon Street Mosman Park on **Saturday 7th March 2026**:

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:

1. Reports – President, Treasurer
2. Notices of Motion (where submitted)
3. Long service recognition – RAAHS Members
4. General Business
5. 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 2025 Subscription is due 1 Jan 2026 and may be paid:

Preferred by direct bank transfer as below:

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



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIA ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (Inc)

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



Nomination Form: Management Committee – 2026

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.*