

1871

# A Field Battery Association, Inc.

# National Newsletter

## NOVEMBER 2010

### President Ron Bassan's Report

2010



Merry Christmas

#### From the President's Chair

G'day everyone,

It is my sad duty once again, to inform you all that Colin John Maynard passed away in North Shore hospital, Sydney, on the 10<sup>th</sup> September. Col fell over at home and broke his neck, and on your behalf the Committee sent bereavement card to Anne.

Col's service with 'A' Bty was 1/50 to 10/51, 7/52 to 5/53, 1/55 to 2/57, 10/57 to 3/58 and as BSM 3/68 to 12/69.

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion went very well with a number of new faces attending, and some of them were: Peter Walton, Dave Jackson, Terry Dooley, Larry Darcy, Bill Walker, John Harms, Dale Quigley, Geoff Grimish and Bob McNeish. It has been 50 years since we saw Bob McNeish. It was the second most members to attend an AGM ever.

I presented Dick Morrison with the President's Award, for service to the Association in welfare. I also presented Dick and Butch Slaughter with their miniature Combat Badges and the look on their faces was precious.

In the evening I presented Peter Walton and Bob McNeish with their Life Members Certificate and badge. Bob wants his money back if he passes away in the next 12 months.

There was a motion passed at the AGM that everyone who is entitled to the Army Combat Badge and did not receive the Miniature (Sergeants and above did.) are to be given same by the Association.

If you require a miniature, please let us know ASP and we can then order them.

I hope everyone is booking their accommodation for the Sawtell reunion early? if you don't you might miss out.

The timing for the Memorial Service will be 1730hrs, coat tie and full medals to be worn.

Timing for the Dinner, 1900 for 1930, dress for the Tuesday night is, Semi Formal, with Miniature Medals, and I quoted the wrong price for this dinner in the last Newsletter, it should be \$40.00 per head, not \$33.00, this includes entertainment.

The cost of the Barbecue at the Golf Club will be \$20.00 per head and the bus trip will be \$25.00, this will include a trip to Nymboida and Russel Crow's museum, have morning tea there and then on to Dorriggo for lunch.

If anyone is a train buff, Dorriggo rail museum has a vintage collection of NSW railways rolling stock.

On the trip home we will stop at Bellingen for a look see. Morning tea and lunch will be at own expense.

If anyone is interested, golf can be played on the Wednesday (Own arrangements) roughly \$16 to \$20 for eighteen holes.

**All costs are: MEET & GREET \$10, DINNER \$40, RECOVERY BREAKFAST \$15, BARBECUE \$20, BUS TRIP \$25, TOTAL per HEAD \$110.00. I think this price is quite reasonable.**

Don't forget to have your names and monies to the Secretary by the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2011. OR YOU MISS OUT.

**Until next time. Semper Paratus, Tex**

Happy New Year



**SAWTELL  
BEACH  
CARAVAN  
PARK,**  
5 Lyons Road,  
Sawtell NSW  
2452

There is 15 cabins being held at this venue for 'A' Bty, ph. (02) 6653 1379, free call 1800 200 111 or email

[info@sawtellbeachcaravanpark.com.au](mailto:info@sawtellbeachcaravanpark.com.au)

**SAWTELL MOTOR INN,**  
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## **The transition has been made – the traditions will continue - 'A' Field Battery 2010**

**by Major Nathan Laughton, Battery  
Commander 2009 - 2010**

As can be gathered from our last article, 2010 has been quite a busy year for the men and women of the 'A' Field Battery.

The training tempo was high from the early stages of the year, the manning was reduced in comparison to what the Battery had become accustomed to over the past few years and an initial degree of uncertainty existed at the individual level regarding career prospects and options as a result of the relocation of the Battery.

Pleasingly, yet not surprisingly, the men and women of 'A' Field Battery met the challenges head on and performed in the best tradition of the Battery by maintaining the focus on building on the excellent standards achieved last year, maintaining the esprit de corps for which the Battery is renowned and constantly striving to achieve excellence at the individual and collective level.

As the year and another chapter of 'A' Field Battery's long and distinguished history comes to a close it is with pride that I report that regardless of the magnitude of the challenges we have faced this year, they have been met and overcome in very good order.

I believe, as many others who have served with the Battery do, that 'A' Field Battery has earned a reputation as a sub-unit that will quietly go about its business and do everything possible to get the job done, regardless of the magnitude of the task. I am pleased to say that during my tenure as Battery Commander the soldiers of the Battery have continued to uphold this reputation in everything they set to achieve.

Since the last article published, the year for the Battery has not slowed down. We have completed a major live fire exercise in Townsville where we provided close fire support to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion and 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade training activities and a minor activity at

Singleton (the Battery's home away from homes for 2010). Amid this we put into action the months of preparation that have been conducted preparing to relocate the Battery to Enoggera and at the time of writing this article the Battery compound is all but empty and 'A' Field Battery's last year in Sydney is all but complete. The members of the Battery are now finalising personal preparations for a very well deserved Christmas break prior to embarking on the next stage of their career.

There have been many highlights throughout 2010 and although they are too numerous to list in this article, the highlights that I believe will stay with the members 'the Battery will be the 'lasts' that occurred throughout the year. ANZAC Day 2010 saw the end of what has become a tradition for the members of 'A' Field Battery when they marched in the Sydney City ANZAC Day Parade as a Battery for what is likely to be the last time.

This year we also fired the last rounds in support of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion after a 23 year relationship and the last rounds after 10 years of service under command of 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment. The year also saw eight men become the last 'A' Field Battery members to conduct a parachute insertion with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion as this capability will lie elsewhere in the RAA from next year.

This is the last article that will be submitted by 'A' Field Battery as future articles will be submitted by, and report on the exploits and achievements of 'A' Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

In January, Major Simon Hompas will take the reins as Battery Commander. Simon served previously in the Battery and will be ably supported by another 'A' Field Battery soldier in his Battery Sergeant Major, and a number of other Battery members from this year and previous years of service.

I am proud to have served as the Commander of a Battery of such calibre and the last two years will remain a highlight of my career. I wish Simon and his team good luck as they open the next chapter in history for the oldest continuously serving unit in the Army.

Although the transition has been made, rest assured that the traditions of the 'A' Field Battery will continue.

*Semper Paratus*

**The members of "A" Field Battery Association would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Major Laughton for the above contribution and for all previous contributions to our newsletter.**

**Major Nathan Laughton has always made himself available to our association, offering help and advice, we wish him well and know that he will be absolutely successful in all future endeavours**

**We would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the new 2011 Battery Commander, Major Simon Hompas**



## **"A" Field Battery Association Inc.** **Annual General Meeting 2010.**

Meeting held at the Maroochy River Coach House, David Low Way, Maroochydhore, Qld, on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**Meeting Opened:** By the President, Mr Ron Bassan, at 1010hrs.

**Attendance:** As per the Attendance Book.

**Apologies:** Ray Alcorn, Rex Porter, Lloyd Mitchell, Rod Althaus, Eddie Hawkin, Ron Gerehty, Jim Holmes, Ron Pratt, Reg Matherson, Rex Martin, Michael Blaxland, Les Maher, Noal Rhodda, Battery Commander and BSM.

**Visitors:** John Harms.

**Public Liability Insurance:** The members were informed that under the Queensland Incorporation Act, rules, that we do not hold Public Liability Insurance.

**Departed Comrades:** The President asked the members to be upstanding and observe a minutes silence for departed comrades who have passed away since the last AGM. They are; John Whitelaw, Alan Singh, and Frank Berrier, also Noal Rodda's Wife, Elizabeth, Max Vandyke's Wife, Doreen, Dodger Noonan's Wife, Lena and June Duggan's Son, Richard.

**Presentations:** The President presented Richard Morrison, with the President's Award for outstanding service, as Dick was leaving early. The President also presented Richard and Ron Slaughter with their miniature Army Combat Badges.

**Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting:** The Secretary, Clare Bassan, read the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Maroochy River Coach House, Maroochydhore, Qld, on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and was confirmed by Terry Jobson as a true and correct record of that meeting. Seconded by Harry Cook and carried.

### **Business Arising from Minutes:**

- The guns are now housed under canvas in the 1 Field Regiment's Gun Park.
- After Don's threat last year, the attendance at Brisbane's ANZAC DAY march was much better and all had a good time on the cruise up the river.
- The Battery's War Diaries, from the Malayan Emergency, are now on disc and anyone who wants a copy, to see Don Sinclair. Don has also put the Malayan Episode book on disc and it is very well done.
- Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefit's Fund. Enough has been said about this subject before the election, so we will have no more discussion.
- 'A' Field Battery's Sydney Banner. The President said that he had spoken to the Battery Commander about the banner and before the Battery moves to Enoggera it will be transported to North Fort for safe keeping.

### **Correspondence:**

**Inwards:** Annual Return of Association from DEEDI.

**Outward:** Nil.

**President's Report:** The President, Ron Bassan, presented his report, which is attached. It was moved by Brian Miller that the Presidents Report be received. Seconded by Don Callaghan and carried.

**Business arising from President's Report:** After much discussion, it was moved by Lance Gilkinson that the Battery Association stay as, 'A' Field Battery Association Inc. Seconded by Terry Jobson and carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Robert Cunningham, presented his audited report which is attached. Bob asked members, if they are sending a cheque for their subs, would they not abbreviate Field (Fd) and Battery (Bty), as our account is 'A' Field Battery Association Inc. They will accept Assn and Inc as abbreviations. Reg Etienne asked if we are classified as a non profit organization and do we have a welfare account? Bob said that we are a non profit organization but we do not have a separate welfare account. Reg said that in the N.S.W. RSL the Sub Branches had opened welfare accounts and had made donations from these

accounts, which had appeased the powers to be.

Our Auditor David Harris, said, that under our constitution we cannot make donations to members and so members do not make a profit, so we are a non profit organization.

The President, Ron said that the Taxation Department had looked at Victorian and New South Wales RSL's and now it is Queensland's turn and as a like organization, they could look at our books as well. Bob said that Ron and he had already discussed this and we would approach an independent accountant to get an opinion.

It was moved by the Treasurer, that his audited report be received. Seconded by David Jackson and carried.

The President explained that there was one written nomination for each voting position, except for one Vice President, who would have to be nominated from the floor and if we needed a Returning Officer, this would be done when we knew how many people were nominating for that position.

The President declared all positions vacant and asked the Secretary to remain as the Minutes Secretary, he then invited the Association Patron, Barry Campbell to take the chair and elect the incoming President.

### **Voting Positions:**

**President:** It was proposed by Mrs Clare Bassan that Mr Ron Bassan be President. Seconded by Mr Don Sinclair. Mr Bassan accepted. There being no further nominations, Mr Campbell declared that **Mr Bassan** was President.

Mr Bassan resumed the chair and continued with the election of officers.

**Vice President's:** It was proposed by Mrs Clare Bassan that Mr Ian Leven be a Vice President. Seconded by Mr Ron Bassan. Mr Leven accepted.

As there was no written nomination for the second Vice President, the President asked for nominations from the floor, there was complete silence and Ron said that the incumbent was Don Sinclair, Terry Jobson then nominated Don Sinclair to be the second Vice President. Seconded by Brian Miller. There were no more nominations. Mr Sinclair reluctantly accepted. There being no further nominations **Mr Leven and Mr Sinclair** were declared Vice Presidents.

**Secretary:** It was proposed by Mr Ron Bassan that Mrs Clare Bassan be Secretary. Seconded by Mr Don Sinclair. Mrs Bassan accepted. There being no further nominations, **Mrs Bassan** was declared Secretary.

**Treasurer:** It was proposed by Mrs Clare Bassan that Mr Robert Cunningham be Treasurer. Seconded by Mr Ron Bassan. Mr Cunningham accepted. There being no further nominations, **Mr Cunningham** was declared Treasurer.

**Committee:** It was proposed by Mrs Clare Bassan that Mr Gregory Kittely be a Committee Member. Seconded by Mr Ron Bassan. Mr Kittely accepted. It was proposed by Mr Ron Bassan that Mr Brian Miller be a Committee Member. Seconded by Mrs Clare Bassan. Mr Miller accepted. There being no further nominations for Committee, Mr Bassan declared that **Mr Kittely and Mr Miller** were Committee Members.

### **Non Voting Positions:**

**Editor:** Mr Ron Slaughter. Ron accepted.

**Assistant Editor:** Mr Don Sinclair. Don accepted.

**Property Officer:** Mr Robert Cunningham. Bob accepted.

**Liaison Officer (Qld):** Mr Ray Alcorn. Ray accepted.

**Liaison Officer N.S.W.:** Mr Robert Noonan.

Dodger accepted.

**Liaison Officer A.C.T.:** Mr Alex Reynolds. To be confirmed.

**Liaison Officer S.A.:** Mr Alby Sheridan. To be confirmed.

**Liaison Officer W.A.:** Mr Max Ptolomey. Max Accepted.

**Liaison Officer Vic.:** Mr Harry Cook. Harry accepted.

**Liaison Officer Tas.:** Mr Bevan File. To be confirmed.

**Liaison Officer N.T.:** Mr Peter Thomas. To be confirmed

**Web Master:** Mr Peter Kimball. Peter accepted

**Auditor:** Mr David Harris. BEc CPA. David accepted

**Advocate:** Mr Richard Morrison. Dick accepted.

**Patron:** Mr Barry Campbell. Barry accepted.



### General Business:

There are two notices of motion which are attached.

- (a) It was moved by Mr Richard Morrison "That 'A' Field Battery Association purchase miniature Army Combat Badges and these Army Combat Badges be given to financial members of the association who were not awarded these badges because of rank or lack thereof." Seconded by Don Sinclair. After a little discussion on why the Army did not issue Other Ranks with miniature Army Combat Badges, the motion was put and carried.
- (b) It was moved by Mr Ron Bassan "That 'A' Field Battery Association Inc. Make a donation of \$200.00 to the Vietnam Veterans' Federation, Queensland Branch Inc. This is where our welfare officer, Richard Morrison, operates from and the donation is towards costs incurred by Dick for stationary, phone calls, printing and insurance. Seconded by Mr Tom Caldwell. There was no discussion and the motion was about to be put, when Mr Peter Walton spoke and said that he was a reasonably lucky person and recently he had won Gold Lotto, also last night he had won \$2000.00 on the pokies, he also said that he did not believe that the Association should have to pay and that he would personally donate the \$200.00, which he did straight away. The Association accepted Peter's generous donation with acclamation. With the Mover and seconder's approval the motion was set aside and the money to be paid by cheque to the Vietnam Veterans' Federation.

- (c) There was discussion on people who could not march getting into a vehicle with their unit. Due to Workplace Health and Safety, this is now not allowed and disabled veterans now have to go up front in golf carts or taxi cabs.
- (d) Ron asked David Jackson to give everyone an outline on the proceedings which are to happen at our next AGM at Sawtell. David gave a day to day outline on the proceedings which are to happen over the three days, he also spoke on accommodation and to book early.
- (e) Dick Morrison was about to leave as he had to referee a junior's football match, Ron asked him to stay for a few minutes. Ron asked Dick and Butch Slaughter to step forward, which they did; Ron then presented Dick with a President's Award for outstanding service and dedication to the Association, as our Advocate. Ron then presented Dick and Butch with their miniature Army Combat Badges, they were both flabbergasted, and after much laughter and acclamation they thanked Ron.
- (f) Ian Leven said that Peter Berrier called into his place and thanked the Association, especially the members who formed the guard of honour at Frank's funeral.

### Next Meeting: To be held at the **Sawtell RSL Club Limited, at 1000hrs on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.**

There being no further business pertaining to the Annual General Meeting the President closed the meeting at 1158hrs, and thanked everyone for their attendance.

## **President's Report for 2009 – 2010.**

Members; it is once again on a very sad note that I present my Annual Report for 2009/2010.

Since my last report we have lost three more of our members, and they are; John Whitelaw, Alan Singh and Frank Berrier, also three of our members have lost their wives, Elizabeth Rodda, Doreen Vandyke and Lena Noonan. June Duggan also lost her son, Richard. May they all rest in peace?

Everyone should know by now that the Bty is moving to Enoggera, Brisbane and will be in situ by January 2011. They will be home at long last as a part of 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment RRAA. I think the Bty will have 155mm Medium Howitzers, so we will have to delete the Field from the Association's name, this will be done at Committee level.

The ANZAC DAY march in Brisbane was the best attended for many years and our ex Battery Commander, Rodney Althaus, led the 'A' Bty contingent in the parade.

After the march the boys assembled at the Pig and Whistle to have a drink, we then joined the Tiger Bty for a cruise and barbecue on the Brisbane River. A visitor from down south this year was Col Flatters who was on his way up to 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RRAA for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I do not know how the boys in Sydney will fare next year, without the Bty there will not be many of them. In Brisbane the whole Brigade marches on ANZAC DAY in uniform, so we will not be able to march with them.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> April, Don Sinclair, Bob Cunningham and I travelled out to 1 Fd Regt and presented the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Dave Kelly, with his Life Membership certificate and badge, Dave is a past Bty Commander of 'A' Fd Bty and some of you will remember that he and the BSM came to one of our reunions. Dave invited us to the Brigade Officers Mess for lunch, brand new building, and I thought I was going into the cafeteria at Coles, oh, how the Army has changed.

Our guns were housed with the 105 Bty museum, because they were using a Bty Lines buildings and this is where 'A' Bty will be going, the Tigers had to pull their museum down and they are "Not Happy Jan", our guns are now housed in the Regimental Gun Park, under tarps, this is only a temporary arrangement. I do not know where 105 Bty museum or for that case where the Henry Green room will be housed.

Your Committee has been working hard this year on your behalf and we have had meetings at Don and Carol Sinclair's, Ian and Wendy Leven's and Daryl and Luanne Bassan's residences, also this afternoon we are having a Committee Meeting here, if there is anyone who would like to attend and see your Committee at work, you are very welcome. I must thank the ladies for the wonderful hospitality shown by them after these meetings.

We have ten members who we have to check on their age and if they are eighty or older then we will present them with Life Membership as per a motion that was moved at our Committee Meeting which was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009. Adams, Bryan, Clatworthy, Harkness, Maynard, Meibusch, Priest, Sneddon, Uhlmann and Weir.

Our membership stands at 201; we are getting just enough new members to replace our deceased personnel. This year we have had ten new members, and they are: Les Bolton, John Brennan, Malcolm Bugg, Chris Flavel Colin Jones, Nathan Laughton, Jim Ritchie, Phil Roseman, Peter Walton and Glenn Wiseman.

The people who have not attended our Reunion here at the Coach House before, I would like to make you most welcome and I hope you enjoy yourself and please everyone else make them feel at home.

I hope everyone is receiving their newsletter, remember there are four issues each year and these newsletters are where we try to inform you all what is happening in the Association. For instance the Vales on our members who has passed on to the big gun park, news from the Bty and on Reunions etc; e.g.: the Reunion next year at Sawtell, N.S.W. and I hope that we get a great attendance at this event. Details of the accommodation and the itinerary for the three days were in the last newsletter. Remember to have your money to the Secretary for the meals, early as there is a cut off date, which is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

There is an amendment to our newsletter; The Dinner on the Tuesday Night, the cost is \$40.00 and this includes some entertainment.

Finally I would like to thank the Committee for their hard work and dedication to the job at hand. I thank Don, Ian, Bonnie, Bob, Brian and Greg. A special mention must be given to Bob for his work as Treasurer; also I must thank Kimbo, Butch and Dick.

Finally would you please put your hands together to show your appreciation for your Committee?

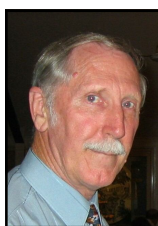
Thank you and all the best for 2010/2011a

**Ron (Tex) Bassan (President)**



## Financial Year 1st. July 2009 to 30th. June 2010. Treasurers Report.

We have experienced another successful year in the development of our association, with our net income after expenses of \$3436.39 which is \$413.79 better than last year.



Again our thanks to those members who give donations to the association with this year's total of \$2005.00 being the best ever.

In November 2009 your committee agreed to transfer from our S21 Operating Bank account an amount of \$5000.00 to establish a second Term Deposit Account. It was also proposed that this investment be used to finance any future projects agreed to by the committee and members. So we now have two investment accounts. First our Life Subscription Fund: \$10000.00 and second our Future Project Fund: \$5000.00. It was also agreed that the interest earned from these investments should remain in the account and also earn interest which currently is 6.15% PA and is not required for our day to day running of the association.

**Turning our attention now to our bank, the Heritage Building Society we have over the past few months received complaints concerning cheques**

from our members with abbreviated names of our association. The main concern is the use of Fd for Field and Bty for Battery. You must realise our association is registered as A Field Battery Association Incorporated and likewise our accounts are opened and operated under that name. So please, in future when buying merchandise or paying you subs by cheque, use the full name of the association to avoid having cheques returned "Account Name Unclear." The abbreviation of Association to Assoc. and Incorporated to Inc. will not be accepted.

The coming year forecast is positive as most indications show stability in our bank interest rates at present, this can change very quickly.

Our membership is healthy thanks to the ongoing work by our President Tex to seek and sign up

## Balance Sheet - Financial Year 1st. July 2009 to 30th. June 2010



2008 - 2009		2009 - 2010
\$21,014.34	Members Funds	\$24,643.59
	Represented by:	
	Current Assets	
\$100.00	Petty cash	\$100.00
\$6,312.37	Bank account S21	\$4,748.76
\$10,000.00	Investment Accounts	\$15,606.76
\$1,938.02	Sales stock at cost	\$2,216.17
\$18,350.39		\$22,671.69
	Non Current Assets	
\$1,117.00	Banners at cost	\$1,117.00
\$250.00	25pdr gun at cost	\$250.00
\$450.00	L5 Pac How at cost	\$450.00
846.95	HP printer, written off	\$0.00
	Sony recorder & Mic	\$154.90
\$2,663.95		\$1,971.90
\$21,014.34	Total Assets	\$24,643.59
\$0.00	Current liabilities	\$0.00
\$0.00	Total liabilities	\$0.00

new members wherever they are.

Hopefully with the relocation of A Field Battery to Enoggera early next year we may get some new members, perhaps. But the experience of 105 Battery Association with serving members is not encouraging

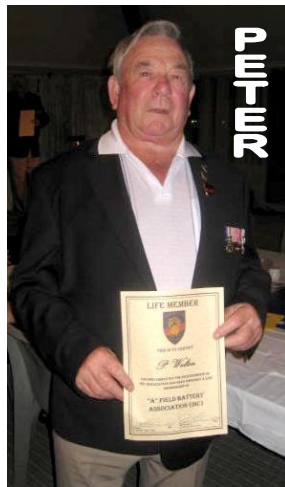
**And finally don't forget our financial year ended 30th. June, so if you haven't paid your subs yet, you are unfinancial.**

**Bob Cunningham..... Treasurer.**

## Presentation of Life Membership Certificates

The AGM was the ideal venue to present two of our popular members with Life Membership of our Association.

Bob McNeish and Peter Walton were presented with their life membership certificates from our President Tex Bassan



at the AGM dinner.

Peter had earlier made a generous donation of \$200 to cover costs incurred by the Vietnam Vets Federation office, operated by our Welfare Officer, Dick Morrison in Nerang on the Gold Coast

## A Toast to Tex.

Because Tex is so busy thanking all those who contribute to the existence of

the A Field Battery Association we seem to overlook the immense effort put in by Tex and Bonnie Bassan.

There organisational skills and attendance to official functions on our behalf ensures that our association remains nationally respected.

The overflowing table of raffle prizes at the AGM, set up by Bonnie reflects an attitude similar to that of the Duracell Bunny in the TV advertisement, never stops and just keeps keeping on.





**From The Editor:** You may have noticed in the report of our AGM Meeting that our members have unanimously disagreed with the decision to supply ACB miniatures, solely to SNCOs and Officers, a decision based not through entitlement but because of their rank on retirement, which in most cases was not their rank when the recipient qualified for this award.

Here are a couple of letters that focus on this decision. If any readers have evidence that can justify the reasoning for this preferential treatment, apart from the old mess dress argument; please contact the editor.

I also need advice on the correct protocol for attending formal dinners. If I am not entitled to a free miniature, should I purchase an ACB miniature to wear on these occasions, or is it acceptable for me to get away with the large badge or would the senior ranks be offended or compassionate for this fashion blunder?

It's so confusing for us other ranks. I couldn't figure out why the Association would take responsibility for my miniature, so I decided to donate \$20 and just shut up.

Okay, you can sit down, and stop applauding.

Hi Butch,

I will let our members know that Frank Berrier and Alan Singh have passed away in our next newsletter. They both spent some time with 101 Battery in Malaya before returning to Australia.

I agree with you about the issue of the miniature with the ACB to all members. I for one was discharged from the ARA as a L/Bdr but spent quite a few years in the CMF and Reserve and was a Sgt, S/Sgt & WO2 from 1975 to 1987 but had to purchase my miniature.

I am holding ACB's for quite a few members who qualified for the badge with service in 101 Battery in Malaya but have no contact with. I contacted DVA and they were very helpful and I was able to contact a couple of members and some widows.

David Troedel

G'day Ron,

I am an ex soldier & RAA member having served from March 1979 until April 1988 when I jumped into the Qld State Police. Walked a few miles as F/O sig and was Driver/sig for Lt. Col. Tony Williams C.O. at 8/12 for a bit too.

Still have good mates from "A" hence the opportunity to read the news occasionally. Just like to support your stance on the discriminatory practice of OR's not being issued both full size & miniature medals. I am a Sergeant facilitator at the Townsville Police Academy and we have a formal dining in night with the Commissioner of Police the evening prior to the new recruits induction parade.

The last group's dinner was only last week and usually I get all ex defence members separate and brief them on wearing of medals, protocol, etc and they informed me of the fact they didn't have small medals to wear to the dinner but had full sized ones for the formal parade. I thought this strange until I read your comment in the A Bty news.

The Queensland Police Service issued both sets of all medals in a nice presentation box to every recipient. I incorrectly thought all Govt. Departments both State & Federal would do likewise.

Anyhow, won't take anymore of your time. Take care, Brad

Brad Greenland Sergeant 7157

Constable Development Section

Senior Leadership & Professional Development Program  
Queensland Police Service Academy NQ Campus

## **The Adelaide Advertiser. 16th. Nov. 2010**

### **Aussie Thunder self-propelled artillery program a \$200m blunder**

Army gunners fear that Defence is set to waste \$200 million in taxpayer money buying up to 30 Korean-made self-propelled big guns.

The Korean contender for the tracked self-propelled artillery project, the Samsung Techwin K9 known locally as the AS9 "Aussie Thunder", is much cheaper than a German-made KMW PzH 2000 155mm self-propelled gun that Defence has eliminated from the contest.

Defence was offered the German system at about half the current price, but it refused the option due to the need for an open competition.

The German gun was in service with Dutch forces at Tarin Kowt in Afghanistan and is used by a number of European armies, including those of Greece and Italy.

The Korean gun is operated by Turkey and South Korea.

Insiders say the K9 costs about



The 'Aussie Thunder' self-propelled artillery piece. Source: Adelaide Now

half the price of the German gun but is referred to by gunners as a "dog" of a gun.

According to operators, the Korean gun was also given the thumbs-down by defence scientists on health and safety grounds, because of the risk of crush injuries when the gun is traversing steep terrain and the fact that its 155mm projectiles have to be manually loaded.

"The tracked 155mm SP gun is a Cold War anachronism designed to face a hostile border and an enemy coming from a known direction," an artillery specialist said.

"The K9 will look good on parades, but more than \$200 million of

taxpayer money should not be spent based on that rationale alone."

Army gunners say the German weapon is far superior and, if they can't have it, they would prefer to spend the \$200 million on extra towed guns.

Defence has ordered about 40 M-777 towed guns from British Aerospace, with the first of them due to arrive early in 2011.

It is understood that army chief Lieutenant-General Ken Gillespie favours the Korean gun. "He was given two options. Get nothing because the Korean gun is no good, or buy the inferior gun; and he chose the latter," a well-placed source said.

So far, Australia has refused to deploy artillery pieces to Afghanistan.

Up to 20 Australian gunners from the Darwin-based 8th/12th Medium Regiment have trained Afghan artillerymen and helped them to fire their 122mm D-30 towed howitzers at Tarin Kowt.

Defence was unable to answer questions about the project yesterday, because key staff were at the Land Warfare conference in Brisbane.



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  
JOHN. DOWNES  
GEORGE. FORSYTHE  
M.K. FUSSELL (KIA, Afghanistan )  
ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY  
NEIL HARDEN  
MICK. HARKEN  
B.D. HENDERSON (OAS. Malaya )  
KEN. KENNEDY  
BOBBY. LEWIS  
JOHN. MACDONALD  
L.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam )  
COLIN. MAYNARD  
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE  
R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam )  
R.J. (JIM) PONTING  
DAVE. QUIRK  
PETER. RAINSBURY  
CLIVE. RALFE  
BRIAN. SCOTT  
PETER. SEDDON  
R. F. SMITH  
BRIAN. WHISKER  
BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE  
JOHN. WORBOYS



## 51308 Colin John MAYNARD

Born 8th. June 1929, Boulder,  
Western Australia  
Passed away 10th. October 2010,  
Sydney, New South Wales.

Korea, 3 R A R. Bombardier  
Malaya, 105 Battery. Bombardier  
Vietnam, 108 Battery. W O 11  
23 Field Regiment  
7 Field Regiment  
Warrant Officer 1 R S M  
Discharged 16/1/76

Col had several postings with  
A Field Battery:-  
January 1950 to October 1951  
July 1952 to May 1953  
January 1955 to February 1957  
October 1957 to March 1958  
Col returned from service in  
Vietnam in early 1968 to be  
posted as BSM from  
January 1968 to December 1969

Col was highly respected as a  
friend to all, we are saddened and  
shocked at his passing and on  
behalf of all members of A Field  
Battery Association we would like  
to convey our genuine sympathy  
to his wife Anne and his family.

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 shall remember them.  
Lest We Forget.

## Cartoonist Bill Mauldin Immortalised on U S Postal Stamp

This is a follow up of the Bill Mauldin story in the September newsletter; a moving and sometimes inspiring contribution, kindly supplied by Banger Harris

Mauldin died at age 81 in the early days of 2003. The end of his life had been rugged. He had been scalded in a bathtub, which led to terrible injuries and infections; Alzheimer's disease was inflicting its cruelties.

He was not forgotten, though. Mauldin, and his work, meant so much to the millions of Americans who fought in World War II, and to those who had waited for them to come home.

He was a kid cartoonist for Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper; Mauldin's drawings of his muddied, exhausted, whisker-stubbed infantrymen Willie and Joe were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines.

Mauldin was an enlisted man just like the soldiers he drew for; his gripes were their gripes, his laughs their laughs, his heartaches their heartaches. He was one of them. They loved him.

If, in your line of work, you've ever considered yourself a young hotshot, or if you've ever known anyone who has felt that way about him or herself, the story of Mauldin's young manhood will humble you.

He won the Pulitzer Prize, was featured on the cover of Time magazine. His book "Up Front" was the No.1 best-seller in the United States.

All of that at 23. Yet, when he returned to civilian life and grew older, he never lost that boyish Mauldin grin, never outgrew his excitement about doing his job, never big-shotted or high-hatted the people with whom he worked every day.



He had achieved so much. He won a second Pulitzer Prize, and he should have won a third for what may be the single greatest editorial cartoon in the history of the craft: his deadline rendering, on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, of the statue at the Lincoln Memorial slumped in grief, its head cradled in its hands. But he never acted as if he was better than the people he met. He was still Mauldin, the enlisted man.



**Bill Mauldin with his infant son Bruce**

During the late summer of 2002, as Mauldin lay in that California nursing home, some of the old World War II infantry guys caught wind of it. They didn't want Mauldin to go out that way. They thought he should know he was still their hero.

Gordon Dillow, a columnist for the Orange County Register, put out the call in Southern California for people in the area to send their best wishes to Mauldin. Soon, more than 10,000 cards and letters had arrived at Mauldin's bedside.

Better than that, old soldiers began to show up just to sit with Mauldin, to let him know that they were there for him, as he, so long ago, had been there for them. So many volunteered to visit Bill that there was a waiting list.

Here is how Todd DePastino, in the first paragraph of his wonderful biography of Mauldin, described it: "Almost every day in the summer and fall of 2002 they came to Park Superior nursing home in Newport Beach, California, to honour Army Sergeant, Technician Third Grade, Bill Mauldin. They came bearing relics of their youth: medals, insignia, photographs, and carefully folded newspaper clippings. Some wore old garrison caps. Others arrived resplendent in uniforms over a half century old. Almost all of them wept as they filed down the corridor like pilgrims fulfilling some long-neglected obligation."

One of the veterans explained why it was so important: "You would have to be part of a combat infantry unit to appreciate what moments of relief Bill gave us. You had to be reading a soaking wet Stars and Stripes in a water-filled foxhole and then see one of his cartoons."

Recently, the kid cartoonist made it onto a first-class postage stamp. It's an honour that most generals and admirals never receive. What Mauldin would have loved most, would be the sight of the two guys who keep him company on that stamp. Take a look at it.

There's Willie. There's Joe. And there, to the side, drawing them and smiling that shy, quietly observant smile, is Mauldin himself.

**With his buddies, right where he belongs. Forever.**



## When you were away in 58, you would have missed

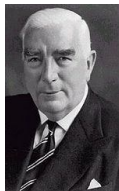
**1958-59 Ashes series** Peter May led the England cricket team on a tour of Australia in the 1958-59 season.



They had won the last three Ashes series in 1953, 1954-55 and 1956, and were labelled the strongest team ever to leave England, but lost the series to Australia 4-0. It was one of the biggest upsets in Test cricket history.

This stunning victory was a triumph for the aggressive Australian captain Richie Benaud

**Federal elections** were held in Australia on 22nd November 1958.



The incumbent Liberal Party of Australia led by Prime Minister of Australia Robert Menzies with coalition partner the Country Party led by



Arthur Fadden defeated the Australian Labor Party led by Herbert Evatt.

**Baystone Wins Melbourne Cup**

The 1958 Melbourne Cup was the first Cup start from automatic barrier stalls. Baystone won by one and a half lengths over Monte Carlo. The win meant Baystone was the first horse in Cup history to win wearing the number 7 saddlecloth.



**The New Holden FC**

The FC Holden replaced the FE Holden at a time when Holden sales figures had reached dizzy new heights



We are all still kicking ourselves for missing the very first



Australian tour of the Royal Ballet in 1958. The company consisted of 55 dancers and featured special guest artist Robert Helpmann.

We made up for this disappointment by observing some dancing moves from the ladies at the Piccadilly



## The GNRs



Another great weekend at the Maroochy Coach House for our 2010 AGM.

You know what ? I am going to really miss this venue when we go to Sawtell from the 12th. to the 14th of September next year and although the itinerary for the Sawtell AGM sounds good, with plenty of new stuff to see and

do, where else can you be



A stylishly sophisticated Saint, strutting snobbishly and sneeringly surveying some scruffy sinners while slowly sipping shiraz,

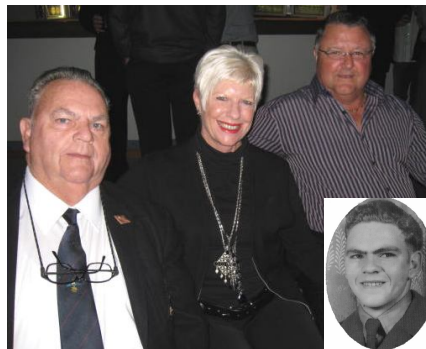


Reg Ettienne and his wife Hua looking happy as they also celebrated their Wedding Anniversary

entertained by Miss Piggy and Kermit ?.

There will also have to be a lot of time spent getting used to changes at the Sawtell venue, Harry Cook will have to look for a new Designated Smoking Area; yeah he's back on them.

The weather could have been better, but hey ! there was nothing wrong with the great indoor BBQ and the Lloyd Entertainment Group gets better and better, helped along by a few beers and a couple of wines. It's a little known fact that Lloyd was named after Andrew Lloyd Weber; hence the show business expertise.



Shorty Callaghan with Lindel and Paul Forsythe. Lyndel was justifiably astounded when I told her that Shorty used to be quite good looking, so for all of you other sceptics; here's proof.



Gilko and Cutie enjoying a couple of drinks and a chat; a regular occurrence for over half a century. Although the earlier days were not as quiet nor sedate

## The WAGs



During a break Paul leaned over and said that his car had been stolen last week, his wife was leaving Woolies with the shopping and as she got to the car park, the car was being stolen.

"Did she see the thief, so she could give a description to the cops?" I asked.

"No; but she got the rego number."

I let that one go and said. "I suppose now you're going to get a new car for your wife."

"Yeah, that would be a great trade." he said enthusiastically.



Kimbo's wife Kaye looks to be enchanted with her husband's raucous Elvis impersonation. Any way he's a great web master



The Rainbow Connection

Miss Piggy, (that's her on the left.) with Kermit, (looks a lot like Lloyd. ) as they perform a great rendition of The Rainbow Connection



## **The horrible cost of war in Afghanistan**

Throughout the history of wars on this planet there have always been innocent casualties.

Ancient Romans, Picts, Khans, Nazis, and even US soldiers in Vietnam and in Iraq were not beyond killing anyone who stood in their way.

But now, the atrocities of war have reached Australia's shores with the news of three of our Diggers being charged with a range of offences, including manslaughter.

They have been accused of being responsible for the deaths of women and children during a clearance action in 2009.

After what the Army describes as "careful, deliberate and informed" investigations, charges have been laid and the horrors of the Afghanistan war have, especially in the eyes of those opposed to our involvement in the conflict, been highlighted even further.

It is now up to the courts to decide their guilt or innocence. However, the point must be made that in the history of guerrilla warfare, there have always been innocent victims.

In the so-called great wars - World Wars I and II - it was very easy to pick the enemy. They wore different uniforms. Then came the insurgency in Malaysia where Australian and British soldiers were faced with what was known as "the faceless enemy" - people who looked like



ordinary civilians, but carried deadly weapons behind their backs.

The same can be said of the Vietnam War where our troops were confronted with an enemy they could not readily identify and often had to make a split-second decision on whether or not their own lives were in danger.

The same must be said of our Diggers in Afghanistan where they are again facing an insidious enemy who does not care how it goes about winning, including using children as human shields and planting bombs. Each day these men, including young reservists who have been thrust into a war zone, have to make decisions about who are their enemies.

The three soldiers charged over the 2009 incident say they will strenuously fight the charges laid against them as they go through the process of an independent military legal system. Judgment on the rights or wrongs of this case must be left to the military tribunal.

One of the consequences of this incident is that it could give added impetus to those opposed to our involvement in the Afghanistan war, those who say we should withdraw our troops.

We must remain steadfast in our resolve to bring this war against terrorism to a just end and not let the insidious forces of terror win by default.

In a statement, recently released, the Director of Military Prosecutions, Brigadier Lyn McDade, said the charges had been laid against the former commandos after careful, deliberate and informed consideration.

### **So just who is this Brigadier Lyn McDade?**



Her military career has included postings as a legal officer working with Headquarters 3rd Brigade and as the Army's Chief Legal Officer for the State of South Australia.

From 1991 Brigadier McDade was posted to Darwin as the Army's Chief Legal Officer for the Northern Territory. Brigadier McDade was appointed and sworn as the Director of Military Prosecutions on 10 July 2006.

She is a former civilian lawyer who has no previous military combat experience (and certainly no Australian infantry combat action badge), but who was brought into the new military justice system to aid in efficiency and effectiveness.

Has she accomplished this? "There has been widespread discontent with the take-no-prisoners approach of the Director of Military Prosecutions, Brigadier Lyn McDade. Military lawyers have told The Australian newspaper they believed minor offences that were previously subject to prejudicial conduct hearings had been endlessly moved into the court."

It doesn't bode well when the very chief of the military justice system is taking what would previously have been between a Non Commissioned Officer and his enlisted men - what in the U.S. is called non-judicial punishment - and placing it in formal military courts.

It would quite literally bring military justice to a

halt in the U.S., cause undermanned units, and bring with it an atmosphere of dishonesty and suspicion.

There were apparently training and leadership problems associated with this particular Australian Special Forces unit, a revelation that is a bit surprising since Australian general purpose forces (i.e., infantry) are not allowed to participate in combat.

Only Australian special forces are allowed to participate in direct action combat.

But perhaps this isn't so surprising given that those same forces have had to rush Australian military cooks to the front to give them "proper food." Perhaps the general purpose infantry could have done a better job after all. They have been trained to endure austere conditions, as all infantry has.

It's apparent that the Australian military cares and is attempting to cooperate with the various legal authorities in this matter, despite their detractors. But Australia is starting down a dark road, one that the British have been on, and one that has cost the U.S. millions of dollars and untold court time and energy only to find out that all of the Haditha Marines have been exonerated except Staff Sergeant Wuterich (and The Captain's Journal predicts that he will be as well).

This dark road will also find that the Australian military will take the brunt of the damage after all has been said and done, regardless of what happened that night.

Such is the nature of witch hunts.





The editor received this heart rending, disturbing letter some time ago and has only just recently decided to reveal the tragic contents. Not an easy decision to make, knowing that most compassionate people will be choking back tears of sadness as they read the overwhelming horrific detail of this human being's suffering.

We should all recognise the distressing revelations of this person's suffering as a cry for help, a plea for understanding his dreadful affliction, and, if you should meet him, embrace him with a caring cuddle and offer sincere condolences.

This is his sad tale.

Dear Mr. Editor, I am writing this in the hope that you may be able to help me recover from a recurring nightmare that has transformed me into a trembling, traumatised, weeping, pant wetting wreck, afraid to go to bed, to wake up screaming from this nightmare that is always exactly the same.

In the nightmare I found myself nude in bed, and I was looking at a mirror on the ceiling, and I discovered that I am an aboriginal, and I'm circumcised!

Quickly I sat up, found my pants and looked in the pockets to find my driver's licence photo and it was that same colour, black.

I felt myself being very depressed, downcast, sitting in a chair. But it's a wheelchair! That means, of course, besides being black and Jewish, I'm also disabled!

I said to myself, aloud "This is impossible! It's impossible that I should be black and Jewish and disabled!" "It's the pure and holy truth," whispers someone from behind me. I turn around, and it's my boyfriend. Just what I needed!!! I am a homosexual, and on top of that, with a Kiwi boyfriend.

Oh, my God... Black, Jewish, disabled, gay with a Kiwi boyfriend, drug addict, and HIV-positive!!! Desperate, I begin to shout, cry, pull my hair, and oh, nooooo...I'm bald!!!

The telephone rings. it's my brother. He is saying, 'Since Mum and Dad died, the only thing you do is hang out, take drugs, and laze around all day doing nothing. Get a job, you worthless piece of crap... Any job!' Mum? Dad? Nooooo ... Now I'm also an unemployed orphan!

I try to explain to my brother how hard it is to find a job when you are black, Jewish, disabled, gay with a Kiwi boyfriend, are a drug addict, HIV positive, bald, and an orphan, but he doesn't get it.

Frustrated, I hang up. It's then I realize I only have one hand!!! With tears in my eyes, I go to the window to look out. I see I live in a shanty-town full of cardboard and tin houses! There is trash everywhere.

Suddenly I feel a sharp pain near my pacemaker.... Pacemaker?? Besides being black, Jewish, disabled, a fairy with a Kiwi boyfriend, a drug addict, HIV positive, bald, orphaned, unemployed, an invalid with one hand, and having a bad heart, I live in a crappy neighbourhood.

At that very moment my boyfriend approaches and says to me, 'Sweetie pie, my love, my little black heartthrob, it's time to go. The Collingwood game starts in an hour.'

Say it isn't so!!! I can handle being a black, disabled, one armed, drug-addicted, Jewish homosexual on a pacemaker who is HIV positive, bald, orphaned, unemployed, living in a slum, and with a Kiwi boyfriend. But please, oh dear God, please don't tell me that I support Collingwood!!!

**EDITORS NOTE:** It took quite a while for me to compose myself, brush aside the tears and ask myself. How can I offer some hope? To search for a positive in this mountain of negatives; yes, even in this seemingly hopeless situation there must be hope. There has to be redemption from this horror.

Then; on October 2nd 2010, a dark and foreboding manifestation of the constant domination of evil over righteousness, when we were left with the terrifying knowledge that there can never ever be a solution to this person's eternal misery...The bloody Magpies won the bloody Grand Final!!!!



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 a great selection of music while you browse away.

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<http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com>



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