

1871

A Field Battery Association, Inc.

National Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2011

2011



President Ron Bassan's Report



G'day Everyone, A happy New Year to all our members, not that it has been happy

for me.

For the people who don't know, our Secretary and my beloved wife of 51 years, Clare (Bonnie) Florence, passed away on the 22nd of last month and at the moment I am struggling, especially when I have to listen to recordings of our last Committee meeting with her voice all on the tape, but I will get there. I am keeping myself

busy.

The AGM and Reunion is getting closer and I hope everyone has booked in.

Remember the meals and bus trip must be paid for by the 31st July. The Committee has decided on a menu for the Reunion Dinner and it is as follows:

Entree. Fresh King Prawns with Chefs cocktail Sauce. Fried Baby Whiting with Citrus Aioli. Chicken and Asparagus Crepe.

Main. Fish of the Day- Grilled. Sirloin Steak with a Choice of Sauces. Stuffed Chicken Breast with a choice of Prawns, Camembert, Ham, Spinach, Sun Dried Tomatoes, and Garlic Butter.

Sweets. Individual Pavlova with Fruit Salad. Mini Apple Pie. Fresh Fruit Salad.

Beverages. 2 Jugs of Beer per Table. 2 Bottles of Jacobs Creek Chardonnay per Table. 2 Bottles of McGuigans Black Label per Table. Port will be provided for the Toast. I presume that the meals will be alternate.

I have asked the Committee if I can do the President's and Secretary's work and they have agreed to my request.

The Committee resolved to donate \$500.00 to the Premier's Flood relief Appeal and this has been done

The service at the Memorial in Sawtell will commence at 1730hrs, dress is coat and tie with medals and our Padre will be Chaplain Len Trump, who was with us in Vietnam.

A full list of all personnel who died whilst on active service with the Bty will be read.

The Memorial service at Sawtell to be held at 17.30 hrs. Coat, tie and medals to be worn.

All the costs are: Meet and Greet...\$10.00

Dinner..... \$40.00

Recovery Breakfast.....\$15.00

Barbeque.....\$20.00

Bus Trip.....\$25.00

This is a total per head of... \$110.00.

Don't forget to get your name and money to the Secretary Ron Bassan

6 Harveys Rd.

Beaconsfield, Qld. 4740

You can book your own accommodation, below are some suggestions



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

SAWTELL MOTOR INN,
57 Boronia Street, Sawtell, phone
(02) 6658 9872,
email

info@sawtellmotorinn.com.au



THE COASTERS,
77 First Avenue Sawtell, phone
(02) 6653 1541,
email

reception@coastersmotel.com.au



CLARE (Bonnie) BASSAN 1936 - 2011

We are all saddened by the passing of Bonnie, she was the devoted wife of our President Ron (Tex) Bassan, she was also the dedicated secretary of the "A" Field Battery Association.

Our sincere heartfelt sympathy is offered to Tex and their large family.

Bonnie was born on the 11th. August 1936 at the Sydney Women's Hospital, she was to spend much of her younger life in Maroubra and Jannali, attending schools in these Sydney suburbs.

Later she was to meet Tex when they were both 23 years of age. They were married in May 1963 and were to have a loving family of six children.

When Tex was posted to Malaysia in 1965 for two years after previously serving the same amount of time in Malaya in 1957 as a single man, he and Bonnie found life to be very enjoyable when they were supplied amahs to do the household duties. This allowed Bonnie some leisure time to participate in sports such as golf, rifle shooting and badminton.

After returning to Australia they were living in Townsville when Tex was deployed to serve in Vietnam and by the time Tex embarked for Vietnam Bonnie was pregnant with their son Ronald, born in 1971 while Tex was still in Vietnam.

When the Vietnam service ended Bonnie and Tex were to have their last child, a boy they named Anthony who was three months premature yet survived to become the strapping young man he is today.

Bonnie and Tex moved to Mackay which became their permanent home to enjoy their life and raise a large family, it was here that Bonnie was to meet many life long friends.

Bonnie will be sadly missed by her grieving husband Tex; her brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, friends and all who knew her.

All of us from "A" Field Battery Association will miss her pleasant attitude and dedication to her position as our secretary.

R I P, Bonnie you achieved a lot in your lifetime.

Troops pump water out of Boys Town HQ

16 January 2011

Boys Town's Lisa Banyard couldn't believe her luck when she spotted Bombardier Rob Smith and Corporal Ashley Boxall purposefully walking towards Milton's flood-damaged Black Street on Saturday, January 15.

The pair from 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery (1RRAA) had completed their task on nearby Heussler Terrace and were scouting for more Milton businesses and residents to assist when Lisa flagged them for help.

"I saw the guys and yelled out to them. Once I showed them our headquarters and the brown swimming pool, which used to be our underground car park, they arranged for more troops to give the Boys Town staff and its kids a hand," Ms Banyard said.

"This whole disaster has just been so emotional for everyone and it was great to have the troops organise a water pump and extra



equipment. Having them here has also been comforting because they are genuinely concerned about our wellbeing." Section Commander Bombardier Smith said that about 20 personnel from 1RRAA, 7th Combat Service Support Battalion, 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment (2CER) took to the task with shovels, brushes, brooms, rakes and, of course, their hands.

"I think the troops are still a bit shell-shocked by what they are seeing, but they're hooking into the jobs they have been given," Bombardier Smith said.

"A lot of them

were out working at Milton Primary School and around the suburb of Rosalie yesterday and this morning too, so they've been pretty busy.

"Working hard is what Australian soldiers do – they just get in and do the work that's required of them."

Sappers Tim Sawtell and Leeuwin Hall from 2CER were operating the Tamar water pump to empty BoysTown's underground car park.

Sapper Sawtell, 27, from Everton Hills said the residents and business owners had been extremely thankful for their efforts.

"We are emptying it out with the pump and using the run off to

try and clear the mud off the street. It takes about an hour to pump seven-and-a-half thousand litres of water," Sapper Sawtell said.

"It would be nice to have a few more pumps because we're not even sure what the area of this car park is – this is going to take a while but we'll get it sorted."



Salute Lieutenant Peut

26 Jan, 2011 12:31 PM

Todd Peut was once a schoolboy at St Mary's and at Goondiwindi State High School. Now he's Lieutenant Todd Peut.

He graduated from the Royal Military College at Duntroon, Canberra, in December last year. Todd was awarded his commission by Governor General, Quentin Bryce. He has joined the Royal Australian Artillery Corps and has been posted to Darwin to the 8th/12th Brigade for the next eight months.

"Some of the men he'll be in charge of have been to Afghanistan. They'll probably be wondering about this young bloke, but I know he'll do a fantastic job," said Todd's proud mother Debbie Peut. "After eight months in Darwin, Todd might be sent to Afghanistan, but it's what he trained for, and being in the army is something he really loves," Debbie said.

Todd went to Goondiwindi State High School, where he excelled at Rugby League. He made the Broncos Colts side in between school and joining the army four years ago.

"It's a funny thing. He said he'd never play Rugby Union, but now he's playing Union in the Army side in Darwin," Debbie said. "His dad, Geoff and I are so proud of him," she said.



Bendigo RSL calls in heavy artillery

The Australian Defence Force made a special delivery 1st. Feb 2011, dropping off a 40-tonne leopard tank to the Bendigo RSL.

The Bendigo and district RSL sub branch is one of 30 RSLs around the country to receive one.

Bendigo and district RSL president Cliff Richards said the new addition of memorabilia would take pride of place in the memorial gardens at the RSL in Havilah Road. Mr Richards said an important role of the RSL was to preserve military memorabilia.

"We know we do that pretty well in Bendigo," he said. "It will take pride of place in the memorial garden, I think it will be a topic of conversation come next ANZAC day especially among the younger soldiers."

The sub branch also has a 50-tonne centurion tank on display that was used during the Vietnam war.



Seeking Information on Noel Delahunty

I received this email from Lt. Craig Sweetman, concerning one of our favourite A Battery officers.

If any of our members can help, please contact Craig on one of the below numbers :-

Hi Ron, I am looking into trying to track down family medals that were sold to a



collector some years ago.

I don't really know where to start. I am also trying to find an actual list of his medals awarded/entitled to. The serving member I am talking about is 52693, Captain Noel De La Hunty.

I am aware he was awarded the MC in '65, and the National medal and clasp in 77 and 85 respectively. I just don't know what other honours, awards and medals he

received. While it's a long shot, I'm also trying to see if I can find a citation for his MC.

I would like to track his medals down and return them to the family where they belong. All help and direction is greatly appreciated.

**Lt. Craig Sweetman
Regimental Signals Officer
Unit Resource Officer 9th Force
Support Battalion
Tel. 07 536 10515.
Mob. 0432 801 664**



Capt. N. F. De La Hunty, MC

This is an extract from the reunion for Officer Cadet School Portsea. Graduation Class of 1953

What a mixed lot of officer cadets we were as we met in

Portsea in the winter of 1953. There was representation from all States and most religions. Our education and employment backgrounds varied so much as did our choice of sports and recreation. In fact, our only unifying streak was that we wanted to become professional soldiers. One of these was Noel Delahunty

You will recall Noel was an interesting cadet and went on to become an equally intriguing officer.

He was dedicated yet liked to defy authority, he was athletic but avoided sports, he wished for good health but chain-smoked, he was a good gunner but sought baptism of fire in a specialist infantry role. All of his friends had a story about Noel.

Here is one told about Vietnam.

Noel Delahunty MC. In April 1964,

Captain Noel Delahunty had taken a 56-man unit of Vietnamese Special Forces and local troops, with two American Special Forces sergeants, on a secret patrol close to the Laotian border in Quang Nam Province to find a site for a new Special Forces post that would be used as a base for raiding enemy reinforcements and supplies moving along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

From the first, Delahunty enforced standard Australian Army jungle patrol routine -- and he wasn't very popular. This routine meant breaking camp in the darkness before dawn and ensuring that nothing was left to tell an enemy anyone had been there that night; then, without food or cigarettes, moving at first light. About 9 a.m. there was a halt for a hot meal, after ensuring that fires and smoke and the smell of cooking wouldn't be detected, and with sentries posted in relays while others ate. And then on again through the morning and afternoon until about 5 p.m., when a campsite was selected and secured, sentries posted, followed by a cold meal, no fires and sleep.

But the routine paid off. The patrol wasn't detected until, having selected a place called A Ro for the

Special Forces post and having started on its way back, some of the patrol's sentries posted during the hot-meal break left their positions and sneaked back to camp for food.

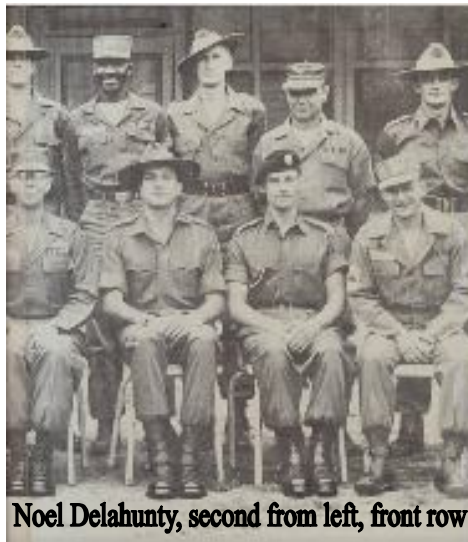
Without warning, a Viet Cong unit attacked. The patrol beat off the attack but now it was known to be in the area, and several attempts at interception and ambush were made before the 19-day patrol was over. Three of the patrol were killed and 12 wounded, the latter including Captain Delahunty

On return from Vietnam, Noel soldiered on in his unique and upbeat way before deciding he could move faster without the constraints of Army life. He left the Army to set up his restaurant "Onions" and continued the flamboyant lifestyle until an untimely death.

Mourned by many, Noel earned our respect and admiration when his brave and dedicated actions reminded us that we too had been taught the right stuff during our early training. He showed us this when isolated in a foreign country with foreign troops. We are proud of others in our class who distinguished themselves in battle. But for this particular reunion, let us say, "Vale Noel – and thank you".



This Photo shows a smiling Noel Delahunty introducing Brigadier Mogg, Commander of 28th. Commonwealth Brigade in Malaya 1957-59 to a gunner from B Troop. (Who is the gunner?)



Noel Delahunty, second from left, front row

The Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) was a specialist unit of the Australian Army during the Vietnam War.

Raised in 1962, the unit was solely for service as part of Australia's contribution to the war in Vietnam, providing training and assistance to South Vietnamese forces.

It is believed to be the most decorated Australian unit to serve in Vietnam with members of the unit receiving over 100 decorations, including four Victoria Crosses and six Military Crosses while it was in existence

Australian government to replace medals lost in natural disasters

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator the Hon David Feeney, today announced that the government will relax the policy on replacement of Australian Defence Force (ADF) medals so that medals lost during the Queensland and Victorian floods, the impact of Cyclone Yasi and the fires in Western Australia can be replaced. "Government policy for many years has been that medals can only be issued to the ADF member who earned them," Senator Feeney said. "This usually means that medals cannot be replaced if they are lost or destroyed after the ADF member has died."

Where medals are lost in natural disasters, however, this policy may be relaxed. This was done following the Victorian bushfires in 2009.

"While the Government is committed to maintaining the integrity of our system of military honours and awards, there are circumstances in which the Australian community rightly expects us to show



greater flexibility in implementing the existing policy. I believe this unprecedented series of natural disasters is one of those circumstances," Senator Feeney said. "I have therefore decided that ADF medals may be reissued to the next of kin or other appropriate relative of deceased ADF members, if the medals have been lost or destroyed in the current natural disasters. Family members who have, in the course of these natural disasters, lost the medals of loved ones, may now make application for replacements."

Unfortunately, however, only medals dating back to the First World War can be replaced. Medals for conflicts prior to this war are no longer in production.

Applicants should use the application form and statutory declaration located on the Defence Honours and Awards website at: www.defence.gov.au/medals.

Completed applications should be submitted to: Directorate of Honours and Awards, Department of Defence, PO Box 7952, Canberra BC, ACT 2610.

Enquiries may also be directed to Defence Honours and Awards toll free on 1800 111 321

Ricardo bids for £1bn Australian army contract with Foxhounds

By Thomas Harding, Defence Correspondent
6:15AM GMT 09 Feb 2011

British company Ricardo, which has developed a "world-beating" vehicle to replace the maligned Snatch Land Rovers, is in the running to win a A\$1.3bn (£1bn) contract with the Australian army.

The deal would secure 1,000 British defence jobs for the motor company, which is based in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Two of the mine-protected Foxhounds will leave for Australia later this month as part of trials for a light-

weight protected vehicle. Ricardo, which made the Foxhound in alliance with Force Protection Europe, will be in competition with vehicles from Thales and General Dynamics.

A key factor in Ricardo potentially winning the bid will be the decision by the British Army to select the Foxhound as its new Light Protected Patrol Vehicle that will be ready for operations in Afghanistan next spring.

Ricardo won a £200m contract last year to build 200 of the seven ton trucks that have a unique bomb-resistant hull design. The Telegraph has learnt that the Ministry of Defence is now likely to order at least another 200 Foxhounds,

originally called Ocelot.

It is also understood that several Middle Eastern countries and the American military are interested in it.



The Snatch Land Rover, in which 37 soldiers were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, has received stinging criticism



The Ricardo, "Foxhound."

Sadly, former Warrant Officer Class One Arthur "the Angry Ant" Cox passed away on 1st. February 2011.

Arthur Cox was born at Mortdale, NSW on 11.7.1928 and enlisted in the new Australian Regular Army on 5.4.1948.

During his 35 years in the Army, Arthur Cox was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Letters of condolence should be sent to his widow at 66 Edenlea Drive, Meadowbrook, Qld, 4131. WO1 Arthur Cox's last parade was held on Monday 7th. Feb at 1100hrs at Great Southern Garden of

Remembrance, Logan City
Vale Arthur Richard "the Angry Ant" Cox ;old soldier; highly respected Gunner and loving family man.



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
CLARE. (BONNIE) BASSAN
TREVOR. BEER
FRANK. BERRIER
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
I.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam)
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE
R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam)
R.J. (JIM) PONTING
DAVE. QUIRK
PETER. RAINSBURY
CLIVE. RALFE
BRIAN. SCOTT
PETER. SEDDON
ALAN. SINGH
R. F. SMITH
BRIAN. WHISKER
JOHN. WHITELAW. AO,CBE
BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE
JOHN. WORBOYS

Their Journey's Just Begun

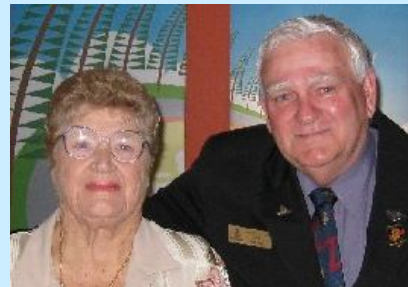
**Don't think of them as gone
away,
their journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets-
this earth is only one.**

**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

**CLARE FLORENCE.
(BONNIE) BASSAN
1936 - 2011**

**Wife of our President and the
secretary of "A" Field Battery
Association. Inc.**



**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.**

Farewell to hero who risked his life daily

CORPORAL Richard Atkinson had two families -- mother and father Kate and Ross, brother James and fiancée Dannielle -- and the army.

The two came together yesterday to farewell the 22-year-old combat engineer. One family remembered him as a loving boy with a cheeky grin who was quick with a joke; the other as a courageous bomb-finder knowingly risking life and limb for his brothers-at-arms.

A packed memorial service in Launceston, attended by Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott, heard moving accounts of the colourful combat engineer, or sapper, who lived up to his motto, "Ago Vita" (loosely "live life" in Latin).

In a eulogy, Brigadier Gus McLachlan, commander of the Darwin-based First Brigade, described the 22nd Australian soldier to die in Afghanistan as a hero. "Acting to protect the lives of his mates, far from the gaze of the media, Richard . . . would have been embarrassed to be singled out as a hero," he told hundreds of mourners at St John's Anglican Church. "Real courage is when you face and understand danger but you overcome your fear and you act. Richard . . . knew the dangers he faced but he went and faced those dangers alongside his mates and as the leader of his men."

Corporal Atkinson had become a "go-to man" for his senior officer, Major Dave French, to lead a search section to locate and deal with bombs in advance of the main body of troops.

"Whenever the scouts sensed that the terrain was pushing them on to a predictable path, Akka -- often



Friends and family of Corporal Richard Atkinson after his memorial service in Launceston.

Source: The Australian



Corporal Atkinson with his fiancée Dannielle.

with his mate and partner Sapper (Robert) Rose-- moved to the front," Brigadier McLachlan told the congregation. "They knew they were marching towards danger, towards the guns.

"On February 2, we're pretty sure that the boys had sensed or detected the device that killed Akka and they were moving to confirm their suspicion. "We may never know exactly what happened in those final seconds. The subsequent blast killed Richard instantly. "Corporal Atkinson died while leading from the front, alongside one of his best mates."

His father Ross, a doctor in the Royal Australian Navy, said life would never be the same without the boy who made him laugh and gave him joy.

While his son had died far too early, just as his life had been unfolding, he said, the army had given him a career and purpose. He had died in the service of his country and for that he had his "greatest respect", his father said.

James Atkinson said he was immensely proud of his brother, described by friends as loyal and "undislikeable", and about whom no one had "a bad word to say".

An honour guard of soldiers of his First Combat Engineers Regiment stood in a catafalque vigil over Corporal Atkinson's slouch hat, service medals and an Australian flag. These were then presented to the family and the service concluded with the last post and the national anthem.

Sapper Rose was injured in the same explosion but it is understood his wounds are not as severe as first thought.

NZ committed to seeing job in Afghanistan done.

Wed, 16 Feb 2011 10:27p.m

At her first address to NZ Parliament Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard has paid tribute to a Kiwi soldier killed in Afghanistan overnight. Private Kirifi Mila, 27, died when the Humvee he was in rolled down a steep hillside, three other soldiers were injured in the accident.

Ms Gillard said New Zealand is "family" and Private Mila's death affects Australians too. But, she added, the long and tough road in Afghanistan is not over yet.



Private Kirifi Mila

Private Mila had joined the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in 2006 and has been described as a "colourful character".

Ms Gillard mourned the loss of Australia's 22nd soldier in Afghanistan just a few days ago, and today as she visited the National War Memorial she acknowledged New Zealand's second death. "We grieve for these men and their families as we grieve for our own.

The Anzac story speaks for



Julia Gillard and John Key visited the National War Memorial in Wellington

both our nation and an imperishable trans-Tasman bond," she said.

But despite the tragedy both Ms Gillard and Prime

Minister John Key refused to accept it is time to leave the war. "I believe New Zealand should remain committed to seeing the job done," Mr Key said.

Private Mila's family have asked for privacy at this difficult time. His brother is also in the New Zealand Army.



The Saint Remembers

The Battle of the Broadway Bar.

Diggers work hard so they play hard. And fighting in the 'old' Army was something that many were involved in. In fact it could be said that some actually enjoyed it! Mates one minute and punching each other up the next. Then mates again.

But there was one group in Malaya during "A" Battery's tour in 57-59 that was always considered fair game for a good punch up, and that was the poor old Poms. Not that they didn't always deserve it, with their taunts of 'Colonial bastards', and dispersions on our convict forefathers.

And so it came to pass that a popular watering hole in Penang, the Broadway Bar over the Penang Bazaar became the scene for one of the great



punch ups of the tour with the Poms.

It all started when the owners of the bar decided to employ a "bouncer" who didn't go over too well with the Aussie lads.

Anyway, one thing led to another and some Poms who were in the bar took the side of the Bouncer and that became a great opportunity for a good Pommy punch-up.

The bouncer got it first followed by the Poms. Things got a bit broken and the Aussie

gunners fled before the pommy Redcaps (Military Police) arrived.

The positive side of it all was the place was closed while new furnishings and fittings were installed, but the bouncer was never seen again. What a great way to spend some leave in Penang.

The full story of this incident can be read in the 'Malayan Episode' page 226, the story of "A" Battery in Malaya 1957-59.

SAINT NEEDS VIETNAM INFO

Dear Editor, I am attempting to put together a video on "A" Battery in Vietnam 1971, similar to the DVD 'Malayan Episode'.

I require a lot more Photos and some details of activity that took place prior to embarkation and whilst in Vietnam.

If any members can help they can post me the original photos which I will scan and return immediately.

If they wish to email them to me they should scan them at a minimum of 300dpi Any stories that can be included would also be welcome. I am hoping to have the DVD ready for showing at the AGM in September at Sawtell.

Regards Saint Sinclair



Please send any photos and stories ASAP, as the new CD is due to be available at Sawtell in September. You will find my contact details on committee page



Mamie Van Doren with some unknown Soldiers, Quang Tri Vietnam 1971.

Mamie was part of a group of entertainers that put on a show in a make shift theatre.

The Editor was wondering if any A Battery personnel were lucky enough to attend the show and perhaps give Mammary (oops sorry) Mamie a cuddle.

Last rounds for artillery museum at North Head

Kelsey Munro URBAN AFFAIRS December 14, 2010

THE local MP Tony Abbott calls it "cultural vandalism" and the NSW RSL's retired gunners are "deeply disappointed", but this weekend the Australian Army Artillery Museum at North Head is closing and moving to Victoria.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust owns the land and plans to open the North Fort museum site to the public seven days a week; the artillery collection will go to an army facility in Bandiana.

The executive director of the harbour trust, Geoff Bailey, denied reports it was to begin charging the army \$1 million a year to rent North Fort, saying the figure was "nothing like that".

Under army management, the site is closed to the public five days a week and has an access fee.

"We've said to Defence if they're going to keep the site closed we'll charge them rent, but we'd rather they fully open the site to the public," Mr Bailey said. "This is a highly significant historic site, and we'd like to have people access it freely to look at the memorials."

The head of the army's history unit, Roger Lee, said in a time of budget cuts Defence would not pay to keep the museum there, but there were also security and practical problems with North Fort, including the erosion of the collection in the salt air.

"I run a museum that's got unusual and highly valuable objects in it, including small arms, and for me it's totally incompatible to have 24-hour access when I can't have staff there to protect it."

Unit museums are funded by the army chiefly



Reconstruction ... Ray Bell and Roy Mellier, both volunteers, work on a World War II anti-aircraft gun. Photo: Peter Rae

for training junior soldiers, and since the School of Artillery had moved to Puckapunyal, Victoria, in the mid-1990s, the museum had virtually never been used for training, he said.

Since 1990 North Fort has housed a collection of guns, including one of the few remaining 4.5 inch Howitzers from World War I; four Victoria Crosses; and memorabilia from Australian gunners.

The NSW RSL president, Don Rowe, said retired gunners were deeply disappointed by the decision. "They put a great lot of work into the restoration of the equipment there and they've been the ones who have actually manned it."

The trust plans to create a new museum at North Fort that will focus on the defence of Sydney.

The artillery museum will open for the last time on Sunday 15th. December 2010.

SAWTELL RSL CLUB

There's something on every day: Bingo, Indoor Bowls, Darts, Snooker, Poker Tournaments, Dancing, Card games, Raffles and Live music. The Oasis Café from 10am and Oasis Bistro from 12 noon are open every day. The Oasis Bistro open every day for lunch & dinner



Mondays

11:00am SUPER BINGO Meat Tray prizes & special undercover game

6:00pm FREE POKER TOURNAMENT

6:00pm AFTERNOON RAFFLE
7:00pm SNOOKER KNOCKOUT
7:00pm INDOOR BOWLS – fun for everyone

7:30pm DARTS COMPETITION

Tuesdays

6:00pm AFTERNOON RAFFLE
7:00pm SALSA DANCING

7:30pm BINGO Great prizes to be won

7:30pm TABLE TENNIS

Wednesdays

12:30pm LADIES INDOOR BOWLS

5:30pm LINE DANCING

5:30pm WACKY WEDNESDAY FREE RAFFLE Win Meat Trays or Food Vouchers

7:00pm ROCK AND ROLL

DANCING Intermediate

7:45pm ROCK AND ROLL DANCING Beginners

NAUGHTY VALENTINE DAYS

So you think you've had a depressing Valentine's Day, no flowers, didn't get asked out to the club for dinner, not even a card; well let me tell you, wipe away the tears it could have been a lot worse



For the happily married or otherwise intimately involved, Valentine's Day conjures up images of romance, flowers, candlelit dinners and romantic getaways. The lonely and lovelorn, however, dread the date each year, comparing it to going to the R S L Xmas party and Santa not turning up.

Those who think they've had a miserable February 14th in the past might just take solace in the fact that they really have no idea just how bad it can get.

There's a sinister side to the holiday that remains largely unmentioned - a darker history of death and despair, an evil array of hideous events which have occurred on this date throughout history. And with that, please try to enjoy the 5 most truly horrible events in the history of Valentine's Day:

1. Feb. 14th, 1382 - Losing Your Head for Love:

Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families all living in married quarters, he outlawed marriage for young men, his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. He was beaten with clubs and stoned; when that didn't finish him, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate. That seemed to cause the required conclusion.



2. Feb. 14th., 1536 - Another Headless Job

In 1536 King Henry VIII, remembered for marrying six women, declared that England will celebrate Valentines Day On 14th. Feb. Henry, decided that an appropriate way to

farewell his second wife Ann Boleyn was to have her beheaded. She was escorted to the dreaded Tower of London where she knelt down and was blindfolded with a linen handkerchief. The executioner took off her head with a quick, clean sweep of his blade. Eye-witnesses claimed that, when her head was shown to the spectators, her eyes were open and she appeared to be attempting to speak.



I will leave it to your imagination what she was trying to say to that bloody executioner

3. Feb. 14th, 1929 - Whacked by Cupid St. Valentine's Day Massacre

Posing as police officers conducting a routine raid on February 14, 1929, four men entered a warehouse at 2122 N. Clark Street, used by George "Bugsy" Moran and his gang to store liquor. The impostors lined up six gang members and a hanger-on against a wall, produced machine guns from under their overcoats, and opened fire. Seven victims slaughtered. The prime suspect was Al Capone, head of Chicago's crime syndicate.



Bugsy's North Side gang, the largest obstacle to the Capone organization's power in metropolitan Chicago, had hijacked Capone's liquor shipments, competed in protection rackets, and murdered Capone allies.

Law enforcement officials could not prove any involvement by Capone, who was in Miami at the time.

No one was ever tried for the killings, however Bugsy got the Valentine message, "Don't mess with Scarface."

4. Feb 14th, 1942 - Lacking in Bedside Manners

Alexandra Hospital in Malaysia is the scene of an even worse massacre during the Battle of Singapore. Invading Japanese troops began by bayoneting Lt. Western, the British medical officer who surrendered to them with a white flag and then went on to kill more than 300 other doctors, nurses and patients



5.



Feb. 14th, 1989 - Love Verses Satan.

Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini broadcasts a "fatwa" on Tehran Radio calling on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel he condemned as blasphemous. Rushdie remained "underground" until Iranian President Mohammed Khatami withdrew state support of the fatwa in 1998
So, there you go, not getting a rose, or even a kiss and a cuddle from your sweetheart doesn't seem so bad, after all does it ?

'A' Field Battery Association Inc.
Committee Meeting: Held at Don and Carol Sinclair's residence, 60 Topsail Street, Banksia Beach, Bribie Island, Qld, on the 1st December 2010.

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

Present: Ian Leven, Greg Kittelty, Don Sinclair, Bob Cunningham, Brian Miller, Clare and Ron Bassan.

Apologies: Nil

Visitors: Carol Sinclair, Wendy Leven and Margaret Miller.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting, which was held at the Maroochy River Coach House, David Low Way, Maroochy, Qld, on the 11th September 2010, were read by the Secretary, Mrs Clare Bassan and were confirmed by Bob Cunningham as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Seconded by Don Sinclair and carried.

Business arising from Minutes:

Ron gave Don a list of 80 and over, Don to produce certificates.

Don Green could not get into Holsworthy Barracks; he rang the B.C. who organised the banner to be delivered to Don. Ian said that everything was delivered.

Only one person has asked for the miniature combat badge.

Inward and Outward Correspondence: The inward and outward correspondence was read by the Secretary and it was moved by Brian Miller that the inward correspondence be received and the outward correspondence be endorsed. Seconded by Greg Kittelty and carried.

Discussion on Correspondence: Discussed as read.

Treasurer's Report: As per attached statement.

The Treasurer, Mr Bob Cunningham, read his report which is attached. As there was no discussion, Bob moved that his report is received and that cheque numbers 766950 to 766957 are passed for payment. Seconded by Ian Leven and carried.

General Business:

The committee resolved to take \$2000.00 out of our working account and put it in our Future Project Investment Account.

Don to order 25 Life Member badges and 25 'A' Bty Assn badges.

Ron had applied to DVA for a grant towards our AGM at Sawtell, which was approved and he read the letter from DVA. Bob has since received the cheque for \$2,250.00.

Ron read out the costs for the 3 days at Sawtell.

Memorial list of all members who have died while on active service is to be read at the memorial service.

Dress is coat and tie. Medals to be worn.

The Anglican Minister who was 'A' Bty's Padre is to officiate at the Memorial at Sawtell.

'A' Bty's farewell to Sydney was only attended by Bty members and special guests. Ron and Bonnie were the only two from the Assn.

Ron spoke on the dinner.

The outgoing B.C., Maj Laughton hopes that the tradition of marching behind the Bty banner continues in Brisbane.

Don said, "Why can't the Bty march behind banner". Ron explained why they may not be able to as 7 Bde marches in uniform in the Brisbane ANZAC DAY parade.

Ron said that the BSM's board at the Bty is a pack of poo tickets and he has had a word with the B.C and BSM about same.

The menu for the dinner at Sawtell was discussed and it was resolved that the following is the menu for the dinner.

Entree. Fresh King Prawns with Chefs Cocktail Sauce. Fried Baby Whiting with Citrus Aioli. Chicken and Asparagus Crepe.

Main. Fish of the Day – Grilled. Sirloin Steak with choice of Sauces. Stuffed Chicken Breast with choice of Prawns, Camembert, Ham, Spinach, Sun Dried Tomatoes, and Garlic Butter.

Sweets. Individual Pavlova with Fruit Salad. Mini Apple Pies. Fresh Fruit Salad.

Beverages. 2 Jugs of Beer per Table. 2 Bottles of Jacobs Creek Chardonnay per Table. 2 Bottles of McGuigans Black Label per Table. Port, contact club (2ltr Carafe).

The crocks of port was discussed and it was resolved that the costs involved in the production and transport prevented us going ahead with this item.

ANZAC DAY, Sydney march to be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Committee Meeting will be held on the 23rd February 2011 at Brian and Margie Miller's residence, 26 Marsh Street, Narangba, Qld, starting at 1000hrs, EST.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 1200hrs. Carol and Don provided the Committee to a scrumptious Lunch.



To send money for the Sawtell meals and bus trip well before the 31st. July

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