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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. This new digital format leans heavily on the content we are posting to the [website](#). It replaces the old printed Cascabel.

Thanks to those who continue to provide feedback. 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,



Hope this Newsletter finds you all in good spirits and enjoying life. We have another exciting edition for you to read with interesting updates on many of our projects both within our Victorian gunner community but also wider at the national level. There are also a couple of social events occurring soon where I hope to get the opportunity in catching up and recount stories.

Your committee is very active across several initiatives involving the ongoing restoration of the memorabilia collection in the JARKS Club, the commencement of capturing stories of your experiences, proper curation of many of the photos we have on file and recording the way the committee operates under our constitution. I will provide an update on all of these plus news on the progress being made to imbed our National collection of artefacts into the Tank Museum at Puckapunyal, plus news on the upcoming national launch of Action! Action! Action! A Short History of the Employment of Australian Artillery 1871-2021 commissioned by the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the members of 2/10 Bty especially their leadership team for the ongoing of the RAA Assoc of Victoria, particularly the serving members who continue to actively volunteer their time in performing their duties as office bearers and committee members on the associations governing body.

Our memorabilia collection held at the depot in The JARKS Club houses our greatest and most cherish memories and artefacts which has been transformed into an impressive display that I would urge every member to visit. Feel free to visit us at our regular monthly Saturday morning working bee and have a look for yourself. Just contact us via the website for more details.

Whilst on the website, please leave comments on the latest news items, article or photo being discussed as we appropriately curate our history by adding stories and names especially to the hundreds of photos we have on file. In the short time we have been running this initiative, we are already starting to build up our collective knowledge on our recent history. All these plus targeted topics/subjects managed by our History subcommittee add to our rich history of experiences that we intend to capture in a publication solely focused on Victorian's history. This augments the accredited publication being launch on the 1 Aug 24 in Canberra by the RAAHC Action! Action! Action! A Short History of the Employment of Australian Artillery 1871-2021. I have seen a draft copy and strongly recommend it to your key reference books on Australian Artillery. As the title sys it is a short history and is the first on many publications planned for the future.

The new look Armoured Museum or Combined Arms Museum is progressing quickly and are actively looking for volunteers to assist the dedicated crew already restoring items for display. Again, if you wish to get involved please contact us via the "leave a comment" function on our website so we put you in touch with those at the Museum. The proposed opening of the new look museum is scheduled for Nov 24 so add this to your social calendar with more

info to follow. The team are currently restoring a 2pdr Bren Carrier that saw service in Darwin and militia units during WW2.

Finally, I look forward to meeting you either at the Kings Birthday Salute or the Defence Reserve Luncheon managed by the DRA early in June where, at either function we can reminisce on past glories where the stories always sound larger and more exciting than they were in reality. 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

HISTORY OF ARTILLERY IN VICTORIA

LTCOL Rowley is custodian of a long-running project to update the history of Artillery in Victoria. Much information is already available on the older history, and there's significant content in Jim Killinder's book "*The gunners of Victoria, 1948 to 2000*" that needs to be reviewed and added to with the recent history of the reserve Artillery, particularly in the wake of Plan Beersheba. Peter has assembled a group of owners for various aspects of the history to update and scoping of the work. We will keep you updated on the progress of this project.

A HISTORY OF 23 FD BTY, 2/15 FD REGT

As a pre-emptive strike on the history project, we have started a web page covering the history of 23 Fd Bty, 2/15 Fd Regt. It contains content mostly from the Baxter era of the battery, including many photos (most from Mitch Kenny). The article is on the website:

<https://artilleryvic.org.au/index.php/information-and-newsletters/reserve-artillery-in-victoria-post-1980/a-history-of-23-fd-bty-2-15-fd-regt/>.

This is a living document to capture the history, so if you have any stories, facts or photos, please reach out to David Edwards (or email the secretary: 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. Look us up.

MEMORABILIA ROOM UPDATE

The last update from MAJ Garry Rolfe who's driving the Memorabilia Room project.

Another great work day in the MR on Saturday 04 May. Thanks go out to Paul, Peter, David, Stu and Maris.

David and myself took many items of silver out of display to identify and record each item for the database. From there we took photos and made information cards for laminating. The information cards are to be placed in the cabinets on our next work day. Stu and Maris cleaned many items of silver. Peter and Paul spent a great deal of time matching keys to cabinets and labelling the corresponding cabinets. It has been determined that we should be able to have 1 key for each line of cabinets as spare padlocks were located in the office area.

Again, lots of discoveries made and lots of good conversation. This work is to continue on our next work day. Looking forward to our next work day on Sat 01 June. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support to the MR - it's looking great.

Various committee members, and Maris, meet at the depot on the first Sat of every month. If you're free, we'd love some help. Often new people reviewing the items in the memorabilia room sparks some recollection of history of items or the units which we're collecting for the website and history project. For more information, reach out to Garry Rolfe or contact the secretary: secretary@artilleryvic.org.au.

We are also working on mechanisms to upload items to the website. More information on that to come.

Ubique

Garry Rolfe



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

GNR Paul Heron continues to manage the membership.

As at the May committee meeting the numbers were:

Paid Members	
- Honorary Members for Life	5
- Ordinary Life Members	142
- Ordinary Annual Members	47
- Ordinary Annual Senior Members	11
- Associate Life Members	2
- Associate Annual Members	3
Total Paid Members	210
Affiliate Members	
- Associations	28
- Libraries	4
- RSLs	3
- Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	9
Total Affiliate	44
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>254</u>

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

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The annual RAA Luncheon was held at the Highett RSL on 6th March. As usual it was a well-organized and well-attended event with 60 attendees. Congratulations to BRIG Perry and SSGT Reg Morrell for another successful event.

The Battery held a Dawn Service at Sargood Barracks on ANZAC Day. An article about it can be found [here](#).

No other activities planned in the short term (other than the regular Memorabilia Room working bees as mentioned earlier).

RECENT ARTICLES

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

MEMORABILIA ROOM ITEMS

Two items from the Memorabilia Room:

- [Dandenong Freedom of Entry Key](#) – an engraved silver key presented to 15 Fd Regt on the occasion of granting of Freedom of Entry to Dandenong.
- [Baxter Commemoration Plaque](#) – the plaque from the opening of the Baxter 23 Bty) depot 18th April 1982.

ANZAC DAY 2024 AT SARGOOD BARRACKS

A [short article](#) on the ANZAC Day service at Sargood Barracks this year.

AN INTERVIEW WITH P. S. (NORMAN) WHITELAW

A link to an Australian War Memorial [transcript of an interview](#) with P. S. (Norman) Whitelaw.

A FEW WORDS ON INTERNET SECURITY

We have had some members reach out saying they have been hacked. We thought it wise to share information regarding the security of your details, communications and some things you can do to keep yourself safe online.

As you would expect, the Association keeps a copy of your details in a database, including names, email addresses, service information etc. This database is password-protected, and the password is known only to the committee members. It is not accessible via the website. We don't believe it has been compromised - if it had there would be a lot more members reporting issues.

Similarly, the Association does not publish members' email addresses or phone numbers on our Facebook page or website. We only publish the generic email addresses (such as "president@artilleryvic.org.au"). Whilst we sometimes mention people by name, we are always happy to remove or redact names if a member raises it as an issue.

There are a lot of dodgy people out there trying different ways to hack into people's accounts or con them out of money. The most common are emails and phone calls. The only person you should hear from over the phone regarding any financial matters is Paul Heron (Treasurer and Membership Secretary) and he will only contact you regarding small amounts (such as membership fees). If anyone else rings you and pretends to be from the association or the committee asking for money, this is a red flag, and you should hang up (or contact the authorities).

The association will contact you electronically via emails (and you can also consume information via the facebook page or website as you choose). We do not text members.

As is good practice, be wary of any email with links as they may be trying to take you to suspect websites and/or download malicious software onto your computer. We will only ever link to the Association website <https://artilleryvic.org.au>. If an email that looks like it came from us has website links different to that, that is a red flag, and you should ignore the email (and possibly mark it as spam). You should never click on a link if you don't trust it (often you can hover your mouse over a link to see the actual address it is using). These practices aren't just for Association communications, it's good security practice.

If you have any questions or concerns you can reach out to any one of: president@artilleryvic.org.au, treasurer@artilleryvic.org.au, or secretary@artilleryvic.org.au.

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	
Committee	SGT Kevin Casey, SGT Tim De La Zilwa, 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

