



NUMBER 19

Feb 2024

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,



Happy New Year, hope you had an enjoyable holiday and 2024 has started as you had planned. We have had a couple of social events already that have gone off better than expected, I have some frustrating news about the Combined Arms Museum at Puckapunyal, and I am one of the few people in Melbourne that didn't go to any of Taylor Swift's concerts. I will also give you an update on the new looking committee and the projects we have set ourselves along with an open invite to anyone to visit us at Sargood Barracks when we are working on your Artillery memorabilia in The JARKS Club.

Our 46th AGM was lightly attended on Sun 3rd Dec over the St Barbara's Day weekend, although disappointing not to have more members attend those that did enjoyed an insight into what is occurring at the national level and a detailed update from 2/10 Bty on the previous year and the next 12 months. You will be happy to know that the Bty is still "punching above their weight" and delivering real capability to the Defence of Australia. They are busy as usual balancing training on new equipment whilst delivering capability to the broader defence community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks on your behalf to those that have again put their hands up to be part of your committee. Many on the committee have retained their positions with Peter Rowley as Vice President and Stuart Pigdon as Secretary. David Edwards has retained his Social Media / Communications role. A change is Stjepan Bosnjak decided to not contend as Treasurer but thankfully remained on the committee. Paul Heron has taken up the role as Treasurer as he felt being the Membership Member was not challenging enough for him (he's doing both now). Both Garry Rolfe and SGT Tim DelaZilwa remain on the committee as Memorabilia Member and Bty Representative respectfully, both providing outstanding support and commitment to their roles. Kevin Casey rounds out the general committee member positions. Peter Rowley and I are very thankful for the excellent committee members we have been able to retain/attracted and have complete faith in their abilities in their roles and ongoing support to the Association.

An area that I am deeply proud to update you on is the refreshed look of The JARKS Club housing all our precise memories and artefacts. Under Garry's leadership and direction, the room is blossoming into life, and I urge every member to come on down to one of our working bees and have a look for yourself. We would be delighted to show you around and talk about the items on display. We have had to declutter from an extensive array of product hence you would have noticed our "auctions". No doubt we will have another one soon so watch the Newsletter for an announcement or the emails/website which we update on a regular basis.

Staying in the museum theme, the Combined Arms Museum scheduled for construction at Puckapunyal near the front gate, housing both Armoured and Artillery items and displaying our history, did not survive the latest Defence Strategic Review. Instead, a smaller Artillery footprint will be included into the current Armoured Museum. As more information comes to light, I will provide regular updates as Warrant Officer Dave Mills is a volunteer at the

museum and provides excellent insight. He extends an open invitation to anyone that wishes to join him restoring and maintaining our equipment and nurturing them back to their former glory. If you are interested, please contact us via the website or direct email to the secretary and we will put you in contact with the right people.

The committee has set themselves a couple of important projects in addition to the JARKS Club. We have a significant photo collection which we wish to categorise and load onto the website enabling members ease of access but more importantly discuss and recounting the story behind the photo. We indeed to make a compilation of these stories into a published book that will complement the Essential History of the Employment of Australian Artillery 1871 – 2021 scheduled for launch later this year by our National Artillery Association. We have so many stories that live inside photos, we just need to bring them to life.

Talking of storytelling, I was reliably informed the art was on display at “Wilko’s” recent soiree held in Feb this year. This is becoming an iconic gathering of gunners where anyone is most welcome to attend. A fantastic day so lock it in for 2025 – 1st Sat in Feb, details to be issued closer to the day. I am looking forward to the next Gunner Luncheon held at Highett RSL organised by the ever-reliable Reg Morrell with his sidekick of recent date John Decker. This is another wonderful opportunity to gather with mates and tell those stories that seem to get bigger each year.

Finally, thanks to all those who attended the Australia Day 21 Gun Salute at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne. It was the largest crowd I have witnessed since I have been MC of the event. We had over 3,000 attend on the day, all eager to talk to the gunners and get their photos taken – awesome day. The Bty performance was first class providing a flawless display of ceremonial gun drill.

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, please support us in the activities and events we organise and tell us all about those photos as we would love to hear the story behind the picture.

Ubique
Jason
COL Jason Cooke, President

RAA ASSOCIATION (VIC) AGM

The Association Annual General Meeting was held on **Sun 3rd Dec** at **Sargood Barracks**. The AGM featured reports from the key position holders, including the President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary, along with reports pertaining to the memorabilia room, social activities and digital media.

The committee remains largely the same with changes to the Treasurer position passing to GNR Paul Heron and BDR Stjepan Bosnjak moving to a general committee position. The committee for 2024 is:

- President – COL Jason Cooke

- Vice President – LTCOL Peter Rowley (also covering social activities)
- Secretary – MAJ Stuart Pigdon
- Treasurer – GNR Paul Heron (also covering membership)
- General Committee:
 - MAJ Garry Rolfe (memorabilia room coordinator)
 - CAPT David Edwards (digital media coordinator)
 - SGT Kev Casey
 - BDR Stjepan Bosnjak

The president acknowledged members who had passed in 2023:

SSGT Ernie Paddon	Ord Life	6 Jan 2023
GNR Ron Timms	Ord Ann Sen	5 Feb 2023
MAJ Arthur Roberts	Ord Life	20 Apr 2023
LTCOL Robert Sealey	Ord Life	6 May 2023
GNR Geoff Annal	Ord Ann Sen	5 Jun 2023
MAJ Warren Barnard	Ord Life	16 Aug 2023

MAJ Garry Rolfe highlighted all the work done on the memorabilia room over 2023. It's in a much better state than this time last year. The work on it continues.



CAPT Stepnell gave the Bty address on behalf of the BC who had been called away at short notice. He provided an update on 9 Regt drone training and capability. 9 Regt is also now tasked to develop radar capabilities which will see the introduction of new equipment and training requirements into the Regt. Given the in-service done capability is limited, it is acknowledged that with the current tempo of activity there are significant demands on PT personnel to support FT training activities.

LTCOL Rowley gave an update on the Victorian gunner history work. The RAA Association to provide material for the Victorian annex of RAAHC Essential History of Artillery publication. Association will continue to call for material from members via Facebook building upon the momentum achieved over 2022/2023 with member submissions. Timeframe is from the formation of the GRES as the replacement for the Militia in the 1970's through to the disbandment of 2/10 Fd Regt. Submission of members memories and anecdotal stories from this period are encouraged.

If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the secretary@artilleryvic.org.au

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.

MEMORABILIA ROOM UPDATE

Garry Rolfe provided an update on the Memorabilia Room activities at the AGM and we've taken a break over summer. If you would like to read his detailed report from the AGM, please reach out to the secretary@artilleryvic.org.au.

Expect more working bees as we get back into the swing of things in 2024. Below are some progress shots of the memorabilia room (old Jarks Club). It's a lot less cluttered now.



Ubique

Garry Rolfe

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

GNR Paul Heron continues to manage the membership.

As at the AGM the numbers were:

Paid Members	
- Honorary Members for Life	5
- Ordinary Life Members	141
- Ordinary Annual Members	47
- Ordinary Annual Senior Members	11
- Associate Life Members	2
- Associate Annual Members	3
Total Paid Members	209
Affiliate Members	
- Associations	28
- Libraries	4
- RSLs	3
- Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	9
Total Affiliate	44
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>253</u>

This was an increase of 23 over 2022, and given the passing of six members, an addition of almost 30 new members in 2023.

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

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS



The annual Soiree was run by WO2 Tony Wilkins on 3rd Feb at The Berth in Docklands. What started as a gathering of old 23 Bty members has grown into

a large event covering 2/15 Fd and 2/10 Mdm Regt members. This is an annual event held on the first Sat in Feb, so mark your calendars for next year.



You can see the photos better on the website -

<https://artilleryvic.org.au/index.php/gallery-new/event-photos/2024-02-03-wilcos-soiree/>.

Hopefully this newsletter gets out before the 6th of March, as that's the date for the annual RAA Luncheon at the Highett RSL. The flyer is attached to this newsletter. Please reach out to Reg if you are interested.

RECENT ARTICLES

The website activity slowed down over the Christmas break, so not many new articles. The following articles have been posted to the association website since the last newsletter.

2024 SOIREE

Tony Wilkins organised another gathering of 2/15 Fd and 2/10 Mdm members. Photos and a summary can be found [here](#).

2 BTY AND 23 BTY PHOTOS FROM 1990 ARTY BALL

Photos from the 1990 Arty Ball, featuring group shots of 2 Bty and 23 Bty members were shared. The photos and a summary can be found [here](#).

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

Association Committee & Contacts

Role	Person	Contact
President	COL Jason Cooke	president@artilleryvic.org.au
Vice President	LTCOL Peter Rowley	
Secretary	MAJ Stuart Pigdon	secretary@artilleryvic.org.au
Treasurer	GNR Paul Heron	treasurer@artilleryvic.org.au
Museum	MAJ Garry Rolfe	
Digital Media	CAPT David Edwards	
Membership	GNR Paul Heron	
Bty Liaison	SGT Tim De La Zilwa	
Committee	SGT Kevin Casey	
	BDR Stjepan Bosnjak	

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 LUNCHEON



SERGEANT, VICTORIAN HORSE ARTILLERY 1890

Brigadier D. I. Perry OAM RFD ED in conjunction with the Royal Australian Artillery Association (Vic) Inc cordially invites both serving and retired Gunners to the Annual Royal Australian Artillery Luncheon. This is a great opportunity to catch up and renew friendships with other Gunners and especially to reunite those Gunners that we have not seen for a number of years. The RAA Luncheon has been very successful over the past few years, so Gunners please bring along another Gunner to the Luncheon.

WHEN: Wednesday, 6th March 2024

TIME: 1200 for 1230 hours

WHERE: Highett RSL, 1 Station St.

Highett 3190. Car parking in

Station St. or rear car park

Also 5 minute walk from Highett Railway Station

COST: \$50.00 (2 Course meal which includes a complimentary drink

Direct Banking BSB 063 133

Account 00906918. Please include your surname as reference

DRESS: Jacket and tie

RSVP: 24th February 2024

TO: Reg W Morrell

Post Office Box 343 Mentone 3194

Mobile – 0425 837 958

Email- regwmorrell@gmail.com