

Volume 02 : March 2006

President:

Ron (Tex) Bassan 6 Harveys Rd. Beaconsfield Qld 4740 Phone: 07.4942.5433 Email: <u>texbassan@yahoo.com.au</u> Hon. Secretary: Clare (Bonnie) Bassan 6 Harveys Rd. Beaconsfield Qld 4740 Phone: 07.4942.5433 Email: bonniebassan@yahoo.co.uk **Treasurer:** Brian (Baron) Czislowski 4/17 Duet Drive Mermaid Waters Qld 4218 Phone: 0422.241.936



From The President's Chair.

G'day Members,

I trust everyone had a merry Christmas & a happy New Year, hopefully 2006 will be rewarding for everyone.

We are now the owners of another gun, this time it is an L5, 105mm Pack Howitzer. At this stage the weapon is at the Cadet Unit in Mackay but soon as there is an Army crane mounted vehicle going through Mackay to Brisbane & room on board, then it will be transported to 1 Field Regiment RAA at Enoggera.

I forwarded letters to all unfinancial members & at this stage our list is down to about 30, also mailed letters to people who have never been members inviting them to join the Association & the 1965-67 list of members. I tried to get a list of people who were in the Battery in Vietnam: to this date I have not had any riposte.

We have had a great response, with a lot of new members & about 40 from the Malaysian period. If you know of any person who was a member of "A" Battery & is not a member of the Association, then please ask them to contact us as they wish join our happy group.

We have had a great response to our 'Life Membership" offer: it has been so good that your committee has decided to suspend it from 31st March 2006. I hope everyone realizes why we have had to put a moratorium on it. If everyone was a life member we would not have any finances coming in each year & we would soon go broke.

John Smith has informed me that the Australian War Memorial has given the approval for the plaque & now we have to get it made. We need some input when it should be dedicated & we will have to liase with the Battery. The Battery has a new BC, BSM & Battery Guide, so we will have to make ourselves known to them & it would be great to see them come to Maroochydore this year.

That's all from me this newsletter, Regards,

Tex Bassan.

The Editor Has A Say.

How did everyone enjoy the new National Newsletter, November 2005 issue? I realize that you cannot please all the people all of the time, but most some of the time. The aim of this publication is to be informative, entertaining & presented in good taste. So please feel free to make comment, contribute if so desired, as I need all the help I can get. Its' what the heading says, "National", so come on you lot from WA, SA, VIC. & there is even two of us in TAS. Beside the rest of you bashful lot in ACT, QLD & NSW. I'm sure there must be something you can send us that would make interesting & informative reading. That goes for ex Officers' & ORs'. Dig deep, get the cogs of the old grey matter into gear and into the memory recording mode.

If people have not received a hard copy of this issue, it is because they have not paid their renewal or membership fees' & we cannot afford to post out to those as it would appear they are not interested in the Association. I can tell you, there is very intensive and long hours of toil involved with the running and planning of the Association and the preparation, printing, packing envelopes and postage of your newsletter.

Some interesting statistics came out of the November issue. When you consider what was printed and where it was delivered:

Total copies issued = 220. A4 pages printed 5 sheets per copy x 2 = 10 x 220 = 2200 pages. That's a big print for a small organization. Just ask our Hon Treasurer. Still pulling his hair out as to the cost of materials and postage. (This does not include misprints / errors.) Postage to: $\underline{ACT=9} - \underline{NSW=114(incl Battery)} - \underline{Qld=63} - \underline{Vic=17} - \underline{WA=7} - \underline{SA=3} - \underline{Tas=1} - \underline{Misc=6}$.

As at the end of December '05, there were only three returns, not at or address unknown.

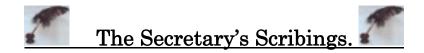
I've had my bit of a say, now for your entertainment and amusement, read on...

I have on occasion, been asked how I came up with the title for, **"The Gunners Thunderbox Network."** It was quite simple. We all should know what a thunderbox is, right, it is a place where one would go to have his number two's and in the process it was a place to have a smoke, read a magazine or catch up with the news in whatever newspaper issue, a place to have a chin wag & exchange information, if one or more of the other thunderboxes' were occupied, a place for character assassination, a place to listen to and begin rumors, a place to plan the forthcoming nocturnal entertainment activities, in all a place that is the hub of any military establishment, the intelligence in this area is second to none. Thus the motto, **"Where information is gathered, analytically processed & distributed."**

So, by to-days' standards, technology is zooming ahead and the old thunderbox is keeping apace.

Where there are Diggers', there's information to be gathered in these sanctuaries of relief.

Now I trust that has cleared up the enquiries, see you in the loo...



Dear Members,

20th January 2006.

Happy New Year to you all. Apologies to all that I missed the Association meeting and reunion in September last but for health reasons I could not attend. I believe a good time was had by all and I think this year's AGM will be as good if not better. I hope to see old faces as well as a lot more new faces this year. I think it may be a wise move on your part, as soon as you make up your mind to attend this years reunion, to get in touch with me so as I can start to prepare accommodation bookings as the date draws nearer. There will be more information in the next newsletter on costs and dates, but feel free to contact me by phone or email. Ok members', trust to see you all soon.

Regards, Bonnie. Hon Secretary.



Teacher: Morris, why is your composition on "My Dog" exactly the same as your brothers? Morris : Because teacher... it's the same dog.

Teacher: Willie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

Willie: Me!

Remember, if you have changed your address etc, please inform **S**ecretary **B**onnie **B**assan of your on forwarding information. ie: address, phone numbers', email etc, etc...

Bonnie at the Office. = Tonic to soothe the nerves. = Relaxing. "Tex, bring me another coldie."







Things we Hear, Read, Say & See.

Germans Saving Too Much Water?

Water supply & sewage collection systems in Germany are suffering because consumers are saving too much water, reports the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung. In the past, higher consumption was forecast & networks were built accordingly. At the same time, saving water has been promoted as an important contribution to safeguarding the environment & resources & demand has decreased. The problem now is that "in many places, our drinking water is standing still in the pipes," says Ulrich Oemichen of the German Gas & Water Boards Association. "Longer stagnation then results in pipe corrosion & the water absorbs metals." Also, when there is not enough water in the sewers, solid material collects & starts to rot. The only solution is to flush the freshwater & sewage collection systems with precious drinking water...

Comment: Sounds familiar, dammed if we do & dammed if we don't...





Emails, Phone Calls' & Letters.

This piece of interesting reading was sent in by none other than Max Vandyke, so as to see if you older type Diggers can sill remember the parts of the LEE ENFIELD .303 rifle & to test your memories as to how to dismantle & assemble the weapon. Again, bringing back memories. I still recall when doing rookie training at Kapooka, when one of our DI's was attempting to teach us drills with this weapon, in particular, the present arms, when you slap the butt in the second last movement, " if you break the bloody thing, then we will get you another one."



21/11/2005: Received a letter & photos from Norm Webster up there in Taree, NSW, of when he was located in Japan. Good to hear from you Norm.



Some of Norms mates.



On a shoot in Japan.

Received a phone call from Joey Rouse last evening (Thursday 19th Jan.) identifying persons in one of the photo's that John Knight sent in last issue. The photo of the three people marching in line. Joey said the fellow in the centre was him, the person behind was Bill (Bulby) Gallagher and couldn't id the chap in front and yes, he was being escorted to his billet to pick up his kit, as he was about to start doing time in the "clanger".

Some just don't forget, hey Kimbo...

It was 1972 & "A" Fd Bty was to hold ground for 5RAR. After we set the gun up we were all gathered under a tree off to the side of the parade ground & who should be there but "Quinton" the 5 Battalion tiger mascot. Now Gnr Eric Smith was bald, a nasho & kind of took a liking to this beast, so was over near the cage taunting the poor animal saying, "Pussy, pussy, pussy", with no reaction from "Quinton" the mascot.

He says to all gathered under the tree, "This thing nothing but a bloody big pussy", & puts his face right up to the cage & says, "pussy pussy pussy", again & with this, "Quinton" charges at Eric & lets out a roar heard all over the Battalion. Eric's one strand of hair on his head stood straight up & he bolted across the paddock singing out, "Bloody hell, bloody hell, it's a Tiger, it's a Tiger."

Well we finished the parade, Eric was still shaking & he was the talk of the Battery & Battalion...

Received in Friday's mail (27th Jan) a most welcome letter, (Norm Webster will enjoy this), from another 2 Mtn Bty Digger, Harry Sargeant of Corinda, Qld. (later to be known as "A" Fd Bty,) we all knew that didn't we, a letter and some very interesting photos' of when they were on Mortai Island and in Japan with the Commonwealth Occupation Forces. I have included a couple of these photos' in this publication and then will be forwarding all of Harry's snaps onto our Webmaster to be entered into the Association web site. Thanks Harry, who is a young 84 year old. No doubt Norm will want to get in touch with you.



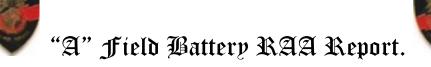
Harry Sargeant on Moratai Island



On Leave-Tokyo-1947



King George 6th Birthday Parade-21 gun Salute-Japan-1947



Further to the follow up of the Battery's last exercise for the year '05, at Singleton in October. Hamel guns rained from the skies over Singleton Military Training Area as "A" Fd. Bty. conducted a parachute insertion in October during their final live fire exercise for the year.

Sixty two (62) personnel jumped and six guns were dropped into Drop zones 'Britto' and 'Hinge' from three C130 aircraft during Exercise Denique Ledo (Final Hit), which was the largest airdrop of artillery pieces in 'A" Fd Bty's 134 year history.

The exercise was aimed at demonstrating the full operational capability of the Battery as well as the co-operation between the unit and the RAAF.

BC Major Dave Kelly said it was an extremely important part of their job in the airborne battle group to be able to de-rig so many guns and bring them into action from a drop zone.

BSM WO2 David Rayment said that it was a great way to wrap up a successful year for the Battery. "After the drop the Battery Commander pushed us up with a live fire and movement culminating in a defensive practice using the 105mm and small arms," he said, "Thanks to the help of 3RAA, the RAAF & 176 AD Sqn, that we were able to fulfill all our objectives.





Heavy metal: Alpha Gun being moved at the DZ into its firing position after removal from the air drop platform DE-05.

Photos' courtesy by Mr. Bill Cunneen.

Remember an article that was published in the August 2005 issue of the "**Road Runner**". Re the possible relocation of the Battery & 3RAR. Well people it has been made official. Although it was bandied around that the relocation sites could possibly be one of four, Amberly, Townsville, Darwin or South Australia, it turns out that the latter is the one.

Army Battalion to Relocate to Adelaide.

Army's 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), will relocate from Sydney to Adelaide as part of the Hardened & Networked Army strategy, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced today. "The Government has agreed in principle to relocate 3RAR from its current base at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney to the Edinburgh

Defence precinct in Adelaide," Senator Hill said. "Approximately 1200 personnel from 3RAR and supporting elements will be relocated to form a new Mechanised Battlegroup."

"Whilst 3RAR will form the core of the Battlegroup, **'A' Field Battery** in Sydney and some personnel from 1 Combat Engineer Regiment and 1 Combat Service Support Battalion in Darwin will also be relocated. There will be no net loss in the numbers of personnel in Darwin as other units will expand as part of the Hardened and Networked Army Strategy."

'The Adelaide Mechanised Battlegroup will be established from 2011 with personnel relocating in that year once the construction of the necessary facilities has been completed."

"The decision to relocate to Adelaide follows an examination of basing options undertaken by Defence. It determined that on the basis of the capability benefits of access to transport, training facilities and deep maintenance support, Adelaide was the best option. It also provided respite postings and an attractive location for Defence personnel and their families..."

Senator Hill said, "Adelaide has good access to the Cultana Training Area and other training areas in the Centre and North of Australia via the new Darwin to Adelaide rail link. Importantly, this training can be easily combined with other mechanized elements from the 1st Brigade in Darwin, further lifting the Army's capability. Having mechanized battalions in both Northern and Southern Australia will allow rotations from tropical conditions during a soldier's service. It will also allow a greater range of locations for soldiers to be posted to around Australia."

"The movement of personnel to Adelaide will be undertaken as part of the normal cycle of postings so as to provide minimal disruptions to soldiers and their families."

As part of the Hardened and Networked Army strategy 3RAR will also be re-roled from a parachute battalion to generate a second mechanized battlegroup.

The battalion will receive M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers and Bushmaster Infantry Mobility vehicles and will be structured identical to 5/7 RAR in Darwin which has performed with distinction in Baghdad and Al Muthanna province in Iraq. The Army's parachute capability will then be maintained by the 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), which has an integral parachute capability.

Courtesy:

Defence Media Liaison	Media contacts:
02.6265.3343, 0408.498.664	Sascha Meldrum (Senator Hill)
www.defence.gov.au	$08.8237.7920, \ 0409.034.241$

The "A" Field Battery Association Inc. would like to welcome the new BC, Major Hill, and trust we have a good working relationship as we have had with past Battery Commanders' and staff.

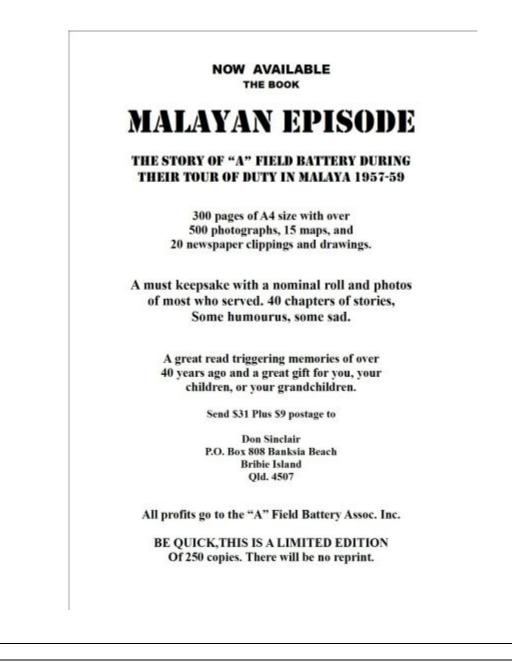
To all readers & others', to gain access to the Association's web site: <u>http://webspawner.com/users/afdbty/index.html</u>

Congratulations to Don (Saint) Sinclair on getting the "Malayan Episode During the Malayan Emergency 1948-1960", book finally published and issued, (received my copy in the post on 19/12/2005). The quality is superb, the photos' came out extremely well and the printing magnificent. Worth the \$40.00 incl post.

Question I would like to ask the Saint, how come my photo is not appearing in this publication, I have reasonable photogenic lines, quite dashing in my youth, and why is there so many with the Saint showing his baby faced dial? But really, a book that brings back so many memories. Well done Don "Saint" Sinclair.

Mon. 23rd Jan '06: Telephone call from the Saint saying he will be attending a committee meeting on the 2rd Feb and then on 8th Feb attending an ANZAC Day meeting in Brisbane to discuss the order of march etc, etc. He said that Ray (Bubbles) Alcorn usually attended this meeting but unfortunately Bubbles has been admitted to hospital with prostate problems. Saint does not know which hospital he has gone into or the seriousness of this disease but will inform us when more information comes to hand. (09/02/06 informed Bubbles is back home after op.)

Keep the chin up Bubbles, we are all there with you in spirit.



More across the Tasman banter!

A Kiwi walks into his bedroom with a sheep under his arm and says, "Darling, this is the pig I have sex with when you have a headache."

His girl friend laying in bed retorts, "I think you'll find that's a sheep, stupid." The man returns, "I think you'll find I wasn't talking to you."

A lot of people can't understand how we came to have an oil shortage here in Australia. Well, there's a very simple answer... Nobody bothered to check the oil. We just didn't know we were getting low. The reason for that is purely geographical. Our oil is located in Bass Strait off the coast of W.A... Our dipsticks are located in Canberra.

A park orator: Its knowledge we want! Ask the average man when Magna Carter was King of England, and he can't tell you.

(Reminds me of Will Hay's 4th form at St. Michaels from which "Yes, What?" was taken: Hay asks one of his students where the Magna Carter was signed and the student replies, "**At the bottom.**"

Recognizing a Stroke:

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed & getting to the patient within 3 hours which is tough. Thank God for the sense to remember the "3" steps. Read & learn.

Symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify, unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- 1) Ask the individual to **SMILE**.
- 2) Ask him/her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**.
- 3) Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently)

(i.e.... It is sunny out today)

If he/she has trouble with any of these tasks, call for an ambulance immediately & describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness & speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis & treatment of the stroke & prevent brain damage.

ANZAC DAY.

The following is the start times and reunions for:

Adelaide: Form up at 09:00hrs at? Reunions at: ?

Melbourne: No information to hand.

Sydney: Form up at 10:00hrs at Cnr Bent & Bligh Sts. (Same place as last year.) Reunion at Hotel Coronation, Park St (Upstairs)

Brisbane: Form up at 09:30hrs at George St (between Elizabeth & Charlotte Sts) Banner will be on display. Reunion at the Theodore Club (1st floor) after the parade.







29480 Ken L. Bright.

Passed away Monday 1st February 2006 Funeral was at 14:00 hrs Monday 6th February 2006 at St Mathews Church of England, Wauchope, NSW.







14306 Warren Cottee.

Passed away Friday 3rd February 2006

Funeral was at 11:00hrs Wednesday 8th February,2006 at the Albany Creek Memorial Gardens Crematorium & Cemetery, 400 Albany Creek Rd. Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane, Qld.

LEST WE FORGET.

"A" FIELD BATTERY, ASSN., INC. COMMITTEE MEETING Held at 6 Harvey's Road, Beaconsfield, MACKAY, Qld. On Thursday 1 December 2005.

Meeting opened:	1412 hours
Present:	Ron Bassan, Bonnie Bassan, Brian Czislowski, Bernie McMahon, and Ray Alcorn. John Smith by telephone hook up.
Apologies:	Don Callaghan.
Previous Minutes:	The Secretary read the previous Committee Meeting Minutes.
	Moved by Brian Czislowski, Seconded by Bernie McMahon that the minutes read were a true and accurate record of that meeting. <u>Carried.</u>

Business Arising: Nil.

Inwards Correspondence: Letters from, Greg Kittelty, Peter Seddon, Barry Marr, J. Wilson, Bill Liddell, Gordon Carmichael, Alan Green, Buck Rodgers. Emails From, Ian Robertson, Barry Marr, Alby Sheridan, Des Hansen, Tony Foley, Terry Brennan and Rex Martin. Account from Rex Martin.

Outwards Correspondence: Letters to: Lloyd Sinclair, Brian Czislowski, Henry Sergeant, Ex members of A Fd Bty Malaysia 57/59, All unfinancial members (NSW), Barry Stark, John Zimmermann, All unfinancial members (Qld), Beatrice Dawson and Terry Brennan. Email to: Ian Robertson and Don Sinclair.

Discussion of Correspondence:

- Letter to be sent to Tony Foley advising him of the Association's policy of including all ex members or current serving members of "A" Field Battery.
- 2. Discussions with Manager Coach House now resolved.

Moved by Ray Alcorn that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed, Seconded by Bernie McMahon. <u>Carried</u>.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Bank rec	onciliation - Aug 05:		
Cashbook	2282. 23	Bank Statement	2542.23
Income	260.00	+ Cash on hand	Nil
Total	2542.23	- Unresented cheques	20.06
Expenses	20.06		
Balance	\$2522.17	Balance	\$2522.17

Accounts for Payment:

L. Fanning Cheque no. 766824 - 2006

2. Bank reco	onciliation -Sep 0	5:		
Cashbook	2522.17		Bank Statement	6481.78
Income	4724.71		+ Cash on Hand	Nil
Total 7246. 88 Expenses 675.			- Unpresented cheq	ues Nil
Balance	\$6481.78		Balance	\$6481.78
	40101.10			00101110
Accounts for Pay	ment:			
Tropical Coast Tours -		cheque no. 7	66825 - \$290.00	
Maroochy River Coachhouse -		cheque no. 766828 - \$331.00		
R Cunningham -		cheque no. 7	66826 - \$ 89.10	
P Kimball -		cheque no. 7	766827 - \$ 55.00	
3. Bank reco	onciliation- Oct 0	5:		
Cashbook	6705.78		Bank Statement	6841.78
Income	360.00		+Cash on hand	Nil
Total	6841.78		-Unpresented cheq	ues Nil
Expenses	136.00			136.00
Balance	\$6705.78		Balance	\$6705.78
Accounts for pay	ment:			
			7/(820 \$100.00	
C Bassan			766829 - \$100.00	
Dept of Fair Trad	ung	cneque no.	766830 - \$36.00	
4. Bank reco	onciliation - Nov	05:		
Cashbook	6705.78		Bank Statement	5830, 78
Income	2985		+ Cash on hand	Nil
Total	9690.78		- Unpresented Chequ	es Nil
Expenses	3860.00			
Balance	\$5830, 78		Balance	\$5830.78
Accounts for pay	ment:			
R Martin		cheque no	766831 - \$860.00	
C Bassan			766834 - \$205.00 1	o be included
in Dec 05 Statem	ent	eneque no.	100001 - 4200.00 1	o oo monadou
In Dec of Statem	viit.			

cheque no. 766833 - \$3000.00

Victory Press

The Treasurer (B Czislowski) moved that the accounts as presented and previously discussed by telecom be passed for payment and the August 05, September 05, October 05 and November 05 reconciliations be accepted as a true and accurate record. Seconded B McMahon. <u>Carried.</u>

General Business:

- Incorporation Rules: Members of Committee are reminded that decisions on matters relating to Association business or financial expenditure of Association funds must obtain full committee approval prior to any decision or expenditure.
- 2. AWM Plaque: Still awaiting confirmation of costs.
- State Chapters: Secretary asked to write to State Reps seeking responsible member to commence a State Chapter.
- Service Record: Older members are requested to write out a service record to assist when relatives seek information after death of member.
- 5. Combat Infantry Badge Discussion on A Bty's role during the Malayan Emergency. Battery was deployed on Infantry patrolling and should be entitled to CIB. It should be recorded somewhere that the Battery was ordered to undertake long jungle patrols on the B Coy and C Coy, 3 RAR patrol programs. The Committee requested that Ray Alcorn investigate this matter with the assistance of Dick Morrison.
- B Czislowski suggested that more organization take place for further reunions in different locations.
- Newsletter: More articles on serving members and past members to be included in each addition including photographs if available.
- 8. T Shirts: To be discussed at a later date.
- Life Membership: Life membership was discussed because it appeared that the Association would lose financial viability in the future if everyone became a life member and that life membership should be restricted to a percentage of membership. It was suggested that a cut-off date, e.g. March 2006 be approved.

<u>Next Meeting:</u> Next meeting in February 2006. Date to be advised and to be held at Ray Alcorn's place

Meeting Closed: There being no further business ,the meeting closed at 1645 hrs.

President

Secretary