

1871

# A Field Battery Association, Inc.

## National Newsletter

### NOVEMBER 2013

#### President Ron Bassan's Report

2013

#### From the President's Chair.

G'day fellow members,

Once again I must open this report on a sad note as usual.

We lost a very special person on the 25th September, Godfray (Rusty) Priest. Rusty served with the Bty from 1948 to 1950 and served with the Bty in Japan as part of BCOF.

During the Second World War Rusty was one of only two WO pilots. Rusty was the President of the NSW RSL for a lot of years and the State of NSW honoured him with a State Funeral. Rest in peace Rusty.

Don Donkin's wife, Moira, passed away on the 25th September. We are all thinking of you Don. Cards were sent to the families from the members of the Association.

For the people who went to our last AGM and Reunion, and it was a lot less than I expected, I believe it was the best one we have held and a lot of the thanks must go to the Assistant Manager of the Sawtell RSL Club, Ltd, Greg Rae.

I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. We also found a budding singer in our midst, Vince Greck. Welcome aboard to the Committee, Vince.



#### A FIELD BATTERY RAA

EST. 1871

SUDAN  
SOUTH AFRICABOUGANVILLE  
JAPANGALLIPOLI  
FRANCE  
BELGIUM  
NEW GUINEAMALAYA  
MALAYASIA  
VIET NAM  
EAST TIMOR

The Committee (Vince) has checked out the bonafides of the Gunner Dinner Committee and everything seems to be above board and if it does not go ahead, the money will be refunded to the members.

Now that we have resolved to go to Caloundra, I need numbers of who is going to the National Gunner Dinner by the 28th November, so we can make a bulk booking and get

you money next year, by 30th June.

So come on now and ring or email me and let me know. Remember this will be the venue for our AGM.

We still have forty members who have not renewed their membership for 2013/2014.

Remember Subs are due on

the 1st July each year.

Please send your subs (\$20.00) so I do not have to send out reminder notices; this costs the Assn. money in stationary and stamps.

The last item I would like to talk about is the Association itself; we

have a couple of members from WW2, members from the Malayan Emergency, Malaysia Confrontation, Vietnam and post-Vietnam members.

It does not matter where you served, you all served in the most historic unit in the Australian Defence Force and we all should be working together, not fragmented.

We all should be working to hold reunions together, working to recruit new members, especially soldiers from Afghanistan, working to preserve 'A' Battery's history.

Remember some of the fragmented groups will disappear but the 'A' Field Battery Association will continue into the future.

That's enough from me now, as this is the last newsletter before Christmas, I wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. I hope Santa will bring you what you want. I will be taking my two Granddaughters to see Santa.

**Semper Paratus Tex**

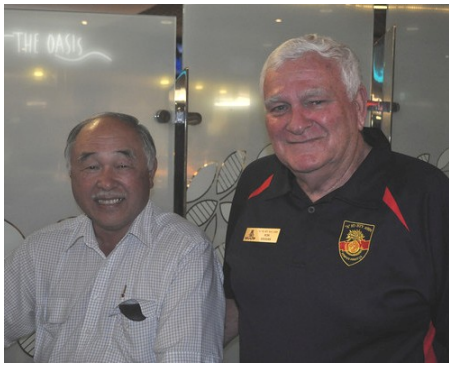


**Former RSL President  
Rusty Priest**

This is your newsletter and the Editor would be happy to receive any stories and photos that are of interest to our gunners. Send them on the net or postage to the editor. Anything that needs to be returned, no problem. So help make your quarterly newsletter one that appeals to all of our readers. The Editor's contact details are on the back page.







Here is a small selection of photos taken at the Sawtell AGM by Vince Greck. To view the complete range go to Kimbo's A Field Battery website. <http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com>





## Musket & Bayonet

On Thursday 29th August, Mrs Julie Berryman from Hazelwood donated an 1861 English Enfield Tower, 0.58 inch calibre, Rifled Percussion Musket, and an 1855 Lancaster Sword Bayonet to the Morwell RSL Sub-Branch.

This is now the oldest rifle and bayonet in the Sub-Branch's collection of military memorabilia.

The musket was originally owned by Julie's late father, Allan McFarlane, a farmer also from Hazelwood. Julie remembers her father using the bayonet to cut the string from hay bales.

Morwell RSL is extremely thankful and honoured to receive donations and become the custodian of all types of Military Memorabilia.

The items will be mounted and displayed in the Sub-Branch's Member's Lounge.

John Maher, son of the Morwell RSL Vice President, Les Maher supplied most of the details in this article and also painstakingly restored and researched the musket ready for the RSL to display.

From the identifying marks John was able to find on the musket, he believes it was manufactured under license by Joseph Bourne, Birmingham England in 1861. Bourne was a very successful and influential gun maker who operated under that name from 1849 to 1866.

The Musket has many stamps and marks on its woodwork and some were discovered after removing layers of heavy lacquer.

Marks on the butt plate tang indicate it was issued to Victorian Volunteers.

Other marks stamped on the musket including G62 969 and an anchor stamped on the barrel also indicates it was probably issued to the Victorian Volunteer Navy which was in existence at the time.

The name, W. Millward is also stamped on the musket. Most of the markings are located between the barrel and the stock.

To preserve the musket's identifying marks, it was necessary

for John to carefully and slowly remove layers of lacquer and rust, and it also appeared the musket may have been buried for a period of time due to the bore being blocked by clay.

The bayonet, which is in very poor condition, is an English model (not confederate or USA model), it is an 1855 Lancaster sword bayonet issued to Miners and Sappers. Due to severe rust damage the Bayonet's point was redefined and shortened by approx 2 inches.

As early as the spring of 1853 the Confederate Government sent agents to Great Britain to acquire arms during the course of the American Civil War.

The English Enfield muskets were developed for the British military and were generally thought to be superior to American made muskets of the period.

As many as three hundred thousand long arms were exported from Britain to American military units. Many were also smuggled through blockades to southern ports during the war.

Rifles imported to America by the confederates bear specific inspection marks and this musket does not carry any of those marks.

The single shot musket has a contoured shaped hammer, long

range sight with a sliding scale and integrated ramrod. The Barrel's length is 31¾ inches and the muskets overall length is 48 inches.

A Muzzle-loading musket required the following 10 movements to prepare it to fire and trained soldiers were expected to complete these steps in 20 seconds and be able to fire three aimed bullets per minute:-

1. Lower musket to ground
2. Handle cartridge
3. Tear cartridge
4. Charge cartridge
5. Draw rammer
6. Ram cartridge twice
7. Return rammer
8. Cast-about (return musket to the firing position)
9. Prime (insert primer cap)
10. Cock the hammer and point the musket



**Julie Berryman and Les Maher with the musket and bayonet.**



**The Morwell RSL Sub-Branch Inc**

## President's Report for 2012 – 2013

Members; once again it is with a heavy heart that I must report more of our members passing away over the past year and they are: Ray Davis, Bevan Filce, Barry Marr, Ian Meibusch, Brian Murtagh and John Salmon.

Two Bty members who were not members of the Association, Garb Ellis and Ted Murphy have also passed away.

Now that I have got the sad news out of the way, the first thing I would like to talk about is membership and willingness to serve on the Committee.

At the present time our membership is stagnant, we are hovering around the one ninety mark, and with the attrition rate increasing at fast pace and members not renewing their membership, we will run out of members in a few years. Gentlemen we all must become recruiting officers and try to get more past or serving members to join.

For the last twelve months we have had a vacancy on the Committee and some of the Committee members are well past retiring age, I will be seventy seven in December, we need new young blood to stand up and be counted.

There is a vacant position on the Committee and I will be taking nominations from the floor.

ANZAC DAY was reasonably attended, we still want more past members to come along and march behind our banners and gun. I travel from

Mackay to Brisbane to march (Except this year, as I had just returned from the US.).

We have had four Committee meetings (As per the constitution.) since the last AGM.

The meetings were held at Maroochydore Qld. Teven NSW, Robina Gold Coast and Brisbane, remember, anyone can come along to a Committee meeting and have their say but they can't vote.

I am disturbed by the amount of political items being put on our website. We have had one member resign from the Association because of this, remember, we are an ex-service, not for profit non-political organization.

I was going to talk about the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) and what we were going to do, but I think this has now been rectified to some extent and I think this is all we will get.

I have two papers with me, one is entitled, Military Superannuation- myths and reality and the other, How It All Began. If anyone would like to look at these documents, come and see me.

I am disappointed with the number of members who have not come along to this reunion, remember, in 2011 everyone wanted to come back here at the Sawtell RSL, and it has turned out to be less than half what we had last time.

The last thing I would like to talk about, is the Caloundra National Gunner Dinner, hosted by the Australian Artillery Association, details are in the

August Newsletter, remember, this will bring Gunners from all eras and Bty's together.

I asked for people who intended to go to this event to let me know so we could make a bulk booking, so far I have only got seventeen people.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at this location, possibly on the Saturday morning. Please come along and make this event outstanding,

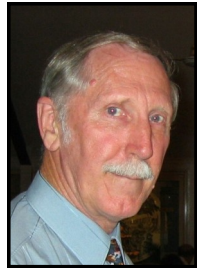
remembering that you have to book your own accommodation and you can pay the Association and we can pay in bulk. I will let you all know in the next newsletter when the monies have to be paid. Cost is \$145.00 per person.

Finally I would like to thank your hard working Committee for all the work and travel (At their own expense) they have done in the last twelve months, one person I must single out, is the Treasurer, Bob Cunningham, who does a marvellous job on our behalf.

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

Thank you and all the best for 2013/2014.

Ron (Tex) Bassan



Our  
Treasurer  
Bob  
Cunningham  
in 1958 and  
2012



If you are receiving this Newsletter either through the post or on your computer please help us meet the expense of printing, posting, maintaining our website and a host of other expenses by sending

the \$20 membership fee now to  
President / Secretary. Mr. Ron. Bassan  
6 Harveys Rd.  
Beaconsfield, Qld. 4740



## **‘A’ Field Battery Association. Inc. Annual General Meeting 2013.**

### **Annual General Meeting:**

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Sawtell RSL Club LTD, First Avenue, Sawtell, NSW, on Tuesday 10th September 2013.

Meeting Opened: 10.13hrs

**Attendance:** As per attendance Book

**Apologies:** Rod Althaus, Tom Caldwell, Reg Etienne, Eddie Hawken, Terry Jobson, Greg Laird, Les Maher, Rex Martin, Bob McEvoy, Dick Morrison, Allan Sneddon, Peter Walton, Max Ptolomey, Ron Hart, Fred Rudduck, Noel Rodda, Kim Maczkowick, John Night, John Wilkinson and Jim Holmes.

**Visitors:** Ivy Cook and Kim Burke.

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

**Departed Comrades:** The President asked the members to be upstanding and observe a minute's silence for departed comrades who have passed away since our last AGM.

They are; Ray Davis, Bevan Filce, Barry Marr, Ian Meibusch, Brian Murtagh, and John Salmon, also two Bty members who were not members of the Assn.; Garb Ellis and Ted Murphy.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Maroochy River Coach House, Maroochydhore, Qld, on Saturday 8th September 2013, were read by the Vice President, Mr Ian Leven.

The minutes were confirmed by Mr Lloyd Mitchell as a true and accurate record of that meeting, with spelling mistakes corrected. Seconded by Mr Harry Cook and carried.

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

(a) National Gunner Dinner: Wives and Partners can attend.  
Correspondence:

**INWARDS:** Associations Incorporation Form 12 – 1.  
Annual Return of Association.

**OUTWARDS:** Nil.

It was moved by Mr Daryl Patch that the inwards correspondence be received. Seconded by Mr Peter Kimball and carried.

**President's Report:** The President, Ron Bassan, presented his report, which is attached. It was moved by Mr Clive Castles that the President's Report be received. Seconded by Mr Len Fanning and carried.

**Business Arising from President's Report:** Mr Kimball spoke regarding the web site that all political ads should be banned. Mr Kimball also suggested that the AGM's should be held on weekends as some members are still in employment.

Mr Harry Cook asked why we should have the next AGM at Caloundra.

Mr Vince Greck suggested that a recruiting flyer should be placed in the Army Newspaper.

Our Patron, Mr Barry Campbell spoke in relation to Vietnam Veterans Association name change, Mr Daryl Patch discussed amalgamating with other Associations, he said that this was a good idea but it would never happen.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Mr Robert Cunningham, presented his audited report which is attached.

**Discussion on Treasurer's Report:** Mr Robert Noonan asked why the Association did not fund the Sydney gathering after the ANZAC DAY March, Dodger thought that the Brisbane River Cruise was funded by the Association. This is not the case, as the Association pays for the tickets in bulk and then members purchase the tickets from the Treasurer.

It was moved by the Treasurer, that his audited report be received. Seconded by Mr Barry Campbell and carried.

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

### **Voting Positions:**

**President/Secretary:** It was proposed by Mr Ray Alcorn that Mr Ron Bassan be President/Secretary. Seconded by Mr Don Sinclair. Mr Bassan accepted. There being no further written nominations, Mr Campbell declared that Mr Bassan was President/Secretary.

**Vice President's:** It was proposed by Mr Ray Alcorn that Mr Don Sinclair be a Vice President. Seconded by Mr Ian Leven. Mr Sinclair accepted. It was proposed by Mr Ray Alcorn that Mr Ian Leven be a Vice President. Seconded by Mr Ron Bassan. Mr Leven Accepted. There being no further written nominations for Vice President's, Mr Sinclair and Mr Leven were declared Vice Presidents.

**Assistant Secretary:** It proposed by Mr Ron Bassan that Mr Ray Alcorn be Assistant Secretary. Seconded by Mr Don Sinclair. Mr Alcorn Accepted. There being no further written nominations for Assistant Secretary, Mr Alcorn was declared Assistant Secretary.

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

**Committee Members:** It was proposed by Mr Ian Leven that Mr Greg Kittelty be a Committee Member. Seconded by Mr Ray Alcorn. Mr Kittelty accepted. As there was no written nomination for the second Committee Member, the President asked for nominations from the floor. Mr Peter Kimball nominated Mr Vince Greck. Seconded by Mr Ron Bassan. Mr Greck accepted.

As there were no more nominations from the floor, Mr Kittelty and Mr Greck were declared Committee Members.





**Non-Voting Positions:**

<b>Editor:</b>	<b>Mr Ron Slaughter</b>
<b>Assistant Editor:</b>	<b>Mr Don Sinclair.</b>
<b>Property Officer</b>	<b>Mr Don Sinclair.</b>
<b>Liaison Officer Qld:</b>	<b>Mr Ray Alcorn.</b>
<b>Liaison Officer NSW:</b>	<b>Mr Robert Noonan.</b>
<b>Liaison Officer ACT:</b>	<b>Mr Clive Castles.</b>
<b>Liaison Officer Vic:</b>	<b>Mr Harold Cook.</b>
<b>Liaison Officer Tas:</b>	<b>Mr Alvin Conacher.</b>
<b>Liaison Officer SA:</b>	<b>Mr Robert McEvoy.</b>
<b>Liaison Officer WA:</b>	<b>Mr Max Ptolomey.</b>
<b>Liaison Officer NT:</b>	<b>Mr Peter Thomas.</b>
<b>Web Master:</b>	<b>Mr Peter Kimball.</b>
<b>Auditor:</b>	<b>Mr David Harris.</b>
<b>Advocate:</b>	<b>Mr Richard Morrison.</b>
<b>Patron:</b>	<b>Mr Barry Campbell</b>

**General Business:**

(a) Mr Daryl Patch spoke in relation to inviting E.S.O's to get together and spoke re a number of Sub - Branches accepting affiliate Members. He also spoke in relation to VVA and VVP which cannot directly go to the government and has to go through the RSL.

(b) There was discussion in relation to future AGM's being held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the second week of October. It was resolved that this matter be handled by the Committee.

(c) A discussion took place regarding who is running the Gunner Dinner at Caloundra. Mr Barry Campbell moved to have the Committee protect our member's interests and make enquiries and examine the bonafides and finances of the Gunner Dinner Committee. Seconded by Mr Harry Cook and carried.

(d) Mr Daryl Patch moved that no finances of the Association be spent until bonafides of Gunner Dinner Committee be established. Seconded by Mr Peter Kimball and carried.

(e) Further discussion took place and members asked the Committee to find out

1. Who is running the Gunner Dinner at Caloundra?
2. Who is running the finances for this dinner?
3. If Gunner Dinner is cancelled, is money refundable?

It was resolved that the Committee would look into these matters.

**Next Meeting:** The date and place for the next AGM has not been confirmed until it is established if the AGM will coincide with the Gunner Dinner at Caloundra.

**There being no further business pertaining to the AGM, the President closed the meeting at 1130hrs and thanked the members for their attendance.**

**More pics of some gentlemanly gunners enjoying the Sawtell AGM Dinner**

**'A' Field Battery Assn  
Treasurer's Report  
Financial Year 1st. July 2012 to 30th. June 2013**

Our Statement of Income and Expenses for the financial year is quite low and may be a reflection of the overall financial situation throughout the country.

If we break the figures down and look at our net income of \$2,270 this amount includes Sawtell reunion payments by members of \$2,028. Which as you can see takes out most of our net income.

On a brighter note all is not doom and gloom as you see in our Balance Sheet. Our investment Accounts now total \$29,476. This is made up of the Life Subscribers' Fund \$16,793 and our Futures Fund \$12,684. These funds give us the security for our Association to continue for at least the next ten years at our current running costs.

Our membership over the past year has dropped from around 200 to 190. If looked at in terms of income we now have 108 fully paid up life subscriptions, 5 honorary life members, and 13 members over 80 years of age who are no longer required to pay annual subscriptions.

This totals 126 and only leaves 64 members paying their \$20 annual fees, which total \$1,280. So at some time in the not too distant future, we may see our Association and other like associations joining together to remain financial'

Our attempts to attract new younger members from the serving battery have not had any success to date.

Once again, our thanks to those members who have given donations this year totalling \$590.

R. CUNNINGHAM TREASURER

<b>"A" Field Battery Assn. Inc.</b>			
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
<b>Financial Year</b>			
<b>1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013</b>			
<b>Last Year</b>			<b>This Year</b>
<b>2011 - 2012</b>			<b>2012 - 2013</b>
\$30,857.81	MEMBERS FUNDS		\$39,079.74
	Represented by :-		
	CURRENT ASSETS		
\$100.00		Petty cash	\$100.00
\$3,954.82		Bank S21 account	\$6,225.03
\$28,023.42		Investment Accounts	\$29,476.84
\$2,512.67		Sales Stock at Cost	\$3,333.97
\$34,590.91			\$39,135.84
	NON CURRENT ASSETS		
\$1,117.00		Banners at Cost	\$1,117.00
\$250.00		25 Pr Gun at Cost	\$250.00
\$450.00		L5 Pac How. at Cost	\$450.00
\$154.90		Sony Recorder & Mic	\$154.90
\$1,971.90			\$1,971.90
\$36,562.81	TOTAL ASSETS		\$41,107.74
	Less :-		
	CURRENT LIABILITIES		
\$0.00		Creditors	\$0.00
\$5,705.00		AGM Prepayments	\$2,028.00
\$5,705.00	TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$2,028.00
			+



# A' FIELD BATTERY ASSN. INC.

## Statement of Income & Expenses

1st JULY 2012 - 30th JUNE 2013

<u>Last Year</u> <u>2011 - 2012</u>		<u>This Year</u> <u>2012 - 2013</u>
	<u>INCOME</u>	
\$1,400.00	Annual Fees	\$1,560.00
\$2,600.00	Life Subscriptions	\$400.00
\$1,085.00	Shirts (Sold to Memb,s)	\$70.00
\$285.00	Caps "	\$15.00
\$0.00	Badges "	\$0.00
\$0.00	Name Tags "	\$0.00
\$122.00	Car Stickers "	\$36.00
\$140.00	Plaque "	\$0.00
\$60.00	"A" Batt Book "	\$0.00
\$255.00	"A" Batt CD & DVD "	\$0.00
\$50.00	Postage Merchandise	\$0.00
\$0.00	Merchandise General	\$0.00
\$0.00	Tax Refund	\$0.00
\$2,408.15	Donations	\$590.00
\$198.00	Bus/Boat Trips	\$205.00
\$5,705.00	AGM Reunion Sawtell	\$2,028.00
\$3.84	Interest - S21 Bank a/c	\$0.58
\$14,311.99	TOTAL INCOME	\$4,904.58
	<u>EXPENSE</u>	
\$1,073.60	Shirts Purchased Stock	\$780.89
\$323.13	Caps " "	\$0.00
\$70.00	Badges " "	\$286.25
\$0.00	Name Tags " "	\$0.00
\$0.00	Car Stickers " "	\$0.00
\$616.00	Plaques " "	\$0.00
\$157.25	Postage Merchandise	\$0.00
\$303.60	Postage General	\$320.85
\$569.98	Printing & Cartridges	\$554.75
\$103.56	Stationery	\$76.83
\$0.00	Phone Expense	\$0.00
\$440.00	Bus/Boat Trips Anzac Day	\$250.00
\$0.00	Donations	\$300.00
\$13,970.00	AGM Reunion Sawtell	\$0.00
\$0.00	General Expenses	\$40.00
\$200.00	Refund J Rainey L/memb over 80	\$0.00
\$43.45	Office of Fair Trading	\$45.00
\$17,870.57	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,634.37
<u>-\$3,558.58</u>	NET INCOME	<u>\$2,270.21</u>



The Australian Artillery Association is host to this special event in September 2014, bringing together all gunners from all eras.

A once in a lifetime opportunity to gather in the one location

Tex is required to make a booking for the number of A Battery members to attend the dinner and special events and

needs your cooperation as soon as possible.

**Contact Tex now !!!**

You will have to book your own accommodation and an extensive range of accommodation is available for all budgets from 3.5 star to 5 star resorts and hotels, from family holiday apartments to villas

## AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

**Contact Tex Now**

### 2014 NATIONAL GUNNER DINNER

**When:**  
Saturday, 23 August 2014

**Where:**  
The Event Centre  
20 Minchinton Street  
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551

**The Event:** 3 Hour Dedicated Military Concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra  
1:30 pm to 5:00pm

3 Course Dinner with 3 Hour Drinks Package followed by Port  
Includes a Wind and String Quintet to provide light background dinner music  
6:30 pm to 12:00 Midnight

**Costs:** \$145.00 per person

**Bookings:** Essential

**Contact Tex Now:** his contact details are on the back page



The Australian Artillery Association is proud to host this wonderful, entertaining and memorable event  
A special event bringing Gunners of all eras together to share in this momentous occasion

This is a Once-in-a-Lifetime event for all Gunners to gather in one location and enjoy a First Class event

## DON'T MISS OUT

(2 INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED EX RAA GUNNERS FROM THE USA AND SCOTLAND)

MINIMUM NUMBER: 400 - MAXIMUM NUMBER: 950

For further information visit: [www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)



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  
BEVAN FILCE  
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  
BARRY MARR  
I.G. MATHERS (KIA. Vietnam )  
IAN. MEIBUSCH A.M  
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE  
BRIAN. MURTAGH  
R.J. PARKER (OAS. Vietnam )  
R.J. (JIM) PONTING  
DAVE. QUIRK  
PETER. RAINSBURY  
CLIVE. RALFE  
JOHN SALMON  
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

## GODFREY EUGENE "Rusty" PRIEST

The former long-time president  
of the New South Wales Returned  
and Services  
League,  
Godfrey  
"Rusty" Priest,  
has died in  
Sydney aged  
86.

Mr Priest  
headed the  
state branch of  
the RSL from  
1993 until he  
retired in 2002.



He was credited with revitalising  
the organisation, particularly with  
rebuilding community pride,  
awareness and involvement in Anzac  
Day commemorations.

Mr Priest was born in Melbourne  
in 1927 and first put on a slouch hat  
at the age of 19 in 1945 after joining  
the 2nd Australian Imperial Force.

He later moved to the 22nd Line  
Maintenance Section in post-war  
Japan.

In his 22 years of service Mr  
Priest was awarded the Meritorious  
Service, Long Service and Good  
Conduct Medals.



## A Warm Welcome to New Committee Member

Vince joined the Army on finishing the HSC and was posted to A Fd Bty following basic training and M2A2 gun course.

He hadn't been in A Bty for a week before being sent on a Clerk Admin course. On returning from the course, Kimbo started calling Vince 'the gook' because he reckoned he looked like one and not only did the nickname stick, but Vince ended up getting stuck sharing Kimbo's room (having been 'volunteered' to move in with him - no one else wanted to!).

He remained posted as the Battery Clerk until leaving the Army in Feb '79 and as a 'pogo' he must have been doing a reasonable job as he was awarded the 8/12 Mdm Regt Best Tradesman Award (Clerical) in 1978. Vince says the award was a complete surprise since he was unaware the award even existed.

Vince proudly added that. "Although I didn't know it at the time, the experience I gained at A Fd Bty proved an invaluable grounding for not only a career in



administration, but life in general.

I am now a member of Hornsby RSL Sub Branch and self employed as a business administration consultant, specialising in ERP integration (a fancy term for putting in computerised administration systems). 35 years later I find myself being 'volunteered' onto the association committee by my

old mates. I hope to prove the trust I've been shown, with my 'admin' experience being an asset to the association. How ironic – I feel like I'm back as the A Fd Bty Orderly Room Clerk!"

You will have to agree that this is a very impressive record especially when you take into account the professional photography he does at our AGM and functions, you cannot help but stare agog in wonderment asking yourself. What more can this man do ?. We were reminded of another talent during our AGM dinner that he possesses a great singing style.

Vince The Voice got on stage and delivered such a masterly performance that I am concerned that it will deter other gunners from ever getting on stage to perform the usual

alcohol induced presentation of a sad cowboy song, the embarrassment of being booed off stage by an audience chanting, "We want Gook— We Want Gook." would be just too shameful.

Although we are thrilled to have Gook as a new committeeman we can't figure out why he would complain about sharing accommodation with somebody as refined, sedate and polite as Kimbo



**Vince the Voice confirms he has the X Factor, on stage at the AGM**



## GOOKY And The Geek?

When Kimbo bestowed the nickname of Gook upon Vince I wonder if he may

have meant to say Geek, it's common knowledge that we all have problems with these strange words after a few schoomers.

**GOOK.** A derogatory term used against Korean and Vietnamese individuals. The term came about when American troops participating in the Korean war, heard the term "Miguk" which is the Korean word for the United States of America. The term is pronounced similarly to "Me Gook".



The Americans thought the Koreans were calling themselves gooks and the name stuck. The name also refers to Vietnamese individuals as American GI's really had no idea what the difference between any Asians were.

Park Jae-sang better known by his stage name Psy is a South Korean singer, songwriter, rapper, dancer, record producer and television personality. a chubby singer with

slicked-back hair and a tacky suit, Psy is known for his humorous videos and stage performances, and for his hit single "Gangnam Style."

The song's refrain "Oppan Gangnam Style" (translated as "Big brother is Gangnam style", with Psy referring to himself) was entered into The Yale Book of Quotations as one of the most famous quotes of 2012.

**GEEK.** Is now chiefly associated with contemporary student and computer slang, as in computer geek. In fact, geek is first attested in 1876 with the meaning "fool," and it later also came to mean "a performer engaging in bizarre acts like biting the head off a live chicken.

The term now enjoys a special status within the technical community, particularly among knowledgeable computer programmers.

To identify oneself as a "geek" indicates a recognition that most people still consider programming computers to be a bizarre act, along with a certain fierce satisfaction in being very good at their inglorious profession



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