

Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc.

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2013



EDITOR: JANET STEWART

Welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter. It has been a long winter in various ways for some of us, but we are 'an obstinate lot' and have seen it through. How a few sunny days bring us good cheer!?

It has been an eventful year for Artillery people in Tasmania with the Gunner Dinner being held at the Grand Chancellor in Hobart and the Military Ball at the Grand Chancellor in Launceston. Congratulations to all the organisers and committees. There has been a Reserves Force day that was well attended and the Association has held its Annual General Meeting.

Each of you will have something interesting which you could forward to me for the next edition scheduled for April 2014. Even if it's a small snippet; as one family of gunner's we all are interested in each other's snippets! I look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

PHOTOS FROM RESERVES FORCE DAY <http://www.mediafire.com/?i80ttb0blwk8hr>



*Presentation to RAA made at RFD to recognise 16 BTY as the last Tasmanian RAA unit in the lineage from 1860.
Kings Park, Launceston – 7 July 2013*

*Col Carey & Scott Bacon MHA
Right*

*The Navy Enter
Below*

*Mayors of Hobart & Launceston
Below right*



Annual General Meeting

The Annual meeting was held on 12 October 2013. It was with great regret that the meeting accepted the resignation of Norm Andrews from the position of Secretary. What a great job he has done for the Association! Congratulations Norm and we all wish you and Lorraine all the best. We will still see Norm about as he will still be serving us as a committee member. A special thank you also, to John McIntee and Tony Harding for their assistance to Norm.

Office Bearers for the Next Year:

PATRON	LT COL WILLIAM COX AC KSTJ RFD ED
PRESIDENT	MAJOR GRAEME HOWARD
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT	MAJ MILTON CUNNINGHAM RFD
VICE- PRESIDENT	ANTHONY HARDING
SECRETARY	LT TONY CORDWELL
TREASURER	CAPT JEFFREY DONNELLY ED
PUBLIC OFFICER	NORMAN ANDREWS OAM
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	COL STEPHEN CAREY RFD. ADC
	MAJ BARRY BASTICK,
	MAJ CHRIS TALBOT,
	DEREK BRUCE
	NORMAN ANDREWS OAM
	JOHN MCINTEE
COLONEL COMMANDANT RAA TASMANIA REGION	COL STEPHEN CAREY RFD ADC
EX-OFFICIO MEMBER - 16 LIGHT TROOP REP	CAPT JASON EDDINGTON

This photo, sent in by Norm, was taken at North Head showing the entrance to Memorial walk.



The Australian Memorial Walk honours those who have served and supported the defence of Australia in peace or in war. The paved pathway links five monuments erected to remember the major conflict periods in Australia's history.

More information is available @ http://artilleryhistory.org/memorial_walk.html

The following was received from Keith Bettany who has developed a website especially for his Father's art and is wishing to advertise this to people he thinks may be interested, he writes as follows:

"I have with interest reading your website from Tasmania. We are in Adelaide and I've been trying to contact the SA Branch.

Dad was in Europe, then out through Dunkirk, then to North Malaya, then POW under Japanese for 3.5 years.

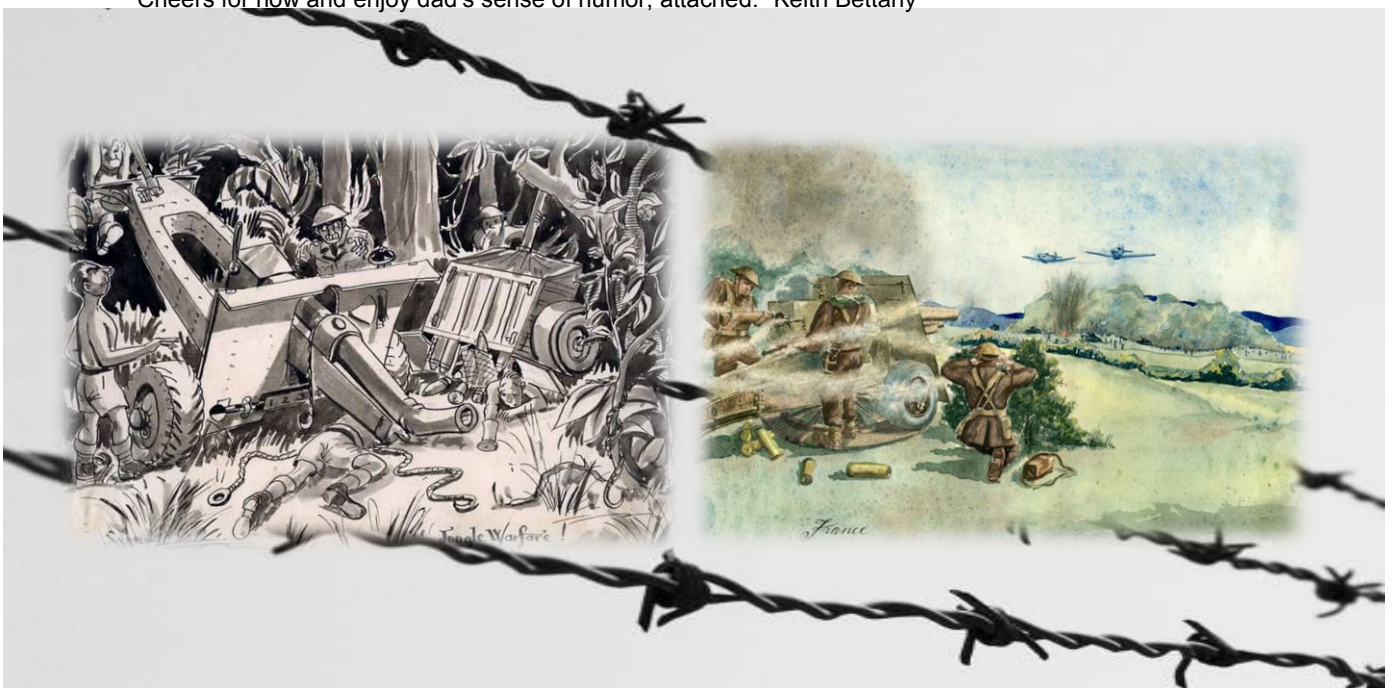
He told us to keep sane he had to paint. When he passed away in 2000 my brother and I scanned his works (over 300) onto a disc. Last year we paid to have a website developed www.changipowart.com

I've attached a few images to whet your appetite.

Can you please, if you see fit, share this site with your friends and your organization? I notice you are using Word Press as are we.

Thank you so much and if you have an email contact for Adelaide for RAAA (SA), that would be good, as we live in Adelaide. Perhaps you can send this link to all branches in Australia and overseas??

Cheers for now and enjoy dad's sense of humor, attached." Keith Bettany



Order Your CD Now! \$20 per copy + \$5 p&p

**Guidons, Colours, Banners,
Standards, and Flags
Presented to the Army in
Tasmania**



By D. M. Wyatt, OAM, RFD

For the first time a complete photographic record has been compiled of the Guidon, Colours, Banners, Standards and Flags presented to Tasmanian Army Units.

By D. M. Wyatt, OAM, RFD



Please enter your details below, enclose a cheque or money order and mail to:
D. M. Wyatt, 9 Morris Ave., Taroona, Tasmania, 7053.

Email dmwyatt@bigpond.net.au or phone 0427 278840 for EFT details.

A CD containing the Following:

- 'Guidons, Colours, Banners, Standards and Flags Presenter to Tasmanian Army Units' as a pdf file (89 pages) plus Annex A, Listing the location & details of 'Colours' in Tasmania.
- 'Guidons, Colours, Banners, Standards and Flags Presenter to Tasmanian Army Units' as PowerPoint file (100 slides).
- Ceremonial Traditions of the Australian Army (an extract)
- Video 'Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion, RTR, 2nd March, 1968'.
- Video 'Guidon presentation to the 22nd Light Horse Regiment, 10th March, 1935'.

Your Name:

Postal Address:

Email:Phone/Mobile:

Gun Park in the Sky

Farewell **TX 14820 Craftsman Francis John (Frank) STOKES** an esteemed Member of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc passed away Saturday 13th Jul 2013 in the Launceston General Hospital after a short illness.

Frank served with 6 Field Regiment RAA 16th Battery and other units 1941 - 1946, he was a fine soldier and will be sadly missed.



Farewell **TX 10950 Frederick William GOSS** an esteemed Foundation Member for Life of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc passed away Thursday the 23rd May 2014 at Tyler House in his 93rd year.

Fred served with 6 Field Regiment RAA from and other units 1941 - 1946; he was a fine soldier and will be sadly missed.



Farewell **COL Michael KINGSFORD**. Michael was participating in an Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC) workshop at Mt Macedon when he collapsed during an afternoon walk. He is survived by his wife Mary and their four children.

COL Kingsford filled quite a few senior Gunner roles and was the COMDT of CATC.



Farewell Phil ROBERTSON. Phil was a BSM at 8/12 Mdm Regt and the MG at P&EE Port Wakefield. He left the Army last year 2012.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his fiancée Kylie and his 3 sons.



*Regimental condolences to the families
Your support for their service is greatly appreciated
Lest we Forget*

The Last Post

Further to the article in the last newsletter

the following has been contributed by Capt Roy Machen ED rtd

Queensland Division of the Tasmanian RAA Assoc.

The last post puts that feeling in our throats and perhaps tears in our eyes.

It is not a bugle call, but it is a song.

It is of American origin and the story starts in 1862 during the American Civil war, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of a narrow strip of land and during the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier.

The captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken soldier back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through gunfire he reached the soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered that the soldier was actually a Confederate soldier, but that he had died bringing him back.

The Captain on checking the soldier caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier, it was his own son.

The son had been studying music in the south when the war broke out and the son had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning the father asked for permission of his superiors to give a full military burial to his son despite his enemy status.

His request was partially granted.

The Union captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members to play an appropriate funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But out of respect for the father they did give permission for a single bandsman.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play some music notes and words that he had found written on paper in his son's pocket.

These musical notes are the haunting melody of the Last Post, the words are:

"Day is done

Gone the sun From the lakes From the hills From the sky

All is well Safely rest God is nigh.

Fading light

Dims the sight And a star Gems the night Gleaming bright

From afar Drawing nigh Falls the night.

Thanks and praise

For our days Neath the sun Neath the stars Neath the sky

As we go This we know God is nigh."



More stories from the old days . . .

1. One evening after training had concluded and the camp was in rest mode a young lieutenant was required to travel back to Launceston from Stony Head Range; he had left his vehicle of the main road south of the track into the campsite. It was a dark night and he walked out to the main road Lefroy to Beechford; but on arrival turned right instead of



left and was headed for Beechford when fortunately he was spotted walking by an ARMY vehicle travelling back to the campsite from Beechford they stopped and picked him up and took him to his vehicle where he proceeded back to Launceston and they returned to the campsite. *Early 1960's*

2. When the Regt was building Fire Support Base gun pits when the Vietnam war in full swing it was decided to dig gun pits for each of the guns, and to help do this work two Artillery officers who were farmers supplied their private tractors to help out – the tractors were driven up a loading ramp and loaded onto the back of ARMY Mk 3 trucks and taken to and from Stony Head Range – it would not happen nowadays OH&S etc. During this period our gunners helped out and donated their time to help build the campsite and make it more like a FSB. The ARMY engineers helped out and built some of the camp site and built an all-weather landing strip at Stony Head. *Mid to late 1960's*



3. Capt. John Gunn helped build huts on the range from his own money. A building called "Oxley House" named after the then Commander of 6 Military District COL PHG Oxley, Oxley House had the bar from the old Brisbane Hotel and carpet from the old Launceston Hotel, portraits of Queen Victoria and other furnishings and period memorabilia, it was the officer's mess at Stony Head. The unit Officers had a dining room and sleeping quarters in the building as well as ablutions with hot and cold water etc. and at one stage a 25 Pdr gun in a fenced off area. *Mid to late 1960's*

4. Other buildings Capt Gunn had a hand in was The Long Hut for the OR's to use, a Q store called Hereford Lodge made up from the old butchers shop at Lefroy and other buildings, sleeping quarters for the "Q" staff. Of course all this was in the days when the army base camp at Stony Head was a very basic camp our men needed to put hutchies and dig latrines each time they went into the area etc. I recall it being said that Capt John Gunn needed timber for projects at Stony Head so it is said that he went to a Gunn's timber mill and said as the timber was coming off the benches that it was second grade, and loaded it on the ARMY truck waiting there. *Mid to late 1960's*



Compiled in collaboration between John McIntee and Norm Andrews



The Committee wish you all a Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year!

RAA ASSOC of Tas Social - Historical Sub-section

An invitation is extended to all to join in on these get-togethers. Meetings are held at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery INVERESK Friends Lounge on the *second Thursday* of the *even numbered months* **except for October which will be the third Thursday** (because of the Launceston Show).

The last meeting for 2013 will be 12 December 2013

The meetings start at about 1400hrs (2pm) and go for up to two hours, all Gunners and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend to support each other and share a cuppa and a snack afternoon tea.



ELECTRONIC PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members who wish to pay their subs either Annual or Member for Life by Electronic Funds Transfer need to know that it – **must be done from a home computer**.

BSB 037-812 Account No. 000 2700 09

and then send an email to the Treasurer or Secretary telling of the transaction and the same applies for BPays:



Bill Code Ref No:
000 2700 09



Thank you to all who contributed to the Newsletter.

Please send contributions to:

Janet Stewart at jst59804@bigpond.net.au

PS - Send complaints to Norm! forfar@gmail.com ☺

Return Thanks

SGT Timothy John Stewart

I would like to thank everyone for the love and concern that you all have given to me since Tim's passing. I am gradually getting use the the 'new' way of things and your love has been of wonderful encouragement to me.

Kind regards to you all, Janet

DATES TO REMEMBER

12 November 2013

1030 hrs

Church Parade – All Welcome

Holy Trinity Church

Cnr Cameron & George Streets

Launceston



23 November 2013

1800 hrs

End of Year Function

Lions Club Rooms Merino Street

Kings Meadows

\$27.00



6 December 2013

1930 hrs

Cocktail Party – All Welcome

Paterson Barracks Area Mess

Dress: Neat Casual

\$15.00



LAUNCESTON ARTILLERY OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

SOCIAL WING

NOTICE to current serving and past Gunners and partners

YOU are invited to attend our (all ranks mixed function) SOCIAL meal/reunion

Saturday 23 November 2013

Lions Club Rooms 18 Merino Street, KINGS MEADOWS

Ample off street Parking is available, with easy access to the clubrooms.

Timing 1800hrs for 1830hrs sit down

Dress: neat smart casual wear please.

A delicious home-style meal has been arranged with a choice of two meats along with seasonal veggies plus a choice of two desserts.

Self-serve tea and or coffee is available.

Please make every effort to attend and catch up with gunner mates from the past.

It will be a good time!

A surprise GUN CREW raffle will be held; *your donation of a raffle prize will be gratefully accepted on the day*

Launceston Artillery Social meal Entrée charge is \$27.00 per person

Please pay in advance



To assist with catering it would be appreciated if you could please RSVP

On or before Monday 11 November 2013 to RAA Association of Tas Inc

Tony Harding 26 Keithleigh Street, Youngtown Tas 7249

I along with

Am/are able to attend, **full payment is enclosed.**

I am unfortunately unable to attend, but enclose my donation of \$ to help defray costs.

Please make your cheque payable to RAA Assoc of Tas



**Royal Australian Artillery Association
of Tasmania Inc.**

Form revised
25th Aug 2012

ABN 53 049 033 834

Est. 18th March 2000

I wish to apply for financial **#ANNUAL-** membership of the RAA Association of Tas Inc. (\$10.00) per year, each financial year or

MEMBER for LIFE of the Association (\$100.00 once only payment)
~~# Strike out not-applicable~~

Name: _____ / /

*Block Letters (please complete Christian/Given names with **SURNAME last**)* Date of Birth

Partner/Spouse Christian/Given name _____

Address: _____ Telephone Contact
Home _____
Work _____
Fax _____

E-mail _____ Mobile Phone _____

Military Service/Period:

From _____ To _____

Military Rank: _____ **Army No.** _____

Unit/s in which I have served

Decorations/Awards:

I pledge myself to a cheerful obedience to the Constitution and Rules of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION of Tasmania Inc.** and its By-laws and to observe all of the provisions thereof.

I would like to purchase **RAA Assoc Lapel badge at \$10.00 ea**
Packing and postage \$

I enclose a donation of \$.00 **Date / /** **Signature**



Please send this application and payment to :- Norman B Andrews OAM, Public Officer & Honorary Secretary, **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION of TASMANIA Inc.**, TARA Room, 24 Robin Street, NEWSTEAD, Tas 7250

Receipt No.....Treasurer.....

Member notified.....Sec/Pub.Offr date.....