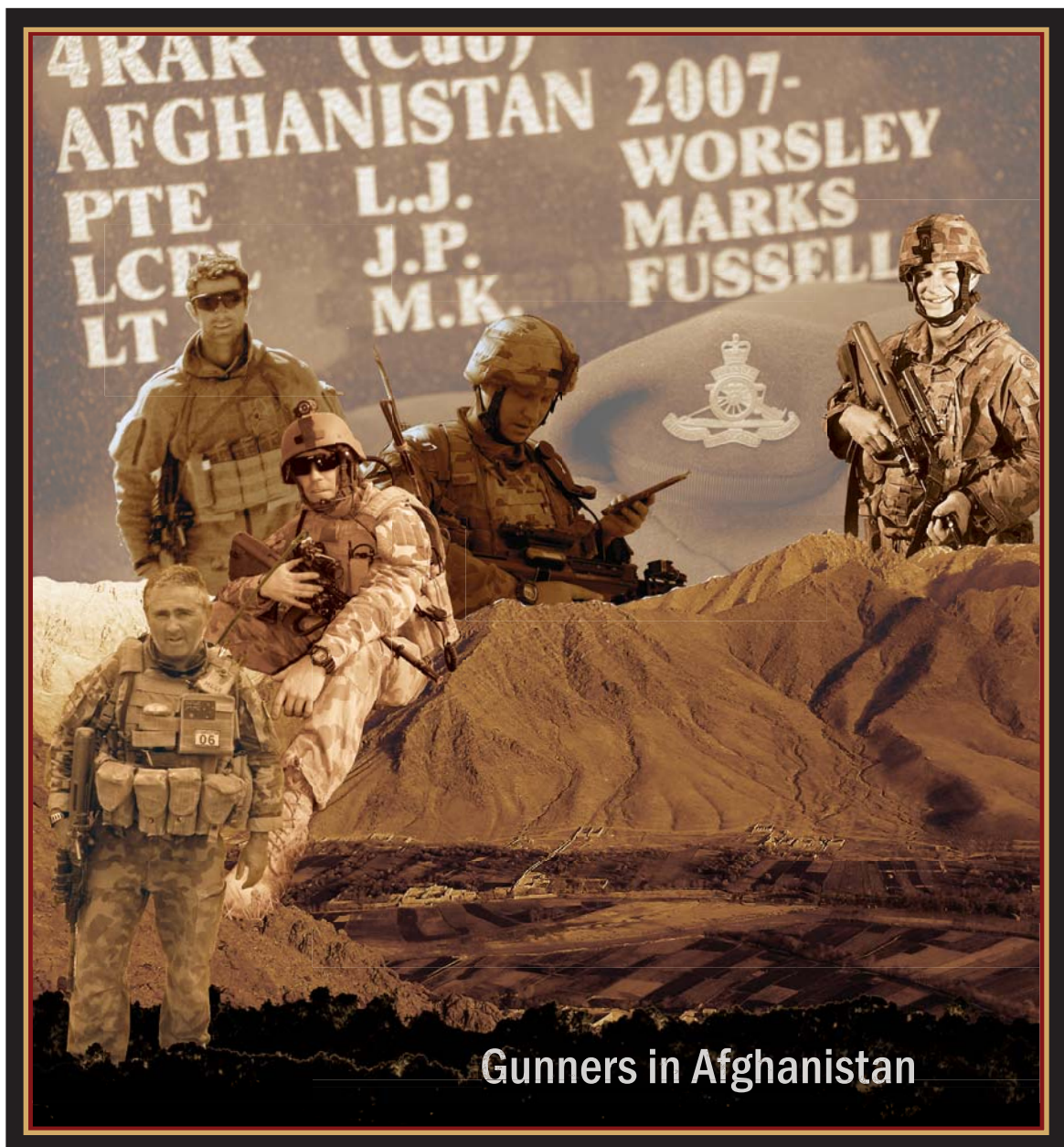


The  
Royal Australian Artillery  
**LIAISON LETTER**

Autumn Edition 2014



The Official Journal of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery  
Incorporating the Australian Gunner Magazine

First Published in 1948



# RAA LIAISON LETTER

## Autumn Edition 2014

Incorporating the  
Australian Gunner Magazine

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### NEXT EDITION CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

Contributions for the Liaison Letter 2014 – Spring Edition should be forwarded to the Editor by no later than **Friday 1st August 2014**.

### LIAISON LETTER ON-LINE

The Liaison Letter is on the Regimental DRN web-site – <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/RRAA/>. Content managers are requested to add this to their links.

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Contributors are urged to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in their articles. The Royal Australian Artillery, Deputy Head of Regiment and the RAA Liaison Letter editor accept no responsibility for errors of fact.

The views expressed in the Royal Australian Artillery Liaison Letter are the contributors and not necessarily those of the Royal Australian Artillery, Australian Army or Department of Defence. The Commonwealth of Australia will not be legally responsible in contract, tort or otherwise for any statement made in this publication.

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**Help Us**

# THE GUNNER FUND



**Help you**

## WHAT IS IT?

The RAA Gunners Fund is designed to provide a source of funds that can be used to benefit all Gunners.

One of the important uses for the fund is to support requests from RAA units to assist in the preservation and promotion of the Regimental heritage.

The Fund has been operating for over 50 years and has drawn its monies from Benefactors mainly officers, warrant officers and senior NCO.

The Fund is supervised by the Regimental Committee



## WHAT DOES IT DO?

The Fund will support:

- Extra Regimental activities
- Awards to individuals



- Activities to benefit RAA members not funded by public money
- Safe guard, maintain and purchase items of Regimental property
- Preserve RAA history and heritage
- Record unit histories

## HOW DO I JOIN?

By making a contribution fixed at the rank you join.

Fortnightly contributions:

- Gunner to Lieutenant \$1/pay
- Sergeant to Captain \$1.50/pay
- WO1, Major and above \$2/pay

### How ARA

To activate go to PM KEYS Self Service, My Pay

- Select allotment
- New allotment and fill in the contact and payday details
- Select organisation code
- Select RAA Gunners Fund
- Insert the amount and submit

### How ABES

- EFT to Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU) BSB 642 170 Account No 526805 or
- Cheque to RAA Regimental Fund

**INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED KEY RING+ MEMBERS ONLY RAFFLE**



# 2014

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY REGIMENTAL CONFERENCE AND FAREWELLS SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

### REGIMENTAL CONFERENCE FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER TO SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

Regimental Committee Meeting – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014  
Capstone Day – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014  
Open Forum and Back Briefing Day – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014

*Conference Agenda*

Lieutenant Colonel David Edwards – mobile: 0419 494 105 and/or email: david.edwards@defence.gov.au

*Conference Administration*

Major John Batayola – mobile: 0400 854 323 and/or email: john.batayola@defence.gov.au

*Regimental Committee Meeting Agenda*

Major D.T. (Terry) Brennan – mobile: 0419 179 974 and/or email: terry.brennan@defence.gov.au

### OFFICER FAREWELLS DINNER FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2014

Regimental Officers Mess  
Dress – Mess kit or Dinner suit with Miniatures  
All serving and retired members welcome

*Contact*

Major D.T. (Terry) Brennan  
mobile: 0419 179 974 and/or email: terry.brennan@defence.gov.au  
Major Greg Metcalf  
mobile: 0432 366 698 or email: greg.metcalf@defence.gov.au

### WARRANT OFFICER AND SENIOR NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER FAREWELLS SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

Regimental Sergeants Mess  
Dress – Coat and tie  
All serving and retired members welcome

*Contact*

WO2 Toby Organ – telephone: 03 5735 6382 and/or email: toby.organ1@defence.gov.au  
WO2 Dean Smith – telephone: 03 5735 6417 and/or email: dean.smith5@defence.gov.au  
WO2 Neil Bertram – telephone: 03 5735 6407 and/or email: neil.bertram@defence.gov.au

### RAA COMMAND POST EXERCISE MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2014

School of Artillery

# Editor's Comment



Welcome to a new year and of course a new Liaison Letter. This is the 25th edition I have compiled and edited. I am very pleased to say that through the ongoing support of the 'Gunner' community and the goodwill of the Defence

Publishing Service Victoria, the publication has continued to improve in content and presentation. I would like to thank the Deputy Head of Regiment for taking the time to personally and actively encourage Regiments and others to support the Liaison Letter.

Big Sky Publishing continues to support the Liaison Letter by providing books from their list of recent publications for me to award as 'Editors Incentive' prizes to foster contributions from across the Royal Regiment. As a consequence of this generous support, I am able to award three books as prizes for this edition. The winners have been announced elsewhere in this edition.

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*I would like to thank Major General Michael Crane for taking time to participate in the 'Five Minutes With ...' section prior to his pending retirement later this year.*

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I have received a cross section of contributions on a variety of topics ranging from a paper by Lieutenant Colonel Damian Hill, Commanding Officer 4th Regiment on 'Enhancing the Brigade Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre', to an article from Bombardier Ryan Harden in 8th/12th Regiment reporting on the 'Special Operations Task Group Bushmaster Troop' in Afghanistan.

We also have a number of book reviews including a very comprehensive one from Captain Jeremy Mar Fan on 'Having Been a Soldier' by Lieutenant Colonel Colin Mitchell. I would like to thank Major General Michael Crane for taking time to participate in the 'Five Minutes With ...' section prior to his retirement later this year.

The pending retirements of Lieutenant General Ash Power and Major General Michael Crane, along with the recent retirement of Major General Gerard

Fogarty, gave rise for me to reflect on the senior officer cycle and the 'influence' this has from a military and political perspective especially in terms of strategic policy and direction. At this level in defence the two are irrevocably interwoven. As someone who has been in the Army since 1979 in either a full or part-time capacity, including serving in Canberra, it has been interesting to observe how the senior officer cycle in Army appears to follow 'Corps' lines. I have noticed specific eras where the direction of Army has been heavily influenced by officers from a common Corps. In my view, in recent years it has been officers with an engineer or infantry background that have dominated senior leadership appointments. Having said that as a Regiment we have been well represented in higher defence circles lead by Lieutenant General Des Mueller as Vice Chief of the Defence Force and Lieutenant General Ash Power as Commander Joint Forces. These two officers have been ably supported by a good number of Major General's including Michael Crane, Paul Symon, Gerard Fogarty, Paul McLachlan, and more recently David Coghlan. One can only trust that as we see the departure of a number of these senior officers the Regiment will continue to be adequately represented through the replacement of them by the next generation.

---

*... there will be a full Regimental Conference program this year including Regimental farewells ...*

---

I would like to highlight that there will be a full Regimental Conference program this year, including Regimental farewells along with a full Regimental Committee Meeting. This will not only be the first Officer farewells for a number of years but will be an extremely significant and enjoyable occasion to celebrate the service of those individuals leaving the Royal Regiment given the number of recently retired senior Gunner officers and other long serving officers. Please refer to the advertisement located elsewhere for further information.

As some 14 years of operational deployments draw to a closure, this presents a unique opportunity for the Regiment to reflect on and record the experiences gained from these deployments as well as refocus on future warfighting. As a result of our Afghanistan service, the Royal Australian Artillery has been equipped with a suite of powerful capabilities related to surveillance and early warning that we may never have been provided with under routine budgetary constraints. These

capabilities reside within 16th Air Land Regiment and 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment. I am referring in particular to the force multiplier effects afforded by Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) capabilities.

I encourage everyone who has been involved in any operational deployment to reflect on and record your personal experiences. The Liaison Letter is the perfect forum to commence this conversation and in doing so put a spotlight on doctrine and discuss what has worked and what did not.

*I encourage everyone who has been involved in any operational deployment to reflect on and record your personal experiences.*

I would like to thank those who have supported this edition of the Liaison Letter whether for the first time or if you are a regular contributor. The Liaison Letter is only able to grow and evolve through the support and involvement of all Gunners - serving or retired. Please keep contributing as it is your forum to express your thoughts, ideas and views.



D.T. (Terry) BRENNAN  
Major  
Editor

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**DATE CLAIMER**

**LIAISON LETTER**

Next Edition Contribution Deadline

**Friday 1st August 2014**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Future Liaison Letter Mailing List Requests**

The combining of the Liaison Letter and Cannonball journals has meant the rationale behind adding names to the Liaison Letter Mailing list had to be reviewed.

To date, the Liaison Letter has been distributed to serving and retired Gunners at no charge. In the case of retired Gunners you have only had to request that your name be added to the list and it was without any requirement to contribute to the 'Gunners Fund'.

*As of this edition of the combined Liaison Letter and Cannonball journals the editor of the Liaison Letter will no longer be able to accept requests from retired Gunners to have their name added to the Liaison Letter mailing list at no cost.*

*In future for retired Gunners to secure a copy of the combined Liaison Letter and Cannonball journals it is requested that you become a financial member of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company. Whilst not mandatory, you are also encouraged to become a life subscriber of the 'Gunners Fund'.*

Whilst the Liaison Letter will continue to be provided to serving Gunners and Gunner units at no cost, individuals are encouraged to either become a Life subscriber to the 'Gunners Fund' and/or join the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company. The editor strongly encourages that everyone consider contributing financially to both.

Information on becoming a life subscriber to the 'Gunners Fund' is in the Associations and Organisations Section of the Liaison Letter. A membership form for the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company is located in Cannonball.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

# Letters to the Editor

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## Report on Strategic Leadership

I just received the latest copy of the Liaison Letter and congratulations to all concerned. It's always great to be kept in the loop.

Fellow gunners with an interest in leadership might be interested in a report that I recently completed on strategic leadership in the ADF. It can be found at the following link: <http://www.defence.gov.au/adcdocs/Publications2013/TheChiefs.pdf>

---

*The study breaks fresh ground,  
not just in Australia but  
internationally.*

---

The objective of 'The Chiefs' was to describe the leadership processes and cultural milieu at the most senior levels of the Australian military profession. This five-year study focused on the experiences of current and recently serving 3 - and 4-star officers in the Australian Defence Force.

The study breaks fresh ground, not just in Australia but internationally. As such, it will be an important resource, and not just for the ADF. Its findings and conclusions are more broadly applicable and will resonate with military organisations across the world and perhaps with civilian organisations as well.

Regards

Brigadier Nick Jans, OAM, PhD

Visiting Fellow, Centre for Defence Research  
Australian Defence College

---

Editor: Thank you for bringing the Liaison Letter readers attention to your study.

---

## National Gunner Dinner

The Australian Artillery Association is extremely grateful to you on a personal note for embracing the concept and supporting the objectives of the National Gunner Dinner Saturday 23rd August 2014.

The Dinner has really started to gain quite a lot of momentum since we decided to proceed with this very significant and important Gunner function. There are currently plans and ideas afoot that will ensure that this event will remain in the hearts and

minds of Gunners of all eras for a long time to come.

We are encouraged by the expressions of enthusiasm via phone calls, Facebook, email and the website and we are working very hard to live up to everyone's expectations.

We have reached out to the broader community of Gunners through flyers and personal contact and this endeavour, along with your valuable contribution, will ensure a successful evening for all.

---

*National Gunner Dinner Saturday  
23rd August 2014.*

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Once again Terry, a sincere thank you for promoting this National Dinner within the RAA Liaison Letter and amongst your peers and contacts.

Ubique

Kim McGrath JP

---

Editor: I am only too happy to be of assistance in promoting the event. I encourage everyone serving and retired to consider supporting this worthy gathering of Gunners. There is an advertisement in this edition of the Liaison Letter.

---

## First RSM 4th Field Regiment

I've just been reading the death notices in today's (Saturday 21st September 2013) *The Canberra Times* (I do this every Saturday, just to check that I'm not amongst those listed) and to my dismay I read that Allan Stead died on Thursday (19th September) at the age of 95 (he would have turned 96 in December). Allen was, as I'm sure most of you would know, 4th Field Regiment's first RSM, in 1960.

The last time I remember meeting Allan was at the Dedication Ceremony of the 4th Field Regiment Commemorative Plaque, at the Australian War Memorial, in 2000. He also attended the Regiment's 40th Birthday Reunion, up in Townsville, in the same year.

---

*Allen was, as I'm sure most of you  
would know, 4th Field Regiment's  
first RSM, in 1960.*

---

There was no mention of a service in the Notice and it simply stated that he was 'Privately cremated'.

All the best

Chris Jobson



Editor: Thank you for bringing this to the Regiment's attention. It is most unfortunate that the death of someone such as Allan Stead passed unnoticed by the Regiment.

### **Appreciative Reader**

I am on the mailing list for the Liaison List and read it with great interest and enjoyment. Thank you for your dedication and hard work you do, in my judgement it is the top Corps publication.

Yours Sincerely

Max Vandyke

Editor: Many thanks for your very positive feedback, it is truly most appreciated.

### **Response to Chris Jobson Letter to the Editor**

In your last letter to the Regiment's liaison letter, I read and heard your concerns and fears over titles and appointments of senior soldiers in the Army and the Regiment. I appreciate that our Regimental tribal elders, both officer and soldier, remain interested in the Regiment. The elders experiences and commentaries, both good and bad, are still needed for the Regiment to travel the uncertain battlefields of the 21st century.

*... I'd begin by flagging this is a course name and an industrial relations term and not intended as an operational fighting duty or appointment for senior soldiers.*

On the matter of your concerns on the naming convention for the managers offensive support, I'd begin by flagging this is a course name and an industrial relations term and not intended as an operational fighting duty or appointment for senior soldiers. These industrial relations terms have arisen to better explain in common language what our soldiers do to non military people on remuneration boards. They are not terms we use for soldiers and it has not changed the importance of the roles and duties of the artillery sergeant major. The Regimental Master Gunner and our other senior soldiers have continued the hard work of their predecessors and ensured our artillery sergeant majors are knowledgeable in all things artillery and well versed in leading Australian gunners. This is the essence of the Regimental Sergeants and Warrant Officers courses. The Battery Sergeant Major and the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery remain very much as the centre

of the artillery leadership and training system. The Regiment's senior soldiers continue to be educated on all things gunnery/target acquisition/air defence as they have always been and in many ways the same way they have always been - by teaching their classmates and others. So while the course names might sound weak and not military orientated let me assure you, and other regimental tribal elders, our senior soldiers remain artillery sergeant majors - the font of all artillery knowledge. We should not quibble about industrial relations names but be comforted that senior artillery soldiers are leading their soldiers through a thorough knowledge of artillery. Why else would we have been asked to lead in the creation and instruction at the Afghan National Army Artillery School during the recent conflict.

*... let me assure you, and other regimental tribal elders, our senior soldiers remain artillery sergeant majors - the font of all artillery knowledge.*

The Regiment remains one of the Army's most professional communities leveraging off its rich heritage of excellence, and focusing on our joint, responsive, precise and modular nature so that we can continue to sense for, strike for and shield the Australian Army.

Regards

Colonel Sean Ryan

Passionate Serving Gunner

Editor: Thank you for your interest and considered and though provoking response.

### **Another Happy Reader**

My congratulations on the Liaison Letter. An excellent production.

Cheers

Lieutenant Colonel Barry Lloyd (Retd)

Editor: Many thanks for your positive feedback, it is most welcome.





# AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



## 2014 NATIONAL GUNNER DINNER

**When:**  
Saturday, 23 August 2014

**Where:**  
The Event Centre  
20 Minchinton Street  
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551

**The Event:** 3 Hour Dedicated Military Concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra  
1:30 pm to 5:00pm

3 Course Dinner with 3 Hour Drinks Package followed by Port  
Includes a Wind and String Quintet to provide light background dinner music  
6:30 pm to 12:00 Midnight

**Costs:** \$145.00 per person

**Bookings:** Essential



The Australian Artillery Association is proud to host this wonderful, entertaining and memorable event  
A special event bringing Gunners of all eras together to share in this momentous occasion

This is a Once-in-a-Lifetime event for all Gunners to gather in one location and enjoy a First Class event

## DON'T MISS OUT

(2 INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED EX RAA GUNNERS FROM THE USA AND SCOTLAND)

MINIMUM NUMBER: 400 - MAXIMUM NUMBER: 950

For further information visit: [www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)

or call Graham on 0411 141 580 or Kim on 0417 422 427

# Regimental

## Representative Colonel Commandant

*Brigadier A. G. (Gerry) Warner, AM, LVO (Retd)*



Dear Fellow Gunners

In his introduction to this Liaison Letter our Head of Regiment Brigadier Peter Gates reflects on the end of the Australian involvement in Afghanistan and the consequent refocus on the capabilities, skills and

procedures required in the future. I continue to be impressed by the Gunners of today and am confident they will see the challenges ahead as great opportunities.

Anzac Day approaches and of course 2014 is the commencement of our Anzac Centenary years marking the Great War 1914-1918. Artillery played a pivotal role in that awful conflict and I encourage all Gunners to seize any chance to demonstrate, commemorate or enhance the contribution and proud heritage of the Royal Australian Artillery.

I have mentioned previously the efforts of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) in progressing the planning and development of a combined Armour / Artillery Museum at Puckapunyal, and I know that many Gunners are disappointed that the anticipated new museum at Puckapunyal did not follow closely the sudden closure of the Australian Army Artillery Museum at North Head. Late last year together with most of the Colonels Commandant, I was able to visit the site of the proposed interim display adjacent to the existing Tank Museum at Puckapunyal. I am pleased to report that a Manager and Assistant Manager have been appointed and the Museum Advisory Committee will meet shortly. These are positive developments for both the interim display in the

short term and the maintenance of the permanent objective.

In the meantime much work is being done to clarify and, when and where appropriate, transfer ownership of artillery items and memorabilia so that the requirements of both the interim display and the future Museum at Puckapunyal can be satisfied.

---

*Artillery played a pivotal role in that awful conflict and I encourage all Gunners to seize any chance to demonstrate, commemorate or enhance the contribution and proud heritage of the Royal Australian Artillery.*

---

The RAAHC promotes the significance, history and heritage of Australian artillery through Cannonball and its free electronic newsletter 'Airburst'. I recommend these communications to all Gunners and those interested in our community and our trade. Many would be aware of the exciting and ambitious Anzac Centenary 18 Pounder Gun Project being undertaken by the RAAHC. Details can be seen at <http://www.artilleryhistory.org> and your donation would contribute to the success of the project and be appreciated by all Gunners past and present.

---

*... exciting and ambitious Anzac Centenary 18 Pounder Gun Project being undertaken by the RAAHC.*

---

Finally, I briefly mention that the Regimental Committee met at the School of Artillery in November 2013. RAA Standing Orders, museum issues, heritage, museum, Gunners' Fund, and RAA Army Reserve restructure were included in the robust discussions. The Regimental Committee confirmed the continuing importance and activities of the History Sub Committee in Regimental affairs and determined that its Chair should be a full member of the Regimental Committee.



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*I presented a World War II 53 Battery flag to the current 53 Battery on behalf of the RAA Historical Society of WA. The flag was carried throughout the War ...*

---

During the November visit to Puckapunyal I presented a World War II 53 Battery flag to the current 53 Battery on behalf of the RAA Historical Society of WA. The flag was carried throughout the War and later passed to the custody of the Society. 53 Battery today supports the School and the presentation occurred in front of one of the Battery's M777 155 Howitzers before the Battery returned to the range in support of a course. I am confident that the original members of 53 Battery would be pleased with and proud of the enthusiasm, confidence and professionalism displayed by their present day counterparts.

After the meeting I also had the pleasure of attending a splendid function in the Sergeants Mess at which the USA Consul General in Melbourne presented Bill Dunstan with the prestigious Silver Star, earned during his service with the Australian Army Training Team in South Vietnam. Head of Regiment and I congratulated Bill on behalf of the Gunner family.

*Good Shooting*

---

## Head of Regiment

*Brigadier Peter Gates, CSM*



Welcome to 2014 and the Liaison Letter autumn edition. I have been Head of Regiment for just over a year and would like to take a moment to reflect on what has transpired during this period but more importantly look to the future.

The end of Australia's involvement in Afghanistan has brought with it a refocus on foundation war fighting and as Gunners we have a major part to play. For the past decade the Regiment has performed to the highest standards in its task of supporting operations in Iraq and in particular Afghanistan as well as on various peace operations.

It is now time for the Regiment to re-learn and sharpen our skills individually and collectively in the coordination and responsive concentration of mass indirect fires and the engagement of all the supporting elements necessary to effectively achieve our goal of supporting the combined arms manoeuvre commander and their plan.

---

*The end of Australia's involvement in Afghanistan has brought with it a refocus on foundation war fighting and as Gunners we have a major part to play.*

---

The Air Land Regiment continues to develop its tactics, techniques and procedures within its sphere of Sense and Warn. It has rapidly and professionally developed this capability extensively from the experience its members have gained in Afghanistan. The Regiment must take this new capability and its traditional air defence role and ensure their applicability is utilised to maximum benefit in future war fighting operations. The challenge for the Royal Regiment provided by the new data streams provided by Air Land and Surveillance and Target Acquisition is the need to ensure these capabilities are embedded in our training at the appropriate levels and melded into our doctrine. We have recent experience from operations that gives us an opportunity to look at our doctrine and make sure that lessons applicable to future operations are recorded to support future training and subsequent operations.

---

*It is now time for the Regiment to re-learn and sharpen our skills individually and collectively ... to effectively achieve our goal of supporting the combined arms manoeuvre commander and their plan.*

---

20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment has been on operations for over a decade and I note that 2014 is the first time in many years that the unit has had all of the Battery's in barracks. Throughout a constant operational commitment the unit has converted major systems and capabilities from the ANTPQ-36, surveillance, met and survey tasks to the Unmanned Aerial Systems role. This includes introduction and conversion on three different systems and coming to grips with the daunting airworthiness and safety governance required of a flying unit in the ADF. The Shadow 200



UAS is an incredible ISR platform and with an easing of operational commitments the unit will have some time to bring the capability to its full potential.

For those of us who have been away from the Regiments for a few years you will be amazed at what we have been provided in terms of the major systems and the skills that are required by the modern Gunner. It is quite remarkable what the Gunners have achieved so far.

The ROBC Dining In Night was held at the RAA Officers Mess on 7th March and I was very appreciative that Major General Michael Crane was able to attend as the official guest and key note speaker. I was also thankful all the ARA Commanding Officers made time to attend the dinner and see how their young officers were progressing. This is a significant event in the Regimental lives of young officers being introduced to the Royal Regiment and this was acknowledged by the presence of Major General Crane.

I join with all members of the Regiment to welcome the new RMC graduates. As is now tradition, the RAA Association (ACT) held a welcome function and

presented Gunner ties to all graduates. I acknowledge the contribution of the Association who started this long standing initiative in 1991 and have continued it with support from the broader Gunner fraternity in Canberra.

---

*For those of us who have been away from the Regiments for a few years you will be amazed at what we have been provided in terms of the major systems and the skills that are required by the modern Gunner.*

---

At the Graduation ceremony I was represented by Colonel Brandon Wood who presented the Royal Australian Prize to Lieutenant Nicholas Woodhams (1 Regt). The following other graduates have joined the Royal Regiment; Benjamin Studd (1 Regt); Steven McBride, Adam Toms and Nicholas Waugh (4 Regt); Isabelle Cowley, Lachlan McDonald, and Karl Vatzlavik (8/12 Regt); Andrew Brown, Prudence Connell and Eleanor Tegg (20 STA Regt); Matthew Armstrong, Brent Paish and James Haggerty (16 ALR). On behalf of the Gunners I wish you the best



Lieutenant Nicholas Woodhams being presented the Artillery Prize by Colonel Brandon Wood on behalf of Head of Regiment. Lieutenant Woodhams was also awarded the Officer Training Unit Scheyville Prize for displaying the greatest improvement in leadership qualities in the course; Dunlop Shield for best performance in Australian Rules Football; and Champion Oarsman of the RMC Rowing Club.

at the out set of what I trust will be a rewarding career.

I would like to acknowledge Lieutenant Colonel David Garside who was recognised in the Australia Day Honours with the award of a Conspicuous Service Cross.

I am pleased to advise that the Regiment will conduct a full Regimental Conference program this year including a Capstone Day, Regimental Committee Meeting and Regimental Farewells. This will be the first officer farewells held in three years. There is more information including dates elsewhere in the Liaison Letter.

---

*Two very important contributors to the preservation and promotion of our history and heritage are the Regimental Committee including its History Sub Committee and the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC).*

---

I would like to acknowledge the dedicated and loyal service to the Army and the Royal Regiment of Major General Michael Crane and Major General Gerard Fogarty who have recently or are soon to retire from full-time service. They have both made a definitive and lasting contribution to the Australian Defence Force including on operations.

Two very important contributors to the preservation and promotion of our history and heritage are the Regimental Committee including its History Sub Committee and the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC). I encourage all Gunners to consider financially supporting the work of the Regimental Committee by subscribing to the 'Gunners Fund'. Further I would ask that all Gunners whether serving or retired consider becoming a member of the RAAHC. Further information can be found in the 'Cannonball' journal or on the RAAHC website at <http://artilleryhistory.org/>.

There is much to do as a Regiment as we move into a new and challenging as well as professionally rewarding era post Afghanistan. I look forward to discussing the future of the Royal Regiment with you and hearing your views as I move around the Regiment.

*Ubique*

---

## Deputy Head of Regiment

*Lieutenant Colonel Dave Edwards*



I will take this opportunity to talk about what the School of Artillery has done and where we are going as well as discuss some important Regimental matters.

At the end of November last year the School finished with a flurry of activity. In particular we achieved the first demonstration of the digital 'kill chain' for Land 17 with the observer employing the Digital Terminal Control System (DTCS) to plan and execute a fire mission, this was passed through to the AFATDS system and then onto the M777A2 on the gun line. It was a bit unnerving watching a mission from start to finish with no voice transmissions throughout the process. The crowd of spectators included representatives from the DMO, Army Headquarters, Headquarters Forces Command, Rockwell Collins Australia, Rockwell Collins International and the Combined Arms Training Centre. The success of this demonstration marked the start of the next phase of the digitised joint fires network. The Field Regiments, JTAC Troop from 16th Air Land Regiment (16 ALR), Special Forces and 4th Squadron RAAF have now commenced training in the DTCS equipment and it has been incorporated into the sustainment training for the Officers Forward Observer Course and the ECN 255 Observers Course. Any concerns or areas for improvement in the DTCS or any of our new equipment should be forwarded to the New Equipment Training Team at the School who will work to find a solution for you or ensure the information makes its way back those who can.

I would also highlight the work of Joint Fires Wing who has successfully retained the School of Artillery's international accreditation as a Joint Fires Officer training centre. The quality of our instructional staff, expert visiting instructors and the ability to employ PC-9 aircraft to support training has been recognised as some of the best practice in the contributing nations. We have also obtained international accreditation as the ADF school house for Precision Point Mensuration

(Target Mensuration Only) (PPM TMO). PPM TMO will allow observers and joint fires commanders to significantly reduce target location error when employing precision weapons on targets of opportunity as well as supporting normal mission planning. This is yet another tool to help us solve the Gunnery Problem. We are only the second Artillery School house to achieve accreditation and our thanks go to the Royal School of Artillery along with the Australian Geospatial Organisation for their support.

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*For those posted to the School now and in the future we have been fortunate with opportunities for staff to attend advanced training.*

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We continue to work hard with 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment (20 STA) in the ongoing development of the UAS training continuum. We have successfully conducted two UAS Operator courses for IET and those who are transferring to ECN 250. We have also conducted a number of Mission Commander Courses as well with the School simulators used to good effect. We also have the first ROBC conducting their flying training at 20 STA as we put this publication to print. I have asked STA Wing to look now into the more advanced flight and safety training as well as the critically important ISR skills to be employed at the battle group and brigades level. The School will continue to support 20 STA in developing the capability by delivering high quality training and support to developing concepts into skills and education. It is great to have 20 STA back from operations and together as a regiment for the first time since its formation. In other good news it appears that any decision to consider who would command and 'own' 20 STA and its tactical UAS capability has been pushed off until 2016.

The renamed 'Air-Land Wing' continues to lean as far forward as it can to deliver the increasingly diverse range of skills and education to 16 ALR personnel. While our RBS-70 training is being maintained at a high level, we are working hard to try and meet the sense and warn training where we lack equipment and the funding. This problem is bigger than the School and 16 ALR and the future of the capability is being tackled 'up the chain'. We also look forward to working with the JTAC Troop by improving the alignment of training and the screening process of our candidates for the JTAC course. The JFO course and the screening process

have made significant contribution to the successful pass rate for RAA JTAC trainees. We also hope to look at the work the Ground Liaison elements have done in developing their training courses.

Communication and Support Wing has made remarkable progress in rolling out the full suite of digital communications courses, the first School to do so in Army. It has not been an easy process and the instructors have been involved with ongoing development to make the course more focussed on what the soldier needs to do their job well. Those of you who have been here recently as staff or on course would be familiar with the Combined Arms Gym on site at the School. I am biased, but it is one of the best equipped gyms in Army and the PTI's and course managers are driving for better fitness across all courses. Hopefully units are seeing the work of the PTI's in the fitness levels of trainees and, ideally, the development of a positive attitude toward improving combat fitness. The PES-A remains a pass requirement for all IET and ROBC to pass prior to my release to units. This will be reviewed after the end of 2014 and conclusion of the trial. Do the conditioning program – if you train, you will pass.

53rd Battery (53 Bty) had a delayed start to the year with the fire restrictions preventing their own exercise and preventing support to the Forward Observers Course and Exercise Chong Ju was postponed until October. With the cooler weather and the rain, 53 Bty has made the range their second home with the Forward Observers and the ROBC demanding much of their time. The Bty continues to be the last operator of the L119 and is in constant battle to keep them firing in support of observer courses.

For those posted to the School now and in the future we have been fortunate with opportunities for staff to attend advanced training. The RAA WO2 field artillery exchange is back with a two year posting to the Royal School of Artillery linked back to the School starting selection in the next two months with posting in 2015. Air Land Wing will send up to three people every second year to the US for battlefield coordination detachment training, two SNCO/WO2 will also be sent every second year to the Royal School of Artillery to attend the advanced PPM courses as well. This year we will also have two personnel deployed on Exercise Long Look, with a plan to have an STA SNCO look at the UK UAS training and a Gun SGT head to Royal School of Artillery for training with their gun and rocket systems. The JFO system also demands we



send personnel to assist in the assessment of other Schools and last year we had a WO2 travel to New Zealand for a few weeks. Next year we are expecting a request to attend assessments for one of the US or European Schools.

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*Most will be aware that the Joint Fires Branch in Headquarters 6th Brigade (CS&ISTAR) was disestablished late last year. .... It falls to the RAA leadership to ensure we maintain good lines of communication and support the Regiment as a whole through this period of modernisation.*

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I want to pass on my best wishes to 1st Regiment and those soldiers injured and affected by the accident at Shoalwater Bay Training Area earlier this year. I hope for a speedy recovery and hope to see them back 'on the line' in the future. We deal in brutal and dangerous instruments of war and our work is inherently dangerous. Look after each other.

Most will be aware that the Joint Fires Branch in Headquarters 6th Brigade (CS&ISTAR) was disestablished late last year. This was effectively the end of a long history of RAA representation and technical authority with what was Land Command Artillery for many years. There remains a couple of RAA officers sitting in the Plans Branch at Headquarters Forces Command representing the Regiment and much of the technical advisory roles have fallen to the School. It falls to the RAA leadership to ensure we maintain good lines of communication and support the Regiment as a whole through this period of modernisation.

I would like to pass on my regards and congratulations to all the new Commanding Officers, Regimental Sergeant Majors, Battery Commanders and Battery Sergeant Majors from across the RAA. I would also like to recognise the work of the outgoing Regimental Master Gunner, WO1 Robert Thompson, who has headed back to Townsville to see that family he has been away from for so many years. I thank him for his support and counsel here at Puckapunyal. I also welcome the new Regimental Master Gunner, WO1 Matthew Sullivan, who will take up his appointment after Anzac Day.

It is a great pleasure to be able to hold the RAA Farewells for both Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers this year over the weekend

of 1st and 2nd November 2014. This will also be the dates for the RAA Regimental Conference where we will discuss and answer a number of questions on the future of the RAA, receive updates from around Army on RAA matters and have a forum on burning issues from the wider Artillery community. The conference and farewells will occur at the end of the week of the Regimental Command Post Exercise. This aim of the exercise this year will be to develop and test the JFECC procedures at brigade and battle group level. I am looking forward to having all elements of the RAA together for this activity.

Finally, the RAA Regimental Fund ensures that units can gain support for the development of activities that may not fall under the provision of Defence funding, it allows us to contribute to the preservation of important pieces of history that would otherwise disappear. It is also available for awards and ceremonies that units may need assistance with. At the moment we are working toward an award for the RAA Gunner of the year to recognise the enormous efforts our soldiers go to in delivering Army's most lethal and advanced capabilities.

I hope to hear from and see many of you as you pass through the School or when I can get out and see how units are working. I and my staff are always available to answer any of your questions or queries.



# Regimental Master Gunner

*Warrant Officer Class One Matthew Sullivan, CSM  
Regimental Master Gunner*

Ladies and gentlemen of the Royal Regiment welcome back to work for 2014 and the challenges that this year will present. As the Autumn Edition of the Liaison Letter is published our thoughts and prayers are with the men, women and families of the 1st Regiment, RAA. The recent incident at Shoalwater Bay Training Area on 18th March 2014 is a reminder to all of the often complex and challenging environment 'we Gunners' conduct our 'Core' business. The Royal Regiment and the wider Gunner community prayer's are with those injured, their families and the Regiment.

*The recent incident at Shoalwater Bay Training Area on 18th March 2014 is a reminder to all of the often complex and challenging environment 'we Gunners' conduct our 'Core' business.*

There is a lot to be achieved in 2014 with changes to force structure, the next tranche of new equipment starting to arrive or be considered that will further enhance and define the RAA digitisation pathway, and ongoing challenges to managing the trade structures that support this evolution.

## Force Structure

**Plan Beersheba, Multi-Combat Brigade (MCB) Structure** – 8th/12th Regiment, RAA adopted the Plan Beersheba MCB Offensive Support (OS) Regiment structure WEF 1 January 2013. The remaining OS Regiments will adopt this structure over the period 2015/2016.

## New Equipment

**Digital Terminal Control System (DTCS)** – Joint Fires Teams (JFT) have now been issued DTCS across the three OS Regiments and the School of Artillery, initial training delivered and units are now coming to terms with the 'full' digital thread sensor-to-shooter. Whilst it is still early days, the latest integration of new equipment is in many ways again redefining our capability.

**Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), Version 6.8.0** – Army recently approved the purchase of AFATDS, version 6.8.0 as part of the continuing software upgrade to the Battle Management System - Fires, Command and Control (BMS-F (C2)).

**M777A2 Block 4 Upgrade** – The block 4 upgrade to the M777A2 is planned to commence late in 2014 early 2015. It will see further enhancements to the gun's hardware and software.

*The current RAA ARA OR trades remain quite dynamic with significant movement as new equipment is introduced and the flow-on-effect is felt within trade training and management environment.*

## Trade management update

The ongoing challenge to support the changing face of Artillery requires continued amendment and adjustment of the trade structures and training management packages. Some recent updates are as follows:

- **Closure of ECN 271** – On 17 Oct 13, the Employment Category Review Endorsement Meeting (ECREM) agreed to remove Artillery Meteorology and Survey (AMS) from the Operator Unmanned Aerial System (ECN 250) with no detriment to pay grade placement. The removal of AMS will reduce the training liability of Operator Radar (ECN 271) members transferring to Operator Unmanned Aerial System (ECN 250).
- **PMV Commander Qualifications (OS Trades)** – In 2013 Artillery Trade and Training forwarded a submission to remove the requirement for PMV Commander to be a qualification gate for promotion within the OS Trades. This submission is ongoing.
- **Artillery Light Gunner, ECN 161** – There majority of ARES ECN 162 members that require the Mortar Operator course to finalise their transition to ECN 161 have now completed their transition with limited numbers requiring further remediation to achieve the transition end date of March 2015.

## RAA OR Health Statement

The current RAA ARA OR trades remain quite dynamic with significant movement as new

equipment is introduced and the flow-on-effect is felt within trade training and management environment. All trades have a number of external and internal stresses that are influencing new trades being established, immature trades trying to evolve or mature trades being remediated to reflect changes in equipment and force structure. That said the health of the RAA OR trade continuum remains positive.

**OR promotion** – In the past 12 months the ARA component of the RAA promoted 51 Lance Bombardiers, 42 Bombardiers, 27 Sergeants, 7 Warrant Officer Class Two and 3 Warrant Officer Class One. As the figures depict the RAA is holistically on the right footing moving into 2014 and these promotions have remediated some of the hollowness felt in previous years within the Non-Commissioned Officer ranks.

**ARA RAA loss rate (transfers and separation)** – As of March 2014, the ARA RAA is currently experiencing a loss rate within the Other Ranks of 16%, which is a little higher than the historical average and Army's current average of 13%.

### 2014 Manning

The manning for the Artillery Trade and Training in 2014 is:

- SO2 Arty – MAJ M. Gowling
- SO3 Arty – CAPT D. Brilliant
- RMG – WO1 M. Sullivan
- TM OS – WO2 M. Heinrich
- TD OS – WO2 J. Porter
- TM GBAD – WO2 M. Mlikota
- TD GBAD – SGT D. Mason
- TM STA – WO2 J. Skewes
- TD STA – WO2 J. Clearihan

Finally, to the newly appointed Commanding Officers, Regimental Sergeant Majors, Battery Commanders and Battery Sergeant Majors, congratulation to all on your appointments and best of luck in guiding your units and sub-units through the complexities and challenges that lay ahead in 2014.

*Ubique*

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## Joint Fires Cell 2nd Division

*Warrant Officer Class One Shaun Graham  
Master Gunner 2nd Division*

This year will see a milestone in the development of the Army Reserve Joint Fires capability with the deployment of a Light Battery on Exercise Hamel 2014. The Light Battery will be formed from 3 and 5/11 Light Battery's under the paired Brigade concept. The Light Battery will be under command of the Army Reserve Battle Group and be tied into the Combat Brigade fires net which will enable the Battle Group to draw on the Joint Fires assets available to the Combat Brigade. It will be a first in a long time that the Gunners in the Division have had an opportunity to work in a Brigade Fires environment.

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*This year will see a milestone in the development of the Army Reserve Joint Fires capability with the deployment of a Light Battery on Exercise Hamel 2014.*

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As always the year has started at a pace. New personnel posted into the Light Battery's and 2nd Division Joint Fires Team conducting the qualification courses for them. In addition, the 2nd Division Joint Fires Team will sponsor a number of courses in March and April including the Light Artillery Command Post, Joint fires Team Module One and Regimental Officer Gunnery Course Module Five. The response from the Light Battery's has been excellent and all course panels are full and in some cases the Joint Fires team have been required to request further funding to enable more soldiers to attend.

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*The response from the Light Battery's has been excellent and all course panels are full ...*

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On the completion of the course period in April the Light Battery's will be able to fill several vacant positions within Joint Fire Teams with ECN 255s, have several Army Reserves captain's qualified to plan mortar practices and reinforce the thin ranks within the mortar line command posts. Not a bad start to the year.





returned to Australia in January 2011 to undertake special projects for the Chief of Defence Force, including heading the Secretariat for Reviews into Defence Culture and leading a Force Structure Review in preparation for the Government's 2013 Defence White Paper. He returned to Joint Task Force 633 in September 2012 and completed his second tour as Commander in September 2013. He will be leaving the Army in May 2014.

Michael is a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College, the Joint Services Staff College, the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies and the United Kingdom Higher Command and Staff Course. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, defence and strategic studies. In January 2002, he was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia for his service as Commanding Officer 4th Field Regiment and Commandant Army Recruit Training Centre. In January 2008, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his service in the Middle East. In January 2011, he was awarded the United States Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) for his service at Central Command.

Michael is married to Meredythe and they have three daughters.

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- Congratulations on an outstanding career within Army and Defence more broadly. As you reflect on your 37 years of service what are some of the fundamental changes you have witnessed in culture and / or capability?

*The Army has certainly changed a great deal since I joined in 1977. Culturally, we have completely different views on such issues as the role of women, the use of alcohol and our approach to work health and safety. Equipment-wise, it's just about a new Army - from the gear we give the individual soldier to high-end equipment such as our guns, radars and computers. We're more sophisticated in the other elements of capability too - in our personnel policies, war-fighting doctrine and training methods, for example. There's no doubt that we're now very much a 21st Century army. And across the ADF, we're far more joint now than we were, much better also at working with our Public Service colleagues. But some things haven't changed: the idea of service to your country, the importance of your mates, pride in your uniform. Now more than ever, I have no hesitation in recommending a career in the Army to the young men and women that I meet.*

- You have extensive operational service as a commanding officer and in more senior

operational and strategic level appointments including in East Timor and Afghanistan. What do you consider are the key influences from these experiences that have enhanced your management and most importantly leadership skills?

*On operations you have a wide range of experiences and, just like the most junior leader, you have moments where you say to yourself 'that worked well, must remember that' or 'gee, I'll never do that again!'. I've had plenty of both. The really big opportunity you get as you work your way up the ladder is to see at first hand the way very senior people work. I've been fortunate in having some outstanding Australians as my boss in operational situations. I learned from Peter Leahy the importance of giving personal support to commanders working in difficult circumstances; from Mark Evans the worth of communicating clearly up and down the chain of command; from Rowan Moffitt the merit of remaining calm in times of crisis. Peter Cosgrove taught me (amongst many other things!) the importance of recognising critical moments and then acting decisively; Angus Houston the value of just saying 'thank you' to your people. I've also been lucky enough to work for some senior Americans. David Petraeus was a supreme exponent of strategic communications; John Allen an expert at getting the job done without the need for smashing heads together. I guess a little of all of them rubbed off on me over the years.*

- As a Regimental officer you were uncompromising in demanding the highest standards of performance from both yourself and your team regardless of rank. Have you been required to modify this approach as a senior officer in the course of working with senior public servants and politicians?

*It's interesting you mention being uncompromising on your standards. I recently started learning to play guitar for the first time, and in my second lesson my teacher said he hoped I wasn't as hard on the people who work for me as I am on myself. An officer's job is to set the standard, there's no ducking that. As a junior officer, that requires quite direct leadership - you need to be clear about your expectations of your people and they need to see you leading. As you grow more senior, the requirement for a high standard of performance doesn't diminish - you just get the job done in different ways. For example, in the Canberra environment orders don't always work, so persuasion, negotiating skills, a softer voice and a smile can be important.*

- As you have gained experience and seniority how has your leadership style evolved and what are

the fundamental principles on which you base your conduct and related decision making?

*As I've said, I modify my leadership style to suit the circumstances - what works with soldiers doesn't necessarily get traction in an inter-agency meeting. But one thing I have always tried to be is clear. There's nothing worse than getting a fuzzy direction where you're not really sure what is wanted, or not knowing where you stand on an issue with your boss. Field Marshal Montgomery once wrote that people might not agree with what he said, but at least they knew what he was saying. I think that's a very worthy goal. In our own time, Lieutenant Generals Morrison and Power are exemplars.*

- What part do you believe that your Regimental training, background and experiences played in preparing you for higher non Artillery appointments?

*I think being a Gunner is excellent preparation for higher command and staff appointments. Gunners are taught the importance of working with speed without losing accuracy; they learn the importance of clarity; they learn how to understand the intentions of somebody who isn't there to explain face to face. Importantly from an officer's perspective, they're taught the importance of checking - on everything, and if necessary several times over. They learn about the weight of responsibility and accountability - if bombs don't go where they're supposed to when they're supposed to, people can die. Perhaps above all, they learn about building effective relationships through having to work not only in their own chain of command, but with a supported arms commander as well. All these are valuable foundations for any senior appointment.*

- To an outside observer your career has not followed a traditional path. What do you believe were the key factors that contributed to your success?

*I've certainly had a terrific run - I've been to some fascinating places, met some great people and had wonderfully rewarding jobs. I guess what you describe as a non-traditional path probably began with getting an Honours degree at Duntroon and doing a Grad Dip while I was at Staff College. When Chief of Army was looking to send an officer to Australian National University for a year to do a Masters in Strategic Studies, I was seen as a good candidate because of my previous education. On the strength of the Masters I was posted as Deputy Director Military Strategy in the old Headquarters Australian Defence Force, my first joint job. I then had two commands in a row - 4th Field Regiment and Army Recruit Training Centre - but they were my last appointments inside Army. From*

*promotion to brigadier onwards I had all joint operations and departmental policy jobs based on what I'd done before, which in turn came about because of those early studies. So ultimately tertiary education was a very important asset for me, and I think these days it's pretty much a pre-requisite for promotion to very senior positions. Of course, timing and good luck also played their part, but perhaps that's a story for another day!*

- As a senior commander with ever increasing demands on your time and conflicting priorities how do you maintain the appropriate work life balance that is regularly referred to within Army? Further do you have any particular advice for the readers, especially those still serving with regard to this personal challenge?

*In my experience there's more said than done about work/life balance. The reality is that the more senior you get, the longer hours you'll need to work if you want to keep climbing the ladder. Peter Abigail used to say that his children knew it was the weekend when Dad went to work in civvies, not uniform. To me, there are three critical things you need to get right. First, you have to have a wonderful, understanding partner. Second, you need to take opportunities to pay him or her back when you can. Finally, you have to recognise the critical moments when home comes first and just make your apologies at work and accept any consequences that might follow - though generally there won't be any because everybody else has those critical moments too. I should add that I'm not sure the ADF is any different to the Public Service or the business world in this respect.*

- As the Army addresses the post Afghanistan era, what level of training should Army and in particular the Royal Regiment focus on in preparation for future contingencies?

*I think our fundamentals are already very sound - first and foremost, we're a credible war-fighting army. As the old adage goes, if you can do the high-end stuff, you can readily adapt to peacemaking, peacekeeping or any number of other contingencies. Our baseline training has always reflected that philosophy and I'm sure it will continue to do so. The challenge in the immediate post-Afghanistan era will be to keep our people interested. After all, training is not as sexy as operations, and we now have half a generation of soldiers and officers who only know operations. We need to persuade them that, like veterans of all Australia's wars before them, they are now the keepers of the Army's operational experience, and it is critical that they pass on the torch to the generation that will follow them. Of course, it will be important in doing so*



*that they focus not on Afghanistan, but on the lessons that will help us to win in any war.*

- 'Digitisation' is on the lips of everyone including the Chief of Army who consistently emphasises that the Royal Australian Artillery and its new capabilities are at the fore front of these changes in Army. As a senior commander what do you believe are the key 'force multiplier' benefits digitisation brings to the battlefield and 'warfighting' including the artillery?

*During my recent visit to the School of Artillery, I was amazed at the extent to which digitisation and technology more broadly have permeated the Regiment. I guess I shouldn't have been surprised - after all, computers underpin just about everything in life these days. I was particularly impressed that technology has pretty much enabled the gunnery problem to be solved. And the speed and accuracy of response that is possible through reducing human inputs is very powerful. Perhaps most important of all though is the way that digitisation has improved building and sharing of situational awareness. Clausewitz's fog of war may not have cleared, but it is certainly thinning.*

- What do you consider your three most memorable career highlights not related to the Royal Regiment?

*Commanding on operations on three different occasions was definitely **the** highlight - it's a great honour to be entrusted with the lives of young Australians. I also very much enjoyed my time as the Deputy J3 at US CENTCOM: I learned a heck of a lot and I may have taught some Americans a thing or two as well. My favourite non-corps job in Australia was commanding the Army Recruit Training Centre, where you are literally surrounded by soldiers and you can get up from the desk and go watch them training whenever you tire of paperwork!*

- As a senior Army Commander do you subscribe to the old adage 'Once a Gunner always a Gunner'?

*Yes, I think there is a lot of truth in that. We tend to think a certain way and of course we share a distinct language - fire discipline! Those lessons and the approach to life you learn as a young officer die very hard.*

- What do you consider as the highlight or pinnacle of your Regimental service?

*That's a tough one - all my jobs were great in their different ways. Let me answer like this. The pinnacle was Commanding Officer 4th Field Regiment, of course, for the opportunity to lead at unit level and the sheer professional satisfaction. But perhaps the job I*

*remember as best fun was being Gun Position Officer in 107th Field Battery - we had a great crew of very able officers, non commissioned officers and diggers and we shot everybody else off the map!*

- What single piece of advice would you offer young officers and soldiers commencing their career as a Gunner?

*Enjoy it: If it's not fun, you should be doing something else.*

- What advice do you have for the Royal Regiment as it embarks on a significant period of change structurally and capability wise?

*The experience of restructuring and updating equipment is not new to the RAA - we're past masters and I am very confident in the ability of the current crops of senior Gunners to take the Regiment forward in good order. If I had a word of advice at all, it would be to make sure that we continue to engage with those we support. We can't be self-satisfied in our own technical expertise. We need to understand what the supported arms need, and make sure we continue to adapt to provide it. If we can do that, we won't need to argue for resources - our most effective advocates will be infantrymen, engineers and folk from the armoured corps who value what we bring to the combined arms team.*

- Are the young officers and soldiers of today better prepared for their first appointment than you were when you graduated?

*The foundation of our army has always been the quality of its individual training. I think the Royal Military College (and Officer Cadet School, Portsea), Army Recruit Training Centre / Recruit Training Battalion and the Royal Australian Artillery have done a magnificent job of preparing generations of Gunners to do their jobs safely and effectively. I certainly felt well prepared when I went to my first job as a section commander in Townsville. And speaking to the 2014 young officers at their Regimental Officer Basic Course dinner in early March, I got the strong sense that the tradition continues. If anything, today's young men and women are more world-wise and they're certainly more technologically savvy - and that's got to be a good thing.*

- Finally on a lighter note is there any truth to the rumour that during your time as an instructor in gunnery at North Head you had a particular liking for consuming 'raw' steak at Gunnery Wing BBQs?

*Probably!*

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## Australia Day Honours

### CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS (CSC)

Lieutenant Colonel David Lindsay  
GARSIDE

For outstanding achievement as Staff Officer Grade One Joint Effects Plans at Headquarters Joint Operations Command.

Lieutenant Colonel Garside's leadership and superior dedication to duty as the Joint Effects Plans Staff Officer Grade One in Headquarters Joint Operations Command resulted in a superior review and assessment of Australian Defence Force operational plans in Afghanistan, East Timor and the Solomon Islands. His effects-based approach to analysis and planning for major Australian campaigns ensured senior commanders and deployed commanders received cogent, precise and timely operational products to complement strategic national obligations.

## Digger War Memorial Destroyed

Ian McPhedran

Army engineers have destroyed the Australian-built memorial wall at Tarin Kowt which carried the names of 40 diggers killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

Veterans Affairs Minister Michael Ronaldson made the announcement in Parliament in response to a question from Labor Senator Don Farrell.

The wall also featured the names of 74 coalition troops killed in Oruzgan Province.

Defence chief David Hurley made the decision to destroy the wall rather than try to bring it home, triggering a wave of protest from families, the community and Australian War Memorial.

Senator Ronaldson said all countries involved had been consulted by Defence and the wall was disposed of respectfully on November 10, the day before Remembrance Day.

Senator Ronaldson said the logistical barriers and the fact that it was not a uniquely Australian memorial were the key factors contributing to the destruction of the wall 'in accordance with the wishes of families'.

Government sources indicated that some part of the overall memorial, probably the granite cenotaph, would be displayed at the War Memorial.

Courier Mail Friday November 15, 2013

## 'Big Sky Publishing' Incentive Prize

**BIG SKY PUBLISHING** provides incentive prizes to encourage individuals to contribute to the Liaison Letter. The prizes are awarded by the Liaison Letter Editor.

I am pleased to announce that the incentive prizes for this edition are awarded to *Bombardier Ryan Harden* from 8th/12th Regiment for his article on the Special Operations Task Group and *Lieutenant Joel Oates* from 1st Regiment for his report on Rifle Company Butterworth and *Captain Jeremy Mar Fan* from 4th Regiment for his book review of 'Having Been a Soldier' by Lieutenant Colonel Colin Mitchell.

**Bombardier Harden and Lieutenant Oates each receive a copy of *Lonesome Pine* by *Simon Cameron* published by Big Sky Publishing in 2013.**

**Captain Mar Fan will receive a copy of *Greece - February to April 1941* by *Michael Tyquin* published by Big Sky Publishing in 2014.**

Congratulations to Bombardier Harden, Lieutenant Oates and Captain Mar Fan – I look forward to receiving even more quality contributions from across the Regiment for the Liaison Letter 2014 – Spring Edition.

# Operations

## CDF Message

### Recognition Ceremony Acknowledges Australia's Contribution in Uruzgan Province

On 28th October 2013, I accompanied Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Defence Minister Senator David Johnston, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and representatives from Afghanistan, the United States, Netherlands, New Zealand, France, Singapore and Slovakia at a 'Recognition Ceremony' at Multi-National Base - Tarin Kot. The ceremony formally acknowledged the contribution of Australia and our coalition partners to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Mission in Uruzgan Province over more than a decade.

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*Today we recognise the efforts  
and achievements of every  
Australian who has conducted or  
supported operations in  
Afghanistan or the Middle East  
over the past decade.*

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Today we recognise the efforts and achievements of every Australian who has conducted or supported operations in Afghanistan or the Middle East over the past decade. As the Chief of the Defence Force, I congratulate the more than 26,500 defence personnel who have contributed to Australia's mission in Afghanistan since 2002. I am immensely proud of the work we have done to counter the insurgency and what we have achieved for the people of Afghanistan.

Since 2005 we have worked in partnership with the Afghans to degrade the insurgency while our training and mentoring has allowed the Afghan National Army 4th Brigade and the Afghan National Security Forces to develop the capability they need to accept responsibility for Uruzgan's security. The Afghan people have shown strong support for their own security forces and growing confidence that

the Afghan National Security Forces can confront and defeat the insurgents in their own right.

The ADF and our civilian partners have made a lasting contribution to Uruzgan with tangible improvements that have significantly enhanced the quality of life for the people who live in the province. A succession of Australian reconstruction teams have built or redeveloped hospitals and medical centres; schools; and more than 200km of roads and bridges to enhance health and education and to improve vital infrastructure. The trade training school has been a major success and has taught a large number of Afghans plumbing, carpentry, concreting and bricklaying skills.

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the province.*

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Over the next 10 weeks the ADF will complete its mission in Uruzgan and the majority of our people will begin to return to Australia. As this process begins, we reflect on the lasting friendship that has been forged with the people of Afghanistan and ties that we have established with our Afghan and coalition partners.

The efforts of the international community in Afghanistan have provided the time, space and opportunity to build and field an Afghan National Security Force and to establish the institutional building blocks for the Afghan people to determine their own future. This is the legacy of those military personnel and civilians killed or wounded in the conflict including more than 260 Australian's who were wounded, and the 40 Australian soldiers who were killed in action.

We will remember them.

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# CDF Order of the Day

## Conclusion of Australia's Military Mission in Uruzgan Province

Sunday, 15th December 2013, marked the completion of the Australian Defence Force's military mission in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, with closure of Combined Team - Uruzgan and the final Australians leaving Tarin Kot.

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*Our training and mentoring mission has allowed the Afghan National Army (ANA) 4th Brigade and ANSF to develop into a force capable of maintaining security post our departure.*

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Our work in Uruzgan in partnership with the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and in conjunction with Australian Government agencies has degraded the insurgency and created a security environment in which governance can continue to evolve. Our training and mentoring mission has allowed the Afghan National Army (ANA) 4th Brigade and ANSF to develop into a force capable of maintaining security post our departure. Furthermore, the provincial reconstruction team and managed works team have successfully built and restored basic infrastructure and essential services throughout the province.

Australia's commitment in Uruzgan commenced in 2005 with the deployment of the Special Forces Task Group. Since then, the evolving nature of the mission has involved the deployment of the Reconstruction Task Force in 2006, the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force in 2008, the Mentoring Task Force in 2010, the Advisory Task Force from 2012 and command of Combined Team Uruzgan from October 2012. Additionally, RAAF has provided base management and security for Tarin Kot since 2010 and 2012 respectively. Single service and defence civilian contributions to administration, intelligence and surveillance, force protection and projection, logistics, health and communications provided the foundation for success in our military mission in Uruzgan Province. Across government and throughout defence, there

has been a team-effort to support our operations and you should all stand tall and be proud of your efforts.

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*Sadly our time in Uruzgan has also come at a cost.*

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Collectively, we have learned a lot about ourselves in adapting to the challenging security environment that Uruzgan posed. These skills and experiences will help defence better prepare for future operations.

Sadly our time in Uruzgan has also come at a cost. More than 260 Australians were wounded and tragically 40 fine men were killed in their service to our nation in Afghanistan. We have honoured our fallen by completing the transition of security lead in Uruzgan to the ANSF. I am immensely proud of the contribution the ADF has made in Afghanistan, and greatly appreciate the work of all the supporting personnel and the sacrifices made by families here in Australia.

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*I am immensely proud of the contribution the ADF has made in Afghanistan, and greatly appreciate the work of all the supporting personnel and the sacrifices made by families here in Australia.*

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With the end of our mission in Uruzgan, I take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and commitment. You have given the people of Uruzgan the opportunity to live a safer, healthier and more prosperous life.

Finally, while our mission in Uruzgan may have ended, Australia's engagement in Afghanistan has not. For the ADF we are now contributing to national programs that are supporting the ANA including training and military advisers. The story of our operation in Afghanistan thus continues. However, as the Uruzgan chapter closes, I think the ADF can look back with honour and pride in what it has achieved in the province.

Date. 15th December 2013

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# Special Operations Task Group

*Bombardier Ryan Harden  
8th/12th Regiment RAA*

The Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) Bushmaster Troop deployed to Afghanistan from August - December 2013. A mixed bag, it consisted of men from 1 Arm'd Regt, 1 CSSB and 8/12 Regt. After a period of training alongside the mounting units of SOTG XX and some well deserved leave the men left Australia for Afghanistan.

Upon arrival at Multinational Base Tarin Kowt (MNBTK) a short rest period was followed by the handover/takeover to relieve the Rotation XIX drivers of their workload. The team being replaced were entirely from 1 ARMD and we were glad to hear there had not been a successful roadside bomb strike during their deployment.

The daily routine was quickly established. Most of the Troop attended the gym twice daily and mess timings were adhered to stringently to maintain the routine. Readiness was paramount and the Bushmasters were paraded daily to ensure fit out and function.

When not involved in tasks from SOTG the secondary and continual effort was the retrograde of Camp Russell. Gradually over six months the surplus equipment that had accrued over the length of twenty SOTG rotations was reduced whilst the camp itself was emptied of all makeshift furniture thanks in large part to Bushmaster Troops full-time fire pit.

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*The men of 8/12 Regt were well represented and impressed members of the SOTG with their marksmanship and weapon handling.*

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Domestic duties consisted of an occasional gate piquet to man the camps front gate and providing white fleet drivers for the escort of visiting dignitaries. The Troop was heavily involved in vehicle tasks in all aspects including transport to and from the flight line and handling Persons Under Control (PUC), range practices and providing partnering force escorts.

In addition to their normal duties, members of the PMV Troop were invited to participate in a number of advanced range practices. The men of 8/12 Regt were well represented and impressed members of the SOTG with their marksmanship and weapon handling.

At the completion of the mission, the PMV Troop was complemented on its professionalism and unwavering commitment to supporting the men and women of SOTG XX.



Bushmaster Troop Rotation XX





SOTG Bushmasters

# 100 days without a boat: PM claims victory

Inga Ting, Sunday Age  
March 30, 2014

After 100 days without the arrival of a boat carrying asylum seekers on Australian shores, the Prime Minister claimed victory on Saturday: He had stopped the boats.

'We can say to all of the people who scoffed, who said ... 'it was just a

simple slogan,' that it can be done,' Tony Abbott said.

But the Government's claim victory came after revelations that two Australian employees of security contractor G4S are suspects in the brutal killing of asylum seeker Reza Barati on Manus Island.

And he maintained the government's silence on how many boats had been turned back under Operation Sovereign Borders.

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison refused to say whether the government would abide by Papua New Guinea police requests to extradite two G4S employees, who returned to Australia soon after the incident, to face possible criminal charges in PNG.

'That matter is still before the Papua New Guinea police and I'll be in Papua New Guinea this week to get a further update of where those investigations are,' He said.

Mr Morrison would not say if the government had discussed the revelations with G4S, which is about to hand over the running of the Manus Island camp to construction firm Transfield Services.

The Prime Minister compared the absence of asylum-seeker boat arrivals in the past 100 days to the same period under the Labor government, when 66 vessels carrying 3879 asylum seekers had landed.

The government's border protection operation will now move into a 'third phase', coinciding with the 'post-monsoon period'.

'Traditionally people – smuggling operations have picked up at the end of the monsoon period,' Mr Abbott said.

'Our risks are just as great and ...we will maintain the intensity of all of our operations in all areas of Operation Sovereign Borders,' he said.



# Winning the border war by keeping secrets

Travers McLeod, *The Age*, January 14, 2014

Operation Sovereign Borders is a military campaign, so we should assess it as such.

'We are going to hold the line, we are going to protect the borders,' Scott Morrison, federal Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, told the 44th Federal Parliament in its first sitting week. 'This battle is being fought using the full arsenal of measures,' he wrote elsewhere. Last week, the Prime Minister defended the secrecy of the 'battle', saying, 'if we were at war we wouldn't be giving out information that is of use to the enemy just because we might have an idle curiosity about it ourselves'.

Whatever the wisdom of Operation Sovereign Borders - Australia's 'military-led, border security operation' - if it is going to be described as a military campaign we should assess it like one.

When we examine military campaigns we often reflect on two interrelated questions: what is the strategy and are the tactics appropriate and adapted to achieve that strategy?"

On strategy, Operation Sovereign Borders has been explicit: 'We are going to stop the boats.' In the first of the now discontinued weekly briefings, the minister said 'those seeking to come on boats' would be 'met by a broad chain of measures end to end that are designed to deter, to disrupt, to prevent their entry' and 'to ensure that they are not settled in Australia'.

The tactical waters have been muddied. One tactic offered but discarded was to buy boats.

Another tactic, begun by the former government, was to ensure certain persons arriving by boat could not be settled in Australia. The gift of patrol boats to Sri Lanka was announced last year. But the tactic most discussed has been to turn or tow back the boats.

Determination not to comment on 'on water' matters has defined the campaign. This approach, too, can be evaluated from the perspective of a military campaign. The Australian Defence Force has defined operations (IO) as 'the co-ordination of information effects to influence the decision-making and actions of a target audience and to protect and enhance our decision-making and actions in support of national interests.

Can this campaign be won in part through, an absence of information? In 2007 Lieutenant Commander Chris Watson wrote: 'The key for IO is choosing to release information to the media on one's own terms, for example as regards the timing and quantity of material

released.' He described information operations and 'shaping and influencing' as potent but underutilised tools available to government' during peacetime. The minister appears to share his view.

One difficulty for Operation Sovereign Borders is multiple target audiences: Australians, regional governments (not least Indonesia's) asylum seekers and people smugglers. A lack of footage from the high seas and the detention facilities also makes its problematic for actions to articulate a message in and of themselves. Those in charge would prefer no boats and therefore no actions. No information means no boats. No boats means mission accomplished.

It is worth recalling debates in the US during Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In 2006, then defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld conceded the US deserved a 'D' or 'D+' for its job in the 'battle of ideas'. What became apparent was the moral dimension of the information battlespace. The need for accurate, regular information became paramount, informing the directive given to commanders not to put 'lipstick on pigs'.

Taking stock, one might observe Australia has a strategy supported by at least one tactic, and that its information operations are under siege. This observation is made without considering whether the current strategy is the 'correct' one. The Jakarta Declaration on Addressing Irregular Movement of Persons, signed by Australia and 12 other countries from the region last August, and endorsed by the UN Refugee Agency, offers other approaches.

Tellingly, new members of Parliament have cautioned against 'Fortress Australia' in their maiden speeches, making the case for new arrivals and new markets. Clare O'Neil, Labor member for Hotham, described how immigration has 'brought more than 150 cultures' to Australia peacefully. Angus Taylor, Liberal members for Hume, said Australia 'must boldly expound and stay true to a narrative that explains the benefits of openness', which includes a 'generous humanitarian program'.

Clearly, 'Fortress Australia' bears multiple meanings, whether we think about trade, immigration, or border protection. But they are related. Militarising some of the issues and some of the discourse may not be a constructive development. It may not help a constructive development. It may not help Australia's diplomatic and civil-military relations. It may not help Australia's openness to trade and immigration, which is vital to continued competitive advantage in the global economy. But as long as any government continues to treat Operation Sovereign Borders as a military campaign, we should continue to assess its strengths and failures as such.

One would hope militarisation has not been pursued in order to control the flow of information. At the end of the day there are human beings on these boats. Their 'on water' stories will emerge. It just might be that many have fled their countries undeniably at war to join a long list of migrants who have helped build and shape Australia for the long term.

**Note:** Travis McLeod is the Chief Executive of the Centre for Policy Development. He holds a DPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford.

# War - weary US relieved by month without casualties

United States

Nick O'Malley, US Correspondent Washington The Age, Saturday April 5, 2014

For a war-weary nation, March was a month to be quietly celebrated in the United States, or at least marked with some sombre gratitude.

For the first time in over ten years, a full month passed with no Americans being killed anywhere in the world in combat.

On February 28, Caleb Erickson, a 20 year old marine lance corporal from Minnesota, was killed by a suicide bomber in Helmand province, Afghanistan. A month later, on 27 year old paratrooper Captain James Chaffin died of non-combat related injuries in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

The pause in casualties is in part a function of the fortunes of war, in part the result of the US drawdown of troops and transfer of combat operations to Afghan forces.

The US closed 290 bases in Afghanistan, leaving fewer than 80 as of March 1. According to the Pentagon it now has around 33,000 troops in Afghanistan, down from a peak of around 100,000.

Marine Brigadier-General Daniel O'Donohue, the chief operations officer for the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, told Army Times plans are in place for a steady reduction of that number by the end of the year. 'We've reduced our forces from about 100,000, by about 67 per cent,' he said. 'We are truly in a support role.'

He said the drawdown had paused as US forces remained in place for this week-end's elections. He said forces would be reduced by 15 percent by August 1 and another 20 per cent by October 31.

'We're very conscious of the 12 year mark of this mission,' he said. 'The Afghans have picked up the fight, and we're right there with them, but definitely in a support role.'

Even as the US withdraws from Afghanistan its military forces are being shrunk, in part due to the ending of the long wars, in part as result of budget cuts and political warfare in Washington. Under current plans the Army would be reduced from a wartime peak

of 570,000 active duty troops to as few as 420,000 by 2019.

According to iCasualties.org, which uses Pentagon data to chart combat losses, 2316 Americans had been killed in Afghanistan along with smaller conflicts linked to its war on terrorism. A further 4804 were killed in Iraq.

Even those numbers do not reflect the true toll on American troops. During the war in Iraq, 32,223 were wounded and at the time of writing, after nearly 13 years at war in Afghanistan, 17,674 American troops have been wounded.

Despite those losses, or perhaps because of them, a new *Washington Post* survey found only 30 per cent of the American public thought the war has been worth fighting, compared with 53 per cent of veterans. Some 87 per cent of veterans are proud of their service, but only 34 percent say their effort is appreciated by the public.

The Brookings Institution's Michael O'Hanlon, a defence and foreign policy specialist, said the gradual withdrawal of US and coalition troops had been reflected in increasing casualties among Afghan forces. 'Afghan forces have contributed more than 85 per cent of the coalition total, suffered that same percentage or more of total coalition casualties, and carried out most operations either unilaterally or with modest to minimal foreign support,' he said.

Anthony Cordesman, a senior analyst for the Centre for Strategic Studies, warns against attributing the reduction in US casualties to an 'Obama doctrine', as has been suggested by some commentators, not least because he worries that doctrines are sometimes invented by political scientists to 'fill up their spare time'.

He predicts that there will be more casualties among troops and among the security force that will be left behind after October, and he says that the war 'has not been won and will not be won'.

Even as the pause in battle deaths was being discussed in the US, the murder of three soldiers by a fourth - a veteran of the war in Iraq - at Fort Hood in Texas served as a grim reminder of the continuing impact of America's wars at home.

Speaking in the White House on Wednesday afternoon, President Barack Obama said: 'During the course of a decade of war, many have served multiple tours of duty. To see the unspeakable, senseless violence happening in a place they are supposed to be feel safe, home base, is tragic.'

# Professional Papers

## Enhancing the Brigade Joint Fires and Effects Coordination Centre

*Lieutenant Colonel Damian Hill,  
Commanding Officer 4th Regiment RAA*

**Hypothesis:** *The BDE Joint Fires and Effect Coordination Centre (JFECC) capability has systemic failures in training, organisation and capability development.*

### Introduction

The role of the BDE JFECC is to coordinate joint fires and effects for the MCB COMD. It provides the COMD with the capacity to effectively coordinate reconnaissance and surveillance assets, organic and non-organic lethal and non-lethal effects, fight for additional joint assets and manage the battle space geometry. Once MCB units are provided their missions, the BDE JFECC is the MCB COMD's critical tool to influence the battle space in support of the mission, and provides the agility to facilitate a quick transition of the main effort if and when required.

Although the role is well established and understood; is the BDE JFECC enabled to achieve its role and support the MCB COMD? Can the JFECC regularly train and exercise together, does Army have appropriate structures and trained personnel to fully utilise the suite of new capabilities that exist? Most importantly, can the BDE JFECC control and coordinate the array of new capabilities within

Army in a manner that enables effective command and control? The answer to each of these questions is no, and there is much work to be done to realise the full suite of capabilities available to the MCB and therefore the efficacy of Plan Beersheba.

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*The advent of new capabilities within the enabling BDE's has for the first time provided a full suite of capabilities and staff that have previously only been provided on an ad hoc basis or been non existent.*

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### Background

The modern BDE JFECC is comprised of not just the traditional Artillery Regiment (Regt) HQ and RAAF Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) that for many years was the mainstay of capabilities regularly provided to the BDE; they form but a minority of the burgeoning tools available to the MCB COMD and require both close de-confliction and coordination. The advent of new capabilities within the enabling BDE's has for the first time provided a full suite of capabilities and staff that have previously only been provided on an ad hoc basis or been non existent. Today's BDE JFECC has a much greater access to enabling capabilities that include Ground Based Air Defence, Air Land Integration, Unmanned Air Systems, Ground Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Special Forces liaison, Aviation and Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter liaison, Sense Warn and Locate (counter-fires), Electronic Warfare liaison, Naval Liaison, Legal Officer and a Collections Manager (S2). This further includes Civil Military, Law and Order, Government and Other Government Organisations and additional liaison officers when conducting support and stability operations.

The Commanding Officer (CO) of the Artillery Regt commands the BDE JFECC, despite providing only



20% of its capability. A fully operational BDE JFECC is similar to an orchestra, many different types of instruments with unique requirements to be played effectively, but each playing different tunes. However when trained together regularly and managed by a conductor these tunes become music. The BDE JFECC is the MCB COMD's orchestra, but its instruments rarely practice together and when they do, the music is not always "easy on the ears".

## Aim

This paper will argue that the modern BDE JFECC is unable to effectively function without a review of the organisation that forms its nucleus, the training it receives and without a functional review of the capability development process that provides the tools to support the Multi-Role Combat Brigade (MCB). It will specifically focus on the challenges associated with planning, coordination of effects and targeting. Finally, this paper will provide recommended solutions for enhancing the BDE JFECC.

## Systemic Challenges

**Training.** *Both the Army Training System and Exercise/Certification process are inadequate to effectively develop the BDE JFECC.* The All Corps Officer Training Continuum (ACOTC) and RAA specific career courses provide limited but adequate exposure to the function and role of the BDE JFECC. However the course which culminates an RAA officer career courses package, the Combat Officers Advance Course (COAC), pays scant attention to the BDE JFECC and it appears there has not been recognition of the requirement for Combat Support Officers to be provided the tools to operate within a BDE (HQ) setting, with COAC providing an overwhelming focus on Battle Group (BG) level. It is not argued that COAC should not focus on BG, however a fully trained combined arms officer must be capable of operating within a BDE construct, and this means Army must provide a training opportunity within the ACOTC.

Given the composition of the BDE JFECC, a single BDE or unit's ability to conduct training with the full suite of capabilities is extremely limited, the only realistic opportunity to train as a complete entity occurring during certification exercises (Silicon Brolga and Hamel), when there is an expectation of achieving Army Training Level 7 (ATL7). This is an unrealistic expectation when there has been limited exposure during ACOTC courses and the JFECC has not had sufficient opportunity to train throughout

the training year with the full suite of capabilities and subject matter experts. Throughout 3rd Brigade's (3 BDE) READYING year this was clearly evident when integrating all of the Battle Operating Systems (BOS) into the planning cycle. The only occasion the full BDE JFECC trained together was during Silicon Brolga and Hamel, integration time was limited or non-existent due to conflicting individual unit training requirements and therefore the BDE JFECC was consistently unable to effectively synchronise with the BDE planning cycle. The JFECC therefore provided inadequate support to the planning process, struggled to conduct concurrent planning and battle procedure and fully inform the targeting process.

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*This is an unrealistic expectation when there has been limited exposure during ACOTC courses and the JFECC has not had sufficient opportunity to train throughout the training year with the full suite of capabilities and subject matter experts.*

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Targeting is poorly taught and executed across Army. Not specifically a RAA responsibility within Army, the doctrine does reside within a RAA sponsored pamphlet LWP-CA (OS) 5-3-3 Joint Fires and Effects - Planning, Execution and Targeting (Land). It was evident throughout 3 BDE's READYING year that there is a shortfall in the teaching and training of targeting at BDE and below. None of the BDE staff had been exposed in any detail to the process, the Artillery Regt possessed only one or two staff that had been taught or been part of a BDE targeting working group and that the BDE targeting SOP was outdated. Different personnel participated in Silicon Brolga and Hamel and therefore the process was taught "on the fly" during both activities and not truly exercised.

**Solution.** The delivery of sustained training on BDE JFECC cannot simply be placed upon the Army Schools; Army must ensure that the critical career courses are provided the expertise to ensure both training and exposure is provided. Ideally, the READY BDE should be tasked to provide a BDE JFECC capability to support COAC or even Grade 2. The READY BDE has been through a full certification process and are the best equipped to provide support. This support also provides another training opportunity for the JFECC to maintain skills and incorporate any new personnel.

However if this is not possible due to operational tempo then it should reside with the RESET BDE. The READYING BDE training tempo will not permit it to be involved.

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The baseline doctrine for targeting at Bde and below is sound, simple and can form the nucleus from which to develop MCB SOP's. However, targeting needs to be taught formally to all officers as part of the ACOTC; especially when these courses are focused at BDE or higher. The Army must identify a "champion for targeting"; an organisation or Corps that is responsible to ensure that the training delivered is appropriate to that required of an officer posted to the MCB.

**Organisation.** *The BDE JFECC is dysfunctional without enduring access to organic expertise to train and develop the capability.* Although the organic Artillery Regt CO commands the BDE JFECC, much of the capabilities are provided by enabling BDEs, the RAAF and the RAN. Given the location of the enabling BDE units there is limited availability to the full suite of capabilities and limited opportunity to routinely plan and train together. When it does occur, the exercising opportunity is missed as the JFECC must use the opportunity to integrate and train together.

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*Although advantageous it is unrealistic to expect the capabilities that enable the BDE JFECC to reside within the MCB, they are simply too few in number and expensive to expect sufficient for each MCB.*

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Although advantageous it is unrealistic to expect the capabilities that enable the BDE JFECC to reside within the MCB, they are simply too few in number and expensive to expect sufficient for each MCB. The only resident capabilities within the MCB are the Brigade Air Liaison Officer (BALO) and the S2 cell. The BALO provides excellent subject matter expertise and is available to any training activity; however this expertise is limited to planning activities without the augmentation of a Tactical Air Control Party (TACP). The S2 cell provides an

excellent resource however similarly requires the integration of the full suite of enabling assets provided to the MCB and JFECC to effectively train and then be exercised.

There is no dedicated targeting officer for the MCB. This individual would be empowered with the responsibility to ensure the MCB has the requisite skills, training and SOPs from which to attain and maintain targeting prowess. The Artillery Regt no longer has a Brigade Artillery Intelligence Officer (BAIO) who previously would be responsible for intelligence specific to Artillery requirements but in essence was a designated targeting officer for the BDE and more specifically, the BDE JFECC.

**Solution.** The Army needs to develop and provide a targeting officer for the MCB. This individual should be trained to be the expert at BDE and below targeting; be capable of integrating with the joint targeting process, combined and coalition practices. The MCB targeting officer would either reside within the organic Artillery Regt or the MCB HQ. This capability would require the development of a formal training package and an Army directed sponsor for targeting. A RAA or AUSTINT WO2/CAPT would be ideal to fill this role.

The MCB requires subject matter experts from the enabling BDEs posted to its staff to provide the capability to plan, train and facilitate the integration of capabilities into MCB or unit exercises. 4 REGT has benefited from such an arrangement with a posting of a CAPT from 16 Air Land Regt (ALR). This officer provided his knowledge of the capabilities of this unit, how they would and should be employed and networking skills back into 16 ALR to identify and leverage training opportunities for both the MCB and 6 BDE. His position within the BDE JFECC also provided 16 ALR with similar leverage and exposure to MCB operations and resulted in far more effective integration than with any of the other enabling capabilities. This is a model that should be investigated for all 6 and 16 BDE capabilities. Ideally posted to the MCB HQ or Artillery REGT, the position should be WO2/CAPT rank which provides a degree of experience and expertise that will greatly benefit and enhance the MCB.

**Capability development.** *The BDE JFECC clearly demonstrates Army's failure to effectively integrate capability during its formative development.* The BDE JFECC is the nexus of the MCB; it provides the Joint capability through the TACP, it facilitates the vast array of capabilities resident within the enabling BDEs and coordinates capabilities and force

elements across the entirety of the MCB. To coordinate the vast array of niche capabilities, reliable and effective command and control (C2) is required.

Effective C2 is critical to ensuring the right effect is delivered on time, on target and safely. This can be best achieved with common language, procedures, and even more importantly Battle Management Systems. Currently, none of the JFECC C2 devices are compatible, each provide a separate battle picture and require their own specific communications and software/hardware suite. Although each capability individually is highly capable; the "stove piped" approach to capability development and project management has provided systems that are poorly integrated with other systems and legacy capabilities, requires specialist training that is not transferable to other C2 devices and are unable to provide a common operating (or commonly informed) picture for the JFECC, and more importantly, the MCB COMD.

The Army has been unable to clearly articulate the common tool from which all other systems must integrate, or fully recognise that a single system may be unachievable and identify a core number that other capabilities must be capable of integration. As a consequence, Battle Management Systems are purchased that are ideally suited to a single capability, but are unable to provide combined arms and joint C2. This is akin to having to purchase a different hardware device to conduct internet banking, word processing, send and receive emails and use Facebook. This is unacceptable in our private lives, but common practice within Army at this time.

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*The Army has been unable to clearly articulate the common tool from which all other systems must integrate, or fully recognise that a single system may be unachievable and identify a core number that other capabilities must be capable of integration.*

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Army is working towards a solution through the development of a recognised land picture, and the Land Network Integration Centre (LNIC) is a critical element of this work, however most organisations are working towards rectifying the current issues with either legacy or emerging capabilities within the Defence Capability Program. Future direction on Army's C2 requirements from the operational to

tactical level and in the joint and coalition spectrum do not exist, or certainly is not clearly articulated throughout Army.

**Solution.** Army must make a decision as to whether it is seeking a single C2 system for the MCB, a layered system based upon the size of the HQ or separate C2 systems that operate for combat, combat support and combat service support. Regardless of the system(s), it must have the capacity to become interoperable with other C2 systems now and into the future. This requires flexible arrangements in regard to Intellectual property and a requirement to secure a common architecture for C2 devices that permits the system to be adapted for interoperability. Single projects must accept solutions that are capable of C2 integration first and foremost, even if they sacrifice specialised capability to an individual project. A fully integrated system's capacity will mitigate any individual limitation.

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*Army must make a decision as to whether it is seeking a single C2 system for the MCB, a layered system based upon the size of the HQ or separate C2 systems that operate for combat, combat support and combat service support.*

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Army must invest in testing C2 through experimentation. This requires investment in an organisation capable of conducting war fighting experimentation, streamlined and flexible access to research and development (R&D) funds to facilitate the purchase of Military off the Shelf (MOTS) and Commercial of the Shelf (COTS) C2 capabilities, and a willingness on behalf the government and the hierarchy to accept failure. This must occur prior to First Pass and be driven by strategic direction from Army and an acknowledgement of joint requirements. Failing through experimentation will diminish failure in combat. The development of a robust C2 experimentation capability will provide the capacity to identify integration issues prior to the purchase of any C2 capability and will provide decision makers the risks and opportunities to purchasing capability. The RESET BDE is a recommended candidate to support this experimentation and provide the Army with immediate user feedback, also providing resources for the RESET BDE and an experimentation force that is a formed organisation that has developed and robust SOP's.



## Conclusion

The MCB JFECC is a significantly enhanced capability with the advent of the enabling BDEs and the provision of technologically enhanced systems into Army. Plan Beersheba provides an opportunity for Army to take additional steps to develop a more coordinated and well trained MCB JFECC that synchronises and coordinates these assets for the MCB. This requires investment in tested and compatible C2, consideration into the provision of organic staff officers within the MCB from enabling BDEs, the development of a specialised targeting officer and most critically, a review of the training provided by Army Schools, and throughout the force generation cycle that enables a MCB JFECC to first integrate, then train prior to being exercised and certified with the MCB HQ.

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*Plan Beersheba provides an opportunity for Army to take additional steps to develop a more coordinated and well trained MCB JFECC that synchronises and coordinates these assets for the MCB.*

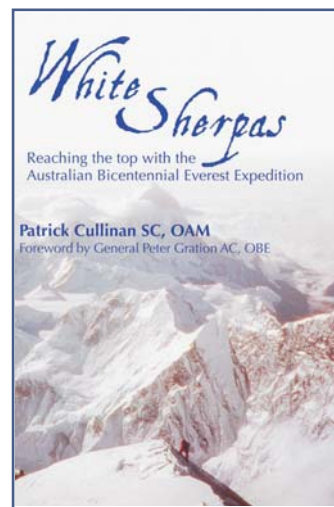
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The opportunity exists through Plan Beersheba to take the capability of the MCB beyond just the development of the Armoured Cavalry Regt and Standard Infantry Battalion. Investment in the integration of those assets which enhance the BDE JFECC will only further demonstrate the full potential of the modern Army BDE.



# 'A terrific account of a terrific adventure'

Major General Michael Crane DSC, AM  
recent Commander JTF 633 in the  
Middle East



## *White Sherpas* Beyond 'Into Thin Air' on Everest by Patrick Cullinan SC, OAM

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# Chief of Army David Morrison urges defence forces to adapt to change as it transitions from Middle East conflicts

By national security correspondent Michael Brissenden

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Chief of Army David Morrison says he is confident the Australian Army is in good shape as it prepares to transition from the battlefields of the Middle East. In a speech to the Lowy Institute in Sydney this week, General Morrison stressed the Army's commitment to developing an amphibious capability as it engages in the biggest rethink of the Army's mission statement since the end of the Vietnam War in the 1970s.

But as well as the changes to force structure, General Morrison has warned that unless the Army continues to address the demographic and cultural shifts in Australia it risks becoming an 'occupational ghetto'.

There are not too many leaders in Australian public life who regularly pepper their speeches with high-brow literary quotes and the theories of some of the world's greatest thinkers, but General Morrison is an exception. As the Lowy Institute's James Brown noted after the General's speech this week on the future of the Army, this is a man who has the 'courage to engage in the battle for ideas'.



David Morrison has urged Australia's Defence Forces to embrace demographic changes.  
(AAP: Lukas Coch)

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*The army's commitment to developing an amphibious capability is par to our force, general plans part of the developments are taking pace in this great national institution.*

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Not content with the usual nod to Clausewitz, General Morrison often branches out with less predictable references. In one recent speech, Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard got a mention along with British commentator Colin Gray and American writer Max Boot.

One of his favourites is the great sea power theorist of the late 19th century, Alfred Thayer Mahan, and his assertion that the oceans of the world constitute ubiquitous highways. For an Army man, General Morrison spends a lot of time thinking about the sea and the national investment required by an island nation like Australia to guarantee security and stability. It is perhaps not surprising then that he pinpoints the development of an amphibious capability as one of the priorities as the Army transitions from the wars in the Middle East.

'The Army's commitment to developing an amphibious capability is par to our force; general plans, part of the developments are taking pace in this great national institution,' he said.

## **Australian defence is shifting focus from Middle East**

General Morrison is obviously well read and like most military leaders he has had to think hard about the nature of violence and war. The digital age is a challenging time but even though Clausewitz would not recognise the modern battlefield, General Morrison argues the nature of war

itself has not changed. It is still a violent duel over policy objectives but technology he says has democratised violence.

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*If a boy from a village in Helmand province can trigger a device that will destroy your heavily protected modern armoured vehicle you are unlikely to find it useful to ask whether he is a state or not state actor.*

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After more than a decade engaged in the Middle East, the focus of Australia's Defence Force is shifting from the dusty villages of Afghanistan and returning to our own region. Predicting the military operations of the future is an impossible task but it is pretty clear climate change, peacekeeping and humanitarian and disaster relief work will be among the primary areas of engagement.

None of that would be much of a surprise to a man who has spent a life in the Army but as he prepares to wind up his commission as Army Chief, he says the biggest surprise of his time was the cultural challenges.

### **Morrison urges defence to adapt to societal norms**

He concedes that his term will probably be remembered for a three-and-half minute video directed at defence members who demeaned and degraded women. The video went viral and made him an unlikely feminist hero.

'Without doubt, issues pertaining to culture, especially the expansion of opportunities for women to serve alongside men in all appointments without harassment, have dominated public perception of the Army in the last three years,' he said.

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*Delivering a force that can fight is what I'm about, but making it a better organisation in terms of the way we respect each other our army, our defence force and our country, that's the best thing I've ever done.*

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General Morrison says his motives in leading the way in cultural change were not purely altruistic.

'Unless the Army and the ADF in its entirety stays abreast of the seismic shifts in Australia's demography and ensuing changes in the composition and age of our labour pool, we risk becoming an occupational ghetto; a smokestack industry that has failed to adapt to change in society norms,' he said.

'I don't want anyone to misunderstand me. Delivering a force that can fight is what I'm about, but making it a better organisation in terms of the way we respect each other, our Army, our defence force and our country, that's the best thing I've ever done.'

General Morrison finishes his term as Chief of Army in July.



General Morrison placed medals on Captain Bryce Duffy's casket during the repatriation ceremony at RAAF Base in Amberley. (Defence: LS Andrew Dakin)



# Book Reviews

## Having Been a Soldier

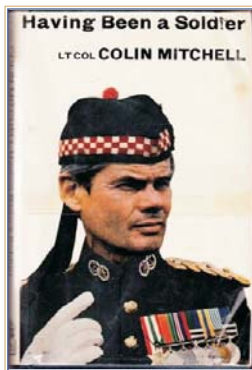
By Lieutenant Colonel Colin Mitchell

*Reviewed by Captain Jeremy Mar Fan  
4th Regiment RAA*

SBN 241 01722; LONDON; HAMISH HAMILTON LTD; 1969; PP 248; ILLUSTRATIONS; MAPS; INDEX.

*'Never forget that no military leader has  
become great without audacity'*

Carl von Clausewitz



The Argyll and Southern Highlanders (A&SH) had a colourful and proud history spanning over 100 years from its inception in 1881, serving in all manner of major and minor conflicts. This lends credibility to the statement of it being 'the most battle-experienced battalion in the British Army'

(Mitchell, 1969 p. 131) and the fact its lineage coined the commonly understood phrase *'the Thin Red Line'* (Russell, 1854). However, its final significant campaign, based around the Crater district of Aden and its now infamous Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Colin 'Mad Mitch' Mitchell were the centre of much controversy and public attention during 1967, the events of which inspired a documentary titled 'Mad Mitch and the Last Battle of the British Empire' (BBC, 2000).

*Whilst an older book and written about a foreign military unit, it imparts, in an overtly argumentative fashion, insights into leadership and the importance of an unwavering self belief.*

Through a chronologically structured narrative, accompanied by a collection of maps and photographs, Mitchell imparts his recollections and opinions of military jurisdiction from his boyhood fascinations with the military until his discharge in 1968 following his final command in Crater district, Aden. Whilst an older book and written about a foreign military unit, it imparts, in an overtly

argumentative fashion, insights into leadership and the importance of an unwavering self belief.

*Whilst not having any formal tertiary qualifications, Mitchell writes with tremendous sophistication, which is reinforced throughout the text through his discussion of his published works and extensive study.*

The purpose of the book is blatantly stated in the final chapter as being the only means of retort, as a loyal serving member, for what he felt as a personal attack. He touches also on the issue of the disbanding of the A&SH, which did not actually eventuate until recent years following a petition lead by him and the British public. By the end of the book, these issues appear to be intrinsically linked.

The book is written from his own perspective which matches the intent of the book and which is particularly effective given the broad range of experience as a soldier, a junior officer, a field-ranking front line commander and a staff officer. This gives the reader a unique viewpoint and gives plausibility to his argument as a man of sound military judgement based on years and breadth of experience. Whilst not having any formal tertiary qualifications, Mitchell writes with tremendous sophistication, which is reinforced throughout the text through his discussion of his published works and extensive study. His work in politics following his military career lends further credence to his credibility as a subject matter expert in high level military affairs. It was disappointing to see that there were little to no factual evidence presented within the text. Proof about the recruiting figures for the A&SH, for example, would have been beneficial to his argument. Overall it is found that there is seemingly no reason to distrust the information given within the text and the book itself is a well-polished piece.

*... Mitchell argues both the prestigious history of the A&SH and their steadfast approach to conflict resolution in all circumstances.*

Throughout the text, Mitchell argues both the prestigious history of the A&SH and their steadfast approach to conflict resolution in all circumstances. Mitchell effectively entwines narrative and opinion to couple his unit values and history with his own in

an attempt to define and explain his decision making process, dedicating just under half of the text to do so. In doing so, the reader can see how important setting and explaining the conditions for his actions in Crater is to the author. This history and value system of the unit, and therefore the author, is used to reinforce his view, repeated multiple times throughout the book, that swift and firm action taken in a timely manner is essential for the prevention of terrorist action.

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*Mitchell provides a number of lessons to the reader. Firstly, he used the media very effectively and understood ...*

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Mitchell's effectiveness in achieving his aim is perplexing in that he seems to fully understand the reasoning behind the government and hierarchy's reasons to play a low key role in suppressing hostilities in Aden, those being financial constraints and the inevitable regional withdrawal, but still decides that impact tactics are both necessary and desirable. This is particularly noteworthy given he was rebuked on a number of occasions by his higher command but did not heed warnings. Another contrast in his effectiveness was that he was adamant shock tactics were effective but he lost more lives in that conflict than in Cypress, Suez and Borneo combined (Paul and Martin, 2008). This sentiment is enforced by his flippant comment that he would 'have to hurry if [he] was to find this [adventurous soldiering] experience' (Mitchell, 1969 p. 108) demonstrating he was potentially too audacious and driven by personal grandeur. Yet, another example of his contrasting message was in the same paragraph he espoused that local good-will was key to peace and that his hierarchy did not understand that, he confessed that the locals would not cooperate with his battalion. Overall it was found that his messages were often confusing and contradictory which detracted from achieving his aim.

Mitchell provides a number of lessons to the reader. Firstly, he used the media very effectively and understood its role within the modern day battlefield. He demonstrates his value in the media by actively seeking out their use, however was accused of seeking self-publicity. His involvement with the media became somewhat double-edged particularly after the book in his political career, where 'Mad Mitch' was a title he attempted to quash. Secondly, his training and leadership of his subordinates was exemplary. He understood exactly what was required of his soldiers and the conditions they would face and was not accepting

of sub-standard results. Another lesson, whether good or bad, found within the text was his loyalty. In many cases he demonstrated excellent loyalty, particularly down the chain, however as the book progressed he demonstrates some peculiar actions, such as his written orders within Crater, which overtly present disloyalty to his superiors in a public fashion.

Despite being written over four decades ago, direct comparisons can be made to issues surrounding insurgent warfare such as soft targets, using religious and culturally sensitive values to assist a terrorist cause and infiltration into and corruption of local law enforcement, that are taught in military academia today. Additionally, his 'trim the ship' policy directive on his command philosophy is distinctly reminiscent of those Army Soldier Values which are inculcated into the modern soldier on a regular basis.

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*Despite being written over four decades ago, direct comparisons can be made to issues surrounding insurgent warfare such as soft targets, using religious and culturally sensitive values to assist a terrorist cause and infiltration into and corruption of local law enforcement, that are taught in military academia today.*

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Mitchell presents as an excellent tactician and leader and provides many personal lessons particularly that of self-belief, valuable to all ranks and trades. This book provides excellent insight for the junior leader into problems faced by more senior officers and the increasing requirement to consider the strategic environment.

*"Out of the North, the Law of the Scot  
Who decide what is and what is not."*

*'700 Glengarried Men', Save the Argylls Campaign.*

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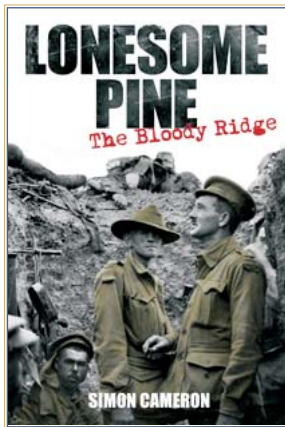
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# Lonesome Pine – The Bloody Ridge

By Simon Cameron

*Reviewed by Major D.T. (Terry) Brennan  
Editor RAA Liaison Letter*

ISBN: 9781922132307 (PAPERBACK); BIG SKY PUBLISHING; PUBLISHED 2013: 176 PAGES; BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS; MAPS & TRENCH DIAGRAMS



As the centenary of the Great War approaches there is a deluge of military history publications appearing on the market. A marked difference that sets these aside from traditional military history publications is they are written in a general conversational style in an attempt to give them broad appeal. An expression that

comes to mind to describe the outcome is the content is 'a mile wide and an inch deep'.

The focus of this book is the Battle of Lone Pine, a name which has been forever etched in the Australian lexicon. The theme is centred on the four-day battle as seen through the eyes of a select number of individuals fighting the tactical battle and how they were affected.

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*There is only one word to describe the impact of the carnage that was wrought amongst the leadership from commanding officers down - catastrophic!*

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The book is based at the very lowest tactical level where the 'bayonet' has a critical role to play as 'diggers' were forced to make the fight against the Turks 'up close and personal', in other words, 'close with and kill the enemy'. It describes the related struggle to stay alive whilst achieving their mission. The author records an example of this as '... the rifle fire and flash of bayonets made it perfectly clear that an assault was proceeding ...'.

There is only one word to describe the impact of the carnage that was wrought amongst the leadership from commanding officers down - catastrophic! The continuity issues created by the constant turnover in leadership positions must have been extremely

disconcerting and disruptive for both senior commanders and the diggers. The nature of modern operations and emphasise on 'force protection' makes the high casualty rate during the Great War virtually impossible to fully grasp or understand. To highlight this contrast, after three days of fighting at the roll call of one of the six infantry battalions involved in the Battle of Lone Pine, the 3rd Battalion, only 7 officers and 295 other ranks answered their name out of a posted strength of 23 officers and 736 other ranks.

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*The author's descriptions of the battle not only capture the extremely personal nature of trench warfare but they also bring to life the desperate struggle and personal bravery of each individual ...*

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The author's descriptions of the battle not only capture the extremely personal nature of trench warfare but they also bring to life the desperate struggle and personal bravery of each individual present whether an officer, non commissioned officer or soldier. An astonishing example of bravery was the very deliberate and calculated act of catching Turkish grenades and throwing them back or if this failed, smothering them with overcoats to reduce the blast when they exploded. The resultant injuries inflicted by these actions on the 'catchers and throwers', including in the case of Australian 'hand grenades' made from tins, gun cotton and metal pieces known as 'jam tin bombs', was far too often the loss of a hand.

As you read the book you develop a sense of bewilderment as to how anyone actually survived the battle as death was everywhere. The descriptions of piling up the bodies of friend and foe alike to block trenches and / or to use them as defensive fire walls defies imagination. I can not begin to comprehend the thoughts of those engaged in this titanic struggle as individuals prepared themselves physiologically for repeated assaults and aggressive defensive engagements to retain hard won pieces of trench often measured only in 'yards'.

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*As you read the book you develop a sense of bewilderment as to how anyone actually survived the battle as death was everywhere.*

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An essential aspect of the book which ensures the readers can follow the story, are the maps which



detail the ever changing trench systems. They are critical to understanding and even following the very fluid battle.

The story is dotted with references to individual officers who fortunately survived the war and became household names during World War Two such as Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead and Major General I.G. Mackay, not to mention officers who rose to prominence subsequently during this war such as Brigadier Harold 'Pompey' Elliot.

The constant reference to those killed or wounded prompted me to reflect on the impact these losses, and subsequent ones in Europe, had on the development of Australia after the Great War. The pool of youthful unexploited talent that is buried in the Australian War Graves of Gallipoli, Middle East and Europe is immeasurable but nevertheless testament to questionable military strategies and possibly misguided loyalty to England. I have heard it argued that rural Australia has not fully recovered from the effect of these losses on their communities a century later.

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A facet of the Gallipoli campaign, of which I was unaware until reading this book, was the poor physical condition of the Australian soldier's due to malnutrition and cramped, poor living conditions. There was a ration of one and half litres of water per day per person, which in turn lead to poor hygiene and dysentery. Even more sadly was the apparent denial by senior commanders and their headquarters staff to accept the situation as a reality and attempt to address it. The author highlights this '*head in the sand*' attitude with an extract from the diary of General Headquarters which records the situation as '*a good deal of diarrhoea among the Australians possibly due to sea bathing.*' This is not the story of the healthy '*bronze Anzac*' that history writers and commentators like to portray to the modern Australian public. In reality the primary cause for the ill health was believed to be the humble fly.

This is a very easy to read book most suited to the general reader, rather than a dedicated student of military history who has a keen interest in strategy and tactics. Notwithstanding this comment, it is clearly evident that the author has carried out

painstakingly detailed research into the '*tactical*' battle in the trenches and strong points that made up the Battle of Lone Pine.

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*Even more sadly was the apparent denial by senior commanders and their headquarters staff to accept the situation as a reality and attempt to address it.*

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A strength of the authors descriptions is the vivid picture he paints of the desperate struggle by individual mates and small teams. They place a spotlight on the futility of trench warfare at Gallipoli and subsequently in Europe. The sad thing that springs to mind, as you read about young men being killed for no real purpose and especially for no long term gain, is the slavish adherence to an '*outmoded*' warfighting doctrine.

The grotesque waste of human life resulting from this form of static warfare never ceases to astonish me. The descriptions of close combat by the author, letters home and diary extracts in this book just serve to reinforce my views. One can only be grateful for General Sir John Monash and his utilisation of manoeuvre warfare in 1918 which contributed significantly to bringing the war to an end.

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*One aspect of the book that distracted me was the constant reference to individuals '*winning*' bravery medals as though the battle or combat more broadly was a sporting competition.*

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One aspect of the book that distracted me was the constant reference to individuals '*winning*' bravery medals as though the battle or combat, more broadly, was a sporting competition. I cannot emphasise enough that bravery medals are '*awarded*' and the individual receiving the award is the '*recipient*'.

The book is full of interesting anecdotes on a range of topics, such as why names on the honour roll at the Australian War Memorial do not include awards. The author observes that '*Seven Victoria Crosses were awarded [at Lone Pine] marking this engagement as unique in Australian military history. However such awards alone are an unreliable guide because they depend on so much on the fortune of war and the capricious nature of the committees overseeing them.*' The author further explains Charles Bean was

conscious that the number of bravery awards was not a valid means of judging the significance of a battle for a range of circumstances hence the decision regarding the honour roll.

*... its strength lies in the detailed descriptions of desperately fierce and deadly, not to mention, extremely up close and personal hand to hand fighting between the Australian 'Diggers' and Turks.*

I recommend this book to anyone who has a general interest in understanding more about our rich Australian military history and heritage as it relates to the Great War. Whilst it provides some background to the thinking by senior commanders leading up to the Battle of Lone Pine, its strength lies in the detailed descriptions of desperately fierce and deadly, not to mention, extremely up close and personal hand to hand fighting between the Australian 'Diggers' and Turks.

**Note:** This book was supplied by Big Sky Publishing Pty Ltd for review.

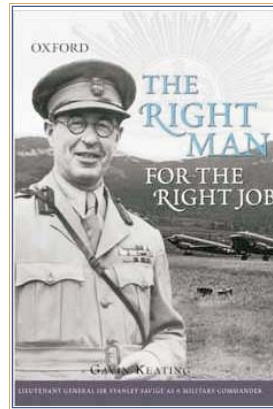
## The Right Man for the Right Job

### Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savige as a Military Commander

By Gavin Keating

Review by Colonel Sean Ryan

ISBN-10: 0195553322 ISBN-13: 978-0195553321; AUSTRALIAN ARMY HISTORY; HARDCOVER; 256 PAGES; PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press, 2005



Who would of thought patronage from a senior General and complete dependency on your staff would get you to Corps command in the Australian Army. Well that may have been the case for Lieutenant General Stan Savige, Commander 2nd Australian Corps in World War Two. In this biography on Lieutenant

General Stan Savige, 'The right man for the right job' Gavin Keating asks this very question and through detailed research reveals an interesting commander with strengths and weaknesses, like all commanders. 'The right man for the right job' takes a look at the career of one Australia's lesser known commanders but still an important one. It looks at commanding soldiers in the heat of combat, the nature of command and staff interactions in planning and executing operations and finally the role patronage can play in gaining and retaining command.

*Who would of thought patronage from a senior General and complete dependency on your staff would get you to Corps command in the Australian Army.*

From humble beginnings as a soldier in Gallipoli to Corps Command in the New Guinea, Lieutenant General Stan Savige was a great commander of combat soldiers. As a soldier he showed early potential as a leader and quickly rose to the rank of Corporal. Not long after his promotion he was commissioned on the Western Front. It was after his commissioning that he came into contact with Thomas Blamey, an individual who was to play a significant role in his future command

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appointments. General Savige's Western Front experiences provided a great learning ground for his combat leadership skill. A skill that would become pivotal in creating a soldier focused leadership style. It is therefore not surprising he was central in the founding Legacy in 1923. An organisation solely focused on looking after families of soldiers who did not return from the Great War.

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*As a soldier he showed early potential as a leader and quickly rose to the rank of Corporal. Not long after his promotion he was commissioned on the Western Front.*

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These hard earned combat leadership skills were to be a hallmark of his commands in the Mediterranean and the New Guinea. This was aptly demonstrated in the Keating's book when, during the ill fated Allied withdrawal in Greece, Savige calmly shaved in front of his 17 Brigade soldiers during a German air raid to promote confidence in the men, despite being personally scared. Savige's personal example and bravery helped to steady those around him during the constant withdrawals and air-attacks. This is a constant theme through out the biography with Savige being shown as a soldier focused leader who is respected by his soldiers. In this biography Keating has looked deeply into the nature of Lieutenant General Savige's leadership and command skills.

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*Savige's personal example and bravery helped to steady those around him during the constant withdrawals and air-attacks. This is a constant theme through out the biography with Savige being shown as a soldier focused leader who is respected by his soldiers.*

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If Savige was to have a major weakness it was probably his inability to see the battle before he fought it. His capacity to exercise the operational art was questionable, both in the Mediterranean and in New Guinea. Keating finds numerous occasions like the Australian attack on Bardia and in the operation against the Japanese at Salamaua where Savige failed to comprehend the need for manoeuvre and to be synchronise his plans with other commands. By way of example at Bardia, despite the 6th Division's resounding victory, his

17th Brigade's conduct in the battle was seen as chaotic, confused and costly. There is plenty of evidence to support this with one of Savige's battalions being badly mauled trying to capture a strong Italian position, and his remaining two battalions rapidly becoming disorganised during the main attack. In the battle's aftermath, Savige was seriously criticised by his peers for his role in these setbacks, particularly by George Vasey, (Sir) Horace Robertson and (Sir) Frank Berryman, all of them senior regular officers in the division at the time. As a result his inability to cope with the fluid and technically demanding conditions of modern warfare his capacity his capacity to lead in combat came into question.

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*... Australian Army was probably aware of his tactical decision making weaknesses. In the New Guinea, Savige is luckily (or by design) assigned an outstanding regular officer in John Wilton, an artillery officer with considerable combat experience in fighting in the jungle ...*

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By the time he arrived in the New Guinea to command a Division and a Corps, Keating reveals that Savige was learning from his previous combat experiences and that the Australian Army was probably aware of his tactical decision making weaknesses. In the New Guinea, Savige is luckily (or by design) assigned an outstanding regular officer in John Wilton, an artillery officer with considerable combat experience in fighting in the jungle gained in India before the war. Their partnership was a successful one, especially when the Division fought in the region between Wau and Salamaua in mid 1943. The harsh terrain and climate slowed the tempo of the campaign and produced a war in which a General's contribution lay less in tactics and more in 'personal inspiration' and consideration for 'the welfare of the troops'. Believing that his presence was good for morale and important for tactical control, Savige made concerted efforts to visit the front line, something many higher commanders failed to do. As time progressed in the Pacific, in concert with Wilton, Savige demonstrated a capacity to adapt and improve with the right support, and that his soldier focused leadership style remained central to leading troops in combat.

This was not enough to silent his detractors. Keating notes that his ability to foster confidence



and relate to his peers and superiors was seriously questionable, and his constant promotions and appointments raised the perception that he was a protected officer because of his close personal relationship with Thomas Blamey. A relationship that began in Great War, spanned the inter war years and grew stronger through World War Two. His protection was highlighted through him keeping positions and appointments despite him having an acrimonious relationship with his superiors, like Lieutenant General Sir Edmund Herring, where misunderstanding and confusion reigned. In these conditions Savige became increasingly prickly manner combined with the normal confusion and frustration of war produced significant command tensions. While Savige was a difficult and sometimes trying officer, he did perform well in the New Guinea despite the suspicions of his regular army contemporaries.

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*... his constant promotions and appointments raised the perception that he was a protected officer because of his close personal relationship with Thomas Blamey.*

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Keating goes to great effort to understand and write about Savige's relationship with Thomas Blamey throughout the biography. It reveals how this relationship was perceived as, and in many case was, patronage by the supreme Australian commander to ensure Savige received promotions and field command appointments. There were clearly occasions when Savige benefited from this deep and enduring relationship with Thomas Blamey. A relationship which was key feature to his senior command appointments and one that would become a source of much animosity amongst his peers and contemporaries. Furthermore the book highlights how Savige abused this closeness on occasions through his personal letters, going around the chain of command, to Blamey to explain himself and to prevent superiors from relieving him.

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*While Savige was a difficult and sometimes trying officer, he did perform well in the New Guinea despite the suspicions of his regular army contemporaries.*

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Savige's forte, at all levels of military command, was his personal leadership and knowledge of men. His

ability to inspire and build rapport with his subordinates was helped by the genuine interest he showed in their welfare. As he progressed through the ranks to senior command positions, however, his comprehension of modern warfare became an issue. Blamey's patronage of Savige was resented by other senior officers; their attempts to remove Savige from command increased his insecurity. John Hetherington justly concluded: 'Savige did not pretend to be a military genius, but only a commander who knew his way round the battlefield because he had learned his soldiering the hard way'.

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*... Savige abused this closeness on occasions through his personal letters, going around the chain of command, to Blamey to explain himself and to prevent superiors from relieving him.*

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## Honours Extended

Anyone killed in military service of Australia – whether in war, peacekeeping or some other operation – will now be listed on the Australian War Memorial's roll of honour.

It wasn't always this way. Under long standing policy, only those who died in conflict were included.

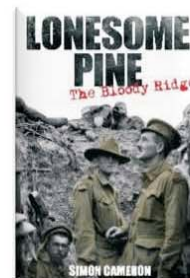
That excluded 48 men and women killed in post World War II peacekeeping and other operations.

This was reversed earlier this year following a campaign by Avril Clark of Perth, whose son, Private Jamie Clark, died in an accidental fall in the Solomon Islands in 2005.

Herald Sun Saturday 31st August 2013



For immediate release - July 30 2013  
Interview Available



## The truth about our 'greatest' Gallipoli success – uncovered 98 years later.

*"We commemorate the landing at ANZAC Cove on April 25th but the Battle of Lone Pine is pretty much forgotten in terms of any national recognition. Despite the fact it was only a small part of a large offensive on ANZAC, it is a riveting story and deserves the full treatment. It was four days of the most gruelling fighting that produced the largest number of awards for valour of any battle in Australia's war history."*

Adelaide historian and author Simon Cameron's new book *Lonesome Pine, The Bloody Ridge* reveals Australia's greatest Gallipoli success. A battle largely unknown to many Australians and yet one of our most famous assaults. Cameron's book, written after eight years of painstaking research, explores through the eyes of the soldiers the four bloody days of this battle, where thousands of lives were lost in the intense battles and their life after war.

Cameron hopes that his new book will educate and enlighten all Australians about the real truth of this famous battle. He says, *"We are about to celebrate the anniversary of this battle, and soon approaching the centenary, yet the details on the memorial plaque, that stands next to Cyprus pine (a descendant of the actual Lone Pine), at Adelaide's State War Memorial, Kintore Avenue, are incorrect, illustrating our lack of interest."*

On August 6<sup>th</sup> 1915 the Battle of Lone Pine, was fought over four intense and bloody days. In this short period of time, seven of Australia's nine Gallipoli VCs were earned — a powerful tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the soldiers involved. Cameron's research into the battle diaries and letters of the men involved reveals the terrible toll on the Australian soldiers.

Cameron says: *"It was less of a heroic advance than a desperate struggle to hold on with inadequate weapons, and in the words of one of the soldiers the 'sangfroid of the men' was because they were too tired to care. In a war where the artillery gun and machine gun ruled, this was a fight with bomb and bayonet for four days."*

*Lonesome Pine* offers an insight in the lives of the men of the front line, their stories from unpublished diaries, never exposed before now. It describes the days leading up to the attack and the horror of battle in gripping detail. Cameron says: *"The Battalion commanders recorded some amazing accounts. Two commanders were killed behaving like heroic weekend warriors rather than cool professionals, and all were at the sharp end and lucky to survive."*

*"The commander I find most fascinating is Charles Macnaghten, Commander 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was shot in the leg and refused to leave the scene until three days later. The toll on him was psychological, and led to a lonely death in distant Canada. It is probably representative of many of the men."*

Lance Corporal Cyril Lawrence's sums up the feeling on the battle field, *"Right beside me, within a space of fifteen feet, I can count fourteen of our boys stone dead. Ah! It is a piteous sight. Men and boys who yesterday were full of joy and life, now lying there, cold – cold – dead – their eyes glassy, their faces sallow and covered with dust – soulless – gone – somebody's son, somebody's boy, now merely a thing. Thank God that their loved ones cannot see them now – dead, with the blood congealed or oozing out."*

*Lonesome Pine* sets out the battle as it evolves, and with the support of user friendly maps provides an insight into what war's grand plans and tactical manoeuvres mean on the ground. Cameron also chronicles the aftermath for many of the soldiers. It is one of the unique things about the book but is, unfortunately, terribly bleak, reminding us that there is no wisdom in war.

*Lonesome Pine* conveys through the accounts of the men living and fighting on the front line the Australian soldiers' determination and doggedness as well as the reckless cost of the horrors of war.

***Lonesome Pine, The Bloody Ridge* | Simon Cameron | RRP \$29.99 | Big Sky Publishing | ISBN: 978-1-922132-30-7 | Ebook Amazon & iBook**

Simon Cameron available for Interview | Review copies available and available for extract  
**For further information or a copy of the book** - Sarah Abbott 0409092255



*Lonesome Pine, The Bloody Ridge* | Simon Cameron | RRP \$29.99 | Big Sky Publishing | ISBN: 978-1-922132-30-7 | Ebook Amazon & iBook

#### Short Facts

- Lone Pine is a large football sized area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ridge line at Anzac
- It was the scene of the opening assault of the August Offensive to break the stalemate on Gallipoli
- At 5.30 pm 6<sup>th</sup> August 1915, 3 whistle blasts launched the attack from concealed trenches and tunnels.
- It was the scene of 4 days of the hardest hand to hand fighting by any Australian force.
- Seven Victoria Crosses were won – the highest number for any single Australian battle.
- 1000 Australians died there, and 2000 wounded. Turkish casualties double that.
- The Lone Pine became the most famous tree in Australia
- Descendants of the Lone Pine tree can be found all over Australia, propagated from a cone brought back by a brother of one of the dead.
- Lone pine was named by the Anzacs after a popular music hall show “The Trail of the Lonesome Pine”
- The battle remains largely unknown and lost within the Anzac story.

#### STORIES AND ACCOUNTS FROM MEN ON THE FRONT LINE

**Commander Charles Macnaghten:** Charles Macnaghten, commander 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, shot in the leg and refused to leave the scene until three days later. The toll on him was psychological, and is probably representative of many of the men. Given a high award MacNaughten in October, completely broke down in November, and had to return to Australia. He did not return to Sydney, effectively deserting. Instead re-enlisted as a private in Queensland under an assumed name, and then started wearing his GCMG star on the troop ship, making sure he was noticed in what must have been a big dilemma for the Army. He was made a lieutenant, and proceeded to the Western Front where he promptly breaks down again. He doesn't return home, obviously too ashamed, immigrates to Canada and his trail then goes cold. We do know he died soon after, suggesting self-harm.

**Lieutenant Keysor, VC:** Keysor was one of the seven Australians to be awarded a Victoria Cross. He was a bomber and hard fighter. Post war his Victoria Cross was stolen during a home robbery but the thief returned the Victoria Cross with note apologising that his financial position did not permit the return of the rest of the goods. Keysor other claim to fame is the fact he almost died re-enacting his exploit for a silent film in the 1920s.

**Lieutenant Frederick Tubb, VC:** Tubb, a Victorian, lead the district recruiting drive telling the avid crowd that he was going over “to try for a VC”, and wins one defending a post to the last two men standing, both injured, holding the barricade with his revolver. The entire district came to greet him when he was repatriated to Australia in April 1916. He recovered to be killed in Belgium in 1917.

**Robert (Jack) Massie:** Jack, an all-round sportsman, reputed to be Australia's best left arm bowler, had his career ended thanks to a bullet through the shoulder at Lone Pine. A whimsical example of the effect of war.

**Lieutenant Col Cyril Hughes:** Hughes was a light horseman who served briefly on Gallipoli, and never at Lone Pine, but is the unsung hero of the transformation of Anzac into to the place of pilgrimage that so many Australians visit now. Took on the responsibility of directing the War Graves Commission in the Middle East, and dedicated his life to the role and died in Egypt 1924 he proudly declared “in 1915 we felt we did not quite finish our job, but by heaven we would see it out this time.” His contribution does not even rate a mention in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

**Sir Joseph Talbot Hobbs:** Hobbs was successful Perth architect and nuggetty artillery commander at Gallipoli, had the hardest job on the peninsula – to try on find gun placements to cover the Lone Pine assault, in the restricted confines of Anzac, with the Turks holding the high ground in every direction. No one understood the difficulties like Talbot Hobbs and a heroic effort to build an entrenched road way all the way to the plateau was the result. After the war he put his architectural heart into the war memorials at Kings Park, Perth and Villers Bretonneux, France.

#### INTERESTING ANEDOTES IN WRITING THE BOOK

**Decipher hand writing:** Simon Cameron explains: “Trying to read pencilled notes in tiny pocket diaries written nearly a hundred years ago made me realise that interpreting hand writing will increasingly become a specialised skill.”

**Turkish Pine Memorial Trees:** A small group of surviving soldiers gathered pine cones from ‘Lone Pine’ before returning home. These pine cones were propagated and seedlings have been planted all over Australia as memorial trees. The propagation is now handled by the Yarralumla nursery in Canberra. The current problem is that many of these trees were planted close to 100 years ago and they are beginning to die from both old age and the Australian climate. The question must be asked, what are we doing to preserve and re plant these trees.



# Around the Regiment

## Premier Regiment

*Major Daniel O'Brien  
Executive Officer  
1st Regiment RAA*

The past 18 months have seen elements of the Regiment, with supplemental personnel from other RAA Regiments and beyond, deploy multiple FE groups overseas in support of afghan-based deployments such as MTF-4 & -5, FCU, CTU as well as forming and generating specialist training teams such as ATT-K, AMTT and ATAT. Closer to home, the Regt has also supported TLTG; as well as RCB Rotation 103 led by A Bty; as well as providing OPFOR and DPRAC force elements to the standard suite of training activities across Australia. All in all, 1st Regiment RAA has had a very busy few years of late.

*All in all, 1st Regiment RAA has had a very busy few years of late.*

In good Gunner fashion, the Regiment kicked off the year with Exercise Barce 2014 during March after completing two in-house Digital Terminal Control System courses for fun on receipt of this new equipment for our JFTs. Exercise Barce, as the year's first field activity, achieved up to ATL/S Level 6 Gunnery in SWBTA. This activity included a full Regimental deployment into Battery training environments including attached elements such as 6 & 8/9 RAR Mortars/MFCs. Other 7 Brigade elements such as 2/14th Light Horse (QMI) in the field concurrently this was set to be a fantastic first hit-out for the Regt. 104 Bty conducted its first work with 2/14th's ASLAV-S capability, the Regiment fired its first fully Digital Fireplan and achieved all goals set throughout the exercise. Regrettably during the final days of the exercise, a round malfunction caused serious injury to three

members of 105 Bty. To the credit of every member involved from the Regiment and supporting attachments, the casualty evacuation and treatment was executed swiftly and the members are now recuperating well from their injuries with the support of their families and the unit.

*Regrettably during the final days of the exercise, a round malfunction caused serious injury to three members of 105 Bty.*

On return from Barce, the Regt has immediately rolled into last minute preparations for the 60th Anniversary of the 1st Regiment Band. These Diamond Jubilee celebrations have attracted significant media attention and public interest for the Band and Regiment as a whole. The culminating activity sees a combination Gun Salute, parade and Band performance on Brisbane's Southbank Cultural Forecourt, inclusive of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture; the first for Brisbane in 15 years.

As we approach Anzac Day, the Regiment continues to execute multiple training activities during this period such as Buckshot (Regimental IMTs and PESA), Ssang Yong (Multinational Exercise in South Korea), Blue Carbon (the beginning of 7 Brigades CPX series) and Driver Courses concurrently during April, a tempo that looks to continue for the coming months. After April, the unit continues into Exercise Hawksbury (supporting Defence Trials and Testing); Regimental Communications training to hone our skills on the new Digital Suite & C3ISR Systems, Blue Diamond/Vital Prospect (more CPXing ...), the normal (read hectic) courses and minor support program we all endure; and finally Exercise Highside / Combined Arms Training Activity in June/July to close out the financial year; achieving the penultimate RAA Goal of provision of danger close fires to the supported manoeuvre element for 2014. Without going into the details, the second half of 2014 fares no better.

Away from the RTS front, we see the Regiment facing some other interesting challenges on the horizon. The first is the occupation and official opening of new LAND17 facilities within Brace Lines (to coincide with the Regiment's Birthday in May). This purpose-built facility is a welcome change to the landscape, including dedicated AFATDS Labs, IFACT Theatre, Office space, Gun & Vehicle Hangars as well servicing facilities to bring Brace Lines up to a similar state as our sister regiments in Darwin and Townsville.

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*The culminating activity sees a combination Gun Salute, parade and Band performance on Brisbane's Southbank Cultural Forecourt, inclusive of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture; the first for Brisbane in 15 years.*

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In short, 1st Regiment RAA is looking forward to a busy and rewarding year for 2014.

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# Bombing of Darwin & Adelaide River War Cemetery

*Major David Silverstone  
8th/12th Regiment RAA*

At 0958 hours on the 19th of February 1942, the air raid sirens sounded across Darwin City as the fighters and bombers from the Imperial Japanese Navy commenced the first of 64 attacks on Darwin. 72 years later, the gunners from 8th/12th Regiment took post to help commemorate the Bombing of Darwin.

The public ceremony at the Darwin Cenotaph on the 19th of February this year marked the conclusion of weeks of effort in supporting the Northern Territory community in their commemoration of this significant event in Australian history.

After suffering flooding in the region surrounding Adelaide River, 8th/12th Regiment travelled from

Robertson Barracks in Darwin to tend to the grave sites in the Adelaide River War Cemetery. This assistance, coordinated by the Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Cemetery Caretakers, was conducted in time for the Adelaide River commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin.

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*... 8th/12th Regiment travelled from Robertson Barracks in Darwin to tend to the grave sites in the Adelaide River War Cemetery.*

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Gunner Jake Timpano said that the opportunity was an excellent opportunity to 'show our support to the people of Adelaide River' and that it was a 'very informative, as the war cemetery staff had a wealth of knowledge on the Northern Territory's involvement in the war effort'. LT Lachlan MacDonald said the 'tour of the War Cemetery's museum was excellent as it provided context to the sacrifices that our fore fathers made'.

Shortly after returning from Adelaide River, 8th/12th Regiment hosted veterans of the Bombing of Darwin in a tour of Robertson Barracks that culminated in display that highlighted some of the 1st Brigade's equipment and a lunch in the Officers Mess. Lieutenant Karl Vatzlavik said that 'the veterans were able to share some great stories about serving in the Northern Territory that closely parallels our experiences'.

The week culminated on the 19th of February when more than 2000 people including veterans, locals, dignitaries, US and ADF personnel gathered at the Darwin City Cenotaph to watch the Bombing of Darwin commemorations.

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*Seven rounds were fired from M2A2s by the 101st Battery to mark the seven decades since the initial attack with one final salvo being fired following the last post and rouse.*

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The commemorations included vintage Aircraft conducting a mock dogfight over Darwin Harbour and were followed by a fly over of PC9s from 4 Squadron RAAF. Seven rounds were fired from M2A2s by the 101st Battery to mark the seven decades since the initial attack with one final salvo being fired following the last post and rouse.

Catafalque Party member, Gunner Brendan Waine said that 'it was a great opportunity to reflect on

what the veterans went through'. Lieutenant Kyle Handreck, Gun Position Officer of 101st Battery spoke about how 'great it was to see so many people come out and commemorate such a momentous occasion in the Northern Territory's history'.

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## Exercise Talisman Sabre Safety

*Lieutenant Matt Fensom  
1st Regiment RAA*

During the conduct of Exercise Talisman Sabre (HAMEL) 2013, TS(H) 13, various elements and personnel from 1st Regiment, RAA supported as Director of Practice Cell. Operations Support Battery (Ops Spt Bty) worked as part of the exercise control, and liaised with the RAAF and RAN, as well as US Marines, US Army and US Navy, to facilitate the safety architecture for multiple assets. These assets included Harriers, F-18's, B-52 Bombers, Artillery, Mortars, Naval Gunfire, Attack helicopters, and a variation of small arms.

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*The Director of Practice (DPRAC Cell) ensured that the bi-national and large scale live firing practices being coordinated at three different locations in the Shoal Water Bay Training Area were conducted safely and with a minimum of delay.*

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The Director of Practice (DPRAC Cell) ensured that the bi-national and large scale live firing practices being coordinated at three different locations in the Shoal Water Bay Training Area were conducted safely and with a *minimum of delay*. These practices encompassed indirect and direct fires, fast air, close air support and naval surface fire support, and provided ground troops and observers with challenging scenarios.

For ease of management of multiple firing areas, Deputy Director of Practice was formed under the guidance of the OPSO, the Supreme Allied Commander Townshend Island. This element of Ops Spt Bty was to move to Townshend Island to coordinate assets with greater command and



WP2 air burst over Raynham Island with HE from US 120 and 80 mm Mortars

control than would have otherwise been able from Exercise Control. In preparation for the impending Combined Joint Live Fire Exercise (CJLFX), we began our tri-service convoy to Sabina Point, followed by three days of rehearsals for our lift via LCM8 to the Island. During this period, the Brigade Commander decreed that all superfluous personnel from Exercise Control were to proceed back to Enoggera on ROCL.

After sailing over to the island we reached our staging area for the CJLFX, and began the lift and carry session up Mt Vesuvius due to a road washout



The view of the Eastern side of Townshend Island from the Observation Tower

which prevented vehicle movement up the hill.

The CJLFX was a successful activity, particularly in providing Artillery observers from the Australian Army and USMC with an assortment of land, sea and air based assets with which to fire plan. DDPRAC on Townshend Island provided overarching safety architecture for elements on the island, ensuring safe practices were adhered to by both nations for the duration of the activity.



# Rifle Company Butterworth

*Lieutenant Joel Oates  
Platoon Commander RCB 103  
(A Battery 1st Regiment RAA)*

With the imminent withdrawal from Afghanistan looming and the chance of operational service dwindling, a lucky few of us selected from 1 Regt RAA, 7 CSR, and 2 CER were quite excited to be named on the RCB 103 (August - October 2013) manning for deployment on the Royal Regiment's 142nd Birthday. The chance to train in Malaysia was very appealing as our Army has a lot of history concerning action in WW2. The chance to come into contact with the environment our forefathers experienced, training in the very jungles in which they fought was thrilling.

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The months prior to departure saw the units composing RCB 103 come together and begin training. Each PL comprised of Gunners, Signallers and Sappers in section lots. During the initial weeks of training the soldiers got to know the new members of their platoons and learn how to work together. It was clear to see the individual characters emerging and the differences in Corps cultures; it was clearly the beginning of a healthy rivalry between the Corps groups that would gradually meld away once the trip started. This continued to develop as we refined our SOPs, conducted ranges and blank firing activities at Canungra.

On arrival at RMAF Butterworth we were quickly exposed to the heat, humidity as well as the BSM's take on daily 'acclimatisation' PT. The training was physically hard and mentally demanding, which was exactly what we needed considering the harsh conditions we would be facing in the jungle in only two weeks time.

The highlight of this period was the tour of Penang and the chance to experience the Malaysian food and markets for the first time. Additionally, we were introduced to 'The Boatie', the Australian Soldier and Airmen's club at RMAF Butterworth. This would become the home base of many of the soldiers during the down time we received in Malaysia. It was an excellent place with cheap beer, spirits and some food. The pool got an excellent work out as many members of the company drank for hours without the normal need to 'break the seal'. I guess they were just enamoured with the wonderful view of Penang City.

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*The highlight of this period was the tour of Penang and the chance to experience the Malaysian food and markets for the first time.*

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The first few bush trips saw us at the Guran range complex. Here we were able to qualify the Coy in all Infantry Rifle Coy heavy and crew served weapons. Additionally, all the NCO's and Officers undertook range qualifications to become safety supervisors of all CAT A, B and C ranges. The CQ's assistant CPL Draper did some dealing with the local 'fixers' and the company ate 'fresh' rations once a day; everyone except SGT Emma Palmer (CATR SGT) that is, which in hindsight raises a question about why we felt the food was okay.

Enter the Jungle Training Wing (JTW) team from General George Mansford's battle school at Tully. This very experienced team of SGTs and WOs (one had served in Vietnam) began the task of teaching us the basics of jungle warfare. We thought we benefited from the training back in Australia; however, we restarted with patrolling, formations, and harbours. This really cemented our form, ready for the next stages of training.

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*Enter the Jungle Training Wing (JTW) team from General George Mansford's battle school at Tully.*

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Eventually, they educated us on more difficult techniques such as ambushing and tracking. This very professional team was extremely disciplined and would not tolerate the slightest infraction from procedure in the jungle. We learned the 'J' was not a place to be complacent. Later, at SIK National Forest, the platoons started to really bond while learning to work together regardless of the unit or Corps from which one came. It was here during the

10 days of rain with JTW that the identity of RCB 103 was born.

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*... like most of the Coy, I regretted my choice to save when it came to my selection of sleeping apparel.*

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During these early trips we learned the luxury of jungle hammocks. It took one a few goes to get right. Some never really felt comfortable, as they were petrified they would pull a widow maker down on them, others had the best night's sleep they had ever had in the bush. As I did not have the Gucci hammock set up purchased by the BC and BSM, I found myself waking up in the middle of the night on the ground as the hammock had come loose. This coupled with the requirement to empty the hammock when it rained meant, like most of the Coy, I regretted my choice to save when it came to my selection of sleeping apparel.

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*These trips provided a good context into the Australian relationship with Singapore and Malaysia.*

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As our training progressed and the rain permeated our very being, the sense of anticipation for leave heightened. The main topic on piquet in the middle of the night was surprisingly not about the enemy but where one would go whilst on leave. Thailand seemed to be the place of choice with the majority of soldiers taking advantage of 'the excellent exchange rate'... ahem. Everyone had worked exceptionally hard and fully deserved this week of leave.

The Company moved 10 hours south to Pulada Military Base in Johor Baru, near the Singaporean border. Here we took the opportunity to conduct battlefield tours in Malaysia and Singapore. We visited the Gemenchah ambush site at Gemas where soldiers from the 2nd/30th Battalion ambushed approximately 1000 Japanese troops during the Japanese invasion of Malaya in WW2. We were also given the opportunity to tour Singapore, the Changi Memorial and the locations were the Australian Battalions defended Singapore against the Japanese despite the wishes of some of their Commanding Generals. These trips provided a good context into the Australian relationship with Singapore and Malaysia.

The next bush exercise saw RCB 103 brave the southern jungles of Malaysia with its half meter long centipedes, bush pigs, and the constant

rumour of elephants and tigers. The activity culminated with two Company level missions that displayed how far we had come as a composite company while also demonstrating how far we had to go to reach a level where all would be confident fighting as a CT in the next war. During our last range week we achieved training level 3B; successfully conducting live fire PL attacks, this happened to be our mandated endstate for the trip and we were very proud to have achieved it.

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*Like everything we experienced in Malaysia, the hard work payed off and we celebrated our time with our new mates and a cold drink.*

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The members of RCB 103 saw their time in Malaysia come to an end with the CO's challenge, a nice long run up Penang hill. Five kilometres at a 30 percent gradient in the heat with the monkeys was no easy task. As luck would have it, we ended up beating the sixty year old women up the hill... on the last stretch, after tripping them; such was our overall fatigue at the hands of the environment we had been exposed to. Like everything we experienced in Malaysia, the hard work payed off and we celebrated our time with our new mates and a cold drink. The challenges we faced and overcame helped produce a sense of pride that all the members of RCB 103 will never forget.

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## Battle Ready

*Captain Tony Mumford  
Acting Battery Commander  
102nd (Coral) Battery*

*'This is probably as realistic as you can get without doing it for real,' said Sergeant John Toby during Exercise Thunder Run Two at Mt Bunday Training Area (MBTA) from 4-16 June 2013.*

Sergeant Toby is a member of 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery which deployed to MBTA for a live fire exercise to train Joint Fires Teams (JFTs) and gun troops up to danger close practices. In just two weeks the Regiment was put through the full range of conventional war fighting activities it could reasonably be expected to conduct in combat.

Commanding Officer of 8th/12th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Julian West, said: 'The end of



8/12 Regiment Gunners Amid the Bulldust at Mt Bunday Training Area. Photo by PTE Joshua Bowman

Exercise Thunder Run Two will see our soldiers not only highly trained and motivated but combat fit and confident in employing their weapons systems.'

However, maintaining an artillery regiment in the field is not achieved without a considerable amount of pre-planning. The Regiment deployed complete with its regimental orderly room and a combat service support battery that enabled it to conduct trade training while maintaining the Regiment's material and administrative requirements - along with the continuation of future operations planning.

'We deployed with a modified orderly room that was supplemented by a signals detachment from the 1st Combat Signals Regiment,' said Regimental Clerk Corporal Imran North. 'The signals detachment provided us with connectivity to the Defence Restricted Network which meant we could perform our full administrative capability in the field,' he added.

The Regiment commenced with a week of live fire and movement for the gun line, firing in support of the JFTs. Live fire and movement is an arduous task for a gun line. It involves not only the trade skills of deploying and executing missions for the observers, but also maintaining security and

defeating the enemy threat both on the gun position and while conducting tactical vehicle movement.

'We had an active enemy probing and ambushing us consistently so we had to pay attention; we had to make ourselves a hard target and know our drills and procedures,' said Detachment Commander Bombardier Broadhead.

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*The Regiment commenced with a week of live fire and movement for the gun line, firing in support of the JFTs. Live fire and movement is an arduous task for a gun line.*

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'The post battle procedure immediately after an intense contact with the enemy was an eye opener,' said Lieutenant Nathan Small, 103 Battery Command Post Officer. 'We trained a lot to conduct our correct processes during a quick attack, but dealing with casualties and handling back-loading and resupply, while still providing indirect fire support, was difficult at first. However, due to our robust training and operating procedures we quickly learnt to plan for this, execute and move on,' he added.



As the situation developed the scenario became more complex as the missions turned into combat team fire planning and more assets were bought into the picture. 'Controlling the Tiger helicopters was a highlight,' said JFT signaller Gunner Matt Shirk, 'We provided terminal guidance as they released 30mm and live rockets.'

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*As the situation developed the scenario became more complex as the missions turned into combat team fire planning and more assets were bought into the picture.*

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The live fire and movement concluded with danger close missions in support of 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment's (5RAR's) final activity, a clearance of an enemy main defensive position. 'We brought the rounds into 175 metres from 5RAR's form up point.' said Bombardier Chris Saetta, 'The infantry boys weathered it really well. It created a lot of energy for the attack.'

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*Lieutenant Colonel West was also happy with the performance of the M777 howitzer. 'The M777 is an excellent gun; it has a good rate of sustained fire, providing consistent and accurate indirect fire support,' he said.*

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Lieutenant Colonel West said: 'Two weeks isn't a long time in the field but under the leadership of hard working JNCO's, the Regiment successfully conducted realistic and high tempo joint fires coordination and execution, by day and night. Night time artillery danger close in support of infantry dug in; with 155mm high explosive rounds impacting 175 metres from own troops, was one of several highlights of the exercise,' he said.

Lieutenant Colonel West was also happy with the performance of the M777 Howitzer. 'The M777 is an excellent gun; it has a good rate of sustained fire, providing consistent and accurate indirect fire support,' he said.

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## 18 Pounder Anzac Centenary Project

The 18 Pounder Project has been gathering pace as the year progresses. It would appear that the word is getting around slowly although not too surely, at least amongst the Gunner community. For those who have not heard of the project here is a quick summary.

We, the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) have a vision; to make that vision come true we need all the help possible from Gunners past and present. The vision is:

**To produce a living memorial to the Australian Artillery and the troops they supported by deploying a horse drawn 18 Pounder and detachment for commemorative events starting in 2015 for the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli.**

The vision sees the complete gun, limber, horses and detachment leading the 2015 National Anzac Day march in Canberra. What a sight that would be!

**A summary of the story of the 18 Pounder together with an outline of the project can be found in latest edition of Cannonball.**

Although we have submitted applications for grants and are reaching out to Defence industry this exciting venture will not be complete without the financial support of the Gunner Community, both serving and retired. Please make a tax deductible donation and help us make the vision a reality.

The project will be officially launched at the National Gunner Dinner to be held in Caloundra on 23rd August 2014. Please give some thought to attending what should be a fantastic event. Details can be found at:

[http://australianartilleryassociation.com/2014\\_national\\_gunner\\_dinner.htm](http://australianartilleryassociation.com/2014_national_gunner_dinner.htm)

# Thor's Hammer Strikes

Soldiers from 101 Bty, 8/12 Regt, ensure the original home of Australia's gunners is in top condition, Lt Rob Pyke reports.

GUNNERS from Darwin's 101 Bty 8/12 Regt have put their construction and design skills to the test on Exercise Thor's Hammer, restoring the ancestral home of the Royal Australian Artillery at Manly's North Head in NSW.

The 46 soldiers travelled the 4000 km to spend two days wielding shovels, chisels, wheel barrows and paint brushes to restore the barracks, which were constructed from 1933 to 1938, to their former glory. Acting Battery Commander Capt Luke Haitas said the work transformed the historic site and he was pleased with the results. 'It has taken an enormous amount of effort for my team to put this trip together and they have done an outstanding job,' he said.

'Areas which we worked in were completely changed, especially the areas that we did revegetation. The painting made a big difference to the appearance of the site. The soldiers, in true 101 Bty style, have worked hard to assist the volunteers at Manly to complete a significant amount of work, which will have a long-lasting impact on the original home of the Australian gunner.'

The troops spent hours painting rails and gutters, weeding, planting more than 200 trees, conducting maintenance on artillery equipment and even undertaking some demolition works to remove 200 m of capping from stone walls for the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

The School of Artillery opened in 1945 and delivered training at North Head in all elements of gunnery until it was closed in 1997 and relocated to Bridges Barracks at Puckapunyal in Victoria.

Bdr James Thatcher, who was in charge of supervising the restoration works, said the 101 Bty soldiers wanted to ensure the institution that trained Australian gunners for many years

continued well into the future. 'The lads have done a great job. They have worked hard, helped the local volunteers a lot and appreciate being able to see where the RAA used to train,' he said.

Bdr Thatcher said the efforts of 101 Bty were able to achieve an outcome for the AAHC is the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company that would have otherwise required countless amounts of fundraising and hours.

Former CO 4 Regt Lt-Col Bill Foxall (retd) gave the battery members a guided tour of the old North Fort gun emplacement and tunnels. The tour provided an excellent opportunity to learn about the history of the RAA, as well as the life and times during WWI.

'The soldiers worked hard to complete a significant amount of work, which will have a long-lasting impact on the original home of the Australian gunner' said Capt Luke Haitas, 101 Bty 8/12 Regt.

## STOP PRESS STOP PRESS



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# Personnel & Training

## New Commanding Officers

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL NICK J. FOXALL**

**Commanding Officer 1st Regiment RAA**



Lieutenant Colonel Nick Foxall attended the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College. He graduated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, and is currently the Commanding Officer of 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery.

Lieutenant Colonel Foxall initially served in Fire Support Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, 7th Brigade. During which he was a Troop Commander and the Gun Position Officer during the Restructuring the Army trial.

Lieutenant Colonel Foxall moved to 1st Brigade in 2000, and served in the 8th/12th Medium Regiment, initially fulfilling the role of Assistant Operations Officer and Regimental Resource Manager. Towards the end of 2000 Lieutenant Colonel Foxall moved to 101st Medium Battery as a Forward Observer. During this time he completed his Forward Air Control Course and participated in an exchange with Charlie Company, 2nd/5th Infantry Battalion (US). On completion of 2002 he was posted to 3rd Brigade, and served in 'A' Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment as the Battery Captain.

In 2005 Lieutenant Colonel Foxall was posted to the Royal Military College as an instructor. Lieutenant

Colonel Foxall was promoted in December 2006 and posted as Battery Commander 101st Medium Battery, 8th/12th Medium Regiment. After Staff College, he was posted as the Staff Officer to Head of Military Strategic Commitments in 2010. Subsequently, he fulfilled the role of Staff Officer Grade 1 Military Commitments - Army in the Directorate of Army Operations.

Operationally, Lieutenant Colonel Foxall deployed in 2001 to East Timor as the Current Operations Captain in the multinational, Headquarters Sector West. In 2008 he deployed with Mentoring Reconstruction Task Force-1 as the Battery Commander. In addition to this he acted as the Battle Group S5 and Deputy Chief of Joint Fires for Task Force Uruzgan. During the latter part of this deployment he was appointed as the Chief of Joint Fires for the Dutch Task Force Uruzgan.

Lieutenant Colonel Foxall is married to Tamara, who is in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. They have two sons; Toby who is seven and Hamish who is three. His academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Strategic Policy.

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**LIEUTENANT COLONEL BERNI V. WHITE**

**16th Air Land Regiment**



Lieutenant Colonel Berni White was born in Pasay City (Manila), Philippines in 1974. After migrating to Australia in the late 1970's, he was raised in Victoria and was educated at St Josephs (Christian Brothers) College Newtown in Geelong.



He joined the Army in 1991 and was initially a Gun Number on an M198 Howitzer in 38 Medium Battery, 2nd/10th Medium Regiment. He then attended the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1993 and graduated to the Royal Australian Artillery.

Lieutenant Colonel White has served in every regular Artillery Regiment in the Australian Army, and the School of Artillery, during his career. His postings have included Gun Position Officer of 101st Field Battery - 1st Field Regiment, a Forward Observer in 'A' Field Battery, Adjutant of 16th Air Defence Regiment and Battery Command of 131st Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery.

Lieutenant Colonel White has also served as a Troop Commander in the 6th Battalion - Royal Australian Regiment, as a Recruit Instructor at 1st Recruit Training Battalion - Kapooka and Tactics & Leadership Master at the Royal Military College - Duntroon.

Since graduating from Australian Command and Staff College in 2008, Lieutenant Colonel White has held a variety of Staff Positions; including Staff Officer Fire Support responsible for Land 17 (M777A2 Light Weight Howitzer, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System and Digital Terminal Control System) at Capability Development Group. During 2011 he was the Military Assistant to two Forces Commanders, and most recently he has led the planning at Headquarters Forces Command for the design of, and transition to, the Multi-role Combat Brigades under Plan Beersheba.

Lieutenant Colonel White's operational experience includes Operation Warden (INTERFET) in East Timor in 1999 as an 'A' Field Battery Forward Observer and later Platoon Commander with the 3rd Battalion - Royal Australian Regiment (Parachute Battalion Group).

Lieutenant Colonel White qualified as an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator and Mission Commander at Boeings Training Facility in New Mexico, USA. He then deployed on Operation Catalyst in Iraq in 2006 as the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition & Reconnaissance Battery Commander of Overwatch Battle Group-2. His sub-unit was based on 131st Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery and was equipped with AN/TPQ-36 Weapon Locating Radars, ScanEagle and Skylark Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles flew over 2000 combat hours in support of coalition operations around Talill and over Basra.

In 2007 Lieutenant Colonel White led the planning and technical reconnaissance into Afghanistan to establish Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operations based at Tarin Kwot, as part of Operation Slipper.

Lieutenant Colonel White is married to Liz, who runs a Stand Up Paddle-board company in Sydney, and they have three young children; Hamish, Bella and Ewan. They enjoy spending time at the beach as a family; especially any opportunity to go Stand Up Paddle-boarding and surfing.

Lieutenant Colonel White assumed command of the 16th Air Land Regiment on 14th December 2014.

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## New Regimental Sergeant Majors

### WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE P. G. HOLSTEIN 1st Regiment RAA



Warrant Officer Class One Paul Holstein enlisted into the Regular Australian Army on 27th June 1984. On completing recruit training, he was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and completed initial

employment training at the School of Artillery. He was then posted to A Field Battery, 8th/12th Medium Regiment. During his posting to the 8th/12th Medium Regiment, he progressed through the ranks and was promoted to sergeant in late 1991.

In January 1992, he was posted to 108th Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment as a sergeant detachment commander. In 1996, he was posted to the School of Artillery, as an instructor at the Regimental Training Wing. In June 1998, he deployed on Operation Mazurka as a member of the Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai Egypt, as the Force Operations Sergeant.

In 1999, he was posted to the 103rd Medium Battery, 8th/12th Medium Regiment. In August that year he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and posted to 7th Field Battery, as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery.

In January 2002, Warrant Officer Class One Holstein was posted to the Royal Military College - Duntroon as a company sergeant major and in 2004, the Operations Warrant Officer. In 2005, Warrant Officer Class One Holstein was posted to the Australian Defence Force Academy as a squadron sergeant major. In 2007, Warrant Officer Class One Holstein was posted to the Directorate Personnel and Capability - Army, Employment Management Section as the Warrant Officer Employment Management.

In January 2008, Warrant Officer Class One Holstein was posted to the 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment as a battery sergeant major. In 2009, he deployed to Timor-Leste on Operation Astute as the Company Sergeant Major, Headquarters JTF631.

In 2010, he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One and appointed the Regimental Sergeant Major, 2nd/10th Field Regiment. In 2012, he deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Slipper as the mentor to the 205th Corps Command Sergeant Major and Regimental Sergeant Major 205th Coalition Advisory Team. In 2013, Warrant Officer Class One Holstein was posted to 1st Regiment, RAA as the Master Gunner and in 2014, appointed the Regimental Sergeant Major.

Warrant Officer Class One Holstein has a Bachelor of Administrative Leadership from the University of New England.

His honours and awards include the Australian Active Service Medal with ICAT Clasp, Afghanistan Medal, Australian Service Medal with Clasp Sinai and Timor-Leste, the Defence Long Service Medal with Second Clasp, Australian Defence Medal, Multinational Force and Observers Medal, Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal, NATO Medal with ISAF clasp, United States Army Commendation Medal and the Army Combat Badge.

Warrant Officer Class One Holstein was awarded a Commander 2nd Division Commendation in 2002 for exemplary duty as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery, 7th Field Battery, Commander Australian Defence College Commendation in 2006, for his performance as a squadron sergeant major at the Australian Defence Force Academy and in 2013, Deputy Chief of Joint Operations Commendation for his achievements as a mentor to the 205th Corps Command Sergeant Major and Regimental Sergeant Major 205th Coalition Advisory Team.

Warrant Officer Class One Holstein is married to Kelly and has two adult sons Nathan and Zac. He is a

very keen sportsman whose interests include all forms of football and motorcycle riding.

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## WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE S.J. VOSS

### 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment



Warrant Officer Class One Sean Voss was born in Sydney and educated in Victoria. He enlisted into the Regular Army in April 1989.

At the completion of recruit training he was allocated to the Royal Australian Artillery. He has held a variety of regimental and

instructional appointments in both Training and Land Command units.

After recruit and corps training, he spent 10 years with 131st Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, where he was employed in a variety of Artillery signaller and radar operator positions. In 1999, he was promoted to sergeant. In 2000, he was posted to the Army Recruit Training Centre, where he served as a platoon sergeant and drill team sergeant. In 2002, he was posted to 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery and was promoted to warrant officer class two. He was employed in a variety of positions as a warrant officer class two; including troop sergeant major, sergeant major instructor gunnery / senior sergeant major instructor gunnery, trade manager for the Radar Operator and Artillery Meteorological and Survey trades, regimental operations warrant officer and battery sergeant major. In 2010, he was promoted to warrant officer class one and was employed as the Regimental Standards Warrant Officer of 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment. He was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major, 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment in January 2014.

He has seen operational service in Western Sahara with the 5th Australian Service Contingent, on Operation Cedilla in 1993/1994; as a Watchkeeper within the Surveillance and Target Acquisition Cell as part of Overwatch Battle Group (West) Two in Iraq, on Operation Catalyst in 2006/2007 and has conducted three short deployments to Afghanistan as the unmanned aerial systems subject matter

expert on the operational airworthiness audit teams in 2010, 2011 and 2012 on Operation Slipper.

He is married to Sarah and together they have two children: Harrison (9) and Ava (7). His interests include most sports and in particular AFL and cricket. Getting away on holidays with his family when time permits is also high on his priority list.

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## DOCM-A

*Major Nathan Laughton  
Career Advisor Artillery*

It is my pleasure to continue as the Career Advisor for the Foundation Group Officers of the Royal Regiment. The 2014 Career Interview Tour went very well and I was pleased to be able to catch up with the majority of officers over the 8 weeks of the tour. It was also pleasing to see how well prepared the vast majority of individuals were for their interviews. As a result of the effort committed to preparing interviews conducted and individual preparation I am confident that I am well armed to provide the Army the right people in the right appointments from an RAA foundation group officer perspective.

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*... I am confident that I am well armed to provide the Army the right people in the right appointments from an RAA foundation group officer perspective.*

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I would like to use this forum to reinforce a few key Career Management Messages.

**The Army Officer Environment.** Although there continues to be personnel shortages at some ranks and within certain specialities, officer separation rates are currently holding steady at a level slightly below that which is considered ideal. The Foundation Group is currently short General Service Officer Captains and Specialist Service Officers at the ranks Captain and Major from certain specialities such as Medical Officer. In contrast, the asset-liability gap in the General Service Officer Major plot has reduced significantly over the past 12 months.

**Promotion and Progression.** Promotion at any rank will continue to be very competitive and based on the overall merit of the officers being considered,

their suitability for the next rank and the number of positions available at the next rank. Given the asset-liability situation at the rank of Major, promotion from Captain is likely to be increasingly competitive into the future and in some instances; officers may not be promoted on completion of their Minimum Time in Rank. It remains imperative that individuals of all ranks strive to perform to their best in every position they are posted to, complete and do well on courses and strive to complete a balanced mix of Regimental and non-Regimental appointments that will broaden their profile and experience and assist to provide the best possible chance of promotion and progression.

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*... promotion from Captain is likely to be increasingly competitive into the future and in some instances; officers may not be promoted on completion of their Minimum Time in Rank.*

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**Taking Ownership of Your Career.** I was very pleased to see that the majority of officers were well prepared for their interviews this year. This indicates that individuals are playing their part in the management of their career. Doing so remains essential to ensuring that DOCM-A is capable of providing Army the right officers, in the right appointments at the right time. Effective input by individual officers also allows DOCM-A, in conjunction with the chain of command, to best balance the needs of the Army with the professional development needs and personal desires of each officer. To ensure effective career management occurs, individuals must continue to reflect on the advice they receive during Career Interviews, via their Annual Career Guidance Letter or their chain of command and use this advice to develop a realistic plan for their future development and employment which best supports achieving their success criteria.

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*To ensure effective career management occurs, individuals must continue to reflect on the advice they receive during Career Interviews ... to develop a realistic plan for their future development and employment ...*

---

**All Corps Officer Training Continuum (ACTOC) Completion.** Although the ACTOC completion rate for RAA Foundation Group Officers has improved



over the past 12 months, there remains a significant course completion liability for both All Corps and RAA Career Courses. A significantly increased level of scrutiny is now being applied to ACTOC Completion when officers are being considered for certain appointments, selection for deployments and promotion. In the case of promotion, whereas in the past a large number of officers were allowed to progress to the next rank on a Provisional basis as they had not completed all requisite courses, this is now likely to only occur on a case by case basis to satisfy a service need. It remains an individual officer's responsibility to know which courses they need to complete and work with their chain of command to be released for those courses. The ideal rank and seniority for course completion is outlined below:

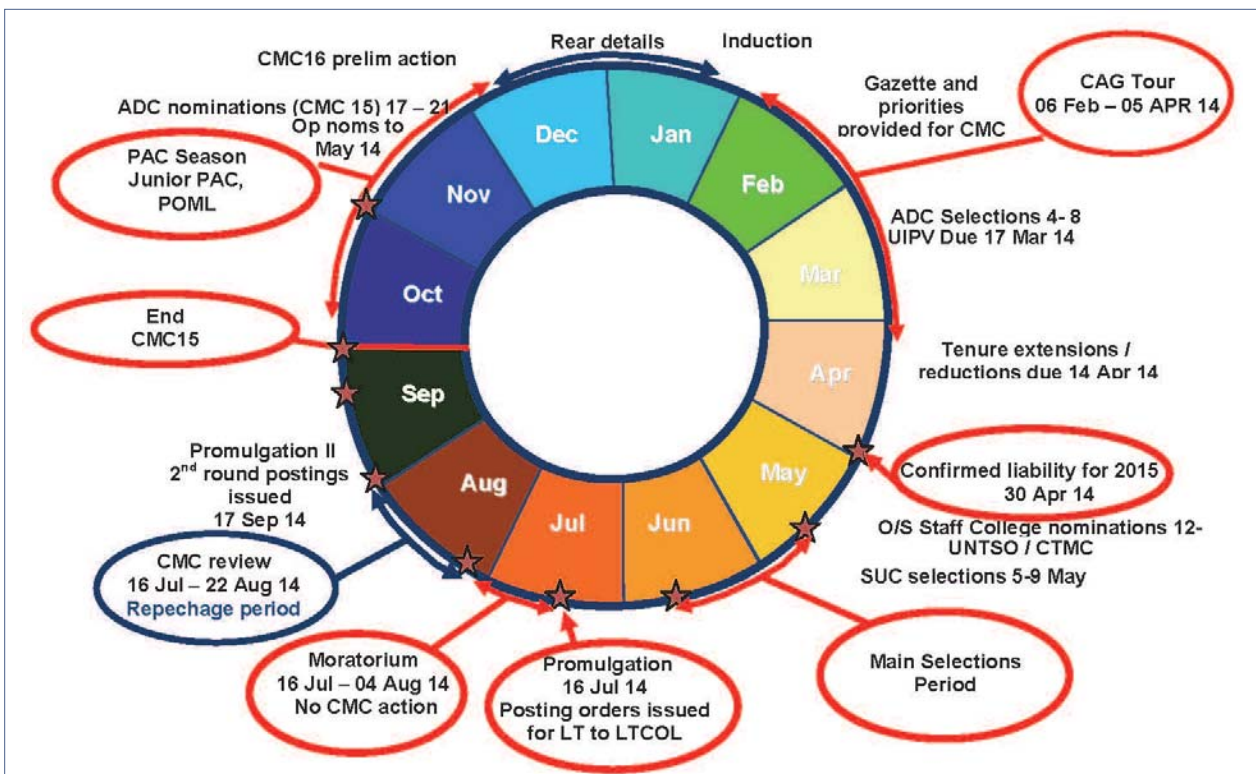
- **Regimental Officers Basic Course** - 1st Year Lieutenants (nominated and panelled by DOCM-A).
- **All Corps Captains Course** - 2nd or 3rd Year Lieutenants.
- **Regimental Officers Gunnery Course** - 1st or 2nd Year Captains.
- **Combat Officers' Advanced Course** - 3rd or 4th Year Captains.
- **All Corps Majors Course** - 5th or 6th Year Captains.
- **Advanced Operations Course** - Majors selected to attend Command and Staff College.

The Advanced Operational Course is also open to Majors selected to fill some Staff Officer Grade Two appointments. If officers or their chain of command assess this course would be of benefit a nomination for the course should be put forward and DOCM-A will determine if they will be panelled. Details of course sessions are able to be accessed on the DOCM-A website at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/sites/docm/comweb.asp?page=94466&Title=Training>.

*It remains an individual officer's responsibility to know which courses they need to complete ...*

**Operational Deployments.** Although formed body rotations on deployment have drawn down, DOCM-A remains responsible to identify high quality officers for a number of individual embed deployments. Individuals interested in being nominated for a deployment must first approach their chain of command to identify potential windows for release and, if the chain of command provides in principle support, contact me to discuss available opportunities.

**Career Management Cycle 2015.** There have been some slight changes to the Career Management Cycle aimed at developing efficiencies in the way in which DOCM-A operates. The main change is that the Career Management Cycle will conclude 1 month earlier than in previous years to allow additional time to complete Personnel Advisory



Committees. Career Management Cycle 2015 is outlined in the graphic below.

*... DOCM-A remains responsible to identify high quality officers for a number of individual embed deployments.*

**DOCM-A Website.** The first point of call for Career Management information should be the DOCM-A Website. The website is updated constantly and contains a plethora of information including publications on career pathways, the posting gazette and a host of presentations pertaining to career management. Likewise, the DOCM-A Dispatch is a source of valuable information and seeks to provide updates on the CMC and information on topical Career Management matters. All officers will be advised when the Dispatch is available on the DOCM-A website.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with most officers of the Foundation Group during the 2014 Interview Tour. I look forward to working with each of you throughout the remainder of the year to support the delivery of personnel capability to Army and in an endeavour to achieve your career milestones for 2014 and into the future.

## Guns Sound for Bombing

### 8th/12th Regiment gives life to Bombing of Darwin commemoration

By Leut Andrew Ragless

Four M2A2 Howitzer guns roared to life on The Esplanade, Darwin on Wednesday 19 February, re-enacting the moment in 1942 when Australian soldiers fought with valour against the first and largest enemy air attack on Australian soil.

The 72nd Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin was supported by soldiers from the Army's 8th/12th Regiment, their four Howitzer ceremonial guns firing seven blank 105mm rounds in succession to commemorate each decade passed since the devastating attack.

The gunfire, prompted by the fly past of two PC-9/A(F) aircraft from 4 Squadron, RAAF Base Williamtown, left a crowd of more than 2,500 veterans, school children and community members in awe. The PC-9s represented a force of more than 188 bombers, dive bombers and fighter aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy, who launched to attack Darwin from four aircraft carriers in the Timor Sea.

235 people were killed and around 400 wounded in the first of more than 100 air raids on northern Australia over the two years 1942-1943. 131 casualties were US military personnel. 11 ships were sunk, with the largest loss of life from the destroyer USS Peary, with 88 men Killed In Action.

95 year old, retired Sergeant John Moyle, a Darwin resident and former Anti Aircraft Gunner in Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea said the re-enactment was a very nostalgic experience. 'It brought back harsh memories, I think about mates I haven't got anymore, and that's what it's all about,' he said.

Private Gunner, Timothy Muhamad said it was sobering, but an honour to be involved in bringing the experience to life for the Darwin community. 'It's been a great day at work, to be part of re-enacting such a significant event, and in particular to see the young faces of the school kids, as they learn about an important part of Darwin, and Australia's history,' he said.

Representing the Prime Minister of Australia, Assistant Defence Minister the Hon. Mr Stuart Robert addressed the gathering and said the occasion was an opportunity to acknowledge the day when a city of a mere 6,000 were battered, but refused to kneel. 'We've come to remember a day, where few, stood against many,' he said.

We are here to acknowledge the heroism of our Defences Forces and of our American allies. We are here to remember and commemorate those who were killed and wounded on that day, and proclaim a community that was resilient, of a people who were and are courageous, and Territorians who were defiant in the face of force."

Army March 13, 2014

<http://images.defence.gov.au/S20140348>

# Full-time Senior Officer List

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Names</i>	<i>Post Nominals</i>	<i>Position Title</i>	<i>Unit</i>
LTGEN	Power	Brian Ashley	AO, CSC	CJOPS	HQ JOC
MAJGEN	Coghlan	David Peter	AM	DEPLOYED	
MAJGEN	McLachlan	Paul David	AM, CSC	HEAD LAND SYSTEMS	LSD
MAJGEN	Symon	Paul Bruce	AO	DIRECTOR	AIO
BRIG	Bilton	Gregory Charles	CSC	COMD 7 BDE	HQ 7 BDE
BRIG	Finney	Graeme William	OAM	DG ARMY OPS	AHQ
BRIG	Gates	Peter Campbell	CSM	COMDT ACSC	ADC
BRIG	Goodman	Wayne Leonard	AM	DIR ADF THEATRE PROJECT	
COL	Bailey	Brian James	CSC	DEPLOYED	
COL	Clingan	Scott Edward		DIRCENTENARY OF ANZAC	ASARMY O/S
COL	Dougall	John Angus		DIR SCS SPO	LSD
COL	Furini	Craig Dennis	CSC	CHIEF OF STAFF TO CDF	OFF-CDF
COL	Haebich	Andrew Mark		ASST COMD HQ 6 BDE	HQ 6 BDE
COL	Hume	Steven John		DIR LAND SYS INTEGRATION	ESD EXEC
COL	Kennedy	Michael Robert Carver		DCOS AHQ	AHQ
COL	Kenny	Stuart Nicholas	CSC	DEPLOYED	
COL	McIntyre	Anthony Paul		COMDT CATC	HQ CATC
COL	McLean	John Brendan	CSC	DIR AFV SPO	LSD
COL	Plant	Andrew Alfred		DIR JT PREPARED MANAGEMENT	JCCD
COL	Ryan	Sean Thomas		DGT PROJ OFFR	ASARMY O/S
COL	Saddington	Stephen Michael		DIR CAPBILITY DEV-A	AHQ
COL	Sweeney	Neil Thomas		DEPLOYED	
COL	Weller	Charles Peter Howard	CSC	DIR FORCE DEV - ARMY	AHQ
COL	Wood	Brandon Ashley		DIR SNR OFFR MANAGEMENT	PS&C





# Full-time Regimental Sergeant Major List

<i>Worn Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Unit Description</i>
<b>REG RSM Any Corps TIER B WO1</b>		
WO1	Lehr, David Ross (OAM)	AHQ RSM CEREMONIAL
WO1	Clayton, Mark Reginald	RSM HQ 6 BDE (CS&ISTAR)
WO1	Johnson, Michael Ian	RSM HQ 4 BDE
<b>ASST ADMIN TIER B</b>		
WO1	Franklin, Brett Anthony	CMA
<b>SM TIER B</b>		
WO1	Thompson, Robert James (OAM)	CATC
<b>RSM TIER A</b>		
WO1	Schuman, Stephen James	RSM Joint P&EU
WO1	Fox, Brendan John	RSM 16 ALR
WO1	Voss, Sean John	RSM 20 STA REGT
WO1	McGarry, David Thomas	RSM 8/12 REGT RAA
WO1	Kennedy, Tony Lionel	RSM 4 REGT RAA
WO1	Holstein, Paul Geoffrey	RSM 1 REGT RAA
WO1	Clifford, Craig Keiran	RSM 5 AVN REGT
WO1	Hortle, Anthony Maxwell	RSM SOARTY
WO1	Nutini, David	RSM PTS
<b>MNGR OPS OFF SPT TIER A</b>		
WO1	Andersen, Richard Enghave	MG HQ 6 BDE (CS&ISTAR)
WO1	Sinclair, Dean Joseph	MG 8/12 REGT RAA
WO1	Lindsay, Damien Paul	MG 4 REGT RAA
WO1	Thompson, Simon Peter	MG 1 REGT RAA
WO1	Sullivan, Matthew James	MG SOARTY
WO1	Grundell, David Ramon	MG SOARTY
WO1	McIntyre, Brenden Robert	MG Joint P&EU
<b>ASST ADMIN TIER A</b>		
WO1	Boyce, Grant Leigh	CMA (CA RAA)
WO1	Kyrwood, Barry Colin	HQ 1 DIV
WO1	Jarvis, Jason Graeme	RSMIG 16 ALR
WO1	Carmichael, Stephen Donald	RSMIG 20 STA REGT
WO1	Matthysen, Philip Arthur	LSD (DMO)
WO1	Torney, Ronald James	HQ 9 BDE
WO1	Byrne, Thomas Alan	APNRE (WA)
WO1	Armstrong, Brett Laurence	APNRE (Townsville)
WO1	Rayment, David Thomas	LWC
WO1	Driscoll, Scott Robert	LWC
WO1	Graham, Shaun	HQ 2 DIV

# Associations & Organisations

## Contact List

### RAA Regimental Fund

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Email: john.batayola@defence.gov.au

### RAA Historical Company

P O Box 171 Cremorne Junction, NSW 2090  
Phone: (02) 9908 4618  
Website: <http://www.artilleryhistory.org>  
[See Membership Form in Cannonball]

*Cannonball* (Official Journal)

### Australian Army Artillery Museum

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*Battery Guide* (Newsletter)

### RAA Historical Society WA (Inc)

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Website: [www.artillerywa.org.au](http://www.artillerywa.org.au)

*Take Post* (Quarterly Newsletter)

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### 10 Medium Regiment Association Inc

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*The Big Gun* (Newsletter)

### 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

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### ***The Journal With No Name (Newsletter)***

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*Gunners Gossip* (Newsletter)  
To Be Advised

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Secretary - Grant Nicholls  
P O Box 918, Charlestown, NSW 2290  
Email: secretary@raaanewcastle.com  
Website: www.raaanewcastle.com

### **RAA Association (ACT)**

President - Lieutenant Colonel Nick H. Floyd  
Phone: (02) 6266 0351  
Email: nick.floyd@defence.gov.au

*Shot Over* (Newsletter)

### **RAA Association (VIC) Inc**

President - Major N. Hamer RFD  
Phone: (03) 9702 2100  
Email: nhamer@bigpond.net.au  
Secretary - Colonel Jason Cooke  
Phone: (03) 9282 6900  
Mob: 0409 043 165  
Email: jason.cooke@defence.gov.au

#### *'Cascabel'* (Magazine)

Editor - Alan Halbish, 115 Kearney Drive,  
Aspendale Gardens, VIC 3195  
Phone: (03) 9587 1676  
Email: ahalbish@netspace.net.au  
Website: www.artilleryvic.org.au

### **RAA Association (SA)**

President - Geoff Laurie  
12 Chatsworth Grove, Toorak Gardens, SA 5065  
Phone: (08) 8332 4485  
Email: raaassocsa@gmail.com

### **RAA Association (NT)**

The Secretary - Dr Tom Lewis  
G P O Box 3220, Darwin, NT 0801  
Email: info@darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au  
Phone: (08) 8981 9702

#### *RAAANT Newsletter*

National Liaison Officer,  
RAAANT - John Johnston  
Email: jrj5076@bigpond.net.au  
Mob: 0419 836 669

### **RAA Association (WA) Inc**

President - Lieutenant Colonel R.B. Farrelly RFD  
Phone: (08) 6488 3223 (Bus)  
Mob: 0417 981 615

Vice-president - Major P.J. Mahoney RFD  
Phone: (08) 9268 8072  
Mob: 0428 198 707

Secretary - Major J. Blylevens RFD  
P O Box 881, Claremont, WA 6910  
Phone: (08) 9461 6001 (bus)  
Mob: 0438 695 711  
Email: info@artillerywa.org.au  
Website: www.artillerywa.org.au

*Artillery WA* (On-line Newsletter)

### **RAA Association (TAS) Inc**

President - Major Graeme Howard  
Honorary Secretary - Lieutenant Tony Cordwell  
Email: tony.cordwell@tasnursing.com.au  
Mob: 0409 356 011  
Website: www.tasartillery.com

*The Artillery News* (Newsletter)

Editor - Mrs Janet Stewart  
11 Anson Street, Weaverley, TAS 7250  
Email: jst59804@bigpond.net.au  
Phone: (03) 6339 2450

**Australian Air Defence Association Inc.**

President - Glynn Potter  
Email: president@aadaa.asn.au  
Secretary - Alan Mears  
AADAA, P O Box 41, Rosedale, QLD, 4674  
Email: secretary@aadaa.asn.au or  
bottlecreekau@hotmail.com  
Phone: (07) 4156 5215  
Website: <http://aadaa.asn.au>

**Locating Artillery Association**

President - Major Joe Kaplun CMC, JP  
Phone: (02) 9774 1471  
Mob: 040774 1473  
Email: joekaplun@optusnet.com.au  
Vice President - LTCOL Phil Swinsberg  
Phone: (07) 3353 5210  
Mob: 0425 000 370  
Secretary - Bob Morrison  
Phone: (02) 4861 6463  
Mob: 0417 447 504  
Email: robmor@ozemail.com.au  
Email: info@locatingartillery.org  
Website: [www.locatingartillery.org](http://www.locatingartillery.org)

*LOCREP* (Newsletter)

Editor: Major Allan Harrison (see above)

**131 Locators Association Inc.**

*Eyes & Ears* (Newsletter)  
Editor: Paul Dickson  
Email: three-zero@hotmail.com

**18 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Association**

Secretary - Alan Lark  
1 Manor Hill Road, Miranda, NSW 2228  
Phone: (02) 9522 4815  
Mob: 0428 461 621  
Email: mokingalong@optusnet.com.au

**9 HAA/LAA Regiments Association**

President - Phil Easton  
29 Michael Crescent, Kiama, NSW 2533  
Phone: (02) 4237 6087  
Email: pjeaston@westnet.com.au

**13 Battery Association Inc**

President - Paul Scarborough  
Mob: 0418 872 324  
Email: paulscarborough@bigpond.com  
Secretary - John Parnell

*13 Bty Assoc Inc SITREP* (Newsletter)

**41 Battery/11 Field Regiment  
RAA Association Inc**

President - Graeme Fitzpatrick  
25 Manakin Ave, Burleigh Waters QLD 4220  
Phone: (07) 5535 1211 (H)  
Email: 41btyassn@gmail.com

*Gunner Ear* (Newsletter)

**Fort Lytton Historical Association (QLD) Inc**

President - Maurice McGuire, OAM  
P O Box 293, Wynnum QLD 4178  
Phone: (07) 3399 3198  
Email: fhaguides@gmail.com  
Website: [www.fortlytton.net.au](http://www.fortlytton.net.au)

*'The Custodian'* (Newsletter)

Editor: Harry Lynas

**Fort Scratchley Historical Society**

Website: [www.fortscratchley.org.au](http://www.fortscratchley.org.au)

**RA Association**

Website: [www.forums.theraa.co.uk.php](http://www.forums.theraa.co.uk.php)

**RAA Unit Websites**

RAA and other unit websites maybe accessed via the Australian Army website.

<http://www.defence.gov.au/army/RRAA>

<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/RRAA>

*Important Websites*

**'Australian Artillery Association'**

*Website:*

[www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)

*Email:*

[president@australianartilleryassociation.com](mailto:president@australianartilleryassociation.com)

**'Royal Australian Artillery Historical  
Company'**

*Website:*

[www.artilleryhistory.org](http://www.artilleryhistory.org)

*Email:*

[raahcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:raahcoffice@gmail.com)

# Regimental Fund Benefactors

*Correct as at 1st April 2014*

LTGEN D.M. Mueller	COL S.R. Carey	LTCOL M.A. Cameron
LTGEN B.A. Power	COL S.E. Clingan	LTCOL J.H. Catchlove
MAJGEN J.E. Barry	COL F.G. Colley	LTCOL I.D.S. Caverswall
MAJGEN D.P. Coghlan	COL M.C. Crawford (see note)	LTCOL S.G. Condon
MAJGEN M.P. Crane	COL J.A.L. Fairless	LTCOL R.J. Crawford (see note)
MAJGEN P.J. Dunn	COL C. D. Furini	LTCOL C.F. Dodds
MAJGEN G.J. Fitzgerald	COL R.N. Gair	LTCOL D.M. Edwards
MAJGEN G.P. Fogarty	COL S.T. Goltz	LTCOL L.D. Ensor
MAJGEN T.R. Ford (see note)	COL G.C. Hay	LTCOL E.P.M. Esmonde
MAJGEN S.N. Gower	COL E.D. Hirst	LTCOL J. Findlay
MAJGEN J.P. Stevens (see note)	COL C.B.J. Hogan	LTCOL N.H.B. Floyd
MAJGEN P.B. Symon	COL J.H. Humphrey	LTCOL R.J. Foster
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BRIG J.R. Cox	COL A.G. Hutchinson	LTCOL A.W. Garrad
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BRIG V.H. Williams	COL A.D. Watt (see note)	LTCOL G.F.B. Rickards
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COL B.J. Bailey	LTCOL C.W. Andersen	LTCOL R.A. Vagg
COL J.F. Bertram	LTCOL B.J. Armour	LTCOL W.R.C. Vickers
COL J.P.C. Black	LTCOL J.D. Ashton	LTCOL D.H.R. Wilton
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COL D.L. Byrne	LTCOL J.E. Box	
	LTCOL D.N. Brook	



MAJ W.C. Barnard  
 MAJ G.K. Bartels  
 MAJ G.F. Berson  
 MAJ P.E. Bertocchi  
 MAJ D.T. Brennan  
 MAJ P. Cimbaljevic  
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 MAJ S. Denner  
 MAJ P.K. Dover  
 MAJ M. Dutton  
 MAJ M.J. Finnerty  
 MAJ C.A. Flear  
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 MAJ W.J. Francis  
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 MAJ W.H. Grimes  
 MAJ J.M. Groves  
 MAJ N. Hamer  
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 MAJ L.P. Hindmarsh  
 MAJ S.A. Hompas  
 MAJ D.A. Jenkins  
 MAJ G. Johns  
 MAJ D.E. Jones  
 MAJ J. Kaplun  
 MAJ J.B. Kelly  
 MAJ J.A. King  
 MAJ D. Klomp  
 MAJ M.D. Laurence  
 MAJ H. Lenard  
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 MAJ M.W. Middleton  
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 MAJ D.R. Morgan  
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 MAJ P.J. Prewett  
 MAJ V.J. Ray  
 MAJ S.G. Rohan-Jones  
 MAJ W.A. Ritchie  
 MAJ P.S. Richards  
 MAJ K.F. Schoene  
 MAJ L.J. Simmons  
 MAJ A.H. Smith (see note)  
 MAJ P.W. Spencer  
 MAJ M.C. Squire  
 MAJ A.E.R. Straume  
 MAJ M. Taggart

MAJ W. Tapp  
 MAJ M.L. Van Tilburg  
 MAJ A.C. Turner  
 MAJ T.W. Vercoe  
 MAJ M. St C. Walton  
 MAJ C.V. Wardrop  
 MAJ P.R. Widelewski  
 CAPT J.P. Casey  
 CAPT J.M. Costello  
 CAPT M.S. Hodda  
 CAPT M.A. Pasteur (AAAvn)  
 CAPT P.J. Smith  
 CAPT P.J. Watkins  
 CAPT P. Wertheimer  
 LT J.F. Henry  
 LT S.L. Shepherd  
 WO1 D.G. Annett  
 WO1 D.W. Bowman  
 WO1 K.J. Browning (see note)  
 WO1 L.A. Cooper  
 WO1 B.A. Franklin  
 WO1 G.A. Jebb  
 WO1 M.I. Johnson  
 WO1 M.A. Johnston  
 WO1 T.L. Kennedy  
 WO1 D.R. Lehr  
 WO1 P.A. Matthysen  
 WO1 B.J. Stafford  
 WO1 R.J. Thompson  
 WO1 M. Vandyke (see note)  
 WO1 P.T. Washford  
 WO1 C.F.J. Watego  
 WO1 G.J. Webster  
 WO2 D. Bannerman  
 WO2 M. Broughton  
 WO2 P. Carthew  
 WO2 M.R. Dawson  
 WO2 R.T.B. Hay  
 WO2 J.J. Hennessy  
 WO2 D.G. Ogden (see note)  
 WO2 A. Pavlovich  
 WO2 R.N. Skelton  
 SSGT R.W. Morrell  
 SSGT E.J. Paddon  
 SGT J. Nield  
 SGT G.V. Saint  
 SGT D.H. Wood  
 Mr E. Harkin  
 Mr C.J. Jobson

**Note:**

COL M.C. Crawford, COL E.D. Hirst, MAJ A.J. Balsillie and MAJ A.H. Smith have paid three life subscriptions. LTGEN B.A. Power, MAJGEN T.R. Ford, MAJGEN J.P. Stevens, MAJGEN J.D. Stevenson, MAJGEN J. Whitelaw, BRIG G.W. Finney, BRIG R.K. Fullford, BRIG J.R. Salmon; COL A.R. Burke, COL A.D. Watt; LTCOL D.M. Murphy; LTCOL G.K. Phillips; MAJ J.B. Evans, WO1 K.J. Browning; WO1 M. Vandyke and WO2 D.G. Ogden have paid two life subscriptions.

**Associations**

RAA Association (Tas)  
 RAA Association (Qld)  
 RAA Association (North Qld)  
 RAA Association (Vic)  
 RAA Association (SA)  
 RAA Association (NSW)  
 RAA Association (NSW) - Newcastle Branch  
 105th Field Battery Association  
 107 (Field) Battery Association  
 Fort Lytton Historical Assoc  
 RAA Retired Officers of South East Queensland  
 Australian Air Defence Artillery Association  
 13th Battery Association

**Deceased Benefactors**

Sir Roden Cutler  
 MAJGEN T.F. Cape  
 MAJGEN G.D. Carter  
 MAJGEN P. Falkland  
 MAJGEN R. G. Fay  
 MAJGEN J.D. Stevenson (see note)  
 MAJGEN J. Whitelaw (see note)  
 BRIG R.K. Fullford (see note)  
 BRIG A.G. Hanson  
 BRIG R.Q. Macarthur-Stranham  
 BRIG I.J. Meibusch  
 BRIG J.R. Salmon (see note)  
 COL M.J. Kingsford  
 LTCOL R.H.E. Harvey  
 LTCOL P.L. Overstead  
 LTCOL G.K. Phillips  
 LTCOL G.W. Tippetts  
 MAJ M. Dawson  
 MAJ J.B. Evans (see note)  
 MAJ A.A. Thwaites  
 CAPT A.E. Sheridan

# RAA Gunners Fund – Needs Your Support

## Introduction

The RAA Gunners' Fund is designed to provide a source of funds that can be utilised for the benefit of all Gunners. One of the most important uses for these funds is to support requests from RAA units and organisations to assist in the ongoing preservation and promotion of the Regimental heritage. Other worthy goals that this funding supports, is not limited to, but includes:

- support RAA extra-Regimental activities,
- encourage RAA Officers and Soldiers who excel in their profession,
- support activities that benefit RAA personnel, not normally funded by public money,
- safeguard, maintain and purchase items of RAA Regimental property,
- preserve RAA heritage and history, and
- record RAA Operational service since deployments began in the 1990s.

The Regimental Committee cannot achieve these very worthy goals without the support of individual members and organisations within the Gunner community. All officers, warrant officers and sergeants are encouraged to make a financial contribution to the Gunners' Fund or take up the option of a 'Life Subscription' which then absolves the subscriber from being asked for any further subscriptions. The list of life subscribers is published in the Liaison Letter and they automatically receive a complimentary copy.

## Recent Projects

Over the years the Gunners' Fund has supported a wide range of requests for financial support, including some of which are ongoing such as insurance and maintenance of the AIF and Mount Schank Trophies. It is worth noting that the sums of money requested from the Fund are generally significant and therefore can only realistically have any chance of being provided if each and everyone of us support the Fund. Projects supported by the Fund include the allocation of:

- \$2,500 to 8th/12th Medium Regiment to assist the Regiment to build a Regimental Memorial to coincide with the Regiment's 30th anniversary celebrations;
- \$500 to 131st Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery to improve the Battery memorial and add a plaque to mark the 50th Anniversary of the unit and its name change from 131st Divisional Locating Battery;
- \$1,000 to 1st Field Regiment for its 50th anniversary celebrations;
- \$1,000 to 4th Field Regiment for its 40th anniversary celebrations;
- \$1,500 for shield to be held by winner of Mount Schanck trophy;
- \$1,000 to 1st Field Regiment to mark 50th anniversary of 105th Field Battery, 50th anniversary of commitment to Malaya and 40th anniversary of commitment to South Vietnam;
- \$1,000 to complete the Major General T. Cape Bequest to the Regimental officer's mess;
- \$5,000 to commission a painting to mark the withdrawal from service of Rapier;
- \$6,000 to support commissioning a painting to mark the RAA/RA deployment in Afghanistan;
- \$2,500 towards the Anti-Aircraft and Air Defence Memorial at 16th Air Defence Regiment;
- The on-going Royal Military College Graduation Artillery prize which is approximately \$100 per graduation; and
- Annual Regimental Officer, Warrant Officer and Sergeant farewells.

## Subscriptions

The recommended new rate of contribution is deemed as **\$155** for a life subscription and the following sliding scale based on rank for an annual subscription for Army Reserve and Retired Members:

- LTCOL and above – **\$30**,
- MAJ and CAPT – **\$25**,
- LT and WO – **\$20**, and
- SGT – **\$15**.

It is understood that some individuals may not be in a position to meet the suggested scale, therefore any contribution will be gratefully appreciated in helping to continue the good work the Fund has provided the Regiment over many years.



## RAA Gunners' Fund Subscription

**Rank/Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ [BLOCK letters please]

**Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_

(or Association)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

P/Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is my/our contribution to the RAA Gunners' Fund
- A receipt is required

Please return this form with a **cheque** made out to '*RAA Regimental Fund*':

Major John Batayola, SO2 HOR, School of Artillery,  
Bridges Barracks, Puckapunyal Vic 3662

or to pay by **electronic funds transfer** using a bank or credit union, the following is required:

Credit Union: Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU)  
Account Name: RAA Regt Fund  
BSB: 642 170  
Account Number: 526805

The description or reference must include Organisation (i.e. mess or association) or Initials and Surname and the word '*subscription*'.

For further information contact Major John Batayola on mobile: 0400 854 323

### Annual Subscription for Army Reserve and Retired Members:

- LTCOL & above: \$30.00
- MAJ and CAPT: \$25.00
- LT and WO: \$20.00
- SGT: \$15.00

### Life Subscription:

All Ranks: \$155.00





# Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery **Regimental Shop**



## **RAA Items**

- Silk ties
- RAA berets and badges  
(officers and ORs)
- RAA socks
- RAA cuff links
- RAA caps

## **General Items**

- Stubbie holders
- Polo shirts
- Sports wear (basic)

## **Field Equipment**

- Knives and tool selection
- Alice pack frames
- Dive bags
- Hydration packs
- Jet biloers
- Goggles
- Gloves
- Torches
- Sleeping mats

### **New Stock**

Check out the latest deals on the SOARTY web page  
<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/ARTYSCH/comweb.asp?page=28046&Title=Regimental>

### **For Information and Orders:**

School of Artillery, Bridges Barracks

### **Contact Details:**

Email: [RAACorps.Shop@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAACorps.Shop@defence.gov.au)

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## Australian Gunner Magazine

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3	Australian Gunner – Vol. 2 No.1 – September 1979*
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8	Australian Gunner – The Official Journal of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery – March 1997*

## Miscellaneous Regimental Publications

	<i>Title</i>
1	DARTY Personnel Notes – December 1969#
2	Royal Australian Artillery Personnel Notes – 1978#

### Note:

\*Copy held by SO to HOR

# Copy held by Puckapunyal Area Library

+ Copy held by HOR at School of Artillery

@ Not available to HOR at School of Artillery





# RAAHC

## NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company needs Your Help to Support the Preservation and Promotion of Artillery History and Heritage and the Management of the Regiments Collection Nationally



### How Much Does It Cost?

\$30.00 (1 year), or \$120 (5 years)

All Gunners and friends of the Regiment are invited to join



### What You Get In Return?

RAA Liaison Letter and Cannonball twice annually

Free access to the Artillery Museum (temporarily closed) and most other museums in the Australian Army Museum network

Use of the Artillery Museum's library resources

Personal satisfaction in supporting the preservation of Artillery heritage



### How Does The Company Benefit?

They can add your weight to the membership numbers when seeking grants and other assistance from public and non-public sources

Your subscription assists with ongoing administration costs



### How Do You Join?

A membership form can be found in this publication

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**RAAHC THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**