



NUMBER 17

**Jun 2023**

# THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) NEWSLETTER

*“Artillery adds dignity, to  
what would otherwise  
be an ugly brawl.”*

Welcome to the new online newsletter from the RAA Association Vic. We’re trying out a new digital format that leans heavily on the content we are posting to the [website](#). This replaces the old printed Cascabel.

If you have any feedback on the newsletter or website, please reach out to the secretary.

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# 2/10 Bty Dawn Service at Sargood Barracks – 25 Apr 2023



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well and in good spirits especially as Melbourne's weather turns to winter very quickly. Can't believe it is June already and the committee is already starting to plan for our AGM on St Barbara's Day in Dec. But let me fill you in on what we have been doing since I last wrote in the previous Newsletter.



We have again seen a number of very successful social events that we have assisted in communicating to our members but not necessarily organised. For example, WO2 Tony "Wilko" Wilkinson's gunner get-together No 6 was yet again a ripper day with a well-attended and dedicated group of gunners telling stories from yesteryear; LTCOL Peter Rowley convened another small group of gunners at the Dandenong RSL; and we saw a great turnout at the ANZAC Day ceremony conducted at Sargood Barracks where we were warmly welcomed by our host - 2/10 Bty. It was great to see Merv Taggart's family attend in numbers to honour his memory – always welcome – please come again.

Then there have been the committee organised events such as a visit to Bill Bates at Malmsbury to see his amazing collection of Artillery memorabilia/collection (very extensive). Such a wonderful day where we were able to physically play with "toys" all day. We taught ourselves how to do gun drill on a short 25LB gun plus pass line from a director we set up in his backyard. Plus, we held the Annual Gunner Luncheon convened by BRIG Doug Perry which was held this year at the Highett RSL thanks to SGT John Decker.

Please don't forget to attend either the Australia Day Salute or the King's Birthday Salute both held at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne where the long-standing tradition of the Bty firing the salutes continue. Talking about the King's Birthday and the recent honours list, congratulations go to BRIG Andrew "Pixie" Langford on receiving an AM for his outstanding work in securing the next generation of equipment for the RAA now and the couple of decades. Andrew started his career as a very young and junior LT @ Baxter 23 FD BTY and was also ADJT 2/10 FD Regt RAA.

Apart from this the committee is working hard on the re-vamping of the JARKS Club and our Memorabilia Collection thanks to the wonderful work by MAJ Garry Rolfe and "helpers" as well as CAPT David Edwards with the RAA website, especially the photo collection. I would strongly encourage everyone to get involved and assist us identify people in the photos and bring to life the story behind the photos. Thanks to those already involved as it is great to recount the stories, remember names and recall memories in a shared environment.

As always I look forward in catching up with you in person at our next function which ever one that maybe. Until then stay safe, take care and keep those ideas coming thru, your input into the photos regular and interest in our social media platforms constant.

Ubique  
COL Jason Cooke, President

## WEBSITE UPDATES

The new year brings a renewed focus on our website and digital media presence. There have been some updates to the website (<https://artilleryvic.org.au/>). Since the last update we've added some posts and articles (see later in this newsletter), and we continue to add items to the [events calendar](#).

For some time, we've been storing photos in a [Google gallery](#) outside of the website. Whilst this was easy to store photos it wasn't very flexible for what we want to do with the museum and history projects. We have now started moving photos into the website itself. This means that we've got a lot more flexibility in how we manage and present the photos.

If you want to see all the photos by album, go to the new [Gallery](#) page.

## The Royal Australian Artillery Association (Victoria) Inc.

If you're a Gunner, or an ex-Gunner, know that you're welcome here. Whether you were with Coastal, Field, Medium or Heavy; Ack-Ack or Air Defence; Divisional Locating or STA; we hope you'll find something here of interest to you.



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### Gallery

This page links to all of the photo galleries on this site. There are multiple ways you can find and look at the photos. All the galleries are listed in the sections below, so you can go to a specific gallery.

**Table of Contents**

1. The Photo Galleries
  - 1.1. RAA Association and Vic Gunnery Events
  - 1.2. Unit and Activity Photos
  - 1.3. Member Photos
  - 1.4. Formal Photos
  - 1.5. Historical Photos
2. Folder View of Photo Galleries






Most of the photos have also been put in categories (normally by unit) and tagged (people, places, equipment etc.). You can [search all photos by category](#) or [search all photos by tag](#).

We will keep the old [Google-based photo gallery](#) around for a while.

### The Photo Galleries

Hover over the images to see the title of the gallery. Click to open the gallery.

RAA Association and Vic Gunnery Events

You can scan through the photo galleries under the different headings or go to a tree view of the galleries at the bottom of the page.

Or you can go to either the [Category Search](#) page to show photos for different categories (e.g. all photos for 2/15) or the [Tag Search](#) page to see all photos tagged by people, places and equipment (the page uses a "tag cloud" with all the tags shown and the size indicates how many photos are tagged with it (it gives an idea of who has been photographed the most).

We've got about 800 photos on the website, tagged and categorised, and quite a few albums from the Museum to scan and upload.

If you have photos that you've scanned, please reach out to the secretary ([secretary@artilleryvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@artilleryvic.org.au)) and we will figure out how to get them. If you've got printed photos, we may be able to scan them.

We'd also love feedback on the new format.

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## MEMORABILIA ROOM UPDATE

The refurbishment of the Memorabilia Room continues to gather momentum following our recent work day on Saturday 27 May. Thank you to Paul Heron, Dave Edwards and Peter Rowley for your excellent contribution on the day. A great deal was achieved with continued sorting of items and identifying items for disposal or retention. A considerable amount of the waste items were disposed of by a commercial contractor leaving a large amount of floorspace which will now enable some of the cabinets to be moved in accordance with the proposed floorplan layout.

When we do move the cabinets, it will be advisable to invite members with removal experience and/or suitable equipment such as trolleys etc to assist in relocating the cabinets, many of which contain glass panels. It is noted some of the cabinets are on wheels which can be moved by hand.

While this work has been time intensive and which commenced well over a year ago, part of our work identified items donated or owned by past and present members which can be offered back to the past and members or remain in the room for display purposes. These items can be communicated on the website and in the newsletter for members to attend on our work days to collect. We can also offer identified items for sale to be sold on the work days. Interested members could possibly attend the Depot to collect (and while there assist with some of the work).

There are further cleanup Saturday mornings planned, so if you can help out, please reach out to Garry directly or via the secretary ([secretary@artilleryvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@artilleryvic.org.au)). The upcoming dates in the calendar are:

- Sat 24 June
- Sat 29 July
- Sat 26 August, and
- Sat 23 September

We normally start at 9:30 and finish before 12:00, sometimes retiring to the local for a lunch.

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

GNR Paul Heron continues to manage the membership.

As at the May committee meeting the numbers were:

<b>Paid Members</b>	
- Honorary Members for Life	5
- Ordinary Life Members	141
- Ordinary Annual Members	27
- Ordinary Annual Senior Members	12
- Associate Life Members	2
- Associate Annual Members	2
<b>Total Paid Members</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Affiliate Members</b>	
- Associations	28
- Libraries	4
- RSLs	3
- Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	9
<b>Total Affiliate</b>	<b>44</b>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>232</u></b>

We welcome three new members to the Association: SGT Eddy Evans, SGT Barry Jones, WO1 Phil McIntosh.

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## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

As mentioned by the president in his article, there have been a number of gunner-related gatherings of late. Most of these have been organized outside of the committee but we will endeavor to advertise them when possible.

The next Association activity is a visit to the **National Vietnam Veterans Museum** on **Philip Island** on **15 Jul** (followed by a lunch at the RSL). Full details attached to the end of this newsletter.

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## RECENT ARTICLES

The following articles have been posted to the association website.

### RANDOM FOOTY TEAM PHOTOS

I came across a photo of a [23 Bty footy team](#) and wrote an article on it with info I could gather. In response to a Facebook post, Glenn Rabbas sent a photo of a [37 Bty footy team](#). Can you add any additional info to either photo?

## VALE FATHER BOB

Most of us would know of Father Bob Maguire who passed away recently, but many wouldn't know of his time in the Army as a Chaplain in Victoria. We have collected a [brief history](#) of his military time and his association with The Regiment.

## FLYING OUR FLAG

An [article](#) and photo from SGT Peter Harris.

## PARADE CARDS FROM DON TAYLOR

We came across a set of [Parade Cards](#) from Don Taylors time in 2/15 and 2/10. They give a view of the units, depots and COs and other staff over an eight-year period.

## PHOTO GALLERIES AND ARTICLES

With the move of photos from the old to new format, there have been a lot of photo galleries and gallery-related articles published:

- [2/15 Fd Regt Sgts Mess Photo Album](#)
- [2/15 Fd Regt Exercising the Freedom of Entry to the City of Dandenong](#) in 1983 (and also an update to the [Freedom of Entry for 15 Fd](#) in 1962)
- This year's [2/10 Bty ANZAC Day ceremony](#) at Chapel St from Stuart Pigdon and Carl Sarelius
- A collection of [photos from Peter Cimbalijevic](#) who was SMIG at 39 Bty in Colac
- A collection of [photos from Mitch Kenny](#), many covering time at 23 Bty
- A collection of [photos from Dave Mills](#), from 2/15 and 2/10
- Photos from the [last Regimental Dinner](#) held in Altona in 2012.

More articles are being added to the website weekly. Keep an eye out for them.

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## Association Committee & Contacts

Role	Person	Contact
President	COL Jason Cooke	<a href="mailto:president@artilleryvic.org.au">president@artilleryvic.org.au</a>
Vice President	LTCOL Peter Rowley	
Secretary	MAJ Stuart Pigdon	<a href="mailto:secretary@artilleryvic.org.au">secretary@artilleryvic.org.au</a>
Treasurer	BDR Stjepan Bosnjak	<a href="mailto:treasurer@artilleryvic.org.au">treasurer@artilleryvic.org.au</a>
Museum	MAJ Garry Rolfe	
Digital Media	CAPT David Edwards	
Membership	GNR Paul Heron	
Committee	SGT Kevin Casey	

For membership enquiries, reach out to the Secretary at the email address above, or go to our website where there is a membership enquiry form (<https://artilleryvic.org.au/index.php/membership/>).

We also use the **Artillery Assoc Victoria** closed facebook group.

— ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION  
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED —

ABN: 22 850 898 908 Reg No: A 0013889Z





## RAA Association Visit to the Vietnam Veterans Museum



The RAA Association Vic extends an invitation for members to come together to visit the Vietnam Veterans Museum. This is an ideal opportunity to connect with past and present members.

At the museum you will see the conscription ballot balls used in the system of National Service that divided our nation. You will walk beneath and around such key vehicles as helicopters, a tank, even a bomber used in Vietnam. See yourself in the boots of a Tunnel Rat or the helmet of a Chopper Pilot. Endlessly fascinating and absorbing, no matter what age group. Expect the unexpected.

The museum is currently displaying Downtime a photographic exhibition that gives an idea of what troops did in their downtime (rest and recreation) R&R.

Date: **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Location: **25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven Phillip Island.**

Timings: **Arrive 10:30am.**

Cost: **\$12.00** (concession admission - pay on arrival)  
(cash is preferable for collection on arrival in order to make one group payment to the museum).

Catering: The museum provides morning tea. Daily offerings include Chris' famous sausage rolls and a selection of cakes and slices to have with a coffee

Lunch at the Phillip Island RSL (at own expense)

Attendance: Please contact the Secretary to confirm your attendance at the Museum and for lunch at the RSL.  
[Secretary@artilleryvic.org.au](mailto:Secretary@artilleryvic.org.au)

