



REMEMBER ANZAC DAY - 2009



18 Pounder providing fire support to Australian attacks at Pozieres, July 1916



20th Birthday - Foundation Members of RAAHS



Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

ANZAC DAY – 25 April 2009

Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park Memorial Wall

Followed by Gunfire Breakfast.

March through Perth

Form Up Point – Cnr of St. George's Tce & Irwin Street

Opposite the Uniting Church Building

Parade will finish at the Esplanade for the service.

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2009

31st Jan	28 th Feb	28 th Mar	18 th Apr
30 th May	27 th Jun	25 th Jul	29 th Aug
26 th Sep	31st Oct	28 th Nov	No Dec

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

The Leighton Battery Heritage Site is open on a regular basis on the first Sunday of every month from 10 AM to 3:30 PM with tours of the tunnels every half hour.

FRONT COVER

Top: 18 pdr providing fire support to Australian attacks at Pozieres, July 1916 (Image AWM EZ0141)

Below: 20th Birthday of RAAHS showing foundation members at AGM

Left to Right: Brian Hancock, Bruce Campbell, Bob Glyde, Ray Bird, Don Rae, Gabby D'Uva, Alan Newbey, Stan Davies.

Inside this Issue – Main points

RAA Association WA		Aiming Post	
President's Message	3	President's Report	5
7 Fd Bty RAA News	4	Leighton Battery Heritage Site	7
		Workshop Reopening	8
		RAAHS Library	9
		Truscott	10
		3 New Members	11

Next Issue – June 2009

.....

Subs to your Association or Society are now due – RAAA of WA (Inc) - \$ 15 RAAHS - \$ 25

We now have a Direct Debit facility – Please find the details in the relevant sections -

.....

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the contributions to the newsletter by the members, whose names appear with the corresponding articles.

Articles, editorial comment or book reviews for publication should be submitted to the editor, at: Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 92694544 Fax: 9269 4370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

The Gunners' Day 2008 service was held at Guildford, and celebrated the 80th Anniversary of Gunners' Day. It was pleasing to have Brigadier Phil White, Commander 13 Bde as our Reviewing Officer. Brigadier White attended his first military function as a Brigadier as Reviewing Officer for Gunners' Day, and again as one of his last official functions as Commander 13 Bde.

The committee is currently considering reverting back to the original Gunners' Day format commencing with the Service in the church, then the march and memorial service. Besides reverting to the original format, it may attract more of the Gunner fraternity to attend, even if only for the march and memorial service. The Committee is also reconsidering the afternoon tea, and whether that may be held at another venue, but this is very much dependent upon the ability to involve the cadets. Any feedback would be welcome.

I am sure we were all struck by the devastation of the Victorian Bushfires, and the loss of life and property. In response to this, the Committee decided to donate \$1,000 from the welfare fund to the Victorian RSL Bushfires Relief fund to assist in rebuilding the lives of ex-service personnel who have suffered.

On another front, the 2nd/7th Australian Field Regiment Association has been dissolved due to dwindling numbers. They have created a 2nd/7th Ex Members Association and 7 members have become affiliate members of the RAA Association WA. We welcome these members to our ranks.

As to 2009, our next major event will be Anzac Day. There will be a Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park, followed by a Gunfire Breakfast. This event was well attended last year, and I encourage all members to make the effort to attend. Details of the form up place in St George's Terrace will appear in 'The West Australian'. I look forward to seeing you there.

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President, RAA Association

You can Now pay your Membership Fees by Direct Debit!

Members can go to any bank (or do it by electronic transfer) and make a deposit quoting The RAA Association's BSB and Account Number and your Name. The Funds will automatically be transferred to the Association's Account along with your name.

It's that Simple!!

*Please do not forget to include your name, so we know who the payment is from.
Thank You.*

If you choose this method please quote:

RAA Association of WA (Inc) – (Note: Some banks may required the full wording)

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066 163

Account Number: 0090 2583



7 Field Battery RAA News



Notes from X-Ray.

2009 began with several Battery officers actively deployed on overseas operations in the Solomon Islands, and it is becoming more and more apparent that opportunities for capable reservists are increasing within the Army.

It is common knowledge that the days of the Battery's "main effort" being the provision of fire support and targeting to infantry and other manoeuvre units are long gone. While this may cause some ructions amongst ex-members, it is merely a reflection of the different world Australia as a country, and the ADF as an organisation, find ourselves in. The prospects of our participation in a conventional war seem as remote as they have ever been over the last 50 years of so. Therefore the value of massed artillery on the battlefield is questioned by many, and is one of the reasons why Army has decided to re-equip its reserve artillery units with mortars, which could be considered a more flexible and economical close-support weapon to our troops.

So 2009 will see the Battery continue to operate with a "wait out" basis for the mortar transition. The proposal for the transition has been accepted at the most senior levels within Army and now it's down to determining the finer details of making it work.

June 2009 will see the last shoot of the M2A2 in WA, and plans are already well advanced remembering that we had to cancel last years "last shoot" due to issues out of our control. All associations and ex-members will be invited to attend to ensure that we provide a fitting farewell to the guns.

7 Fd Bty is the incumbent holders of the Mount Schanck trophy, the competition for which is being placed on hold pending the release of a new competition based around mortar-equipped small units.

This year will see many competing priorities for the Battery. Reserve Response Force (RRF) training is our main focus, that being our contribution to provide a capability in domestic and other security operations to Army. Per capita we maintain the largest RRF element of any 13 Brigade unit, which is a credit to our gunners.

By most measures, 7 Field Battery remains the most capable Battery within 2 Div and all personnel can be proud of this.

As always, the support of our past members through the activities of the various associations has been enthusiast and consistent. We welcome the continue presence of the tinkerers of the RAAHS(WA) and it is my earnest desire that links between serving members and our associations continue to be strengthened.

I again look forward to working with you all over 2009, in what will be an exciting year for 7 Field Battery.

Ubique.

Steve Mathers
MAJ
BC 7 FD BTY

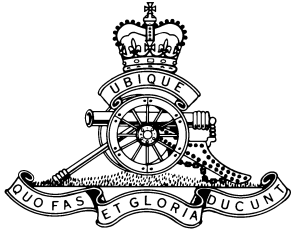
.....
WELFARE FUND and OFFICER

John Walsh is the contact person as the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any Welfare Funding can contact John via email at info@artillerywa.org.au or jfxwalsh@bigpond.com.au or by phone on 9269 4544, Wednesday mornings.

Access to Funds can be made by applying in writing using the Welfare Fund 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.

.....



THE AIMING POST

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society Of Western Australia (Inc)

President's Report:

Our AGM was held on Sunday 8th March 2009 with a record attendance.

The highlight of this Meeting was the presentation of Long Service Achievement Badges to the following members.

10 YEAR MEMBERS

Matthew Adams
Heidi D'Uva
John Costa
Andrew Dunjey
John Down

15 YEAR MEMBERS

Robert Farrelly
Mal Guerin
Murray Lampard
Michael More
Ian Randles
Scott Sullivan

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Ray Bird
Bruce Campbell
Doug Collins
Stan Davies
Gabby D'Uva
Bob Glyde
Brian Handcock
Steve Holloway
Ron Mason
Alan Newbey
George Papa
Don Rae

A few apologised as they were unable to attend.

The Presidents Address appears hereunder:

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society Inc **A.G.M Presidents Address**

The year 2009 represents an important date in this Society as twenty years have now been reached since its original formation.

This has only been achieved by the dedication and support of you, the members.

In particular we owe to the Curator a special mention for this drive, determination and at some times pure pigheadedness for the position the Society funds itself in today.

Don Rae, a few days ago, celebrated his 80th Birthday - our congratulations.

As you will note in the financial section the Society as at 12.2.2009 has funds just in excess of \$65 000.00 and these will be required to assist in the Tunnel work programme.

Today also marks another milestone in our history, the retirement of the Vice President. Tom Arnautovic. He has been responsible for the production of the Magazine and many other associated matters. To you Tom on your retirement from Fremantle Ports, thank you, you and your dedication will be sorely missed and also the support of Fremantle Ports.

All the best in your retirement and it is hoped you will reappear in the future.

Another change over is our Secretary John Walsh who is not standing for reappointment. To you John just when we believed you were on top of the job the change is disappointing. However things will progress such things happen. John is continuing with the Tunnel Openings and the projected change over in July to Open Every Sunday.

To the members of the Committee and you the members your support and cooperation over the past year is appreciated.

Thank you

At the Meeting the following were elected to the Committee

President: -	Bruce Campbell
Vice President: -	David Carter
Treasurer: -	Neil Lodge
Assistant Treasurer / Secretary	Barry Ellis
Secretary	Don Rae
Committee	Mary Coley

Thanking all for their support and co-operation over the years.

Bruce G. Campbell OAM
President



Curator Don Rae happily cutting scrumptious cake to celebrate his 80th birthday and 20 year as a Foundation member of RAAHS



80th Birthday and 20 year membership celebration cake that President Bruce Campbell organised as a surprise for Curator Don Rae on Wed 25/2/2009



WO2 Allan Newby receiving his 20 year membership name tag from president Bruce Campbell



Members in attendance at the AGM Hobbs Artillery Park on Sunday 8th March

LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2008

The year ending 2008 saw yet another highly attended series of monthly and out of hours tours conducted by our energetic and informed corps of tour guides.

Leighton Tunnels saw a total of 1530 members of the public conducted through in safety. Our 10 year total now exceeds 15000 tourists! Leighton continues to fascinate those who are shown through our restored complex of World War Two era constructions.

The end of month 'busy bees' continue to ensure that the public see a well maintained exterior and interior set of displays. The Society thanks all members who have given their time and efforts to that outcome; especially Enid and Frank Cahill who ensure the Command Post is spotless – First Impressions are always of importance!

Recently our Tunnel Complex was the subject of *W.A. Newspapers* Series of Articles entitled "Hidden Gems of Perth" and that publicity paid off in 2009 as our visitor numbers are noticeably higher.

Out of Hours Tours also draw a wide variety of community groups through the tunnels. Younger people especially often shake their heads in amazement at the physical conditions endured by their fellow citizens of yesteryear.

The next step forward for The Society and the Tunnel Complex is to begin weekly tours in the second half of 2009. All concerned would hope that the more convenient opening arrangement will lift our numbers even higher.

The Society would love to hear from any reader who would like to be a cashier on the new opening arrangement, you would front a keen corps of guides and a really unusual site- 'Ready for Tours' ?

By David Carter - Vice President

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

For some years the Society has been concerned over the unsightly wire mesh security barriers erected around the 5.25 inch Dual Coast/Anti-Aircraft gun pit and the entrance stairwell leading to the underground emplacement.

These visual detractors led to a total assessment of what might be carried out to make the Site more attractive to visitors without interfering in any way with the provenance of the emplacements.

Two significant "errors of convenience" occurred when the 6 inch MKVII Gun emplacements were originally restored by the estate developer in the late 1980s – the original floors were covered with red paving bricks rather than being bituminised and the layout of Number 2 Gun was merely "picked out" with a single course of brick instead of being fully restored.

It was resolved to engage a consulting engineering firm to produce drawings and specifications for submission to the relevant authorities for approval to initiate the changes. Funding for this exercise was provided by the Lottery Commission of Western Australia.

The first submission to implement the proposed changes must be lodged with the Heritage Council of Western Australia without whose approval work will not be authorised. Assuming the application is successful, a submission to the Town of Mosman Park for building approval must be lodged from which opinion of ratepayers will be sought. The Society is reasonably confident that municipal approval should be granted without restriction.

With everything in order, tenders can be invited for the redevelopment process and fund raising instituted to meet the estimated cost of \$80,000.00.

Please ***"watch this space"*** for progress in this ambitious plan!



NEW TOUR GUIDES - WELCOME

Are you keen to promote one of WA's premier military history sites to others?

Then you are welcome to join our team of guides who volunteer their time for a few hours on a roster basis once a month on a Sunday to conduct public tours.

This historic site is the World War II Gun complex built as a part of Fortress Fremantle Defence located at Buckland Hill in Mosman Park.

- You will be trained and coached
- You will be part of a friendly team
- You need to be able to climb steps
- Vacancies for Guides and Cashiers

For further information call David Carter 93673539 (after hours)

WEEKLY OPENING OF TUNNELS

Commencing from Sunday, 5 July 2009 the World War II tunnels at Leighton Battery Heritage Site shall be open every Sunday – yes, every Sunday.

Guided tours, conducted by members of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society, are scheduled to commence from the Command Post every half hour. The first tour of the day begins at 10.00 am the last tour at 3.30 pm.

The duration of each guided tour is one hour. Skilled guides present the important historical facts associated with the construction and operation of the Leighton Coastal Battery as one component of the defence of Fremantle Harbour during World War II. Entry is \$7.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child.

Members of the RAAHS are welcome to visit the tunnels free of charge. Indeed, an appeal is extended to members of the Society to nominate for roster positions as Cashier or Guide at the tunnel complex. Talk to Vice President, David Carter [telephone 9367 3539] about training as a Cashier or Guide and become a part of the living history of Leighton Battery.

One challenge, ahead, is the need to advertise the weekly opening of Leighton Battery throughout the wider community. If RAAHS members can assist by spreading the word among friends, acquaintances, your local Community Centre or Club – the reward shall be all that is wished for.

By John Walsh

RESTORATION WORKSHOP RE-OPENING!

With great support from 7 Field Battery Regular Staff, the Society has now met the Occupational Health and Safety requirements prescribed by Defence for the resumption of activity in the Technical Support Troop Workshop within the Battery Complex.

Whilst the scale of operation previously achieved in the original location has of necessity been considerably scaled down, the Volunteer Team can now resume restoration of ordnance that has been in limbo for over twelve months.

It is only fair to state that the more significant changes required by Defence catered for the safety and protection of the volunteers and formalised much of what had previously been accepted as standard workplace practice by the qualified trades personnel who comprise the Restoration Team.

The Society wishes to thank Major Steve Mathers and his Staff for the encouragement and assistance provided throughout the lengthy period of establishing the new facility.

RAAHS LIBRARY

Did you know that the RAAHS owns and maintains an extensive library of military books?

The library is located in the RAAHS Annex at Irwin Barracks, and is staffed by two of our members, viz, Messrs: Malcolm Higham, and Barry Ellis and they are currently employed on a work in progress to list the collection from manual account to electronic. So far over 2600 items are now recorded on the data-base with much more work yet to be done.

The good news is; that most of these books are available for loan to members of the association. The range of material on offer is very wide and includes:

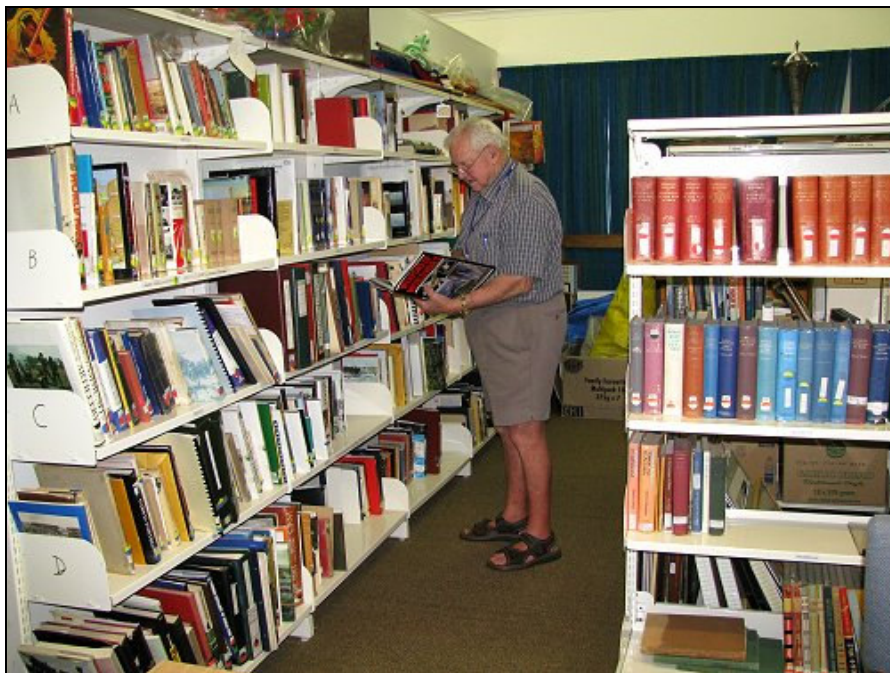
- General military history: Wars, Campaigns, Battles.
- Military biographies and autobiographies.
- Military text books: Pamphlets, Manuals, and Handbooks.
- UK War Office Publications.
- Australian Department of Defence Publications.
- Reference works on: Weapons, Ammunition, Explosives, and Ordnance.
- Good old fashioned military novels.
- Unit histories.

Some of our publications are held for reference purposes only and are not for loan, but for the remainder, the borrowing procedure is very simple. Each book is numbered; this is entered in the Loan Register which is kept in the office, give the date, a phone contact number and signature, and the book is yours to enjoy.

Now, any system which is perfect like this one obviously has to have at least one drawback and ours is, that the service is only available on Wednesdays when the *'Old Contemptibles'* meet at the barracks, but if you time it so that you arrive during morning tea, you can enjoy a cuppa and a sticky bun while you select your book.

In closing, I should mention that there is no strict time limit for book return; we let common sense prevail, and make ample allowance for slow readers.

By Barry Ellis



Part of the extensive RAAHS Library

CHANGES AT THE TOP!

Prior to the Annual General Meeting on 8th March, Vice President Tom Arnautovic and Secretary John Walsh announced that they would not be available for re-election. Both Tom and John have served the Society most capably over many years – Tom as Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President and John as Treasurer and Secretary. In addition there was an unfilled casual vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer following the resignation for health reasons of long serving Member Ron Jager.

Well, there was a “rallying to the flag” so to speak and the Committee to emerge as a result comprises:

- President: Bruce Campbell has agreed to lead the Society for another year.
- Vice President: David Carter has accepted this appointment in addition to his duties of Tour Coordinator Leighton Battery Heritage Site.
- Secretary: Don Rae has accepted the appointment of Secretary in addition to his role of Curator.
- Treasurer: Neil Lodge accepted the challenge of balancing the books for yet another year.
- Asst Sec/Treas: Barry Ellis has moved from Committee Person to this important role.
- Committee Person: Mary Coley has kindly offered her services to fill one of the two vacancies. Mary is one of our Heritage Site Tour Guides and brings with her journalistic skills that we will put to good use!

A vacancy exists for another Committee Person and readers are encouraged to think seriously of nominating for the position. Duties are not onerous and the salary is most attractive!! Meetings are held monthly at Irwin Barracks in the late afternoon and generally last 1 – 1½ hours. Please consider!

TRUSCOTT.....far from the madding crowd !

The secret World War II air force base on the Anjo Peninsular is “owned” by the Wunambal and Gaambera people. Under their administration, a camp is located some seven kilometres from the base, and is the focal point for conducted tours of the military sites and indigenous rock art. The tours would normally commence from Kununurra.

Last year we were able to provide some administrative and interpretative assistance in the presentation of the tours and, with a view to consolidating what has already been achieved we have been invited to again participate whilst the camp is operating-during the dry season which would generally run from May through to September.

We are seeking “expressions of interest” from persons who would be prepared to spend time at the camp with the Indigenous occupants and assist with the development and delivery of the tour as well as general labouring “duties”. As a guide, a period of four weeks would be regarded as the minimum length of time for anyone undertaking a visit.

Tented accommodation and all meals would be provided. A phone service is available from the site and with luck, Foxtel TV may be installed before anyone reaches the camp. Weather can be expected to be bl....y hot during the day and damn cold at nights.

Anyone who is interested can obtain additional information by ringing Neil Lodge on 9272.1927.



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THREE NEW MEMBERS

There have been three new Regular Army Staff appointments in 7 Field Battery this year and the Society is very pleased that each has become Member of RAAHS.

We extend a sincere welcome to:

- **SGT Mark Owen.** Mark enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 1985 and was allotted to RAA. Over a period of thirteen years he served in various Regimental appointments with 1st Field Regiment; School of Artillery; 7th Field Battery 3 Field Regiment and 4th Field Regiment. Mark transferred to Royal Australian Ordnance Corps in 1998 and has filled postings in 139 Signals Squadron; 3rd Combat Services Support Battalion; 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Mark has seen active service in East Timor in 2002 with the Australian National Command Element and in Southern Iraq with Overwatch Battle Group (West) in 2007. Mark has returned to 7 Field Battery in 2009 as the Battery Quartermaster Sergeant. He resides with his partner Cheryl and children Jeffery and Samantha in Port Kennedy.
- **SGT David Worcester.** David enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 1988 and on completion of Recruit Training was posted to 16th Air Defence Regiment RAA. Over a period of twelve years David trained on the Rapier Equipment and was a detachment commander of the RBS-70 in 1999. In April 2001 David was posted to East Timor with 4th Battalion (Commando) Royal Australian Regiment as part of the Civil Military Liaison Team for Operation TANAGER. He returned to 16th Air Defence Regiment on return to Australia. An interesting appointment in 2005 saw David posted to the Defence Police Training Centre at Holsworthy NSW. Appointed in 2007 as Instructor Soldier Promotion Section, David saw service within Western Australia, Townsville and Canberra. In July 2008 David was deployed on Operation MAZURKA in Sinai Egypt as Force Operation Sergeant as part of the Multinational Force and Observers. David has been posted to 7 Field Battery as Training Sergeant. David is married to Kathleen and they have one child, Isobel (11 months).
- **SGT Vicki Ide.** Vicki enlisted in the Australian regular Army in 1997 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. After initial employment training Vicki was posted to the 1st Command Support Unit in Darwin where she remained for four years. In February 2000 Vicki was deployed on Operation TANAGER in East Timor, following which she was posted to 7th Signals Regiment in 2001. A two year appointment from 2005 followed in Melbourne at the Defence Force School of Signals after which Vicki moved to Russell Offices Canberra and later to the Defence Communications Master Station at HMAS HARMAN. Vicki has joined the Recruiting Team at 7 Field Battery. She and her partner Glen have a eight year old daughter Paige. Glen is currently with 152 Signals Squadron.

The Society hopes that Mark, David and Vicki enjoy their posting to 7 Field Battery and look forward to their participation in our activities throughout the year.

ADVERTISING

Anybody interested in advertising their business in **ARTILLERY WA** for a donation of \$ 10 (ten) per year, (four issues), both in printed and web site editions, contact
Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc) PO Box 881, Claremont WA 6910. Phone: 92694544
Fax: 9269 4370 or E-mail the Editor at info@artillerywa.org.au

INFORMATION REQUEST

If you were injured whilst training with the CMF or the Army Reserve, not properly treated for the injury and now have continuing problems resulting from that injury, I would like to hear about it.

Contact P Winstanley, 248/85 Hester Avenue, Merriwa, WA, 6030

email: pgwinstanley@cambravillage.com.au

You can Now pay your Membership Fees by Direct Debit!

Members can go to any bank and make a deposit quoting The RAA Historical Society's BSB and Account Number and your Name. The Funds will automatically be transferred to the Association's Account along with your name.

It's that Simple!!

If you choose this method please quote:

RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc) - (Note: Some banks may required the full wording)

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066-103

Account Number: 00903744

Please do not forget to include your name so we know who the payment is from.
Thank You.



RAAA JACKET POCKET BADGE – Actual size of Badge is 100mm wide x 90mm high

RAA EMBROIDERED BERET BADGES – Actual size is 55mm wide by 40mm high

To purchase Embroidered Jacket and or Beret Badges -
Cut below and return to RAA Association of WA (Inc) - PO Box 881 Claremont WA 6910

I would like to order an Embroidered Badge / Jacket Pocket Badge (circle choice/s) as advertised in the ArtyWA newsletter.

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ being for payment of _____ (Qty) Beret Badges

Please find enclosed the amount of \$ _____ being for payment of _____ (Qty) J P Badges

(Badges are \$10 each. Jacket Pockets are \$25 each.)

Name _____

Member of _____
(Name of Association or Society)

Street Name _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Please make cheques payable to RAA of WA (Inc)