

## LOCKDOWN UPDATE 2

### A VIEW FROM A LOW BOUGH.



As a high school teacher, I was curious as to the community reaction to the re-opening of Schools.

Well, here is what happened down at John Curtin College, Fremantle.

The statistics below are for each years attendance starting from Wednesday;

5TH Yr. 87%  
4TH Yr. 86%  
3RD Yr. 88%  
2ND Yr. 85%  
1ST Yr. 89%  
YR7 88%  
Average 87%

I found that the students were quite happy to return. They were informed of the increased cleaning regime in each room and across the College. From Wednesday through to Friday, there was not one reference to COVID 19 in conversation, from any of my charges.

To reduce the crush at the Canteen, we staggered the recess and lunch times between upper and lower school cohorts.

By weeks end, the kiddies were again displaying their usual happy natures! It proves to me that we Sandgropers are resilient and upbeat- and that surely comes from effective leadership.

Kind regards to you all,

David Carter

## Map maker of



## Colditz dies

Out of interest re the "Colditz Castle", my uncle Jack (John) Millett was the Mapmaker of Colditz and I have many happy memories of him when I was in primary school (his sister Bessie married my dad's oldest brother, Ron). We had many outings with Uncle Jack plus "doos" at their place (they lived next door to Uncle Ron and Auntie Bessie opposite Lake Monger!

*Wendy Mahoney*



Jack Millett, a world war two veteran whose miniature maps helped prisoners escape from Germany's most secure prison, has died aged 90. Mr. Millett a lieutenant with 2/11 Battalion City of Perth Regiment was the only Western Australian officer sent to the 500 year old castle prison near the eastern town of Leipzig.

His skill as a cartographer earned him the title of map maker of Colditz.

Mr. Millett was taken prisoner in Crete in 1941 and was incarcerated for four years in Germany, first in the Leipzig officers' POW camp near Munich.

Mr Millett escaped with 62 other prisoners from the Munich camp. At one point. He evaded capture by pretending to be a soldier cuddling his girl friend — really another prisoner — in a field.

The next day he was picked up and sent to Colditz where he spent the rest of the war helping others to escape.



### FROM THE MASTER GUNNER ST JAMES'S PARK

I am sure all members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, serving and retired, and all members of our sister artillery regiments in Commonwealth countries, will join me in congratulating Her Majesty The Queen, our Captain General, on the occasion of Her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday today. We wish Her and also His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh continuing good health as they isolate at Windsor Castle.

Normally we would be proud to mark our Captain General's birthday with gun salutes at a number of locations but Covid-19 means that is neither appropriate nor possible. However, we plan to share footage of previous salutes held on 21<sup>st</sup> April as a mark of respect to Her Majesty.

These gun salutes are certainly not the only events that we have been forced to cancel or delay as a result of the pandemic. The Royal Artillery Association Assembly, due to be held in Blackpool in mid May, has been provisionally rescheduled for October. I very much hope it will be able to occur, not least because firstly this is the centenary of the formation of both the Royal Artillery Association and the Royal Horse Artillery Association and secondly that these two important organisations have decided to merge in recognition of the fact that we are all Gunners. The Blackpool gathering will be the first ever

combined Assembly. Please remember that the Association is there to support you and your family, particularly now with the pressures of the lockdown; if you know of a serving or retired member of our Regiment, or their dependants, who need help, do use our Regimental networks.

Other events that have been disrupted include recruit training, all training at Larkhill, the events to mark the centenary of the Royal School of Artillery in July, memorial services to celebrate the lives of distinguished former members of the Royal Artillery, sports meetings, dinners and much more. However, the serving regiments remain busy and, in a number of areas, are providing support to the NHS and related organisations; I congratulate them, as always, for their professionalism and commitment as they go about their business, never seeking the limelight but still doing a first class job.

Most importantly, I wish you and all your families continuing good health and wellbeing during these unprecedented and most challenging times. As Gunners we need to continue to look out for one another; please do that, especially where you know of hardship, for the Regiment can and would like to help.

Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB

## BEREAVMENT

Peter James Rae - 1 May 2020

Our members offer their sincere condolences to Don and Anne in the sad loss of their son Peter who passed away aged sixty five after a long and debilitating illness.



*Volunteer life in Covid has changed dramatically as we are jobless!*



Work as Court Welfare Aid at the Joondalup Magistrates Court has been suspended, Rottnest Express Host is off as Rottnest is a Quarantine Island, WWII Guns and Tunnels are closed and Campground Hosting in National Parks is off as all National Parks are closed for the time being.

Despite Corona, I (Mary) have had the most amazing 80 th birthday! Friends and family came by in twos and threes self-distancing and there was champagne in the street, . There were lots of emails, texts ,watsabs and our daughter hosted a two hour Zoom Conference with family in Germany, all free. Thank you Internet for a great day!

Happy Days, stay well

Mary and Don Coley



## City to Surf 2011

We are not sure whether there will be a City to Surf held this year but cast your memory back to 28 August 2011 when 7 FD BTY 3 FD REGT participated by pulling a 105mm M2A2 from Perth CBD to Floreat Beach. Participation in the event was masterminded by then Instructor Gunnery CAPT Cliff Coggins (unfortunately now deceased) and Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery WO2 Gary Hogg with all proceeds raised by sponsorship going to Canteen, a cancer foundation for Kids. A full article appears in ARTYWA 3/2011. [http://artillerywa.org.au/archives/2011\\_3.pdf](http://artillerywa.org.au/archives/2011_3.pdf)



**The Gun Detachment**



**The Strain is starting to show**



**A news anchor, Angela Tsun, becomes a passenger**

*With thanks to John Blylevens*



### Message From The President.

It's now towards mid May and I am feeling quite positive about how our various business/recreation outlets are showing 'green shoots'.

The state government is taking a measured approach to things, which although frustrating for some of our citizens - must surely be the right way in such unique circumstances.

I am sure that you enjoyed the mix of items in Issue 1 of the " Lockdown Update".I thanked editor Bob on your behalf.

### Coast Defence Quiz Question 1.

- ☐ I was a military fortification.
  - ☐ I was originally an island.
  - ☐ U.S. army engineers cut me down to bedrock, just above sea-level.
  - ☐ Onto that base was poured thousands of tonnes of reinforced concrete.
  - ☐ My offensive weaponry comprised a pair of superfiring 14" turrets.
  - ☐ My coast artillery gunners called me the "Concrete Battleship".
  - ☐ My ruined remains are still to be seen in Manila Bay.
- I am Fort ( 17 letters including spaces)

### Coast Defence Quiz Question 2.

- ☐ I was a fort built by the Norwegian government.
- ☐ In 1940 my 11" guns engaged units of Hitler's Kriegsmarine at Oslo.
- ☐ I targeted and sank the heavy cruiser "Blucher".
- ☐ As she foundered, my gunners heard the strains of "Deutschland Uber Alles" being played by the ship's band!
- ☐ The delay caused by this fort- and others- allowed the King of Norway and his nation's gold reserves, to escape to G.B.

I am Fort (8 letters). ———**Answers next issue.**

*David*

## HOW COVID 19 HAS INFLUENCED ME

Fellow guides

Don Rae has prevailed upon me to throw a few words together on how COVID-19 has affected me. I'm sure I am not exaggerating when I say it is something I have never before experienced in my lifetime. That includes all the usual experiences of changing jobs, death, birth, divorce in the family, buying a new house, buying an old house, getting married, renovations, sick parents. Being an unprecedented event means it was hard for me to draw comparisons and come to a position.

If I go back to the Labour day long weekend, I went to my local Woollies Friday after work to buy just enough food to cook that evening's meal.

I noticed that the shelves, although not bare, looked understocked, not in toilet paper, but what I would call food staples.

Although it was the end of the day, it didn't make sense that the shelves were that empty.

Over that weekend, news reports of panic buying began.

As I followed events in the news over March, I started to feel a sense of dread, waiting for something to happen.

It did;

I commute to work using the rush hour trains from my home in the Fremantle suburbs to my office in West Perth.

By about the second week of March, you could fire a gun down the train and not hit anyone.

All those who could drive, or stay at home, did.

In a way this reduced my feeling of dread, because it was now easy to social distance.

My office made preliminary preparations to work at home.

I have a business quality lap top, which I use about 6 times per year.

I took it to work and my employers enabled it to remotely access the remote server that maintains my document files, e-mails and the company database.

I now had access to everything on my desk top computer from my laptop, wherever that may be.

On the week commencing March 23 my office had planned a trial work at home day to find and iron out any bugs.

After lunch on that day, the owners of the building that my company rent an office in advised that at the end of the day, building occupants could leave, but could not come back in the building without permission, and then only one person at a time.

Working from home became a reality.

During that first week, (starting Tuesday morning) I set up my lap top on the dining room table.

That was because my home office/study had a 50 inch Panasonic TV in a box on the floor, as well as an 1821 pattern British cavalry sabre, and several stacks of books waiting to be put away.

The study desk was covered in assorted things, including more stacks of books, and also a Danish M1923 steel helmet.

All covered in a layer of dust.....

Despite the fact that I had spent \$10,000 on my beautiful Italian 8 seater dining suite, its leather chairs became very uncomfortable much quicker than their cost suggested!

Plus my good lady wife started working at home, taking over the upstairs study nook.

Unfortunately, being on different floors wasn't always enough separation, especially when I was doing the talking!

After a day of carrying out conversations outside the house, in the master bedroom and even in the crowded study, I decided to take action.

The TV was dragged into the garage, books were shelved, swords were polished, put into their scabbards and put away, paperwork was thrown out, books were given away, bills were filed.

I found a handy activity when taking work phone calls was to range around the study with a feather duster, silently removing over a year's worth of dust.

On a serious note, I had some doubts about being able to marshal the necessary self-discipline to work from home.

I have worked in highly structured work environments most of my life, and wasn't too sure how that would convert to working at home.

However, I decided to be at my lap top by 7.45am, which is the same time I would usually get into the office, and I decided to wear a shirt with a collar.

Having said that, I haven't worn a pair of shoes or long trousers since I walked out of the office.

I eat the same breakfast as I would if I was going to the office.

It is handy that my wife is working at home, as we share lunch together, and as usual, she prepares our evening meal.

Before anyone accuses me of domestic slavery, I wash and iron all the clothes, wash both cars, and clean all the toilets and bathrooms (3 in total).

I knock off anytime between 3.30pm and 6.00pm, but really 4.30pm is more usual.

I have sometimes found the time during the working week to do house cleaning, which means that on the weekends, the skirting boards, windows and architraves have copped a good spring cleaning!

Internet access and electronic devices were an early issue.

As a couple in (very) late middle age with little interest in on-line gaming, or streaming movies, our data plan was really suited to reading web pages.

It soon became apparent that we didn't have the download speed to cope with 2 working adults going about their daily business; the plan was upgraded.

As our house was built just before the expansion of Wi-Fi, it is equipped with Ethernet ports in just about every room, with a patch panel (router) in the wardrobe of the spare bedroom upstairs.

As our comms signal terminates there, that is where the wireless modem has to be plugged in.

Not a problem in the upstairs study nook, but my downstairs office/study is separated from the wireless modem by a number of meters of solid concrete.

A signal booster downstairs helps a lot.

We still experience some internet instability. I can only put this down to NBN.

My suburb is fibre to the node, that is the old telephone exchange.

As Fremantle is an old suburb but now mostly gentrified, I can just imagine a 50 year old copper twin paired cable trying to cope with work at home senior executives trying to connect with head offices in different time zones before close of business!

In terms of productivity, I can access everything I need to work from home.

Some days, you could hear a pin drop at home, and without distraction, it is easy to power on.

I stay in regular touch with my office with video conferencing.

Like most others, this is through Zoom.

If you had asked me what Zoom was at the beginning of March I would have said just a word.

In my view, if you can't meet face to face, video conferencing is good enough, and in some instances I think could replace live meetings.

In conclusion, I am fortunate that I can work from home.

My least favourite nephew works in hospitality, and lost his job a week after cafes and hotels were closed. Many others share his misfortune.

I am mindful that these are uncertain times.

I trust our Government to make wise decisions on our behalf.

I wish my fellow guides well, and look forward to guiding visitors thru our hidden history.

Best Wishes

*Ian Randles*

**T**his Pandemic has brought all of our Volunteer duties to a shuddering halt. Communication is now by ZOOM which is proving to be very effective for online meetings and seminars. At this time all active participation in the Submarine ,Leighton Battery, the Zoo, Rotary, A Cappella West Chorus and Kalamunda City Council are on hold. My work in the political arena on behalf of Retirees entering Australia on Retiree/ Parent Visas has been going on for many years conducted with Federal Ministers by Mail and Online and the occasional face to face meeting with Prime Ministers and others. This Pandemic means that meetings no longer take place and communications are slower because of current demands on Government services. You will all have read Media reports of the plight of Temporary Visa Holders.

The A Cappella West Chorus took 62 ladies to America last year when the chorus became all Australian champions for the second time and went to compete in the International Championships. Good experience for ladies of a certain age! It is amazing to watch these ladies producing their harmonies together from their own homes , whilst under direction of their Chorus conductor. ZOOM is brilliant. Krys really enjoys this interaction.

This Pandemic persuaded certain people in Kalamunda to set up the Darling Range Community Hub to provide support to the elderly and infirm, particularly when they live alone. The Hub provides companionship and delivery services, especially for those locked down by this virus.

For us, we have used the early time of " lockdown " to tidy and complete clearance on our half acre block, attending to all those niggling repairs which get left when you are busy elsewhere. Now that we have more freedom we have ventured out for walks in the local Bush and attended to necessary shopping duties for those essentials of life, toilet rolls!!!

Thankfully we have avoided infection and continue in rude good health.

Peter Kerr

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*It's race day with a meeting in progress. The bookies are busy taking bets when a bloke comes up to one and says,*

*"M-m-m-mate, I b-b-b-backed a f-f-f-five t-t-t- ." at which point the bookie cuts him off. "Look, cobber, I'm flat out like a lizard drinking at the moment - come back when I'm not so busy, will ya?"*

*Five minutes later, the bloke returns. "Hey, I t-t-tried t-t-tell ya I b-b-b-backed a f-f-f-five t-t-t- ." and again the bookie interrupts him. "Look, I haven't got time for this. Here's a fiver. Now bugger off, will ya?"*

*The bloke takes the fiver, somewhat surprised, and walks off. He goes out and joins his offsider in their cattle truck. "How'd ya go?" asks the offsider.*

*"C-c-can't g-g-get over it," he replies. "I went to t-t-tell the b-b-bookie I b-b-b-backed a f-f-f-five t-t-ton t-t-truck into his J-j-jaguar and he g-g-gimme a f-f-fiver . !"*



## **DO YOU REMEMBER THESE FROM EDITION 1?**

**Well, the phantom strikes again!!**

On one of his security site visits David was able to remove the graffiti from the “Closed” vinyl strip as it had been treated with an anti-graffiti film. Imagine his surprise a week later to note the vinyl strip had been removed and disposed of – nowhere to be seen!

A few days later, David was further surprised to note that the similar sign on the Gun Profile had also been removed and has similarly disappeared!!

We decided it would be an expensive exercise to replace the strips only to have them again vandalised or stolen.



## **STAIRWELL ENCLOSURE PROJECT**

The town of Mosman Park has awarded the contract to “M CONSTRUCTION” who is in the progress of applying for a Work Permit to commence site work.

We are not aware when the unsightly fencing enclosure will be removed nor the duration of the project.

**Watch this space**

## **MOVING WITH THE TIMES**

Your Committee has come of age (electronically speaking!) Following a “messy” email linked April Meeting Secretary John suggested we should conduct the May Meeting through the ZOOM Programme. As a trial we huddled over computers, “I” phones, tablets and the like on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the experiment was “generally” satisfactory with the exception of Neil and Don having no success at all trying to join the others – (could it have something to do with age??). John offered to help Don and Phil leapt in to assist Neil.

Well, on 13<sup>th</sup> May sharp at 4.00PM John, the Host invited the remaining 8 Members to join his Meeting and miraculously we all succeeded! Under the stern discipline of President David the meeting proceeded most professionally and to our amazement all business was completed in less than one hour!! Should add that “normal” in house meetings have been known to drag out to two hours or more!

Perhaps this is the way forward for all future meetings!

### **Editor’s Note:**

The request for member contributions was well responded – articles from Wendy Mahoney, David Carter, Mary Coley, Peter Kerr and Ian Randles are included in this issue – many thanks! Contributions for our next issue will be appreciated.

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