



Artillery WA



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

ISSN 2652-001x

Web Site: <http://www.artillerywa.org.au>

Email: info@artillerywa.org.au

Edition 1/21

Date 31 March 2021

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY **OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (inc)**

On Saturday, 6th March 2021, the Society held its 33rd Annual General Meeting, marking yet another successful year of operation.

Readers may be interested in the genesis of the Society in 1988 and the following summary may explain how fortunate we are that it is still a most credible organization.

Formed from an amalgam of World War 2 Artillery Associations based in Perth, together with Serving and Past Members of 7 Field Battery RAA Army Reserve, the Society boasted 57 Members in its first year of existence. The inaugural President was the Incumbent Colonel Commandant RAA Western Region, assisted by the Regular Army Training Officer 7 Field Battery – together they formulated a draft constitution, “coerced” sufficient enthusiastic members to form a committee and planned!

Through the generosity of 7 Field Battery RAA, the Society’s band of regularly attending weekly volunteers was accommodated within Hobbs Artillery Park.

Early in 1989 the Society was approached by the Developer of the Buckland Hill Residential Estate to comment on the significance of a WW2 Coastal Defence Emplacement that lay within the Public Open Space of the Development.

Based on our recommendation, the Developer retained 90% of the facility, extensively restored the underground Tunnel Complex and proposed to the State Government that the Society be granted “Permissive Occupancy” to further develop the site as a Militaria Museum.

Leighton Battery Heritage Site was now officially established and was entered in the Register of the National Estate as a significant WW2 Coastal Defence Emplacement. The rest, as they say, is history!

Over successive years, the site was extensively renovated and interpreted to resemble its primary function and, in November 1997, was officially opened by the then State Governor, the Late Major General Michael Jeffery. Open to the public for tours one Sunday each month until July 2009, it was then opened every Sunday, resulting in a marked improvement in public interest – with 50,000 visitors in the 10-year period 2009 – 2019!

Most recently, the Society, in co-operation with the Town of Mosman Park, embarked on an extensive conservation management plan for the development of the 5.25” Gun Emplacement as a further tourist destination. Roofing of the emplacement and a stairwell enclosure leading underground was completed in 2020 and a contract is to be let shortly for the fabrication of a replica Gun and Turret to be mounted on the roofed section. This will restore the site to closely resemble its WW2 significance as part of Fortress Fremantle.

It should not surprise you that your Committee is justifiably pleased with the achievements over the past 33 years.



NOTICE BOARD

OFFICE BEARERS

RAA ASSOCIATION

President

Bob Farrelly

Vice President

Peter Mahoney

Secretary

John Blylevens

Treasurer

Stan Davies

Committee Persons

Wendy Mahoney

Raymond Kennedy

Ken Hepworth

Robert Coales

RAA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President

David Carter

Vice President

Graham McKenzie-Smith

Secretary

John Blylevens

Treasurer

Neil Lodge

Committee Persons

Mathew Adams

Phillip Rowson

James Archibald

IT Consultant

Stan Davies

Curator

Don Rae

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.

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN ARTY WA

Please submit items for inclusion in the next issue to the Editor Bob Arnold by 16 June 21 or if essential by a deadline of 23 June 2021

RAAHS BUSY BEES FOR 2021

1 May, 29 May, 26 June, 31 July, 28 August, 25 September, 30 October, 27 November

LEIGHTON BATTERY OPEN DAYS

The Tunnels are currently closed due to Covid 19 Restrictions.

**For those who need a reminder—subs are due on the
First of January each year**

**THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Fellow Gunners

I welcome you back and trust you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

I am looking forward to 2021 which has got to be better than 2020!

With bushfires and Covid 19 2020 was a stressful year. It was great to hear the support 3 BTY provided to both these events and I am sure we would all congratulate the BTY personnel for their efforts. That said I am sure you will, like me, be grateful for living in Australia and more so Perth and the relative freedom we have enjoyed.

The end of 2020 was a busy one with Gunner's Day and the Feast of Saint Barbara which proceeded without too much disruption.

150th Anniversary Commemorations

The 1st of August 2021 will be the 150th anniversary of the establishment of a permanent Australian artillery capability. This is a significant milestone for both the RAA and the Army. The Regiment has a number of activities planned. 3 BTY is planning for a gun salute in King's Park on August 1st as part of a 9 Regiment coordinated activity. More on this to follow. We will acknowledge this important anniversary at Gunner's Day and the Feast of Saint Barbara.

That said, the 150th anniversary of artillery in WA is in 2022 when we will celebrate more.

I am sure we all wish the Regiment every success for the celebrations.

Anzac Day

Those wishing to attend the Dawn Service at King's Park need to register.

We understand the ANZAC Day 2021 will be held in the city as normal. Unfortunately we will not be able to have the assistance of cadets as flag bearers as this has been banned nationally because of Covid 19. We also understand the march will require 1.5 metre spacing for the same reason.

3 BTY will not be marching but will assist the RSL with coordination. The BSM advises that the BTY

is not planning to return to Hobbs Artillery Park, rather meeting at a venue in the city following the march to celebrate. When further details are known they will advise by email.

Despite restrictions it is important that we remember the sacrifices of our forebearers. I look forward to seeing you on Anzac Day.

Gunners Day 2020

Gunner's Day 2020, was held on Sunday, 1st of November and despite poor weather, was a success. Attendance was down due to the poor weather, particularly with the old's and bolds.

The parade was led by Ken Hepworth with the salute taken by BRIG Gerry Warner AM LVO, our Patron. Reverend Katrina Holgate was joined by Bishop Jeremy James to conduct the Memorial wreath laying service. Led by the Pipes & Drums from the Australian Army Band - Perth, Gunners past and present, serving Officers and Soldiers of 3 Battery RAA and members of the 56 Australian Cadet Unit (Fremantle) marched along Stirling Street turning into the footpath parallel to Meadow Street where BRIG Warner took the salute. The parade then moved into position around the War Memorial for the wreath laying service. Also in attendance was BRIG Brett Challoner, Commander 13 BRIG and RSM Jo Downes.

I would like to thank MAJ John Blylevens and the cadets from 56 ACU for their continued support for Gunner's Day and also the Pipes & Drums from The Australian Army Band – Perth for their support.

Following refreshments in the Church Hall the camaraderie was continued at the Rose & Crown hotel.

Feast of Saint Barbara 2020

The dinner was again a success despite Covid 19 limiting attendance to 100.

It was a magnificent night with music provided by the 51 ACU Pipes and Drums. Food provided by Prestige Caterers was again of a high standard.

This year the Association's award for the "Most Outstanding Soldier" was presented to BDR Chris Barfield who was on deployment with TSE99 until 02 Apr 2021.

continued: Page 9

THE AIMING POST**Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society****PRESIDENT'S REPORT HEADING INTO AUTUMN**

Your committee hopes that you have adapted smoothly into or around the various social changes that all and sundry have had to endure.

I am still of the opinion that W.A. remains the best place to be in- all things considered! These opening comments are being written in February.

Our monthly busy-bees continue to maintain and develop the Battery site. I thank those members who have invested their time and expertise there. The 6" shell store has been extensively remodelled and really looks the part now. Well done to Curator Don Rae, Neil Lodge and Phil Angwin. The 5.25" complex has been cleaned out, all trip hazards on the floors have been cut off flush and we will be moving on to the painting of the interior - subject to professional paint advice and finishing.

One time consuming task will be to chip out (they were filled with a cement slurry), the original power cable channels that led from the engine room to the plotting room. We think that our stored period diesel engine, air compressor and switch board will have to be removed from Irwin Barracks and placed into the 5.25" engine room soon, as demolition of unwanted buildings is pending at Irwin and those items are in a building likely to go.

Tenders have been let for fabricating the turret and barrel. The fit out of the rooms and the turret arrangement is a complex one. The Society is lucky to have its Vice-President (who has done a lot of administrative work on this project) guiding us through this challenging period. Thank you Graham!

In the main tunnel complex a problem has been identified with cracks in the brickwork caused by possible earth pressure- the cracks have been there since we have been involved, but it is an insurance issue, and an engineering solution is in hand.

Irrespective of COVID restrictions, the tunnels will not re-open to the public until the contractor has re- built the cracked section. Contractors will also replace one of the heavy jarrah roof beams in

the Artificers storeroom. We will supply the beam- currently kept as a reserve in the Radar shack.

I walked through our tunnel complex with a Senior Scientific Officer – Dept. Environmental Health- on February 11th. Her considered opinion was that our tour groups on opening, should be pegged at 6, with family groups being up to 10. Your V/P believes that the engineering solution to the wall/roof could take until May.

(The quarterly Guide/Cashier rosters will continue to be sent out.) I hope that the McGowan Government will move to Phase 5 de-restrictions on social distancing if re-elected in March.

Our AGM occurred in early March. One of the highlights was the presentation of badges acknowledging long service to the RAAHS. Several recipients had become 30 Year volunteers- a terrific commitment to our specialist interest!

Our electrician Jim Archibald, has continued to refine the tunnel electrics and has also arranged a replacement air conditioner for the C.P. This unit is being supplied free to us – we will place a 'Donated by...' sign with it in appreciation.

I recently was on the 3RD Battery parade ground and observed two new Rheinmetall M.A.N. artillery prime movers. These impressive trucks will be used to tow 155MM howitzer themselves are a pronounced size up on the existing 105MM units.

The arrival date of these new weapons could be some time into the future. I understand the powerful 155 is not able to be fired on the Lancelin range, so there goes the invite to witness a shoot!

I will conclude with a thank you to all our busy-bee members who toil away each month- and often in the weeks between- recent efforts have concentrated on the 5.25" spaces – work conditions can be difficult at times! My best regards to you all, (Go the Mighty Demons!)

David Carter
President

REMARKABLE STATISTICS

When the Society was established in 1988, it recruited 57 Foundation Members and, through subsequent years, membership hovered between 110 – 120 persons.

Due to bereavement and natural attrition, we now only have 6 remaining Foundation Members and 92 financial Members, plus 9 Honorary Members who have served the Society well and are now “in retirement”

It is interesting to note that a remarkable 70.65% of our financial members have been supporting the Aims and Objects of the Society for at least 10 years!

Statistics are:

Foundation Members	30 Year Members	25 Year Members	20 Year Members	15 Year Members	10 Year Members
6	17	11	6	14	11

Sincere thanks to all those Members who have contributed so much of their spare time in support of the Society - Well done!



Who Said?

“I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war.

“If we stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the whole world may forward into broad sunlit islands. But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister and more protracted, by the lights of perverted science.

“Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that if, the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will say: This was their finest hour.”

If You don't know, Where have you been? Or, you maybe too young.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

After a three-year appointment as Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery with 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA, we farewelled Warrant Officer Joseph Millington on 7th December 2020. Joseph has been posted to Townsville and we wish him success in his new appointment.

Replacing Joseph is Warrant Officer Simon Hastings who took up his appointment in January 2021, and we look forward to a close working relationship with him over the next three years. Captain Nicholas Mann was posted to 3 Battery 9 Regiment RAA in 2020 as Instructor Gunnery to replace Captain Evan Smith. Nicholas will be reposted later in 2021. Nicholas and Simon have demonstrated their interest in our affairs by becoming Members the Society. The biography for Nicholas appears below and that of Simon on the following page.

8618144 CAPTAIN NICHOLAS MANN

3 BATTERY 9 REGIMENT ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY



Captain Nicholas Mann was born in August 1993 in Queanbeyan, New South Wales.

He enlisted in January 2016 into the Australian Defence Force, where he attended Royal Military College – Duntroon and graduated into the Royal Australian Artillery.

Captain Nicholas Mann was posted to 8/12th Regiment and was employed as a Troop Commander within 102 'Coral' Battery prior to attending his Regimental Officers Basic Course (ROBC). After completion of ROBC he fulfilled the roles of Fire Support Officer, Command Post Officer and Battery Captain.

Captain Mann was posted to 3 Battery, 9 Regiment in January 2020 to the role of Instructor in Gunnery until the end of 2021. During his spare time he enjoys playing basketball, golf, going to the gym and spending time with his family and friends.



8239078

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO SIMON WILLIAM HASTINGS

SMIG 3 BATTERY 9 REGIMENT

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

Warrant Officer Simon Hastings was born in August 1976 in Leeds, England.

He enlisted in February 1995 into the Australian Defence Force, into the Royal Australian Artillery, as a Gun Number.

Warrant Officer Hastings was posted to 4th Field Regiment and was employed as an Artillery Signaller Between 1995 to 2004, he has been employed in numerous trade and regimental roles involving postings to Puckapunyal, Townsville, Brisbane and Perth.

Warrant Officer Hastings' trade roles have included Signals Bombardier, Regimental Signals Sergeant, Gun Sergeant, Gun Position Officer, Regimental Signals Officer and Instructor. Warrant Officer Hastings regimental roles have included two postings to School of Artillery as an Instructor and Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunnery.

Warrant Officer Hastings has also held the appointment of Battery Guide in 105 Battery, 1st Regiment from 2017 to 2018. In January 2019 Warrant Officer Hastings then posted to Headquarters First Division Deployable Joint Force Headquarters as the Divisional Artillery Sargent Major Networking. As of January 2021, Warrant Officer Hastings was appointed Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunnery of the 3 Battery 9 Regiment, RAA.

Warrant Officer Hastings' deployments includes East Timor as part of Operation WARDEN in 1999, Afghanistan as part of Operation HERRICK 9 in 2008, Operation YASI ASSIST in 2011, with his last deployment being to Afghanistan as part of Operation SLIPPER in 2012 - in the roles of signaller and Gun Sergeant.

Warrant Officer Hastings was awarded the applicable medals associated with his deployments and length of service, including the British campaign medal for Afghanistan.

Warrant Officer Hastings is married to Christine and has a son Ethan whom has started work yearly childhood learning (day care). During his spare time Simon enjoys cycling, camping and spending time with his family.

THE RAAHS LIBRARY REGISTER

**Of over four thousand documents,
divided into the following categories:**

- Allied Forces.....Publications related primarily to allied forces in the 2nd World war but also date back to the 1800's.
- Ammunition.
- Arms and Services other.....All Arms and Services other than RAA
- Artillery field.
- Artillery General.
- Autobiographies.
- Biographies
- Campaigns.....Specific campaign battles.
- Diaries, personal
- Foreign Forces.....other than Second World War allied forces.
- General.....Publications which do not fall within other categories.
- Historical Records.....other than military history.
- Journals
- Military Handbooks.
- Military History
- Military Vehicles
- Novels.....Primarily with a military background
- Regiments
- Technical Manuals
- Training Manuals
- Transport
- Weapons General

In addition to the above material, all of which is in the libraries shelves and may be borrowed at any time, there are also many more publications useful for research purposes and these are located in box sets and in filing cabinets. These may not be borrowed but any member of the Association and other interested persons can make use of this material by visiting the library on Wednesday from 0800 hrs until closed. Except for a few publications of great age and which are fragile all other publications may be borrowed. For further information please call 64550449 on a Wednesday or ~~0407 329 353~~ on other days.

Continued from page 3.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Functions Sub-Committee: Stan Davies, Tom Arnautovic, Peter Rowles and Brad Pearce for planning and organising the dinner.

Put a place holder in your diaries for Friday 3rd of December 2021.

AGM 2021

The AGM was held on March 6th along with the RAAHS AGM. I was fortunate enough to be holidaying in Queensland so a big thank you to Peter Mahoney and John Blylevens for running the meeting.

At the AGM the following committee, was elected:

- President- Bob Farrelly
- Vice President- Peter Mahoney
- Secretary- John Blylevens
- Treasurer- Stan Davies
- Committee- Ken Hepworth
- Committee- Wendy Mahoney
- Committee- Raymond Kennedy
- Committee- Rob Coales, and
- Committee- Jeff Murray.

The meeting approved the transfer of \$1,000.00 from the Welfare Fund to the operating account to cover the costs, primarily for Gunner's Day, recognising our shrinking membership and income and noting there have been no payments from the welfare fund for over a decade. Given this and the fact that most people have superannuation or other retirement investments means the likelihood of requests is not high.

I would like to thank the RAA Association Committee for all their work during the year. It is greatly appreciated.

Ubique

Bob Farrelly
LTCOL
President

The Army in WA in 1914

After the Government accepted the Report by Lord Kitchener on 1911 a system of compulsory training was introduced (based on the Swiss model) and the Army was reorganized. All boys between 12 and 14 were required to join the Junior Cadets and undertake 90 hours of training each year, mainly what we would today call 'adventure training'. Boys between 14 and 18 were to join the Senior Cadets to undertake 96 hours of training which started to have a more military style. On 1 July of the year they turned 18 they joined a militia unit and had full military training annually until they reached 26 after which they were discharged into the Reserve. The first of these 'Universal Trainees' joined their units on 1 July 1911.

The settled area of Australia was divided into 94 'Battalion Training Areas' and sequentially numbered. By 1919 when the first intake was to be discharged, each 'battalion training area' would be able to field a full infantry battalion. Four of these 'battalion areas' formed a 'Brigade Training Area' and within this area would also be formed a brigade HQ, a field ambulance and a supply company. Artillery brigades and engineer companies would also be raised, mainly in the urban areas, while light horse brigades and regiments were raised in the rural areas. The existing militia units were transformed into some of the new units which would expand as new trainees joined annually, before being split to form new units until the army reached the planned size in 1919. In WA the 'battalion areas' were numbered 84th to 89th, grouped into 21st and 22nd 'brigade areas'.

In 1914 only 21st Brigade had been raised with only three of the planned six battalions. **84th Infantry (Goldfields Regiment)**, with 25 officers and 400 men (25/400) was raised in the 84th 'battalion area' and based at Kalgoorlie with the MG section, A Coy and E Coy. C Coy and D Coy were at Boulder with B Coy at Coolgardie, while F Coy was split between Lenora, Menzies, Southern Cross and Norseman. G Coy and H Coy had not been raised. 85th Infantry Regiment was not raised and men from this area joined 88th (Perth) Infantry.

86th Infantry (Western Australian Rifles) with 31/400 was raised in both the 86th and 87th areas. HQ, MG section and F Coy were at Fremantle, A Coy at Collie, B Coy at Bunbury, C Coy at Subiaco, D Coy at Claremont and Cottesloe and E Coy at Leederville, while G Coy and H Coy had not been raised. **88th (Perth) Infantry** was larger and raised in 85th, 88th and 89th areas with 31/550. HQ, MG section, A Coy, B Coy and C Coy were based in Perth. D Coy came from Victoria Park and Maylands, E Coy from Northam, York, Toodyay, Wagin, Katanning and Albany, F Coy from Midland and Guildford, G Coy from East Perth and H Coy from Geraldton, Cue and Day Dawn.

25th Light Horse (Western Australian Mounted Rifles) 25th was the sole light horse unit in WA with their HQ and MG section in Perth. A Sqn was at Northam, Toodyay, York and Beverley, B Sqn at Pingelly and Narrogin, C Sqn at Katanning and Wagin and D Sqn at Bunbury, Brookhampton, Bridgetown and Harvey. HQ 13th Field Artillery Brigade had not been formed, so 37th AFA Bty with 1/121 and 38th AFA Bty with 1/114 operated as independent units, both based in Perth. 11th Company AGA stood by at Fremantle to support the regular gunners at Fort Arthurs Head and Fort Forrest, while 12th Coy AGA was at Albany.

13th Field Company AE was based at Guildford and **30th Signal Company AE** at Perth, while **38th Fortress Company AE** was ready to assist the regular sappers manning the coastal searchlights. **21st Field Ambulance** had 1/26 based at Kalgoorlie, while **22nd Fd Amb** was based in Perth with 1/44. 22nd Company AASC, also based in Perth was the sole field supply unit in WA.

All these units remained on the Order of Battle throughout World War 1, but as men joined the AIF their numbers declined. By late 1915 most parades had ceased, and the militia was reorganized in 1918 with new unit names that reflected the AIF units. The infantry units were renamed as 11th Bn, 16th Bn, 28th Bn and 44th Bn with these names being those still in use by the current Army Reserve. All the other units throughout Australia changed their names at this time, except 13th Fd Coy AE which is the only unit named in the 1912 reorganization to have retained their unit title in the current Order of Battle.

Does this make it the 'oldest unit' in today's army?

MORSE CODE ~ THE INTERNET OF IT'S DAY



Today we take instantaneous communications for granted but when and how did this marvel start?

The electric telegraph was invented by American Samuel Finley Breese Morse in the 1840s. He found the first practical use for electricity well before the light bulb and telephone were invented. Before anyone corrects me, the British in 1835 were the first to demonstrate a constant electric light using an arc light. Remember those in movie projectors? However, Edison's 1879 patented light bulb was more practical and became universal.

The first message sent by Morse code dots and dashes across a long distance travelled in the USA from Washington to Baltimore on Friday, May 24, 1844. It signaled the first time in human history that complex thoughts could be communicated long distances almost instantaneously.

SOS is perhaps the most well-known Morse message. Chosen as the international distress signal for the nations who met in conference it went into effect on July 1, 1908. The first recorded use of "SOS" as a distress signal was just over a year later, in August 1909. The wireless operators on SS Arapahoe sent the signal when the ship was disabled by a broken propeller off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

One famous use of Morse code was by the RMS Titanic. Two young Marconi-employed operators, chief telegraphist Jack Phillips and his assistant Harold Bride, sent Morse code "Marconigrams" on behalf of Titanic's well-heeled customers 24 hours a day during its maiden voyage in April 1912. Then the Marconi CQD transmissions (Come Quick Danger – before they switched to the International SOS), and the final Morse message a few minutes before Titanic sank, the haunting: "Come quick. Engine room nearly full".

Closer to home, in WA the PMG transmitted telegrams by Morse code – until some years ago there was a Morse telegraph key used by the Busselton Post Office in the 1940s. Just think of the Wartime messages it would have tapped.

In the early days of aviation, Morse code was often used for long range communication as it was more reliable than the long-range voice circuits of the

time. Morse code is still widely used in aviation. Pilots are required to understand Morse and able to identify continuous alphanumeric identification

ground navigation aids call signs such as NDB's (Non-Directional Beacons) and VOR's (VHF Omnidirectional Radio Range) that send their identifying letters by Morse code, a practice which continues to present day.

Navy's widely used Morse with signal lamps, also called an Aldis or Morse lamp, which is a semaphore system using a visual signaling device for optical communication. Smaller versions are used from aircraft. The US Navy and Coast Guard still use signal lamps to communicate via Morse code.

Heliograph, a signaling device by which sunlight is reflected in flashes from a movable mirror, also uses Morse code.

The Semaphore flag signaling system, or "Optical telegraph", is an alphabet signaling system based on the waving of a pair of hand-held flags in a particular pattern and was reportedly invented in 1866 although that can be argued. It is not Morse code and has always been a mystery to me but like Morse, these signalmen were experts in their trade.

32 years after the introduction of Morse code Alexander Graham Bell was awarded the first U.S. patent for the invention of the telephone in 1876. He made the first call on March 10, 1876, to his assistant Thomas Watson: "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you".

American electrical engineer Elisha Gray is known for his development of a telephone prototype in 1876 in Highland Park, Illinois. Some have argued that Gray should be considered the true inventor of the telephone because Alexander Graham Bell allegedly stole the idea of the liquid transmitter from him. Although Gray had been using liquid transmitters in his telephone experiments for more than two years previously, Bell's telephone patent was upheld in numerous court decisions.

The telephone today has evolved extraordinarily

since Bell's invention. They are now portable with the introduction of mobile phones around 30 years ago. We have Smart Phones and mobile computers that allow video calls and more. They even have

Continued from page 11

GPS to tell within a metre where you are upon the planet and we have long range satellite phones.

Mobile phones have brought a new experience to lives today.

Going back a few years, many will remember the various types of “wind the handle” phones which connected to a Telephonist at the Post Office Exchange asking “Number please”, then she’d plug your cord into the other phone number socket on her console. Trunk Calls were timed in three minute units with the interruption “Do you want to extend?”

Public red box phones required coins dropped into a slot with the telephonist deciphering correct payment by the different coins “culunk” sound before connecting your call. Guglielmo Marconi, an Italian inventor, proved the feasibility of radio communication. He sent and received his first radio signal in Italy in 1895. By 1899 he transmitted the first wireless signal across the English Channel and two years later, 12 December 1901, received the Morse code letter "S", telegraphed 2,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from Cornwall, England to Newfoundland, Canada. We all know how “the wireless” has changed our lives. Remember the car battery powered valve wireless, then the marvel transistor radio and 1959 when television was introduced to Perth.

Whether the Brits or Americans started it, the Internet of sorts was probably born mid -1960s. For most it was the 6th August 1991 was when we got access to the World Wide Web with all its’ goodies (and not so good).

Those who have read the 1979 book *The Mighty Micro* by Christopher Evans will be amazed at how accurate were his (then), unbelievable prophesies.

To recap – smoke signals aside, electronic communications started with Morse code back in the 1840s – to put that in some perspective, about 20 years after Western Australia was founded.

(With thanks to the President of the WA Self Funded Retirees Association - A guest speaker at a Regular monthly meeting)

THE DEMON'S DICTIONARY

ARMOUR : The kind of clothing worn by a man whose tailor is a blacksmith.

DENTIST: A prestidigitator who, putting metal into your mouth, pulls coins out of your pocket.

ENVELOPE: The coffin of a document; the scabbard of a bill; the husk of a remittance; the bed-gown of a love letter.

FROG: A reptile with edible legs.

HABIT: A shackle for the free.

HOSPITALITY: The virtue which induces us to feed and lodge certain persons who are not in need of food and lodging.

LITIGATION: A machine which you go into as a pig and come out as a sausage.