



150 | AUSTRALIAN | 1871
YEARS | ARTILLERY | 2021

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To the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, former Gunners, and Australia Artillery associations.

It is with a degree of sadness and frustration that I write to inform you I have had to make the difficult decision that all remaining activities planned to commemorate the 150th anniversary of our Regiment are to be suspended until 2022.

The 150th anniversary of the RAA is a significant milestone and an event of national significance that deserves appropriate recognition and celebration. COVID has resulted in any large-scale event being constantly under threat of cancellation or being reduced to levels that fail to meet the standards of this milestone, and therefore the activities planned for 06 Nov 21 are unlikely to be workable.

I understand that many of those in the Gunner community will receive this news with sadness, disappointment and frustration. However, given the unpredictable nature of the COVID there are no guarantees that any event can progress whilst there are so many uncontrollable variables. It is also important to note that as important the RAA 150th is to the Gunner Community, there are people around Australia at the moment suffering considerable loss, hardship and anguish as a result of the ongoing lockdowns and global pandemic; it would be selfish and irresponsible for us to proceed when so many are in such distress.

I have directed the DHOR to commence the formal suspension of all high-profile RAA 150th activities (Parade and Drumhead Service, Cocktail Party, Laying up of the Queens Banner, and the ANZAC Centenary Gun presentation ceremony), however it is expected that regional, unit and association events will proceed on a case-by-case basis, pending State and Federal COVID restrictions.

The remaining RAA 150th commemorative activities will be executed once Australia achieves a population vaccination rate of 70 – 80% and COVID impacts can be mitigated; this is aligned to Defence and community expectations.

Ubique,



RA Vagg DSC
Brigadier
Head of Regiment
Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

06 August 2021