

1871

A Field Battery Association, Inc.

National Newsletter

MAY 2010

President Ron Bassan's Report

2010



From the President's Chair.

G'day everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, if not, I hope you are on the road to recovery.

I have had some enquiries as to where the AGM & Reunion is to be held this year, and of course it is to be held at the Maroochy River Coach House, Maroochydore, Qld, from the 10th to 12th September.

You do your own booking, ring the Coach House on (07) 5448 4344, and make sure you book early.

As I said in my last From the President's Chair, the Committee was investigating the possibility of holding a reunion for the 40th anniversary of the Bty returning from Vietnam; well this is going to happen.

The AGM & Reunion for 2011 will be held at Sawtell, NSW, from the 12th to 14th September, inclusive. All activities will be at the Sawtell RSL Club, except for the service at the Cenotaph. The itinerary for the three days will be; Mon 12th, meet & greet, Tues 13th, AGM at 1000hrs, service at Cenotaph (To be advised), Evening, 1800hrs for 1830hrs, SEMI FORMAL Dinner, miniature medals to be worn, Wed 14th, possibility of a bus trip, barbeque in the evening.

Of course this is to be refined and this will be done in the next newsletter, including costs, accommodation, etc. **THIS REUNION IS NOT ONLY FOR VIETNAM VETERANS, IT IS OPEN TO ALL EX 'A' BTY MEMBERS.** Let us know your intention of attending.

I am happy to say that there is only one member who is unfinancial for 2009/10, he knows who he is. Remember the financial year now starts on the 1st July.

It is on a sad note once again. After a long illness Lena Noonan passed away and the Committee and Members wish to express our deepest sympathy to Dodger.

Till next time, Semper Paratus. Tex



Wecome to Sunny Sawtell

Sawtell is found on the beautiful North Coast of New South Wales just 6km south of Coffs Harbour. Located 555 kilometres north of Sydney and 400 kilometres south of Brisbane, it enjoys Australia's most temperate climate.

Long sandy beaches, pristine rainforest, the magnificent Solitary Islands Marine Park and the nearby Dorrigo National Park make Sawtell a must visit destination.

Sawtell is bounded to the east by safe surf beaches, to the north and south by unspoiled waterways and Bongil Bongil National Park and to the west by scenic mountain ranges.

Sawtell has 12 restaurants and several takeaways. Bookings for the restaurants are highly recommended.

Also in Sawtell is a lovely-restored cinema. You can enjoy a relaxing drink at the Sawtell RSL or at the Sawtell Bowls Club. For the golfer, the Sawtell Golf Club boasts an 18 hole golf course and full

clubhouse facilities. There are also two croquet courts and 12 tennis courts in Sawtell.





Lance Bombardier Gary Prout who risked his life three times under Taliban gunfire in Afghanistan.

kept it from me that he was actually on the front line ... He had already done one tour. I thought he worked in an office."

Prout,

27, from Lisburn, Co Antrim, won his medal for what the citation described as "the most incredible courage". It added: "It was a miracle he was not killed."

A 30-man patrol had gone into an area known to be occupied by the Taliban south of Musa Qala in Helmand province on March 14 last year, with Prout taking up a position on top of a house.

The battle started with a blast as a soldier set off an improvised explosive device. Prout ran forward 150 yards to the scene where he found Alun Higgins, the platoon sergeant, with the wounded man, who he realised was his best friend, Lance Corporal Christopher Harkett, 22. He and Higgins began carrying Harkett to cover.

The Taliban opened up with heavy machinegun fire from 30 yards

away. "The rounds were dancing around our feet," said Prout, who was serving as an artillery observer. "The platoon commander described it as if there was a bubble round us. He had no idea how we could carry on without any of us getting hit."

A Warrior armoured ambulance collected Harkett but Prout, whose father, grandfather and great-grandfather all served in the forces, knew his friend had little chance of survival.

Prout then ran back across open ground to the top of the house, where in a second incident of bravery he directed more than 200 rounds of artillery onto the Taliban while under fire.

A convoy of Warriors arrived to pull out the troops but Prout realised there was not enough room for all of them. He stayed with a small group, calling down smoke rounds to hide how few they were.

Even when they were evacuated, Prout's day was not over. The group realised they had left weapons behind and he volunteered to go back, facing heavy rocket and machinegun fire.

It was only later that night that he had time to reflect on the loss of his friend.

The Sunday Times; March 21st. 2010 Mother thought hero soldier son worked in office

The mother of a soldier decorated for bravery in Afghanistan had thought he was working in an office until she found out he had won an honour second only to the Victoria Cross.

This weekend it was announced that Lance Bombardier Gary Prout had been awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross. Prout risked his life three times in quick succession when his patrol was caught in a vicious firefight with the Taliban.

Heather, his mother, said: "He

Army Leader to Advise Afghan Government 26th. February 2010

Major General Ash Power has been appointed to the role of Senior Military Adviser to the Afghan Defence Minister, Abdul Rahim Wardak.

Major General Power will be the first officer to serve in this senior position within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. He will assist the Afghan Government in the expansion and development of the Afghan National Army.

Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner, made the announcement today, saying ISAF invited Australia to fill the new position.

Senator Faulkner said "Major General Power has a highly distinguished career and

this appointment reinforces that Australia's commitment in

Afghanistan is highly valued by our ISAF partners."

In accepting the appointment, Major General Power said, "I look forward to the challenges and opportunities this role will present.

Major General

Power joined Army as an Officer Cadet in 1975. After graduating he joined the Royal Australian Regiment of Australian Artillery.

He has commanded 1st Brigade in Darwin, the 1st Division and Deployable Joint Force Headquarters and Training Command-Army. Most recently he has been Head of Military Strategic Commitments.

Major General Power will commence his new role in the next few weeks.



The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

The political history of Afghanistan begins with the tribal leader Ahmad Shah Durrani who created the Empire in 1747. His empire is considered by many to be the beginning of modern Afghanistan. Its capital was shifted in 1776 from Kandahar to Kabul and most of its territories ceded to neighbouring empires. In the late 19th century, Afghanistan became a buffer state in "The Great Game." played between the British and Russian empires. On August 19, 1919, the country regained independence from the United Kingdom over.

Since the late 1970s Afghanistan has experienced a continuous state of civil war punctuated by foreign occupations in the forms of the 1979 Soviet invasion and the 2001 US led invasion that overthrew the Taliban government. In December 2001, the United Nations Security Council authorized the creation of an International Security Council (ISAF) to help maintain security and assist the Karzai Administration

The country is being rebuilt slowly with support from the international community and dealing with a strong Taliban Insurgency.



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

Gordon, one of our life members passed away in

2008. The following moving letter was sent in Feb. 2010 by his devoted widow, Glad.

To the Editor, Thank you so much for sending me the A Battery newsletter. I still like to receive it since my beloved Gordon has gone, He always enjoyed receiving and reading it.

I am enclosing a small photo copy of Gordon, I notice that you have photos of members from time to time in the newsletter.

I have sent from time to time a \$50 donation and will be sending another \$50 in memory of Gordon as soon as I can get to the Post Office; hopefully tomorrow, Friday 26th. February.

Ron, you will notice the change in my Unit No., instead of 53 it is now 52 after recent refurbishing, Gordon had been too sick to move back to our old unit.

Hope your weather is kind to you up there; it is very cloudy here today.

Thanking you again, Sincerely Glad Carmichael.

Restored WWII Artillery Blitz Buggy to lead outback Anzac parade

By Chrissy Arthur

Posted Mon Apr 12, 2010 8:27am AEST

A World War II field artillery tractor found on a scrap heap at a western Queensland cattle station will lead an outback Anzac parade later this month.

The vehicle, known as a field artillery tractor, was designed to tow guns in the North African desert and research has revealed it was used in Africa during the war but was sold at a clearing sale in 1947.

It was used on the cattle station to cart wool bales and hay and later as a bore drilling rig.

Winton Mayor Ed Warren says the vehicle was discovered by Gympie military enthusiast Lloyd McCarthy who has now fully restored it.

"It's a World War II vehicle. It's done service in the Middle East, It's a Ford Blitz but it was specifically designed to tow 25 pounder guns around," councillor Warren said.

"It had been pensioned off and bought at a clearing sale after the war. I think it ended up being a bore-pulling vehicle until it ended up being retired some years ago and they just put it near the dump at home and there it was until Lloyd [McCarthy] came along."

A Sad Letter from Tom Caldwell

It was with deep sorrow that I learned of the passing some years ago of Dennis McLeish who was a most respected friend and mate to a lot of members of A Bty .

I had been trying to make contact with him for some years as we had drifted apart quite some time ago and by chance I was able to contact his sister .

My friendship with him goes back to two 17 year old Victorian boys who joined the Army. We went through recruit training, School of Artillery, Canungra and Malaya together in the same troop. We were virtually in-separable and were known as the terrible twins due to like appearance, in a lot of cases it was mistaken identity.

I remember one incident where the troop leader called us both in and he told us that he suspected one leading the other astray and if he ever found out who it was he would throw the book at him. There are a lot of stories that may be remembered of

our exploits in canteen bars and camps. We took all our leave together and would spend half of it at each others places, this

way we got to know each others family.

After both being discharged Dennis and his younger brother came to stay at my place and we worked at the local meat works for a season.

Following this the three of us worked the seasons all around Australia, the meat seasons, fruit seasons or any work we could find for 2 years. We then moved to Dennis's parents place at Woori Yallock and worked on the Upper Yarra dam to Silvan dam pipe line for three years.

After the work cut out on the pipe line I stayed with the board of works and was re-located to Preston Work Shops, as this was too far to travel I moved out of the district. Dennis left the board of works about this time and worked for the PMG. we kept in touch with each other for some years but as

it happened we drifted apart.

In hindsight I should not have left it so long to try and make contact with him, I am now in contact with his sister and hope to meet with

her in the near future. A great mate, friend, and companion. I will cherish our time together for ever.

Tom Caldwell (Bulldog)



Hi Tom, you can rid yourself of any guilt feeling of what you should have done while Dennis was alive by reminding yourself that, ultimately, you have no control over death. Your friend's death was out of your hands.

When you realize this, it will be easier for you to put aside any guilt, heal and move forward. .

Military Cross Clarification

An article published on page eight of our January newsletter has prompted some people to question the awarding of the **Military Cross** to AB Kate Nesbitt of the **Royal Navy** for her actions in Afghanistan.

They have been unaware of changes to the awarding of this medal, to clear this up I am attaching a brief history of this medal.

The **Military Cross** is a military decoration awarded to personnel of the **United Kingdom Armed Forces**, and formerly also to officers of other **Commonwealth** countries, for distinguished and meritorious services in battle on land.

The award was established on **December 28, 1915**. It was originally awarded to commissioned officers of the substantive rank of **Captain** or below and to **Warrant Officers**.

In **1931** the award was extended to **Majors**, and since **1993** to other (non-commissioned) ranks as well;



Kate Louise Nesbitt. MC

The **Military Medal**, previously awarded to other ranks, has been discontinued.

The first woman to be awarded the Military Cross was Private Michelle Norris of the Royal Army Medical Corps, while attached to The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment in Iraq. Norris was awarded her medal personally by Queen Elizabeth 2 on 21st. March 2007 as the result of her actions in Iraq on 11 June 2000



Able Seaman Kate Nesbitt, was the second woman, first in the Royal Navy, for acts in Afghanistan in March 2009 as a Medical Assistant attached to 1 RIFLES, 3 Commando Brigade.

Recipients of the Military Cross are entitled to use the post-nominal letters "MC".

Regards, Tex Bassan.

Origin of The Plaque, from Tex.

There has been some mis-information of where the 'A' Bty plaque came from and who designed it, so to correct this, here are the facts;

Prior to going to Malaysia in 1965, the then Battery Captain. Phillip Calvert thought it would be a good idea to have a Battery plaque.

The grenade for the plaque was inspired from an old button that was found in our Q Store, the red flash, a somewhat stylised version of the garrison tie.

Phillip can't recall where the motto came from. I rang the then Battery Commander, Alex Reynolds, and he said the motto Semper Paratus (Stands for, Always Ready) came from the N.S.W. Artillery, which 'A' Bty was a member of until 1899.

Phillip made a colour drawing of what was



required with the old button attached was duly sent off to Singapore, where the first plaques were manufactured, Phillip still has the original.

Phillip Calvert retired from the Australian Army after 20 years; this included a tour with 161 Recce Flt as Officer Commanding.

He then moved to New Zealand and spent 10 years in their army.

Regards, Tex Bassan

Note: The top design is now available as car stickers to purchase from our website.

Good value at \$4 each or 2 for \$6



Greetings from Darwin and the Royal Australian Artillery Association. (Northern Territory Inc.)

Here is some brief information about the Association:

- Established in 1964
- Set up the East Point Military Museum which last year, celebrated its 40th. Anniversary.
- The museum was leased out for about 19years; however RAAA (NT) Inc. resumed direct control on the 17th. July 2009.
- Dr. Tom Lewis OAM has been appointed Director of the Museum which has been renamed The

Darwin Military Museum.

Attached to this email is a copy of our first newsletter for 2010. Also a copy of our media release in relation to the bombing of Darwin Anniversary.

So far there has been 2 radio interviews– ABC Local Radio Darwin and Radio Adelaide.

We would also appreciate receiving the A Field Battery newsletters etc. and are only too happy to reciprocate with ours.

The cc addresses on this email are the RAAA (NT) Inc. Executive Committee Members

Capt. (Retd.) John Johnson RFD ED
National Liaison Officer
RAAA (NT) Inc.

Ph.: 0419 836 669...Email: jrj5076@bigpond.net.au



Sydney's first Anzac Day

Behind the 4000 returned men who could march in Sydney's first Anzac Day in 1916 came 50 car loads of those who could not.

The *Herald* photographer caught the moment perfectly as women rattled money tins, street urchins chased loose pennies and a big but subdued crowd watched as car after car rolled down Macquarie Street filled with maimed but smiling soldiers.

"There was pride in the faces of the men, and tears in the eyes of the women as the little groups went by; for in almost every group, a man was to be seen without an arm, or with shattered features, or limping painfully with a stick," the *Herald* said. "Little parties of girls gathered at different points ... and threw flowers over the passing soldiers."



The Perth Mint's ANZAC Day \$1 coin program is a tribute inspired by the deep significance of 25 April 1915, the day Australian forces landed on a hostile shore on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey.

The 2010 ANZAC Day \$1 coin pays tribute to the Royal Australian Navy. With a design portraying HMAS *Parramatta*, a 'River' Class Torpedo Boat Destroyer built prior to World War I and the image of a Leading Seaman from the same era, the coin reflects the RAN's long history of professionalism, discipline and courage. Including a silhouetted bugler, the words 'Lest We Forget' and the date of ANZAC Day – April 25 – the reverse also symbolises the nation's extreme gratitude to those sailors who have made the supreme sacrifice.



Melbourne Unions Oppose Anzac Holiday

The Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia (The R S L) became organised nationally at a Melbourne meeting in June 1916, and thereafter campaigned for the solemn commemoration of Anzac Day as a statutory fixed holiday on 25 April.

Stiff opposition from business and trade union circles, fearful for their profits and wages, delayed this until 1925.

Thereafter, Anzac Day was celebrated on 25 April, with a Monday holiday when Anzac Day fell on a Sunday.

In the City itself, veterans marched across Princes Bridge, past a cenotaph at Parliament House, and on to the Royal Exhibition Building.

The first Anzac Day parade in Brisbane

This is a black-and-white photograph of the first Anzac Day march held in Brisbane on 25 April 1916 to mark the first anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand troops on Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey.

The photograph was taken outside Brisbane's General Post Office in Queen Street. It shows soldiers on horseback who are watched by a large crowd lining the street and crammed into the balconies of the surrounding buildings.

The building is festooned with flags and pennants and a banner that reads 'ENLIST NOW'.



The first South Australian ANZAC Day commemoration service was on 25 April 1916.

The Governor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition addressed a public assembly in Victoria Square, Adelaide, where a prominent position was given to soldiers who had been at the Gallipoli landing.

The commemoration was organised by the State War Council, comprising the Premier, six other members of parliament, the Mayor of Adelaide, and seven others.

A souvenir booklet was produced that contained photos of the Gallipoli campaign, including one of the legendary Simpson, with his donkey assisting a wounded comrade, together with the text of speeches of the dignitaries. In the Governor's address at the official ceremony in Victoria Square, as recorded in the souvenir, he said. "When we think of those splendid men who performed the supreme sacrifice for love of country, our hearts go out in respect."



Anzac crowds at Anzac Arch Adelaide in 1918

Anzac Day Around Australia

They make the journey very slowly now, bent with age, or pushed along the road in wheelchairs by younger members of their families who talk to them and watch over them with concern in their eyes.

By the side of the road the crowds search out the oldest faces and give them the fondest ovation, while descendants walk not quite in time to the marching bands, carrying photographs of Diggers who fought in places they have never been: El Alamein, Borneo, Palestine, Tobruk, Kokoda.

In Brisbane, 100-year-old Ken Blake revelled in the company of his granddaughter, Emily, and grandson, Ryan, and said he was glad to see so many young faces in a vast crowd, but lamented that he was the last of his World War II unit, 542 Squadron.

Another World War II air force veteran, Robert Chester-Master, 86, made light of the "12 and a half" missions he flew over Europe as a rear gunner in a Lancaster bomber. Half a mission? "The Germans shot us down on the way home," he explained, adding casually that he managed to evade capture in German-occupied Belgium until Allied D-Day forces broke through in 1944. "That only counts as a half."

Gallipoli, which sealed Australia's birth of nationhood with unimaginable suffering, remained the keystone of Anzac Day and was remembered especially on the 95th anniversary of the day the first Diggers confronted those

unforgiving shores.

In a still dawn at Anzac Cove, Governor-General Quentin Bryce said Anzac Day was about "love of every kind, love of nation, of service, of family".



Pat Lee (88) gets a kiss from an adoring bystander in the crowd in Sydney.
Picture: Jane Dempster Source: The Australian

In Melbourne, up to 40,000 people attended the dawn service before the day was turned over to the roar of the crowd at the MCG, while in Adelaide servicemen and women from the Iraq war led the parade for the first time.

In Albany, Western Australia, which claims to have held the first dawn service -- on Anzac Day 1930 -- wreaths were laid and a flare was fired from a ship on King George Sound to mark the laying of a wreath upon the water.

In Sydney, the parade was led by Trooper Mark Donaldson, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for services in Afghanistan. He said he felt that Anzac Day was growing in strength. "We need to continue that tradition and it needs to be the young people that understand the spirit of the Anzacs," he said.

In Canberra, the dawn service was attended by about 20,000 people, army chaplain Catie Inches-Ogden, one of two chaplains who recently reburied 249 British and Australian soldiers killed at Fromelles in 1916, challenged those who thought Anzac Day was past its use-by date.

Report on the Sydney March from John Smith

25th April 2010 Sydney. The day starts out overcast and a little drizzly, however by the time we moved off the weather changed for the better. Actually we moved off about a half hour earlier than previously and a few had to catch up on the run.

In all there were about fifteen of the "old guys" however the Battery surely made up for a good contingent, headed by the BC, BK & senior ranks.

The march was a little brisker than usual, we were a little worried about Brian Privett, who had to have a little assistance, but being Brian wouldn't go to a Rover and ride, however he lasted to the Town Hall.

Toward the end of the march there was a pleasant surprise when a Wheel Chair arrived and in it was Frank Berrier steered by Peter.

We all moved to the Coronation with Frank included, where everyone enjoyed a good arvo; to name a few I can't remember everyone, Reg & Hue Ettienne, Harry & Ivy Cook, Don Green, Ian Leven, Dodger Noonan, Brian Privett, Terry Jobson, Ron Hassell, Collin Flatters, Max Vandyke, BC Major Nathan Laughton,



Just prior to the Sydney March

You know it's very interesting to talk to these young guys in the service these days to the fellows their wives & their girlfriends about today's soldier and the days gone by. There is much to do between now & the end of the year, I hope to let you know more at a later date

Cheerio from Sydney SMITHY .

Cruisin' Down the River



Even the hot Queensland weather could not melt the spirit of the Brisbane crowds as we marched through the streets on Anzac Day.

The crowd of children and adults estimated to be over 50,000 cheered and clapped and waved Australian flags as we marched through the city.

Governor Penelope Wensley took the salute and it was an absolute pleasure to see her nodding back at us in acknowledgement as we gave a smart "Eyes Left."



A Field Battery were number 106 away in the march due to it being the Army's turn to be last away; this late kick off didn't seem to bother anyone as there was so much catching up to do with old friends, not seen since last Anzac Day and of course The Saint was there doing a final spit and polish to our Gun and always ready to pose for a few photos.

We finally got away and the march was completed with hardly a stop; the unconditional adulation from the crowd, especially the young kids is an inspirational feeling and it is difficult not to feel emotional.

When the march concluded we made our way to the Riverwalk area to board our ferry for the BBQ trip on the Brisbane River, organised by Arthur Burke and 101 Battery.

We were a little early so of course Majors Alcorn and Holmes ordered us to have a couple of ales at the Pig and Whistle to replace the energy and sweat from the march.

Talking about having a few ales, you would be well advised not to get tangled up with Paul Forsythe and try to match him beer for beer.

The ferry trip is something we look forward to with pleasure.

There was a plentiful supply of various drinks on board and an



endless supply of snags from the BBQ, accompanied by salads and bread rolls, while cruising the picturesque Brisbane River.

The cruise was all over far too soon and after a little over 3 hours we returned to the wharf and said our goodbyes before making our way to Central station for the train trip back to Robina and I know this will cause some shock and disbelief and I must admit it does sound incredulous but the 3 old LAD boys could not even find room to have one more for the road at the Pig and Whistle....(Thanks Paul.)



Banger, Anne and Bubbles



Bonnie and Ronnie



The Top Deck



The two larger photos above, showing the thirsty marchers, "wetting their whistle," at the Pig and Whistle; were taken by Tex and Bonnie's daughter Leanne

On the left Tex with a group of the happy marchers and on the right the LAD trio being led astray by Paul, note that his almost empty glass confirms that he was setting the pace

Below is a copy of a recent email I received from David Harris informing me of a journal of the RAA Assoc. Victoria that has a wealth of Artillery information. I have reproduced a brief history of A Battery's Vietnam involvement.

Hello Butch, Thanks for another great issue.

You might get some mileage out of the attached. I lifted them from "Cascabel" Mar 2010 which is the journal of the RAA Assoc in VICTORIA.

The issue also contains a brief history of A Battery written by LTC (R) Brian Armour.

If you are not on their distribution list contact the editor at

ahalbish@netspace.net.au

Anne and I will be in Brisbane for Anzac Day so hope to see you then.

Banger

The Vietnam War

12th. Field Regiment was warned for service in South Vietnam in 1971 and the Regiment moved from Tobruk Lines, Holsworthy to Lavarack Barracks in Townsville in January 1970.

On 26 January 1971 the Battery assembled in Sydney for a parade at Victoria Barracks, it was at this parade that A Field Battery, in recognition of the approach of its Centenary Birthday and its long association with Sydney, was granted Freedom of the City of Sydney by the Lord Mayor, Laurence McDermott

On 27 January 1971, the advance party emplaned for South Vietnam where it was joined by the main body at the 1st. Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat on 4 February 1971.

A Field Battery and the rest of

12th. Field Regiment took part in operations in Phuoc Tuy Province until the withdrawal of the 1st. Australian Task Force in November 1971.

On 7 June 1971 during a contact with North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces, Second Lieutenant I. Mathers, an A Field Battery Forward Observer, received mortal wounds from enemy small arms fire.

His Assistant, Bombardier P.M. Maher, was later awarded the Military Medal for his part in the contact.

In addition, 50 cartridge cases, fired by the Battery to celebrate its Centenary were presented to various persons and organisations (including the Australian War Memorial which also holds the cartridge case of the first round fired by A Field Battery in South Africa in 1900 during the South African Boer War .



Frankly we were all pleasantly surprised to see Frank Berrier attend the Sydney Anzac March and sink a couple of drinks afterward at the Coronation Hotel.



Our Gun attracted the usual attention from the Anzac crowd

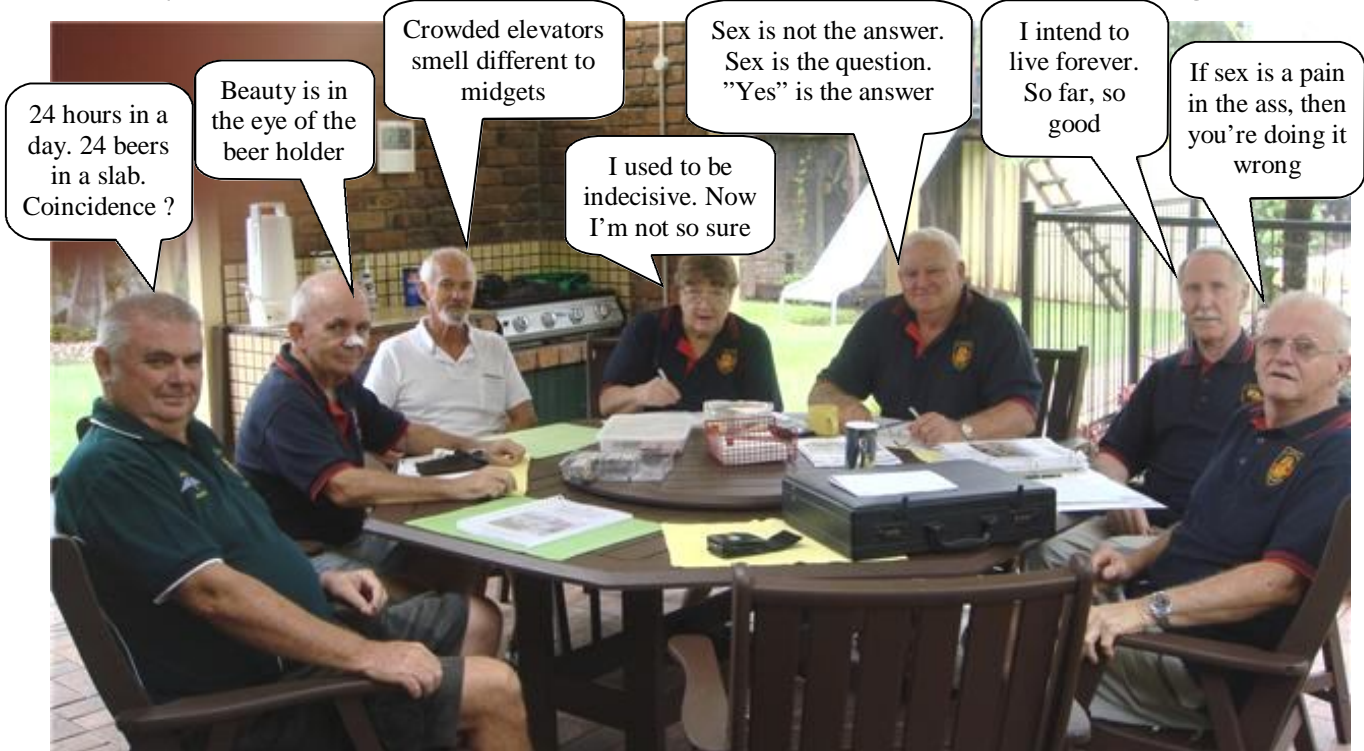


President Ron Bassan presenting an A Field Battery Assoc. life membership certificate to Lt Col. David Kelly, C O of 1st. Field Regiment and former Battery Commander of A Field Battery.



The A Field Battery Banner supported by 4 young Gunners leads the marchers into the Main St. of Brisbane

Important decisions at our committee meetings ?



This is a sample of some of the thoughtful comments expressed during the committee meetings. Of course the intelligence level does decline after a few beers at the post- meeting BBQ.

BOYLE IN HOT WATER OVER STEAMY SHOTS

Once people stopped marvelling at Susan Boyle's voice, they started talking about her looks, especially her plain and matronly plumpness.

The "American Idol" makeup artist team were invited to give Boyle a new look, a virtual makeover that has proved to be so successful that the singing has been put on hold for more provocative projects.

The shy singer has also been offered \$1million from an adult entertainment company to lose her virginity on camera. The company has already set up a website, susanboyleXXX.com, where fans can vote for various possible partners; the favourite at the moment seems to be Tiger Woods.



If Boyle were to accept the offer, the firm would fly her out to Los Angeles on -- naturally -- Virgin Airlines.

The LA Times reports that there's only one hitch: "The offer only lasts for a week.

As company President Hugh Jundys so delicately put it: "We want to get this movie shot and out while Susan has the world's attention. Besides, after 47 years of virginity, I'm sure Susan is also anxious to get something cracking as soon as possible."

The news of this indecent proposal comes as Boyle was recently offered big bucks to do a photo shoot appearing in Playboy magazine by magnate Hugh Hefner who was reported to be very impressed with the body transformation.



Little Melissa comes home from first grade and tells her father that they learned about the history of Valentine's Day. Since Valentine's Day is for a Christian Saint and they

we're Jewish," she asks, "will God get mad at me for giving someone a valentine?"

Melissa's father thinks a bit, then says "No, I don't think God would get mad. Who do you want to give a valentine to?" "Osama Bin Laden," she says "Why Osama Bin Laden," her father asks in shock

"Well," she says, "I thought that if a little Australian Jewish girl could have enough love to give Osama a valentine, he might start to think that maybe we're not all bad, and maybe start loving people a little bit. And if other kids saw what I did and sent valentines to Osama, he'd love everyone a lot. And then! he'd start going all over the place to tell everyone how much he loved them and how he didn't hate anyone anymore."

Her father's heart swells and he looks at his daughter with newfound pride. "Melissa, that's the most wonderful thing I've ever heard."

"I know," Melissa says, "and once that gets him out in the open, the Artillery could blow the shit out of him."

PLAYING a soldier in Australia's newest feature film wasn't much of a stretch for Warwick Young.

For almost 20 years, he has juggled two careers - as an army officer who saw action in Iraq and a talented actor with roles in Hollywood blockbusters such as X-Men Origins: Wolverine and Superman Returns.

Young will proudly march in the 2010 Anzac Day parade in Sydney while his latest film, the World War I saga Beneath Hill 60, in which he plays a Digger, is shown in cinemas.

As well as acting, Young was military adviser on the film, which has been well received by reviewers. "I'm the only actor I know of that's been in a conflict," Young said, describing his three months of active service in Iraq in 2006. "There were 70 IEDs (improvised explosive devices) going off a day on average when I was in Iraq." "The military has been good for me," he said. "It's great to serve your country. It's a great backdrop for so many different characters and it's a great resource for me as an actor too."



Real thing ... Warwick Young in Baghdad in 2006. Source: The Daily Telegraph

His latest film - Beneath Hill 60 - recounts the history of a battalion of Australian miners recruited to tunnel through a hill under German lines on France's Western Front in 1917.

A massive blast, set off by the soldiers in the excavation, was the biggest man-made explosion recorded at the time and was heard as

far away as London.

Young conducted a boot camp to get his fellow actors - Brendan Cowell, Gyton Grantley and Anthony Hayes - prepared for the shoot. "We ate bully beef and biscuits," he said. "We even had a rum ration. "We were in the trenches that you see in the film. We slept in them. It wasn't easy."

While Young's experience in Iraq couldn't be more different from the conditions endured by Australian's fighting in World War I, there were some similarities, he said. "The artillery is the same, when you are coping indirect fire, mortars and rockets coming in, that's very similar," he explained. "But obviously we weren't exposed to enormous barrages of fire."

Young said Anzac Day was a solemn occasion. "I've seen the results of a war. I've seen what it does to people and I've seen the toll it takes on civilians," he said. "War changes you indelibly, whether the sacrifice is death or wounding physically, there is a change that comes upon you when you see the end of humanity and I think that sacrifice has to be remembered."

RSL artillery gun to stay

Felicity Caldwell | 7th April 2010

AN ARTILLERY gun fixed outside an Ipswich RSL club looks set to stay, but members are worried about the future of historic displays.

Concerns about the fate of hundreds of harmless historic RSL displays of rifles, machine guns and artillery pieces was triggered in Far North Queensland last week after police confiscated two guns because they were unlicensed.

The crackdown was sparked by a Cooktown pacifist who complained to authorities because she felt the weapons promoted war and violence.

Ipswich RSL Services Club secretary John Dredge said the 25 pounder displayed outside the club in North Ipswich was licensed with Queensland Police and inoperable. But Mr Dredge said he was still concerned about the future of similar historic exhibits. "It all depends on how successful this lady's complaint is I guess," Mr Dredge said. "The mechanism for loading the shell is welded up - it is inoperable as a gun."

A law was introduced after the Port Arthur massacre in 1996, which requires weapons made after 1900 to be proved inactive and registered with the Queensland Police Weapons Licensing Branch, which requires gun barrels to be welded shut.



Ipswich RSL Services Club Secretary John Dredge says the historic guns outside his club is a monument to those who have served their country.

Mr Dredge, a former artillery man, disputed the notion that historic weapon displays promoted war or violence. "The gun itself represents all service people who served in artillery," Mr Dredge said;

Mr Dredge wondered if the pacifist, who has asked not to be named, believed the Canberra War Museum should be dismantled. "It doesn't glorify war, it just shows the equipment

used in war, how it was used by Allied service people and how it was used to protect our country," he said.

Mr Dredge said he was awaiting further directions from RSL Queensland but would dismantle the 25 pounder, used primarily in WWII, if legally required. "I would be very disappointed, but then again we'd have to comply with any directions and we'd have to undergo any action that complies with law," he said.

Goodna RSL Services Club president David Christie said while his club did not have any firearms on display, the crackdown was "crazy". "They're missing the point - these displays are to remind people that war is not nice," Mr Christie said. "The cost to the RSL clubs, which are community groups, to do this is ridiculous; this is crazy - another legislation made by bureaucrats."



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
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L.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE
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R.J. (JIM) PONTING
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CLIVE. RALFE
BRIAN. SCOTT
PETER. SEDDON
R. F. SMITH
BRIAN. WHISKER
BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE
JOHN. WORBOYS



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condemn

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sun and in the
morning

We will
remember them.

Lest We Forget

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