



Artillery WA

Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)
Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au> Email: info@artillerywa.org.au

Edition 4 / 09

December 2009



GUNNERS' DAY 2009





Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

RAAA WA and RAAHS of WA

**Sunday morning - 14th March 2010
Hobbs Artillery Park**

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2010

30 th Jan	27 th Feb	27 th Mar	24 th Apr
29 th May	26 th Jun	31 st Jul	28 th Aug
25 th Sep	30 th Oct	27 th Nov	No Dec

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

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

FRONT COVER

Gunner's Day in Guildford Nov 1 2009

Inside this Issue – Main points

RAA Association WA		Aiming Post	
President's Report	3	President's Report	9
7 Fd Bty RAA News	4	Donations & Value Gifts Tax Deductible	10
Boost in firepower	5	Fortissimo 2009	10
Gunner's Day Photos	6	Duke of Edinburgh	12
Saint Barbara's Day Greeting	7	RAAHS is DGR	12
Badges for sale	8	7 Bty Merchandise	14

Next Issue – April 2010

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

ADVERTISING

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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 81st Gunner's Day was held on Sunday 1st on November at Guildford. It was a great pleasure to join Brigadier Stephen Cain, Commander 13 Brigade on the dais and see the fine turnout of the Army Band Perth, Association members, serving members of 7 Fd Bty, cadets from 56 and 59 ACU's, and SES volunteers. Of concern was the lack of numbers of ex serving members with only about sixteen marchers.

The ongoing cooperation from MAJ Steve Mathers, BC and 7 Field Battery was greatly appreciated. The cadets provided the standard and flag bearers and did a fine job. Thanks also to Bill Johnston from the Standard Bearers Association who again provided a high level of training to the cadets.

This year we changed the format with afternoon tea being moved to the Rose & Crown Hotel. Whilst a success at one level as I am sure many appreciated a cold glass of the amber fluid, it did see a separation of the gathering. The Committee will be further reviewing the format for next year and would appreciate any feedback.

I would like to thank you all for your attendance at Gunner's Day. I would also like to thank the Association Committee members for their tireless efforts to make the day a success.

As to the future, the Committee will be having a planning session early in the New Year to review the format of Gunner's Day, and how we can continue to support the RAAHS. We will also be working with MAJ Steve Mathers with a view to introducing a Corps Dinner for all ranks in 2010.

As the year comes to an end, I wish all of you a very happy and safe festive season, and look forward to seeing you all in 2010.

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President, RAA Association

HELP US TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE

The RAA Association and RAAHS is keen to build up a data base of member's email addresses in order to send out occasional important information relating to GUNNER activities, for example the final live fire of the M2A2 by 7 FD BTY, Battery Birthday Dinner and the latest ArtilleryWA Newsletter which is now on-line.

Please send an email to john.bylevens@defence.gov.au if you would like to be included and when your change you email address, so we can keep up to date.



7 Field Battery – The Battle Continues



Notes from the BC's Desk Dec 2009

As we very rapidly approach the end of my second year in command of 7 Field Battery it comes timely to reflect on our achievements of the year, and to weigh up some of the challenges that face us in the year ahead.

At a glance 2009 highlights for me include;

- Receipt of definitive decision (finally) by Army to convert 2nd Division (i.e. Army Reserve) units from artillery to mortar based weapon systems
- Commencement of mortar courses for unit members
- Fielding three guns on last M2A2 shoot LFX in June which was attended by over 100 family, friends, ex-members and Army dignitaries,
- Continued service by unit members in the Solomon Islands
- Continued service by unit members in Malaysia
- Continued focus on individual readiness
- Continued focus on corporate governance
- A good number of JNCOs, SNCOs and Officers completing rank and trade promotion course this year
- Last (but not least) resumption of work at Hobbs Artillery Park of our RAAHS comrades (albeit with reduced permissions)

The year started where 2008 left off - very busy. The tempo has tapered away in the second half of the year to the extent that it is now almost possible to retain command alongside a "normal" civilian job and my sanity!

The year kicked off in the traditional way with the Australia Day salute at Kings Park. This was followed by Army's annual mandatory training sessions which, whilst not the most popular activities on the training calendar, ensure that our soldiers understand their obligations to continually uphold Army values and administer Army policies.

Anzac Day continues to be well supported both by unit members as well as past members, family and friends. A few more old faces come back every year, however we have a long way to go in inviting back past members. The main difficulty being that for whatever reasons, many members when they separate from the Army have a mini sea-change and disappear into the ether – maintaining contact is something that we all need to work on (including Association members).

The decision to convert reserve units to mortars was ratified and finally delivered by Army early in the year. Whilst the decision was scant in important areas of detail, the pre-work we had carried out ensured that we had a substantial proportion of members converted prior to the decision being handed down. Whilst many will argue that it was not the right decision, at least it IS a decision, we can now put the uncertainty behind us, work on the issues that remain and move forward and implement.

Many of you would have attended the Battery's last M2A2 shoot LFX in June 2009. I believe that it was the last 105mm sent down range by an independent gun Battery in Australia (beating 48 Fd Bty who were firing in South Australia that same weekend by some hours – thanks to the Western Time Zone!). Whilst the weather was bleak and the occasion sombre, the warmth of support demonstrated by the visitors for the Battery was appreciated by all serving members. I know I had a lump in my throat, and perhaps a tear in my eye (could have been from dust though).

I knew I would never get my crusty old sergeants and Warrant Officers to agree on which of them should have the honour of firing the last round, so that went to our youngest member, Gunner Joachim Siira. These younger gunners, and those who follow them, represent a new breed of Reserve Gunners – those who were not brought up to serve the guns. Nonetheless, initial comments from members who have done the conversion course (even from crusty old sergeants who will remain nameless) are that the mortars are "better than we thought they would be".

Gunner's Day in November was well attended - other than by the organist, whose absence shortened the church service and allowed extra time for fellowship afterwards. A location change by the Association saw post-march fellowship relocated to the Rose and Crown tavern in Guildford, an initiative that will no doubt see an even stronger attendance next year (gunners will be gunners).

The Brigade Muster Parade in December will see the Army Banner on parade in WA for the first time in many years. This will be the final parade of the year for the Battery and 13 Brigade.

The Battery's final activity for the year will see us once again supporting WASO with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture in December on the Esplanade Perth. The 1812 was re-raised as an activity last year after a long period of dormancy. It is eagerly anticipated by the gunners as it is a great opportunity to showcase the unit and give back to the community of Perth, the many people of whom obviously enjoy the spectacle.

There will be changes to the Reserve over the next few years, plans for which I am not currently privy to as decisions are yet to be made. What I do know is that the 2009 Defence White Paper asks more of the Reserve, at less cost to the taxpayer and with greater efficiency than ever before. What it will likely mean is that the days of a Reservist parading one weekend a month, two weeks a year, year-in year-out are most likely over. My soldiers now need to start planning for operational support taskings, possibly meaning continual service in Australia or deployments overseas for periods up to six months. This is what the government of the day requires of us, and failure to adjust to this change will likely see people questioning our reason for being. Whether or not we will eventually end up like the US or UK models is unlikely in my opinion, however it is likely to have a huge impact on part-time members and we all need to start planning for now.

Finally, to all members and supporters from myself and the serving members of 7 Field Battery, 3 Field Regiment – thank you for your support, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2010.

Ubique
Steve Mathers
MAJ
BC



Fire for effect: A British variant of the M777A2 155mm lightweight towed howitzer in action. Photo courtesy BAE

BOOST IN FIREPOWER

THE Army is to acquire 35 M777A2 155mm lightweight towed howitzers as the next generation system for the RAA. Four batteries of the guns are to be provided under the first phase of the Land 17 project, the Artillery Replacement Project.

Defence Minister Sen John Faulkner announced the second-pass approval for the \$493 million project on October 20. "The lightweight towed howitzer is the most advanced towed artillery system available in the world," Senator Faulkner said. "It is air-portable under CH-47 Chinook helicopters and can provide a weight of fire not previously available to rapidly deployed forces."

Senator Faulkner said the second phase of the artillery enhancement would include the procurement of a self-propelled artillery system, which will be capable of providing fire support to highly mobile mechanised forces. The British designed artillery system will be further enhanced through the future acquisition of a digital terminal control system for the tactical control of artillery, naval and close-air support fires by forward observers and joint terminal attack controllers.

“This element of the project will be considered by Government in the second half of 2010,” Senator Faulkner said. He said these were high priority acquisitions which would provide improved protection and precision firepower to Australian soldiers, allowing missions to be carried out more efficiently, safely and effectively.

SOURCE: ARMY The Soldiers' Newspaper October 29, 2009

GUNNER'S DAY - 1 Nov 2009



Cadet flag bearers



Association members marching



Wreath laying service



7 Fd Bty RAA



Bob Farrelly leads invited guests into church service



AUSTRALIAN ARMY
Head of Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

**Representative Colonel Commandant,
Colonels Commandant,
Commanding Officers,
Regimental Sergeant Majors,
All Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery,
Associations and affiliated friends of the Regiment.**

SAINT BARBARA'S DAY GREETING 2009

Traditionally, we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day in a variety of ways across the Regiment. Today, I ask you to celebrate through your reflections on the achievements of 2009 and also to prepare for the changes in 2010.

2009 has seen a continued high tempo with individuals, troops and batteries required to serve Australia through deployment to support bush-fires, floods and a wide range of overseas operations. Today as we celebrate, there are gunners whose tours of duty are ending that are looking forward to their up-coming return to Australia whilst the next rotations are preparing to deploy over the Christmas and New Year period. I would like to thank those who have deployed this year for your continued high levels of readiness and wish you all a safe and speedy return to Australia. Our special thanks must go to their families for their great on-going support.

2010 will see the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery continue to develop, to change and move towards our goals in Joint Fires and Battle-space Management. Do not expect that the tempo of operations will reduce. Look forward to the challenges, maintain the mindset, you have been well trained, you are ready. The goals are within your reach, the coming year will see the introduction in to service of a wide range of equipment, doctrine and concepts. Keep informed; be ready for change; your continued effort and example at all levels will achieve the goals.

Today also signifies the change of appointment of our Colonel Commandant Central Region with Colonel R.J. Foster completing his appointment. Please accept our thanks for your continued service to the Regiment. I would like to welcome and congratulate Major Geoff Laurie, RFD who has been appointed as the Colonel Commandant Central Region.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonels Commandant, I congratulate and thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and former, for their service. Enjoy your celebrations today.

Ubique

W.L. GOODMAN
Brigadier
Head of Regiment

Telephone: (03) 5735 6465
E-mail: kym.schoene@defence.rov.au

11 November 2009

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 require the full wording)

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066 163

Account Number: 0090 2583



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.)

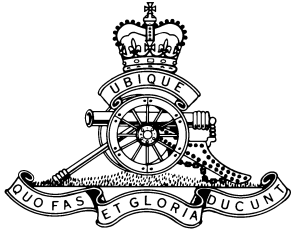
Name _____

Member of _____
(Name of Association or Society)

Street Name _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____ Email: _____

Please make cheques payable to RAA of WA (Inc)



THE AIMING POST

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

President's Report:

We are able to report that the Australian Taxation Department has granted to the Society 'Deductible Gift Recipient' (DGR) endorsement.

This will enable the Society to raise funds, which are tax deductible in the hands of the Donor for specific purposes.

It is anticipated this classification will assist in fund raising to enable the improvement and development of the Leighton Tunnel Complex.

Whilst on the subject of the 'Tunnels' the continuing public support in visitor members combined with Volunteer Guides on the 'Open Every Sunday' is a welcome sign for the future.

As this will be the last publication before the Festive Season, the writer and your Committee extends to you a Merry Christmas and may 2010 be up to expectations

UBIQUE

Bruce G. Campbell OAM
President

OPEN EACH WEEK AT LEIGHTON BATTERY

Members may be interested to know how our weekly opening at Leighton Tunnels is progressing. Well thanks to the invaluable time and effort supplied by a team of seventeen guides and four cashiers the results have been most encouraging to date.

Some numbers for you to ponder:

- Since the end of June to mid November we have had slightly over 1,300 visitors.
- On average (the nineteen Sundays to date) the attendance is almost seventy visitors each week!

Financially that means our Society is more than paying its way. We of course are yet to experience the attendances for the first half of the a given year, but our 2010 years roster is made up and we expect consistently good visitor numbers to eventuate.

The 'Busy Bee' team members have not been idle either! Further fine-tuning of the displays in the C.P. and a number of tunnel rooms has enhanced an already first-class presentation of coastal defence circa 1942.

In conclusion if you would like to join the guide/cashier team(s) please phone David Carter after hours on 93673539 for details.

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC.)**
(Donations & Value Gifts Tax Deductible)



**THE LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE
BUCKLAND HILL**

NOTICE

To Members, Associates and Friends

From Fred Lynch

Your Committee has appointed me to represent your Society as Corporate Liaison Manager.

For any who may not yet be aware, a determined sub-committee guided the Society through the bureaucratic minefield to achieve tax deductibility for donations and gifts directed to the planned project developments at Leighton Battery Heritage Site.

Volunteers and supporters have made a magnificent contribution to the continuing development of Leighton Battery as a military heritage showpiece open to the public and special tours. The planned maintenance and development work will further enhance the growing reputation of the site as a most important part of the National, State and Military History of Western Australia.

Much still remains to be done and money is needed to do work that cannot be met from Society funds.

A key element of my role is to be directed toward fund raising with a target of \$500,000 being suggested to your committee as worthy of focusing on, indeed being required for the planned works.

One person cannot complete such a task alone – from time to time special mailings and notification of progress together with information about activities will be forwarded to all members.

If any member or associate has any suggestions (preferably not too rude) or wishes to make a healthy donation to the cause then we would like to hear from you – My special email and a postal address appear below so do not be shy let me have your comments, suggestions or cheques. (Cheques made payable to the Society).

Tax receipts will be issued by the Treasurer for all donations received

May I take this opportunity to wish all who read this message a healthy, happy and fruitful festive season for 2009.

Correspondence: Corporate Relations Manager – 12 Zenobia Terrace, Champion Lakes 6111 Western Australia.
Telephone: +61 (0) 411 955 622 Email: gamilin@westnet.com.au Website: www.artillerywa.org.au

"Fortissimo 2009' Canada Military Tattoo

Tom & Glenda Arnautovic have been spending our winter, touring the world following their retirement, and members can now find out what Tom found in Canada to keep him entertained, he sent us this report. :Editor

In Ottawa Glenda opted to do formal tour of the Parliament buildings and loved their humongous Library centre. Tom opted to stay outside to watch the "Fortissimo 2009" Military tattoo (which featured 200 musicians in the massed bands of the Royal Canadian Navy, Air force and Army plus 100 Pipers and Drums plus contingent of 100 from the Royal Canadian Ceremonial Guards (dressed in Grenadier Guards uniforms

with huge Bear hats), squads of 30 dressed in WW1 uniforms, WW2 uniforms and current day Afghanistan desert uniforms and 40 gorgeous dancers for the "Irish River dance" segment.

Special appearance and participation was squad of 50 in their bright red uniforms from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, all with Lancers which was spectacular during the 'precision drill' section which they performed together with the rifle drills of the Royal Canadian Ceremonial Drill Team.

Of course no Tattoo would be successful without the inclusion of Gunners for the 'Gun Fire segment of the 1812 Overture.' The Royal Canadian Artillery 30 Field Regiment starred on the day.

Rather than stand in the crowd to watch the Tattoo, Tom went and introduced himself at the VIP entrance as a Artillery Captain in the Royal Australian Artillery and whilst he did not have his military ID with him the Sergeant Major asked him what was his Core motto, which of course Tom knew, and was greeted with "Sir, you are most welcome" and was given a VIP pass and sat at top of the stand behind the Conductor and was able to take some great photos of a spectacular "Tattoo". (See attached photos of the Mounties and Ceremonial Guards drilling and of Tom with a bearded Canadian Gun Sergeant with M2A2 and a reasonable photo from 250m away of Gun firing.

They used 24oz charge which gave excellent effect, whereas in good old Aust we progressively downsized to 6oz fire crackers all in the name of public safety. The Canadians put up a sign near the guns and at commencement of the Tattoo warn the public via announcement that guns, rifles and pistols will be fired during the show and to be prepared for big loud bangs.

As you can gather our life as 'free lancers' is sheer hell but we shall persevere and soldier on ye!

Cheers to all

Tom & Glenda Arnautovic





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

The Society was recently approached by Mrs Carmel Bell, wife of long serving 7 Field Battery RAA Member Bombardier Pat Bell, advising us that their eldest son Wesley is a participant in the Duke of Edinburgh Youth Award Scheme. Wesley is 15 years of age and a student at Lumen Christi College. He is working to achieve the Bronze Level Award that involves Community Service, Physical Recreation and Adventure Training.

Mrs Bell enquired if Wesley could attend Leighton Battery Heritage Site on a regular weekly basis towards the completion of his Community Service commitment. Needless to say, the Society was delighted to assist this remarkable young man and has designed a programme that includes maintenance, site supervision, visitor relations and administration to meet the conditions Wesley must meet.

To his credit, Wesley has an impressive achievement CV! He is particularly interested in military history and is an active member of his Regional Cadet Unit. As a member of the Australian Youth Choir he has already visited Singapore, Italy, Portugal, Spain and England and, in addition, is an active participant in School Sports and Leadership.

Wesley recently completed a trek of the KOKODA Trail accompanying his father and several other serving and past members of 7 Field Battery – a unique experience for a 15 year old. It is hoped that the exploits of the Battery Expedition will be subject of an article in a future edition of this journal.



The photo shows Wesley at OWEN'S Corner where the 25pr Gun Howitzer was emplaced as a Memorial to those who gave their all during those fateful months of 1942.

We wish Wesley well in his pursuit of the Bronze Medal, confident that he will be successful.

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.

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)

RAAHS is a DGR

“DGR ?” do I hear you ask ?

A DGR is a “Deductible Gift Recipient”. ie gifts of money or property made to the RAAHS are tax deductible in the hands of the Donor.

To be endorsed by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) as a DGR was not an easy process and required us to prove to them that we were a “public museum”.

We did not help the process by using the incorrect Application Form in our original submission-although we were approved as a “Charitable Body” as a result.

We got the form right the second time, but the ATO rejected the application. We were able to appeal this decision, and on 13 July 2009 we were endorsed as a “Deductible Gift Recipient”.

We would welcome your tax deductible donation. You can be sure every dollar donated will be put to good use in the future interpretation of Leighton Battery.

Show us the money!

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!!

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Account Number: 00903744

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Thank You.

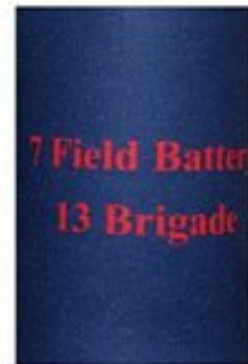
7 Fd Bty Merchandise FOR SALE



TIE



DETAILS ON TIE



STUBBY HOLDER

To purchase **7 Fd Bty RAA Tie** or **Stubby Holder**
Cut below and return to 7 Fd Bty ORs Canteen, 7 Fd Bty RAA, Irwin Barracks, KARRAKATTA WA 6010

For further details contact *Andrew Quarles*:
GNR/Bar member, 7 Fd Bty, KARRAKATTA WA 6010 Mob: 0403 988 961

I would like to order 7 Fd Bty RAA Tie / Stubby Holder (circle choice/s)
as advertised in the ArtilleryWA newsletter.

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty) 7 Fd Bty RAA Tie

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ being for payment of _____(Qty) Stubby Holder

(Ties are \$25 each. Stubby Holders are \$5 each.)

Name_____

Street Name_____

Suburb:_____ Postcode_____ Phone_____

Email:_____

Please make cheques payable to '7 Fd Bty ORs Canteen'