



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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JUNE 2025



**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
KING CHARLES III
CAPTAIN GENERAL
ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY**

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(Curator)**ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA**

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 10 September 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 881 Claremont 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 JUNE 2025



Fellow Gunners,

Our illustrious leader, Andrew is on long service leave and travelling the country somewhere. So it has fallen on me to do the report. Well it is the quiet Winter months for the Association with a limited number of issues to report on.

Anzac Day 2025

It was great to have the Dawn service back at Hobbs Artillery Park for the second year. It was a cold but fine morning. The Dawn Service was well attended and went off well. This was followed by a gunfire breakfast which was appreciated. We were privileged to enjoy the company of members of 3 BTY who marched with the Association and swelled our ranks. Our patron, BRIG Gerry Warner led the Association in the march. Following the march quite a lot of members returned to Hobbs Artillery Park for drinks and camaraderie afterwards. A successful and enjoyable day.

Gunner's Day 2025

Gunner's Day will be held on Sunday 2nd of November. The format and route will be the same as last year. Save the date!

Feast of Saint Barbara 2025

The 2025 Feast of St Barbara will be held on Friday 5th of December at the RSL in Perth. It will again be open to all ranks and partners. The cost will be \$ 99.00 per head. Save the date!

Ubique

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
Vice President

From the Editor

The Battery will be firing a Salute for the Kings Birthday at Kings Park at 12:00 on the 29 September 2025.



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 2025**



April is usually a busy month and this year was no exception! I was invited by the Town of Mosman Park Mayor to attend the Town's ANZAC Day Service at Remembrance Park and to lay a Wreath on behalf of the Society. It was a moving service and I was pleased to have taken part. I was unable to attend the Dawn Service conducted by 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA at Hobbs Artillery Park and the Fellowship Lunch that was held in the Drill Hall when the Battery returned from the City March. I am informed both events were well supported.

Each year, the State Government invites Years 8-11 High School Students from government and private schools to submit an essay describing their understanding of ANZAC related conflicts. Up to 10 students are awarded a Scholarship to participate in the Premier's ANZAC Tour to a selected country in which Australian Forces have served. The activity has been an annual event for 10 years. This year Students visited Hiroshima – the official comment stated “the deep level of engagement from the 10 students was incredible to witness”. Due to late Member Neil Lodge's initiative, each year the Society has offered the opportunity for the successful students to visit Leighton Battery Heritage Site to gain an insight to the significance of Fortress Fremantle during World War II – the offer was accepted by the Premier's Department and continues to be a regular feature of the scheme. Over the years Neil was assisted by Member Barry Ellis and since Neil's demise in 2024, David Carter has volunteered to assist Barry. A most commendable contribution by Neil, Barry and David

Leighton Battery Heritage Site was again made available to Curtin University Survey School between 22nd - 26th April for the conduct of their Annual “Camp” – the sixth the Society has supported as part of its community support programme. The University made a generous donation in recognition of our ongoing support.

I am most impressed by the number of Schools and other Organizations who approach the Society requesting “out of normal hour” tours of Leighton Battery. Already, we have hosted visits from numerous Senior High Schools and recently were visited by Veteran Car Club Members. Bookings are confirmed for visits from the Military History Society, Christ Church Grammar School Cadets and Alkimos College. Coordinated by David Carter and supported by a team of willing volunteers, I commend their support of this valuable contribution to the Society's image.

On 4th June, the Society invited the immediate past 3 Battery Commander, Major Dan Evangelisti and his successor Major Brett Fowler, to morning tea to formally farewell the former and welcome the latter. Following the morning tea a “Parade” was held in front of Hobbs Artillery Park, attended by the two Battery Commanders, Members of 3 Battery RAA and Society Members to observe the Tradition of Presentation of the General White-law Sword to the incoming Battery Commander. An article with photographs appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.

With my kind regards,

Jim Archibald
President
Jim Archibald



**Presentation of the General Whitelaw Sword
to
Major Brett Fowler, Battery Commander
3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA
4th June 2025**



Left-Right: BDR Joe McIntosh, CAPT Michael Rutherford, WO2 David Devlin, Stephen Butcher, MAJ Dan Evangelisti, MAJ. Brett Fowler, WO2 Scott McMahon, Don Rae, James Archibald, David Carter, BDR Matthew Attenborough, Graham McKenzie-Smith, Derek Paternoster, Stanley Davies

Following the Tradition established in 2006, the "General Whitelaw Sword" was presented to Major Fowler at the 3 Battery, Hobbs Artillery Park on the 4th June 2025 by Society President James Archibald.

The Sword, manufactured by J. Daniels and Company Artillery Lane Woolwich, during the Reign of King George V (1910-1936), was donated to the Society by General John Whitelaw in 2005 with his wish that it be used at the Society's discretion. The previous ownership of the Sword is not known. The Society decided that the Sword should be offered to the Army Reserve Battery Commander at Hobbs Artillery Park Karrakatta for his personal use on all ceremonial occasions and be retained by him until the conclusion of his appointment.

The Society was indebted to General Whitelaw for his generous donation.





THE KING'S BIRTHDAY IN AUSTRALIA



Since 2023, the Queen's Birthday public holiday is now known as the King's Birthday. The name change came following the ascension of King Charles III to the throne in September 2022 following the death of Australia's longest reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II.

The King's Birthday is a public holiday in the six States, two external Territories and two Territories, where it is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed or reduce hours of operation.

In most Australian states and territories, the King's Birthday falls on the second Monday in June—on the same date as the United Kingdom. However, Western Australia and Queensland have the holiday on a different date to avoid clashes with other state holidays. In South Australia, Volunteers Day is also celebrated.

Western Australia usually observes the holiday on the fourth Monday of September or the first Monday of October. The date is proclaimed each year by the State Governor. For 2025, it will be Monday 29th September. Queensland celebrates King's Birthday on the first Monday of October.

With the holiday falling on different dates throughout the country, it must be noted that it doesn't fall on the king's actual birthday. King Charles III was born on November 14, 1948. The official date was set to June to increase the chance of fair weather during the birthday celebrations in the United Kingdom. In the Northern Hemisphere, June is the first month of Summer, and it is one of the driest and warmest months of the year in London.

In Australia, on the other hand, June marks the beginning of Winter and it is one of the coolest and wettest months, although, the weather is always better than anywhere else.



King Charles during a visit to Larkhill Barracks 6 June 2025



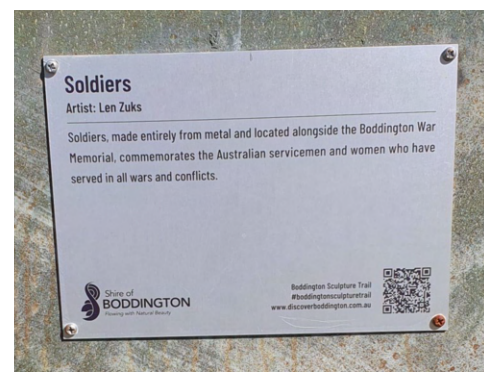
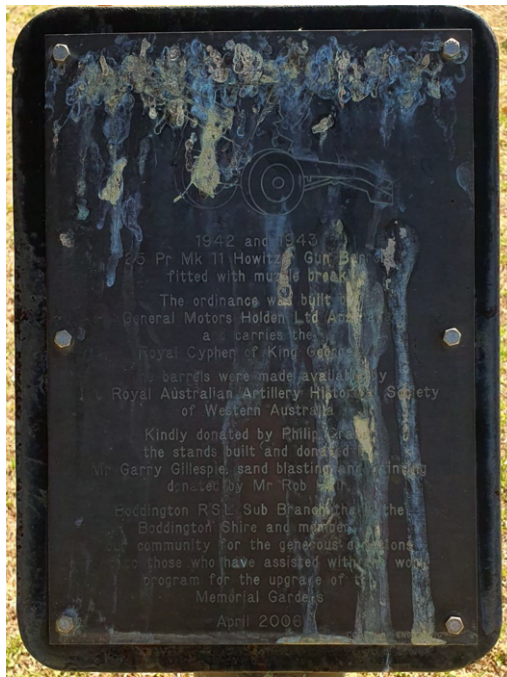
THE BODDINGTON WAR MEMORIAL



The Boddington War Memorial is located at intersection of Bannister & Crossman Streets, Boddington, 6390. It is a pleasant 60 minute drive from the Perth CBD following the Albany Highway. Close by are the Boddington RV and Caravan Park and the Boddington Weir.



The two sided statue depicting an Australian soldier was constructed from scrap material found at the site during construction. The two gun barrels were donated by the RAAHS for this memorial. The Memorial can be visited at any time.





VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE WALK SEYMOUR, VICTORIA



Our intrepid reporter, Richard Ball, has made another visit to Victoria from his home base in Tasmania, and this time he has paid a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk located at High Street, Seymour.

The memorial construction began in 2012 with the second stage opening on the 9th March 2013. The names of service personnel who participated in the Vietnam War are inscribed across the 106 glass panels. Original photographs have been printed on the glass panels to reveal their experiences and battles along with their trials and tribulations as a poignant place in Australian history.

There is real life memorabilia featured heavily along the walk with a Centurion tank, a Huey helicopter, artillery and a M1A1 APC. The surrounding landscape features spotted gums

representing rubber trees and native grasses representing rice paddies. The ochre earth paths take you on a journey to where it all began. There are also places to just sit and peacefully reflect. Located alongside the walk is both car and a caravan parking, Vietnam Veteran memorials similar to this one can be visited in Geelong, Bandiana and Wangaratta in Victoria, and in Bowral in New South Wales.





3 BATTERY UPDATE

CAPT. Michael Rutherford (IG 3 BTY)



The past three months have been a busy and exciting period for 3 Battery, marked by challenging exercises, new capabilities, and strong collaborations with units at Irwin Barracks. As we wrap up the first half of the year, it's worth celebrating the achievements, growth, and dedication of our people as we continue to sharpen our skills and prepare for future operational demands.

Exercise Hobbs Walk – Bindoon, May Battery Weekend

In May, 3 Battery deployed to the Bindoon Training Area to conduct Exercise Hobbs Walk. This exercise proved to be an invaluable opportunity to validate our tactical capability and test our readiness in a demanding field environment. Set against the rugged terrain of Bindoon, Hobbs Walk was designed to put our soldiers through realistic patrol lanes and simulated tactical scenarios, allowing us to integrate both traditional soldiering skills and emerging technology. A highlight of the exercise was the qualification of multiple members on the Battery's new UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System) platforms. These platforms have significantly expanded our surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, and integrating them into our patrol lanes gave personnel hands-on experience in employing them under realistic conditions. The combination of ground manoeuvre with aerial ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) provided a powerful force multiplier, and we're proud to report that we adapted quickly and effectively to the new equipment. Throughout the weekend, troops demonstrated outstanding resilience, adaptability, and tactical thinking. The patrol lanes challenged all ranks to think beyond the conventional and to consider how our new platforms can be employed to support manoeuvre and enhance situational awareness.

Exercise Arras Sprint – Supporting 13 Brigade and 2 Division

Shortly after Hobbs Walk, 3 Battery supported the 16th Battalion, Royal Western Australia Regiment (16 RWAR) and 13 Brigade during their deployment for Exercise Arras Sprint (AS25). This was a fantastic opportunity to work alongside one of the units we are likely to support in future operational roles and to further build our reputation as a skilled, professional force multiplier. Our participation in AS25 focused on showcasing our capabilities and providing real-time support to the infantry elements on the ground. By working side-by-side in the field, both units gained a better understanding of how to operate together more effectively—something that will pay dividends in both training and real-world deployments. The exercise also provided another valuable proving ground for our UAS platforms, as we demonstrated how they can be used to support infantry manoeuvre, provide real-time intelligence, and enhance situational awareness across the battlespace. This interoperability training continues to be a key focus for the Battery, and AS25 was a step forward in ensuring we're ready to provide timely and effective support to any unit we're tasked to assist.

Looking Ahead

As we head into the second half of the year, the momentum is strong. We've not only expanded our technical capabilities but also deepened our operational ties with key units. In October we will assist 11/28 BN RWAR by providing forward observers and UAS teams during their first live fire of their 81mm Mortar capabilities. This exercise promises to be a great training outcome to both units.

Ubique.



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY NATIONAL MEMORIAL

We need your help to update the Royal Australian Artillery National Memorial! The Memorial stands on Mt Pleasant in Canberra and was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1977. It has become an important national place of reflection, commemoration and connection for all Gunners, both veterans and serving soldiers. The Memorial features panels that recognise service in campaigns from Sudan to South Vietnam, but it is silent on the contribution of Gunners over the past 50 years, and there is no space for additional panels as the Memorial currently stands.

A project is now under way to extend the Memorial to provide panels for six contemporary operations and allow for the easy addition of further panels in the future. The extension will bridge the gap between historical and contemporary service, telling the story of all Australian gunners, past, present and future, and ensuring that they are honoured and recognised. It is intended that the updated Memorial will be re-dedicated in 2027 to coincide with the 50th anniversary year of its original unveiling.

The original Memorial was funded by private donations and corporate support and the extension will again be heavily reliant on the generosity of donors and supporters. You can support this important project by donating today. Follow this link

https://www.artilleryhistory.org/royal_australian_artillery_national_memorial/raanm/donations.htm

to donate by EFT, card or PayPal. Alternatively, scan the QR code below. All donations are fully tax-deductible. For further information including on other ways you can help, email raanm2027@gmail.com.

The RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc) has made a donation to this worthy cause.





WHY ENGLISH IS HARD TO LEARN

We'll begin with box, the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, and two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose is never called meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a house full of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.
The plural of man is always men,
But the plural of pan in never pen.

If I speak of a foot, and you show me two feet,
And I give you a book, would a pair be a beek?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't two booths be called beeth?

If the singular's this and the plural is these,
Should the plural of kiss be ever called keese?

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine a feminine...she, shis and shim!



OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY (John Tam Lyrics)

Here's forty shillings on the drum
For those who volunteer to come,
To 'list and fight the foe today
Over the Hills and far away

[Chorus]

When duty calls me I must go
To stand and face another foe
But part of me will always stray
Over the hills and far away

[Chorus]

If I should fall to rise no more
As many comrades did before
Then ask the fifes and drums to play
Over the hills and far away

[Chorus]

Then fall in lads behind the drum
With colours blazing like the sun
Along the road to come what may
Over the hills and far away

[Chorus] 3x

[The Chorus]:
*O'er the hills and o'er the main
Through Flanders, Portugal and Spain
King George commands and we obey
Over the hills and far away*

This traditional song dates back to the 17th Century. It has appeared in a number of forms—some longer than the other. The John Tam version fits neatly on the page while still maintaining the solemnity of the song. It was also mentioned in the nursery rhyme “Tom, Tom, the Pipers Son”.

