

CASCABEL

Newsletter of the

July

Royal Australian Artillery Association (Vic) Inc

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President: COL Jason Cooke
president@artilleryvic.org.au

Secretary: CAPT David Edwards
secretary@artilleryvic.org.au

newsletter@artilleryvic.org.au

Website: <http://artilleryvic.org.au>

Facebook: Artillery Assoc Victoria



***Presentation to Reg Morrell
In Appreciation For His Service
To The RAA Association***



A Word From The Editor

The front cover shows SSGT Reg Morrell with the presentation made to him by the RAA Association in appreciation of his thirty-six years service to the Royal Regiment and the Association.

The finances of the Association were in good, and sometimes firm, hands.

You will be missed as by the Committee and the Association Membership.

Our President, COL Jason Cooke has been extremely busy organising, negotiating and persuading the various diverse organisations involved with the 150 Anniversary activities.

The latest information is listed separately.

I received a copy of the Royal Australian Artillery LIAISON LETTER in the new format. The miniature of the new Banner of Queen Elizabeth II, our Captain General, shown on the front cover is particularly striking.

I also noted that the correct name of the Regiment – **Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RRAA)** also appeared on the front cover.

With the constantly changing rules and restrictions issued because of the Covid, it is almost impossible to predict with any accuracy if or when the various activities which usually occur will be allowed.

Our Secretary, David Edwards, is doing a great job in keeping us up-to-date as far as possible.

Please keep the contributions coming. Also, please send any contributions, text or photos, as attachments and in a format ready to be edited and inserted in the Newsletter.

Items imbedded in the body of an email can be difficult to copy.

Neil Hamer

Membership Report

Hi to all members,

I hope everyone is safe and well considering the on again off again situation we are in.

A sad duty is to inform you of the passing of the following members: MAJ Chris Armstrong, CAPT Geoff Rebbechi, BDR Ron Marshall, and CAPT Dick King. Vale gunners.

On the other side of the ledger we have some new members who are most welcome: WO2 Barry Yovkoff, BDR Neil Fairley, and GNR Ernie O’Keeffe.

We lost contact with SGT Robin Thomas but that has been fixed as Robin has sent us an email.

Thank you gunners, your membership is very much appreciated.

The committee has lost a long standing member SSGT Reg Morrell after 36 years.

Thank you Reg for all your work which will be challenging to cover, but we have your phone number.

Keep you eye on your inbox for emails from David regarding the Ubique 150 celebrations for 1 Aug, They will be interesting and hopefully might get on TV.

Our current members are:

182 paid members

43 affiliate members

Take care.

Ubique

Paul Heron

2/10 Battery Update

After several COVID related delays, the Battery finally got to get out and do a weekend LFX at Pucka! We had an accumulated total of almost 900 rounds to get through in a weekend, so were looking forward to going out field and getting some high rates of fire.

The reason we had so many rounds was that this would be our last LFX for the financial year, and as our round allocation is per financial year, and as our previous LFX’s were cancelled due to COVID, we had only one LFX before end of financial year to use up our allocation.

To be able to get through so many rounds in a one and a half day block without going over the OH&S daily exposure limits for the gunners would be impossible, so the battery offered the opportunity to go up on the Thursday and get in an extra day of firing. Alas we spent much of the ex check firing due to the large number of other call signs in the AO, who were also probably getting rid of their COVID related large stockpiles of ammo before EOFY. Still I got to be CPO for what the BC said was the best co-ord illum mission he’d seen in his career and some battery members who had

completed their FO courses in the previous 12 months got to have their live fire assessments.

In the end though, we still ended up handing back around a third of the rounds. Rumour has it that the BC is going to try argue for some sort of COVID related exemption so we can use the unfired rounds in another LFX in the second half of the year. The LFX was a training weekend in every sense of the word. Half the gunners firing were firing for the first or second time since completing their IETs, and many of the FOs were calling in their very first life fire missions and were being assessed on it. It was a great opportunity to solidify skills learnt and provided a good base foundation to build upon those skills on for future LFX's.

The weekend training for the second half of the year has been set aside for basic soldier skills such as nav ex's, combat First Aid, UAV courses, and small arms training.

Outside of training, it was pleasing to see that the BTY was able to host an ANZAC Day service this year, complete with traditional gunfire breakfast. We also conducted a 21 gun salute at The Shrine for Queen's Birthday. Looking ahead we will be conducting a gun salute for The Regiment's 150th Birthday on 1st August 2021.

The BTY has been engaged in Defence Aid to the Civil Community providing pers to the Vic Gov's COVID response taskforce. And with the State and Federal governments now willing to call out the ADF for all sorts of tasks, I anticipate that this string in our bow will only get plucked more often.

On another COVID related note, the BTY Dinner that was to be held in June has been postponed, due to the situation in Victoria. It will be rescheduled for later in the year. When a new date is confirmed a call out for Association members wishing to attend will be made.

Until next time

Ubique

Stjepan Bosnjak

A New Posting for a Past BC (Now Colonel)

Tom Nairn

Colonel Mark Coyle handed command of

Operation Aslan, Australia's contribution to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), to Colonel Tom Nairn on December 4.



The ADF contingent in South Sudan comprises up to 20 personnel from the Navy, Army and Air Force who fill key military liaison, operations, aviation and logistics support positions.

Colonel Nairn said he was looking forward to his nine-month deployment.

"It is an extraordinary privilege to be able to command a dedicated group of Australians who have made, and continue to make, a significant commitment to building peace and stability in a fragile and complex region," Colonel Nairn said, "I'm also looking forward to working not just with Australians, but a committed multi-national team of military, civilian and police members to address the challenges that South Sudan faces."

Colonel Nairn praised Colonel Coyle for his 12 months of outstanding leadership. "Colonel Coyle and his team have clearly achieved a great deal and made a truly significant contribution," Colonel Nairn said.

South Sudan became the newest country in the world in July 2011 after a six-year peace process ended more than 20 years of conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

MUR Newsletter

We received notice of a new book that may be of interest to members. Here is the information received from Mike Cecil the author.

Fire! The 25-Pounder in Australian Service

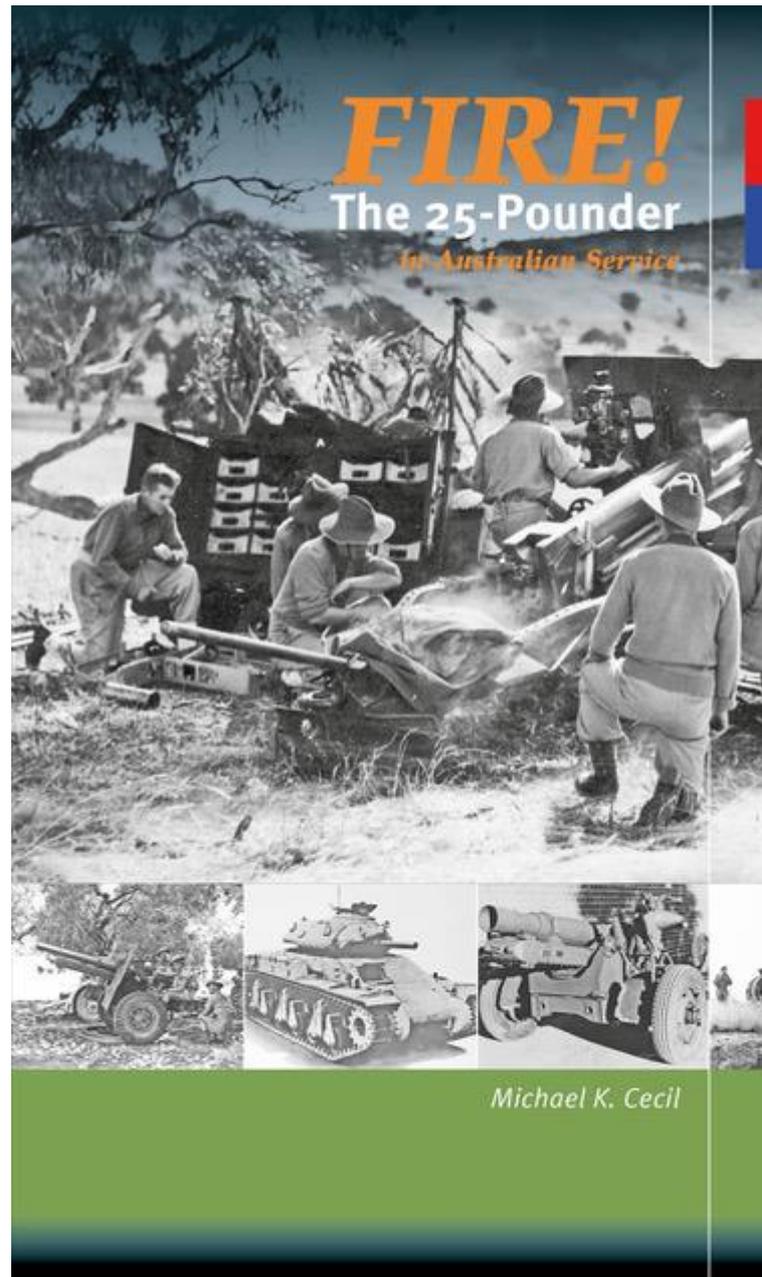
I trust I find you well, despite the upheavals of the last year or so. I thought I should let you and, through you, your members know that my latest book, *Fire! The 25-pdr in Australian Service*, is due for release by the publisher, Trackpad Publishing, in early June. As the son of a gunner, the late WO2 George Cecil, who served with 2nd Field Regiment (CMF) during the 1950s and early 1960s, this book is very personal. For many years I've been undertaking research into the Australian manufacture, adaptation and use of the 25-pdr – as a field gun, pack gun, self-propelled gun and tank gun, and as the basis of the prototype 17/25-pdr anti-tank gun.

This book, of 240 pages, some 101,000 words and 350 diagrams and images, encapsulates that research and I hope I have done the subject the justice it deserves. The Foreword is written by Major General J. Paul Stevens, who I'm sure you know as a former gunner and co-author of the recently released book on the artillery at ANZAC.

I have attached a .jpeg of the cover and a pdf of the publisher's promotional flyer for your information and would be grateful if you would consider their inclusion in the Association newsletter, (formerly *Cascabel*).

The book will be available from Trackpad in the UK, or from Ronnels Hobbies in Qld.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Cecil.



PROGRAM OF EVENTS



150 YEARS | AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY | 1871-2021

The 1st of August is the 150th Anniversary of Artillery in Australia. There are events being run around the country to celebrate our 150th birthday, commencing with a series of co-ordinated events on 1 Aug centred on a national Fireplan.

COVID-willing the 150th Anniversary events in Victoria will be going ahead on 1 Aug (two weeks time). This is a great opportunity to celebrate our 150 years of gunnery in Australia, and specifically in Victoria where we have some of the oldest artillery history and fired the first round of WWI.

In summary there are three locations for the events:

- **The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne** - 1130-1300
- **Fort Queenscliff (Fort and Museum)** - 0930-1130
- **South West Cannon Trail, Warrnambool** - 0900-1500

Details below. These events will be in accordance with VIC State Govt Covid-19 restrictions, a QR Code has been created for the three events.

The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne - 1130-1300

The forecourt and firing point at the Shrine will host a number of activities including a static display (featuring 12lb Armstrong Gun for Werribee Half Bty, 2/4 Fd Regt 25lb gun) and firing by 2/10 Bty as part of the National Salute.

The timeline for the day is as follows:

- 0900: Commence Set Up
- 1045: Arrival and set up 2/10 Bty
- 1115: VIP Arrival
- 1130: Ceremonial gunline established
- 1130 - 1145: Welcome Address COL Cooke, outline of events and brief history of Victorian Gunnery
- 1145 - 1215: 12 LB display - brief history of Gun no 370, Werribee and Chrinside Family FB Gun drill in period uniform
- 1215 - 1230: 25 LB display, and history of 2/4 Fd Regt - Syria, Lae, Ramu Valle FB Gun Drill
- 1230 - 1240: Set up for salute
- 1240 - 1245: Conduct of salute
- 1245: Final Address
- 1250: End of ceremony

If you would like to help setup we will be there from 9am, otherwise we will see you at ~1130.

A few 2/15 and 2/10 members will be meeting at the Botanical Hotel, Domain Rd, South Yarra for drinks at 11am.

The Bty has invited all back to Sargood Barracks for lunch and drinks following the activities at the Shrine. Timings TBA - will be after the activities but allowing for the Bty members to clean the guns. If you are thinking of attending the Bty after the Shrine, please RSVP so the Bty can plan for catering.

Fort Queenscliff (Fort and Museum) - 0930-1130

SGT Helen Janner and the 10 Mdm Regt Assoc have arranged for the Fort Queenscliff fort and museum to be open on the day. There will be an address, a tour of the museum and morning tea.

The timeline for the day is as follows:

- 0900: Open up Fort and prepare the Museum
- 0930: Commence with opening address
- 0940: Commence Tour of Museum
- 1045: Morning Tea
- 1100: Short Address - President 10 MDM REGT ASSOC
- 1130: End of event

Lunch at the local RSL has been organised following the events at the fort.

South West Cannon Trail - 0900-1500

The Warrnambool City Council has established the South West Cannon Trail (<https://visitwarrnambool.com.au/itineraries-2/south-west-cannon-coastline-trail/>) and is supporting the 150th Anniversary with a number of events. There are three gun emplacements, Warrnambool, Portland and Port Fairy, featuring 80lb rifled cannons dating back to 1860. There will be blank firings with re-enactment crews at each location across the day.

The timeline for the day is as follows:

- 0900: One round salute - Portland
- 1200: One round salute - Port Fairy
- 1500: One round salute - Flagstaff Hill, Warrnambool

The Flagstaff Hill location will be the main one and may host other activities.

This will be a great day for the gunner community in Victoria. All events will be supported by Army and local media. I encourage you to come out to one of the events and enjoy the history.

Cocktail Party

A "Cocktail Party" will be held at the RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street Melbourne on the 29th October from 1700 to 1900 hrs. All invited. Details later.

RAA Luncheon 2022

It is still anticipated that the Luncheon will go ahead at the RACV Club next year. Fingers crossed.