



NUMBER 18

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# 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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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Gunners,



I trust this Newsletter finds you all in good spirits and excited about the end of the year celebration which will begin too soon however I think we all need it. Well, what a year we have had with old and new conflicts flaring up around the world, a failed referendum, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and the release of the Defence Strategic Review all having a significant impact on the ADF. All this happening at a time when our Defence Force personal are aggressively returning to collective training with our allies on large exercises and responding to maintaining Australia's influence across the Indo-Pacific region. Busy times but exciting for the RAA and 2/10 Bty as they are given a strengthened role within 9 Regt confirming the continuing development of drone and radar capability for the Australian Army.

I strongly invite all reading my article to physically attend our Annual General Meeting to be held this year on Sunday 3rd Nov at the Bty, on the traditional St Barbara's Day weekend in December where you can hear firsthand the important role the Bty has been given in our reshaped Defence Force. Another important reason for attending the AGM is to voice your opinion and vote on the suggested changes from your committee on our Constitution ensuring it is aligned with the current version of the Consumer Affair Template and modern banking regulations.

The JARKS Club Memorabilia Room will be open for viewing which I am personally excited about as the committee have worked exceedingly hard to make the best RAA Museum, we can especially noting the direction to not build the Combined Arms Corps Museum at Puckapunyal.

As always, I sincerely thank the committee, on your behalf, for the serious dedication, commitment, and hard work they have all put in over the year to ensure the RAA Association of Victoria is vibrant, relative and continuing to engage with our membership base and other associations such as the 10 MDM Regt Association in Geelong. I look forward in catching up with you in person at the AGM or our next function which ever one that maybe. Until then stay safe, take care and keep engaging with posts on Facebook, emails and phone calls with each other. Your input is valued and encouraged.

Ubique  
COL Jason Cooke, President

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## RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) AGM

The Association Annual General Meeting will be held at **10:00 for 10:30** on **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** at **Sargood Barracks** (Chapel St, St Kilda).

In addition to the AGM, members are invited to visit the refurbished memorabilia room in the old Jarks Club), although it's still a work-in-progress. There will also be surplus book and other items for sale on the day.

Documents relating to the AGM, including the Agenda and proxy nomination forms, can be found in this Dropbox folder -

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/xoy3byungkfd9tipm9v4/h?rlkey=lzakaif14ad76xvas71c7v1uc&dl=0>

For any further details contact the [secretary@artilleryvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@artilleryvic.org.au)

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## WEBSITE UPDATES

We continue to update the website (<https://artilleryvic.org.au>) with articles and scanned photos. As we're refurbishing the memorabilia room, we're uncovering a lot of items worth sharing with the membership.

We welcome any feedback on the content and layout of the website.

We also regularly post items of interest to our Facebook page – Artillery Assoc Victoria. There's been a lot of discussion on various items found in the memorabilia room as part of the refurbishment.



Artillery Assoc Victoria

+ Invite

Look us up.

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## MEMORABILIA ROOM UPDATE

We saw an incredible turnout at our last Memorabilia Room Work day with over thirty members, friends and current serving members of the Battery come along on the day.

The Gunner Sale was a tremendous success with many items of memorabilia including hats, helmets, cart cases, a dial sight and numerous books all go to good homes for the price of a donation. It was rewarding to see so many items go to good homes.

The next Gunner Sale is scheduled for the AGM in December.

The sorting of items of memorabilia and relocating the items to onsite storage has made space for the next phase of works to commence which includes rearranging the cabinets and presenting items for display in the cabinets, on the walls and around the room.

This project commenced over two years ago and will continue into the future with a great deal of work still to be completed. Part of the plan includes a deep clean of the room which we will again call upon members for the task – watch this space. Our aim is to present items of RAA memorabilia as a show piece that records and displays the different era of Artillery.

Many thanks go out to: Paul Heron, Stuart Pigdon, Peter Rowley, Dave Edwards, Maris Sloan, Kev Casey, Stjepan Bosnjak and Tim De La Zilwa.

During the day we welcomed a visit from the descendants of Major Francis Downes who viewed the Gun Carriage which is on display in the Memorabilia Room. An article on Major Francis Downes and the Gun Carriage will appear in a future edition of Cascabel.

Thanks also go out to the members of the Battery for the manpower and heavy lifting and cooking the BBQ lunch. Following the BBQ, the Battery members made us welcome in the combined Mess.

It was great to see some old faces on the day including Ivan Dobay, Paul Wainwright and Tony ‘Wilco’ Wilkins, John Decker and David Osborne to name a few. Many thanks go out to all who turned up on the day to enjoy the collegiality of good friends, banter, laughter and recall of many memories over so many years.

Ubique

Garry Rolfe

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

GNR Paul Heron continues to manage the membership.

As at the Oct committee meeting the numbers were:

<b>Paid Members</b>	
- Honorary Members for Life	5
- Ordinary Life Members	140
- Ordinary Annual Members	45
- Ordinary Annual Senior Members	11
- Associate Life Members	2
- Associate Annual Members	3
<b>Total Paid Members</b>	<b>206</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>250</u></b>

We welcome all the new members to the Association, particularly those serving members in the Bty.

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## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

As mentioned above, we recently held a memorabilia room open day and sale. We had a few members come along, purchase some items and enjoy a BBQ lunch in the mess. Thanks to Tim De La Zilwa and the current 2/10 Bty gunners that came along, helped move stuff, cooked and opened the mess for the membership.

By the time you read this there will have been the 2/10 Bty AFL Grand Final Day BBQ at the depot.

The next Association activity is the AGM as mentioned above.

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## RECENT ARTICLES

The following articles have been posted to the association website since the last newsletter.

### **22 BTY JOURNAL**

SGT Helen Janner passed on a copy of the 22 Bty Journal from 2003. It's a great read. It can be found [here](#).

### **THE SOUTHWEST CANNON TRAIL**

As part of the 150th Anniversary of Artillery in Australia in 2021, we had three batteries from southwestern Victoria participate in the fireplan. This article has been written to give you more information about the Southwest Cannon Trail and encourage you to go and have a look. The article can be found [here](#).

### **23 Fd BTY GUNNERS MESS VISITORS BOOK**

The cleanup of the RAA Association Memorabilia Room at Chapel Street continues to unearth gems that need to be recorded digitally for posterity. Two I found were the **23 Fd Bty Gunners Mess Visitors Book** and a RAA Association Flyer for a function at Baxter. Read more [here](#).

### **132 DIV LOC WITH 3" MORTARS IN 1968**

I came across a letter to the then Cascabel editor, Alan Halbish, from Capt Percy Cooper with photos from 132 Div Loc Bty at Puckapunyal in 1968. The relevant sections of the letter and photos are shown [here](#).

### **1991 ARTY BALL PHOTOS**

Some [photos](#) from the 91 Artillery Ball.

### **1991 22 BTY GUNNERS DINNER**

A large collection of [photos](#) from a 22 Bty mess function in 1991.

### **ROYAL SALUTE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF HRH PRINCE CHARLES AND HRH PRINCESS DIANA – 26 OCT 85**

HRH Prince Charles and HRH Princess Diana arrived at Tullamarine on 26 Oct 1985 to begin a brief tour of Victoria. 2/15 Field Regiment fired a Royal Salute for the occasion. More information [here](#).

### **SUPPORTING THE SKYSHOWS AT ALBERT PARK LAKE**

2/15 Fd Regt supported the 3XY and Fox FM skyshows in the 80s at Albert Park Lake. A brief article can be found [here](#).

### **THE MOUNT SCHANCK CHALLENGE TROPHY AND VICTORIAN GUNNER UNITS**

The Mount Schanck Challenge Trophy, often referred to as the Mount Schanck, is a long-standing award for the best reserve (or militia/CMF) artillery unit in Australia. This [article](#) provides a bit of background on the Trophy and recent wins by Victorian Artillery Units.

### THE 23 BTY CIGAR AWARD

The Major John Henry Perpetual Trophy, in the form of a cigar in a box was found in the memorabilia room. A brief article on it can be found [here](#).

More articles are being added to the website regularly. 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

