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A Field Battery Association, Inc.

National Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2012

President Ron Bassan's Report

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2011 – 2012**

Members; it is once again with heavy heart that I must report another member has passed away in my report for 2011/2012 and that member is Morrie Fontaine.

Morrie passed away on the 17th July and a card was sent to his wife, Adriana and their family from the association.

The year has been reasonably quite, we have had four Committee meetings this financial year, the last one at my place in Mackay, Qld, two days after arriving home from Europe and I had a bad case of jet lag.

One thing that came from one of the meetings was an ex 'A' Bty sergeant, Sgt Troy Charters (Served with the Bty 95 – 03 and 08 – 10.) now a Platoon Sgt at 1 Recruit Training Battalion, contacted Dodger Noonan (The NSW Liaison Officer.) and asked if the Bty would be the affiliate for a brand new Pl. in a brand new Coy, which has just been raised, 41 Pl in Echo Coy. Dodger passed this on to us and it was resolved that we became the affiliate for 41 Pl.

We sent a plaque and photographs of guns and members. Dodger with his partner is attending the passing out parade on the 24th August.

I have spoken about the lack of members turning up in Sydney and Brisbane on ANZAC DAY to march behind their banner.

Everyone should be proud to march in these places, so please try



and make an effort to come and march.

Another bug bear that I spoke about in the last newsletter is the lack of members contributing to our National Newsletter. Please make an effort and send something to Butch, he

will edit it and decide if it is suitable to print.

'A' Battery had its 140th birthday last year and the Battery members celebrated this occasion on the 3rd August with a display and get together in the Gunners club.

Some of the Olds and Bolds attended, about twenty of us. The Officers and Gunners showed us the new digital system of Fire Orders, where there is no radio procedure only by email, voice is only used as a backup.

They explained all the new ammunition that can be used in the new M777 Gun.

We were taken out to the gun park and showed the new guns, Bushmaster vehicles and Mack gun tractors. After this we adjourned to the Gunners club where we had a few cordials and pig on the spit, served by the acting BSM.

The Commanding Officer presented Bombardier chevrons to an L/Bdr and then I addressed the gunners and I said "I wish I had been presented with my chevrons by the CO; instead of having them chucked at me. One thing Don Sinclair and I found out there was, no Gunner knew the 'A' Bty song,

so Don and myself changed that and taught it to them, later on the Battery Commander, Simon Hompas, thanked me for this, of course I think he was not too happy. A great day was had by all.

This year we have a vacancy on the Committee and I hope one of you will fill this vacancy, if not then the Committee has the power to fill a casual vacancy.

We have had several donations to the Assn., over the last twelve months, one being quite significant and I would like to thank the people who did this. I would like to invite anyone who has the urge to make a donation.

We have 205 members on our books, 123 Life, 31 financial for 12/13, 47 unpaid from last year and 4 from 10/11. Please pay promptly so we do not have to send out reminder letters as this costs the Assn. money. We are always looking for new members, so please do some recruiting.

Finally I would like to thank your hard working Committee for all the work and travel they have done in the last twelve months, also I would like to thank Brian Miller for the time he has been on the committee.

Once again, please accept my apology for not being at the AGM, this is the only one I have missed since I became President in 2003.

Gentlemen, would you please show your appreciation to the past Committee by acclamation.

Thank you and all the best for 2012/2013.

Ron (Tex) Bassan

Bombardier awarded Medal for Gallantry

Calling in accurate fire support while exposed to enemy machinegun fire earned Bombardier David Robertson a Medal for Gallantry in the 2012 Queens Birthday Honours list.

Bombardier David Robertson, of 102nd Coral Battery, 8th/12th Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, was presented with his medal at Government House, South Australia, on September 4.

He was honoured to receive an MG for his efforts during a patrol in the Tangi Valley, Uruzgan province, on March 20 last year.

Bombardier Robertson deployed to Afghanistan in October 2010 as part of Mentoring Task Force - 2. He then helped build Patrol Base Qareb, where he worked from late December 2010 until the end of his deployment in late July last year.



History of Remembrance Day

At 5am on 11 November 1918, three German government representatives accepted the Armistice terms presented to them by an allied commander, General Foch of the French Army.

The demands of the Armistice included the withdrawal of German forces to the east bank of the Rhine within 30 days; immediate cessation of warfare; and surrender of the German fleet and all heavy guns with no further negotiations until the signing of the peace treaty.

The armistice became effective at 11am the same day, and as the guns fell silent on the Western Front in France and Belgium, four years of hostilities ended.

The cease-fire was made permanent the following year when members of the Commonwealth and the League of Nations signed the Treaty of Versailles. People across the world celebrated the war's end - celebrations tempered by thoughts of the enormous suffering and loss of life resulting from the War.

World War I began in 1914 and lasted for four years. More than 416 000 Australians volunteered for service in World War I. Of these, 324 000 served overseas.

More than 60 000 Australians were killed, including 45 000 who died on the Western Front in France and Belgium and more than 8 000 who died on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey.

As well as Australian soldiers, many nurses in the Australian Army Nursing Service served on the Western Front. These nurses worked in overcrowded hospitals for up to 16 hours a day, looking after soldiers with shocking



injuries and burns. Those who worked in hospitals close to the fighting were also in danger of being shelled by the enemy.

In Australia and other allied countries, including New Zealand, Canada and the United States, 11 November became known as Armistice Day - a day to remember those who died in World War I. The day continues to be commemorated in Allied countries.

After World War II the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom's proposal that Armistice Day be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars.

Today the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day.

In October 1997 the then Governor-General issued a Proclamation declaring 11 November as Remembrance Day - a day to remember the sacrifice of those who have died for Australia in wars and conflicts.

The Proclamation reinforced the importance of Remembrance Day and encouraged all Australians to renew their observance of the event.

THE Australian army will receive two extra artillery batteries, comprising 19 towed howitzer field guns at a cost of about \$70 million.

The acquisition of the new M777A2 155mm guns means the army will have six batteries of lightweight towed howitzers, which are the most advanced towed artillery system in the world and used by US forces in Afghanistan.

The Howitzers will be acquired from the current



production line in the US, avoiding potential additional costs to restart such production, the government said on Tuesday in a statement.

The guns can fire up to five rounds per minute and can be transported by Chinook helicopters and C-130 aircraft.





ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

PRESERVING OUR ARTILLERY HISTORY

The following interesting gun information was supplied by Reg Etienne, a member of the Mangrove Mountain RSL who are the registered owners of these two authentic Vietnam War service L5 packs

The Memorial Club has a solid community base, which has its origins some 90 years ago when the local Sub Branch of the RSL was formed.

The Club takes pride in its community spirit and continues to make resources available to the community.

The Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club is proud to sponsor the Mountain District Soccer Club.

Most of the early funding for the Sub-Branch was turned back into the community to support those in need. A recent example of this is the services provided during the disastrous storms over the June long weekend in 2007.

The Club has a back-up generator and was one of the only facilities in the area with power. It provided light, warmth, hot showers, food, companionship and security for many locals over this difficult period.

The guns at Central

Mangrove were purchased by the Mangrove Mountain Sub Branch in 1994. They were transported by the Army Reserve to the present site from Salisbury in South Australia.

No gun history books came with the guns however the present paint is lifting and has revealed tactical signs on the shield, these signs are painted on the gun at the using unit and are a square of red and blue that denote artillery with a white letter or number, on the gun a letter D is shown indicating that it was Delta Gun or the fourth gun in a battery of six.

The number 917 appears on the other square. This denotes that the gun had been issued to the School of Artillery.

Registered numbers have been officially checked and proven that both these guns fired at the Battle of Long Tan



L5 Pack Howitzer.
Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club
18 Hallards Rd. Central Mangrove, NSW.
Serial number 057090P
Manufacturer. Oto Melara
Year of manufacture 1961
Calibre, 105mm.

The L5 is a pack howitzer designed by the Italians and capable of being broken down into several loads which could be carried on pack mules or man pack.

REG in 1957



Introduced into service in the Australian Army in 1963 a total of 120 guns were delivered from three purchases.

The gun was issued to regular and reserve units and saw active service during the confrontation in Indonesia, in Malaysia and Vietnam from 1965 to 1967, including firing support to D Company, 6th. Battalion Royal Australian Regiment during the Battle of Long Tan 18th. August 1966.

Long Tan is arguably the most publicised and well known Australian battle of the Vietnam War. In torrential rain a rifle company of 108 withstood, for four hours, repeated attacks from a Viet Cong force officially estimated at 2,500.

The Australians' discipline, steadfastness and excellent Australian & New Zealand artillery support forced the North Vietnamese force to brake off the engagement with much loss.

The L5 Pack Howitzer was replaced in Vietnam in 1967 due to the stresses imposed on the gun from firing numerous rounds of ammunition.



Tex appeared on the ABC North, check it out by going to:
<https://vimeo.com/34770497#t=0>

Ronald "Tex" Bassan was a 22-year-old soldier in Royal regiment of Australian artillery in Malaya during the Malayan emergency in 1957.

He was a member of 'A' Field Battery, which has existed for 140 years and is the oldest regular unit in the Australian defense force.

Tex is standing in front of a 25-pounder gun with a box of 4 shells on his shoulder weighing 125 pounds (56.7kg).

The photo was taken by Army public relations to send home for Christmas in 1958.

Tex is still actively involved with the Battery and is president of the "A" field Battery association publishing a quarterly newsletter and organizing regular reunions for it members.

The following article with the photo and live interview with



BULLDOG TALE

The Missing Jeep Trailer.

I am sure you all remember those exercises in Camouflage, Shape, Shine and Silhouette, all that the Army was so mad about.

It happened on one exercise in Tinjara State Forest, the Command Post which consisted of a Land Rover and trailer was on reconnaissance to find a new gun position.

It was decided to drop off the trailer and some of the equipment, camouflage it and pick it up later.

This task fell on the Driver Operator, after the Gun Position was

established he was instructed to go back and pick up the trailer.

After returning to where he thought that he had left the trailer, he just could not find it.

On getting back to the Gun position the conversation between the Gun Position Officer and the driver went something like this.

GPO. "You must know where you left it, go back and find the bloody thing."

Driver. "All the bush looks the bloody same to me."

On his return to the gun position for the second time with still no trailer, the conversation got a little heated.

"You had better go back and find it or both of us are in the s###t. You for losing the trailer and me

because there are two Owen guns that we left in the trailer.

They say that 3rd time is lucky and on this 3rd attempt it was found, much to the relief of the GPO.

The later comment from Sig was that I should get full marks in camouflage, if I couldn't find the bloody trailer, no other bugger would.

Thanks to Tom "Bulldog" Caldwell for this story, he also recalls when the CO said. "Gunner Caldwell I didn't see you in camouflage class today." Bulldog snapped to attention. "Thank you very much sir."



Members of the Australian Heavy Artillery capping 8 inch shells with '106' (instantaneous) fuses for

the big gun on the left, at Verbranden Road.

The 1st Australian Siege Battery took over this position on the morning of 26 September 1917 from 36th Battery, RGA, and before a gun could be put into action suffered many casualties.

This position being on a cross road, with a dump and dressing station alongside, was frequently shelled and bombed by the Hun. This position and the immediate vicinity received a 'daily' and also 'nightly' ration of shells and bombs. The Battery remained in the vicinity until 20 November 1917, and during that period in the one gun pit four different guns were put out of action by direct hits.

Left to right: Gunner H. Andrews; Sergeant W. Jones (sitting in background); Gunner G. W. C. Whyte; Gunner A. Kimberley.

HENRY SHRAPNEL

His name has been roundly cursed in foxholes by generations of terrified infantrymen.

His legacy was the millions who died with white-hot fragments of metal blasted into them.

To many of them he wasn't even a person, just a feared and loathed word; worse than a bullet, much worse than bayonet - shrapnel.

Henry Shrapnel (3 June 1761 – 13 March 1842) was a British Army officer and inventor, most famously, of the "shrapnel shell".

In 1784, while a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, he perfected,

with his own resources, an invention of what he called "spherical case" ammunition: a hollow cannon ball filled with shot which burst in mid-air.

When it was finally adopted by the British Army in 1803, it immediately acquired the inventor's name: the shrapnel shell. (It has lent the term "shrapnel" to fragmentation from artillery shells and in general ever since, long after it was replaced



by high explosive rounds.)

Shrapnel served in Flanders where he was wounded in 1793 and was promoted to major on 1 November 1803 after eight years as a captain.

After his invention's success in battle on 30 April 1804, Shrapnel was promoted to lieutenant colonel on 20 July 1804, less than nine months later.

Until the end of World War I the shells were still being manufactured according to his original principles.



*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)
DOUG N. BRYAN
MALCOLM J. BUGG
GORDON CARMICHAEL
TOM. CARRUTHERS
KEITH. CHRISTENSEN
RICHARD. DUGGAN
R.M. DUCAT (OAS. Malaya)
PAT. DALY
TOM. DAWSON
JOHN. DOWNES
MAURICE FONTAINE
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
NOEL. SMALL
R. F. SMITH
BRIAN. WHISKER
JOHN. WHITELAW. AO,CBE
BERNARD. (PLONKY) WINE
GUS. WOOLFE
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

W/O 2 Rodney ROBERTSON..BEM

Passed away 12th. September 2012

Rod served as a Gun Sergeant with
"A" Field Battery at Terendah Barracks,
Malaysia from 1965 to 1967.

When Rod served with 102 Battery during
the Battle of Coral he sustained severe
wounding, resulting in the loss of an eye.

Max Ptolomey attended the funeral in Western
Australia and we would all like to convey our
deepest sympathy to Rodney Robertson's family.

35950.

**HOLTMAN John Fredrick (Jack)
Born 28th February 1939.
Enlisted 2nd March 1956. 1 RTB.
School of Artillery.**

103 HAA Bty & 111 LAA Bty. 1 Fd Regt 1957.
Malaya: Gnr 'A' Fd Bty 24th December 1958 to
3rd October 1959 & 'D' Tp. 101 Fd Bty. 4th
October 1959. 26 Fd. Regt. R.A.

17th October 1960 to 18th December 1960.
School of Artillery 1960. P&EE Fort Gellibrend.
Transferred to RAINF 1962. Cpl 1963. SVN:
Cpl & Sgt 5 RAR 12th May 1966 to 12th May
1967.

Sgt Inf Centre. 31 RQR.
WO2 1969. JTC. CSM 8/9 RAR.
WO2 Discharged 11th June 1976.





**SHORTY
1st. Prize
FASHION**



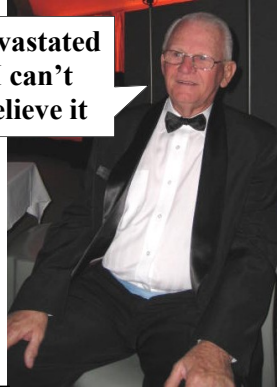
It took quite a few years to happen but The Saint has finally been dethroned as the fashion gold medallist, a prestigious title that he boastfully claimed as his own.

Everyone was astounded by this jaw dropping decision, but when you gaze at the photo you will agree with the judges decision to award the Gold

Medal to Shorty dressed in the fashionable classic nifty shades of grey accompanied with a stylish bow tie and matching walking cane.

To present oneself in this suave, yet chic manner comes rather simple to gentlemen with the looks and charisma of Shorty.

**Devastated
I can't
believe it**



While Ivy Cook is looking happy and gay, Harry admits to a lingering love of fags



Our Reg Etienne and his delightful bride Hua enjoyed the dinner and entertainment on Saturday night at Maroochy.

Lloyd, the boss of the Coach House couldn't resist her happy smile and invited Hua onto the floor to share some Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers like song and dance routines



Our Popular Patron Saint Barry Campbell posing with Lloyd Mitchell



On the left is a group photo of all that turned up for the AGM at Maroochy with the exception of Dick Morrison who arrived Friday afternoon and had attended the earlier meeting.

Many who did not attend included local Queenslanders and even though this is the last time at Maroochy they seemed to forget that we have always been very well catered for at this venue.

Those who turned up had a great time but what should have been a celebration of all the good times we have enjoyed in the past, poses the query, "Where were all the bloody gunners !"

The plan to have The Gunners Dinner at Caloundra sounds like an excellent venue for all members of the Artillery Association to congregate while having their individual AGMs, meeting other Batteries and enjoying a massive dinner and entertainment night at the RSL club in the Diamond Room.

About the Caloundra RSL

The Caloundra RSL is a multiple Clubs Queensland Award Winner, having won club of the year a record four times!

The Caloundra RSL provides members and guests with a vibrant and exciting day or night out. It's the best place to meet friends and enjoy a meal or kick back and take in the variety of entertainment available every day of the week. It truly is "the time of your life!"

The restaurants offer fresh, mouth watering, delicious meals every day of the week.

Caloundra RSL is the home of first class entertainment on the Sunshine Coast. Opening daily from 9.30am.

The minute you walk through the doors you'll notice why the Caloundra RSL is so special. The Caloundra RSL is home to the newest Function Centre on the Coast. Designed by award winning architects, the Sunshine Coast Function Centre brings a new level of sophistication to the Region, catering for small intimate occasions or the grandest of celebrations.

The luxuriously appointed Diamond Room will cater for up to 500 banquet style and can also be configured to provide up to six meeting rooms catering for 75 theatre style.

There are also two atrium lobbies with private bar facilities, plus state of the art video and audio facilities and when the formalities are over, your guests can enjoy the Club's other first-class facilities. All this located only minutes from Accommodation and courtesy shuttles provided.

About Caloundra

Caloundra is the southernmost community on the Sunshine Coast in South East Queensland, located 90 kilometres north of Brisbane CBD. Caloundra is accessible from Landsborough Railway Station and the Caloundra bus station.

Visitors with families love to holiday at Bulcock Beach, a calm water beach in the Pumicestone Passage which separates the mainland from Bribie Island and its National Park. Visitors to Caloundra line Bulcock Esplanade to see the sunset over the unique Glasshouse Mountains, the remnants of volcanoes from long ago.

Spend a Saturday at the local horse races, play a



2014 NATIONAL

GUNNER DINNER

et plurimus praeclarus spectaculum

Saturday 23rd August, 2014

SPECIAL 3 HOUR MILITARY CONCERT AT THE CALOUNDRA EVENT CENTRE

BY THE SUNSHINE COAST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

\$145 pp

THREE COURSE DINNER WITH DRINKS PACKAGE

SHOW: 1400 - 1700 HRS DINNER: 1830 - 2130 HRS

CONCLUSION 2359 HRS

The Australian Artillery Association is proud to host this wonderful and special evening bringing together all Gunners of all eras to share In this momentous occasion.

This is a Once-in-a-Lifetime opportunity to all Gunners to gather in one location and enjoy a First Class event. **DON'T MISS OUT !!**



BOOKINGS & INFORMATION:

http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com/2014_national_gunner_dinner.htm

GRAHAM - 0411 141 580 KIM - 0417 422 427



round of golf with the kangaroos, enjoy water sports, or lounge with the local parrots at sunset at Bulcock Beach.

Take pleasure from selecting your accommodation right on one of these wonderful beaches and enjoy the spectacular views from your balcony.

There is a wide selection of accommodation available



Panoramic view of Caloundra



The BreakFree Grand Resort, Caloundra

Poignant message on a bottle

Joseph Catanzaro, *The West Australian* October 22, 2012, 6:13 am

In 1942, as the Allies prepared to battle the fascist war machine in northern Africa, a WA digger stowed a bottle of John Haig scotch in his kit. On the label of that whisky bottle, Major John Day scrawled a hand-written message, **"This bottle has seen service in the Western Desert and was at the final battle of El Alamein. To be kept till after the war"**.

Shipped back to WA, cast adrift on a sea of years, the message on the bottle yesterday found the shores of memory in one WWII veteran's mind.

Peter Kennedy, 93, who shared the battlefield with Major Day in 1942, smiled as he shared a glass of the battlefield scotch with the son of his old mate.

On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Second Battle of El Alamein, where the Allies wrested victory from the jaws of defeat in Egypt and turned the tide of WWII, WA Planning Minister John Day Jr raised a glass of his late father's whisky when Mr Kennedy proposed a toast. "To the memory of the 2/7 Field Regiment, and all those who served with it," Mr Kennedy said.

Major Day died in 1973 aged 72. but the remarkable bottle, and the memories it contains, have survived the test of time.

On October 23, 1942, Sgt Kennedy, then 20, and Major Day, then 41, were both serving in the Artillery arm of the Australian 9th Division.

A few months earlier, in July, the British 8th Army had done the seemingly impossible and halted the German and Italian advance towards Cairo and the Suez Canal.

The Australian 9th Division had been in the thick of the fighting near a once insignificant railway station called El Alamein.

On the eve of the second battle, 70 years ago, the British Commander of the Allied 8th Army, Lt-Gen. Bernard Montgomery, sent a message to the troops that the time had come to "destroy" the army led by German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

The men of the WA 2/7 Field Regiment, including Major Day and Sgt Kennedy, were among those who fired the opening salvo. The roar of their 26 pound guns thundering out across the desert, the smell of cordite in the air and the whistle of the shells raining death from above, signalled that battle was joined.



John Day and 93-year-old WWII veteran Peter Kennedy share a tippie.

Picture: Steve Ferrier/*The West Australian*

"The greatest order a gunner can receive is . . . continuous bombardment until ordered to stop," Mr Kennedy said. "That meant we rammed the rounds and we went berserk. Every second we could put a round on the ground. The guns were red hot, the gun pit was filled with empty cartridges and we were crazy for the moment of firing non-stop."

When the guns fell silent on November 4, the Allies were victorious and Rommel's once invincible army retreated in tatters. The price of success was high. Australian casualties after the months of fighting at El Alamein had reached close to 6000.

Major Day, who Mr Kennedy remembered as a good bloke and a "great disciplinarian", mailed his bottle of gold label scotch back to his parents in WA for safe keeping.

Mr Day remembered his dad pouring a tippie from it on Anzac Day or the anniversary of El Alamein each year. He topped up the bottle after each use.

Tomorrow, at a lunch in Wembley to commemorate the second battle of El Alamein, Mr Day will donate his dad's bottle and the remaining scotch to the WA Museum. "I'll be thinking of my father and all those who made the supreme sacrifice," Mr Day said.

Seven decades on, like the gratitude of the free world, the bottle from El Alamein has not run dry.



History of Haig Scotch

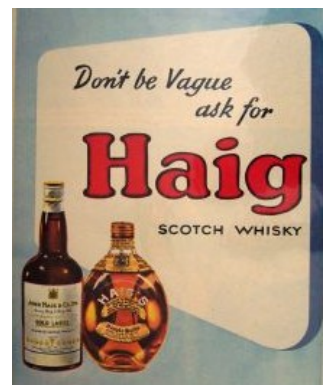
Robert Haig was censured by his church elders for operating a still upon the Sabbath in 1655. This is the oldest known reference to a whisky distillery.

His descendants operated distilleries in England, Ireland and Scotland. John Haig opened the Cameron Bridge distillery in Windyates in 1824 and this was the first to produce grain whisky.

His cousin, Robert Gates, created the first continuous still while his son, also called John, improved output by means of the then new practice of blending.

The distinctive dimpled bottle was then introduced in the 1890s. This bottle became so well-known and important to the brand that it was registered as a trademark in the USA in 1958 by Julius Lunsford.

One of their famous advertising slogans was Don't be vague, ask for Haig.



Published on Thursday 18 October
2012 07:25

Emsworth Parade welcomes our troops back home

Marching proudly with her fellow troops, Lance Bombardier Lynette Pearce was one of 30 soldiers to receive a warm welcome home from Afghanistan – after giving birth in the war-torn country just a month ago.

The 28-year-old gunner joined 58 Eyres Battery, from 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, to receive her Afghanistan campaign medal in front of hundreds of family, friends and well-wishers in The Square, Emsworth, yesterday.

Gunner Pearce made headlines around the world last month when she became the first serving British soldier to give birth while on active duty.

Her son, Immanuel, was

born five weeks early on September 18 in Camp Bastion, where 58 Battery were providing surveillance and extra security support to the joint Afghan security forces.

She was unaware she was pregnant until she started getting extreme stomach pains and was flown back to the UK accompanied by specialist paediatric medics.

Her commanding officer, Major Andy Taylor, said: ‘She was on parade, but she didn’t have to be.

“She is actually on maternity leave but she wanted to be there. The baby wasn’t there but we were all pleased to see her in the marching contingent.”

Councillor Brendan Gibb-Gray, who organised with the regiment for the medal parade to be held in public for only the second time in Emsworth, said: “Together with their bravery and courage, it’s



wonderful to think that a baby was born out there. I had the opportunity to meet the mother and she is very humble, and modest, but extremely proud – both of the fact she has had the baby and that they are both fit and healthy.”

Armed Kids Protect Their Church

Pastor Kluger of the Church of the Flaming Sword, in the rural hamlet of Nebraska, is increasing his church's security, perhaps unique in his plans, is the training of his pre-youth Sunday School class in the handling of firearms.

“Many of our sweet young kids are urged to pack a gun to their Sunday school class,” said the Pastor

We accompanied the Pastor to the range, where many small kids

fired a variety of guns and rifles at paper targets.

Parents, snacking at nearby picnic tables beamed in pride as several of the targets were torn to shreds by their children.



Nine year old Dorothy King, surrounded by empty cartridge cases, blasted away with a heavy machine gun, quickly reducing her target to a mass of shredded confetti.

Jim King, Dorothy's father beamed as his daughter fired the weapon. " Yes, God is Love." said King, “But if someone wants to make trouble here at our church, I am sure that this is what the Good lord would want our kids to do!”

“Amen.”said Pastor Kluger, as he squeezed off a few shots with his 9mm. Glock.

'Demon' Enslo to perform on stage

CRUSTY Demons figurehead pioneer Seth Enslo is swapping his bike for a microphone on his new world tour.

The Australian leg of his Spoken Word Tour starts on October 18 and features footage of the daredevil's spectacular jumps.

The extreme sportsman, who also works as a tattoo artist, will take audience members step-by-step through his world-record attempts.

Brisbane band The Royal Artillery will also perform. The Royal Artillery, a heavily blues influenced stoner-rock outfit from Brisbane. The three band members capture the energy and passion of the late 60s



with a powerful 90s edge. RAVE magazine says “they work the crowd well, moving fluidly from one song to the next” while Sarah Howells, from Triple J, has described them as “awesome!”.

"A" Field Battery Assoc Inc. Treasurer's Report 2011- 2012

With the clearance of all the members' prepayments for the Sawtell Reunion and AGM in September last year our operating bank account has returned to a more normal level, and as at the 30th June 2012 stands at \$3,954.82.

This is a healthy amount to cover our day to day requirements for the foreseeable future and cover the costs of printing, stationery, postage of our newsletter and our stock purchases of shirts, caps and badges etc.

Our two investment accounts are also in a very healthy state with the Life Subscribers Fund increased



by \$3,000.00. This equates to a further 15 LSF members and, together with interest, totals \$15,944.71.

This reconciles to 107 fully paid up members. The Future Project Fund has also increased by a further \$2,000.00 and, together with interest, now stands at \$12,078.71.

So our investment accounts as shown in the balance sheet total \$28,023.42.

As mentioned in past treasurers reports, when looking at LSF interest

earned in relation to annual subscriptions of \$20.00 no longer paid by these members, and although the money is in the bank, we had an income shortfall of around \$10.00 per head.

But now when you combine the two investment accounts our shortfall is not significant and no longer a concern, as we are not eating into our capital to run the day to day needs of the association.

Looking to the future, indications are good for the items where we have some control, such as membership and income. But items outside our control such as interest rates, bank charges and government decisions on economic matters, are very uncertain and may take some time to settle.

So all we can do is watch and be aware and do the best we can to protect the interests of the Association.

Again, our thanks to the generosity of the members who make donations to the Association. This year is no exception and totals \$2,408.00 which gives us the luxury of having funds left over to invest.

R Cunningham
Treasurer

Statement of income and expenses 1st. July 2011 - 30th. June 2011

| 2010 - 2011 | | 2011- 2012 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | | |
| \$1,680.00 | Annual Fees | \$1,400.00 |
| \$1,800.00 | Life Subscriptions | \$2,600.00 |
| \$385.00 | Shirts | \$1,085.00 |
| \$75.00 | Caps | \$285.00 |
| \$39.00 | Car Stickers | \$122.00 |
| \$90.00 | Plaque | \$140.00 |
| \$140.00 | A Battery Book | \$140.00 |
| \$51.00 | Postage Merchandise | \$51.00 |
| \$2,767.05 | Donations | \$2408.15 |
| \$465.00 | Bus/Boat Trips | \$198.00 |
| \$6,820.00 | AGM & Reunion | \$5,705.00 |
| \$3.50 | Interest, Bank A/C S21 | \$3.84 |
| \$2,250.00 | D V A Grant | |
| \$16,565.55 | TOTAL INCOME | \$14,311.99 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| \$1,128.73 | T'fer to term dep 491118 | \$800.00 |
| \$10,00.00 | Chq. 766970 to 766986 | \$16,512.61 |
| \$774.93 | T'fer to term dep 4911 | \$2,200.00 |
| \$2,00.00 | Chq. 766987 to 766992 | \$1,357.96 |
| \$1,897.25 | T'fer to term dep 5264211 | \$2,000.00 |
| | \$2,000.00 | |
| \$8,800.91 | TOTAL EXPENSES | \$22,870.57 |
| \$12,513.40 | Balance at 30th. June 2012 | \$3,954.82 |
| \$12,513.40 | Bank operating A/C | \$3,954.82 |
| \$12,161.00 | Term Dep. 491118 LSF | \$15944.71 |
| \$9,510.40 | Term Dep. 526411 FPF | \$12,078.71 |
| \$100.00 | Petty cash | \$100.00 |
| \$34,284.80 | Available funds | \$32,078.24 |

"A" Field Battery Assn. Inc.

Balance Sheet Financial Year 1st. July 2011 to 30th. June 2012

| 2010 - 2011 | | 2011 - 2012 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| \$31,465.03 | Member's Funds | \$30,857.12 |
| Represented by Current Assets | | |
| \$100.00 | Petty Cash | \$100.00 |
| \$12,513.40 | Bank S21 Account | \$3954.82 |
| \$21,671.41 | Investment Accounts | \$28,023.42 |
| \$2,028.32 | Sales Stock @ cost | \$2,512.67 |
| \$36,313.13 | TOTAL | \$34,590.91 |
| NON CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| \$1,117.00 | Banners @ cost | \$1,117.00 |
| \$250.00 | 25 Ponder Gun @ cost | \$250.00 |
| \$450.00 | L5 Pac. How. @ cost | \$450.00 |
| \$154.90 | Sony Recorder & Mike, purchased 2010 | \$154.90 |
| \$1,971.90 | TOTAL | \$1,971.90 |
| \$38,285.03 | TOTAL ASSETS | \$336,562.81 |
| Less Current Liabilities | | |
| \$6,820.00 | AGM Repayments | \$5,705.00 |
| \$6,820.00 | TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$5,705.00 |

"A" Field Battery Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting: The AGM was held at Maroochy Coach House, Maroochydore Qld. 8th. Sept 2012

Meeting opened at 10.20 hrs.

Attendance: As per Attendance Book

Present: As per Attendance Book, 17 members.

Apologies: Rod Althaus..John Smith..Noel Rodda..Peter Walton..John Salmon..Max Ptolomey..Dodger Noonan..Ron Hart..John Sheehan..Kym Maczkowisch..Norman Bostock..Tex Bassan..Terry Jobson..Les Maher..Jim Holmes..Brian Czislawski..Dave Harris.

Departed Comrades: The Chair asked the members to be upstanding and observe a minute silence for departed comrades.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting, held at Sawtell on 13 Sept.2011 were read by the acting Chairperson, Don Sinclair. They were confirmed by Lofty Ruddick as a true and accurate account of the meeting and seconded by Curly McMahon... Carried

Business Arising from Minutes: Nil

President's Report: The President's report was read by Don Sinclair.

Correspondence: 1. A greeting card from Peter Walton containing a donation toward the festivities.

2. An article from Reg Ettienne reference a tow L5 at Mangrove Mountain RSL. These guns fired at the Battle of Long Tan. Registered numbers have been checked to verify authenticity,

3. Proposal by the Australian Artillery Association for a Gunner's Annual Dinner to also include our New Zealand comrades. It was suggested that the first Dinner be held in 2014, the Associations could include their AGMs to coincide with the dinner. Discussion took place with Barry Campbell that the proposal be subject to wives and partners attending. Agreed by all.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer was in attendance but was not feeling well, the report was presented by Don Sinclair. The report is attached.

Discussion on Treasurer's Report: A short discussion took place. Moved that the report be received by Dick Morrison and seconded by John Barnes..Carried

General Business:

1 Newsletter: A discussion took place on the non delivery of some newsletters. Dick Morrison suggested that people who obtain newsletters by email pay only \$20 membership per year while those who wish to have newsletters by post mail pay \$25 per year. No further action was taken and the committee would look into the non delivery question.

2. Artillery Pieces: The Australian Artillery Historical Association proposes to compile a list of all artillery pieces in Australia including Parks, Gardens, RSLs, etc. The original contracts stated that the guns be kept in good condition and be open to public inspection. The meeting decided that general approval be given for the go ahead and compile the list.

3. Associate Membership: Reg Ettinne proposed that

Danny Willmott be granted associate membership.

Seconded by Lofty Ruddick. Carried, application forms to be forwarded to Danny Willmott.

4. Donation; A discussion took place on assistance for insurance on Dick Morrison's role as Advocate. Dick Morrison spoke on the subject, in particular the loss of costs due to land and building. All work is done by volunteers and insurance is a major concern and some assistance is required to continue to help members. Moved by Bernie McMahon that a \$300 donation be granted to Veteran Support Group. Seconded by Tom Caldwell. Carried.

Next Meeting: To be advised.

There being no further business pertaining to the AGM, the Acting Chairperson closed the meeting at 11.53 hrs.

Patron Barry Campbell declared all committee positions vacant. The results were.

President: Proposed by Ray Alcorn, seconded by Ian Leven that Ron Bassan retain President/Secretary position. **Ron Bassan accepted.**

Vice President: Proposed by Ron Bassan, seconded by Greg Kittelty that Ian Leven retain Vice President. **Ian Leven accepted.**

Vice President: Proposed by Ray Alcorn, seconded by Bob Cunningham that Don Sinclair retain Vice President. **Don Sinclair accepted.**

Assistant Secretary: Proposed by Ron Bassan, seconded by Greg Kittelty that Ray Alcorn become Asst. Secretary. **Ray Alcorn accepted.**

Treasurer: Proposed by Don Sinclair, seconded by Ray Alcorn that Bob Cunningham retain treasurer position. **Bob Cunningham accepted.**

Committee Member: Proposed by Ian Leven, seconded by Bob Cunningham that Greg Kittelty retain committee. **Greg Kittelty accepted.**

Non Voting Positions

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Editor. | Ron Slaughter |
| Asst. Editor | . Don Sinclair |
| Property Officer | . Bob Cunningham |
| Liaison Officer..Qld. | Ray Alcorn |
| Liaison Officer..NSW. | Robert Noonan |
| Liaison Officer..ACT. | David Adams |
| Liaison Officer..SA. | Robert McEvoy |
| Liaison Officer..WA. | Max Ptolomey |
| Liaison Officer..Vic. | Harry Cook |
| Liaison Officer..Tas. | Ray Davis |
| Liaison Officer..NT. | Peter Thomas |
| Web Master.. | Peter Kimball |
| Auditor.. | David Harris. CPA. |
| Advocate.. | Richard Morrison |
| Patron.. | Barry Campbell |

"A" FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION. Inc. COMMITTEE 2011 - 2012

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Liaison Officer. Tas.———Ray Davis

Liaison Officer, Northern Territory.———Peter Thomas

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Advocate.———Richard. (Dick) Morrison. KEMARIE@HOTMAIL.COM

Auditor:- David. (Banger) Harris



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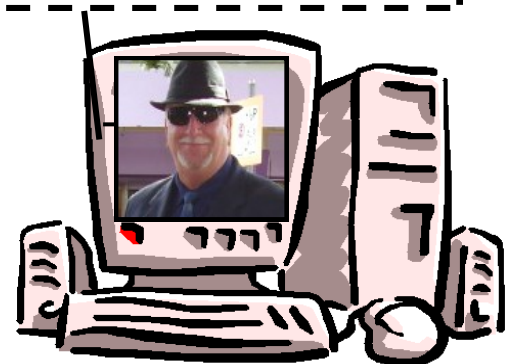
An amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the 1940s to the present day with A Field Battery.

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.
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