



NUMBER 22

**Feb 2025**

# 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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*2/10 Bty firing the 2025 Australia Day Salute at the Shrine of Remembrance*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Gunners,

Happy New Year, hope you had an enjoyable holiday and 2025 has started as you had planned. We have had a terrific start to the year with some exciting activities planned in the first half of the year and keen to provide an update on our projects. But first let me thank all those that attended the AGM and especially those members re-joining the committee as without them we cannot achieve anything on your behalf.



Our 47th AGM was held on Sun 8th Dec over the St Barbara's Day weekend where we not only conducted our mtg, but the Bty showcased their new equipment plus the Werribee Half Battery 12LB Armstrong Gun was on display for all to see. We also opened up the JARKS Club for viewing which everyone that attend thoroughly enjoyed. On the evening before, the Bty hosted me at their annual Dining Out Night where I had the wonderful task of awarding the Associations Whitelaw Prizes to this year's precipitants. The highlights of this weekend were having the opportunity to engage with the current Bty members and be given firsthand exposure to them on their experiences with developing the drone capability for Army. They are really doing some exciting stuff which was highlighted by the captivating address by the BC, MAJ Eleanor Tegg.

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 and welcome the new Bty representative on the committee, LT Sen (Johnny) Huang. It is wonderful having him on the committee. I very much look forward in continuing our work promoting the Association and making it as relevant as we possibility can for all association members.

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. Watch out for invites either in the Newsletter or on our website as this year intend to conduct "Return to the Regiment" activities where we will ask you to bring along your photos, stories and tales where we can share those memories together over some food and refreshments. Come along and visit Sargood Barracks, see the JARKS Club, tell a few stories, catch up with old mates and basically have a great day out.

Another exciting activity that will occur hopefully sooner than later is the Official Opening of the Combined Arms Museum at Puckapunyal. The Association intends to combine this event with a weekend away for those that can attend so we can fully immerse ourselves in what I am hearing is going to be a fantastic display of Artillery pieces ever put together. As information about this event comes to light, we will ensure we pass it on to everyone as this will be an historic event.

Talking about historic events, if you haven't already I would strongly encourage you all to buy your copy of Action!Action!Action! from the following website. It is an excellent read that everyone that have served in an artillery units need to have on their book collection. [RAAHC](#)

Couple of social events that have been conducted already this year is "Wilko's Soriee No. 9" and an open day at Sargood Barracks where there were a number of historical re-enactment societies and organisations that came together to celebrate our heritage. Both events provided an opportunity for like-minded gunners to get together and discuss techniques and equipment, tell stories and re-unite with mates they hadn't seen for far too long. Fantastic events that we should all support. Don't forget about our Annual Gunner Luncheon held at Highett RSL and organised by the ever-reliable Reg Morrell. This is another wonderful opportunity to gather with mates and tell those stories that seem it 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 again a terrific crowd that seemed to swell and swell where I would estimate that over 4,000 attended 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

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## FROM THE AGM

The 2024 AGM was held on Sunday 8 December at Sargood Barracks commencing at 1030h and was well attended with 24 members being present. The meeting followed the standard AGM format and in summary the Association is in a strong financial position and the membership is stable. Key committee appointments for 2025 are as follows: President COL Jason Cooke, Vice-President LTCOL Peter Rowley, Secretary MAJ Stuart Pigdon and Treasurer GNR Paul Heron. MAJ Garry Rolfe and CAPT David Edwards were re-elected to the committee and will continue to lead the media and memorabilia activities respectively. The committee welcomes LT Sen-Hsiu Huang as the Bty liaison representative, taking over from SGT Tim De La Zilwa who fulfilled this role for the last two years. It is very pleasing to see a good number of serving gunners from the Bty have joined the Association over the last two years. These younger, serving members represent the future of our Association and we welcome them.

The date of the AGM coincided with a 2/10 Bty training weekend which added a backdrop of military activity on the day and allowed the BC, Major Eleanor Tegg, to attend in person and deliver the BC's address covering the key activities undertaken by the Bty during 2024 as well as providing an outline of activities for 2025. The address was an excellent opportunity for Association members to gain insights into the role and function of the Bty. For older members (such as the writer) whose RAA service was field gunnery, the BC's address was very insightful and assisted greatly in developing an understanding of the current STA capabilities held within the Bty.

At the conclusion of the AGM association members had the opportunity to visit the gun bays to receive a briefing from Bty members on the operation of the various drones in service and how they are deployed and recovered. The Werribee Half Battery also had a display of their 12 pdr Armstrong gun and members described the deployment of colonial artillery and drills used with firing the gun – a significant contrast to the preceding briefing on the employment of drones!

The Association Memorabilia Room was open, and attendees had the opportunity to see the artillery-themed displays in the room. During working bee's held in 2024 time has been spent developing descriptions of the various items on display and these descriptions were noted as adding to the overall visitor experience.

Overall, the AGM and the additional activities were well received by the Association members in attendance.

MAJ Stuart Pigdon, Secretary.

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## NEWS FROM 2/10 BTY

For those not across the changes over the last few years, 2/10 Bty 9 Regt RAA now comprises the “old” 2/10 Bty at Chapel St (Sargood Barracks) and what was the Tasmanian Bty (16 Fd Bty) spread across Paterson Barracks in Launceston and Derwent Barracks in Hobart. Bty HQ is at Chapel St, although the current BC lives in Tasmania and travels between the states. The Victorian gunners have had a long history of working with the Tasmanian gunners, regularly joining at Pucka or Stony Head for exercises.

The key appointments at the Bty are:

- **BC** – MAJ Eleanor Tegg
- **BSM** – WO2 James Overell
- **TSM** – SGT Ilya Brucksch
- **IG Tas** – CAPT Byron Senysyn
- **IG Vic** – CAPT Matt Tunks
- **SMIG** – WO2 Jason Neilson
- **Training WO** – WO2 Wolfgang Wessner
- **BK** – CAPT Bric Milligan
- **Admin Officer** – CAPT Tim Linley
- **BQ** – CPL Daniel Jelley

Welcome back WO2 Overell (posted back in from MUR) and WO2 Wessner (posted back in from HQ Australian Army Cadets).

The battery jumped straight into 2025 with a number of activities. These have been documented with some articles from the Bty shared to the RAA Association website:

- [M2A2 Salute Course/DET CMD Course \(18 Jan 25 – 19 Jan 25\)](#)
- [Albert Jacka Catafalque Party 2025 \(19 Jan 25\)](#)
- [Australia Day Gun Salute 2025 \(VIC\) \(26 Jan 25\)](#)
- [FPAT Weekend \(1-2 Feb 25\)](#)

We would like to thank SGT Tim De La Zilwa for being the Bty Liaison for the last two years. Your contributions have been significant and appreciated. We would like to welcome LT Sen-Hsiu (Johnny) Huang as the new Bty Liaison for the RAA Association.

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## HISTORY OF ARTILLERY IN VICTORIA

LTCOL Rowley is custodian of a long-running project to update the history of Artillery in Victoria. The item was raised at the first committee meeting of the year and the committee committed to making it happen in 2025.

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## PROGRESS ON THE MUSEUM AT PUCKAPUNYAL

After a summer hiatus, work on the Army Museum Puckapunyal continues towards a (hopeful) opening this year.



WO2 David Mills, continues to post updates on the Association Facebook page. I had a sneak peek in December and it's looking great.

In other news, SGT Helen Janner, President of the 10Mdm Regt Assoc, is now working at the museum.

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## MEMORABILIA ROOM WORKING BEE

The Memorabilia Room update is later in this newsletter and the President mentioned it in his article above.

Our first workday is **Saturday 8th March, 0930-1230** approx.

In addition to helping out, it's a great opportunity to catch up and chat. Please contact the secretary if you can attend: [secretary@artilleryvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@artilleryvic.org.au).

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## KINDRED ASSOCIATIONS

The Association recently hosted the **Werribee Half Battery** at Sargood Barracks (Chapel St). The Bty displayed the 12 Pdr (Armstrong) gun and a smaller 10 Pdr gun.



Captain Allan Sterling, Commander of the Bty gave a very informative presentation following the display.

Guests were given an opportunity to visit the Memorabilia room and there was quite a lot of interest, followed by afternoon tea in the 2/10 Bty Mess (supported by members of 2/10 Bty).



Thanks to the Werribee Half Bty, other guests in period costume for associated reenactment societies, and 2/10 Bty for supporting the day.

See below the **Flagstaff Hill Garrison** (Warrnambool) firing schedule for 2025. If you are down that way, you're encouraged to attend.

## FLAGSTAFF HILL GARRISON CANNON FIRING SCHEDULE 2025

Monday 20 January, 5:30 - **Thrill on the Hill Speedway Launch**

Saturday 25 January, 1:30pm (long weekend)

Saturday 15 February, 1:30pm

Saturday 8 March, 1:30pm (long weekend)

Saturday 19 April, 1:30pm (Easter weekend School Holidays)

### **Warrnambool RSL ANZAC Day Ceremony**

Friday 25 April, 12pm - Martini Henry Rifle firing

### **Australian Heritage Festival Weekend**

Saturday 10 May, 10am - Cape Nelson Lighthouse

Saturday 10 May, 2pm - Portland Battery Point

Sunday 11 May, 10am - Port Fairy Battery Hill

Sunday 11 May, 2pm - Warrnambool Flagstaff Hill Garrison

Saturday 12 July, 1:30pm (School Holidays)

Saturday 16 August, 5:30pm **Twilight Firing - Fire Night**

Saturday 27th September, 1:30pm (School Holidays)

Sunday 2nd November, time TBC **Wreckfest Rare Trades Festival**

Wednesday 31st December, 9pm - **New Year's Eve**

### **Port Fairy Firings – Battery Hill**

Wednesday 1st January, 3pm

Sunday 5th January, 12pm

Sunday 12th January, 12pm

Sunday 19th January, 12pm

Sunday 26th January, 12pm



## WEBSITE UPDATES

A few minor changes to the website since the last newsletter: the front page now shows a random image (of 50) each time you go to it or refresh the page, rather than cycling through the same set of images; the memorabilia page has been updated for a better view of recent uploads. I've been trying to address some performance issues with the site. Hopefully I've got on top of it now. 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.



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## MEMORABILIA ROOM UPDATE

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

### **RAA Association Memorabilia Room 2025**

A scope of works has been developed which identifies the work to be completed in the RAA Association Memorabilia Room during 2025. A great deal of work has been completed over the past 3 years by members of the Committee and volunteers resulting in a snapshot of well-presented and relevant RAA items.

We come together normally on the first Saturday of each month commencing at 0930 and finishing up at 1230 (RAA Depot 8 Chapel Street East St Kilda).

All assistance will be greatly appreciated even if you can only drop in on one of the workdays just for an hour or so. This is a great opportunity to reconnect, share 'warries' and of course do a little work. We stop also for 'mornos'.

Our first workday is Saturday 8th March.

It will be appreciated if you can inform the Secretary of your attendance.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing our Association members on the day.

Kind regards

Garry Rolfe

For more information, reach out to Garry Rolfe or contact the secretary:  
[secretary@artilleryvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@artilleryvic.org.au).

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

GNR Paul Heron continues to manage the membership.

As at the Feb committee meeting the numbers were:

<b>Paid Members</b>	
- Honorary Members for Life	5
- Ordinary Life Members	143
- Ordinary Annual Members	41
- Ordinary Annual Senior Members	11
- Associate Life Members	2
- Associate Annual Members	3
<b>Total Paid Members</b>	<b>205</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>249</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

The AGM and Werribee Half Battery activities are covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

The next social event is the RAA Luncheon. The flyer, with reply slip, is attached later in this newsletter.

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## RECENT ARTICLES

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

### **BATTLEFIELD FORENSIC REPORT FOR 88MM GUN AT AMP (THE “PUCKAPUNYAL GUN”)**

A major item for the new Army Museum Puckapunyal is a WWII German 88mm Gun. This article [here](#) covers the battlefield forensic report for this gun and provides a very interesting read.

### **A VISIT TO THE BAXTER DEPOT**

The Robinsons Rd Baxter depot was the home to 23 Bty for a few years before the amalgamation and eventual return to the Dept of Education. It is still home to an Army Cadet Unit, and I had the opportunity to visit recently. See [here](#) for some pictures of it now.



# RAA LUNCHEON

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, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**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:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**TO:** Reg W Morrell

Post Office Box 343 Mentone 3194

Mobile – 0425 837 958

Email- [regwmorrell@gmail.com](mailto:regwmorrell@gmail.com)



SERGEANT, VICTORIAN HORSE ARTILLERY 1890

-----Reply slip-----

RANK..... NAME:.....  
 ADDRESS.....  
 Tel.No.....  
 Enclosed is a cheque for \$.....(payable to RAA Association)  
 Additional Name ..... Rank.....  
 Special dietary requirements .....  
 If possible, I wish to be seated near .....

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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	GNR Paul Heron	<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	
Bty Liaison	LT Sen-Hsiu (Johnny)Huang	

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

