



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 2 / 11

JUNE 2011



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE - HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK - KARRAKATTA



ANZAC DAY PARADE - PERTH



Notice Board

Mark these dates in your calendars

7 Field Battery 3 Field Regiment RAA 2011 BATTERY BIRTHDAY / CORPS DINNER

Celebrating the 63rd Battery Birthday
to be held in the
Hobbs Artillery Park Drill Hall
on
Saturday, 2nd July 2011 at 7 pm for 7.30 pm.

See page 6

RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2011

29th Jan 26th Feb 26th Mar 30th Apr
28th May 25th Jun 30th Jul 27th Aug
24th Sep 29th Oct 26th Nov 31st 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

ANZAC Day Parade - Perth 2011

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Next Issue – October 2011

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

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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Gunners,

ANZAC Day was a great opportunity for gunners serving, past serving, partners and families to pay homage to those who have made sacrifices in conflict and celebrate what we have due to their actions. The five day holiday saw a small reduction in those marching and the crowds attending but the atmosphere was magnificent and attendance at the RSL and Hobbs Artillery Park was very high.

The next event on our calendar is the trial of a CORPS Dinner to be held in conjunction with the Annual 7th Field Battery Birthday on Saturday 2nd July 2011. Although it has long been a tradition in Western Australia for a SNCO dinner to be held in the third quarter and a GNR OFFR Dinner to be held close to the Feast of St Barbara in December, there has been a lack of a CORPS Dinner where gunners of all ranks including those who have served outside of 3 Field Regiment can get together to share their experiences and camaraderie. The combined dinner is being organised by CAPT Fowler and SGT McMahon of 7 FD BTY, I encourage you to attend. The venue is the drill hall at Hobbs Artillery Park (Irwin Barracks KARRAKATTA) which has a superb display of guns and equipment courtesy of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of Western Australia. An invitation is included in this edition of ARTYWA and is open to all serving and past serving gunners and their guests. Please spread the word.

We all seem to lead such busy lives these days that many find it difficult to find time to devote their attention and resources to everything they feel they must do. The gunner family is sometimes overlooked or delegated downward to fit everything else in. I encourage you to find a little bit of time to "stay in touch" in whatever way you can.

Ubique,

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President, RAA Association

WHERE IN AUSTRALIA IS THIS FORTIFICATION No 1 ?



A new segment using Imagery from Google Earth so please email the editor with your answer.

ANZAC DAY 2011 Photos



Dawn Service Hobbs Artillery Park



Forming up St. Georges Tce Perth



Ronnie Roach on parade



Barrack St Perth



March Past



William Street



27th Aust Fd Regt.



Fellowship Karrakatta

B.C.'s Note

Fellow Gunners,

With the completion of the mortar operator and mortar command post courses in mid June 2011, 7 Bty has now completed its formal conversion from the M2A2 105mm Howitzer to the 81mm mortar. The majority of soldiers are now qualified as "Light Gunners" (ECN 161) or Artillery Observers (ECN 255). This marks the end of the conversion phase and the commencement of enhanced skills training.

The first LFX of 2011 in May was marked by disappointing attendance with several key absences. Joint Fire Team (forward observer) training was in full swing "on the hill" with five gaining qualifications by the end of the weekend however with one officer observer on operations and one posted to a country town with civilian work, the most senior observer was a bombardier. The mortar line was light on with three mortars manned and the requirement to "borrow" the RSM 11/28 RWAR to satisfy safety requirements as we were short a qualified section commander. Sub calibre and live firing proceeded at a slow rate as commanders and gunners came to grips with a new system that few had fired more than once in 2010 and then only to qualify. This compounded, resulting in a very late finish on Sunday with a dismissal parade after 1800. However morale appeared to be high and a long list of improvements recorded.

The challenge now is in two parts;

- to build on the skill level until the Bty can demonstrate the same proficiency with mortars as they did with guns. The next 12 months will be used to do this.
- to recruit an additional twenty gunners to get our numbers back up to the point where we can fully deploy the Battery.

We are also keen to maintain the interest of ex serving gunners and to this end will programme an invitation in mid-late 2012 for a live fire demonstration in Lancelin. Also the Battery Birthday Dinner this year will be combined with an Artillery Corps Dinner to be held at Hobbs Artillery Park Saturday 2nd July, all serving and ex gunners and their guests are invited (contact scott.mcmahon@defence.gov.au or scott.mcmahon@dec.wa.gov.au).

Ubique

John Blylevens
Battery Commander
7 Field Battery 3 Field Regiment RAA



VIETNAM VET FINALLY WEARS US AWARD



BAYNE "Gus" Kelly was a 21-year-old conscript fighting in the Vietnam War when he became a hero during a bloody battle that left four Australians dead and six badly wounded.

But he was a 62-year-old husband and father of three before the US Medal for Valour he earned on that day was finally pinned on his chest this week.

An artillery observer attached to the 3rd Battalion, Gunner Kelly fought for nine hours against a determined enemy after his unit walked into an enemy bunker system in June 1971.

"It was a serious battle," Mr Kelly said.

The young man from Bellevue Hill in Sydney saved several badly wounded colleagues and, under intense enemy fire, tried to extract the crew of a downed Australian resupply helicopter -- unaware that all of them were dead. "A shot-down chopper loaded with 200,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition is not a pretty sight," he said.

Mr Kelly, from the Townsville based "A" Field Battery, saw his commanding officer Lieutenant Ian Mathers shot dead right beside him.

The battle of Long Khanh was part of a US-led push called Operation Overlord that involved joint US-Australian battalion-sized elements.

A decade after the battle, Mr Kelly received a letter from the US Army telling him that he had been awarded the high-level US Army Commendation Medal for Valour. It would take 13 months for the Australian Army to extract the medal from a drawer in Canberra and post it to him and until 2008 before he was allowed to wear the foreign honour alongside his Australian awards.

At a low-key ceremony at the US Consulate in Sydney this week, US Ambassador Jeff Bleich finally pinned the medal on Mr Kelly's chest in front of his wife Margaret, their three sons and other family and friends including comrades from 1971.

"I am very pleased to finally receive it and it closes a chapter in my life," Mr Kelly said.

"I have no regrets, it was an incredibly interesting time and I was lucky to survive, marry a good woman, raise a family and run a successful business."

He was also impressed with the US government and how it managed the process.

Unfortunately Mr Kelly has no experience of the Australian system, because he was not even awarded a Mentioned In Dispatches (MID) let alone a gallantry award by his own government for his heroics on the battlefield.

By Ian McPhedran From: *The Daily Telegraph* May 11, 2011 7:00PM

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.

MAJOR JOHN BLYLEVENS
BATTERY COMMANDER, 7 FIELD BATTERY, 3 FIELD REGIMENT
REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF THE COMPANY OF

PAST AND PRESENT GUNNERS, OFFICERS, PARTNERS AND INVITED GUESTS

AT THE COMBINED
2011 BATTERY BIRTHDAY / CORPS DINNER
CELEBRATING THE 63RD BATTERY BIRTHDAY

TO BE HELD IN THE
HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK DRILL HALL
ON
SATURDAY, 2ND OF JULY 2011 AT 7 PM FOR 7.30 PM.

COST \$55 PER PERSON
PAYMENT CHEQUE PAYABLE TO
7 Fd BTY OTHER RANKS CANTEEN

DRESS MESS DRESS WHITE JACKET (SERVING OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCOs)
POLYESTER LONG SLEEVE WITH TIE (ORs)
LOUNGE SUIT / AFTER FIVE (GUESTS AND PARTNERS)

POC SGT SCOTT MCMAHON
0433 759 377 or scott.mcmahon@dec.wa.gov.au

RSVP SGT SCOTT MCMAHON
By 20 JUNE 2011 – **SHARP** – REMINDERS WILL NOT BE ISSUED.

*PRICE INCLUDES PRE-DINNER SHERRY, DINNER WINE AND PORT. OTHER DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE DINNER AT MESS BAR PRICES.



ATTENDANCE SLIP REPLY

PAYMENT OFFICER (SGT SCOTT MCMAHON)
BATTERY BIRTHDAY DINNER / CORPS DINNER
7 Fd BTY, 3 Fd REGT
HOBBS ARTILLERY PARK
STUBBS TERRACE, KARRAKATTA WA 6010



I WILL / WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE BATTERY BIRTHDAY / CORPS DINNER ON 2ND JULY 2011.
MY REMITTANCE FOR \$ _____ IS ENCLOSED.

NAME _____ RANK _____ HONOURS _____

ADDRESS _____

GUESTS

NAME _____ RANK _____ HONOURS _____
NAME _____ RANK _____ HONOURS _____

Ubique

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)

Presidents Report

Over the past three months the Society has achieved the following:

1. Increase in attendances at Buckland Hill
2. The reorganisation of the Library and rationalisation of the publications held
3. The Society is now in a position to re commission the Bessel Brown Room at Hobbs Artillery Park.

Unfortunately due to the abnormal hailstone damage in March 2010 the room required extensive work and has only recently become available.

However the Collection will now be open for viewing again.

The continued support by all the Volunteers in our three main areas of activity namely :

- Buckland Hill
- Library and supporting facilities
- Restoration of Artillery pieces

is important to the ongoing strength of this, **Our Society** and there efforts are much appreciated.

Ubique

Bruce G. Campbell OAM

President

HAPPENINGS AT LEIGHTON BATTERY HERITAGE SITE

Your Society's showpiece has again provided the public with a unique experience

Our guide and cashier base has expanded and this has allowed us to remain flexible enough to cater for sometimes unexpected alterations to the roster settings.

For those motorists heading to Fremantle we have caught their eye by maintaining a distinctive panel with red and blue teardrop flags alongside the panel advertising our "**WORLD WAR TWO TUNNELS**".

To further enhance the visitor experience your committee has had a large all weather panel made which depicts a 5.25" gun "**Firing Practice c 1957**". This is securely fixed (via a padlock) to the cyclone fencing atop the 5.25" gun pit. This display certainly illustrates the impressive appearance that the weapon presented in its hey-day.

The site at Leighton presents us with a wide range of short and long term maintenance requirements. The Busy Bee people have been hard at work each month on the following: Painting, vacuuming, bricking (and demolishing), clearing luxuriant vegetation, cooking sausages and enjoying the day and fellow member's company. We extend a cordial invitation to members we don't see often to come on down, on the last

Saturday of each month to the site at about 9:00 am and see what goes on in order to present the site in first class condition to the public.

Recently President Bruce Campbell was on hand as a group comprising a Social Club of Hollywood Hospital enjoyed a tour. They presented our president with a complimentary copy of a History of Hollywood Hospital. In WW2 it was 110 Australian general Hospital (110 AGH)

In conclusion our Society would like to recognise the long term help rendered to the Battery Site by Mr Frank and Enid Cahill. These two stalwarts have finally decided to retire from active duty and we thank them most sincerely for their efforts and their delightful company.

By David Carter for Management Committee.

116th Light Anti Aircraft Regiment

The 116th Light Anti Aircraft Regiment deployed a number of Bofors guns on Rottnest Island during 1942 and 1943 to provide anti-aircraft defence for the 6 and 9.2 inch batteries emplaced on the Island.

In 1989 the 116th.LAA Regiment Association (WA) donated a Bofors gun to the Rottnest Island Authority who displayed it at Kingstown Barracks for a number of years before withdrawing it, under protective cover, until the last several years when some restorative work was carried out. It has now become an important part of the Anzac Day Dawn Service.

After this years Service, Gordon Hull, a member of the Number 1 gun in B Troop expressed a desire to travel to Wadjemup Hill in an endeavour to locate the site of the guns emplacement on a hill adjacent to the main Lighthouse. Despite claiming a deteriorating memory, Gordon was able to pinpoint the exact location and he, under the watchful eye of his wife, clambered up the hill and stood in the depression where "his" gun had stood, 68 years ago.

Gordon is the WA President of the 116th. LAA Regiment Association which is in the course of being wound up. He has been instrumental in the Association making generous donations to both the RAAHS and the Rottnest Voluntary Guides who continue to maintain the gun.

It is hoped, in due course, that the Bofors will be displayed in the Oliver Hill precinct, with the ability to remove it for temporary display for the Anzac Day Service each year.



40mm Bofors AA Gun with Gordon Hull (LHS) and Ken Keesing (RHS).
Ken is a Rottnest Voluntary Guide and his Brother-in-Law was a member of the 116th LAA Regiment.

SUBMARINES !!!

SUBMARINES! Why Submarines? What have submarines got to do with artillery?

Well, those people who volunteer their time as guides at Leighton Battery Heritage Site will be well aware of the significance and connection with artillery.

Leighton Battery was part of the network of defences protecting the Port of Fremantle during WW2, and why was this so necessary? Because Fremantle was arguably the most important Port in Australia during that period. Not only was it an inwards port for supplies and armaments coming to Australia and an assembly area for supply and troop convoys leaving for overseas, it was also the largest Submarine Base in the Southern Hemisphere. There were 124 US, 31 British and 11 Dutch submarines based at Fremantle during WW2. Not all at the same time of course because their job was to patrol to harass and destroy enemy shipping. Not all saw out the war with 11 US boats "Still on patrol" – failing to return. In all some 416 patrols were initiated from Fremantle causing massive losses to the Japanese forces and seriously disrupting their war effort in the Pacific.

The Japanese recognised the significance of Fremantle as a base for allied submarines and shipping which adversely affected their plans for domination of the Pacific region.

There is doubt as to whether Japan intended to actually invade Australia. Certainly it was debated by their commanders at the highest level and certainly there were actions such as the hundreds of air raids which led to a belief that this was the intention. They also prepared currency (notes and coins) for use in an occupation.

However, it may have been just a need to neutralise allied bases which were proving a serious threat to their ambitions for Pacific domination.

The Dutch submarine KXI was one of a group patrolling around Malaya and across to Ceylon. In 1944 they brought a party of senior submarine officers from Colombo to Fremantle and with the Light Cruiser RNN Jacob Van Heemskirk were placed under command of Allied Naval Forces in Fremantle. The KXI was plagued with mechanical problems and it was suspected she had been sabotaged by blocking lubrication and fuel lines with cotton waste. So critical was the damage it was decided that decommissioning and breaking up for scrap was to be her fate. To this end she was towed up river and moored alongside the public jetty in Freshwater Bay adjacent to HMAS Leeuwin II (then based at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club). Testament to the co-operation from the yacht club is the Deck Gun donated to the club and mounted overlooking the river.

USS Growler was one of four lost in 1944. She was nicknamed "Kangaroo Express" after an earlier incident when she made a surface attack on a Japanese Naval vessel. The Japanese vessel opened fire and rammed the submarine causing severe damage including the forward 18 feet of the submarine being bent at right angles. Although there were several casualties including the Captain, Commander Howard Gilmore, the damage was not fatal and she was able to limp back to Brisbane where she was fitted with a new bow.

USS Bowfin was one of the most successful submarines based at Fremantle having performed nine patrols and sunk 19 enemy vessels. She now forms part of the Naval Museum at Pearl Harbour. Her pristine condition in this environment is a credit to the retired US Navy personnel who maintain her.



Recently, in my other life as Curator of the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club archives and memorabilia I unearthed a dusty old plaque from the USS Archerfish. My immediate reaction was that this vessel must have been based at Fremantle and was therefore of significance to Leighton Battery. The plaque was cleaned up and made shiny again by Phil Pougault when I found that the Submarine had never been based anywhere in Australia.

Commissioned 4 Sep 1943 as USS Archer-Fish she was responsible for sinking the Japanese aircraft carrier SHIMANO in Nov 1944. This is the largest warship ever sunk by a submarine. USS Archer-Fish was decommissioned on 12 Jun 1946, then refitted and on 7 Mar 1952 re-commissioned USS Archerfish for service during the Korean War. This service did not eventuate and she was again decommissioned on 21 Oct 1955.

However, "Lo and Behold" she was then refitted and re-commissioned 1 Aug 1957 for Oceanographic research work from 1958 to 1964. It was during this period she visited Fremantle and her crew received hospitality from the yacht club. Mystery solved!



USS ARCHERFISH. Pictured leaving Fremantle, October 1961.
Photo: Copyright The West Australian Newspaper, Perth.

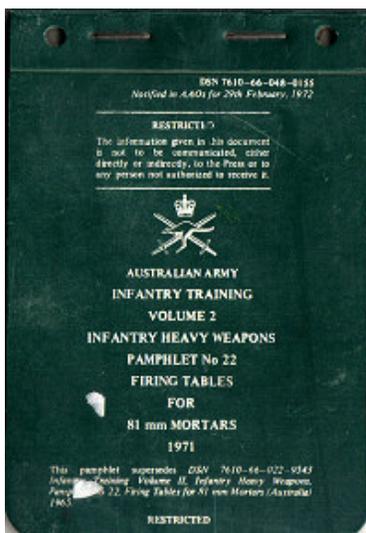
USS Archerfish was finally decommissioned 1 May 1968 and struck off. She was used as a torpedo target and sunk off San Diego 19 Oct 1968.

Basil Twine

INFANTRY HEAVY WEAPONS – 81mm MORTARS

While rearranging the RAAHS Library, a 1971 an Infantry Training, Volume 2, Infantry Heavy Weapons, Pamphlet No 22, Firing Tables for 81 mm Mortars, 1971, was unearthed.

As the Battery is now equipped 81 mm Mortars, the Society thought it was appropriate to present the BC of the Battery with the Firing Tables which although printed in 1971, would still be of value to the Battery.



The photo shows the Curator of the RAAHS, Don Rae presenting the Battery Commander, John Blylevens with the 1971 copy of the 81 mm Mortars Firing Tables.

PROJECT 2013

The RAAHS of WA has identified 2013 as being a very significant year to celebrate the history of Artillery in Western Australia. Some 75 years prior, Hobbs Artillery Park was officially opened and it will be 70 years since the Leighton Battery was constructed and 65 years since the formation of 3 Fd Regt RAA following WW2.

A special planning committee has been established to plan a series of activities throughout the year. These will take place at both Karrakatta and Leighton Battery and the aims of the celebrations, titled PROJECT 2013 are to further increase the awareness and the role of the RAAHS of WA and to continue the enhancement and visitor appeal at LBHS. To achieve the latter, a significant fundraising program is planned.

Further details, including a calendar of events will be published in the next edition

WHERE IN AUSTRALIA IS THIS FORTIFICATION No 2 ?



A new segment using Imagery from Google Earth so please email the editor with your answer.

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)

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.

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RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc) - (Note: Some

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

Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 066-103

Account Number: 00903744

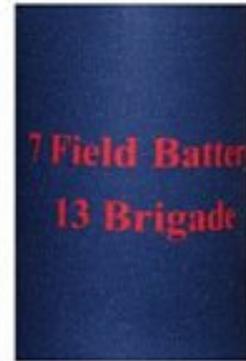
7 Fd Bty Merchandise FOR SALE



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'