

Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)ISSN 2652-001xWeb Site: <a href="http://www.artillerywa.org.au">http://www.artillerywa.org.au</a>Email: <a href="mailto:info@artillerywa.org.au">info@artillerywa.org.au</a>

#### Edition 4/24

#### DECEMBER 2024



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### **OFFICE BEARERS**

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<u>President</u>

Andrew Dunjey

Vice President

Robert Farrelly

<u>Secretary</u> John Blylevens

Treasurer

StanDavies

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<u>RAA</u>

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<u>Treasurer</u>

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David Carter (LBHS Convener)

Stan Davies (IT Consultant)

> Don Rae (Curator)



## **NOTICE BOARD**

### **ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA**

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 10 March 2025 to the Editor Pat Bell at pbell35@hotmail.com

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#### **RAAHSWA MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Annual Membership Fees become due and payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.

Single Membership is \$25.00 per annum Joint Membership is \$35.00 per annum Payment may be made direct to the Treasurer – by post : P.O. Box 881Claremont WA 6910 Direct Credit: Commonwealth Bank Acct 00903744 BSB 066 103 (Don't forget to include your name on the deposit so we can keep our records up to date)

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### WELFARE FUND OFFICER

John Blylevens is the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any welfare funding can contact John via email info@ artillerywa.org.au or telephone 043 869 5711. Access to funds can be made by applying in writing using the Welfare Fund Application 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.

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### RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2025

Last Saturday of each month

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### LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00

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RAAA- President's Report December 2024





Fellow Gunners,

2024 seems like another blistering year in terms of the speed in which the year flew by. I suspect that I and others will be saying the same thing this time next year. More sobering is the contemplation that the Ukraine/Russia war has now passed the 1,000-day mark and the Israel/Hamas/Hezbollah conflict has elapsed 1 year.

A little closer to home saw a small party from 3 Light Battery travel to India in early November as part of a Combat Team contingent from 13 Brigade to take part in exercise Austrahind 24. This was a high

profile international engagement exercise in which the two Armies shared in the exchange of ideas with their opposite numbers and exercised a degree of interoperability. It is envisaged that this partnership with the Indian Army may continue into the near future and 13 Brigade looks forward to hosting the Indian Army in WA in 2025 in a reciprocal exercise.

Early November also saw the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gunners Day on a weather, picture perfect day. I have no doubt that Gunners of the past would be immensely pleased that the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery continue to recognise this important commemorative service. Thank you to all who organised the event and enabled it to occur.

The next noteworthy event in the Gunner calendar is Friday 6 December when we will celebrate the Feast of Saint Barbara. This year, we will recognise the occasion by getting together for an informal function at Hobbs Artillery Park, with serving and past members and partners. Dress will be neat casual, with drinks being purchased through the Gunner's Institute with finger food provided. Although not a dinner this year, it represents a terrific occasion to get together with fellow Gunners and renew acquaintances and congratulate the winners of the Best Gunner and the Bonser Awards. Planning is already afoot to have a traditional dinner in 2025.

Finally, on behalf of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA, I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and new year.

Ubique

Andrew Dunjey



The opening ceremony of Exercise AUSTRAHIND was held on November 8, 2024 at the Foreign Training Node in Pune, Maharashtra

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### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024





As I reflect on what has occurred within the Society during the past twelve months I am more than impressed by the support our Volunteers have contributed to the success of our operations.

By far the most significant involvement is the Leighton Battery Heritage Site where each Sunday a Team of Guides and a Cashier is rostered to accommodate the steady increase in members of the public who visit the tourist venue. Added to this commitment, volunteers al-

so attend throughout the year for visits by high school students and members of clubs and other organizations. To those volunteers I extend my sincere appreciation as their efforts are responsible for the Society's main source of income.

Late in 2023 the Society received two major funding grants – one from the Department of Veteran Affairs "Saluting Their Service Programme" and the other from Lotterywest. These grants enabled us to embark on an ambitious enhancement programme for the development of the 5.25" Gun Emplacement. From the concept developed by Graham McKenzie-Smith, the programme was completed on schedule, culminating in an Official Opening on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 that is featured elsewhere in the Newsletter. Assisted by a group of talented volunteers, Graham has brought to conclusion a really remarkable display that will shortly become an extension to the Tunnel Tour. Congratulations Graham and your team of volunteers.

This year's Gunner's Day was held at Guildford on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and although attendance was less than in previous years, the tribute to Gunners in all conflicts was dutifully remembered. I laid the Society Wreath on the occasion. Photos taken on the Day are elsewhere in the Newsletter.

End year postings for Members of 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA reflect a more than usual occurrence – Major Daniel Evangelsti transfers to Staff College, Captain Marcell Blackie transfers to 13 Brigade and Warrant Officer Daniel Stasev is posted to 20 STA Regiment.

I had the pleasure on 4<sup>th</sup> December presenting Captain Blackie and Warrant Officer Stasev a token of appreciation for their support to the Society throughout the time of their appointments in 3 Battery.

The "End Year" Volunteer's Lunch for Members and Partners was held at the Alf Adams Pavillion in Mosman Park on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024, a gesture recognizing the contribution made by our dedicated volunteers throughout the year.

Once again it provided an opportunity for Members to socially mingle with their peers as a curtain raiser for the Festive Season.

As far as 2025 is concerned, I am confident that it will bring new challenges and rewards to the way we conduct our business and I am equally confident that we will enjoy yet another successful year.

I take this opportunity to wish all readers the very best for the Festive Season.

Jim Archibald

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### New Appointments Battery Commander Major Brett Fowler





Major Fowler enlisted as a Soldier in the Australian Army Reserve in 2001 and was posted to 7 Field Battery, 3 Field Regiment where he completed trade and specialist courses. He was deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth in 2003 before promotion to Lance Bombardier in 2004. In 2005 he commenced Officer Training, where he was posted to the Western Australia University Regiment (WAUR). In 2007 he graduated the Royal Military College Duntroon and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, posting back to 7 Field Battery as a Troop Commander. In 2008 he was promoted to Lieutenant and was later employed as the Gun Positioning Officer, which included being GPO for the final times the M2A2 fired live at Lancelin. In late 2009 he deployed to the Solomon Islands (Operation An-

ode) as the Civil-Military Liaison Commander. Leading a multinational team, he was responsible for the task forces' military liaison with external agencies, media and community engagement strategies where he was awarded the Chief of Joint Operations Silver Commendation.

In 2010 he was promoted to Captain and helped oversee the units transition from artillery guns to mortars, involving one of the most significant cultural, equipment and training adjustments in the unit's history. Throughout 2010-2015 he undertook numerous artillery roles as Joint Fires Team Commander, Plans Officer and Battery Captain. In 2012 he was awarded the Prince of Wales Award and the Defence Reserves Service Excellence Award. From 2015-2022 he was posted to Defence Force Recruiting, 13 Brigade Headquarters and WAUR. In 2022 he was promoted to Major and posted to the WA Army Cadet Brigade as the Operations Officer.

Major Fowler's civilian career was heavily influenced from family and Army Reserve friends who served in the Police. In 2004 he joined the Western Australia Police Force, and after completing a variety of general duties and investigative postings, in 2008 he was selected as a Detective. In 2010 he was posted to the Gang Crime Squad followed by a specialist posting within the State Intelligence portfolio. In 2015 he was posted to Major Crime / Homicide Squad and was later promoted to Detective Sergeant. His investigative background focussed on drug, organised crime and major crime investigations. He completed an Advanced Diploma in Investigations and a Graduate Certificate in Investigations (UWA) and reflects on his policing journey as one of the highlights of his life with his young brother following his footsteps into Policing. Major Fowler finished his service as a Detective Sergeant at Detective Training School in 2022, before moving to Rio Tinto and now BHP supporting their investigation functions.

In 2025, Major Fowler will return to the place he started his Army Reserve career, at 3 Battery, 9 Regiment to serve as Battery Commander, which he views as an incredible opportunity to give back to a unit and group of people that surround the unit, that have been so good to him over the years. Major Fowler serves as an Aide-de-Camp to the WA Governor as an extra regimental appointment to 13 Brigade.

Major Fowler is married and has two children. He is the Vice-Chair of Tiny Sparks WA, and enjoys spending his time with family and friends, and attempting to play basketball (a child-hood passion).

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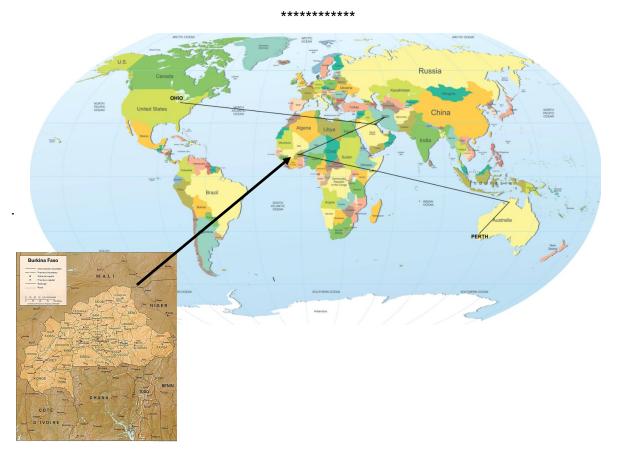
### New Appointments Instructor of Gunnery Captain Michael Rutherford





Michael Rutherford was born in Columbus, Ohio USA. He attended the University of Cincinnati where he studied History and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts. Following graduation in 2012 he served for nine years in the United States Army during the course of which he was deployed to Kuwait, Iraq, Burkina Faso and Somalia. Michael laterally transferred to the Australian Army in 2023 and was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Regiment RAA in Darwin. In January 2025 Michael will take up the appointment of Instructor Gunnery 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA at Irwin Barracks Karrakatta.

Michael is married to his wife Hannah and they have a  $2^{1/2}$  year old daughter Leah with a second daughter expected in February 2025.



### Editor's Note

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa. It is bordered by Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast. It was once a French Colony and gained Independence in 1960. The US, UK and French Armed Forces have provided support and training to the Burkina Faso's security forces who have been in conflict with Islamic Militants.

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### New Appointments Sergeant Major Instructor of Gunnery Warrant Officer Class Two David Devlin

Warrant Officer Class Two David Devlin was born in Stoke Mandeville, England and enlisted into the British Army on 11 November 1996 serving over 19 years in the Royal Artillery. He has served as a Joint Fires Team member, Detachment Commander, Troop Sergeant, Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery and Battery Sergeant Major.

On completion of his initial employment training, Warrant Officer Devlin posted into the 26th Regiment Royal Artillery based in Germany, where he served as

a Fire Support Team member through to Battery Commander's Assistant and Fire Support Team Commander.

In 2010, Warrant Officer Devlin was successful on the United Kingdom Gunnery Career Course and posted as a Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery, instructing United Kingdom Special Forces in both dynamic and deliberate precision targeting.

Warrant Officer Devlin's deployment experience includes Bosnia, on Operation LODESTAR in 1998, Kosovo, on Operation AGRICOLA in 1999, and a return to Bosnia on Operation PALA-TINE in 2001. In 2005, Warrant Officer Devlin deployed on a United Nations peacekeeping tour as part of the United Nations force in Cyprus (UNFORCYP) on Operation TOSCA. In 2004 and 2006, he deployed to Iraq on Operation TELIC where he was awarded a Brigade Commander's Commendation for securing the crash-site of a downed helicopter in Basra City during the second deployment.

In 2008, he deployed on Operation HERRICK in Afghanistan with 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, as a Joint Fires Team Commander attached to 45 Commando Royal Marines. In 2012, Warrant Officer Devlin was posted to 19th Regiment Royal Artillery as the Battery Sergeant Major of 52 (NIAGARA) Bty RA. In 2013 he assumed the position of Battery Sergeant Major in J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. In 2015, he deployed at short notice to Sierra Leone on Operation GRITROCK as part of the international effort to combat the Ebola virus.

In November 2015, Warrant Officer Devlin lateral transferred from the British Army to the Australian Defence Force. During his career within the Royal Australian Artillery, Warrant Officer Devlin has served in 109th Battery, 4th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery as the Battery Commanders Assistant, also as a Troop Sergeant at the Joint Terminal Attack Controller Troop, 16th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. In 2021 he posted to 108th Operation Support Battery as the Operations Warrant Officer, then in 2022 as the Battery Guide in 107th Battery. In 2023 he was posted back into 108th Operation Support Battery as the Battery Sergeant Major. He has deployed on numerous exercises including Operation OKRA in Iraq with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment as a trainer and mentor to the Iraqi Army on the fledgling Iraqi Forward Air Controller Course. Warrant Officer Devlin has just completed tenure as the Battery Sergeant Major in 106th Battery, 4th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery as part of the Ground Combat Element for amphibious operations and is posted into 3rd Battery, 9 Regiment Royal Australian Artillery as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery.

Warrant Officer Devlin is married to his wife Suzi. His sports and hobbies include CrossFit and a passion for motorcycling.



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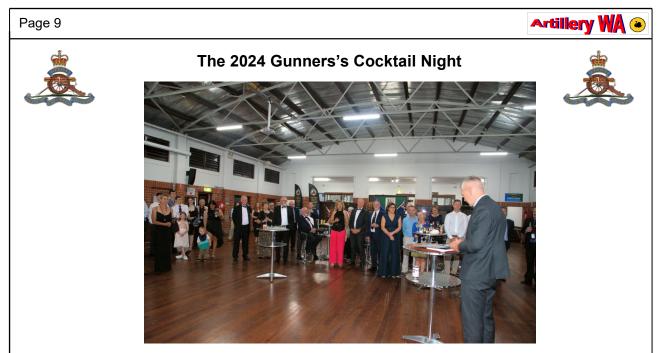
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**Gunners Day 2024** 







COL. Andrew Dunjey addresses the Battery Members, RAAHS Members and guests





COL. Andrew Dunjey presents LBDR Andre DeOliveira with Most Outstanding Soldier Award for 2024.

MAJ Daniel Evangelisti presents BDR Joseph McIntosh with the Gavin Bonser 2024 Award.



MAJ Daniel Evangelisti presents LBDR Andre DeOliveira with the Most Outstanding Soldier plaque.



Matt Bonser and BDR Joseph McIntosh with the 2024 Gavin Bonser Award.

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### 5.25" Dual Purpose Gun Display Official Opening



Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 was selected as the opening date for the 5.25" Dual Purpose Gun Display Space at the Leighton Battery Heritage Site. This date coincided incidentally with the nearest Saturday to St Barbara's Day, St Barbara being the Patron Saint of Artillery.

Invitations were sent out to political dignitaries from all facets of Government, Senior Military figures, representatives of supporting businesses, our volunteer groups and neighbours and friend of the site.

Whilst Matt Keogh and Paul Papalia, the Ministers for Veterans Affairs at Federal and State level respectively were not able to attend, we were able to entertain Ms Kate Chaney MP – Federal Member for Curtin, Dr David Honey MLA – State Member for Cottesloe, Mr Pierre Yang MLC – who spoke on behalf of Paul Papalia, and Mr Paul Shaw, His Worship the Mayor of The Town of Mosman Park.

The audience was addressed by the President of RAAHSWA Mr Jim Archibald, Vice-President Mr Graham McKenzie Smith and Mr Pierre Yang MLA – Himself a former Soldier with 13 Brigade in Perth and a regular visitor to the heritage site.

President Jim and the Mayor of TOMP Paul Shaw then cut ribbons at the entrance to the display, officially opening the site to the gathered audience. Ministers and guests alike all agreed the display is a top-grade museum space and will wow and delight all who see it for many years to come. It is a tribute to all who were involved with its inception and delivery.



President RAAHSWA Jim Archibald addresses the audience



TOMP Mayor Paul Shaw viewing the video of troops landing at Pt Walter



Event MC Phil Rowson with Dr David Honey MLA



VP RAAHSWA Graham McKenzie-Smith with Kate Chaney MP and John Culverhouse in the map room

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### 2024 RAAHS Christmas Luncheon



The 2024 RAAHS Christmas Luncheon was held at the Alf Adams Pavillion, Mosman Park on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024. We would like to thank Phillip Rowson for catering, David Carter for the after-lunch trivial pursuit (which also provided an outlet for all the surplus beverages) and Charles Fisher for the photographic coverage of the event. Don Rae was finally cornered by Jim and presented with an award for his significant contribution to the Society.



Jim presents Don with his award



Caroline, Peter, Kryss & Roy



Ron, Heather, Lina& Phil



Sharon, Andrew, Sharon & Craig



Carmel, Pat, Rob & Karl

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### **Battery Members Posting Out**



CAPT Marcel Blackie is presented with a token of appreciation at the completion of this posting to 3 BTY



WO2 Daniel Stasev is presented with a token of appreciation at the completion of this posting to 3 BTY

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### WA Army Museum

Here is a blast from the past from the West Australian Newspaper in 1977 when a Gloweave business shirt could be purchased for under \$10 and the contents of the WA Army Museum could be housed in only 16 rooms of a house at the corner of Lord and Bulwer Streets, Almost 50 years later the shirt is now \$80 and the Museum is now contained (barely) at Artillery Barracks, Fremantle.

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BEREAVEMENTS

Sadly, we advise the passing of three of our long serving Members



### RICHARD NEIL LODGE 31.03.1935 – 05.07.2024

Neil joined the Society on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2003, having been convinced by Muriel Vivoda that he would enjoy the challenges and rewards offered by the Society.

Neil contributed to the success the Society has enjoyed in his role of Treasurer and Member of the Management Committee. A man of high integrity and principles, he professionally observed the many demands of law that apply in the conduct of an Incorporated Association.

Neil received the Society's highest award for exceptional voluntary service at the Annual General Meeting in March 2024, recognizing his twenty-one years dedicated commitment to the success the Society has achieved.

Neil is survived by his Partner Mila, son Drew and daughter Sally.

### MARGARET HELEN GLYDE 23.08.1936 – 28.10.2024

Helen joined the Society on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1996, no doubt influenced by her late husband Robert, Foundation Member, Librarian and Researcher, and she served as Society Secretary from 1997 until 2000.

Prior to her marriage, Helen served in the Royal Australian Air Force and in Local Government.

Post marriage she embarked on a successful business career – a Member of the Australian Institute of Management, Women in Business Association and was Personal Assistant to a Director of Argyle Mining.

Helen is survived by her two sons, Keith and Ian.

### 538416 BASIL GORDON TWINE 04.09.1935 - 15.12.2024

Basil joined the Society on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1996, influenced by his CMF Service with 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment RAA and his post National Service conscription spent with 125 CA/AA Battery at Leighton. Basil was commissioned in 1971, re-posted to 3 FD REGT RAA where he served until transferring to 5<sup>th</sup> Intelligent Unit in 1978 – the Unit he commanded prior to retiring in 1983.

The experience Basil gained whilst serving at Leighton Battery made him an invaluable source of information on the technical aspects of Coast and Anti Air Artillery.

On 21.01.2009, Basil's wife Jenny joined him in the Society and they teamed together as Guide and Cashier for many years until Basil's health issues prompted their retirement from "Active Duty".

Basil and Jenny were long standing Members of the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club and Basil was appointed Rear Commodore Power in the 1990's. In more recent years Basil was appointed Archivist to RFBYC and worked tirelessly in that role digitizing the Club's voluminous records.

Basil is survived by his Wife Jenny, Father of Shelley and Andrew, Stepfather of Rosemary, Mark and Grant.

### UBIQUE



### THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

# THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION – WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2025

The Annual General Meetings of the two Organisations will be held at the Alf Adams Pavilion, Solomon Street Mosman Park on **Saturday 15th March 2025**:

RAA A WA members register at **0900 for 0930** hrs meeting

RAAHS-WA members register at 0945 for 1015 hrs meeting.

All Members are urged to attend.

Agenda for the Meetings will include:

- Reports President, Treasurer
- Notices of Motion (where submitted)
- Long service recognition RAAHS Members
- General Business
- Election of Office Bearers

Notices of motion must be signed by the Proposer and the Seconder, and are to be lodged with the Secretary prior to the meeting.

Nominations for election to the Management Committee shall be submitted on the enclosed form and lodged with the Secretary before the Meeting is declared open. Each nomination shall be endorsed with the signatures of the Nominee, Proposer and Seconder. Morning Tea refreshments will be available at the meetings.

### **RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION**

Members are reminded that their 2025 Subscription is due 1 Jan 2025 and may be paid:

**Preferred** by direct bank transfer as below:

- \$15 (\$40 for 3 yrs) RAA Association of WA (Inc) CSB BSB Number 066 163 Account 0090 2583
- \$25 RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)

CSB BSB Number 066 103 Account 0090 3744

If using this means, Members are reminded to include their name on the Bank transaction summary.

**Otherwise** on the day or by cheque or postal note addressed to the Treasurer of the relevant Association or Society at:

Post Office Box 881

Claremont WA 6910

Artillery WA 🕑



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIA ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION WA (Inc)

### THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WA (Inc)

### Nomination Form: Management Committee – 2025

RAA A WA/RAAHS-WA

(Indicate RAA A WA <u>or</u> RAAHS-WA)

I hereby nominate:

(PLEASE PRINT)

For election to position of:

(Insert President (Chair), Vice President (Vice Chair), Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Sec,

Assistant Treasurer, Committee Person)

Proposed By:

Seconded By:

Accepted by Nominee:

(Signatures)

Date:

NB: additional nomination forms available from Secretary, John: mob 043 869 5711 ino@artillerywa.org.au or photocopy this form.

tick box to the association's nomination form requiring all candidates to confirm that they are not an undischarged bankrupt and do not have one of the specified criminal convictions. (see below)

Act Requirements – Persons who are not to be members of Committee

Under section 39 of the Act the following persons must not, without leave of the Commissioner, accept an appointment or act as a member of a management committee of an association:

- a person who is, according to the Interpretation Act 1984 section 13D, a bankrupt or person whose affairs are under insolvency laws;
- a person who has been convicted, within our outside the State, of-
  - $\Rightarrow$  an indictable offence in relation to the promotion, formation or management of a body corporate; or
  - ⇒ an offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable by imprisonment for a period of not less than three months; or
  - $\Rightarrow$  an offence under Part 4 Division 3 or section 127 of the Act

Section 39 only applies to a person who has been convicted of the above offences only for a period of 5 years from the time of the person's conviction, or if the conviction results in a term of imprisonment, from the time of the person's release from custody.

