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Aug 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. 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.

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
ACTION, ACTION, ACTION	4
HISTORY OF ARTILLERY IN VICTORIA	6
A HISTORY OF 23 FD BTY, 2/15 FD REGT	6
PROGRESS ON THE MUSEUM AT PUCKAPUNYAL	6
WEBSITE UPDATES	7
MEMORABILIA ROOM UPDATE	8
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE	10
RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS	10
RECENT ARTICLES	11
GATHERING OF ORIGINAL RAA ASSOCIATION VIC MEMBERS.....	11
NEW UAS FOR THE BATTERY	11
BROTHERS' N' BOOKS IN THE CHAPEL ST. MESS	11
PROGRESS ON THE ARMY MUSEUM PUCKAPUNYAL	11
COMMEMORATING THE FIRST SHOT OF WORLD WAR 1	11



SGT Tim De La Zilwa with the new UAS coming into service

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Gunners,

I trust this Newsletter finds you enjoying the weather, involved in the exciting end to AFL footy season or simply in good spirits and ready to read about all things Artillery.



We have another exciting edition for you that our editor has thoughtfully put together so please provide feedback to him on your likes nor not likes. He would be keen to hear from you as I would on any artillery related topic you choose to open. To get you started, let me inform you about a national event that occurred earlier this month, some amazing work occurring at the Army Museum Puckapunyal and a couple of social events occurring in Melbourne shortly.

Last Newsletter I spoke about the 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. It was an excellent event held at RMC House, Canberra with the Chief of Army officially launching the book and speaking of the importance of our significant contribution to the defence of our country over our 150 years highlighting our rich history, and our contribution today and into the future.

The event was combined with the traditional Tie Presentation where the Regiment present a gunner tie to our newly minted officers joining our ranks. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to hear the Chief speak but also for us old gunners to hear about their exciting careers awaiting them.

But where can I get my copy – I hear you scream. If you use the following link: [RAAHC \(artilleryhistory.org\)](http://RAAHC(artilleryhistory.org)) you can purchase your book online which I encourage every gunner that has served to do so (more details later in this newsletter). It is a well-crafted and referenced book, easy to read and covers our full history albeit briefly. The Assoc wish to augment this publication with all the photos and stories we already have on file – but more about this later.

The Army Museum Puckapunyal is extremely busy with readying our Artillery pieces for the opening which is now unfortunately pushed back until in early 2025. The Assoc is planning on attending in numbers so will send out the details once they firm up. WO2 David Mills, ex BSM 22 Bty, is our “man-on-the-ground” as he is heavily involved in the restoration of our history as a volunteer at the museum.

If you don't have our Facebook page as one of your favourites, then you are doing yourself an injustice as Dave is regularly updating our sites with pictures and updates on their progress. He is providing some excellent photos of the artillery equipment being restored ready for display. He is actively looking for volunteers and has approval for up to 4-5 enthusiastic people to assist him. Please if you are interested email the Assoc secretary and he will put you in touch with Dave – he would love to see you. See an article on this later in the newsletter.

The Assoc was asked to support an amazing initiative presented to us by the 2/10 Bty Representative SGT Tim De La Zilwa known as Brothers' & Books. It is a national initiative founded in 2020 during COVID tackling the stigma of reading whilst improving our mental health [Brothers and Books - Australia's leading Bibliotherapy Charity \(brothersnbooks.com\)](http://BrothersandBooks-Australia'sLeadingBibliotherapyCharity(brothersnbooks.com)). Check out the website and sign up as a member. The Bty has established a library where defence members and their families can pop in take a book and read it or drop off a book they have finished reading or simply have a coffee and catch up with mates.

The Association donated a book from the Memorabilia room and Tim provided the bookcases and books from his own collection. This is a fantastic initiative well supported by the Bty and members of the association.



Bty and Committee Members at the Brothers' and Books Launch

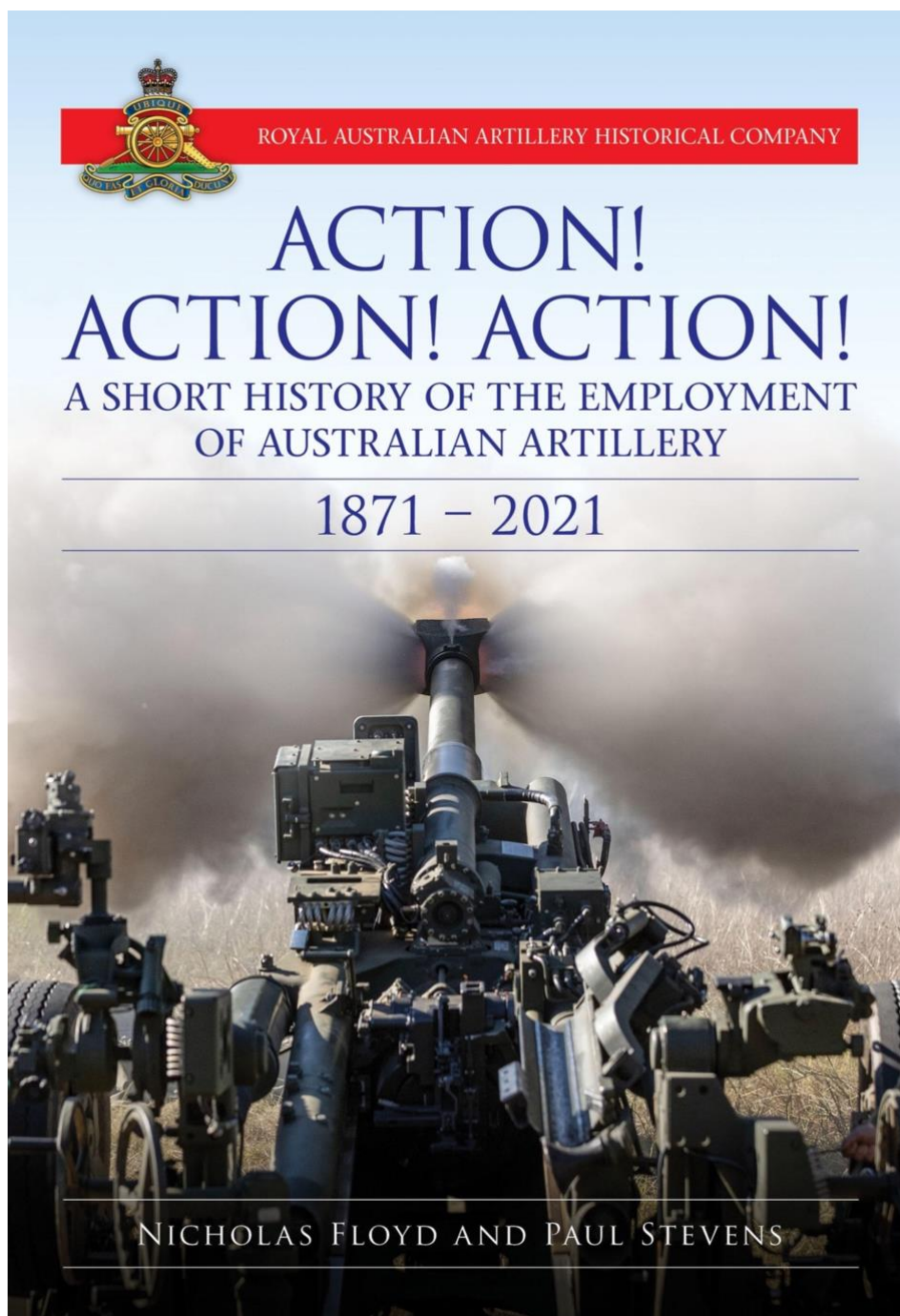
Another busy period for the Association as outlined above as well as our other projects in full swing: The re-vamping of the JARKS Club housing our memorabilia and the Victorian Gunnery History by Stories designed to supplement Action! Action! Action. I look forward in meeting with you in the near future at either the book launch or maybe swapping a book at the Bty.

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

ACTION, ACTION, ACTION

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company has published a book "ACTION! ACTION! ACTION!", a Short History of the Employment of Australian Artillery 1871 – 2021, authored by Nicholas Floyd and Paul Stevens.



From the RAAHC Facebook page:

The sale of the book Action! Action! Action! is on.

Go to <https://www.artilleryhistory.org/> to access the RAAHC Website where you can order online and pay by PayPal or EFT. Once you reach the home page click on the Action! Action! Action! image to access the order form. Easy as that!

A single copy of the book costs \$23 which includes postage. For units or those interested in bulk purchase a box of 20 books can be ordered for \$300 including postage. Below is a review by Brigadier Phil Winter. Nicholas Floyd and Paul Stevens, Action! Action! Action! A Short History of the Employment of Australian Artillery, 1871-2021, Big Sky Publishing, Sydney, 2024.

Reviewed by Brigadier Phil Winter AM CSC ADC, CEO RSL Australia

Many years ago, as a subaltern I recall thinking 'if only there was one single source of truth for the story of the Royal Australian Artillery' so we could piece together the history of the Regiment in Australia's many operational conflicts and tasks, and to also understand why some equipment were used, and how those capabilities fitted into the wider Army and joint efforts in Defence.

Now we have this outstanding new book to answer those questions. I have been lucky enough to observe the great progress of this vital book and earnestly congratulate all involved for the hard work and diligence to deliver this superb product. The task of simplifying the massive amounts of data and personal stories from over a century and a half of Gunner service to the nation is no mean feat.

The outcome is a highly readable and well-planned history of The Royal Regiment, and a huge vote of thanks must go to our authors and planning team – no doubt this book will have pride of place on the bookshelves of all Gunners.

Brigadier Philip Winter AM CSC ADC

This should be a great book for any gunner's library.

HISTORY OF ARTILLERY IN VICTORIA

LTCOL Rowley is custodian of a long-running project to update the history of Artillery in Victoria. Work continues on this project to document the history of Artillery in Victoria and topic owners have been assigned.

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

A short reminder that we've started a history of 23 Bty 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).

PROGRESS ON THE MUSEUM AT PUCKAPUNYAL

Work continues at the combined museum at Puckapunyal (Army Museum Puckapunyal, or AMP) slated to open sometime in 2025. Note that this is a combined museum after the dedicated Artillery Museum lost its funding.

WO2 David Mills, who many members will know, works at the museum and has been sharing photos on the Association Facebook page on arty items they are preparing. A short article with more photos is [here](#).

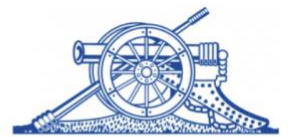


WEBSITE UPDATES

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.

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.



News Feed About Us ▾ Info & News ▾ Memorabilia Gallery ▾ Events ▾ Website Forms ▾ Pages & Search

Memorabilia Room

The RAA Assoc (Vic) maintains a Memorabilia Room (previously called the Museum) in the old Jarks Club at the back of Sargood Barracks (the Chapel St depot).

There is a new page for the Memorabilia Room linked to from the main menu. The page shows some of the items we've scanned in and will continue to add items, creating a virtual museum.

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 productive morning of work completed in the Memorabilia Room on Saturday 03 August 2024. Thank you to Jason, Peter, Paul, Maris and her grandson Lachlan and Bty member Gnr Lachlan Miles who joined me on the day.

Maris, Paul and both Lachlan's spent an industrious morning around the table polishing many items of silver including trophy's, cups and numerous other items of memorabilia. Additional work included developing the information cards for the items on display. Unfortunately, we were unable to access our items in storage. A task for the next work day will be to identify any items in storage that can be displayed as we now have two empty cabinets.

Prior to the next committee meeting I'll arrive a little earlier, gain access to the storage room and pull out books for the Brothers and Books shelf. I have a quantity of books from my collection that i will bring in and donate to the bookshelf.

I'm scoping the layout and format for our electronic register of items and be in touch with Dave so our work is aligned.

Pls see the attached pic of our silver polishing team busily at work.

I receive an apology from Craig Batten who had planned to attend, however withdrew at the last moment due to commitments.

Our next workday is Saturday 07 September. I'll send a note around prior as a reminder which will include jobs to do.



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.

Ubique

Garry Rolfe

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

GNR Paul Heron continues to manage the membership.

As at the August committee meeting the numbers were:

Paid Members	
- Honorary Members for Life	5
- Ordinary Life Members	144
- Ordinary Annual Members	48
- Ordinary Annual Senior Members	12
- Associate Life Members	2
- Associate Annual Members	3
Total Paid Members	214
Affiliate Members	
- Associations	28
- Libraries	4
- RSLs	3
- Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	9
Total Affiliate	44
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>258</u>

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

The following members have joined the Association in the last 12 months:

PTE David Dowling, CPL Travis Draper, GNR Joshua Huynh-King, CPL Aranka Illia, LCPL Soksan Long, LT Majid Nazem, PTE Trong Nguyen, LBDR Cody Shields, GNR Archilleas Datsopoulos, GNR Andrew Lim, GNR Dira Lok, GNR Iain Murray, GNR Sean Rasmussen, PTE Garry Singh, MR Adrian Stanich, BDR Ben Thompson, GNR Ricardo Vieira, LT Saahil Lagah, GNR Tao Shen, CPL Tom Miller, GNR Geoff Scott, GNR John Woods, SGT Syd Battershill, LBDR Tom Wingfield, LT Ben Behar, LT Johnny Huang, GNR Lachlan Miles, LT Yaros Smalkov.

Twenty-three of these are serving with 2/10 Bty.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

We were trying to organize a visit to the Upwey RSL to see their museum layout and enjoy a social lunch. Unfortunately, there was little interest from the wider membership, and we will look to doing it later in the year when the weather improves.

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.

GATHERING OF ORIGINAL RAA ASSOCIATION VIC MEMBERS

The first meeting of Gunners to establish our Association was held on 7 April 1978. There are ten members still with us who were at that meeting and four of them had a get together lunch at the Highett RSL on 3 July. See the article [here](#).

NEW UAS FOR THE BATTERY

This year 9 Regt RAA will receive its latest addition to the ever-expanding fleet of Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) being the Skylark Long-Endurance SUAS+ platform. See [here](#) for an article from SGT Tim De La Zilwa.

BROTHERS'N'BOOKS IN THE CHAPEL ST. MESS

On Tue 13 Aug, the Brothers'N'Books community library was opened in the All Ranks Mess at Sargood Barracks. This is the culmination of an initiative from SGT Tim DeLaZilwa. See [here](#) for more information.

PROGRESS ON THE ARMY MUSEUM PUCKAPUNYAL

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the Army Museum Puckapunyal continues to acquire and prepare Artillery equipment for display. See [here](#) for a summary and some photos.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST SHOT OF WORLD WAR 1

MAJ Garry Rolfe wrote an article for The Australian Reservist on the first shot fired in World War 1 and the commemoration performed by 2/10 Lt Bty in 2014. The article can be accessed [here](#).

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

