



# Artillery WA

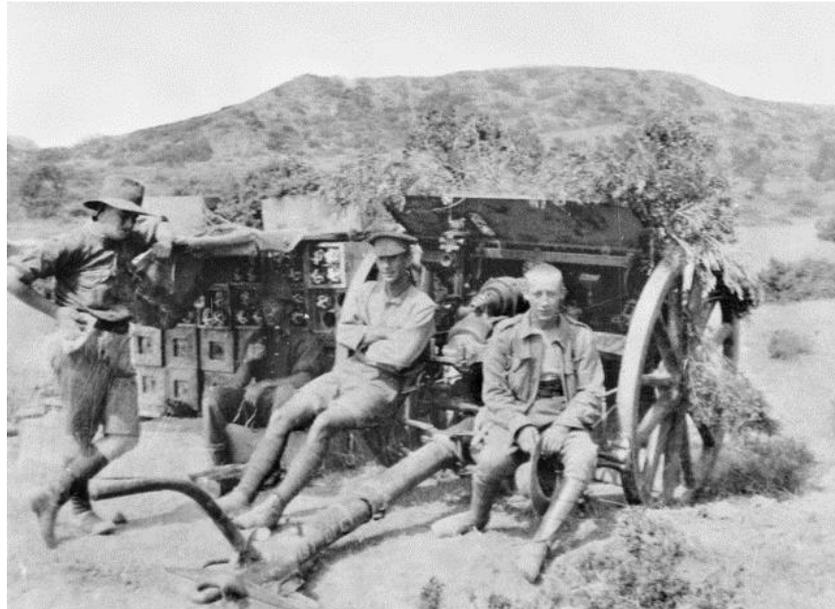


Official Newsletter of Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)  
Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>

Email: [info@artillerywa.org.au](mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au)

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March 2015



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01146.001

## GUNNERS AT GALLIPOLI



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00046.041

## LEST WE FORGET 1915 - 2015



# Notice Board

**Mark this date in your calendars**

**ANZAC DAY – 25 April 2015**

**March through Perth**

**Form up time will be at 0900hrs.**

**Please refer to *The West Australian* for location details for this year's march.**

**Please remember to wear your beret.**

**All are invited to attend the Anzac Day function at Hobbs Artillery Park after the parade.**

**Details to follow via the website, email or mail out**

**RAAHS BUSY BEES for 2015**

31<sup>st</sup> Jan 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Mar 18<sup>th</sup> Apr

30<sup>th</sup> May 27<sup>th</sup> Jun 25<sup>th</sup> Jul 29<sup>th</sup> Aug

26<sup>th</sup> Sep 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 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 3:00 PM with tours of the tunnels every half hour.

**FRONT COVER**

Artillery at Gallipoli 1915 imagery from the Australian War Memorial

**Inside this Issue – Main points**

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**Next Issue – June 2015**

**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**

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



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

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Fellow Gunners,

Gunners' Day 2014 was a successful service with about 140 in attendance. Thanks to the ANZAC Day Trust we were able to obtain a \$ 1,000 grant to assist with the day and catering. Following the formalities many attended the Rose & Crown Hotel for further refreshment and comradeship. We have been successful again this year in securing another grant of \$ 1,000 towards Gunner's Day 2015 from the Trust.

Unfortunately the Feast of St Barbara in December did not eventuate as a dinner. Despite this about 30 gunners and their partners got together to mark the occasion with a barbecue and of course the appropriate toasts. The Association has agreed to take over the Feast of St Barbara for the running of the Dinner. Many thanks to Peter Rowles, Tom Arnautovic and Stan Davies who volunteered, and were appointed by the Committee, to plan this year's dinner.

The AGM was held on 14 March 2015 and coincided with the RAAHS AGM at Leighton Battery. The change of venue was well accepted and I think all agreed that this was a more suitable venue. A number of people took the opportunity for a tour of the tunnels. At the AGM the current committee was re-elected;

President: Bob Farrelly  
Vice President: Peter Mahoney  
Secretary and Treasurer: John Blylevens  
Committee: Ken Hepworth  
Committee: Wendy Mahoney  
Committee: John O'Brien  
Committee: Vacant  
Hon Auditor: Hugh Zimmerman.

ANZAC Day 2015 is the next big event on our calendar. There will be no Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park. As with last year, we understand the Brigade is holding one Dawn Service in the barracks on the top oval and a single Gunfire Breakfast. If you are attending Irwin Barracks you are encouraged to get there early with this being the centenary of the Gallipoli landing. Details on timings to follow.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, BRIG Gerry Warner has been asked to lead the march in the city. Details for ANZAC Day appear in more detail in this newsletter. Given this is the centenary of the ill-fated landing that many attribute as our coming of age as a Nation we encourage your attendance. Additionally the 11/ 28 Battle Group and 3 Light Battery are welcoming all members of the Gunner fraternity to share a drink and catch up with friends after the service at Hobbs Artillery Park as has been the past practice. Details of the form up place in St George's Terrace will appear in *'The West Australian'*. Be there!!!

The Association and 3 Lt Bty will be holding a Corps Dinner for serving and past Gunners and their partners/ guests. The Dinner will be held on Saturday 6 July 2014 at Hobbs Artillery Park, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta.

Ubique,  
Bob Farrelly  
LTCOL  
President, RAA Association

## **B.C.'s NOTE**

2015 will again be another busy year for 3 Light Battery. As usual the Battery fired a 21 gun salute for Australia Day, and in the 100th year of the Gallipoli Landings we had a significant turn out of spectators and media to witness the 66th time the battery has conducted the Salute.

In February the Battery hosted the Light Artillery SMIG Course which enabled key personnel from each of the Light Batteries and Joint Fires Cell, to discuss issues and develop strategies to enhance the capability of Ares joint fires concept.

The Battery will have representatives on Ex Warfighter, Hawaii and again will be providing Joint Fires for Ex TS 15 in July with our partner Battery, 5/11. This will build on the excellent work of both Batteries in Ex Hamel 2014.

In 2015 the Battery will also be focussed on retaining the Mount Schanck trophy, as our predecessor 7 Field Battery were the last winners of the prestigious Award. Accordingly all of our training including Tuesday nights and weekends will see us master our TTPs and develop our SOPS to ensure that again we are recognised as the best Battery in the 2nd Division.

Anzac Day is approaching rapidly and the format this year will follow last year's. That is there will be a central dawn service on the top oval at Irwin Barracks, followed by a Gun Fire Breakfast in the vicinity of the area ORs Mess. After the march all are welcome to join us at Hobbs Artillery Park for lunch and to remember the original ANZAC day, 100 years ago.

I look forward to see as many of you there as possible.

Ubique

Rob COALES  
Battery Commander  
3 Light Battery

## **SECOND ERA NATIONAL SERVICE 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

June 30, 2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of the second (1965-1072) Australian National Service Scheme.

Half a century ago, the first of the 63,735 young men called up for two years (later reduced to 18 months) service in the Regular Army marched into Recruit Training at Kapooka, Puckapunyal and later Singleton. Of these, 150 served in Borneo and 15,381 in Vietnam. 212 made the Ultimate Sacrifice.

The era was most significant in Australian military history with the war in Vietnam and the rapid escalation in the size of the Australian Army.

Although not part of their original life plan, most regarded their time in the Service favourably.

It is proper that this milestone be appropriately acknowledged. Accordingly, the National Servicemen's Association of Australia, in conjunction with the O.T.U. Association is planning a ceremony to pay the occasion the recognition it deserves.

A commemorative service is to be held at the National Service Memorial in Canberra, ACT at 1000 hours on June 30, 2015. It will take the form of a march from the National War Memorial to the site followed by the service itself.

An invitation letter, information brochure and Expression of Interest form are available for download by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.nashoaustralia.org.au/features.htm>

## **FEAST OF ST BARBARA 2014**

A Feast of St Barbara has been celebrated by Gunner Officers at Hobbs Artillery Park on the first Friday in December of each year for many years.

Due to downsizing from 3 Fd Regt RAA to independent Battery in 1973 and the further change in recent years to a Light Battery has resulted in fewer officers on establishment. Also with retired officer numbers declining, the practicality of continuing the annual Feast became difficult. Three years ago an integrated approach was undertaken with a combined RAA Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCO's. This proved successful for two years with those attending having a fabulous catch-up with former Gunner colleagues and to also be updated by the Colonel Commandant and the Battery Commander on current activities of the Corp and the Battery.

Unfortunately this year, due to many RAA Officers and SNCO's either on exercise or with other commitments the numbers available for a "formal dinner" were not sufficient to hold a Formal Dinner.

However not to lose a good opportunity for a catch –up with fellow Gunners many of those who were available, attended the Karrakatta Officers Mess for a Feast of St Barbara BBQ evening joined by a few wives. Captains Adam Moiler and Bret Fowler cooked tender steaks and snags for all and with cold beers and some fine wines a most enjoyable evening. Albeit the theme was a casual evening, Capt Adam Moiler proposed toast to "Our Captain General, The Queen". Lt Col Robert Farrelly proposed toast To "The Regiment" which added to a very dignified Group of Gunner Gentlemen and wives.



Early planning is already underway to conduct a Feast of St Barbara function in 2015. Details will be issued in due course. All serving and Ex RAA Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCO's should diarise now Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015." Be there or miss out on a great night with fellow Gunners young and old.

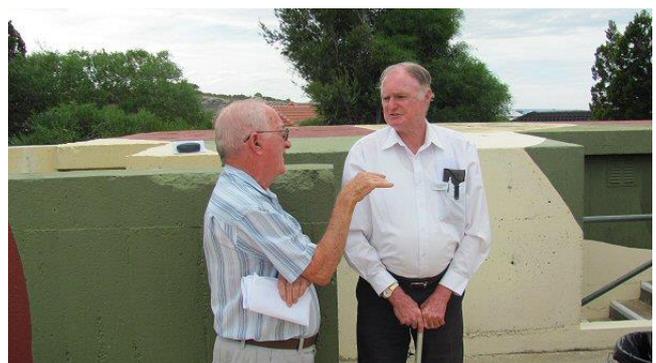
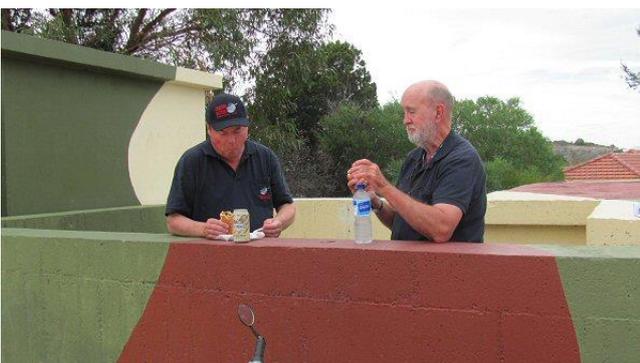
*Tom Arnautovic*

## **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, 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 you change your email address, so we can keep up to date.

**RAAA & RAAHS AGM's @ Leighton Battery Heritage Site on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015**



**You can Now pay your Membership Fees (\$15 per annum) 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 - \$15

**RAA EMBROIDERED BERET BADGES** – Actual size is 55mm wide by 40mm high - \$10

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 \$15 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 ADDRESS**

(Presented at the AGM)

I wish all members a happy and prosperous new year, and a welcome to the society's AGM for 2015. I wish to thank all members of the Committee for their time and attention to matters that impacted our Society over the past year. Through good management practices we have maintained a strong bank balance and equally important we have had no safety problems among the 4000 visitors who we conducted through the tunnel complex.

The Society's strength lies in its members giving their time on a regular basis –Guides and Cashiers, and when out of hours instances occur- tours and busy bees. I thank all members who added their efforts to our operations in 2014 and to date. We will welcome member Don Coley to the cashier chair later this year.

To those members who will receive long service badges today I thank you for your support and invite them to stay active with Society events.

My following comments are a summary of notable events for the past twelve months;

#### **MAY / JUNE.**

- The two bay gun floor completed.
- 3.7" gun repainted.
- Rebuilt 1950's loading ramp.

#### **JULY**

- Initial enquiries re the 6" shield.
- Planning began for Engineering Heritage award.

#### **AUGUST**

- Shield ownership clarified.
- Restored Bofors arrives at Leighton.
- 3.7"gun re-positioned into new gun floor.

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- We realise that several individuals and organisations are helping the shield head our way.
- Some bureaucratic red-tape delays final fit out of the gun floors.

#### **OCTOBER**

- Final planning by sub-committee for the engineering National Marker Award.
- We are given a thorough inspection by Town of Mosman Park to meet OH&S standards- we passed.
- We co-operated with Museums Australia to supply replicas of HMAS Sydney's 6" and HKS Emden's 4.1"shells.

## NOVEMBER

- The sudden passing of our Patron and past President, Mr Bruce Campbell.
- The 6" shield-ex HMAS Adelaide-arrives on site.
- A highly successful award ceremony saw the unveiling of an interpretive panel -"Fremantle Fortress Defences".

## DECEMBER

Heading towards Christmas saw a busy time attending to many jobs at the tunnels and the annex.

- We were aware of health concerns for our esteemed member Mrs Enid Cahill.
- The final tally for tunnel visitors was 4336-[against 3990 in 2013]
- We were approached to offer advice re the revival of the WW2 emplacements at Point Peron.

## JANUARY

- Our Command Post received air –conditioning.
- The end of year function was successfully held in mid Jan.
- AUSTRALIA DAY. We were awarded the Premier's Community Group Award-T.O.M.P. This comprised two framed certificates, and \$150 of Bunnings gift vouchers.
- The New Year's Honours List saw member Bob Arnold receiving a well-deserved OAM for community service. Congratulations Bob.

## FEBRUARY

- BAE SYSTEMS –the shield shifters- offered to design and fabricate the mountings for the shield to our 6" barrel.
- The barrel was sand blasted and painted-a quality job.
- Future plans for Leighton done in conjunction with our Interpretation Plan are under way;
  - \_ the 5.25" site.
  - \_ Hatch cover on 5.25" site
  - \_ Brickwork around number 2 6" site.
  - \_ Cement paths from C.P. To tunnel tour site.
  - \_ Upgrade to our road from car park to hilltop.
  - \_ Additional data panels on hilltop for public.
  - \_ Steel outline of 6" gun and shield to be sited in view of drivers using Stirling Highway.
  - \_ Upgrading existing audio data in the tunnels.

Before concluding, I would like to thank several members –amongst many– whose efforts have been quietly effective this past year;

Phil ALLEN  
Ron CAHILL  
Barry ELLIS

Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for your attendance today and enjoy the rest of the summer sun.

David Carter  
PRESIDENT  
March 2015

### **AUSTRALIA DAY RECOGNITION FOR LEIGHTON BATTERY.**

All members will be pleased to know that our tunnel complex at Leighton was formally recognised with an award recently.

Your President, along with Committee member Phil Rowson, were both invited to attend the Australia Day celebrations at Memorial Park, in Mosman Park to receive the award.

After the Citizenship ceremony a range of worthy individuals were announced followed by "Groups or Events" .The RAAHS received the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award- Community Group- Leighton Battery Heritage Site.

This attractive framed certificate will hang in the Battery Command Post Also gifted to us is a framed certificate from the Town of Mosman Park- signed by the Mayor. Furthermore we received Bunnings gift vouchers to the value of \$150.

I believe this Australia Day recognition is a reward to all members who have given generously of their time and effort construct and/or maintain our unique site .

UBIQUE  
David Carter.



## OUR MYSTERIOUS 6 INCH BARREL

In the last Artillery WA/Aiming Post we carried a copy of an ABC story about the journey of the gun shield from the Mt Eliza Tip to *Leighton Battery* where it will shortly be 'married to' the Mk XI 6 inch barrel. Unfortunately the story made the claim that the barrel was from *HMAS Sydney I*, a claim which surfaces from time to time but has been repeatedly been shown to be incorrect.

Our barrel (No 2328) still has some mysteries in its past, which are gradually being revealed. In her report on the barrel's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in December 2013, Mary Coley put to rest the claim that the barrel had been mounted on *HMAS Brisbane* in 1914, as that ship was only commissioned in 1916. New research by Keith Glyde has found that it came to Australia in 1914 with the other new barrels that were mounted on *HMAS Brisbane*, but was kept as a reserve. It seems it was sent back to UK in May 1917 and its activity in UK service is currently unknown.

It was returned to Australia in 1938 and was sent to Fremantle in October, to be mounted at Bickley Battery on Rottne Island. Keith has found a War Office letter dated 19 Jun 1939 that describes No 2328 as a new barrel exchanged to Australia from RN stocks and it is listed in reports dated 5 Apr and 1 Sep 1939 as being new.



However when it was sand blasted recently, to prepare it to match the shield, Don Rae found a 'star' marking on the breech, which indicates that rather than being 'new', it was relined before it was sent to Fremantle. So at sometime between 1917 and 1938, No 2328 had been mounted on some ship and had fired enough rounds to have needed a reline.

Research continues and we will keep Artillery WA in touch with progress.

## **WWI CENTENARY: HORSE-DRAWN 18-POUNDER ARTILLERY PIECE AND GUN CARRIAGE TO BE RESTORED IN ANZAC COMMEMORATION**

By Melissa Clarke ABC News

A tin shed in Sydney and a paddock in Goulburn are far from the battlefields of World War I, but they are the sites of an ambitious project to commemorate the soldiers killed in the Great War.

Dozens of people are pitching in to faithfully restore a pivotal weapon of the era - the 18-pounder gun. They hope to have the gun, complete with a six-horse team to haul it, ready for Anzac Day.

"The project's been going for a couple of years now," Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) chairman Tim Ford said.

"We had an 18-pounder and we felt that this was a great idea to bring together a gun, a limber and a team as part of the Anzac centenary celebrations for the next three years."

The 18-pounder has been housed in a tin shed at North Head on Sydney Harbour. Carriage-maker Jim Frecklington has been painstakingly restoring it over the past two years.

"This gun needed a major amount of work to bring it up to standard," he said. Over 100 years, rust gets in around the rivets and bolts, so that's all had to be taken apart and sandblasted. Parts that were damaged had to be restored and the parts that were missing had to be replaced."

Mr Frecklington previously made a stage-coach for Queen Elizabeth but said he was thrilled to work on something that would stay in Australia.

He hopes, once finished, it will be "a new national treasure" to commemorate the men, women and horses that served in World War



*Kevin Browning, Jim Frecklington and Tim Ford inspect WWI-era 18-pounder gun*

Named after the weight of its artillery, the 18-pounder was used extensively on the Western Front and in Gallipoli.

Artillery expert Kevin Browning said it was "the one gun that the infantry relied on for protection".

"The 18-pounder was used to lay down a screen of fire in front of infantry, as they were advancing, to try to keep the enemy troops down and particularly the machine gunners from being brought back to the surface," he said.

Several hundred kilometres away from where the carriage is being restored, Max Pearce in Goulbourn has been training horses to pull the gun and limber.



*Horses are being trained to pull the 18-pounder gun and limber. (ABC)*

Since October, he has whittled down about a dozen former harness racers to a team of six.

"There were quite a few horses we actually sacked that weren't suitable," he said.

"They thought they were at the racetrack. When they got beside each other they wanted to race off."

It was a new challenge for the experienced horse trainer.

"Learning about the artillery harness, how it works, it's all quick release," he said, "I found that fascinating."

Gerard Hogan has pulled together the team managing the horses and taken charge of finding and restoring the harness.

The saddler sourced parts from around the country and hand-stitched the pieces that were beyond repair.

"It's taken a long time just to get the right harness," Mr Hogan said.

"Some of the pieces are original," he said, pointing out stamps in the leatherwork of 1917 and their origin. But some of the leather had deteriorated and was replaced with careful replicas.

"The only things that changed is the thread, but all the techniques used to make it are the same," he said.

The dedicated team behind the project are on track to take part in the Anzac Day Parade at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. But after Anzac Day, they hope it will become a "mobile memorial" over the next few years.

"We are planning that this gun will be available to go to various community centres," Mr Ford said.

"With the help of donations, they want to take the gun and team of horses to schools, RSLs and be part of activities going on to commemorate Australians in WWI.

"There are several hundred thousand dollars involved in this ... We need more support if we can get it."

Original article <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-17/horse-drawn-wwi-18-pounder-gun-carriage-centenary/6127210>

### **WELFARE FUND and OFFICER**

John Blylevens 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 [john.bly@auspost.com.au](mailto:john.bly@auspost.com.au) or telephone 043 869 5711. 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 (\$25 per annum) 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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**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.

## 3 Lt Bty Merchandise FOR SALE



TIE



DETAILS ON TIE



PT SHIRT

To purchase **7 Fd Bty RAA Tie** or **3 Lt Bty PT Shirt** Cut below and return to 3 Lt Bty ORs Canteen, Hobbs Artillery Park, Irwin Barracks, Stubbs Terrace, KARRAKATTA WA 6010 or for further details contact *Andrew Quarles*:

I would like to order 7 Fd Bty RAA Tie / 3 Lt Bty PT Shirt (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)

3 Lt Bty PT Shirt

*(Ties are \$25 each. PT Shirts are \$25 each. )*

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Street Name\_\_\_\_\_

Suburb:\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Email:\_\_\_\_\_

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