



Gunners from 8/12 Regt, RAA during the Indo-Pacific Best Redleg Competition in Hawaii. Photograph courtesy of Army News Edition 1597. See Page 5 for the HOR Order of the Day.



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ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 10 June 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 MARCH 2026



Dear Fellow Gunners,

From a geopolitical perspective, 2026 has started with much happening on the world stage – a short, sharp US operation in Venezuela and now a high-tempo and intense air conflict with Iran. It puts to bed any thought that the world is a stable place free of conflict. It reminds us that freedom does not come cheap, in fact totally the opposite. And, the Ukraine/Russia war continues.

Defence Forces remain necessary component of a countries national security apparatus and these events reinforce the need for Australia to continue to modernise its Defence Force. It will be interesting to track the ongoing development of Artillery and guided munitions within the Corps throughout 2026.

Now, onto even more important matters and that is the winning of the Mount Schanck trophy by 3 Battery in 2025. After an outstanding year of focussed professionalism by the Battery personnel, 3 Battery was assessed by the Commanding Officer 9 Regiment as the most effective Battery within the Regiment. On behalf of the RAA Association of WA, congratulations to the Battery Commander and personnel of 3 Battery on this marvellous recognition.

While December is far-off (let's not hurry it along), the RAA Association committee with the assistance of some members, has already set about organising the Feast of Saint Barbara for later in the year. While we were very keen to hold the dinner back at Hobbs Artillery Park, it has become apparent that the cost of doing so made it too prohibitive. We have therefore decided to hold the dinner at the Royal Australian Air Force Association of Western Australia dining facilities in Bull Creek. This is proving to be the most cost effective option and without the need to set up and clean up. Please mark the date of Friday 4 December in your diaries. It would be terrific to exceed last year's number of 78 members and guests.

Lastly, it would be terrific to see a growth in numbers within the RAA Association of WA (and the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society) over 2026. To this end, I am making it a personal goal to encourage serving personnel to join the RAA Association and thus keep the Gunner spirit and history alive into the future.

Ubique.

Andrew Dunjey

LTCOL

President, RAA Association of Western Australia



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2026



As we entered 2026 none of us anticipated what lay before us! On 4th February 2026 the Minister for Defence addressed the Nation advising the Federal Government had accepted a recommendation that some 68 Defence properties throughout Australia would be disposed to developers who indicated expressions of interest. Alarming, LEEUWIN and IRWIN Barracks were included in the Western Australian divestment. Funds raised would be diverted to other major Defence projects. Sales were anticipated within the next two years.

How does this affect the two Gunner Associations here in Perth? The RAA Association-WA is not impacted as they operate independently of Irwin Barracks. On the other hand RAAHNSWA has been accommodated within the Barracks for the past thirty eight years – sponsored by the current Army Reserve Artillery Unit and holds a Licence Agreement with Defence to occupy the two buildings itemized in the Lease. Unfortunately, Defence is not obliged in any way to provide alternative accommodation or services should the existing facilities no longer be available. Let me reassure you this does not mean the Society will disband! Far from that we will continue to be as involved as we always have been in maintaining and promoting the Leighton Battery Heritage Site. We may well need to source alternative accommodation to house our inventory of Photography, Memorabilia, Library and by no means least, our Ordnance Collection. A time-line has not been issued to indicate when sales will be finalized. I will keep you informed.

Normal activities resumed at Leighton Battery following the brief Christmas break and I am pleased to report visitor numbers continue to amaze. Again, I compliment our dedicated Guides and Cashiers and Busy Bee Volunteers for their great support without which this tourist attraction would not function. It is pleasing to report that Derrick Paternoster, one of our Busy Bee volunteers, will shortly complete his guide training and “leave the nest” as a fully trained “graduate”! Well done Derrick!

I presided over the Society's 37th Annual General Meeting on March 7th. It was well attended for an AGM!! The main item on the Agenda was the Presentation of Awards and Long Service Name Tags. Three Certificates of Appreciation were presented – the recipients were Muriel Vivoda, Mary Coley and Craig Machin recognizing their dedicated service over many years. A prestigious ACRYLIC PLAQUE was presented to Robert Mitchell reflecting his outstanding contribution to the Society in so many aspects of its operation over a span of 35 years – including two years as President. Robert still contributes as a Cashier on Open Day Duty at the Leighton Battery Tunnels.

Finally, seventeen Long Service Name Tags were presented, 10 to Members achieving 35 years of Service. These special people included: Tom Arnautovic, David Carter, Eric McDonald, Ron Jager, Robert Mitchell, Anne Rae, Ian Rae, Veronica Rae, Peter Rowles and Miles Whittam-Seth. Photos of the events appear on Pages 7 and 8 in the Newsletter.

On Wednesday 22nd April, Brigadier Damian Bushell, Commander 13 Brigade will join us for morning tea and discuss our situation regarding the decision to “sell off” the Barracks. It is hoped he may be able to bring us up to date with recent developments. I will keep you informed. Finally may I remind you that ANZAC Day is only a matter of days away and that 3 Battery is conducting a Dawn Service followed by a Gunfire Breakfast – details have been circulated by the RAA Association.

My kind regards to all.

Jim Archibald



Order of the Day

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Best by Test 2026

In January and February of this year selected soldiers from 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA), pitted their skills and drills against the United States Marine Corps Artillery's best in the annual Best by Test competition in Hawaii. As a result of this gruelling test, the Gunners of 8th/12th Regiment RAA emerged victors in every aspect. It is also noted that in 2025 soldiers from 1st Regiment RAA also competed in the Best by Test competition and similarly emerged victorious across all disciplines as well. These two examples typify the true professional nature of all the men and women of the Royal Regiment, and vindicate our unwavering commitment to upholding and delivering world's best training. At a deeper level, it truly displays the levels of determination and drive that a motivated group of Gunners can achieve under some of the harshest conditions.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major General CD Furini AM CSC, and our Colonels Commandant, I specifically and sincerely thank the officers and soldiers from 1st and 8th/12th Regiments RAA for your outstanding efforts as well as all ranks of the Royal Regiment for your continued excellent service and commitment.

Ubique.



Andrew Langford, AM
Brigadier
Head of Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

March 2026

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable, Joint



Order of the Day

9th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery

8th Birthday

On 14 April 2018, 9th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery was formally raised. Today, 14 April 2026, we proudly celebrate the 8th Birthday of the Regiment. With six Batteries dispersed across thirteen locations in six States and Territories, 9th Regiment provides a Target Acquisition capability to the Joint Force.

Our modern capability provisions within 9th Regiment began in 2018 with a proof-of-concept trial. Directed by Army Headquarters, the Regiment set out to learn, develop, understand, and execute SUAS training and operations, with critical support from the School of Artillery and 20th Regiment. This capability was demonstrated during Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 2019–20, where 9th Regiment successfully deployed two Joint ISR Support Teams as part of the 2nd Australian Division.

Throughout 2025, 9th Regiment continued to contribute meaningfully across multiple operational and training commitments, including Operation RESOLUTE, Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 25, sustained support to 2nd Australian Division / JTF 629, and support to sister units within 10th Fires Brigade, particularly during the HIMARS live-fire and other collective training activities.

Reflecting on this journey, Major General CD Furini AM, CSC, Head of Regiment at the time of raising and now Representative Colonel Commandant, stated:

"As the Head of Regiment when 9th Regiment was raised and now as the Representative Colonel Commandant, I am in awe of what has been achieved. Over eight years the Regiment has grown and evolved. It has accepted new missions and capabilities and moved from the 2nd Division to the 1st Division. Spread across most of the country, the Regiment has built its own unique Gunner identity for excellence and professionalism— a testament to all the men and women who serve, and have served, in the unit."

I personally wish to thank every member of 9th Regiment, past and present, for their continued commitment, professionalism, and support. What has been achieved in eight short years is remarkable.

Here's to many more birthdays to come.

Raymond Brin
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

14 April 2026

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable, Joint

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY****35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7TH MARCH 2026**

The Society conducted its 35th Annual General Meeting at the Alf Adams Pavillion Mosman Park on Saturday, 7th March 2026. As AGM's go, it was reasonably well attended by 25 Members and 16 officially recorded apologies.

Those attending were informed by the President that all committee appointments were declared vacant in accordance with the Constitution and that all Members had received an electronic invitation to nominate to fill a vacancy but not surprisingly none did so. Accordingly, all appointments were filled by the previous Committee who re-nominated and whose details appear on page 2 of the Newsletter.

A highlight of the AGM was the recognition of those Members achieving Long Service Name Badges and those who were presented with Certificates of Appreciation and one who received the prestigious Acrylic Plaque Award for Exceptional Service.

The recipients of Long Service Name Badges were:

- ◆ 10 Year: Ron Cutten & Andrew McAuliffe
- ◆ 15 Year: Robert Arnold
- ◆ 20 Year: Ron Cahill & Caroline Lehmann
- ◆ 25 Year: Peter Frey & Gerry Warner
- ◆ 35 Year: Tom Arnautovic, David Carter, Eric McDonald, Ron Jager, Robert Mitchell, Anne Rae, Ian Rae, Veronica Rae, Peter Rowles & Miles Whittam-Seth

The recipients of the Certificates of Appreciation Award were:

Muriel Vivoda and Mary Coley for their dedicated service as Leighton Battery Guides and Craig Machin for his outstanding service as a Busy Bee Volunteer.

The Acrylic Plaque Award was presented to Robert Mitchell (who also achieved his 35 Year Name Badge) for his remarkable contribution to the professional management of the Society throughout his years of service including two years as President in 1994 – 1995.

Don Rae

Photographs of recipients of the Awards appear below:



Robert Mitchell
Acrylic Plaque Award
For Exceptional Service



Mary Coley
Certificate of
Appreciation



Muriel Vivoda
Certificate of
Appreciation



Craig Machin
Certificate of
Appreciation



2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



LONG SERVICE AWARDS



Ron Jager
35 Years



Robert Mitchell
35 Years



Peter Rowles
35 Years



David Carter
35 Years



Gerry Warner
25 Years



Caroline Lehmann
20 Years



Ron Cutten
10 Years



ANZAC DAY 2026



- Dawn Service to be conducted at Hobbs Artillery Park Irwin Bks Karrakatta - timings will be provided - photo ID required for entry if you don't have a Defence ID
- Gun Fire Breakfast afterward

MARCH & SERVICE

- Form up St Georges Terrace between William & Barrack Streets (see attached map)
- 9.00am step off
- Route - see attached map
- 3 BTY will march (in civvies) with the Associations

FUNCTION HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK

- from Noon
- Photo ID required for entry if you don't have a Defence ID
- Food & drink will be available at bar prices
- Confirmatory details will be sent out soon

John Blylevens

Secretary

Royal Australian Artillery Association of Western Australia (Inc)

043 869 5711

ANZAC DAY MARCH
SATURDAY 25 APRIL
START TIME 9AM
PUBLIC TRANSPORT ENCOURAGED
LANGLEY PARK FINISH

ANZAC DAY MARCH

APRIL 2026
START TIME 9AM



Scan for more event information

For event enquiries, please contact events@rslnwa.org.au or call (08) 9287 3799

LEGEND

- Parade Route
- Road Closure (5am - 1pm)
- P City of Perth Parking
- 🚰 Water Stations
- 🚑 First Aid (St Johns)
- ♿ Toilets
- 🎧 RSL Info Marquee
- 🗣️ Assisted Listening Marquee (DAAZDA)
- 🍷 Saluting Dais
- 🚰 Constable Care



Perth CBD road closures in place 25 April 2026 from 5:00 am – 1:00 pm Any vehicles found within the road closure areas at time of implementation will be towed

Proudly supported by:










3 BATTERY, RAA MARCH 2026



3 Battery commenced 2026 as the proud holders of the Mount Schanck Cup, owing to the unit's collective efforts from 2025, and the many years prior, that set the unit up for success. Of note, one aspect of 3 Battery, that stood out as part of the assessment criteria for the award, was the closeness and connection that 3 Battery maintains with its heritage, particularly through the RAAHS and RAA Association. 3 Battery is very fortunate to be connected to both of these organisations, and we appreciate the tireless and ongoing work that everyone does throughout the year!

The first half of 2026 marked a significant tempo, as the Unit undertakes training in preparation of Exercise AUSTRAL SHIELD later in the year. This is our capstone Exercise for 2026, and will see 3 Battery deploy as part of 13 Brigade's Security Response Task Unit to undertake tasks within Western Australia.

The year started with another successful Australia Day Gun Salute at Kings Park. Led by LT Daniel Harford as GPO and WO2 Scott McMahon as BSM, the unit proudly fired the 21 Gun Salute (without incident) to commemorate Australia Day, in front of a healthy crowd of on-lookers.

To elaborate on the tempo of 2026, February included our Force Preservation and Assurance Training held at Garden Island, where we joined efforts with 11/28 RWAR to complete mandatory brief, fitness and weapon requirements. 3 Battery proudly had the quickest runner for the 2.4km BFA by LT Brendan Phillips, and the most push-ups by GNR Adam Stonehouse, who reached around 120 push-ups, and only stopped when the two minute timer expired. A second weekend was held in February, to allow members to fly UAS in a controlled environment, as part of their mandatory UAS training to start the year. This weekend included qualifying new members on the Teal 2 Multi-Rotor UAS platform, which is now our introductory platform for new members entering the UAS trade. Battery HQ travelled to Randwick Barracks to attend the CO's Recall, which included a visit from the new Commander of the 10th Fires Brigade, Brigadier Corey Shillabeer, who spoke highly of his plans for the employment of 9 Regiment within the 1st (AS) Division.

In March, we received our holdings of the new Black Widow (Teal 3) MRUAS, which is an enhanced and more capable version of Teal 2. Exercise HOBBS WALK was held in March, with the first two days used to qualify experienced UAS Operators on the Black Widow Platform, before deploying to Bindoon Defence Training Area to undertake a five day field training exercise to give Operators as much 'time on tools' as possible. March was capped off with supporting the 13 Brigade Open Day, where, as part of the day, our SMIG, WO2 Dave Devlin undertook a Run Army event with Vietnam Veteran Gunner SGT Peter Hopper (aged 81 years old).

Looking ahead, we have training weekends scheduled for April and May, that partner with 16 RWAR in the build-up to Austral Shield. The unit eagerly awaits the next iteration of enhanced UAS capability, and we continue working to advocate for 3 Battery and the RAAHS as part of the Defence Estate Review.

MAJ. Brett Fowler, BC 3 BTY RAA



3 BATTERY, RAA MARCH 2026



3 BTY deployed for Hobbs Walk at Bindoon. Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Detection of a threat vehicle



WO2 Dave Devlin (SMIG) running with Vietnam Veteran Gunner, SGT Peter Hopper as part of the 'Run Army' event at the 13 Brigade Open Day



3 Battery conducts Australia Day Gun Salute at Kings Park, WA. Photo courtesy of CPL Nakia Chapman, 13 Brigade Public Affairs





THE CENTENARIAN'S STORY



GIVE me your hand, old Revolutionary;
 The hill-top is nigh—but a few steps, (make room, gentlemen;)
 Up the path you have follow'd me well, spite of your hundred and extra years;
 You can walk, old man, though your eyes are almost done;
 Your faculties serve you, and presently I must have them serve me.

Rest, while I tell what the crowd around us means;
 On the plain below, recruits are drilling and exercising;
 There is the camp—one regiment departs to-morrow;
 Do you hear the officers giving the orders?
 Do you hear the clank of the muskets?

Why, what comes over you now, old man?
 Why do you tremble, and clutch my hand so convulsively?
 The troops are but drilling—they are yet surrounded with smiles;
 Around them, at hand, the well-drest friends, and the women;
 While splendid and warm the afternoon sun shines down;
 Green the midsummer verdure, and fresh blows the dallying breeze,
 O'er proud and peaceful cities, and arm of the sea between.
 But drill and parade are over—they march back to quarters;
 Only hear that approval of hands! hear what a clapping!

As wending, the crowds now part and disperse—but we, old man,
 Not for nothing have I brought you hither—we must remain;
 You to speak in your turn, and I to listen and tell.

Walt Whitman

(editors note: this is an extract of the full poem)

