



# 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](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au)

Edition 4 / 11

DECEMBER 2011



**Gunners Day 2011**





# Notice Board

**Mark this date in your calendars**

## **AGM's RAAA & RAAHS**

**Sunday March 11 2012**

Time: To Be Advised

Hobbs Artillery Park - Karrakatta

### **RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2012**

28th Jan 25th Feb 24th Mar 28th Apr  
26th May 23rd Jun 28th Jul 25th Aug  
22th Sep 27th Oct 24th Nov

### **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**

Gunners Day 6th November 2011

### **Inside this Issue – Main points**

<b>RAA Association WA</b>		<b>Aiming Post</b>	
President's Report	3	President's Report	10
BC's NOTE	3	Project 2013	10
Major George Hatherley Moor	5	Leighton Battery Report	11
Ipswich Gunners	7	Embracing Change	12
Saint Barbara's Day	8	Gunners Day Photos	13

### **Next Issue – April 2012**

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 ● **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](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au)

### **ADVERTISING**

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## **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (INC)**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Another year approaches its end. Where did it go and what did we achieve?

In March we had our AGM and of course ANZAC day in April which was a success.

On July 2 the first RAA Corps Dinner for many years was held. It coincided with the 7 Field Battery Birthday and was held at Hobbs Artillery Park. It was attended by 85 people and it is hoped this can be increased in future years as the Corps Dinner becomes better known.

The 83rd Gunner's Day was held on Sunday 6th 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 and cadets from 59 ACU's. Numbers were up slightly on last year which was pleasing. It was BRIG Cain's final Gunners Day as the Commander 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade. He has been a great supporter of the Battery and artillery in general and I wish him well for the future. The cooperation from MAJ John Bylevens, 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.

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.

Another exciting project being embarked upon is "Project 2013", a major heritage undertaking to recognise and celebrate 75 years of Artillery history in Western Australia. The Association is pleased to throw its support behind this project to raise funds for development of the Leighton Heritage site. More can be read on this in a separate article.

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 2012.

Ubique,

Bob Farrelly  
LTCOL  
President, RAA Association

### **B.C.'s Note**

Fellow Gunners,

We end 2011 with significant changes;

- BRIG Stephen Cain completes his 3 year tenure replaced by BRIG Stephen Coggins (RAINF).
- 11/28 RWAR Bn HQ moves into the West Wing of Hobbs Artillery Park. The SGTs Mess has been revamped into office space for our displaced personnel.
- All ARES Arty Regts are to be disbanded under PLAN BEERSHEBA, only ARES BTYs will remain. The exact timeline for this has not been stated.
- Our SGT position Unit Recruit Liaison Officer has been civilianised. An APS 4 will now handle our recruiting needs.
- Our conversion to a Mortar BTY is complete with all personnel qualified at the base level, SNCOs face the daunting task of completing the additional courses required for rank/trade proficiency.

- The ARA cadre almost completely turns over;  
 IG/XO: Cliff Coggins is replaced by James Tarpley  
 SMIG: Gary Hogg replaced by WO2 Nugini  
 OPS SGT: Waiting on SCMA advice as to whether Trevor Hicks is extended or an ARA SGT posted in  
 URLO: LBDR Ricky Mallett replaced by APS 4  
 BQMS: SGT Nick McClure stays for another year

We are beginning to see an increased interest in recruiting success for the Bty with a new enlistee, a transfer (Air Gunner) and several successful recruiting activities generating lists of prospects. More recruits are essential as our existing members are showing signs of burn-out after a very committed turn out this year.

I wish you all the best for 2012.

Ubique

John Blylevens  
 Battery Commander  
 7 Field Battery 3 Field Regiment RAA



LT Thompson Jackson and LBDR Quarles de Quarles send fire orders from their OP during EX STRIKE Nov 2011

### **GUNNER OFFICER DINNER FRIDAY 2ND December 2011**

The annual celebration of the Feast of St Barbara on the first Friday in December was held in the Hobbs Artillery Park Conference Room (formerly 7 FD BTY, 3 FD REGT Officers Mess).

Doubling as the Gunner Officer Dinner, the event was moderately well attended and included BRIG Gerry Warner, Colonel Commandant RAA Western Region and the COMD 13th BDE, BRIG Stephen Cain who completes his command this year.

There was an even spread of serving and retired officers and judging by the noise level (conversations), a good time was had by all.



The old Mess was ablaze with life



Les Herbert, Ian Williams, Ron Cutten, Peter Rowles and Tom Arnautovic share some tall stories

## **MAJOR GEORGE HATHERLEY MOOR**

### **First Western Australia Mounted Infantry**

Major George Hatherley Moor, a former captain in the Royal Artillery, was an experienced soldier and leader. A veteran of five years' service in Natal with a mountain battery, he also saw service in Rhode's British Chartered Company, in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and action in the war against the Matabele in 1897.<sup>1</sup> He was promoted to the rank of Major on 14 October 1899.<sup>2</sup>

The Western Australian infantry company of 130 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, under the command of Major Moor, left Albany on board the Medic on 7 November 1899, arriving in Cape Town on 27 November. They were accompanied by infantry companies from Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria. In Cape Town the companies were amalgamated to form the First Australian Regiment under the command of Colonel J C Hoad of Victoria. This was the first time that a troop representing the various Australian colonies had been formed for active service. The newly formed regiment left for De Aar to join the Kimberley Relief Force and were active in the lines of communication between De Aar and Modder River. Major Moor's company was at Naauwpoort, when it was converted to Mounted Infantry on 1 February 1900.<sup>3</sup>



Major Moor led his men in operations and actions in Transvaal and the Orange Free State. On 9 February Major Moor led a patrol of Inniskilling Dragoons and more than 20 West Australians, encountering nearly 400 Boers on kopjes east of Slingersfontein. The enemy opened fire, the Dragoons retreated and the Australians kept up the fight until nightfall. The following day General Clements praised Major Moor and his men for their determination in frustrating the enemy's attempt to turn the flank of the position. Major Moor was the officer who rallied the West Australians, and led them in the dash against Botha's rearguard at Diamond Hill, taking part in a running fight lasting some 8 miles. Major Moor and four men were killed in action on 19 July 1900 at Palmietfontein.<sup>4</sup>

When the news was received in Western Australia, flags were flown at halfmast throughout the colony.

The War Graves & Graves of Conflict Division of The National Monuments Council of South Africa advise that Major Moor was buried at either Palmietfontein where he fell or the farm Karoo Spruit on Rhenosterspruit/Yeomanry Koppie.



His remains were disinterred in 1958 to the Lindley Garden of Remembrance, some 20 miles south of where he met his death. He is commemorated on a central monument, listed under his Western Australian regiment.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Australians at the Boer War*, R L Wallace, Canberra 1976.

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the Australian Military Contingents to the War in South Africa*, P L Murray, Melbourne, 1911.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *The Australians at the Boer War*, R L Wallace, Canberra, 1976.

<sup>5</sup> Information received October 1999 from War Graves & Graves of Conflict Division, National Monuments Council of South Africa, Houghton, South Africa, independent of original database.



Marble memorial tablet at St John's Church of England Church, Albany, commemorating Major Hatherly George Moor, 1st Mounted Infantry, West Australia, who was killed in action on 19 July 1900 at Palmeitfontein. In 1901 the tablet was placed in St John's - the money raised by public subscription

### **The Battle of Palmietfontein South Africa, 19 July 1900**

Palmietfontein, an action fought on 19 July 1900 (during the Second South African War) some 7.5 kilometres east of Kroonstad in the Orange Free State, during the first British attempt to hunt down and capture the Boer general, Christiaan de Wet, while he was making north towards the Transvaal with 1,500 men. The engagement took the form of a running fight over about thirteen kilometres, after two British brigades came upon de Wet's supply convoy at 2 p.m. and tried to halt it. While horse artillery in the British centre shelled the last wagons in the enemy column, which extended over five kilometres, the mounted infantry commanded by Brigadier-General G.P. Ridley (which included the New South Wales Mounted Rifles and Army Medical Corps, along with the West Australian Mounted Infantry) continually pressed in against the Boer flanks.

De Wet had assigned a small division of his commando under the noted scout leader, Danie Theron, to protect the convoy, while he travelled about twenty kilometres behind with the bulk of his men to guard its movement. Theron mounted a vigorous defence against the harrying tactics of the British, suffering little damage himself but successfully mauling the West Australians under Major Hatherley Moor. At dusk Theron broke contact and disappeared after the convoy, which by now had made good its escape, and the pursuit was broken off. In the day's fighting the WAMI had five men killed - including Major Moor - and the NSWMR also had three men killed and a number wounded.

*Extracted from the book produced by Chris Coulthard-Clark, **Where Australians Fought - The Encyclopaedia of Australia's Battles**, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1998, p. 82.*

## **CEREMONY HONOURS IPSWICH GUNNER**



**NOT FORGOTTEN:** 41 Battery 1st Regiment RAA members Gunner Dale Rettke, Warrant Officer class 2 Keith McCoombes and Captain Andrew Kendall inspect the grave of gunner John J Hayes at Ipswich Cemetery.

A rededication service at the Ipswich Central Cemetery on December 10 will pay tribute to Gunner John J Hayes and recent efforts to preserve his grave.

Gnr Hayes served as a volunteer artillery gunner in the Moreton Field Battery, which was located at the current Army Reserve depot at Milford St.

He died in 1892 when he was on parade at the depot. The horse towing his gun was spooked, throwing him onto the ground and under the wheels of the gun. Gnr Hayes, aged 30, was given a full military funeral and was buried in the Ipswich Cemetery.

Ipswich Troop Commander Captain Andrew Kendall said Gnr Hayes' grave had been repaired and preserved with the support of the Ipswich community and city council.

After thorough research, Gnr Hayes was found to have no living descendants.

"The rededication service will remember Gnr Hayes' contribution to the community and will also be a celebration of the long association that Reserve artillery has had with Ipswich," Capt Kendall said.

"The Moreton Field Battery was formed in 1864 and was the second military unit formed in Queensland."

The service will involve a procession by period groups. Soldiers from 41 Battery 1st Regiment RAA will mount the guard." The service at Ipswich Cemetery, cnr Briggs and Cemetery rds, on December 10 will begin at 10am and last about an hour.

The rededication service will remember Gunner Hayes' contribution to the community...

*Ipswich Advertiser 24th November 2011*

## **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.blylevens@defence.gov.au](mailto:john.blylevens@defence.gov.au) if you would like to be included and when your change you email address, so we can keep up to date.



**AUSTRALIAN ARMY**  
**Head of Regiment**  
**Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery**

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

**SAINT BARBARA'S DAY GREETING 2011**

Traditionally, we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day in a variety of ways across the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Today, I ask you to celebrate bearing in band the achievements and tragedies of 2011 and prepare yourself for the challenges ahead in 2012.

2011 has been a continued high tempo with individuals, troops and batteries required to serve Australia through deployment to support cyclone and flood recovery 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 outstanding and unwavering support.

2012 will see the Regiment continue to develop, as the Air Land concept matures and we continue conversion training to the M777 Light Weight Howitzer and the further development of the digitised Artillery capability with the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System. The successful deployment of this Counter Rocket and Mortar system and the capability multiplier that is the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in Afghanistan highlights the professionalism of the Regiment in all its capabilities. As the Regiment undergoes those fundamental changes it is both an exciting and challenging time for all of us regardless of rank.

I take this opportunity to congratulate those of you that will assume your appointments in January 2012 as Commanders of Units, Sub Units and Regimental and Battery Sergeant Major. Today also signifies the change of appointment of our Colonel Commandant Northern Region with Brigadier Mike Paramor completing his appointment. Please accept our thanks for your continued service to the Regiment. I would like to welcome and congratulate Colonel Steve Goltz who has assumed his appointment as Colonel Commandant Northern Region with effect today.

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 than service. Enjoy your celebrations today.

Unique

**S. ROACH**

Brigadier  
Head of Regiment  
Telephone: (07) 3332 6321  
E-mail: don.roach@defence.gov.au  
1 December 2011

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To purchase Embroidered Jacket and or Beret Badges -  
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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. )*

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# THE AIMING POST

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

### Presidents Report

It is pleasing to be able to report the visitors to Buckland Hill Tunnels is increasing which confirms the decision to open the complex every Sunday from July 2009

Last Sunday the national Servicemen's Association held a meeting at Buckland Hill and Brigadier Cain of 13 Brigade unveiled a plaque commemorating the contribution made by those who served under the Act of Army over the years.

This plaque is now in the Command Post for all to see.

As this is the last publication prior to the Festive Season the writer and your Committee extends to you a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2012.

Bruce G Campbell OAM  
President



The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of Western Australia (Inc) has recently announced a major heritage undertaking to recognise and celebrate 75 years of Artillery history in Western Australia.

To be known as **PROJECT 2013**, it is planned to acknowledge the following significant anniversaries that will take place during 2013, namely –

- The 75th Anniversary of awarding the contract to construct a purpose built Gunner establishment at Karrakatta – Hobbs Artillery Park.
- The 75th Anniversary of the proofing of the 9.2 inch Guns at Oliver Hill Rottneest – the bastion of the Western Australian coast defence pre WW2.
- The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Leighton Battery, at Buckland Hill, as part of the WW2 Fremantle Port Defence network.
- The 65th Anniversary of the raising of 3 Field Regiment RAA Citizen Military Forces at Hobbs Artillery Park, Karrakatta.

Under the auspices of the RAAHS of WA, a small working committee comprising Brigadier Gerry Warner (Project Patron), LT. Col Bob Farrelly (Chair), Maj. John Blylevens, Don Rae, Fred Lynch and Ray Bird are

planning a range of activities and events to take advantage of these milestones, all designed to achieve the following objectives -

- Further increase the awareness and the role of the RAAHS of WA
- Continue the enhancement and visitor appeal at Leighton Battery Heritage Site
- Undertake a campaign to source funding to achieve the enhancement program

Discussions have been held with the Rottneest Island Authority and collectively the two organisations are working together to gain interest and support from both the Federal and State government, local government and the corporate sector.

From the RAAHS of WA viewpoint, the following enhancements at LBHS are proposed –

- Roofing of the 5.25 inch Gunpit
- Refurbish 5.25 inch Gunpit
- Cover Stairwell access to Gunpit
- Replicate No. 2 Gun Floor
- Relocate 3.7 inch Gun
- Site preparation for 3.7 inch & 40mm Guns
- The Silent Sentinels Project
- Repair Access Roads
- Motorised passenger transport from car park to Command Post

Completion of the enhancement program will provide –

- Improved public safety
- Improved authenticity of site
- Increased Artillery presence
- Increased range of interpretation
- Greater use of technology in displays

Whilst the aim is to commission and complete the enhancement program during 2013, it is recognised that some aspects maybe “works in progress” during that time.

In planning for Project 2013, it has been calculated that the program for the LBHS alone, will cost around \$500,000.00 and the RAAHS of WA will be seeking to enlist partners for financial support by offering a range of sponsorship packages to elements of both the public and private sector.

Contact has already been made with Federal and State politicians and potential business leaders and the response to date has been most encouraging.

It is planned to have a formal launch function at LBHS in February 2012, at which time the PROJECT 2013 promotional brochure will be distributed and the PROJECT 2013 website launched.

The year 2013 promises to be an exciting one for Gunners in Western Australia and Members, families and friends are encouraged to become involved in the celebrations.

## **HAPPENINGS AT LEIGHTON**

Since the last Aiming Post it has been business as usual to Leighton Battery

A steady flow of visitors has occurred with 100% safety record. Our Soldiery guide group being mindful of the stairs that descend into the complex of tunnels.

Of particular interest recently was the on-site commemoration of a plaque dedicating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Service Training Scheme. Leighton Battery's 5.25" guns of course being a training establishment meant that our site was particularly appropriate for the ceremony. The event was held on in very windy conditions but we all present enjoyed the morning tea (salvo's bus) and afternoon tea provided.

The plaque now resides in the Command Post for all to view.

*David Carter*

## **EMBRACING CHANGE**

As my mind strolls down the corridors of time the faces and voices of the numerous gunners it has been my privilege to serve with can be seen and heard as a reflection of my life since first joining the ranks of the gunner fraternity so many years ago.

There can be no doubt that the wonderful education, skills, lessons and people met along the way have all had a valuable influence on the life path followed after ceasing to be a serving gunner – that does not suggest one ceased to be a gunner or fail to look with pride on the family of gunners, past, present and future.

In recent times we are again seeing changes to the nature of the RAA as we older generation knew it.

While sometimes change may be difficult to comprehend, as one looks back in history it can be seen that the evolution of the RAA has continuously embraced the challenge of change with enthusiasm, professionalism and the desire to be the best at what they do, while at all times retaining and extending the spirit of the Regiment.

Throughout the years changes in defence mechanisms have at times effected those not directly serving within defence, so it is possible that potential changes, currently in the wind, may effect organisations and volunteer groups that work to preserve the history of defence, while also paying tribute to those who have served, or, who are still serving.

Just as those who are now serving face the challenge of advanced and advancing technologies within the RAA, in particular in 7 Field Battery - 3rd Field Regiment, they must also learn and apply new skills and the deployment of new weapon systems. So too those who carry the banners of the past, must accept the possibility for the need to adapt to these changes with the same enthusiasm and courage as do our serving gunners..

While the sounds and sights of the past may have faded, memories and records remain through the efforts of the volunteer groups who work to preserve and make available to the public those things that so clearly demonstrate the true value of the ideals that have served for so long as the foundation of the Gunner Spirit. As time passes so too shall we pass, have no doubt, the work done by the members, volunteers and supporters of RAAHS of WA shall continue to live on because those who follow, in true gunner spirit, will want it to.

'Therein lies the challenge to embrace change'

TOG

## **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)

# GUNNERS DAY 2011



Gun inspection



Forming up



Cadets carrying flags leading the parade



RAAA Members



BRIG Cain taking salute



Laying of wreaths



Wreaths



Band lead off ...to...



Service in St Matthews Church



Out of the church and onto ....



Afternoon Tea in the hall



Socialising after at the Rose & Crown



**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](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au) or [jfxwalsh@bigpond.com.au](mailto: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.

**You can Now pay your Membership Fees by Direct Debit!**

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**7 Fd Bty Merchandise FOR SALE**



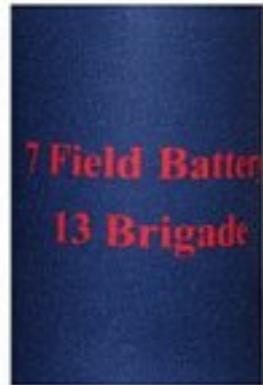
TIE



DETAILS ON TIE



STUBBY HOLDER



To purchase **7 Fd Bty RAA Tie** or **Stubby Holder**  
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For further details contact *Andrew Quarles*:  
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*(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'*