

1871

# A Field Battery Association, Inc.

# National Newsletter

## MAY 2011

2011



### President Ron Bassan's Report



#### From the President's Chair

G'day everyone, Firstly, some bad news and then I will get on to some better items.

I had a phone call from Gus Woolfe's son and he informed me that his dad only had days to live. Gus is in the Cairns Private Hospital, ( Since this report was submitted, Gus, passed away on the 13th. May.) Gus has been a good friend to me and a lot of other 'A' Battery 1956 – 60's members and it was not by choice that he left, he had the dreaded Gunner's complaint, Hearing, and was posted out to the reserve in Darwin

ANZAC DAY has come and gone and it was a perfect day in Brisbane, the attendance was again poor, I do not know why Veterans won't come and march under their banner with pride, the Battery itself had to march in uniform as part of seven brigade, this may change next year. For the people who don't know, 'A' Battery is now the Gun

Battery of 1 Regiment RAA, stationed at Enoggera, Brisbane.

We had our usual after march drinks at the Pig and Whistle and then on the river with 105 Battery.

On the 26th April Don Sinclair, Bob Cunningham and I drove out to Brace Lines, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, where we had arranged to meet the new Battery Commander, Maj. Simon Hompas. Simon showed us around the Battery, which at that time was in a bit of a shambles; this was due to the move from Holsworthy and all the items from the Henry Green Room.

1 Regiment does not have a museum as yet; even 105 Battery has their items in storage.

Simon showed us the new fire control system and the first four M777A2 guns in Australia, they are a beautiful weapon, it can just about fire itself, it makes me think that I was in the stone age Artillery.

The Battery eventually will have thirteen M777A2's; three Troops of four, plus one spare (Remind you of someone). Incidentally the only part of the gun which is made of steel is the barrel, the rest is made from titanium, this makes them strong and lightweight.

Notice there is no Field in the titles of the Regiment or the Battery. Simon was surprised when we informed him that the 25 pounder and the L5 belong to the 'A' Battery Association, as he thought they belonged to someone else.

On the 1st of August 'A' Battery will be 140 years old, Simon is keen to have a back to 'A' Battery week and all of us 'old farts' tell the modern Army Gunners what it was like in our day, if this comes to fruition, I know I will be attending.

**In this newsletter there is a four page lift out on the reunion at Sawtell, I must remind you that the moneys for the functions must be in by the 31st July, if they are not you will miss out, so please send those cheques in and make sure they are made out to 'A' Field Battery Association Inc; and not to Ron or Tex Bassan.**

Finally, I just remembered, George Godfrey's wife passed away, and on the members behalf, the Committee sent George a bereavement card, and I just got a card back from the family, thanking the Association. Till next time, see you all at Sawtell, Tex



*If you receive this newsletter by post, you will note that it contains a removable insert containing information of the AGM, Reunion in Sawtell, use this 4 page supplement to book your own accommodation*

*and plan your agenda.*

*All the email recipients will find it easy to print out the last 4 pages to keep as a quick reference for booking your accommodation and the planned events*

**Now I don't want anyone getting Tex angry, so send your money now !**

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**



**Anzac Day report from Smithy, down South.**

As you no doubt, saw on T V the day started off very wet, the dawn service was next to a washout, it was really, really wet.

By the time we started to form up the rain had slowed to showers, when "A" Bty moved off (about a half hour earlier than previously) the rain lifted. Fortunately during the march we had a pretty good, dry march. The crowd was as good as previously, all the guys had a pretty good time.

After falling out we all moved to the Coronation for our celebrations, I had mentioned to the Manager of the Coronation that we would be short an the attendance, with the Battery now in Queensland, and I was assured that would not be a problem.

In all we had 22 in attendance, we were well looked after all day. there were 11 of the older members and 11 of the Battery who were still in Sydney, I would like to thank



Don Green for all the work he did in bringing the Banner in to the march and forming up (as my train was late, I had to very quickly catch up, but I made it) to that end Don I am extremely grateful, to you Don.

In the future I think we will have to bring other units into the Coronation as it is a shame not to maximise the rooms on this day.

To mention those in attendance( if you have room in the News Letter) Don Green, Reg Ettiene & Yu Hua , Dodger Noonan, Max Vandyke, Rex Martin, Mel Smith, Don Spearpoint, John Gliddon, Kevin Mitchell, of the younger chaps we had Jeremy White, David Flemming, Craig Petersen, Luke Richardson, Bradley Jobe, Antonio White, Christian Ferrington Trent Dileen as well as a few from 7 Field Regt RAA.

If any of you chaps are down this way and wish to contact me please give me a ring, I would like to know if you are well Ring me on 02 47392215.

So much from the South of the Border for the Anzac Day

**Some Anzac Day pics from Brisbane**



Grateful for a helping hand from the young people



The jeep transported a few who had walking problems



Rod Althaus, Paul Forsythe and Ron Slaughter



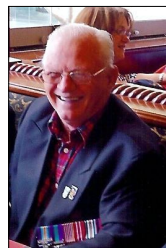
Tex on the ferry with daughters, Kathy, Wendy and Leanne, an granddaughter Jana



Arthur Burke, Ray Alcorn and Bob Cunningham



Tex at the Pig and Whistle with Max , George , Geoff



The Saint was banned from marching, because of that tartan shirt. Regimentally undressed !



Jim Holmes and Lofty Rudduck





**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  
GUS. WOOLFE  
JOHN. WORBOYS**

**Gus Woolfe.  
1935 - 2011**

Gus was born on the 10 November 1935 and joined the Army at 18 on 1st September 1953.

He was posted to 1st Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery and in 1957 went to Malaya for two years with "A Field Battery".

After coming home to Australia he was posted to Darwin until his discharge in July 1963 having served 10 years.

On discharge he joined the PMG (later called Telstra) in Sydney and became an earth moving operator until 1978 when he left and joined the Waverley City Council. He was with them for two years again as an earth moving operator until he decided to head North to South Johnstone where he purchased a Ditch Witch Digger and made a living doing trench work in the area. One day he found a dog in a bag in a bin and took it home it was just a pup. With his dry sense of humour he



called the dog 'Dino', a play on the Flintstones with his wife's name 'Wilma'.

He finally retired but bad luck came his way when his house was totally destroyed in Cyclone Larry. He and his wife Wilma hid in the bath during the cyclone.

His heart started playing up and in January of this year he had a heart operation. A few weeks ago he started feeling unwell and was returned to hospital where complications from the surgery could not be contained and he died on the 13th of May 2011.

Those who served with Gus will have fond memories of a very quiet bloke who minded his business and never had a bad word about anybody. His wit was very dry and he could be a very funny man. Like most blokes of that era he liked a drink or two but was always happy and good company to be with.

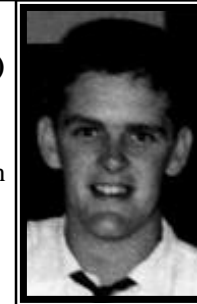
**Goodbye Gus, you will be missed, but certainly never forgotten.**

**Edward  
Kenneth, (Super)  
Clements.  
1937 - 2010**

He was born in Sydney on 28th December, 1937, lived all his early life in Newtown NSW before joining the army on 1/11/1955, number 2410550 where he spent six years, with 1 year in Malaya with "A" Field Battery

Whilst in Malaya he became a TARA in BHQ. Not only was he a Tara, but a very good one, so much so that when the Brits came and tested all the Taras in the Battery, he was awarded a Class 1, along with George Forsythe, the only two awarded in the Brigade.

He was discharged from the Army on 31/10/1961 and joined the Police Force, married Marion, had two children, before moving to



Tamworth where he lived for 18 years.

He left the Police Force after 8 years to manage a pub and then worked as a sales rep. for James Hardy wines for a few years, then

managed Armaguard Security ,Grafton till retirement in 1997. He and Marion moved to Hervey Bay in 2002 to an "over 50's" resort, where he was extremely popular with everyone.

He was diagnosed with esophageus cancer in September, 2009 and he passed away on 21st October, 2010. Even though he was in such great pain his quick wit and wicked sense of humour were with him til the end. He was a lovely human being and we all miss him very much.

**The earth is a sadder place without him.**

## THE SAINT REMEMBERS

It was late 1956 and I had just arrived at the School of Artillery North Head from Brisbane where I had joined the Army after completing my National Service at Wacol, and found my surroundings a little strange and intimidating.

Next Day I was put on a thing called General Duties and told to report to the Sergeants Mess kitchen, the cook there told me to go out the back and clean out the rubbish tins. I had never cleaned a rubbish tin before in my life, but if this was what you had to do in the Army then so be it. This was to be my first job in the Regular Army.

Suddenly the sky seemed to darken and I looked up to see this monster of a man, blotting out the sun and staring down at me with these cruel little piggy eyes.

God, he was huge, must have stood about seven foot tall with a head bigger than my whole body; he was dressed in the uniform and cap of a Warrant Officer and carried a pace stick under his arm that seemed to be made from an old telegraph pole.

Then this huge hole appeared in his face and a blast of air and spit came out almost blowing me off my feet. At the same time this ear shattering roar came from this hole which I now realized was the creatures mouth. **"What do you think you are doing down there Laddie?"** roared the monster. "Please Sir, I was told to clean these rubbish tins," I stammered.

**"Well don't just hose them Laddie, get some steel wool and sandsoap and clean them properly"**, the monster bellowed, covering me



once again with a blast of hot air and spit. **"I will be back later to inspect them,"** he thundered and disappeared around the corner.

I was stunned. What had happened? And who or what was this giant of a

man with this huge stick that was used to point at the rubbish tins and at me?.

Then I decided to pull myself together, I was a soldier now, and if this creature wanted these rubbish bins cleaned, then I would show him that I would clean them better than anyone had ever done before. It may even lead to an early promotion.

Oh how I worked, not only were these tins now cleaned, but with the steel wool, sand soap and lots of scrubbing and rubbing, I had managed to polish the galvanized surface to resemble polished chrome, both inside and out. I even had the cook put any rubbish in a bag inside until the tins had been inspected by the giant, and eventually he did come back.



I knew he was coming, I could hear the noise of his huge boots with the steel soles crunching on the concrete path.

Once again it darkened as he appeared around the corner, coming to a halt just inches from my face.

He never said a word but I could see he was looking closely at the gleaming rubbish tins, he bent down, lifted the lids and peered inside. All was polished.

Then he picked up a rubbish tin and very slowly turned it upside down exposing the dirty bottom.

He carefully lowered it down and his piggy little eyes focussed onto me, his face became blood red came almost into mine. The hole in the face opened and then I was encased in a blast of hot air, spit and a deafening roar..... **"I said clean them Laddie, all of them"** he bellowed. **"and when you are finished report to Sergeant Major Royal for extra duties tonight."**

Welcome to the Artillery Gunner Sinclair.

**And that's how I first encountered Sergeant Major 'Bull' Storey of the School of Artillery.**



**Bull Storey looks over the boys on the recruit course at the School of Artillery; 1961– 1962, looking a little more placid than he was 4 years earlier when he frightened the crap out of a naïve young Saint**

### HELP ! SAINT NEEDS VIETNAM INFORMATION

Help needed to produce a video on "A" Battery in Vietnam 1971, similar to the DVD 'Malayan Episode'.

Saint requires 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 Saint the original photos which he will scan and return immediately.

If you email them to the

Saint, he would prefer that you please scan them at a minimum of 300dpi.

Any stories would be welcome. He is hoping to have the DVD ready for showing at the AGM in September at Sawtell. Please send pics and stories The Saint's contact details: 60 Topsail Crt. Banksia Beach, Bribie Island, Qld. 4507.

ph. (07) 3408 9009.

email [thesaint@tpg.com.au](mailto:thesaint@tpg.com.au)

53220  
REGINALD ARTHUR  
MILLER  
**Sadly we have been informed that Reg passed away on 11th. May. Reg served with A Field Battery in Malaya 1959. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Tracy and family**



**BAYNE "Gus" Kelly was a 21-year-old conscript fighting in the Vietnam War when he became a hero during a bloody battle that left four Australians dead and six badly wounded.**



shot dead right beside him. A decade after the battle, Mr Kelly received a letter from the US Army telling him that he had been awarded the high-level US Army Commendation Medal for Valour.

But he was a 62-year-old husband and father of three before the US Medal for Valour he earned on that day was finally pinned on his chest this week.

The young man from Bellevue Hill in Sydney saved several badly wounded colleagues and, under intense enemy fire, tried to extract the crew of a downed Australian resupply helicopter - unaware that all of them were dead.

Mr Kelly, from the Townsville based "A" Field Battery, saw his commanding officer Lieutenant Ian Mathers

It would take 13 months for the Australian Army to extract the medal from a drawer in Canberra and post it to him and until 2008 before he was allowed to wear the foreign honour alongside his Australian awards.

At a low-key ceremony at the US Consulate in Sydney this week, US Ambassador Jeff Bleich finally pinned the medal on Mr Kelly's chest in front of his wife Margaret, their three sons and other family and friends including comrades from 1971.

## Sydney police arrest man over Facebook page which outed military personnel

6 May 2011

Sydney police have charged a former Australian soldier over a Facebook page which outed and threatened gay military personnel.

As reported on PinkPaper.com last month, at least 80 people from the Australian Defence Force were signed up to the page, which claimed to inform which colleagues are "biting the pillow."

The group – which called homosexuality a "filthy lifestyle decision" – went on to say: "It is your right to know who is biting the pillow. If you know any more bum bandits getting around in the ADF, shoot me an email."

The page, which has since been taken down, was also said to have links to violent, anti-gay videos on You Tube.

Now, police in Australia have arrested an unnamed 32 year-old who was granted conditional bail and will appear in court next month.

Meanwhile, the Independent Advisory Panel on Alcohol will examine the impact of alcohol use at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) and the adequacy of current policies and strategies. "Often, inappropriate conduct and abuse of alcohol go hand in hand," reporters were told in Perth.

This judgement required a lot of research, who would have suspected that too much grog causes bad behaviour ?

Perhaps we should set a limit for all the old boys intending to invade the Sawtell watering holes.

## Breaking Out The Big Gun : Gunners Put M777A2 Howitzer to the Test at Puckapunyal

The Australian Army .13 April 2011

The inaugural firing of the M777A2 155mm Lightweight Towed Howitzer on April 1 was a first for Australian gunners, bringing the ADF a complete joint fires capability.



OC New Equipment Training Team Maj. Pete Wiles said the M777A2 matched the firepower of current generation 155mm towed systems at about half the weight or the M198 it was designed to replace.

"The lightweight design allows the gun to be deployed by fixed wing or rotary aircraft," Maj Wiles said. "The on-board GPS, inertial navigation system and digital fire-control system allow it to be brought into action more quickly than other towed howitzers." "The digital transmission of fire orders and gun data can greatly reduce the possibility of human error."

The firing was the culmination of the pilot M777A2 operator's course, concluded by the

School of Artillery's Gunnery Training Team (GTT). The three-man team spent six weeks with the US Army training on the gun.

Senior SM Instructor Gunnery WO2 Darrin Free said the US instructors were very experienced, each with more than 20 years in artillery.

**NEW CAPABILITY:** The M777A2 is capable of firing four rounds per minute for two minutes, then two

rounds per minute sustained

At 4500kg, the M777A2 is about half the weight and is smaller than the M198 it is designed to replace, without sacrificing the range, stability, accuracy or durability

The M777A2 is currently in service with the Australian Army, US Marine Corps, US Army and Canadian Forces.

Effective range is 24km with standard 155mm ammunition, 30km with Rocket Assisted Projectiles and up to 40km with Excalibur precision guided projectiles.

The Excalibur precision guided projectile is a precise GPS-guided munition capable of being used in close support situations

## Oz soldiers head home with their Essex girls

9:00am 14th April 2011

It's a scenario which has more in common with Hollywood movies like *An Officer and a Gentleman*.

Three young Australian soldiers posted ten thousand miles from home fall in love with local girls, face a heart-wrenching tour of a war zone, and return to their homeland in glory - bringing their bright-eyed brides with them.

A trio of girls from Colchester have been whisked off their feet by Aussie soldiers and will now be moving with them Down Under.

In February last year, 15 Australian gunners came to Colchester to train with British troops for a tour in Afghanistan.

Within weeks, three of them were seeing girls from the town and its surrounding areas.



**Sarah Marchant with Brendan Nikolajew, Kayleigh Straight with Michael Moon and Sam Nugent with Stephen Nicholes**

A year later, the girls have all agreed to join their men back in Brisbane.

All the soldiers are from 105 Battery, 1 Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. They all spent about eight months in Colchester on pre-tour training before six months in Afghanistan alongside Colchester's troops.

Much of their new hometown of Brisbane had been washed away in torrential floods.

**But as the saying goes, love conquers all.**

## A Sainly Letter To My Dear Editor

The other day I was walking through the local shopping centre with my wife when, coming towards me I saw a soldier.

I was shocked at what I saw, not that I haven't seen a lot of soldiers before but this one certainly caught my eye.

He was sauntering, is that the best way to describe his walk? Anyway it wasn't the way I thought soldiers are supposed to walk.

He was dressed in what I think they now call "cams". Looked to me like unironed pyjamas with his shirt out, with a faded and dusty camouflage pattern on them; no badges of rank,

no indication of corps by badge or cloth. A crumpled bush hat on his head also appeared to be dirty.

His boots were... so dirty that they must have been made like that. He had no belt or any other webbing and certainly nothing metal or polished. He looked like a bum.

Yes! I know things have changed but things can change for the better or for the worse, or remain the same. This is a change that can only be called disgraceful.

What was this man doing, being allowed to parade himself in front of



the public in this manner. No! this wasn't his work clothes, there are no army establishments in this area and besides it was a Sunday.

Our modern day generals are wondering why they have a recruitment problem which they are trying to solve, like all public servants... Just throw money at it, not working.

Have another think, there was an old saying. "Don't laugh at me, it's the way my mum dresses me." Well, I'm not laughing, just angry and sad that my military has been allowed

to be dragged to such depths of military dress.

**Donald (Saint) Sinclair. Ex RAA**

### Editor's Note:

Hey Grumpy! chill out, those days are over when we spent hours spit polishing boots, blanco-ing the webbing, polishing the brass and ironing creases in the trousers so sharp, you had to keep standing.

A reform that is welcomed by the RAEME boys who were not renowned for their stylish military apparel.

Anyway you only saw him because he was in a shopping mall, if he had been in a park, with trees, he would have been invisible.

## A NICE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ron, By way of explanation my husband, David Sandoe, was a National Serviceman in 1965 at 18th Platoon, D Company 1 RTB Kapooka. His Platoon Sgt was Alan Singh

Yesterday, we received an email from one of the other guys who was in the same platoon. The first contact with anyone since National Service Days. The chaps all went their separate ways obviously. Different Corps; different directions.

However, just out of interest and as the one who looks for information, I decided today to Google Alan's name and find out something about him. I've tried this before but came up with nothing.

However, we are deeply saddened now to learn that we could have been in contact with Alan well before this and that he only died last July

We've read the notice in the Newsletter for August 2010 and can only concur with the memories of Harry Cook

Alan and Shirley attended our wedding in November 1967 so all that we read does not surprise us one bit

They were a great couple, we have very fond memories of their

nurturing of those of 18 Platoon and of Alan attending our wedding in dress uniform, looking every bit the military man he obviously was. We could see then that his wife was "wedded to the army" as much as to Alan.

We would like to know more about his wife and family, perhaps I should find a wedding photo taken with them as proof as I laughed when he said he was once 10 stone wringing wet. That's the only way we knew him.

My husband David has the same motto as Alan ... "to live life to the full"

With very fond memories of Alan and Shirley. Pam Sandoe



**Alan Singh, Pamela & David Sandoe, Shirley Singh**

**Good luck  
in Sawtell  
chúc may mắn  
trong Sawtell**



Jane Fonda says her 1972 visit to a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun site, an incident that brought her the nickname "Hanoi Jane," was a betrayal of American forces and of the country that gave me privilege.

The image of Jane Fonda, "Barbarella," Henry Fonda's daughter ... sitting on an enemy aircraft gun was a betrayal ... the largest lapse of judgment that I can even imagine, Fonda told Leslie Stahl in a 60 Minutes interview aired in 2005

In January 2011 Veteran actress Jane Fonda says she wasn't a good mother to her children. the 73-year-old, who has daughter Vanessa, 42, with her first husband Roger Vadim, and a son, Troy, 37, with activist Tom Hayden, couldn't spend much time with her children as she was too busy in her anti-Vietnam War efforts.



## A New Caroldon Production

# TROPIC THUNDER

8.15.08



## DOWN UNDER



So, you would like to be a movie star in a new war film about Vietnam, well your luck's in.

Here is your chance but you will have to be real quick with the pics and stories.

The Saint is making a video about "A" Field Battery in Vietnam in 1971.

Pictures of you in Vietnam before you had that big gut and when you had a full head of hair will become part of our history and your grandkids will not believe that handsome digger is really you.

But please Hurry !!!

Contact Saint, (07) 3408 9009



## SEPARATED SIBLINGS ? NAUGHTY SHORTY AND NICEY PRICEY

A sad story of two brothers separated many years ago can now finally be revealed.

It happened when they were children holidaying at Ayers Rock and were taken from the tent by a pack of dingos.

It didn't take long for the dingos to decide to return the noisy one and set off to Melbourne with the better looking one who was later to become Steve Price, radio jock and TV personality.

The rejected boy that the dingos dumped back on the disappointed parents was to become our A Field Battery mate, Shorty.

Of course this story is not entirely true; I must correct that bit about the parents being terribly disappointed at getting Shorty returned..

Also it's an excuse to put Shorty's photo in this newsletter, the reason being he buys the editor a schooner every time his photo appears.

Yeah, that's Shorty Junior. (another schooner )

This corrupt offer is available for all of our readers. to participate, but don't tell the Preso.

He will want part of the action



## A Ferry Enjoyable Anzac Day

It was definitely not our best attended march, probably due to Anzac Day occurring during the Easter Holiday period; this will not happen again for another 27 years, so we can forget that intrusion for a while.

The march began at 10am, with the Navy away first followed by the Army then the Air Force; thousands of cheering people flanked the streets as we marched, a few rode in the jeep just ahead of our banner.

The Easter break did not distract from the crowds and I would suggest that there were more happy faces lining the march than normal. Marching through the city with all those admiring patriotic, Australians, especially the beautiful young kids waving their flags and cheering does tend to make the hair on the back of the neck stand to attention.

The march progressed well, with very few stops, although as usual you had to watch your step because of the horse manure all over the road, they must give the horses a couple of laxatives prior to march, there was heaps of it.

The band had us all in step as we gave an eye's left and saluted the Queensland Governor Penelope Wensley at King George Square as the procession wound its way through the city to finish at Creek St. where after being dismissed by



Major Bubbles Alcorn who demonstrated how to dismantle the banner without asking for technical support from the 2 RAEME marchers.

A short walk up Queen St. and we assembled at the Pig and Whistle to await boarding the ferry for our river cruise, just enough time for a couple of pints of XXXX.

This cruise would have to be the most enjoyable after march celebrations I have attended, Jim Holmes, Paul Forsythe and I settled down on the lower deck and had a quiet beer, followed by quite a few noisy ones.

The drinks, the abundant BBQ and salad with fresh bread rolls and the beautiful scenery unfolding as we cruised the Brisbane River that, although still a bit muddy has almost fully recovered from the recent devastating floods. The cruise was made even more pleasurable by the good natured crew on board.

A final comment on this Anzac Day and of course some will probably accuse me of bragging, to which I will certainly plead guilty for I am so proud and maybe a little conceited of my superb achievement that I want everyone to know that I kept up with Paul Forsythe drinking beer for beer.

Of course he started a lot earlier at the Currumbin dawn service, on the rum while I was still in bed but it was still an heroic feat to match it with "The King."

# "A" FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION, Inc. COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011

Vice President.  
Donald (Saint) Sinclair  
60 Topsail Crt  
Banksia Beach  
Bribie Island, Qld. 4507  
Ph. (07) 3408 9009  
[thesaint@tpg.com.au](mailto:thesaint@tpg.com.au)

President  
Ron (Tex) Bassan  
6 Harveys Rd.  
Beaconsfield, Qld. 4740  
  
Ph. (07) 4942 5433  
[texbassan@yahoo.com.au](mailto:texbassan@yahoo.com.au)

Vice President.  
Ian Leven  
345 Teven Rd.  
Teven, NSW. 2478  
Ph. (02) 6687 8834  
[ianleven@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ianleven@optusnet.com.au)

Hon. Acting Secretary.  
Ron (Tex) Bassan.  
6 Harveys Rd.  
Beaconsfield Qld. 4740  
Ph. (07) 4942 5433  
[texbassan@yahoo.com.au](mailto:texbassan@yahoo.com.au)

Treasurer.  
Bob Cunningham  
26 Kilburn St.  
Chermside, Qld. 4032  
(07) 3350 1394  
[carolchemside@optusnet.com](mailto:carolchemside@optusnet.com)

Committee  
Greg Kittelty  
(07) 5593 1212  
[gmkittelty@bigpond.com](mailto:gmkittelty@bigpond.com)  
Brian Miller  
(07) 3886 9074  
[brianmiller625@gmail.com](mailto:brianmiller625@gmail.com)

## Patron: Barry (Combat) Campbell.

Editor. Ron (Butch) Slaughter. [ronbutchslaughter@hotmail.com](mailto:ronbutchslaughter@hotmail.com)  
6 / 8 St. Ives Dr. Robina, Qld. 4226

Asst. Editor. Don (Saint) Sinclair. [thesaint@tpg.com.au](mailto:thesaint@tpg.com.au)

Property Officer. Bob Cunningham. [carolchemside@optusnet.com](mailto:carolchemside@optusnet.com).

Liaison Officer. Qld. Ray (Bubbles) Alcorn. (07) 3378 6906

Liaison Officer. NSW. Robert (Dodger) Noonan. [noonanrf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:noonanrf@bigpond.net.au)

Liaison Officer Vic. Rick Poley & Mike Pitman

Liaison Officer. ACT. Alexander. Reynolds [alexreynolds@netspeed.com](mailto:alexreynolds@netspeed.com).

Liaison Officer. SA. Bob. McEvoy. [ehdesign@hotmail.com](mailto:ehdesign@hotmail.com).

Liaison Officer. WA. Max. Ptolomey. (08) 9447 4783

Liaison Officer. Tas. Bevan Filce

Web Master. Peter. (Kimbo) Kimball. [gunner116@bigpond.com](mailto:gunner116@bigpond.com).

Advocate. Richard. (Dick) Morrison. [KEMARIE@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:KEMARIE@HOTMAIL.COM)

Auditor. David. (Banger) Harris



The best way to share your message or photos is to contact **Kimbo, our Webmaster**. Want to keep up with latest ? Log on to our website and you can read the latest and all the past newsletters

An amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the 1940s to the present day with A Field Battery.

This website is addictive, with the news, links, notice board and a great selection of music while you browse away.

One of the best websites available and kept up to date by Kimbo.

You will want to put this address into your favourites

<http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com>



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Hon. Acting Sec. Ron. Bassan  
6 Harveys Rd.  
Beaconsfield, Qld. 4740



### Disclaimer

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# A Gathering of Gunners



A Field Battery Gunners from all conflicts will be meeting in Sawtell; one of Australia's loveliest beachside towns to join Vietnam veterans celebrating 40 years since Vietnam.

Sawtell has 12 restaurants and 6 or so food takeaways. 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.



There's something on every day at the RSL; Bingo, Indoor Bowls, Darts, Snooker, Poker Tournaments, Dancing, Card games, Raffles and Live music



**Entertainment** : Music every Friday & Saturday night

**Dining**: Cafe open every day from 10am. Bistro open every day for lunch & dinner

The Sawtell Hotel was opened in 1932 known as the Imperial Hotel. The friendly atmosphere in the Hotel reflects the laid back lifestyle and is one of the many reasons visitors come from all over to enjoy all that the Hotel has to offer.

The Hotel offers big screen TV, full tab & keno, along with an ATM and extensive children's playground.

Live entertainment and bands perform weekly in the renowned Zoo Bar. For that birthday, cocktail party, business meetings or any special occasion, our large deck is perfect to cater for any function



Enjoy the unique dining experience of the award winning Fishales Restaurant which is famous for its local fresh seafood.

The alfresco dining compliments the excellent climate that sunny Sawtell has to offer, making it the perfect holiday destination.



**The AGM and Re-union at Sawtell 2011  
Programme of Events**

**Monday 12th September 2011**

5.30pm Meet and greet at Sawtell RSL Club

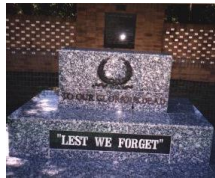
**Tuesday 13th September**

10.00 am AGM at Sawtell RSL Club

**Lunch:** Own Arrangements. There are some quite nice dining places in the RSL.

**5.30 pm Memorial Service at**

**Cenotaph.** Dress will be Coat and tie and full size medals. Service conducted by Padre Len Trump



**7.00 for 7.30 AGM Dinner**

**at Sawtell RSL Princess Room.** This venue is the club's largest and is modelled on the "Love Boat" theme. With a capacity of 875 it features numerous concerts and events. Dress is semi formal with miniatures.



**Wednesday 14th September**

**8.00 am Recovery Breakfast at Sawtell RSL,** for \$14, you will get: Scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, sausages, tomatoes, mushrooms, hash browns, baked beans, croissants and pastries, assorted plain and fruit toast, muesli, cereals, yoghurt, fruit juices, coffee and tea

**9.30 am** Bus Trip leaves Sawtell RSL

**6.30 pm** Bar-B-Q at Sawtell Golf Club

The modern air conditioned clubhouse is the perfect place for a relaxing drink, fine food .

**Total costs:**

MEET & GREET .....	\$10
DINNER .....	\$40,
RECOVERY BREAKFAST...	\$15
BARBECUE .....	\$20
BUS TRIP .....	\$25
<b>TOTAL per HEAD.....</b>	<b>\$110.00.</b>

**Don't forget to get your name and money to the**

**Secretary: Ron Bassan**

**6 Harveys Rd.**

**Beaconsfield, QLD. 4740.**

**by the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2011. OR YOU MISS OUT.**

**SAWTELL REAL ESTATE**

Sales – Property Management  
Holiday Accommodation

[www.sawtellrealestate.com.au](http://www.sawtellrealestate.com.au)

9 First Ave Sawtell

FAX

**6653 1463**

6658 1044



**57 First Avenue  
Sawtell 2452 NSW.  
Phone: 02 6658 1577**

**Email: [are@hot.net.au](mailto:are@hot.net.au)**

**SAWTELL RSL  
Re-union Dinner 7pm. Tuesday 13th.  
September, 2011**

**Menu**

**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**

**Dessert. 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.**



**\$40 per head**

**SAWTELL BEACH  
CARAVAN PARK,**

**5 Lyons Road,  
Sawtell NSW 2452**



The park has great facilities from bush camping to luxury villas with ocean views. The park has camp kitchen, tennis courts and access to swimming pool

**There is 15 cabins being held at this venue for  
'A' Battery. ph. (02) 6653 1379,  
email [info@sawtellbeachcaravanpark.com.au](mailto:info@sawtellbeachcaravanpark.com.au)**

**SAWTELL MOTOR INN,**

**57 Bironia Street,  
Sawtell,**

**phone (02) 6658 9872,**

**email [info@sawtellmotorinn.com.au](mailto:info@sawtellmotorinn.com.au)**



**THE COASTERS,**

**77 First Avenue  
Sawtell,  
phone (02) 6653**



**email [reception@coastersmotel.com.au](mailto:reception@coastersmotel.com.au)**



**The drive time from Brisbane Airport to Sawtell is: 5 hours, a distance of 421 km**

**The drive time from Sydney to Sawtell is: 6 hours, 14 minutes, a distance of 529 km.**

**The drive time from Coffs Harbour to Sawtell is: 15 minutes, a distance of 12km.**

### Getting there

The drive from Sydney to Sawtell takes about seven hours. Virgin Australia flies daily from Sydney to Coffs Harbour from \$99 one-way.

### Touring there

Precision Helicopters has scenic coastal flights from \$80 a person. . Phone 6652 9988, see [www.precisionhelicopters.com.au](http://www.precisionhelicopters.com.au).

### Staying there

Creekside Inn B&B has rooms for two from \$150 (off-season), including breakfast. At 59 Boronia Street, phone 6658 9099, see [www.creeksideinn.com.au](http://www.creeksideinn.com.au).

Sawtell Motor Inn, 20 metres from First Avenue, has spacious rooms from \$120. At 57 Boronia Street, phone 6658 9872, see [www.sawtellmotorinn.com.au](http://www.sawtellmotorinn.com.au).

### Eating there

Barrels Bistro, 23 First Avenue, open Tues-Sun from 5pm, phone 6658 8255.

Taste restaurant, 11 First Avenue, dinner Wed-Sat from 6pm, phone 6658 3583.

Fig restaurant, corner First Avenue and Boronia Street, open Tues-Sun from 5pm, phone 6658 3638.

Shimmers On First, 18 First Avenue, open daily 7.30am-5pm, phone 6653 1099.

Split Cafe, 4 First Avenue, open daily 7.30am-5pm.

The Surf Club Cafe, Fourth Avenue, open daily 9am-2.30pm.

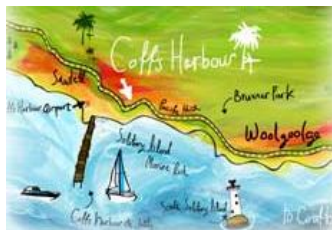
**For more information:** [www.sawtellnsw.com.au](http://www.sawtellnsw.com.au);



**First Avenue, Sawtell you will find shops, restaurants, post office, surf shop, cafes, the cinema, RSL club, Coaters motel, news agency, Sawtell hotel, butchers, chemist and more.**

### More Things To Do

Our visit to Sawtell is short and there is so much to do in this town that it is hard to imagine heading elsewhere for entertainment, however those who may be tempted to extend their stay by a day or two do have a wide choice of attractions in the much larger city of Coffs Harbour. Here is a small selection of things to do in Coffs.



elevated walkway through the banana plantation, provides access to Coff's Coast lookout, offers spectacular views . Between July and October the annual migration of the whales can be viewed from the lookout. This facility is free. Thrill seekers are also catered for at The Big Banana - a half kilometre downhill toboggan ride a guaranteed adrenalin rush and fun for all the family.



**Coffs Ex-Services Club:** Pacific and Vernon Streets, Coffs Harbour

The "Centre of Entertainment" for the Coffs Coast, this club offers great dining, drinking and entertainment facilities



**The Bunker Cartoon Gallery** is Australia's first and only dedicated black and white art gallery exhibiting the largest private collection

of contemporary cartoons in the Southern Hemisphere. The Gallery is housed in an authentic underground WWII bunker that has been converted to a funky exhibition space.



**BIG BANANA SKYWALK**, an



**The Pet Porpoise Pool.** One of only two places in Australia which exhibits rescued and captive born dolphins, the Pet

Porpoise Pool makes dreams come true with the life-time experience of entering the water with these magnificent animals

**The old timber jetty** in the harbour at Coffs is the place to promenade, sit and fish, photograph sunrise or to watch swimmers, seabirds, fishing boats, outrigger canoe paddlers and cruising yachts come and go. At the entrance to the Jetty precinct on Harbour Drive is the Jetty Strip, a collection of cafes, restaurants, a pub, gallery, dive and surf shops.



## A History Lesson

### Sawtell

Prior to white settlement the Kumbaingeri Aborigines knew the area as 'Bongol Bongol'.

European settlement began when surveyor Greaves set aside 960 acres as Bonville Reserve in 1861. In 1923 Oswald Sawtell decided to subdivide the land he had bought.

The railway arrived in 1925, a post office opened in 1927, the first school was set up in 1928 and the Sawtell Hotel was licensed in 1932.

The settlement was gazetted as Sawtell in 1927. However, when the road to the north opened that same year Coffs Harbour became the major local town.

### Coffs Harbour

Timber getters were the first to settle in the area in 1841.

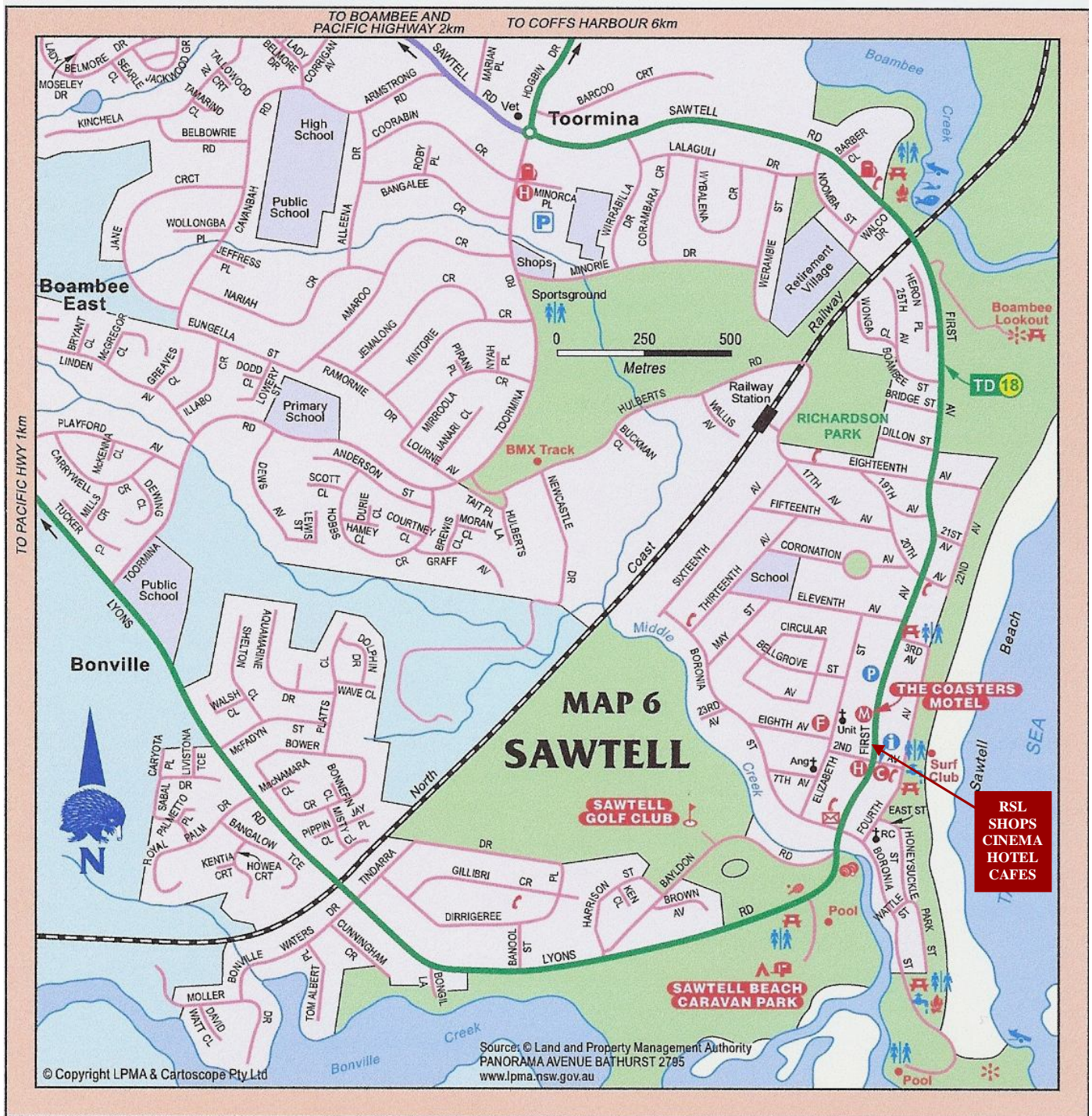
The busy Port was frequented by up to 450 ships a year until the Carywell was wrecked in 1865. The lighthouse was built in 1878.

The town was originally named 'Korff's Harbour' by John Korff in 1847. It was renamed Coffs Harbour in 1861. The jetty was completed in 1892.

Fijian Bananas were introduced by Herman Reick in 1881 .

With the arrival of the railway in 1915 and the link through to Sydney in 1923 Coffs Harbour developed rapidly.





## SUNNY SAWTELL

It's got: great natural beauty, an attractive main beach, picturesque creeks to swim, fish or paddle a canoe in, and a charming main street lined with great old fig trees, boutique shops and galleries and lots of al fresco cafés.

All you need to bring is your swimmers and a towel, and go for a swim in the ocean or in the bend at the mouth of Bonville Creek. The rock pool on the south of the headland is ideal to do some short laps, protected from the waves.

Don't forget breakfast at the Sawtell Surf Club Café which is right on Sawtell Beach.

There are other excellent



cafes offering all day dining, a quality Thai restaurant, a Bushman's Bakery, a fine dining licensed restaurant a great fish and chip shop with a difference, Fishtails at the Sawtell Hotel offers fresh fish, whole snapper or fillets of barramundi, jew fish, blue eyed cod, kingfish.

There is also the Sawtell picture theatre with a great range of films showing at excellent prices that means cinema is again affordable.

Built in the 30s and purchased in 1942 by Alan and Doris Brissett the Cinema screened films on Friday and Saturday nights and ran a matinee on Sunday.

Tragedy struck in 1955 when a mini cyclone blew the roof off the Cinema, causing extensive damage, the Cinema was rebuilt in 1956.

Why not make a day or night of it? Spend the day at the beach or enjoy an Alfresco meal at one of Sawtell's famous restaurants then catch one of the great movies.