

1871

# A Field Battery Association, Inc.

# National Newsletter

## January 2009

2008

### President Ron Bassan's Report



#### From the President's Chair

G'day everyone, and a happy New Year to you all.

The first thing I would like to let you know, is, that we have to have a Special General Meeting to Ratify the Constitution which we have been using for, I don't know how long.

When the Constitution was re-written, this was never done.

This all came to a head when we applied to the Dept of Fair Trading, with our cheque for \$15 to change our financial year, Rule 30; they rang me and said that under the copy they hold it is, Rule 33.

We then had to send them another cheque for \$46.80 for them to photocopy the Constitution that they hold (18 Pages) and to send it to us.

The copy they hold is the original and I was informed that if we want to use the copy we have then we have to have a special AGM to ratify same.

This means that we have to have the committee (seven members) plus another eight ordinary or life members to constitute a quorum.

**The Special AGM will be held at the Maroochydoore Coach House, Maroochydoore, Qld, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2009, starting at 1000hours.**

I have re-written the constitution and brought it up to date.

There are still some members who have not paid their subs for 08/09, sending out reminder notices costs your association a lot of money and I have done this twice since the end of the financial year, if you think you have not paid, please contact me and I will let you know, also, if you have not paid then January's newsletter will be your last.

To finish this report on a sad note, we have lost more members.

Everyone should know that Tom Banfield passed away (see eulogy), also, Peter Seddon (eulogy), Peter passed away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December and had a very private funeral, only friends and invited guests, and Peter Rainsbury who passed away on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and finally Gordon Carmichael, Gordon was a cook in 2 Mountain Battery and 'A' Field Battery BCOF, Japan (see ww2 Service).

**Hope to see some of you at the Special General Meeting.**  
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### Important Notice to all Members

On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 09 there will be a Special General Meeting of the 'A' Field Battery Association Inc.

The business to be conducted at this meeting is to ratify the amended Constitution of the above foresaid association.

The meeting will be held at the Maroochy River Coach House, Maroochydoore, Qld, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009, starting at 1000hours.

There has to be a Quorum at this meeting or it will be a waste of time, this means we have to have fifteen voting members, this includes the committee.

If you intend to stay overnight, please contact the Coach House.

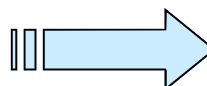
Authorised by: - C. Bassan Secretary

**MAROOCHY RIVER COACH HOUSE**

**Ph: 07 5448 4344**

**Address: David Low Way Maroochydoore Qld 4558.**

This is a great place for a few drinks, a good meal and laze around while having a chat with a few old mates after the meeting



## A Report on the Latest “A” Field Battery Exercises. From Lt. Kieren Neill

In the closing months of 2008 as the year wound down, ‘A’ Field Battery began winding up. November saw all non-deployed Battery members travelling north to Townsville for the first divisional artillery concentration in over a decade.



The exercise was known Exercise Long Guns and involved Gunners from all three Australian full time Regiments and a Battery of guns from the Royal New Zealand Artillery.

The journey to Townsville was in itself a challenge, as ‘A’ Field Battery deployed all of it’s elements by road. As many of you would remember, this is not a terribly pleasant drive, and many logistical issues arose on our journey. However, the logisticians (particularly the RACT and RAEME elements) were in fine form and successfully overcame the mechanical and logistical issues as they arose and kept the guns moving towards Townsville.

After five long days cramped in Land Rovers and Unimogs, the Battery arrived in Townsville and began final preparations for the exercise. After a 24 hour shake out period our guns were deployed to the field. The exercise itself was conducted in the true spirit of the Battery; with fighting aggression, ANZAC pride and a warrior ethos that saw ‘A’ Field Battery emerge as not only one of the dominant forces in the RAA, but across the Tasman also. From the outset, ‘A’ Field Battery continually set the standard for technical and tactical gunnery and the amount of regimental adjustments being won by *Callsign One* was indeed testament to the skill and competitive spirit of the ‘A’ Field Battery Gunners.

As the exercised culminated in a “*Fire mission all available*”, the Gunners relished in the opportunity to engage a divisional target with a massive rate of fire – 85 rounds of continuous fire to be precise! For approximately 15 minutes as dawn broke on a balmy November morning, 1 Division Artillery and Kapyong Battery RNZA levelled the earth with a spectacular weight of fire not seen in Australia for well over a decade.

At the conclusion of Exercise Long Guns, the Battery moved back to Sydney and into some much anticipated Parachute Continuation Training with our supported unit 3RAR. As always, the men eagerly took to the skies and with little time wasted were out

the doors and making the most of what sets us apart from the remainder of the RAA. At it’s conclusion, the gunners were sent on a well deserved stand down period.

Now as 2009 begins, ‘A’ Field Battery already has a full calendar year. The Battery will resume supporting 3RAR, who have recently returned from their deployment commitments of 2008.

The upcoming exercises of 2009 will see the Gunners tested in a variety of insertions methods: airborne, maritime and traditional land insertions. Overall it is shaping up to be a demanding year for ‘A’ Field Battery, but the enthusiasm and adaptability of the Gunners will continue to ensure we achieve our mission of providing timely and accurate offensive support, on time, on target, and safe.

On a more sombre note I would like to utilise this forum to pay tribute to a former “A” Battery Forward Observer, Lt Michael Fussell.

Michael was killed in action late November during offensive actions against the Taliban conducting his duties with 4RAR Commando as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller. Michael was a proud paratrooper and proud member of ‘A’ Field Battery and served with distinction during his time at the unit.

His mateship and comradeship will be missed by all those who new and served with him.

By LT Kieran Neill  
Forward Observer  
‘A’ Field Battery







### The Battle Honour 'UBIQUE'

Battle Honours seek to record occasions when a unit has distinguished itself in war. The first Battle Honour, or Honorary Distinction as it was correctly called, was awarded in the British Army to the 18th Royal Irish Regiment by King William III for its service at the siege

of Namur in 1695. Thereafter the custom of granting Battle Honours became more common.

All the regiments which took part in the defence of Gibraltar (during the Great Siege of 1779-83) were allowed to bear the title "GIBRALTAR". This included a number of batteries from the Royal Artillery. The Gunners were also awarded the Battle Honour WATERLOO.

In 1833, the Gunners were granted two mottos, "UBIQUE" and "QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT". It was stated that "UBIQUE" (Everywhere) was also to be granted as a Battle Honour and was to substitute for "all other terms of distinction for the whole Regiment". This was the end of all other Battle Honours in the Royal Artillery.

A committee was assembled in 1882, under Major General Sir Archibald Allison, to review all the

past history of the British Army and to regularise the holding and the granting of Battle Honours, less the Royal Artillery who had already been given the single Battle Honour UBIQUE.

The Honour is unique to the Gunners. It simply means that wherever there is a battle the Gunners are there, serving and supporting.

The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery was granted the Battle Honour, by His Majesty King George VI, in January 1950 (it is not a Battle Honour for the engineers). This included 6 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery CMF who were granted approval and from then on wore a replica badge to that of the famous parent corps, the Royal Artillery, and bears the same two mottos - "UBIQUE" (Everywhere) which takes the place of individual battle honours of an infantry regiment, and "QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT". Unlike the infantry regiments of the line, the Artillery has no regimental colours - its colours are the guns themselves. Nor does the Artillery have battle honours - its battle honour is the one word EVERYWHERE.

### Mottos of the Regiment

The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery was granted the two mottos of The Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1950 by His Majesty King George VI: "UBIQUE" (Everywhere) and "QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT" (Where Right and Glory Lead).

The original motto of the NSW Artillery was "SEMPER FIDELIS" (Always Faithful). There is a line of thought that the motto in fact was "SEMPER PARATUS" (Always Ready) but this appears to be incorrect, even though 'A' Field Battery has adopted the latter.



### The 80cm 'Gustav' in Action

*The largest gun ever built had an operational career of 13 days, during which a total of 48 shells were fired in anger. It took 25 trainloads of equipment, 2000 men and up to six weeks to assemble. It seems unlikely that such a weapon will ever be seen again.*

Big guns are obsolete. They're slow, heavy, expensive, and not as effective as the alternatives.

The problem is the fire rate. Experience has shown that when bombarding an enemy position, the

first fifteen seconds of arriving fire are the most effective. After that, the surviving men at the receiving end will have found cover. So a lot of fire in a short time is more effective than even more fire over a longer period of time. Rocket launchers are better at that than big guns.

Another problem is that counter-battery fire has gotten too good. In combat, a gun that sits in one place firing for more than 10 minutes will start receiving fire in turn. So artillery engages in what's known as "shoot and scoot" -- they fire for a couple of minutes, limber up, and buzz off before counter-fire arrives.

But that means the gun can't shoot for very long, which means it can't send much towards the enemy.

Those are the main reasons why the US Army has largely abandoned big guns and switched to rocket launchers, and the rest of the world is going that way, too.

### An email from Arthur Burke regarding the Peter Badcoe Story in the October Newsletter

May I make one small comment on the Badcoe VC story at the bottom of page 12? I was recently in Adelaide for the 105th Battery RAA Association reunion and when playing tourist at the Museum of South Australia, could not help but notice the Peter Badcoe's medals were on display in the foyer (photo attached). The caption said that they had been purchased and donated by Kerry Stokes and the Museum. This is somewhat in conflict with the Badcoe article which says that his widow presented them to the Australian War Memorial.

I am sure that the AWM would not have sold them, so is it possible that the widow Badcoe put them up for sale and Kerry Stokes and the Museum purchased them?

Keep up the good work and a happy and healthy 2009 to you and all the A Battery boys.

## The Battles of Tarakan and Balikpapan, War in the Pacific 1945.

The **Battle of Tarakan** was the first stage in the Borneo campaign of 1945. It began with an amphibious landing by Australian forces on May 1st., code-named **Operation Oboe One**. While the battle ended with success for the Allied forces over the Japanese defenders, this victory is generally regarded as having not justified its costs.



**Australian infantry advancing through wrecked oil storage tanks at Tank Hill, Tarakan.**

Tarakan is an island off the east coast of Borneo. The island has an area of 303 square kilometers (117 mi<sup>2</sup>), much of which was covered by swamps or hills covered in dense jungle at the time of the battle.

Tarakan formed part of the Netherlands East Indies (NEI) and was an important oil production centre, with the island's two oilfields producing 80,000 barrels of oil per month in 1941

Securing Tarakan's oilfields formed one of Japan's early objectives during the Pacific War. The Japanese invaded Tarakan on January 11th, 1942, and defeated the small Dutch garrison in two days of fighting, in which half the defenders were killed. While Tarakan's oilfields were successfully sabotaged by the Dutch before their surrender, the Japanese were able to swiftly restore them to production and 350,000 barrels were extracted each month by early 1944.

Following the Dutch surrender Tarakan's 5,000 inhabitants suffered under Japan's occupation policies. The large number of Japanese troops stationed on the island caused food shortages and many Tarakanese civilians suffered from malnutrition as a result. During the occupation the Japanese brought about 600 labourers to Tarakan from Java. The Japanese also forced an estimated 300 Javanese women to work as "comfort women" on Tarakan after enticing them to travel with false offers of clerical and clothes-making jobs.

Tarakan's value to the Japanese evaporated with the rapid advance of Allied forces into the area. The last Japanese oil tanker left Tarakan in July 1944, and heavy Allied air raids later in the year destroyed the island's oil production and storage facilities. These raids may also have killed several hundred Indonesian civilians. In line with its declining importance, the Japanese garrison on Tarakan was reduced in early 1945 when one of the two infantry battalions stationed on the island (the 454th Independent Infantry Battalion) was withdrawn to Balikpapan. This battalion was destroyed by the Australian 7th. Division in July during the Battle of Balikpapan.

The **Battle of Balikpapan** was the concluding stage of the Borneo Campaign, 1945.

The landings took place on July 1st, 1945. The Australian 7th. Division composed of the 18th, 21st and 25th Infantry Brigades, with support troops, made an amphibious landing, codenamed **Operation Oboe Two** a few miles north of Balikpapan, on the island of Borneo.

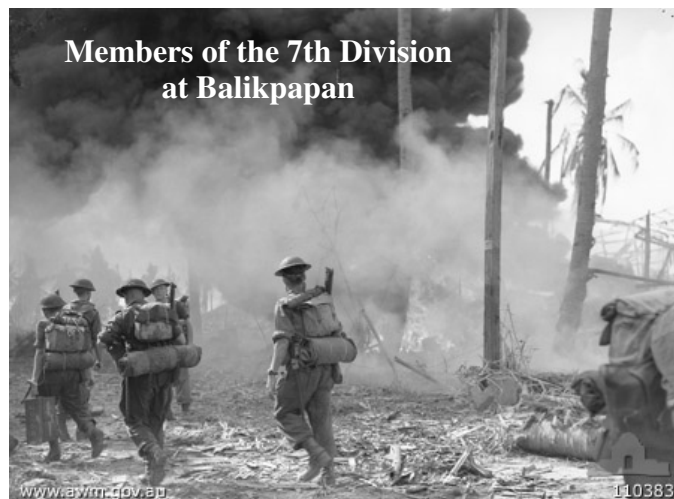
The landing had been preceded by heavy bombing and shelling by Australian and US air and naval forces. The Japanese were totally outnumbered and outgunned, but like the other battles of the Pacific War, many of them fought to the death.

Major operations had ceased by July 21. The 7th Division's casualties were significantly lighter than they had suffered in previous campaigns.

The battle was one of the last to occur in World War II, beginning a few weeks before the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki effectively ended the war. Japan surrendered while the Australians were combing the jungle for stragglers.

Following the surrender the three Brigades were committed to occupation duties until around February 1946.

The 21st Brigade was detached to Makassar in the Celebes Islands to accept surrender of the Japanese forces, release POWs and maintain civil order.



**Members of the 7th Division at Balikpapan**



*They shall not grow old,  
As we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun,  
And in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

**KEN. AGNEW**  
**TOM. BANFIELD**  
**TREVOR. BEER**  
**S.J. BLANCH (OAS. Malaya )**  
**GORDON CARMICHAEL**  
**TOM. CARRUTHERS**  
**KEITH. CHRISTENSEN**  
**RICHARD. DUGGAN**  
**R.M. DUCAT (OAS. Malaya )**  
**PAT. DALY**  
**TOM. DAWSON**  
**GEORGE. FORSYTHE**  
**ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY**  
**NEIL HARDEN**  
**MICK. HARKEN**  
**B.D. HENDERSON (OAS. Malaya )**  
**KEN. KENNEDY**  
**BOBBY. LEWIS**  
**JOHN. MACDONALD**  
**L.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam )**  
**E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE**  
**R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam )**  
**DAVE. QUIRK**  
**PETER. RAINSBURY**  
**CLIVE. RALFE**  
**PETER. SEDDON**  
**R. F. SMITH**  
**BRIAN. WHISKER**  
**BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE**  
**JOHN. WORBOYS**

## Their Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of them as gone away,  
their journey's just begun,  
life holds so many facets-  
this earth is only one.

And think of them as living  
in the hearts of those they touched...  
for nothing loved is ever lost-  
and they were loved so much.

E. Brennerman



Thomas Patrick  
**BANFIELD**



1927 - 2008



Peter Edward  
**SEDDON**



1923 - 2008

### GORDON HARVEY CARMICHAEL

1922 - 2008

Another sad loss for our Association, the passing of one of our life members, NX124838 Gordon Harvey Carmichael, born on 7th September 1922, he enlisted on the 29th July 1942.

Gordon served as a cook when in July 1943 A Field Battery was re-designated as the 2nd Mountain Battery, serving in New Guinea and the BCOF in Japan

### PETER GEORGE RAINSBURY

1942 - 2008

Peter was born on the 24th April 1942 in Carlton Victoria, he served with A Field Battery in Malaysia 1966-1967.

He served one term in Vietnam with 12th Field Regiment in 1968 and another term with 2nd Advance Ordnance Depot 1971-1972.

Peter retired from Military service with the rank of Sergeant



## Vale Tom Banfield from Arthur Burke



Tom Banfield belonged to a very special era of gentlemen who believed that there is a correct way of doing everything, and that is the only way things should be done. The Tom Banfields of this world lead by example and the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery has been blessed by a number of these gentlemen. Sadly, they are a dying breed.

Those of you who knew Thomas Patrick Banfield well, will not be surprised he had told his daughter, Vicky that when his time came, there was a written list of steps to be taken. One of those steps was to phone Arthur Burke and ask him to deliver the eulogy. For those of you I have not yet met, I am the Honorary Colonel of Artillery in Queensland and a long time friend of Tom Banfield.

It may surprise some here today, but Tom was not born a warrant officer. He was born the youngest and only boy to seven sisters at Richmond in Melbourne, and yes, he was born a one-eyed supporter of the Richmond Tigers football team. His military records say that he came into this world on 19 November 1927. He grew up in tough Depression years and when his father passed away far too early, Tom was obliged to leave home and work on a dairy farm not far from Melbourne.

One Saturday evening, he hung on a beauty with his mates down in Melbourne and was half an hour late into the stalls to milk the cows next morning. His boss clipped him over the ear and reminded him of his obligations. To his credit, Tom, a fair strapping country lad by this stage, merely set down his bucket, collected his belongings and left the farm—forever.

This was March 1946 and the only part left of the Second World War was service with the Occupation Forces in Japan. Knowing that he had to be 19 years of age to be accepted, Tom merely wound back his birthday some 16 months and became a soldier. Gunner Banfield achieved his goal posted as a reinforcement to A Field Battery in Japan and one day, Tom was introduced to a new room mate, Gunner Donkin. The pair became lifelong friends and indeed, I owe much of today's low-down on Tom to this retired Warrant Officer Class One, Don Donkin.

Don recalls that he had not heard of the term 'Goose' to describe a dunce, a dim wit or a drongo before meeting Tom, but when Tom said, 'Yer know Don, this chap's a real goose', then you also knew that this bloke would certainly not be on Tom's Christmas card list that year.

Both Tom and Don were drivers and Don fondly remembers his mate as 'good, sharp, always on time, very particular with his gear, and looked after his truck well'.

Tom returned to Australia with A Battery in December 1948 and became part of the new 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment five months later. Here, he remembered many duty tasks, perhaps the most enjoyable of which was when he and Don Donkin were lead drivers for the precision regimental musical drive at the annual Army Tattoos in Sydney.

Despite a limited education, Tom applied himself and became a technical assistant in the Royal Artillery, a TARA whose prime duties were to plot targets in the guns' command post.

He was no slouch on the sporting fields either—Brian Czisowski remembers him as a very good Aussie rules player in the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment team which won the Eastern Command Interservice Competition in 1955. Brian also cites him as 'a very competent interservice rep basketballer'.

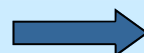
By 1955 Tom was a gun sergeant allocated to the new field battery being raised for service in the Malaya Emergency—M, which became 105<sup>th</sup>. Gerry Salom, his troop commander described Tom as a 'number one top soldier' whilst then Lieutenant Colin Cunningham remembers him as being very professional, running a very disciplined gun detachment, and always being pleasant and helpful to a young officer.

Fellow sergeant, Geoff Jebb remembers Tom driving a bleeding Lieutenant Pat Gowans to hospital in a GMC truck following a vehicle accident when looking for a missing navigation exercise pair. Tom lost control on a bend, dived out to save himself, and Pat ended up thrown out of the truck in the ditch. Tom rushed up expecting the worst, but instead was asked by a dazed Pat, 'Have we found those fellows yet?'

This was a short tour of duty for Sergeant Banfield who returned to Australia in 1956. Then, living up to his belief that things must be done correctly, he promptly returned to Malaya in 1957 for a full two-year tour as a TARA sergeant with A Field Battery.

Each morning when he came into the CP, Tom would hang up his belt and study the battle map in detail for the first ten minutes or so. Bob Cunningham was a gunner TARA in this command post and, with his mate Barry Olver, began surreptitiously taking in Tom's belt one notch each morning. Tom was very keen on physical fitness but it was noted that he seemed to be having trouble putting on his belt as he left the CP.

After five days, when it was impossible to do up the belt, Bob told Tom of his little game and he good-humouredly thought it a great joke.



Back in Australia in 1960, Tom was posted to the School of Artillery but he didn't really like this break away from what he called 'real soldiering'. Instead, Tom opted for the warmer climes again and rejoined 105<sup>th</sup> Battery to move to the fledgling 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment at Wacol, Brisbane. There he continued to excel in the unit Aussie Rules team and also became a star in 2IC John Stevenson's basketball team.

When he next returned to the School, it was on promotion to warrant officer, so there was a salve in this posting. Not only that, but he found a striking redhead named Margaret who was the switchboard operator. They were married and happily produced two offspring—Stephen and Vicky.

Following cadre service with the CMF in Sydney then Geelong, Tom returned to Holsworthy as battery sergeant major of 104<sup>th</sup> Medium Battery. This lined him up to be promoted WO1 and appointed regimental sergeant major of 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment.

However, the Vietnam War was well under way and Tom was worried that 12<sup>th</sup> Field might not get there before it ended. To ensure he received a slice of the action, he took a reduction in rank, became the battery sergeant major of 108<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, and headed for Vietnam in 1967. With his many years of experience, Tom performed above the average and welded the NCOs of the 108<sup>th</sup> into a very strong team. His battery commander, Jock Jenvey described him as 'a bloody capable guy' who was 'a tower of strength and very highly regarded by all members of the battery'. Jock also recalls how, when a soldier presented Tom with a chit for five days no standing, he was told, 'In all my 21 years of service I have never seen such a chit ... and still have not,' he added as he ripped up the chit.

On return to Australia, Tom was promoted temporary warrant officer class one again and posted as the RSM of a cadet battalion based in Mackay, then another in Melbourne. After that he was welcomed back into the Gunner fold as the RSM of the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Graytown, Victoria.

In 1973, WO1 Banfield was appointed the Divisional Artillery Sergeant Major of the emerging Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Division in Brisbane. Tom showed his versatility and experience with administration, stores, training and operational procedures.

He interacted well with staff of all ranks, both in barracks and in the field, and enjoyed a good rapport with the RAA units of the division.

Nevertheless, after exactly 30 years of soldiering, Tom had reached a pinnacle and decided it was time to hang up his spurs. His stance was still erect and proud, his head of thick hair still held a knife-edge part, he was still tanned, fit and capable of passing all the Army's physical fitness tests with ease, but his time had come. Colonel Gerry Salom made Tom's farewell speech highlighting 30 years of dedication, professionalism and harmonious work ethics.

On 15 March 1976, Mister Thomas Banfield emerged from the Army.

Mr Banfield worked as a warehouse manager for Mitchell's Brushes and then a stationary firm. In 1988, in his 60<sup>th</sup> year, Tom finally retired from remunerative employment. However, this did not mean that he stopped work as he became very active in ex-service organisations, particularly the RSL and the Ex-service Men and Women's Welfare Association. There are ladies here today who are now smiling at memories of the many interesting activities and outings organised by 'their' Tom.

He also took an active part in his service battery organisations—foundation vice president of the 105<sup>th</sup> Battery Association, ANZAC Day March organiser for the 108<sup>th</sup> Battery and he was a former patron and travelled all over the country to reunions with his mates from A Battery.

Skeeter Wills called him The Dictionary because, whenever someone couldn't remember a name, they'd phone Tom, describe the person and the year and Tom would tell them the bloke's name.

At almost four score years, age did weary Tom—the last few months have been a roller coaster health ride with an overall downward spiral. Just when it looked like he was about to settle down under care, Tom was called upon to serve one final time on the staff of that Great Gun Park up above.

**Vicky and Stephen, on behalf of all of us and especially from all Tom's mates in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, I extend the deepest condolences on your bereavement.**

**Vale Thomas Patrick Banfield—professional soldier, Gunner, devoted family man, gentleman, one-eyed Richmond Tigers supporter, good mate, and one who always believed in the highest standards of ethical behaviour and doing things correctly the first time. Sadly, the Regiment has lost another one of its icons.**

*Stand Easy old friend—  
your duty here on earth is done.*



## EULOGY – Col P E Seddon

**Peter Edward Seddon was born in Georgetown, South Australia, on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1923.**

Peter was a student at Scotch College, Adelaide, from 1937 August 1941. He graduated with an excellent report from the headmaster, with respect to his personal qualities and characteristics, scholastic attainments and progress in studies, and his ability and attainments in sport. He received half colours in Australian Rules first eighteen team (1939-41), full colours for Head of the River eight (1941). He also played in the A and B Teams (1939 - 41). He passed leaving examinations in English, Mathematics, 1 and 2, and Physics; he also attained intermediate levels in Chemistry and Latin.. Peter was a School Cadet officer, Vice Caption of the School (1941), School Prefect (1940 – 41) House Captain. He was also in the Debating Society, on the International Club Committee and the Secretary of the War Funds Committee.



Peter successfully applied to enter RMC Duntroon and started the normal course in early 1942 which at that time had been reduced to two years (the academic studies had been omitted from the course). He graduated on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1943 (4<sup>th</sup> in his class of 35) and was commissioned in the rank of lieutenant. The Commandant's report gave Peter a "very good" rating on his military knowledge and abilities –theoretical, practical and instructional aptitude. He similarly rated his personal qualities and characteristics in the areas of power of leadership, reliability, commonsense, tact, zeal and imperturbability.. The Commandant also noted Peter played Australian Football (1<sup>st</sup> XV111), Basket Ball (1<sup>st</sup> V), tennis, and was a fair boxer. Finally he noted that Peter's general attitude and bearing while at RMC was excellent and considered he should be a capable officer.

The day after graduation Peter joined the AIF - (his two elder brothers were on active service in the 2/10 Bn and the third brother was a lieutenant in the RAN, after graduating from the Flinders Naval College). Peter's first posting was to a reinforcement unit for six months and then on to active service with 2/8 Aust Fd Regt (JD)(until mid 1944. He was then posted to 2 Aust Mtn Bty. This battery became "A" Fd Bty and Peter went with it to Japan as part on the Occupation Force. By this time Peter had already seen active service in Morotai and Borneo and was now on



active service in Japan. He did not remain long with Battery as he was posted to HQ 34 Aust Inf Bde in mid 1946 with the rank of T/Capt, first as an LO for six months, then as SO3 (Q) until the end 1947. In the latter posting he also carried out duties as Fire Officer and Fire Marshall. His last posting in Japan was SO3 (Ops and SD) (AMF) HQ BCOF for two months. On return to Australia Peter became Adjutant School of Artillery was a substantive Captain. He then spent ten months as GSO2 1 AL Gp with the rank of T/Maj. By this time he had been selected to attend the 1951 Staff College Course, Camberley (UK). His selection for this course confirms his high rating against other officers considered for staff college courses that year. Peter successfully completed the course and then was attached to the S of L/AW for a month before returning to AHQ Canberra as GSO2 DSD (L/AW).for three years. He was then posted as OC 2 Cdo Coy.

In mid 1956 Peter was on the staff of the School of Arty for twelve months and was then reposted to 1 Fd Regt as BC of A Fd Bty. He would take the Battery to Malaya for two years and return with it to Australia October 1959. Before leaving Australia he had much work to do to prepare the Battery for active service, in including training at Canungra. The sea trip to Malaya involved a collision with an oil tanker which in turn caused delay in the ship arriving at Singapore and also at Penang.





The Battery moved into the camp previously occupied by the battery returning to Australia on the same ship. The first few months were taken up with taking over the guns, mortars and other weapons, equipment, vehicles and stores from the previous battery, and the personnel remaining to complete their tour of duty. The Battery became a unit of the British 28 Inf Bde. It was also a period of familiarisation with the local area, the relative orders and instructions covering administration and operations in Malaya, including civil law requirements and local customs. In due course the Battery operational components moved into their operational camps in the greater IPOH area. The Battery elements were now widely spread and would remain this way for most of its time in Malaya. As the Battery was the only artillery unit in north Malaya, at times it had gun troops deployed to support units outside the operational area of 28 Inf Bde.



Peter had a busy time planning operations with Bde staff, associated government representatives and supported infantry battalions. He moved around the operational area constantly, as well handling the usual battery administration matters requiring his attention. He took a keen interest in all members of the Battery, with frequent visits to the troops in action. He had an open mind to suggestions and would act promptly on suggestions he accepted. Members of the Battery respected him and always welcomed his visits. The Battery was a happy battery which had a high reputation in Malaya. The book "Malayan Episode" by Donald Sinclair (a senior NCO in the Battery) with its many photographs and inputs from many members of the Battery paints a graphic picture of the Malayan experience. It reflects the spirit of the unit and also reflects the leadership of its commander. Peter returned to Australia with the Battery and was reposted to the instructional staff at RMC Duntroon with the rank of T/Col for two years. The course at RMC had reverted to four years after WW2, the academic standard for entry had been raised and academic component standard of the course had also been raised to first year university level. It was an interesting time for Peter.

His next posting was to the AHQ Team of Lecturers for twelve months. This team went all over Australia presenting the Industrial Mobilisation Course to industries with an interest in defence contracts or likely to be involved if a major war occurred. It also gave him a considerable insight into industry capabilities. Peter was then posted to A Bch for three years, first as AAG DPA and later D Manning. During this period his duties took him to New Guinea, Singapore, Vietnam and Manila for short periods. In November 1966 Peter was posted to H.Q FARELF Col (Trg) for three years.

In that appointment he visited Thailand and Vietnam. Peter returned to AHQ Canberra to DDMO. During this period Peter was attached to HQ AFV Army component for a month.

In January 1975 Peter was posted as Australian Defence Representative to New Zealand at the Australian High Commission for three years. This was to be his last posting long posting. He enjoyed his time there as he had served with New Zealanders in Malaya. He returned to AHQ, Canberra, for several months prior to retiring on 21 April 1978.

During retirement he was an active member of the Defence Welfare Association and took an active interest in the "A:" Fd Bty Association to maintain contact with the members of the Battery who had served in Malaya. After his wife, Kay, died Peter's health declined. Nevertheless he maintained his interest and was key speaker at the dedication of the "A Bty RAA plaque at the Australian War Memorial recently.

Looking back, Peter led an exemplary life and was an excellent leader and a very capable officer. His Headmaster at Scotch College in this report said of his personal qualities and characteristics - his "moral character is irreproachable, gentlemanly demeanour; leadership strong (Vice-captain of school, cadet etc); thorough and conscientious in work and games; habits exemplary; judgement very good; tactful - gets on well with colleagues and staff, well controlled temper, spirited and virile; plenty of self reliance; any colleague would think twice about taking undue liberties; undoubtedly a particularly fine all-round "Public School Boy". The Commandant RMC reported highly on him and predicted he was a very fine type who should make a capable officer. His military record shows that the early predictions were correct. Peter Edward Seddon served his country very well indeed. Peter passed away in his sleep on the 2nd December and was privately cremated on the 5th December 2008.



**All who knew him will mourn his passing.**



## LT Michael Kenneth Housdan Fussell

Lieutenant Michael Fussell from Sydney-based 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), was killed by an IED (improvised explosive device) in Afghanistan on November 27, 2008.

Age - 25

Born - 17 November 1983, Coffs Harbour, NSW

Lieutenant Fussell enlisted in the Australian Army January 2002 and was appointed as an Officer Cadet at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He completed a Bachelor of Arts and was a keen sportsman, with a strong interest in rugby.

He attended Royal Military College, Duntroon in 2005, commissioning in December 2005 into the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. On graduation he was posted to 'A' Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment, where he fulfilled a number of junior officer roles.

During his time at 'A' Field Battery he



qualified as a para-trooper. He also deployed to East Timor on Operation ASTUTE in 2006 and 2007.

Lieutenant Fussell was posted to 4 RAR (Commando) in January 2008 as a Joint Offensive Support Team Commander. He was a Platoon Commander for the Advance Infantry Course at Singleton and completed the Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) course.

Lieutenant Fussell's military decorations include the Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Campaign Against Terrorism (ICAT), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Australian Service Medal clasp, Timor-Leste and the Australian Defence Medal.

Michael leaves behind two loving parents, his younger brother Daniel and two younger foster sisters Nikki and Nyah. His brother Daniel is a Lieutenant with 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) in Brisbane.

### AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER FAREWELLED FROM AFGHANISTAN 01/12/08

Fellow Australian Defence Force personnel, members of the Afghan National Army and Dutch Forces have solemnly farewelled their comrade Lieutenant Michael Fussell, who was killed by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Afghanistan on Thursday 27 November.

Lieutenant Fussell, 25, was a member of the Sydney-based 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Commando) and was conducting a dismounted patrol when he and his team were struck by the IED.

His return to Australia began on Sunday with a memorial service and ramp ceremony at Camp Holland, the Australian and Dutch military base in Tarin Kowt, Southern Afghanistan.

The service was held in the Australian Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) compound where an outdoor chapel was set up to accommodate the large gathering of Lieutenant Fussell's comrades from Australia's SOTG,

the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force One (MRTF-1), the Afghan National Army and Dutch Forces.

The Commanding Officer of the SOTG, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Kenny, described Lieutenant Fussell as a highly regarded and respected officer who served with distinction during his short career.

"He lived and died for the enduring Australian values of freedom and justice," Lieutenant Colonel Kenny said.

Following the service, Lieutenant Fussell's casket was placed aboard a SOTG vehicle for a final procession to a waiting RAAF C-130J Hercules aircraft.

The route to the airfield was lined by a guard of honour comprising Australian personnel from MRTF - 1, their Afghan and Dutch counterparts and other personnel from the International Security Assistance Force.

As the C-130J departed, it was escorted by a Dutch Apache helicopter until shortly after take off, marking the beginning of Lieutenant Fussell's return journey to Australia.

**"He lived and died for the enduring Australian values of freedom and justice."**

### Afghanistan mission must not be allowed to fail

While the Prime Minister and all Australians hope all the diggers return from Afghanistan safely, it is more likely that more body bags will return to Australia in the new year.

Consequently, it is likely that public support for the commitment of troops will wane, and public pressure on the Government to withdraw our troops will build.

That is why it is imperative for the Government to continue to articulate why they are committed to the deployment.

It is imperative the broader Australian community, especially service families, are given a clear picture of the long-term strategy and the critical importance of an Australian presence to assist Afghanistan in its road to recovery.

It will require sustained and co-ordinated engagement, and it will require a synthesis of military and non-military efforts to address not only security, but also ongoing reconstruction, governance reform and economic development

In the coming year, as Australian casualties mount, the Government will be hard pressed to explain why the troops need to be there.





**I know who's on first, I just want to know who's in charge**

### From Ian Uhlmann. The Rum Issue.

We were on a gun position East of Ipoh in 1957 when I was called to the Command Post. The GPO, 2lt Noel de la Hunty, was seated on the tailboard of a GMC truck.

"Who is our commanding officer" he asked. I replied, "we are an independent battery attached to 28th Commonwealth Brigade, and as such we do not have a CO, but Red Ned Sedden is our Battery Commander" "Correct" said the GPO, "but where is he?" "I do not know, I have not seen him for months" I said.

"This has serious implications". Said Noel "We are on active service, so that means he is missing in action." I said that this was stretching things a bit, but he ignored me. "Who is the 2ic?" he said. "That would be the BK, but I haven't seen him this year."

"Who would be next in line to be Commanding officer" he said. "It would have to be you" I said. "Good" he said. "Who is our RMO?" "We don't have one" I responded.

"Who carries the first aid kit?" "I do" I replied. "that makes me the CO and you the RMO" he said.

"Look what I have found at the back of The Manual of Military Law." He said, "If the RMO recommends, and the CO agrees, a rum issue may be made to the soldiers of the unit". "I have sketched out a Requisition, you sign here and I will sign there"

This was done, and the order was given to the British ration vehicle.

In due course the rum turned up. It was in a ceramic jug covered with a split bamboo case, and it was labelled "Ghurkha Rum." The GPO lined us up with lids to our water bottles and gave us each a tot. It was the most horrible drink I have ever tasted.

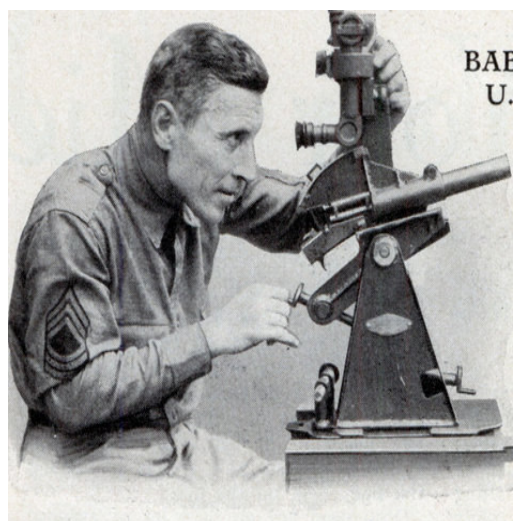
Years went by, I was at Russell Offices. There was a parade going by and the students at the ANU were protesting a visit by Dean Rusk. I don't remember the reason, but it was during the Vietnam War. The lead marcher was carrying a pig's head on a stick, and a pair with large yellow flags followed him.

As the marchers approached I heard a familiar voice scream "Bastards". It was the now Captain de la Hunty, and he was endeavouring to climb over the police barricade. I leaned forward and caught the strap of his Sam Brown After a brief struggle he turned and recognised me. "Those are Viet Cong flags," he said. "And those are press photographers" I replied. "If you had got to the flags you would have become famous, but your career might not have held up".

"Do you remember the Ghurkha rum?" said Della., "I was on a course in the UK last year, and they sent me a bill for the rum on the grounds that the Australian Army was not entitled to rum issues"

We chatted for a while, but I never thought to ask if he paid. Knowing Della, I presumed he did not.

**Ian Uhlmann November 2008**



### BABY CANNON ADDED TO U. S. FIELD ARTILLERY

LATEST addition to the artillery of the United States Army is a midget cannon, just large enough to take a .22-caliber cartridge. It is built exactly to scale, one inch to 100 inches, and reproduces, in all essential details, the larger guns. It enables artillerymen to practice sighting, elevating, and firing, without the expense of costly, large-caliber ammunition. By calculating the trajectory of the projectiles, the gunners' work is simplified.



Made around 1900 by J. & E. Stevens, this is known as the Artillery mechanical bank. Estimate value \$7,000-\$10,000.

OLD people have problems that you haven't even considered yet!

An 85-year-old man was requested by his doctor for a sperm count as part of his physical exam.

The doctor gave the man a jar and said, 'Take this Jar home and bring back a semen sample tomorrow.'

The next day the 85-year-old man reappeared at the Doctor's office and gave him the jar, which was as clean and empty as on the previous day.

The doctor asked what happened and the man explained, 'Well, doc, it's like this--first I tried with my right hand, but nothing. Then I tried with my left hand, but still nothing.'

'Then I asked my wife for help. She tried with her right hand, then with her left, still nothing. She tried with her mouth, first with her teeth in, then with her teeth out, still nothing.'

'We even called up Arleen, the lady next door and she tried too, first with both hands, then an armpit, and she even tried squeezing it between her knees, but still nothing.'

The doctor was shocked! 'You asked your neighbour?'

The old man replied, 'Yep, none of us could get the jar open.'





## A Letter from Ray Alcorn

**Dear Editor**, following on from your excellent October 08 newsletter I would like to submit an article taken from "The Encyclopaedia of Australia's Battles." by Chris Coulthard-Clark. This article adds to the history of "A" Field Battery, compiled by Capt. R. Millyn and Maj. B. Murphy and condensed in your October issue. A member of the New South Wales Artillery, Captain Henry Airey distinguished himself in action in Burma.

**HMAWANG** – A minor action of the Third Angol-Burmese War, fought on the 22nd. March 1887 south of Mandalay. A fortnight after the war's commencement in November 1885 the object of the conflict (the deposition of King Thibaw) had been accomplished and the capital of Mandalay captured.



**Captain Henry Parke Airey**

The decision to annex the region of Upper Burma followed on the 1st. January 1886, but despite this being quickly achieved the British Government in India found itself committed to a protracted period of military operations.

The local soldiery raised to defend King Thibaw were demobilised and dispersed to their villages, but once there they joined either guerrilla operations or group banditry to contest the British occupation for more than three years.

Overcoming this resistance saw the British

troops deployed, rise from 24,000 in December 1886 to 32,000 by February the next year, along with 8,500 military police.

After reading reports in the Sydney press of a plea for more officers by General Sir Frederick Roberts, Commander in Chief in Burma; Captain Henry Airey of the New South Wales Artillery offered to go as a special service officer, and was accepted in late 1886. He was the only member of the Australian colonial services to so serve.

Attached to a column of 523 men led by Colonel Lacy Bance, he was placed in command of two Gardner guns—multi-barrelled mechanical machine guns which were wheel mounted and crank fired, supporting an attack on a rebel stockade eleven kilometres from Thabiutdown (Thabyedaung).

While directing the fire of his gun crews shortly before the position was successfully stormed, Airey received a serious bullet wound in the left arm which necessitated his evacuation.

For his part in this action he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order; a decoration for gallantry instituted only in 1886, and was thus the first Australian ever to receive it.

**Ray Alcorn**



**Distinguished Service Order (DSO)**

**Editors note:** Thanks for the great article Ray; only picked one mistake. Henry was a pommy, but that's no problem, the compliments regarding the October newsletter ensures publication and compensates for any errors.

**AIREY, HENRY PARKE (1842-1911)**, soldier, was born on 3 August 1842 at Kingthorpe, Yorkshire, England, son of Henry Cookson Airey, Indian Army officer, and his wife Emily, née Parke. Educated at Marlborough College and the East India Co.'s Military College at Addiscombe, he went to India on graduating in 1859, and was commissioned ensign in the 101st Regiment (Royal Bengal Fusiliers) in 1861. He served on the north-west frontier for six years and was promoted lieutenant in 1863.

Airey retired from the army in 1866 and arrived in Sydney in August. By 1868 he had established himself as a sugar-planter at Cleveland, Queensland; in February that year he married Florence Ada McCulloch at St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point, New South Wales. He later bought a property at Georges Hall near Liverpool, and when a third battery was added to the colony's permanent artillery he obtained a lieutenancy in 1877.

A few things I bet you didn't know about our Preso, Tex Bassan.

One of the early pioneers of country music, Tex soon became interested in show business.

In 1928, he sang on radio in Houston, a thirty-minute show featuring cowboy songs.

In that same year, he moved to New York and quickly landed a job in the men's chorus of the Broadway show The New Moon.

He appeared as "The Cowboy" in the Broadway production Green Grow the Lilacs, which was the basis for the later musical Oklahoma.

Oops! No! Hang on, sorry that was Tex Ritter



**A new limited edition, 128 pages, colour photographs, \$30 plus postage**



# Charlie Don't Surf BUT AUSSIES DO



By  
Queensland writer  
Stuart Scott,  
author of  
"Noosa: Surfing  
the '60s"

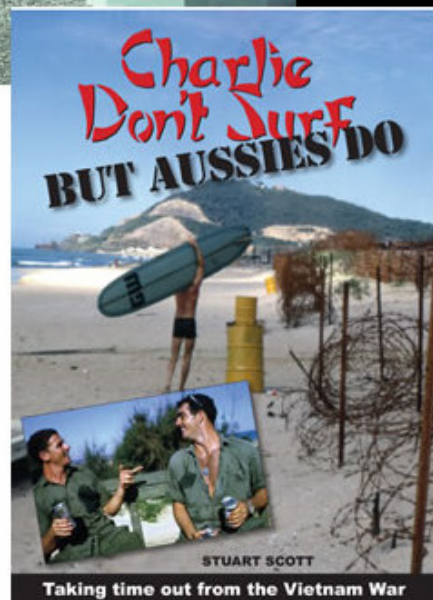
Amid the mayhem of the Vietnam War, Australia took over a beach and built a refuge where the Diggers could put aside their weapons.

Told for the first time ... the story of Australia's own stretch of the South China Sea, where the soldiers had surfboards, the lifeguards had guns, and everybody had a good time. There was a swimming pool named after a prime minister who drowned, and a bar named after a remarkable Victoria Cross winner.



**Charlie Don't Surf,  
But Aussies Do**  
Taking Time Out From  
The Vietnam War, 1966-1972

Tall Tales and True from the  
Peter Badcoe Club, 1ALSG,  
Back Beach, Vung Tau, South Vietnam



**This book is 128 pages, softcover, and is a first edition, fewer than 1000 printed.**

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**Payment should be sent to: Mr. Stuart Scott, 1590 David Low Way. Point Arkwright, Qld. 4573.  
Or a direct deposit at National Australia Bank. L.M Scott...BSB No. 084941... A/C No. 540347400**

## It's Happy Birthday for Mickey Mouse 19-Nov-2008

All of you gunners who think you are getting on a bit, let me remind you that Mickey Mouse just turned eighty.

Disney's ever popular mouse is looking good at 80. Walt Disney once said, "It all started with a mouse," and as of November 18, that mouse is 80,

Can't believe that lovable Mickey Mouse is that old? Well it's true, he had his debut at the Colony Theatre in New York in 1928 in a seven-minute cartoon called "Steamboat Willie."

To celebrate the birthday of Walt Disney's celebrity little mouse, here are a few little titbits of trivia you may not know.

His name wasn't always Mickey. At first, his name was Mortimer, but thankfully Disney's wife preferred the name Mickey and so the change was made.

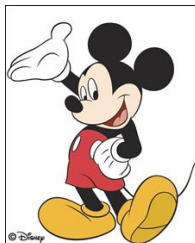
Starting in January of 1930, the rodent had a comic strip drawn by artist Ub Iwerks that moved to the Sunday comics in 1932.



That same year, Walt Disney won a special Academy Award for inventing the mouse.

As amazing as it sounds, Mickey has been in over 120 cartoons.

So bring on the birthday cake and light those candles



## On the Grog Over Xmas?

Ya'ever been crook, no I don't mean a bit sick in the guts, I mean really crook as Rookwood where you feel like chundering, you've done all the Panadols and Berocca, you've been to see the Quack and he has given you a script for some medicine that does absolutely bugger all.

You probably already know about the old hair of the dog trick, but how many time have you walked into a pub feeling a bit butchers, ordered a schooner and got most of it down after spilling half of it on the front of your jumper with the old shaky hands bit?

Aahh!. Almost instant relief; a couple more schooners and it's back to normal, hands are steady as a rock, talking footy with your mates, chatting up the old barmaid and thinking of grabbing one of them hot meat pies, you're feeling real crash hot again.

Sometimes your doctor may tell you to watch your drinking; all ya hafta do is find a bar with a mirror, and you must always remember beer is so much more than just a breakfast drink

Don't want to big note myself but I'm thinking of writing to the Minister for Veteran Affairs and having a whinge about why booze is not available on the Gold Card, be a lot bloody cheaper than paying all them bludging drug companies for stuff that don't work



**BALANCE SHEET - FINANCIAL YEAR****1st. August 2007 to 31st. July 2008**

2006 to 2007		2007 to 2008
\$10,986.42	Members funds	\$17,488.16
	Represented by current assets	
	Petty cash	\$100.00
\$5,448.65	Bank	\$3,480.16
\$5,073.12	Term deposit	\$9,000.00
\$280.40	Sales stock at cost	\$1,978.70
\$10,802.17		\$14,558.86
	Non current assets	
\$250.00	25 pounder at cost	\$250.00
\$1,117.00	Banners at cost	\$1,117.00
\$450.00	L5 Pack howitzer at cost	\$450.00
	Printer at cost	\$846.95
	Photo enhancer at cost	\$265.35
\$1817.00		\$2,929.30
\$12,619.17	Total Assets	\$17,488.16
	Less current liabilities	
\$1,632.75	Creditors	\$0.00
\$1,632.75	Total Liabilities	\$0.00


**A Field Battery Association Inc.  
Treasurers Report. 2008**

Our good results for the year of \$2031.51 surplus to operational costs is a reflection of bold decisions made by your committee in the previous years, to raise subscription fees as it became obvious we

would not meet our financial goals if we remained as we were

Proof of this has come to my attention from another unit association who advised me that their running costs have exceeded their income this year by \$3000.00. They have not increased their fees for 15 years, still \$10.00 annual fees and \$100.00 for life subscription fees.

Our strengths are in our growing membership which is due wholly to the sterling efforts of our President and Secretary, Tex and Bonnie, in their constant seeking out and contacting ex members of the Battery to join the association – and always chase up those delinquent members who forget their annual subs.

Another area worthy of mention is our marketing by Don Sinclair. Sales for the year total \$3937.00. Don's expertise on the computer creating the art work masters for our caps, badges and tee shirt emblems has saved us many hundreds of dollars in set up costs.

Further savings have been realised in our outsourcing the production of the Newsletter by Ron Slaughter. We show savings of several hundred dollars for a whole year.

We have increased our term deposit this year by \$4000 to a total of \$9000. This is consistent with the amount paid by our Life Subscribers and must be maintained to at least offset some of the annual

shortfall in subscriptions. That is we have around 90 life members @ \$20 per annum = \$1800 - whereas: the \$9000 currently @ 8.4% per annum = \$756, a shortfall of \$1044 per annum. This amount is generally covered by merchandising, donations and fund raising, plus we still have our principal of \$9000. This has not been spent.

The coming year will see a lower level of expenditure and income as 07 / 08 included some of the costs and income associated with our Anniversary Dinner and AGM at Brookvale. We can look forward to the year 08 / 09 with confidence that our financial position looks secure for the foreseeable future.

**Bob Cunningham: Treasurer. 12th. September 2008.**

**Income and Expenditure for Year Ending 31st July 2008**

2006 - 2007	INCOME	2007 - 2008
\$2,465.00	Fees	\$2,480.00
\$0.00	Life Subscriptions	\$2,000.00
\$1,344.00	AGM Accommodation and Dinner	\$2,720.00
\$370.00	Fund Raising	\$364.00
\$10.01	Interest Current Account	\$13.12
\$330.35	Interest Deposit Account	\$376.71
\$120.00	Sales of Shirts	\$1,155.00
\$90.00	Caps	\$443.00
\$0.00	Badges	\$0.00
\$304.00	Name Tags	\$80.00
\$61.00	Stickers	\$50.00
\$0.00	Plaques	\$755.00
\$0.00	A Battery Book	\$741.00
\$80.00	CDs	\$110.00
\$0.00	Merchandise General	\$465.00
\$1,836.00	Donations	\$1,781.00
\$3,250.00	Grants	\$0.00
\$0.00	Postage Merchandise	\$138.00
\$0.00	Bus Trip	\$715.00
<b>\$10,260.36</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,386.83</b>

	EXPENDITURE	
\$270.00	AGM Refreshments & Entertainment	\$5,770.00
\$250.00	Room Hire	\$0.00
\$37.00	Office of Fair Trading	\$38.10
\$7.92	Petty Cash	\$0.00
\$430.85	Postage	\$533.50
\$230.86	Telephone	\$246.31
\$215.09	Stationery	\$128.88
\$160.10	Shirts	\$1,521.90
\$128.87	Caps	\$464.20
\$208.40	Badges	\$100.00
\$283.45	Name Tags	\$85.60
\$0.00	Stickers	\$0.00
\$0.00	CDs	\$0.00
\$132.00	Advertising	\$0.00
\$0.00	Printing	\$0.00
\$719.75	25 Pounder Gun Restoration	\$20.00
\$450.00	L5 Pack Howitzer Purchase	\$0.00
\$642.54	L5 Pack Howitzer Restoration	\$0.00
\$110.00	Laying of Battery Plaque	\$0.00
\$0.00	Battery Plaque	\$1,067.00
\$885.00	Refreshments at Plaque Ceremony	\$0.00
\$153.98	Printer Ink	\$0.00
\$1,386.30	Laser Printer Cartridges	\$1,229.38
\$0.00	Merchandise Postage	\$93.35
\$14.71	Computer Discs	\$0.00
\$0.00	Memorial Bricks	\$100.00
\$0.00	Newsletter	\$652.00
\$0.00	Withholding Tax	\$105.10
\$0.00	Donations	\$200.00
<b>\$6,689.82</b>		<b>\$12,355.32</b>
<b>\$3,570.54</b>	<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,031.51</b>



## A Field Battery Association Inc. Audit Report Year Ending 31st. July 2008



**David R H. Harris, BEc CPA**

I have examined the financial records of the Association as presented in electronic form by the treasurer. I have not conducted a stock take nor have I examined the invoices and receipts which are the source documents for the electronic records. You will understand that time and distance make it almost impossible for me to check these items.

The current accounting is more comprehensive and informative than the previous system. I have verified the bank balances and from my examination of the accounting system, I am confident that the attached accounts give a true and fair view of the Association's finances.

You will note that these accounts differ in form to those presented at the meeting but the detail is the same. In particular, non operational items have been taken out of the Income Statement and placed in the Funds Statement ( Balance Sheet ).

This year the assets include a printer and photo enhancer which were incorrectly expensed last year. The trading stock has been recorded with full costings. This had not occurred previously.

As the fiscal year is to be changed to ending on 30th. June 2008, it will be necessary to incorporate July 2008 records into the new year. This will mean

comparison between the 08 year and the 09 year will not be valid. That situation will be resolved in the ensuing years

It is important that detail, which is carried forward is accurate. I note that there are variations in values of the guns in the carry forwards from July 08, and this should be rectified.

The Association has been debited withholding tax by it's bank and action should be taken to recover this amount. As I am not a tax agent I am prevented, by law from giving tax advice other than in general terms. I believe the Association will need to obtain a tax file number to recover the tax. Therefore it will be necessary to consider the tax implications of the Association's operations. Presently it appears that the main taxable income is bank interest and income deductions fees on interest bearing accounts and also deductible donations to charities. The taxable income threshold of \$416.00 is unlikely to have been reached.

In future care will be needed to eliminate or minimise income received from non members from sales, meals and raffles. Advice should be sought on the situation where a member buys on behalf of himself and his partner.

The ATO Publication NAT 7967 3 2007 Income Tax Guide For Non Profit Organisations is an essential reference, especially from page 72. I recommend that the Association complete the review on page 84 of the Guide.

**Yours Faithfully, David. Harris**

### A condensed report of the Committee Meeting held at Brookvale Travelodge 7th June 2008

Present: Ron Bassan, Bonnie Bassan, Don Sinclair, Bob Cunningham, Ray Alcorn, Ian Leven.

#### Business from Minutes:

The Newsletter to be outsourced to a printing business and printed in greyscale, this would result in savings. The Australian War Memorial has recorded our website as a historic site.

Ten Malayan Episode books were sent to the AWM at a cost of \$20

Ray Alcorn has sent a letter on how the Army Combat Badge originated to the editor for printing in the newsletter.

The treasurer Bob Cunningham moved that we reinvest \$9000 for 7 months to take advantage of higher interest.

#### General Business:

1. Our editor informed us of an approval for print post to aid cheaper mail outs.
2. Ron read letter about Combat badges and explained everything.
3. Don thanked Bob for the work he has done with our finances. Echoed by the committee.

4. Ron spoke about two of our new members.
5. Ron spoke about the Gunner Dinner in Canberra attended by himself, Ray Alcorn and Brian Miller. The RSM of the School of Artillery informed Ron that all the brass work from North Head was taken to Puckapunyal.
6. Don suggested that members visit Bribie Island RSL to inspect the 3 inch mortar that he restored. and is now on display with an A Battery plaque.
7. Ray suggested that we write a letter of thanks to Captain Cook Cruises for the good time we had on Anzac Day.
8. It was suggested that we present a Certificate of Appreciation to Barnes Auto in gratitude for towing our guns on Anzac Day.
9. When John Smith put in an apology for not attending the meeting, he informed Ron that he would not be standing for Committee at the AGM, as he is unable to attend meetings

The next committee meeting was held at Ian and Wendy Leven's residence on 19th Nov.2008

**This is an important announcement relating to the Boat Trip on the Brisbane River, following the Ancac Day March.**

**We have been allocated only 25 seats, so get in touch with Bonnie Bassan and reserve your seat for this great reunion on the water**

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