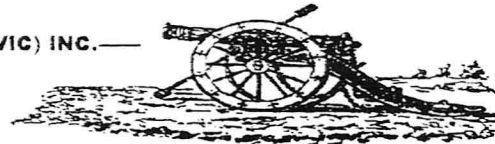


# CASCABEL

Journal of the

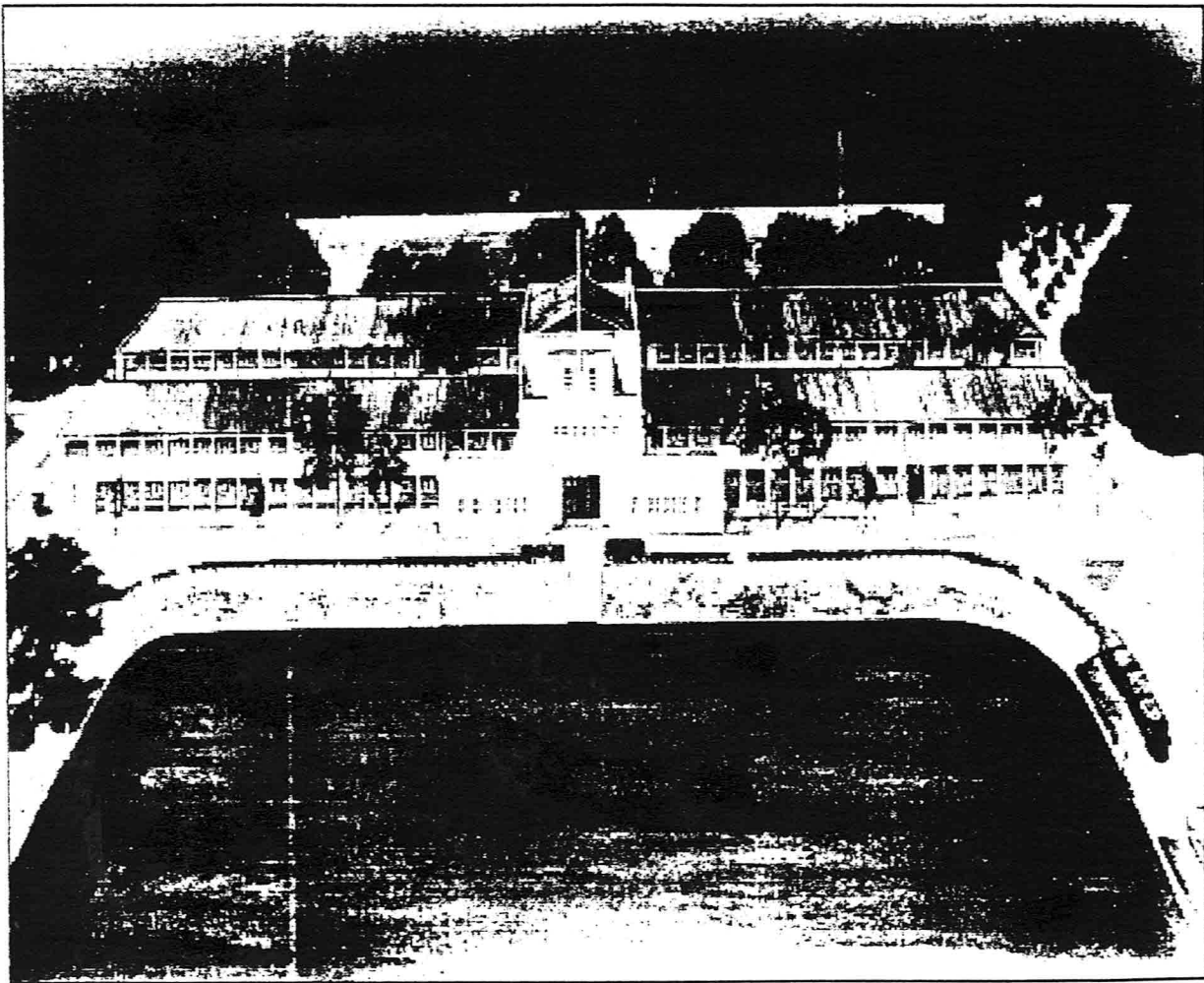
—ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.—



**Number 53**

Published Quarterly in  
Victoria Australia

**October 1997**



The School of Artillery as it stands today at North Head, Manly, NSW until its closure and relocation to Puckapunyal, VIC in Dec 97.

# CASCABEL

Journal of the  
—ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.—



## FOUNDED:

First AGM                July 1977  
First Cascabel        July 1983

## COL COMMANDANT:

BRIG Graeme B. Standish AM; RFD, ED

## PAST PRESIDENTS:

1968 - 1984    MAJGEN N. A. Vickery CBE,  
                         MC, ED  
1984 - 1985    COL A. (Sandy) Mair ED  
1985 - 1988    MAJ P. S. Whitelaw ED  
1988 - 1991    BRIG K. V. Rossi OBE, RFD,  
                         ED  
1991 -         MAJ M. Taggart RFD, ED

## JOURNAL NAME:

**CASCABEL** - Spanish - Origin as small bell or  
Campanilla (pro: Kaskebell),  
spherical bell, knob like  
projection.

**CASCABLE** - English spelling.



## REASON FOR:

Once a fixed extension left over when a muzzle loaded gun was molten cast. It was the left over molten ore plug from the cast liquid entry point. Left on as it was found to be a good handle to move or elevate the barrel. Then shaped to look like a bell.

## ARTILLERY USE:

After 1800 AD, it became adjustable. The breech is closed in large calibres by a CASCABEL(E) screw, which is a solid block of forged wrought iron, screwed into the breech coil until it pressed against the end of the steel tube. In the smaller calibres, the A bore tube is carried through to form the CASCABEL(E).

[Ref: "Text Book on Fortification Etc", Royal Military College, Sandhurst, by COL G. Philips, RE, 4th Ed, Ch-1, p9, para 28, 1884].

[Source: COL Alan Mason, Vic, May 1993].

## CASCABEL HISTORY:

The name was put forward by the first editor, LTCOL Rob Gaw, and accepted because of its unique and obvious Artillery connection.

## ASSN LOGO:

Our Assn Logo is the 1800 AD 9pdr Waterloo Field Gun. Copy is taken from Device, Badge and Motto of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, as approved in 1883, by HM King William IV.

## LAPEL BADGE:

Copy of the left arm brass gilted gun once worn by Gun Sgts above the chevrons on each arm. Brassards worn by IGs at North Head were embroidered with this insignia. Selected by MAJ Warren Barnard, 1984 Assn Committee.

## POSTAL ADDRESS:

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PO Box 309  
Frankston VIC 3199

## RAA ASSN (VIC) Inc

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SGT R. G. Curtis  
**Representatives:** WO2 L. Foster  
(10 MDM Regt Assn)  
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**Honorary Auditor:** WO2 T. D. Hopkins

### MUSEUM TRUST

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**Phone:** 9560 7116  
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**Phone:** 9763 5995  
BDR T. Haywood  
**Phone:** 9813 1087

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**Bandmaster:** WO1 D. Farrell  
9526 4230  
  
22 Fd Bty 9792 2642  
Lonsdale St  
Dandenong (Melway 90 E9)  
  
22 Fd Bty (059) 71 3208

Robinsons Rd  
Baxter (Melway 102 J10)

38 Mdm Bty (052) 21 7666  
Myers St  
Geelong (Melway 228 D4)

38 Mdm Bty (052) 31 2056  
Queen St  
Colac

### CORPS OF ARTY KINDRED ORGANISATIONS

RAA Association of NSW  
RAA Association of ACT  
RAA Association of QLD  
RAA Association of SA  
RAA Association of WA  
RAA Association of NT

RAA Historical Society (NSW)  
RAE History & Heritage Committee  
Arty Historical Trust of TAS  
Artillery Display Team (V)  
Timor Force POW Assn (V)

105 Fd Bty Vietnam (QLD)  
106 Fd Bty Vietnam (V)  
2 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/1 Fd Regt Assn Reunion Comm (V)  
2/2 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/3 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/4 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/5 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/6 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/7 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/8 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/11 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/12 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2/14 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
4 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
8 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
10 Aust Fd Regt Assn (V)  
15 Aust Fd Regt Assn (V)  
22 Fd Regt Assn (V)  
2 Mdm Regt (AIF) Assn (V)

**CORPS OF ARTY  
KINDRED ORGANISATIONS  
(Continued)**

10 Mdm Regt RAA Assn (V)  
Exmouth Hvy Bty Assn (V)  
2/17 LAA Bty Assn (V)  
2/3 Aust LAA Regt Assn (V)  
2/4 Aust LAA Regt Assn (V)  
112 LAA Regt Assn (V)  
116 LAA Regt Assn (V)  
5 Bty 2 HAA Regt Assn (V)  
2/2 HAA Regt Assn (V)  
HAA Assn of Aust (V)  
4 Anti-tank Regt Assn (V)  
106 Atk Regt Assn (V)  
2 Aust Svy Bty Assn (V)  
2/1 Svy Regt Assn (V)  
65 Mobile AASL Bty Assn (V)  
65 AASL Bty Reunion Assn (V)  
67 AASL Bty Assn (V)  
77 Mobile AASL Bty Assn (V)  
AWAS S/L Unit Assn (V)  
British Gunners Assn (V)  
Ceylon Arty Assn (V)

**Active Units**

DArty (NSW)  
Offrs Mess Melb Vic Bks (V)  
Offrs Mess Comd & Staff College (V)  
Sgts Mess Comd & Staff College (V)  
Offrs Mess Proof & Exp Range (V)  
Sgts Mess Proof & Exp Range (V)  
2/10 Mdm Regt RAA (V)  
RAE (V)

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## EDITOR'S EXOTERICS

Why exoterics? "Suitable for or communicated to the general public", hopefully the rest of this publication is anyway, "not belonging or pertaining to the inner or select circle, popular, simple, commonplace", yep! that's me: Ron Curtis, your new Cascabel editor.

Background? Ex-Gun SGT on the old 40mm Bofors at 18 LAA Regt, Kogarah, 111 LAA Bty, Holsworthy, 17 LAA Regt, Revesby, 1 Fd Regt, Holsworthy, 9 HAA Regt, Dee Why and School of Arty, North Head, all of the latter on detachment as FTD CMF from parent unit 18 LAA Regt, where I finally retrained on the new (at the time) Bristol Bofors before discharge on 25 Jun 64 after 7yrs 6 days service. NB We must not forget those 6 days. Also served as a civilian in the Commonwealth Public Service for 25 years until my retirement on a package on 18 Oct 96. Approximately 18 years of those 25 years were with Department of Defence and probably more than half that time with Army Directorates.

I am honoured to be allowed to take over as editor of CASCABEL magazine and am somewhat overawed at the thought that I am doing so in the wake of so competent a predecessor as LT Auchetti, who unfortunately does not have the amount of free time that I have, being now retired. One thing you will notice is that we have had to drop the coloured cover but please note that this will stem the otherwise inevitable rise in costs of producing this journal for a while and so help the assn to keep up with inflation.

I recently went on a holiday to Darwin for a week and while there visited the Military Museum. I can definitely recommended it to anyone planning to visit the north in the future, but more about that in the next issue.

Ron Curtis  
Editor




### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Your Association has arranged for the printing of Christmas cards which are available for purchase by members and other interested persons.

The cards are printed on quality card, bearing the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery corps badge on the front. Inside you have a choice of a message which reads "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" or blank so you can put an appropriate message in your own hand.

The cards measure approximately 150mm by 105mm and come with an envelope, and will cost 40 cents each. It is considered a minimum order should be 10 i.e \$9, and can be posted to you if necessary.

You can get these cards by contacting our RAA shop coordinator SSgt Brian Cleeman by phone on (03) 9560-7116.







## **The President Writes**

You will probably realise by now that we have been having some trouble with the preparation and production of Cascabel. John Auchetll is suffering the pressures of his business and other responsibilities and the printing arrangements were falling in a hole so you can see that we have had some problems.

Ron Curtis has offered to take a turn at producing the magazine. I welcome him on to the committee and I am sure you will all join me in wishing Ron good luck in this task. I must thank John Auchetll for his three years effort in developing the newsletter to such a high standard.

So much has happened in recent months that I am unsure where to start and what I might have already mentioned.

On the fourth of May a group went to see the Swan Island forts with the RAE Association. It is an interesting place being the base for the mine laying operations used in conjunction with the guns of the other forts.

A visit to the Regiment at Pucka in May was cancelled at 10.00 am on the Friday because of an ammunition problem but we are trying to arrange a visit in the near future.

We arranged an Associations Day in May. There was a reasonable turn up but I would have liked to see more of the AIF units represented. It was an information session really and most of the matters discussed will be covered in this edition.

The Gunner Dinner was held at Victoria Barracks Officers Mess on the 4th July. The Director of Artillery Colonel Paul Retter was our guest of honour this year. He was able to tell us some of the plans for the Corps regarding the imminent move to Puckapunyal and associated matters.

Mina and I went to Sydney at the beginning of August for the Artillery Centres farewell functions. It was a great weekend and there is a report elsewhere in the magazine.

We have two projects going on at present. The first is that we have an Association Tie on order. The other is that arrangements for a recording of the 2/10th Medium Regiment Band are well on the way. There will be CD's and cassettes with a program of about an hour of music. It is hoped that the recording will be available before Christmas so watch out for further information.

The 20th Annual General Meeting was held at the Chapel Street Depot on Thursday 28th August. About thirty five members attended. It would be great to see more there. Let us know if a Saturday or Sunday afternoon would be a more acceptable time.

On Friday following the AGM the Artillery Ball was held at a new venue. Merrimu Receptions at Chadstone put on a good show with good food and bright and cheery surroundings. Our own band played during dinner and the "Highlights", continued to entertain us until late.

My best wishes

Mervyn Taggart Major  
President

# **The Secretary's Report from the A.G.M.**

The **Commanding Officer** of 2nd/10th Medium Regiment, LTCOL C. R. Wood, was invited to report on the state of the Regiment, and noted:

## **ORGANISATIONAL**

- \* Army is in a state of change, with adjustment from a World War I organisation to one based on independent Task Forces.
- \* His Regiment is Under Command 4 Brigade with effect from 1st July 1997; this has little effect as he reports to the same headquarters.
- \* All indirect fire support is to be by RAA, including mortars.
- \* 4 Brigade is doing trials of full/part time mix - the full time staff of this Regiment will double, which is seen as a positive move of benefit to the Regiment.
- \* The aim is to revitalise the Reserve in 4 Brigade.

## **UNIT**

- \* He is satisfied he has the strongest Reserve unit and confident of the standard achieved. The AIF trophy has returned to 2/10 Medium Regiment.
- \* Strong recruiting towards the end of the year should add 100 to 120 soldiers.

## **BATTERIES**

- \* 22 Battery is strong and will combine in a single depot in the next twelve months. Hamel is to replace the M2A2 when a new depot is found. The battery's camp in Tasmania was a success, including ARTEP assessment.
- \* 38 Battery has experienced some attrition in numbers, especially in the junior NCO ranks; this will be helped by supplementing with Regular NCOs. The battery will do its camp at High Range near Townsville in late April - early May, and will be assessed. Colac depot is to be retained with two M198 equipments there. Identification of a depot in Hoppers Crossing area is still being done.

## **CORPS**

- \* The School of Artillery is to be opened at Puckapunyal in March.
- \* The Head of Corps is to be lost, and the higher headquarters role (previously by Commander Land Command Artillery) will be taken over by COL S. Joske as Colonel Artillery.



Comments by **Colonel Commandant**, BRIG G. B. Standish AM, RFD, ED, in his address on Corps matters, noted the constancy of change and that the rate of change is increasing. Points covered included:

#### **RAA CONFERENCE**

- \* Head of Corps will be replaced in an honorary capacity by the Colonel Artillery, or possibly the Commanding Officer of the School.
- \* Training Command becomes Readiness Command, which will include all bands.
- \* Support Command is to be tri-service.
- \* Commander Land Command will issue a directive regarding safety and level of expertise, but Colonel Artillery will retain technical direction of Artillery.
- \* 2/10 Mdm Regt will in time have ten percent full-time personnel.
- \* Melbourne and Perth are to trial a common induction of all recruits, of six weeks continuous training, which could create work problems for potential Reserve members.
- \* A rewrite of the Strategic Plan has been done, as well as a draft update of RAA Standing Orders.

#### **REGIMENTAL COMMITTEE**

- \* It is hoped that the location of the Museum at North Head will be retained by Army. It is an excellent museum.
- \* Items of memorabilia are available to units but will need to be insured.

Robin Smith Major  
Secretary

### **GUNNERS SADDENED TO HEAR OF PASSING OF POPULAR RMO LTCOL JAMES (SEAMUS) JOSEPH CAMPBELL**

A number of Gunners who had served with Seamus Campbell when he was RMO of 2/15 Fd Regt were surprised and saddened to hear that he passed away on 8 Jun 97.

Seamus who is remembered by both officers and ORs of 2/15 Fd, went on to become CO of 6 Fd Amb.

The members of RAA Assn (Vic) Inc wish to offer his widow Pat sincere sympathy and assurance that he will be remembered as a fine Officer, Doctor and Gentleman.



## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT OCTOBER 1997**

I would like to give a warm welcome to five new members who joined recently. They are GNR Les Dunn and GNR Bill Lewis, who both served with 2/3 Fd Regt in WWII, and GNR Ray Davies who served with 2 Aust Mdm Regt, CAPT Russell Henry with Artillery units in WWII as well as in a Proof & Experimental Section, and finally as an instructor with Blamey Battery in the early fifties. Finally, a warm welcome to MAJ Tony Hunt who served mainly with 10 Mdm Regt. There must be some more Gunners out there who could be members, so why not request a nomination form to pass on to them so they can join.

A long standing member of our Association and a former member of 2/4 Fd Regt Geoff Zierk of Geelong passed away a few months ago. A former RMO of 2/15 Fd Regt LtCol J. J. (Seamus) Campbell, who had later commanded 6 Field Ambulance, also passed away recently. In early September the death occurred of Sgt Ralph Ibbott. Ralph had served in the 1950's and 1960's at the Landcox Street and Frankston depots, while attached to 10 Mdm Regt and 2 Fd Regt. I also have to report the passing of MAJ R. E. McPherson MC. On behalf of all members I express our sympathy to their families.

Mail is being returned unclaimed from the following members who we would like to make contact with. If you know their whereabouts, please let me know the details.

SGT A. Brian

CAPT R. V. C. King

MAJ E. Macaulay

SSGT S.P. McDermott

GNR R. Mudge

Our membership register currently stands at 407.

Subscription notices for annual members will be sent out shortly, now that the subscription rate has been set at the Annual General Meeting in August. The rate for the year ending 30 Jun 98 was set at \$12, and the rate for Life Membership was set at \$120. There are a number of members in advance so there is no need for any member to pay until you receive a notice.

If you're about to move, please fill out and post the change of address notice on the inside back cover of this issue or telephone me at work on (03) 9781 2633 or at home on (03) 9787 7852 to advise your new address.

## **CALL FOR SUPPORT FROM LIFE MEMBERS**

In addition to the rate of subscriptions being set at the AGM there was discussion about the change in income to the Association over the years between the relativity of annual and life members. A motion was moved from the floor to redress the situation. By way of background, a few years ago a member taking up life membership in say 1989 paid \$80. This amount was invested at 17% and generated \$13 interest. In addition, the total fee of \$80 was gradually brought to account as

subscription income over a nominal 20 year period, producing further revenue of \$4. This meant an annual revenue of \$17. An annual member at that time paid \$8. A member who joined in the last 12 months paid \$100 for life membership, which was invested at 4%, and generated \$4, together with a part of the fee spread over 20 years of a further \$5, making a total income from the life member of \$9. Life members who paid at the \$50 or \$80 level produce smaller incomes of \$4.50 and \$7.20 respectively. This compared to an annual members contribution of \$10. The balance had moved quite a lot over the years, caused mainly by the 76% reduction in interest rates. Following lengthy discussion it was moved from the floor, and then resolved that all life members who had paid \$100 or less be asked for a voluntary donation of \$20 to top up the amount being invested. Notices to all life members in this category will be sent out calling for donations to assist in redressing this issue. I trust this measure will result in good support from life members.

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT YEAR TO 30TH JUNE, 1997

	LIFE MEMBERS	ANNUAL MEMBERS	AFFIL MEMBERS	TOTAL MEMBERS
	=====	=====	=====	=====
BALANCE 1/7/96	209	139	59	407
NEW MEMBERS	-	9	-	9
TRANSFERS	7	(7)	-	-
RESIGNED	-	-	-	-
DEATHS	(2)	(2)	-	(4)
UNFINANCIAL DELETIONS	-	(9)	-	(9)
	=====	=====	=====	=====
BALANCE 30/6/97	214	130	59	403
	=====	=====	=====	=====

### INTERESTING FACTS

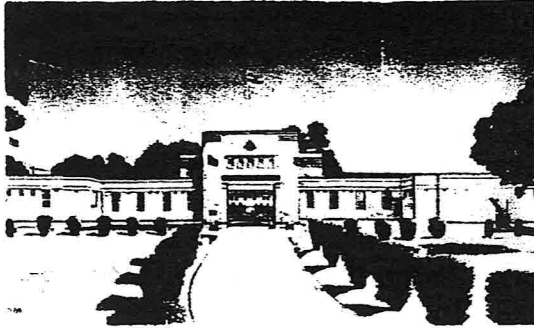
OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 403

THERE ARE 62 ORs  
THERE ARE 120 SGTs AND WOs  
THERE ARE 6 FEMALES  
THERE ARE 4 INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATE MEMBERS  
THERE ARE 59 AFFILIATE ORGANISATIONS

David Osborne Major  
Vice President and Membership Secretary

## FAREWELL TO NORTH HEAD

by MAJ Merv Taggart



You will be aware that the Artillery Centre is to be relocated from its home of fifty years at North Head, Manly to Puckapunyal, as part of the Defence Forces plans to reorganise. The idea of placing the School of Artillery close to an artillery firing range has much to be commended but the culture shock of moving from Manly to Pucka I fear will be quite a cross to bear.

As far as is known the move is to take place at the end of 1997 so that courses can begin in the new school in 1998. The Artillery Centre will be accommodated in new purpose built premises on the site previously occupied by 1st Armoured Regiment. The complex is to be named, "Bridges Barracks".

Whilst the move will actually occur during December this year the farewell functions were held during the first weekend of August in conjunction with corps functions which usually happen at that time. They are the Gunner Dinner, the Corps Conference and the RAA Regimental Committee. Added to these were a church parade, "Freedom of Entry to the City of Manly" ceremonies, Sergeants' and Officers' Mess farewells, a cocktail party and a "Beating Retreat" ceremony.

Mina and I arrived in Manly on Friday 1st August and booked into the Paradise Motel on the beach front. The proprietor welcomed us with the remark that, yes he had a booking for Taggart, one of the people here for a weekend of debauchery up at the Head.

We attended Saint Matthew's Church in the Corso for the Church Parade on Friday morning. Major General Stevenson attended as well as several of the other states Colonels Commandant. Naturally the Director, Colonel Retter attended together with many senior officers. The Queen's Banner was paraded and laid up on the altar during the service. The service was a suitable beginning to the weekend's activities and a little different to the usual activities on the Corso.

On Friday evening both Officer's and Sergeant's Messes held Happy Hours. We attended the Officer's Mess. The bar was shoulder to shoulder but worth waiting for. It was there that I met John Griggs whom some may remember as Adjutant of 8th Medium Regiment in Geelong and later as Deputy Commander 3rd Training Group.



There was supposed to be a break between the happy hour and the cocktail party but it just seemed to go on and on. There were speeches and replies, we all talked knowledgeably about the Long Tan Painting and had a great time. Here I met Brigadier Paul Tys whom I last saw whilst we were both students at the School in

1971. Paul was briefly the public relations spokesman for the Services and you may have seen him on the telly recently.

Saturday was the big day. During the morning there was the ceremony of the "Freedom of Entry to the City of Manly". There was an impressive ceremony on the parade ground at North Head followed by the challenge in the main street and a mounted parade through the streets of the city. The parade included one of all the present and past equipments including my favourite "Five Point Five" and several radar looking machines that I did not recognise. It was a most impressive procession.

After lunch the School and the Museum were open to the public. The School had stands showing all the current equipments including guns, computers and survey gear. All very puzzling to a steam gunner like me. The Museum has developed considerably since I saw it a year ago. It really is a credit to the organisers and any opportunity to visit should not be missed. The general idea seems to be to develop rooms with a specific theme. In the main building there are rooms for Viet Nam, the Coastal forts of all of Australia, Medals, Technical instruments and new since I was there last year an Ammunition room. In there is one of anything you can think of including fuse setters. There are several hangers in the grounds, one each for First World War, Second World War and Anti-aircraft artillery. In the grounds are several big guns too large for the hangers. All the equipment is as far as possible set out in realistic settings. I ran into Major Peter Wood in the AA room. He was in Sydney on family business and only heard by accident about the celebrations whilst he was there. I did not have time to see the tunnels and gun emplacements on this occasion which was disappointing. When you visit you can have a cup of tea in the new tearooms which are located in one of the old married quarters just outside the gate. The whole Museum is very well done.

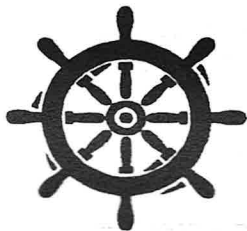
At dusk the, "Beating Retreat", ceremony was conducted on the parade ground. There were two guards and the band of 23rd Field Regiment and with a battery of guns in the background. It was an impressive ceremony and was followed by the firing of a, "Feu de Joie" by the dismounted troops and guns very cleverly integrated.

The parade was followed by a cocktail party held in the ballroom on the upper floor of the main barracks building. The School will miss this room. During the evening Lt Col Collie CO/CI of the School made a farewell speech and concluded by making a presentation to The Mayor of the City of Manly. The presentation was the School of Artillery Standard in a magnificent frame.



This function was the last that I attended but the more serious activities such as the Regimental Committee and Corps Conference continued on Sunday and Monday. The Sergeant's Mess held farewells on Monday night. Mina and I left on Sunday morning after a pleasant and historic weekend.





## Coming Excursions

### Historical and Heritage Committee Coastal Defences Day Trip

**Sunday November 23rd, 1997**

**Proposed Tour :** Hobson's Bay Tour aboard the Steam Tug 'Wattle',  
inspection of H.M.A.S. 'Castlemaine' and the Museum at  
Gem Pier, Williamstown.

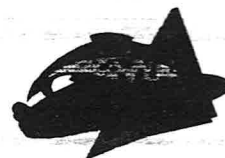
**Timetable :**

- 10.30am - Embark Steam Tug 'Wattle' at Station Pier, Port Melbourne.
- 11.30am - Disembark at Gem Pier, Williamstown.
- 12.15pm - Lunch at Yacht Club Hotel.
- 2.15pm - Assemble at H.M.A.S. 'Castlemaine'. Meet with Secretary, Peter Williams, Introductory talk on H.M.A.S. 'Castlemaine', followed by a tour of the ship.
- 4.00pm - Embark Steam Tug 'Wattle' at Gem Pier.
- 4.30pm - Disembark at Station Pier.

**Cost :** \$15.00 per person includes 'Wattle' excursion and H.M.A.S. 'Castlemaine' tour.  
Lunch to be paid individually.  
Car parking at entrance to Station Pier, Port Melbourne.

**Firm Bookings - first week of October, 1997.**

**Contact :** Reg MORRELL  
Phone: 9562 9552





# Relocation of the Artillery Centre

By Lieutenant Colonel J.C. Platt

The Artillery Centre, which comprises the Directorate of Artillery and the School of Artillery, will relocate to Puckapunyal in Victoria at the end of 1997. Not surprisingly, most 'Gunners' relate to the School when they think of our current location at North Head. The School is the largest element of the Centre and has been located at North Head for 51 years, and in the Sydney area for 111 years. Most RAA gunners have at some time trained at the School.

Sydney has changed since the School of Artillery was raised in 1885, it is no longer possible to conduct live firing on the 'fields beyond Paddington', Holsworthy is constrained and restricted to the point of being unsuitable, and Singleton is more than three hours travelling time. The relocation to Puckapunyal will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of RAA individual training by providing new purpose built facilities, in close proximity to an excellent field firing range and the establishment of a field artillery support unit for live firing and deployment training.

The Artillery Centre will occupy the site of the former Robertson Barracks. New buildings will be constructed and there will be an adaptive use of existing buildings. The total cost of the project is approximately \$34 million. The field firing range is 324 km<sup>2</sup>, in size, and can be used for deployment and live firing training. The size of the area allows for variation in terrain, vegetation, and accessibility; and caters for the needs of both field artillery and air defence weapon systems.

As part of individual artillery training there is a requirement for the tactical manoeuvre associated with deployment training. The School currently does not have the personnel or sufficient equipment to conduct live firing or deployment training for the students under instruction, this support is provided from the Artillery units of the Land Command. A critical advantage achieved with the relocation will be the raising of the depot support battery to provide this essential support.

The relocation of the Artillery Centre is an emotional issue, so is any form of change! We will all miss North Head. it has been our *Alma Mater* for a long time. The Manly Community will also miss us and the outstanding rapport that has been built over generations. But, clearly there are great advantages that will be afforded when we are established in our new home at Puckapunyal. It is a move for advantage!



## **GUNNER DINNER REPORT**

Friday 4th July, 1997 saw the traditional annual Officers' formal dinner being held once again in the Army Officers' Mess at Victoria Barracks. It was my honour to be asked to convene the Gunner Dinner, for the fourth time. It is a true privilege to be able to hold this function in the Mess with its history as a military precinct and fine ambience of the surroundings, and we must acknowledge the support of the PMC, COL McNeil for granting use of the Mess.

The evening saw the gathering of 61 Officers, including principal guest COL P. B. Retter, the Director of Artillery. COL Retter kindly responded to the Toast to the Regiment, by bringing serving (both ARA and ARES) and non-serving Officers up to date with current happenings in the Corps, and Victoria in particular. He mentioned such things as the integration of units to contain a bigger mix of regular and reserve members, the trials of embedding batteries into battalions, and the move of the School of Artillery to Puckapunyal at the end of 1997.

The evening of fine music from the 2/10 Mdm Regt RAA Band, together with delicious food and wine, concluded with much raising of Esprit de Corps in the ante-room afterwards. This continued into the wee small hours back at the Chapel Street depot.

My thanks as convening officer of the dinner go to the CO of 2/10 Mdm Regt LTCOL Wood, for his support in allowing the Band to play their much enjoyed repertoire of music, including gunner marches and fanfares. Through his 2IC we had the use of the Officers' Mess at the depot after the dinner.

I charge all Officers to make a commitment now, not to miss the 1998 Gunner Dinner. It will be held about June next year. The date and venue will be published as soon as all details are confirmed.

David Osborne Major  
Convening Officer.

## **RAA Assn of SA Inc Gunner Dinner and Artillery Memorial**

The RAA Assn of SA have advised that their Gunner Dinner for 1997 will be held at Fort Largs on Fri 31 Oct 97. Any members of our assn who will be in the vicinity at that time and would be interested to attend, might like to ring MAJ Geoff Laurie at his home on (08) 8332 4485 for details.

Also advised was the erection of an Artillery Memorial adjacent to the Torrens Training Depot in Adelaide. Preliminary discussions indicate that the unveiling may take place in late Oct 97. Any members in the area on a visit may like to have a look. Don't forget a photo for this publication if the opportunity arises.

## **"A" FIELD BATTERY RAA REUNION 24-26 OCT 97**

The Reunion in October seems to be a goer, arrangements are being made for accommodation, meetings, breakfasts and a dinner to be held at the Rooty Hill RSL Club in Sydney.

The costs have been held down to a minimum & the program & costs are as follows:

<b>ARRIVE:</b>	Fri 24 Oct 97			
<b>BBQ:</b>	Friday Night	Cost per person = \$15.00		
<b>BREAKFAST:</b>	at RSL Sat	" " "	= \$10.00	
<b>MEETING OF MEMBERS:</b>	Sat Afternoon			
<b>DINNER:</b>	Pharough's Restaurant			
	Sat Night	" " "	= \$22.00	
<b>BREAKFAST:</b>	at RSL Sun	" " "	= \$10.00	
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	Breakup to go home or stay at the club & enjoy your day.			
<b>BREAKFAST:</b>	Monday morning if enough members stay.			
	Cost per person = \$10.00			

**TOTAL COST PER PERSON = \$67.00**

There will be a couple of Musicians in the Pharough's Restaurant & there is a dance floor, where you can dance the night away up to 11 pm. Then you can go to bed or enjoy the club's facilities until 1.30 am.

Send your pro-forma back to Tom Dawson  
32 Brisbane St  
St. Mary's 2760

so that we can get the numbers for the **Accommodation & Catering.**

Let's see if we can make this a successful weekend chaps (it's now or never eh?).

**"KEEP THE BATTERY ALIVE"**



## 6/13 FD REGT RAA

### *EXERCISE RHINO CHARGE 97*

6/13 Fd Regt, in Direct Support of 9 Bde, participated in Exercise Rhino Charge 97 at Cultana and Broken Hill during the period 3 to 17 May 1997. The Exercise was the culmination of the Brigade 3 year training cycle. The Regiment, comprising three fire units (ie. 16 Fd Bty, 48 Fd Bty and a composite mortar platoon from 10/27 Bn and 12/40 Bn) conducted live firing and movement at Cultana during 4 to 9 May, followed by training in 'short warning conflict' in Broken Hill and its surrounds.

The aim of the Exercise was to provide indirect fire support, and fire support coordination to 9 Bde, thus the following Artillery Operation Order Mission Statement evolved:

*"6/13 Fd Regt is to conduct lead up training in Area of Operation (AO) FLYNN in order to support 9 Bde operations in AO RASP, through the coordination of offensive support, management of airspace, provision of artillery fire, and conduct of protective operations".*

The key Regimental personnel during the Exercise were CO, LTCOL Aldo Piristi, Ops Ofcr, Maj Geoff Robertson, BC 16 Fd Bty, Maj John Findlay, BC 48 Fd Bty, Maj Dan Ryan, and OC Composite Mortar Pl, Capt Werner Lausberg.

An integrated Regimental HQ, Joint Offensive Support Coordination Centre (JOSCC - previously termed Fire Support Coordination Centre, FSCC) was established for the Exercise. This HQ performed the functions of Director of Practice, Safety Command Post and Regimental Command Post, and coordinated both the live firing exercise and the tasking of a troop of Kiowa light observation helicopters (LOH) from 161 Recce Sqn which were allocated In Support.

Live firing sub units conducted fire and movement in Tactical Areas of Operations which were named in honour of previous 13 Fd Regt CO's, namely Thomson, Stoba, Olsson and Pope.

During the live firing phase all Forward Observers (FO's) and Mortar Fire Controllers (MFC's) had the opportunity to conduct one or more Air OP missions. The live firing activity culminated in a Regimental fire plan, including a direct firing shoot supported by mortars and machine guns employed in a 'sustained fire' role (the older members will recall the Vickers MG being used in this role); this latter event was the highlight of the Exercise for the Gunners.

During the first week of the Exercise all soldiers were given the opportunity to gain familiarisation with the Kiowa LOH (approx 150 personnel were trained).

The second week saw the Regiment deploy to Broken Hill into two Regimental TAORs in support of Bde close asset protection, surveillance operations, and company offensive operations.

As part of the Bde program during this phase, each rifle company conducted two offensive operations against 'real' enemy platoon positions. This involved a mixture of company attacks and company area ambushes. Depending on the activity, each company was provided with a variety of Bde assets including, for each action, an artillery section in Direct Support.

My concluding remarks in the Post Activity Report summarise the value to the Regiment of participation in the Exercise;


*"The successful completion of the Rhino Charge 97 Exercise was a significant achievement, given the minimal personnel and resources available to the Regiment. This was testimony to the spirit of dedication to the Corps of key personnel in the Regiment and sub units, and of all ranks.*

*Whilst the live firing phase was the most complex, demanding and technically challenging for some 24 years, the cross section and variety of training substantially contributed to the maintenance of morale and retention in all sub units.*

*In addition, long overdue Regimental training, whilst somewhat limited, has substantially advanced the corporate knowledge and understanding (of techniques and procedures at the Regt level) of those members participating".*

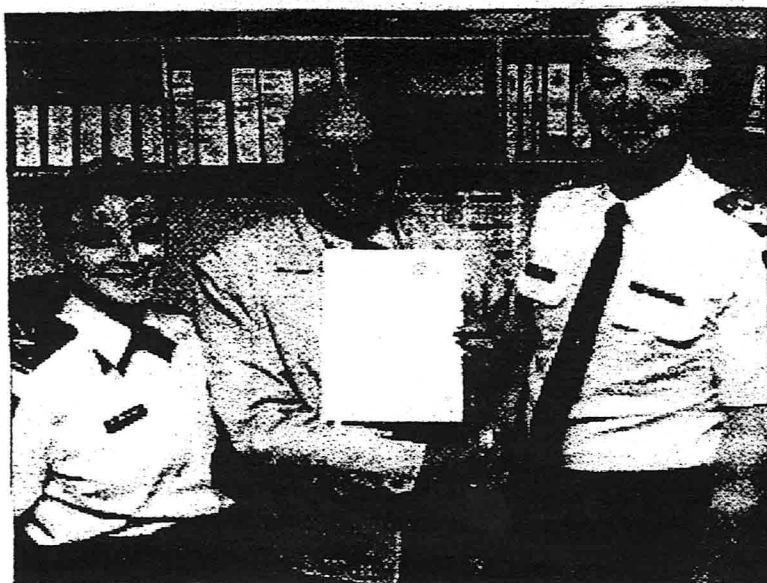
In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the loyalty, enthusiasm and tireless effort shown by Maj Geoff Robertson, without whose cooperation and professionalism the successful planning and conduct of the Regiment's involvement in the Exercise would not have been achieved.

Ubique,



Extract from the RAA Assn of SA Inc Newsletter - July 1997

# Good neighbour helps bag thief



AN unlucky burglar turned out to be an April fool thanks to Clayton resident Ray Scott.

Mr Scott happened to notice suspicious behaviour involving a car in his street so he took the proper precautions and noted the car's registration. He then informed the Clayton police.

And it was a good thing he did - the car turned out to be stolen and its driver had actually been casing the street, planning another burglary. He had already broken into some houses in the area.

For his efforts and alertness, Mr Scott was awarded a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Victorian Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

■ Left: Constable Sharon Rooney, Ray Scott, Senior Sergeant Reg Morrell and Neighbourhood Watch coordinator Stan Hanlon at the Clayton Police Station.

*Photocopied from the Monash Post of Tuesday, June 17, 1997*

## Letters to the Editor

**"Can You Tell Us Why?" asked SGT H. T. James and we are pleased to report that two members have kindly responded as follows:**

Regarding the query from Sgt H. T. James in CASCABEL No 49, Jul 96 - 'Can you tell us why' page 32, where he asks about the motto of 2 Mdm Bde and which he says was "Ubique Consensu et Stabiles".

I still have in my possession my original RAA cap badge which was issued to me at 10 Fd Regt Frankston in 1953 and the motto on it is as follows:

"UBIQUE" "CONSENSU STABILES" "AUSTRALIA"



Now that the subject has arisen, I realise that I never did discover the meaning of 'Consensu Stabiles'. Perhaps as a



result of this article, I shall at last find out.

I would point out that the word 'Ubique' is used on its own, as on the RAA 'collar dog' 'Everywhere' - meaning that artillery serves on every battle front. Wherever there is a battle - artillery is in it.

Bearing in mind the foregoing, I would assume that originally the motto of the Royal Australian Artillery was "Ubique" plus "Consensu Stabiles" and that subsequently Australian artillery adopted the motto of the Royal Artillery.

I hope that this information will be of some help to the discussion.

With best wishes

WO2 John Woodhouse  
Frankston

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I refer to the question of Artillery Mottoes raised by Sgt H.T. James on page 32 of Cascabel No 49.

In the years between WWI and WWII Australian Artillery in general used a badge with, beneath the gun, the motto CONSENSU STABILES, translation "In accord and dependable". (In the days when we were horse drawn the gunners' translation was "Constantly in Stables", this referred to the many hours spent feeding (4 times a day), watering, grooming, mixing feeds, and performing horse line piquet duty.

The present badge with the motto QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT "Where Duty and Glory Lead" was adopted, probably in the late 1930's, to be consistent with that used by the Royal Artillery.

I have both of these badges in my possession.

MAJ M. T. ARMSTRONG  
MT. ELIZA

***Thank you to both contributors, I hope this has helped SGT James. I have certainly learnt some very interesting things out of this from all three of you. Please keep those letters rolling in, after all that is what this journal is all about, communication between members and with your committee.***

***Please address all editorial correspondence, and articles, etc to:***

***The Editor  
"CASCABEL"  
34 Richmond Ave  
Carrum Downs Vic 3201***

## Report from 10 Mdm Regt RAA Assn

The 10 Mdm Regt RAA Assn has completed its third year on a most successful note, maintaining our membership numbers and gaining a wide acceptance, recognition and a working relationship with 2/10 Mdm Regt, 38 Bty and numerous associated associations.

**Anzac Day** was once again a most enjoyable day with 80% of the members participating in the march and later activities celebrated with the Vietnam Veterans at the Geelong Drill Hall. The association usually march in support of the local battery: but this year 38 Bty participated in the Colac Anzac Ceremony in support of its local troop. The association layed wreaths at the Colac and Geelong Dawn Services, and later the Torquay and Geelong RSL and the Association President Lionel Foster, Vice President Don Shields and partners were guests at the RSL President's Official Luncheon.

**Military Cabaret** was a huge success, 197 attended the function including the local BC MAJ Bob Charles and 40 members of the Bty and ARA cadre staff. The time and effort given by the committee and members in particular, Don Shields, Cathie Johns, Karen Kemp, and Graham Brown played a major role in the well organised and enjoyable function that also raised \$1800 towards association funds.

**Family Day.** A party of 40 members enjoyed the Family Day Out at the Adventure Park, Wallington early in the year. The number was smaller than expected, but those attending voted the day *a great day of fun*.

**Vale.** It was with regret we learned earlier in the year that the wife of MAJGEN McNiel passed away. Many former gunners and members of the association attended the funeral.

**Representation.** The Association President WO2 Lionel Foster is also a committee member of the RAA Assn (Vic) and as such is a liaison officer for both associations. Lionel and other members have represented the 10 Mdm Regt Assn at the following meetings and events:

- \* Association Day at Chapel St Depot, Melbourne
- \* RAA Church Parade
- \* St Barbara's Day Celebrations
- \* Back to the Regiment
- \* Officer Graduation at Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance
- \* RAA Band Recital
- \* RAA Family Day
- \* Armistice Day at Geelong

and later this year members hope to visit the Regiment in the field, having also been invited to attend the successful Copperhead Shoot at Puckapunyal earlier in the year.

**Association AGM will be held at the Geelong Drill Hall on Wed 3 Dec 97.**

Lionel Foster WO2  
President

**PARADE CARD  
1997-1998**

**OCTOBER**

16 Oct 97      Committee Meeting +

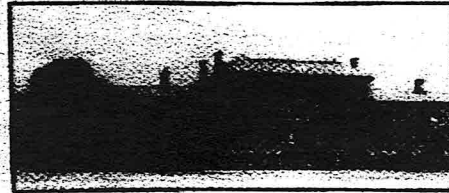
**NOVEMBER**

7 Nov 97      Opening of New Arty  
Centre, Puckapunyal  
9 Nov 97      RSL Remembrance  
2.30pm      Service War Grave  
Cemetery Springvale  
11 Nov 97      Armistice Day  
20 Nov 97      Committee Meeting +  
30 Nov 97      2/10 Mdm Regt St Barbara  
Parade & Function

**DECEMBER**

4 Dec 97      St Barbara's Day  
Feast of St Barbara  
11 Dec 97      Committee Meeting +  
25 Dec 97      Christmas Day

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2pm

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Family :      \$12  
Concession : \$3

(Correct change appreciated on the day)

**CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?**

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RAA Association (Vic) Inc.  
PO Box 309  
FRANKSTON VIC 3199**

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(Please use block letters)

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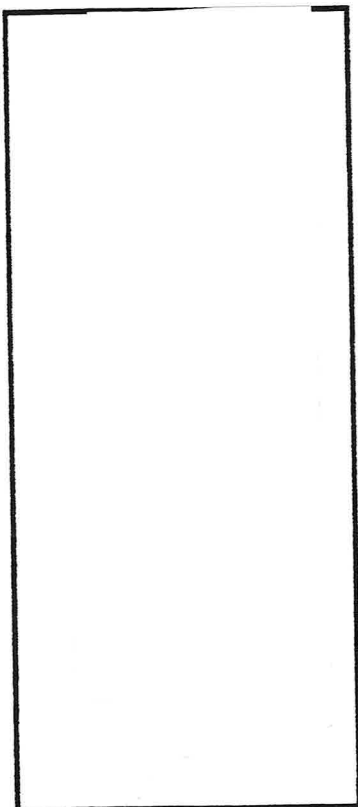
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