



Artillery WA



Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)

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Email: info@artillerywa.org.au

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ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA

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

RAAHSWA MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Membership Fees become due and payable on 1st 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)

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.

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2025

Last Saturday of each month

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

Sunday 10am-3pm

Adults \$10.00 Children \$4.00



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (WA) PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2025



Fellow Gunners,

It has been a privilege to hold the role of President of the RAA Association on WA the past 12 months. My thanks to Bob Farrelly for assisting me in the various tasks over the year. Unfortunately I could not be present at this years AGM due to commitments at HQ 13 Bde on 15-16 March. Sunday 16 March was particularly noteworthy in that we witnessed the Transfer of Authority to the new Commander of 13 Brigade, that being BRIG Damian Bushell. Commander 2 (AS) Division MAJGEN Matthew Burr was present for the transfer ceremony.

Actions from AGM 2025

There were no actions arising from the 2025 AGM.

Anzac Day 2024 & 2025

ANZAC Day 2024 went well, and although I was not able to march with the Association due to marching with HQ 13 Bde, it was great to attend the Dawn Services at Hobbs Artillery Park. I will again be marching with HQ 13 Bde this ANZAC Day while posted there, but will be sure to attend the refreshments and camaraderie afterwards at HAP.

If you wish to attend either the Dawn Service or festivities back at HAP after the march, can you please advise John Blylevens when he sends out the email so that we can provide a list of names to the Bty for security and admission. Note that the gate to Irwin Barracks gets closed very early on the morning of ANZAC Day, so if you don't want to walk some distance, I recommend you arrive very early to park inside. Further details will be provided as they come to hand.

Gunners Day 2024

Gunners Day 2024 was held on Sunday 3 November. The day went well with pleasant weather but with smaller numbers than in recent years.

The salute taken by Brigadier Gerry Warner as the Commander was unavailable on the day. Reverend Katrina Holgate again conducted the Memorial wreath laying service. Led by the Pipes & Drums from the Australian Army Band - Perth, Gunner's past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 Battery RAA and members of the 56 Australian Cadet Unit (Fremantle) marched through Stirling Gardens. The parade then moved into position around the War Memorial for the wreath laying service. The cadets from 56 ACU again provided a catafalque party around the memorial which was well done. Following the wreath laying service we had the traditional church service followed by comradery in the church hall and then at the Rose & Crown. Let's really get behind this important event again in 2025 to ensure we continue to honour the Gunners of the past.

Feast of Saint Barbara 2024 & 2025

The Feast of Saint Barbara commemoration was held on Friday 6 December at HAP as a stand-up cocktail type of event given difficulty in securing caterers. Whilst the event was small in number, it was well received by Battery personnel. For 2025, we have secured ANZAC House to hold the dinner on Friday 5 December 25. Whilst it is not HAP this year, or at a mess at Irwin Barracks, it will never-the-less be a fitting location for us to commemorate the Feast of Saint Barbara. We will need to get 70 people at ANZAC House in order to break even. The venue overlooks Government House and the river is a superb location.

Put a place holder in your diaries for Sunday 2 November for Gunner's Day and Friday 5 December 2025 for the next Feast of St Barbara.

I would like to thank the RAA Association Committee for all their work during the year and my Presidency. It is and has been appreciated.

Ubique

Andrew Dunjey



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2025



Following a successful conclusion to the major projects in 2024 you may imagine we will be resting on our laurels throughout 2025. This is not the case! The Committee has been tasked to examine what else may be done to further enhance Leighton Battery Heritage Site as a Tourist destination well into the future.

Already, two previously deferred projects have been brought out of moth balls for consideration:

- The commissioning of a life size bronze sculpture symbolizing a Coast Watcher gazing through binoculars out to sea – originally conceived during the 1990's. Costs then were estimated at \$30,000.00 which at the time was well beyond our financial resources. Later, in 2014 a revised quotation had grown to \$100,000.00!
- In 2015 it was proposed to erect a mock camouflage net over the 6inch Gun Emplacement to resemble the wartime precautions to disguise the facility from hostile air and sea surveillance.

This project was deferred in favour of funding a replica 5.25" Gun and Turret mounted on the original emplacement which, on completion, paved the way for the development of the Gun Floor Enhancement Project that was officially opened in December 2024.

The main activity during this quarter was the 37th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 15th March 2025. All appointments are declared vacant at AGM's and Members are invited to apply for a particular position. Not unsurprisingly, the only applications received were from the previous committee!

Details are listed on the index of Page 2 of the Newsletter.

A feature of the AGM over past years has been recognition of Members who have attained long serving achievements and receive a new Name Badge recording their years of service.

Recipients this year were:

10 Year	Robert Coales	Don Coley	Ken Hepworth
15 Year	Vera McKenzie-Smith		
20 Year	Mary ColeyWes Sutton		
30 Year	Wayne Henderson		
35 Year	John Blylevens	Richard Lawler	

Another most pleasing task for me this year was the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Members who have made a significant contribution to the Society over a considerable number of years.

I congratulate this year's recipients:

Phillip G Angwin Ronald F Cahill R J (Roy) Smith

Earlier this month I welcomed new Member Joseph Hunter who introduced himself to the Leighton Battery Guides several weeks ago. Joe has an interesting Gunner background. Born in the UK he migrated to New Zealand with his family, returning to the UK in 1996. Joe enlisted in the British Army and served in 457 Battery 106 Air Defence Regiment RA. A further 10 years were spent in 14 Regiment RA at the Royal School of Artillery Larkhill. For 5 years Joe served as Crew Commander of the British AS90 Self Propelled 155mm Gun used to promote the Larkhill Regiment and Museum on a National Level.

Welcome Joe – we look forward to your active involvement at Leighton Battery.

I will keep readers informed of future projects as they develop.

Jim Archibald



ANZAC Day 2025 John Blylevens

The **ANZAC DAY** march in Perth will be conducted similar to last year, from corner Barrack Street/St Georges Terrace to Langley Park:

RAA form up point is **D52**, just a bit up from London Court

RSL requests everyone form up by 8.45am for a 9.00am step off (may be awhile before the trickle-down effect kicks in)

Ken Hepworth is the COORD

3 BTY is conducting:

DAWN SERVICE at Hobbs Artillery Park with a Gunfire breakfast afterward.

ARRIVE: TBC

DRESS: Jacket and tie with medals (preferred)

COST: TBC

Entry to Irwin Barracks will require photo ID (eg Driver's lic), gates will close early to prevent interference with Unit Dawn Services

2. **LUNCHEON FUNCTION after the Perth March** at Hobbs Artillery Park:

COMMENCE: around noon

DRESS: smart casual

COST: TBC

Entry to Irwin Barracks will require photo ID (eg Driver's licence)

Questions? johnblylevens@gmail.com 043 869 5711





Katanning War Memorial Lindsay Morrison



Just prior to ANZAC day 2024 I had been filling in as the acting GM Operations & Assets for the Shire of Katanning. As part of that role I had responsibility for Park & Facilities of which the Katanning war memorial forms part. On my pre-ANZAC day inspection of the Memorial and its precincts I was quite taken with an old field gun that sat to the rear of the Memorial proper.

Katanning War Memorial to Fallen Soldiers circa 1920

The World War 1 war trophy field gun originally belonged to the Turkish (Ottoman) Army and was captured in Palestine by the Australian Light Horse. It has been at the Katanning War Memorial since 1920. My inspection revealed the gun had been made by Krupp in Essen, Germany but the rest of the inscriptions were in writing that I was not familiar with. As it turned out this was Turkish 'Arabic Script' which I might add is no longer used in Turkey. In fact this was changed in 1928 by Kamel Ataturk in order to 'Westernise' the language. Sadly the field gun was not in a very good state of repair and despite the good intentions of previous partial restorations was severely rusted in places and the wheels were basically falling apart. In fact, I considered the field gun in its then current state, an unacceptable public risk. It was not my intention to see the field gun scrapped, far from it, my then thinking was that it could be refurbished to an acceptable state for ongoing external display and returned to its position at the memorial but where to start?

As an ex-Army Reserve Officer I did have a few contacts on the periphery of WA military circles and brought them into play. Through my good friend and ex Army Reserve Officer Ray Galliot, I was able to get in touch with Don Rae from the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA who in turn put me onto Wayne Henderson, a member, who lives in Cuballing, which by chance is only just up the road (117km) from Katanning. At this point I discussed my thoughts with the CEO of the Shire and he concurred that the shire needs to maintain the requirements of public safety but also the solemnity of the war memorial. Hence we searched the budget to identify what potential funds could be found to pay for this possible work. After some discussion Wayne agreed to come down to Katanning and view the field gun in order to provide an 'opinion' regarding potential restoration. In due course Wayne and I met up at the Katanning war memorial and both looked over the field gun. I outlined what I was thinking and what I would like to do. We chatted about the options. At one stage I was told about a field gun restoration that had cost an eye watering amount of money and advised that the best I could arrange from the shire was approximately \$10k. Wayne was certainly on side with the view to restore the field gun to as close to 'original' condition as possible even given the limited funds.

Wayne departed with a promise to put together his thoughts and get back to me. In very quick time Wayne presented me with a list of works to bring the field gun to a presentable standard suitable for external display. In fact Wayne had discussed the project with a Cuballing engineering firm 'McDougall Weldments' and his enthusiasm for this project rubbed off such an extent that the refurbishment quotation came in at the \$10k that the Shire could raise. To achieve this restoration and work within the funding available would mean that both Wayne Henderson and McDougall Weldments would carry out their respective tasks for the cost of materials only!



How incredible is that!



The folks from McDougall Weldments involved were as follows; Benjamin Sleep, Christopher Millin, William Swan, Andrew Jones, Danny Reynolds, Kaleb Sisarich & John Speedy, fantastic work fellas!

I must make special mention of the work undertaken by Wayne Henderson in rebuilding the wheels. What a monumental task to take on. The end results bear witness to the extraordinary work that he has undertaken and delivered.

Over the next period of time up until 12 April 2025 there is further work to do at the war memorial to ensure it reflects the regions high esteem in which it holds service and ex service personnel. The return of the field gun and the carrying out of these other works at the memorial such as a new flag pole, an interpretive panel, and additional inscribed plinth to recognise Australian service personnel in the recent Middle East theatre of operations will bring the war memorial up to date.

A rededication ceremony* will be held at the memorial on **Saturday April 12th 2025 at 1300 hrs** in the presence of the Commander 13th Brigade and the wife of the Governor of WA representing the Governor. The restored field gun will be re positioned at the memorial prior to this Ceremony. Post the Ceremony a reception and refreshments will be provided for those attending courtesy of the Katanning Shire. If you feel like a drive into the country come down to Katanning for the rededication you will be most welcome.

**the ceremony has now been postponed by the Shire to Remembrance Day (Editor)*

Information taken from the RAAHS newsletter Aiming Post Sep 2000

Although the Turkish Army had a sizeable artillery arsenal consisting mainly of German plus a few French guns, during the First World War it was apparently necessary to supplement the artillery component with more German guns manned by German and Austrian personnel. As a result of this, not only were weapons with Arabic marking captured, but also German owned and operated guns.

The 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment operated at both Gallipoli and in Palestine and with the other Light Horse Regiments captured complete batteries of guns towards the end of the campaign.

There appears to have been 14 guns allocated to the Regiment and appropriate towns in the 1920-21 distribution of 'trophy weapons', to serve as memorial guns. Thirteen of these can be traced in the records and a further gun which is not shown or cannot be recognised is at Corrigin. Of the fourteen guns only five appear to be in existence today comprising one 75 mm Mountain Gun, one 105 mm Howitzer and three 75 mm M03 field guns which were part of a special Turkish Army purchased before 1914.

Details of the weapons in existence are;

Field Gun Ser No.615. The War Memorial Park at Katanning is the site at which this weapon is displayed. It was manufactured by Fr. Krupp of Essen.

Unfortunately the date could not be ascertained due to the heavy coats of paint applied over the years (1908 year of manufacture) the gun number is yet to be confirmed but it is recorded in AWM records that 615 was the number of the unit sent to Katanning.



Directory of Allocated War Trophies WW1 Western Australia



Following World War I weapons captured from German, Austria/Hungary and Turkish forces were distributed amongst the allied nations as reminders of the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers involved. In Australia Committees were set up in each state to manage the distribution. Some were retained for what would become the Australian War Memorial, others distributed to Army units to which the guns capture was linked and others to communities and schools. The type and size of the weapon allotted depended on the size of the town and conditions for allocation varied between States. Generally the community accepted responsibility to display the trophy, pay the cost of its transportation, arrange a ceremony to unveil the trophy and accept responsibility for its maintenance. Below is a list of the war trophy guns distributed throughout Western Australia in the 1920s and has been compiled from cards held by the Australian War Memorial.

Ceded - where the trophy is now situated was originally allotted,

Nature - the calibre, and where possible the type, of the gun,

Number - the registered number of the gun,

Captured - the date on which the gun was captured,

Unit - the unit responsible for the capture of the gun,

Place - the place where the gun was captured

Serial Ceded	Nature	Ser No	Captured	Unit	Place
Albany	75 mm Gun	574	20Oct18	10 ALH	Jenin
Armadale	105 mm Howitzer	4752			French Government
Armadale	77 mm Gun	442	18Sep18	3 Infantry	Brigade
Boulder	105 mm Howitzer	15144	14Aug18	11 Battalion	
Boulder	105 mm Howitzer	12019	8Aug 18	44 Battalion	
Broome	77 mm Gun	165	8Aug18	44 Battalion	
Bunbury	77 mm Gun	19246		A Corps	
Busselton	77 mm Gun	8324		13 Inf Brigade	
Carnarvon	15 Pdr BL Gun	4233			
Claremont	75 mm Gun	461		ALH	
Collie	104 mm Gun	5664		ALH	
Cottesloe	75 mm Gun	94	1Oct18	10 ALH	Amman
Fremantle	150 mm Howitzer	288			
Fremantle	150 mm Howitzer	955		10 ALH	
Geraldton	Barrel Only	375		ALH	
Guildford	105 mm Howitzer	211	8Aug18	44 Battalion	
Kalgoorlie	105 mm Howitzer	15123	14Aug18	11 Battalion	
Katanning	75 mm Gun	615		ALH	
Kellerberrin	77 mm Gun	19329	18Sep18	11 Battalion	
Midland Junction	75 mm Gun	121	20Sep18	10 ALH	Jenin
Moora	75 mm Gun	393		ALH	
Narrogin	77 mm Gun	42S3	18Sep18	11 Battalion	
Northam	75 mm Gun	503	10 ALH	Jenin	
Perth	105 mm Gun	15131	18Sep18	11 Battalion	
Perth - Subiaco	77 mm Gun	5806		11 Battalion	
Pingelly	75 mm Gun	546		ALH	
WA Museum	77 mm Gun	408	18Sep18	16 Battalion	
WA Museum	150 mm Howitzer		25Jul16	11 Battalion	Pozières
Wagin	77 mm Gun	1122	12Aug18	28 Battalion	Villers - Bret
Wagin	105 mm Gun	553			
York	77 mm Gun	5948	12Aug 18	28 Battalion	Villers - Bret



Katanning War Memorial



Katanning War Memorial to Fallen Soldiers circa 1920



Significant rust accompanied by shrapnel damage, a witness to action maybe?



Katanning War Memorial



Restoration of the Wheels



Both wheels required new retaining collars and pins to be made.



The Katanning war memorial trophy field gun returned to Katanning for storage and awaiting re-dedication



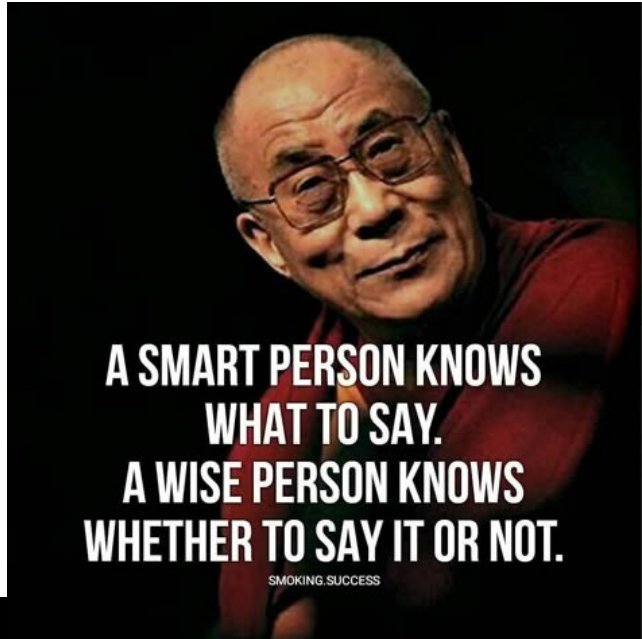
QUOTABLE QUOTES

Don Rae

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LIKE SUGAR.**

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ALWAYS SAFE
AT SHORE
BUT THAT IS
NOT WHAT
IT'S BUILT
FOR.**

-ALBERT EINSTEIN

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In life,
it's important to know
when to stop arguing
with people and simply
let them be wrong.

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The Last Parade AB "Banjo" Patterson

With never a sound of trumpet,
With never a flag displayed,
The last of the old campaigners
Lined up for the last parade.
Weary they were and battered,
Shoeless, and knocked about;
From under their ragged forelocks
Their hungry eyes looked out.
And they watched as the old commander
Read out to the cheering men
The Nation's thanks, and the orders
To carry them home again.
And the last of the old campaigners,
Sinewy, lean, and spare —
He spoke for his hungry comrades:
"Have we not done our share?
"Starving and tired and thirsty
We limped on the blazing plain;
And after a long night's picket
You saddled us up again.
"We froze on the windswept kopjes
When the frost lay snowy-white,
Never a halt in the daytime,
Never a rest at night!
"We knew when the rifles rattled
From the hillside bare and brown,
And over our weary shoulders

We felt warm blood run down,
"As we turned for the stretching gallop,
Crushed to the earth with weight;
But we carried our riders through it —
Sometimes, perhaps, too late.
"Steel! We were steel to stand it —
We that have lasted through,
We that are old campaigners
Pitiful, poor, and few.
"Over the sea you brought us,
Over the leagues of foam:
Now we have served you fairly
Will you not take us home?
"Home to the Hunter River,
To the flats where the lucerne grows;
Home where the Murrumbidgee
Runs white with the melted snows.
"This is a small thing, surely!
Will not you give command
That the last of the old campaigners
Go back to their native land?"
They looked at the grim commander,
But never a sign he made.
"Dismiss!" and the old campaigners
Moved off from their last parade.



Going into action and hitting only the highest spots. British artillery speeding along in pursuit of the Boer line on the Western front.