

# CASCABEL



Newsletter of The Royal Australian Artillery  
Association (Victoria)

Number 1, July 1983

Editor: Major R.M. Gaw

Asst. Editor: Capt. J.A. Davis

MESSAGE FROM COL A. "SANDY" MAIR,  
PRESIDENT ROYAL AUSTRALIAN  
ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA)

Dear Member,

It's time again for our Annual General Meeting. This year it will be held on Thursday 28th July at Batman Avenue Artillery Depot at 8.00 p.m.

Annual General Meetings, whilst most necessary can be a bit boring - apart from the happiness of course of re-meeting with Gunner friends. This year as a means of interest I have arranged for a couple of short films to be shown during the evening.

The first will be on the M198 Medium Gun. This is the new American 155 mm which will replace the 5.5 Gun with which 10 Medium Regiment is equipped at Geelong and Colac. In fact the first of these equipments has been received at Geelong - much to their delight. The second short film is "Fire Power" which deals quite dramatically with the employment of Field Branch Artillery in the modern day.

The Mess at Batman Avenue will be nice and warm and the films I hope will be a change from a guest speaker.

The usual refreshments and supper of course will be available and there will be ample opportunity for a chat and a glass with your friends.

The formal notice for the Annual General Meeting is attached.

Apart from listening to my Report on our doings over the past year, we do have the matter of the election of our office bearers and committee for 1983/84 and as a reminder I list these for your cogitation.

Patron: Brigadier Sir William Hall

Vice Patron: Major General His  
Honour Judge N.A.  
Vickery

President: Colonel A. Mair

Vice President: Lt. Colonel C.W.  
McLean

Secretary: Lt. K.F. Field

Treasurer: WO1 K. Hodges

Committee: Major G. Hill (Serving)

Major M. Taggart

Major R. Gaw (Serving)

WO2 J. Ferguson

Lt. Col. D.G. Cox

Capt. J. Davis (Serving)

Auditor: Capt. D.J. Osborne

All members of your committee have indicated that they are eligible for re-election and we have the required number - three - of serving members.

Your committee has met regularly each month - except December and

January - attendance has been first class and all have displayed a keenness and enthusiasm in their interest and committal to your Association.

At the Annual General Meeting all executive positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be called for by the Chairman from the floor of the meeting.

Finances of the Association are in good shape - no increase in subscriptions is planned but I do want you to consider the matter of Life Membership. The asking for annual subscriptions and also the paying of them can be a hassle - to you and to the Association. You have to be reminded perhaps; you have to write the cheque and post it; we have to receipt it and record it. Life Membership by our constitution costs 10 times the Annual Sub - i.e. \$50.00. So if this attracts you as a 'pay it and forget it' affair, the chance is there and you automatically become a Life member of the Association. Think about it. I'll pose it formally at the Meeting.

Apart from that; "Come" - it should be an enjoyable evening. Vote it now - Thursday 28th of July at 8.00 p.m. The Bar will be open by 7.30.

Look forward to seeing you.

Sandy Mair  
Colonel - President.

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#### EDITORIAL

This is the first edition of "CASCABEL", newsletter of your Association. Your committee plans to produce the newsletter quarterly, in July, October, January and April each year. The aim of the newsletter is to keep all interested gunners, both past and present, up to date with

gunner activities within Victoria. Much news for publication in the newsletter, concerning the three gunner units in Victoria is readily available through the serving members on your committee. Likewise, news of the activities of the Association itself is available from the committee. However, articles of interest not available from these sources are necessary to make the newsletter appealing to all gunners, both new and old. Any contributions would be most gratefully accepted. Please address them to:

RAA Association (Victoria)  
Artillery Training Depot  
Batman Avenue,  
Melbourne.

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#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Officers Mess at Batman Avenue, on Thursday 28th July 1983 at 8.00pm. Formal notice of the Meeting together with the Agenda, is enclosed. The bar will be open from 7.30 pm. It promises to be a most enjoyable evening. All members (and other interested parties) are urged to attend.

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#### ARTILLERY BALL

The Colonel Artillery, Colonel Mike Vincent, extends a very warm invitation to all gunners and their friends to attend the 1983 Artillery Ball.

Venue: "CHAUCERS" Canterbury

Date: Friday, 5th August 1983

Timings: Pre dinner drinks and canapes from 7.30 p.m.

Dinner (4 courses) with wine at 8.15 p.m.

Bar service after dinner till 12.30 a.m.

Dancing till 1.00 a.m.

Colac (39 CORANGAMITE Bty)

Music: Pre dinner programme  
The Artillery Band

Dance programme "EMANON"

Exhibition Piping

Entree: \$52.00 per double  
Bookings may be made  
through any member of the  
ball committee.

Maj John Morkham 241 6122/830 4302

Maj Merv Taggart 647 5656/598 8452

Capt Judith Davis 781 2445

Sgt John Decker 583 4141

Bdr Dianne Dalton 49 6775

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### ARTILLERY UNITS IN VICTORIA

#### HQ RAA

CRA: Col W.M. Vincent, ED

Depot: Batman Avenue

Parade

Night: Wednesday

Telephone: 697 3859

#### 2/15 Field Regiment

CO: Lt. Col D.M. Murphy, ED

Depots: Batman Avenue (HQ Bty  
and 3 Bty when raised)

Dandenong (2 Bty)

Frankston (23 Bty)

Annual Camp: October/November

Parade

Night: Tuesday

Telephone: 697 3842

#### 10 Medium Regiment

CO: Maj R.M. Gaw

Depots: Geelong (HQ Bty and  
37 Bty)

Annual Camp: March/April

Parade

Night: Wednesday

Telephone: (052) 21 7666

132 Divisional Locating Battery

OC: Maj J.E. Morkham, ED

Depot: Brighton

Annual Camp: March/April

Parade

Night: Monday

Telephone: 596 5354

#### RAA BAND

Bandmaster: WO1 Harper

Depot: Batman Avenue

Annual Camp: -

Parade

Night: Tuesday

Telephone: 697 3842

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### CALENDAR

Thu 28 Jul 83 RAA Association Annual  
General Meeting at  
Batman Avenue

Fri 5 Aug 83 Artillery Ball at  
Chaucers

10-24 Sep 83 2/15 Fd Regt Annual  
Field Exercise at  
Puckapunyal

21-23 Oct 83 RAA TEWT at Puckapunyal

Sun 4 Dec 83 St. Barbara's day at  
Geelong

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Australia has ordered a total of 36 of the U.S. manufactured M198 155 mm howitzers to replace its ageing 5.5 inch guns currently in service with 8/12 Medium Regiment (at Holsworthy, N.S.W.) and 10 Medium Regiment (at Geelong and Colac, Vic.).

The first shipment of 2 M198s arrived in Victoria during June 1983. They were formally handed over to The Minister of Defence, the Rt Hon Gordon Scholes by members of the American Quality Assurance Team from Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, at a ceremony at 10 Mdm Regt at Geelong on Friday, 24th June.

The remaining guns of the Australian order will be delivered, and will enter service in both Medium Regiments, during 1984.

The ceremony at Geelong was of special significance to Victorian gunners in that it took place at an Army Reserve Unit. This was probably the first time ever that a new major equipment was handed over at an Army Reserve rather than a Regular Army establishment - a fact of which all Army Reserve Gunners can be proud.

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#### OF INTEREST

When the 2/2nd Field Regiment was climbing the Brallos Pass, Brigadier Herring, commanding the 6th Divisional Artillery, had ordered that two guns be pulled out and sited on the forward slope of the escarpment about two-thirds of the distance up the slope to cover the demolished bridge over the Sperkhios River. They were placed 15 feet apart on a mere ledge at the side of the road in the area held by the 2/4th

Battalion and with them was an Italian Breda antiaircraft gun manned by a British crew. About 6 p.m. on the 21st the first German vehicles emerged from Lamia and began moving south along the straight road on which the guns had been carefully ranged. The gunners opened fire at 10,900 yards and, in three rounds, hit and stopped the leading truck, whereupon the remainder hastily retired to Lamia.

A painting, by Sir William Dargie, of the area in which this action took place hangs in the 2/15 Fd. Regt. Officers' Mess.

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#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due for the financial year 1983/84. You may pay \$5.00 to renew your membership for one year, or \$50.00 to become a Life Member. A renewal application form is enclosed for your use when renewing your membership. We ask you to fill in full personal details on the form so that we may make sure our records are up to date. Your correct address on our files will ensure you regularly receive correspondence and your copy of the newsletter. Your correct rank on our files is also important since our mailing list is often used by other groups to send out invitations to functions restricted to OR's only and Officers only.

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"What the heck is a Cascabel anyway?"