



THE KING'S BIRTHDAY 2026 HONOURS LIST



LEFT TO RIGHT: WO1 David Nutini OAM, LTCOL Robert Coales CSM, and WO1 Scott Caswell OAM

Further story on Page 7

**NOTICE BOARD****OFFICE BEARERS****RAA ASSOCIATION****President**

Andrew Dunjey

Vice President

Robert Farrelly

Secretary

John Blylevens

TreasurerStanDavies**Committee Persons**

Wendy Mahoney

Ken Hepworth

Robert Coales

RAA**HISTORICAL SOCIETY****President**

James Archibald

Vice President

Graham McKenzie-Smith

Secretary

Philip Rowson

Treasurer

Andrew McAuliffe

Committee Persons

Matthew Adams

Ian Randles

David Carter
(LBHS Convener)Stan Davies
(IT Consultant)Don Rae
(Curator)**ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN ARTILLERY WA**

Items for inclusion, and which are regularly needed, should be submitted for the next issue by 10 December 2026 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 :
18-50 Samichon Road, Irwin Barracks, KARRAKATTA.6010

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

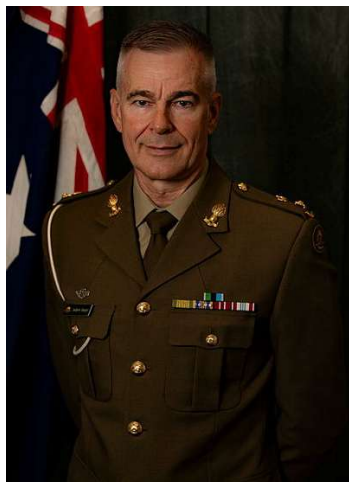
John Blylevens is the Association's Welfare Officer. Anybody that needs to discuss any welfare funding can contact John via email info@artillerywa.org.au or telephone 043 869 5711. Access to funds can be made by applying in writing using the Welfare Fund Application Form which is available on request 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 2026**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 SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear fellow Gunners,
It's been a rather quiet few months in the world of the Association. The same cannot be said for various conflict zones. By all reports, it would seem that in the Ukraine/Russia war, the level of casualties inflicted by Ukraine on the Russian Army are now predominantly caused by UAV's of all sizes. For now, and perhaps for some time to come, these weapon systems have now replaced Artillery as the primary offensive weapon on the Ukrainian side. Integrate this with Artificial General Intelligence and who knows where things will be in the not too distant future.

Coming up in early October is Land Forces 2026 to be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Land Forces is Australia's largest Land Defence Industry Exhibition and will be a capability showcase in support of the Australian Army. It is a real privilege for Perth to host this bi-annual event.

There are two key activities later in the year to look forward to. Firstly, I encourage all former and current Gunners to attend Gunners Day on Sunday 1 November. Let's really get behind this important event again in 2026 to ensure we continue to honour the Gunners of the past.

To end the year, the Feast of Saint Barbara will be held on Friday Fri 4 December where we will recognise the Patron Saint of Artillerymen and have a general all-round good time catching up with old friends and colleagues. For the first time, this year's dinner will be held at the Royal Australia Air Force Association of Australia (RAAFA) in Bullcreek. It will be fitting location for us to commemorate the Feast of Saint Barbara, with ample parking. Please send your money into Stan Davies and get your Gunner friends to come along!

Ubique.

Andrew Dunjey
LTCOL
President, RAA Association of Western Australia

Sep 2026



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2026



In my last report I promised to keep you informed of progress in the Divestment Planning Process for Irwin Barracks. We approached Wayne Gardiner for guidance in disposing the Society Assets and he agreed to meet with us on Tuesday 21st July. Wayne is a retired Licensed Valuer and Auctioneer and in addition served in the Army Reserve, for many years as the Curator Army Museum of WA Foundation. Wayne discussed numerous avenues of disposal we may care to pursue and emphasised the need to accurately catalogue in categories our considerable collection of artifacts. To this end Vice President Graham McKenzie-Smith has undertaken the task with the assistance of those Volunteers who meet at Irwin Barracks each Wednesday. It will be a long process. We have not received any positive indication when the proposed Divestment will be achieved.

On a more interesting note, we have completely renovated the Kitchen facilities at Leighton Battery Command Post. Originally installed by a Team of Volunteers way back in the 1990's using second hand components that had already passed their "used by date"! It was decided to engage a Kitchen Renovation Company to design, supply and instal a totally new complex! Our Volunteers gutted the existing facility and left the rest to the experts. The transformation is remarkable! With a Hot Water System and cupboards "galore" Volunteers now queue to do the washing up. Next time you visit the heritage Site be sure to look in at the Kitchen!

A further improvement has recently been introduced to the Command Post. All original fluorescent lighting has been replaced with modern LED fittings. The "softer" illumination is more attractive and the reduction in power consumption will favourably affect operating charges.

The Society recently received a request from a company that offers tours to local destinations of interest to passengers onboard cruise ships stopping at Fremantle Harbour, suggesting that a visit to Leighton Battery Heritage Site may be considered. This request is being evaluated by our Tour Coordinator David Carter before being presented to the Committee for their consideration. The scale of the proposal may far exceed the availability of our existing Guide Group to handle the possible numbers that may be involved – we will wait on David's submission.

The September Busy Bee at the Tunnels will be disrupted by the AFL Grand Final as those Volunteers attending will no doubt wish to disappear in time to watch the Match – particularly as Fremantle Dockers will be striving to earn their first Flag. May the better Team win!

With my kind regards to all,

Jim Archibald

President



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY GUNNERS' DAY

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2026

All Gunners, their families, guests and other interested parties are invited to attend the Annual Gunners Day parade and service at Stirling Square, Guildford Sunday 1st November 2026.

10:00am: RV at the War Memorial (free parking at railway car park)

10:10am: Parade forms up on the path outside St Matthews. Guests and families seated at the Dais in front of the Memorial

10:15am: Parade steps off, follows the path past St Matthews, right past the Saluting Dais then right into the Memorial

10:25am: Wreath Laying Ceremony

10:45am: Gunner's Day Service in St Matthews Church

11:30am: Light Luncheon in the Church Hall

12.00pm: Camaraderie at the Rose & Crown Hotel Guildford

The Parade will be led by Australian Army Band Perth, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 BTY 9 REGT RAA and Cadets from Fremantle, Ellenbrook and the Guildford Grammar Cadet Unit.

Service will be conducted by the Reverend Katrina Holgate.

Guests include BDE COMD 13 BDE, Members of Parliament, Local Government, R&SL and other Associations.

Enquiries to John Blylevens, Hon. Secretary Royal Australian Artillery Association Western Australia (Inc): info@artillerywa.org.au 0438 695 711

GUNNERS DAY has been conducted every year since 1928 in memory of those who fought and fell during WW1 (and subsequent conflicts). It is a special day for remembrance and a great opportunity to catch up with your Gunner colleagues.

UBIQUE



All Ranks, Past and Present of the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA)

Partners and Guests

are invited to the

FEAST OF ST BARBARA 2026

TO BE HELD AT

RAAFA Bullcreek

2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek

FRIDAY, 4th OF DECEMBER 2026 AT 1900 Hrs. FOR 1930 Hrs.

COST \$89.00 PER PERSON

PAYMENT **BANK TRANSFER or CASH to**

**Royal Australian Artillery Association BSB 066 009 ACCOUNT No 00900870
(PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND YOUR GUEST)**

DRESS – Current issued Mess kit for serving members (Retired OFFICERS and SENIOR NCO'S lounge suits).

GENTS - LOUNGE SUITS. LADIES - AFTER FIVE WEAR

POC Bob Farrelly bobfarrelly@live.com or Tel 0417 981 615

Book and pay by Friday 24th of NOVEMBER 2026.

*PRICE INCLUDES- Dinner -Main and Dessert – 2 House Drinks - toasting port for each table.
OTHER DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

af

ATTENDANCE SLIP REPLY PAYMENT

Email to STANDAVIES sftdavies@bigpond.com Or
FEAST OF ST BARBARA
POST OFFICE BOX 4112

MANDURAH NORTH WA 6210



I WILL/ WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE FEAST OF ST BARBARA 2023.

MY REMITTANCE FOR \$_____ IS ENCLOSED.

I WOULD PREFER TO BE SEATED WITH: (IF YOU HAVE ANY MATES YOU PREFER TO SIT WITH)

NAME _____ RANK _____ POST NOMINALS _____

ADDRESS _____

Email Address: _____

NAME OF
GUESTS _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Ubique



THE KING'S BIRTHDAY 2026 HONOURS LIST



Western Australia's best and bravest were recognised at the first of three investiture ceremonies celebrating recipients of this year's King's Birthday Honours. The List was published on the 8th June 2026 with the Western Australian Governor presenting the awards on the 15th September 2026 at Government House in Perth.

The Australian Honours and Awards system recognises individuals who have made significant contributions across a broad range of fields, including science, medicine, community service, emergency services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and justice, conservation, education, policing and philanthropy. Across Australia, there were 703 recipients recognised in the Order of Australia (General Division).

- ◆ 5 were appointed Companion of the Order (AC),
- ◆ 40 appointed Officer of the Order (AO),
- ◆ 183 appointed Member of the Order (AM)
- ◆ 475 awarded Medal of the Order (OAM).

There were 471 male and 230 female recipients, and two people who used a different term.

Continued on Page 8



THE KING'S BIRTHDAY 2026 HONOURS LIST



Thirty-three recipients received their insignia from the Governor, who spoke of the breadth of this year's honours and the many different ways recipients had served Australia.

"Our national honours system helps us as a nation to understand what makes a community, a State and a nation truly strong," the Governor said.

"These honours are Australia's way of saying: we have seen what you have done, we value what you have done, and we do not take it for granted."

In his address, the Governor highlighted achievements ranging from groundbreaking scientific research to decades of quiet and selfless community service.



Among those recognised were a physicist whose work on gravitational waves has helped deepen humanity's understanding of the universe, clinicians whose research has transformed the treatment of serious diseases, and leading researchers in genetics and neuroscience.

The honours also acknowledged advocates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and justice, Defence members, emergency services personnel, corrections and policing officers, conservation and water management leaders.

Reflecting on the contribution of the State's recipients, the Governor said Western Australia's greatest wealth was found not only beneath its red dirt, but also in the resilience, compassion and dedication of its people.

"From Perth to our most remote regional communities, Western Australians punch far above their weight in shaping the character, capability and conscience of our country," he said.

Continued on Page 9



THE KING'S BIRTHDAY 2026 HONOURS LIST



The Governor also paid tribute to the families and loved ones who had supported recipients throughout their years of service.

"It is duty performed for the patient, the pupil, the neighbour, the victim and the stranger," he said.

"On behalf of the people of Western Australia, I congratulate every one of you on your well-deserved honour."

Of note were the three Defence members who were members of Corps of Artillery, and were also members of 7th Field Battery, 3 Field Regiment or in its later designation as 3 Light Battery and then 3 Battery, 9 Field Regiment.

Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Military Division (OAM)

Warrant Officer Class One Scott Russell CASWELL For meritorious performance of duty as a Master Gunner in the Australian Army.

Warrant Officer Class One Caswell made a significant contribution to the Australian Army's force projection and lethality through his exceptional dedication in both the Explosive Ordnance test and evaluation capabilities culminating in the completion of the Land 17 Phase 1C.2 project, as well as his leadership and stewardship at the Land Warfare Centre South Australian Wing. His superior skills, knowledge and dedication over a sustained period, across multiple disciplines is exemplary. The benefits of his tireless devotion and work will be realised by the Australian Army over many years.

Warrant Officer Class One David NUTINI For meritorious service to training and capability integration as the Regimental Sergeant Major in the Australian Army over various appointments.

Warrant Officer Class One Nutini provided sustained meritorious service over a decade of continuous leadership across unique unit, formation and corps-level roles. His leadership to bridge technical and cultural needs, to advance aerial delivery, artillery, and combined arms capabilities was admirable. His generation of soldier-focused, welfare-informed training systems and his influential approach to integration made a direct impact on soldier skills, attitudes, and teamwork to progress capability. His commitment to each role is in the finest traditions of the Australian Army.

Awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Francis COALES For meritorious achievement as Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor of the Western Australian University Regiment (WAUR).

Lieutenant Colonel Coales demonstrated meritorious professionalism and unwavering dedication in his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Western Australian University Regiment during a period of significant and unprecedented change in its structure and training. His mentorship of officer cadets, senior soldiers and junior officers, along with his broader engagement with the community of Western Australia, have ensured significantly improved capability for Army within the region.



BENDIGO MILITARY MUSEUM VICTORIA



Our roving reporter visited the Bendigo Military Museum (BMM) last month, and in typical fashion, has delivered a series of images from the site. The Museum is located at the corner of Pall Mall and View Street, Bendigo, Victoria. Opening hours are 10:00 to 16:00 each day.

Contact by phone (03) 4444 2810/ (03) 5442 4513
or email: tours@bendigoheritage.com.au or museum@bendigorsl.com.au
and the webpage is <https://bendigorsl.com.au/museum/>



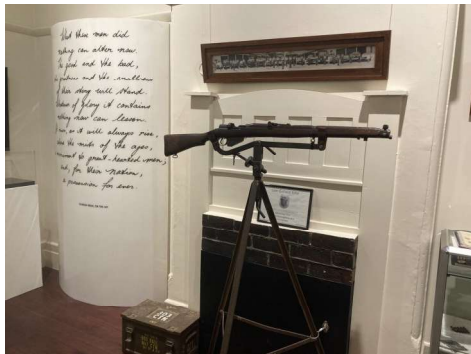
The Soldiers Memorial Institute (SMI) is the building that houses the BMM. It was designed by local architect GD Garvin, being largely funded by public subscription, and was built on the site of the capped Hustlers Royal Reserve Mine. Opened by the Governor the Earl of Stradbroke on the 15th November 1921, the Memorial commemorates the local men and women of Bendigo who served during the Great War.

The series of brass Honour Rolls on the front of the SMI list the names of 2,972 local heroes, including 42 nurses, and was unveiled on ANZAC Day 1926. At least 499 of the people listed on the Honour Rolls lost their lives during WW1.

Continued on Page 11

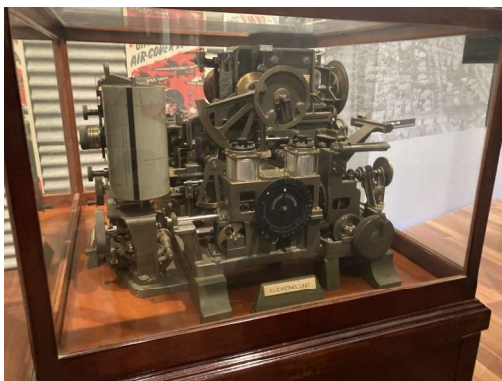
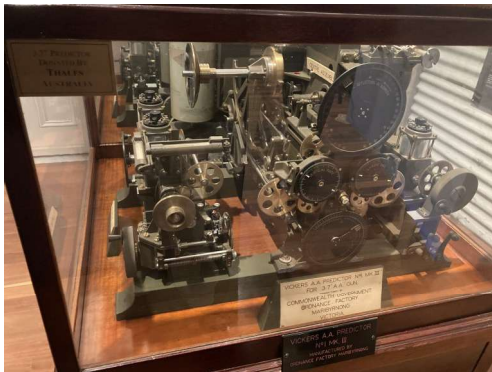


BENDIGO MILITARY MUSEUM VICTORIA



In addition to the expected collection of militaria of uniforms, weapons and dioramas, the BMM also has a Vickers AA Predictor No. 1 MK III for a 3.7" AA Gun.

This piece of equipment was used to predict the flight path of an aircraft in order for anti-aircraft artillery to fire accurately at an approaching enemy airborne target. A crew of six operated the machine with information ready to be relayed to a gun within 50 seconds. The predictor was manufactured at the Commonwealth Government Ordnance Factory, Maribyrnong.



Thankyou to Richard Ball for his contribution



'war on the sand plain'



In early 1942 Imperial Japan rapidly advanced, capturing Malaya, Singapore, the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies. Japanese planes attacked Darwin, Wyndham, Derby, Broome, Port Hedland and Exmouth.

Where were they coming next ?

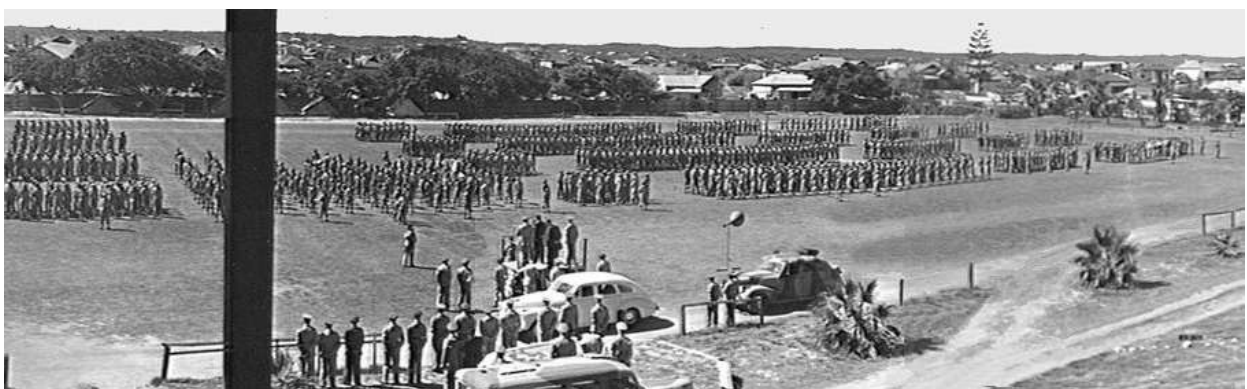
HQ 3 Aust Corps believed that the Japanese would first land at Geraldton to capture the port and airfield before advancing south to capture Fremantle. There was no Brand Highway or Indian Ocean Drive and the only track to the coast between Yanchep and Dongara from the main road through Moora went to Jurien Bay, via Dandaragan. On 10 April the 1,600 men of *Special Mobile Force* arrived at Mingenew without notice as the start of an influx of soldiers to the sand plain between Perth and Geraldton.

By August some 20,000 men were deployed on the sand plain between Perth and Geraldton with brigade groups (~4,000 combat soldiers) at Geraldton, Mingenew, Dandaragan and Gingin, while HQ 4 Infantry Division and their support troops occupied Moora and supply depots were set up at Mullewa and Morawa.

The troop numbers reached a peak of 32,000 in August 1943 when the 160 tanks, 150 tracked vehicles and many hundreds of trucks from 1 Armoured Division roamed around Moora and Dandaragan, while HQ 2 Infantry Division was established outside Geraldton, with brigade groups at Geraldton, Mingenew and the Swan Valley.

The four books of the 'war on the sand plain' series detail the movements and activities of the 306 Army units, with 47,300 men, that occupied 290 camp sites in the region. Also detailed are the 37 coast watch posts established to give warning of any enemy activity along the coast.

Researched by Graham McKenzie-Smith whose first book '*Australia's Forgotten Army – Vol 1 – The Ebb and Flow of the Australian Army in Western Australia – 1941 to 1945*' first alerted West Australians to the huge build up of the Army in the West. In these books he expands on this by including the movements and operations of all units, at all locations, down to the *Supply Depot Platoons*, *Field Post Offices* and concert parties. The 'war on the sand plain' books are published by Hesperian Press and Grimwade Publications.



Units of 2 Infantry Division parade at the Geraldton Recreation Ground 17 April 1943

Continued Page 13



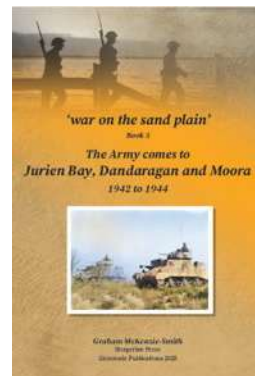
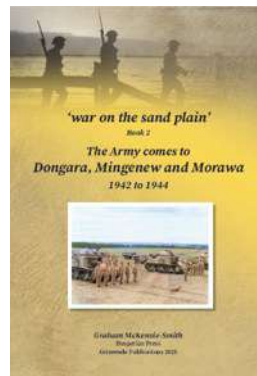
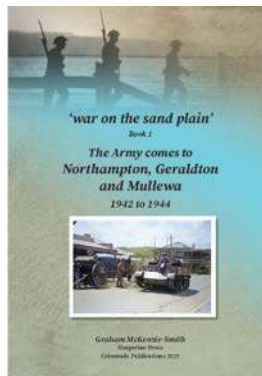
'war on the sand plain'



They are available at locations on 'the sand plain' or can be supplied from the publishers. Send your order (with contact details) to :-

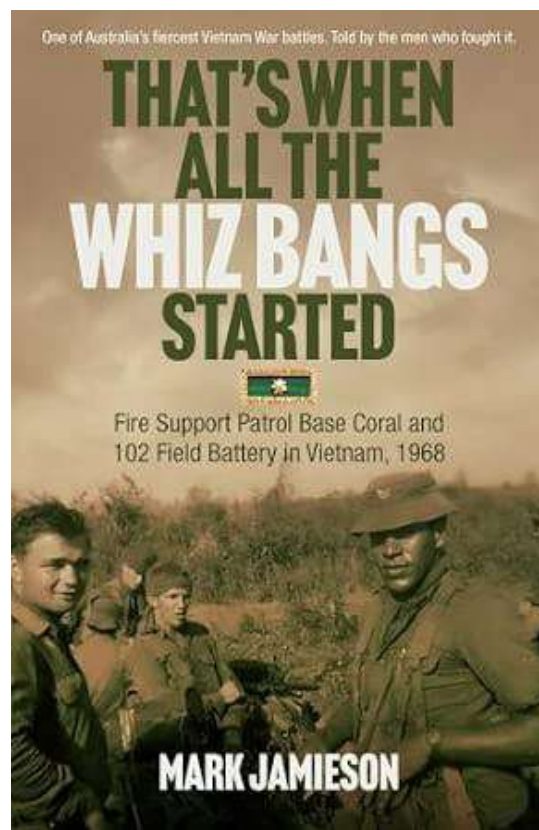
Grimwade Publications

grimwade4@outlook.com



- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. The Army comes to Northampton, Geraldton and Mullewa | \$25 + \$5 postage |
| 2. The Army comes to Dongara, Mingenew and Morawa | \$25 + \$5 postage |
| 3. The Army comes to Jurien Bay, Dandaragan and Moora | \$25 + \$5 postage |
| 4. The Army comes to Gingin and Wanneroo | \$25 + \$5 postage |
| 5. Set of four books | \$90 + \$15 postage |





That's When all the Whiz Bangs Started: 102 Field Battery's tour of South Vietnam and the Battle for Fire Support Patrol Base Coral 1968.

13 May 1968. Mother's Day.

Within hours, Fire Support Patrol Base Coral would be fighting for survival. In May 1968, at the height of the Tet Offensive, Australian forces were deployed deep into Bien Hoa Province as part of Operation Toan Thang. Among them was 102 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery—sent to establish Fire Support Patrol Base Coral in unfamiliar and exposed terrain.

What followed was one of the most intense battles fought by Australians in Vietnam.

In the early hours of 13 May, with defences incomplete and positions dangerously exposed, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces launched a coordinated assault. Under relentless fire, the gunners fought back at close range—firing over open sights, holding their ground as mortars, rockets and small arms tore through the perimeter. Some called fire onto their own positions. Others fought hand-to-hand in the dark.

By dawn, the attack had been repelled—but the cost was lasting.

In *That's When all the Whiz Bangs Started*, Mark Jamieson tells this story through the voices of those who lived it. Drawing on more than 50 veteran interviews across Australian, New Zealand and American units, he captures not only the chaos of battle but also the skill, discipline and mateship that defined those who served.

Continued P15



Continued from Page 14



Beyond Coral, this is the story of artillerymen in Vietnam; their craft, their camaraderie, and the realities of a war that did not end when they came home. It is also the story of a decades-long fight for recognition, culminating in the award of the Honour Title in 2008 and the Unit Citation for Gallantry in 2018.

That's When all the Whiz Bangs Started brings overdue attention to a battle many Australians have never heard of—and ensures the voices of those who fought it are not forgotten.

*Unforgettable. This is Vietnam as the gunners lived it.
A powerful new perspective on Coral and Australia's Vietnam War.*

This book is far more than the story of 102 Field Battery, RAA. It brings together the firsthand accounts of those who stood at FSPB Coral on 13 May, alongside the voices of men who served with 131 Div Loc Bty, 12 Fd Regt HQ Bty, 1 RAR Mortars, 161 RNZA, US 2/35 Artillery, and the Forward Observers and Forward Observer Assistants who operated at the sharp end. It also captures the memories of those from 102 Fd Bty who remained at Nui Dat. Nashos and Regs, reinforcements, gunners and officers - men of every rank and role - add their voices to these pages.

Much of this material has never before been published. That is what makes this book unique: it tells the story through the unfiltered voices of the men who were there, with boots on the ground. This is no sanitised account of events. It is candid, factual and uncompromisingly honest.

It may not be everyone's cup of tea - but then again, neither was Hemingway.

About the Author:

Mark Jamieson grew up in Albion Park Rail, New South Wales, and has worked across a wide range of roles, from the BHP Steelworks in Port Kembla to carpentry in the Illawarra, as well as positions at the University of Wollongong and the University of Sydney.

For more than sixteen years, he has been closely connected with 102 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, building relationships with the veterans whose experiences form the heart of this book. His passion for Australian military history led him to complete a BA (Honours) in 2014, with a thesis on the Battle of Fire Support Patrol Base Coral.

Mark's work has appeared in *Cannonball*, *Sabretache*, and the *Oral History Australia Journal*. *That's When all the Whiz Bangs Started* is his first book and reflects years of dedication to preserving the lived experiences of those who served. This is their story.

The book release date is 1 December 2026 and can be preordered via Amazon Australia, The Nile, Booktopia. The book will also be provided to all mainstream book sellers in Australia.

Thankyou to Mark Jamieson for supplying the book review for publishing in ArtyWA

FOR KING AND COUNTRY.

THE 3RD LOWLAND BRIGADE

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY BATTERY.

WIGTOWNSHIRE




The following are eligible to join:

- (i.) N.C.O's and Men of Yeomanry, Volunteers, and Army Service Corps
- (ii.) Ex-Soldiers not on the Reserve.
Artillery and Army Service Corps Drivers
- (iii.) Recruits age 18 to 35 years.
Height not less than 5ft. 6ins.
Chest 34ins.
- (iv.) Trumpeters, Signallers, Saddlers, Shoeing-Smiths and Wheelers.

Free Kit, Free Rations,
AND
Army Rates of Pay and Allowances
DURING TRAINING.

The total strength of Battery is limited to 132 men of all ranks, so apply sharp if you want to get in.

APPLY

VOLUNTEER HEADQUARTERS DRILL HALL,
any evening after 7 p.m., when full conditions of service and rates of pay can be obtained.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Printed & Published by J. & W. G. & Co., Limited, 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.