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# A Field Battery Association, Inc.

# National Newsletter

## FEBRUARY 2014

### President Ron Bassan's Report

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#### From the President's Chair.

G'day fellow members, I hope you all had a marvellous Christmas and a very happy New Year to all of you. I know I had a great time, spent it with my daughter, Cathy, in Townsville and even went out to the reef, fishing with my youngest son, Anthony.

Well that is the niceties out of the way; we will get on to the sad news.

We have lost three members since our last newsletter and they are, John Holdsworth, Reginald Clatworthy and John (Jack) Milligan.

John Holdsworth came to the Bty as reinforcement in April 1959, at Butterworth, during the Emergency. John stayed with the Bty until October, when we were relieved by 101 Field Bty, and John stayed with 101 Bty.

John passed away on the 2nd October 2013. We have just learnt of John's death when I sent out membership reminder notices.

Cpl Reginald (Reg or Doc) Clatworthy was B Troops medic for the two years we were in Malaya. Reg was a well-liked and efficient medic and had a distinguished career in the army.

Reg was gun shy, and many a time Reg would be walking behind the guns when they fired, you would look around and Reg was prostrate on the ground.

Many people will tell you about the little green pills Reg would dish out. Reg passed away on the 27th December 2013. Four of our members attended Reg's funeral at Toogoolawah, Qld.

John (Jack) Milligan served in 'A' Bty for six years, including two years of the Bty's service in Malaya, 1957 - 1959.

Jack came to the Bty at Georges Heights in 1956; he served as a gun number and driver.

Jack was another member who was well liked. Jack passed away on the 12th December 2013. It was only when I sent out notices that we found out about Jack's death also. His son John (Spike), who also is a



member of the Assn, rang me and apologised for not letting us know.

If you members know of someone passing away, please let me know, we do like sending a card to the family.

On a brighter note, let us talk about Caloundra. You all should know that this event is on the 23rd August 2014 and the people who have indicated they are attending, your money has to be in my hands by the 20th March 2014.

The cost is \$145.00 per person; this is for the concert and 3 course dinner, drinks package included.

The annual General Meeting will be held at the Events Centre on the Saturday morning, starting at 1000hrs. Friday the 22nd August we will meet at the Caloundra RSL at 1700hrs and I am sure the Committee can organise something.

Butch our Editor has a list of accommodation at Caloundra in this edition of the newsletter.

**REMEMBER**, it is your responsibility to book your own accommodation.

Members who I have on my list who have not paid, are: Ray Alcorn, Rod & Margaret Althaus, Ron Bassan, Wayne & Kaye Brooking, Doug Collins, Bob Cunningham, Len

& Elva Fanning, Paul & Linda Forsyth, Vince Greck & Mel, Ron & Sue Hart, David & Anne Harris, Terry & Margaret Jobson, Peter & Kaye Kimball, Greg & Margaret Kittelty, Ian & Wendy Leven, Bernie & Noelene McMahon, Richard Morrison, Robert Noonan & Kaye, Fred Rudduck, Don & Carol Sinclair, Ron Slaughter, Peter & Colleen Suckling and Max Vandyke.

**Remember, MONEY TO ME BY THE 20TH March !!!**

That's all from me until the next time.

Semper Paratus

Tex



## **'A' Field Battery Association Inc.**

**Committee Meeting:** Held at Ian and Wendy Leven's residence, 76 Dolphin Drive, West Ballina, on Friday 6th December 2013.

**Meeting Opened:** By the President, Mr Ron Bassan at 1111hrs ESDT.

**Present:** Ron Bassan, Don Sinclair, Robert Cunningham, Ian Leven, Greg Kittelty, Ray Alcorn and Vince Greck.

**Apologies:** Nil.

**Visitors:** Idrys (Snow) Morgan, Wendy Leven, Carol Sinclair and Margaret Kittelty.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting, which was held at the Sawtell RSL Club Ltd, First Avenue, Sawtell, N.S.W., on the 10th September 2013 were read by the Assistant Secretary, Ray Alcorn, and were confirmed by Mr Vince Greck as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Seconded by Mr Ian Leven and carried.

**Business Arising From Minutes:** Follow up to Gunner's Dinner, re venue. Vince Greck has investigated the bona fides and submitted a report to the committee which is positive and recommends we participate in this event.

**Inward and Outward Correspondence:** The inward and outward correspondence was read by the Assistant Secretary and it was moved by Mr Vince Greck that the Inward correspondence be received and the outward correspondence be endorsed. Seconded by Mr Greg Kittelty and carried.

**Business Arising from Correspondence:** Discussed as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Mr Robert Cunningham, read his report, which is attached. The Treasurer moved that his report be received and the following cheques be passed for payment. Cheque Numbers 767012 to 767018. Seconded by Mr Greg Kittelty and carried.

### **General Business:**

Membership. There are: 126 Life Members, 38 Financial Members and 32 Unfinancial Members. Secretary to send reminder notices.

**Sawtell Reunion 2013:** The President stated that the last AGM and Reunion was one of the best ever held. In addition many comments were received by the President about the excellence of Vince Greck's voice.

**The President** moved that we write off one miniature combat badge. Seconded by Bob Cunningham and carried.

**New Member.** It was moved by Mr Don Sinclair that Mr Dennis Elliott, who served in the Bty in Vietnam, 1970 – 1971, be accepted into the association. Seconded by Bob Cunningham and carried.

**Hearing Test.** Don Sinclair investigated hearing disabilities such as "Blast Deafness" and presented a detailed report and submitted a brochure on DVA assistance if required. Vince Greck suggested we put the information in the next newsletter.

**Vince Greck** spoke about changing the website to a more private one. He would be happy to set up a website for the Association. It was moved by Mr Don Sinclair that Mr Greck set up a new website and liaises with the interested parties by the next AGM. Seconded by Ian Leven and carried.

**Guns.** Don Sinclair discussed the change of location for storage of our guns to Fort Litton.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Committee will be held at Greg and Margaret Kittelty's residence, 6 Pearwood Lane, Robina, Qld, on Thursday 6th March 2014, starting at 1000hrs EST.

**Meeting Closed:** There being no further business to be discussed, the President closed the meeting at 1251hrsESDT, and thanked Ian and Wendy for hosting the meeting and the scrumptious lunch provided by the ladies.

**A' FIELD BATTERY ASSN INC**

Year to date Statement of Income & Expenses  
1st July 2013 - 30th November 2013

Last Year	This Year
Balance b/f June 2012	Balance b/f 30th June 2012
\$3,954.82	\$6,225.03
<b>Income</b>	
Annual Fees	\$500.00
Life Subscriptions	\$210.00
Shirts	
Caps	
Badges	
Name Tags	
Stickers	
Plaque	
"A" Batt Book	
"A" Batt CD	
Postage Merchandise	
Merchandise General	\$250.00
Donations	\$4,175.00
AGM Dinner	\$0.17
Interest -	
Grant DVA	
	\$5,135.17
<b>Expenses</b>	
Chqs. 767009 - 11 July/Aug S'mnt	\$950.40
Chq. 767012 - 767015 Sept. S'mnt	\$5,943.50
Chqs 767016 - Oct. S'mnt	\$46.60
Chq. 767017 - 18 Nov. S'mnt	\$230.10
	\$7,170.60
<b>Balance 30th Nov. 2012</b>	<b>Balance as at 30 Nov. 2013</b>
<b>\$3,391.61</b>	<b>\$4,189.60</b>
<b>\$3,391.61</b>	<b>Bank Operating Account</b>
<b>\$16,388.25</b>	<b>Term Deposit (LSF)</b>
<b>\$12,406.92</b>	<b>Term Deposit (FPF)</b>
<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>Petty Cash</b>
<b>\$32,286.78</b>	<b>Total Available Funds</b>
	<b>\$34,909.78</b>

**A FIELD BATTERY ASSN. INC.**

Monthly Bank Reconciliation

2013 - 2014

Jul-13	
Cash Book	\$6,225.03
Income	\$1,999.00
Total	\$8,224.03
Expenses	\$544.90
Balance	\$7,679.13
Bank Statement	\$6,535.13
Plus Cash/Chq. on Hand	\$1,544.00
Total	\$8,079.13
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$400.00
Balance	\$7,679.13
Aug-13	
Cash Book	\$7,679.13
Income	\$2,020.00
Total	\$9,699.13
Expenses	\$405.50
Balance	\$9,293.63
Bank Statement	\$7,423.63
Plus Cash/Chq. on Hand	\$1,870.00
Total	\$9,293.63
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00
Balance	\$9,293.63
Sep-13	
Cash Book	\$9,293.63
Income	\$976.17
Total	\$10,269.80
Expenses	\$5,943.50
Balance	\$4,326.30
Bank Statement	\$4,266.30
Plus Cash/Chq. on Hand	\$60.00
Total	\$4,326.30
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$0.00
Balance	\$4,326.30
Oct-13	
Cash Book	\$4,326.30
Income	\$20.00
Total	\$4,346.30
Expenses	\$46.60
Balance	\$4,299.70
Bank Statement	\$4,346.30
Plus Cash/Chq. on Hand	\$0.00
Total	\$4,346.30
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$46.60
Balance	\$4,299.70
Nov-13	
Cash Book	\$4,299.70
Income	\$120.00
Total	\$4,419.70
Expenses	\$230.10
Balance	\$4,189.60
Bank Statement	\$4,335.70
Plus Cash/Chq. on Hand	\$0.00
Total	\$4,335.70
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$146.10
Balance	\$4,189.60



**A letter from Kim  
McGrath.  
Wednesday, 22  
January 2014**

**'A' FD BTY RAA**  
Hi Tex,

I write to provide you with an update on the proposed Australian Artillery Association's 2014 National Gunner Dinner. It is with pleasure that I advise you the dinner will proceed as planned.

As previously stated, the event will be held on Saturday 23rd August 2014 at The Event Centre located at 20 Minchinton Street, Caloundra QLD 4551.

In brief the event will consist of the following:  
Three hour dedicated military concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra commencing at 1:30pm for 2:00pm to 5:00pm

The Australian Artillery Association 2014 National Gunner Dinner which consists of a 3 course dinner inclusive of a 3 hour drinks package followed by Port.

Included in the dinner will be a quartet or quintet providing light background dinner music.

The dinner will commence at 6:30pm for 7:00 pm and will conclude at 12:00 midnight.

Full details of the dinner inclusive of the above information can be found on our website at [URL:www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com) then follow the link to the webpage dedicated to the dinner.

To date we have a total of 320 registered attendees from all states and territories of Australia in addition to attendees registering from Scotland, Thailand, New Zealand and the USA.

We are hopeful of achieving between 400 & 500 in attendance on

the day.

Once again we cordially extend an invitation to all members of your Association.

Also in attendance will be Lieutenant General Ash Power, AO, CSC the current Chief of Joint Operations and Major General Tim Ford AO (Retd) Chairman Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company.

Should you have any questions in relation to the Australian Artillery Association's 2014 National Gunner Dinner please do not hesitate to contact me via return email or on mobile: 0417 422 427.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would disseminate this information to your membership.

Yours sincerely,

Kim I. McGrath  
President

**The Australian Artillery Association is host to this special event in August 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 !!!**

**To confirm your attendace you should contact Tex now with a payment of \$145.00 for:**

**A 3 hour Dedicated Military Concert by the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra, from 1.30pm to 5.00pm.**

**A 3 course Dinner with 3 hour**

**drinks package follows by port wine.**

**The Dinner includes a wind and string quintet providing light background Dinner music, 6.30pm to midnight.**

**You can make the payment to Tex, via cheque, money order, direct debit or into Heritage Bank: BSB 638070 Account No. 8732884**

**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**



Belaire Place Motel



Water Mark Resort



Break Free  
Grand Pacific

As soon you contact Tex verifying your attendance to our AGM in this fantastic town you should consider booking accommodation. This should not be a problem as these are just a small selection of those available.

If you find it difficult please contact any committeeman and tell him what you can afford

### **Monaco Caloundra**

#### **12 Otranto Ave, Caloundra**

AUD 180 Average price per night  
Monaco Hotel offers self-contained accommodation in the heart of Caloundra, just 50 metres from Bulcock Beach. (07) 5490 5490

### **Portobello By The Sea**

#### **6 Beerburum Street, Dicky Beach,**

AUD 155 Average price per night  
Located opposite Dicky Beach and set amongst landscaped tropical gardens, Portobello By The Sea offers spacious open-plan apartments with a large private balcony overlooking the pool, park or gardens. (07) 5491 9038

### **Watermark Caloundra**

#### **38 Maloja Avenue, Caloundra**

AUD 96 Average price per night  
Located on the waterfront, Watermark Caloundra features apartments with a private balcony and pool or ocean views. (07) 5491 3300

### **WorldMark Resort**

#### **75 Esplanade, Golden Beach,**

Golden Beach, Caloundra Located in Pumicestone Passage along the Golden Coast, this 4-star resort features a heated lagoon-style swimming pool, a spa pool and a full-size tennis court. (07) 5437 4100

### **Belaire Place**

#### **34 Minchinton Street**

Located in the heart of Caloundra, 50 metres from the beach and overlooking Pumicestone Passage and the magnificent Glasshouse Mountains, Belaire Place offers spacious, bright, self-contained motel. (07) 5491 8688

### **Centrepoint Apartments**

#### **30 Minchinton Street,**

AUD 145 Average price per night  
Just 5 minutes' walk from Bulcock Beach, Centrepoint Apartments Caloundra boasts a heated swimming pool, a sauna and 2 hot tubs. (07) 5492 0100

### **Anchorage Motor Inn**

#### **Baldwin St, Golden Beach**

The Anchorage Motor Inn is the friendly motel in the heart of Caloundra. The Anchorage Motor Inn and Resort offers quality and affordable accommodation situated at Caloundra. The motel guarantees twenty-six clean and comfortable air-conditioned rooms just a short walk from Golden beach. It is ideally situated, just five minutes walk to the CBD. (07) 5491 2344

### **Caloundra City Centre Motel**

#### **20 Orsova Terrace, Caloundra**

All comfortable rooms at the Caloundra City Centre Motel are air-conditioned and also offer tea and coffee making facilities, a refrigerator and a microwave. A shower, a hair dryer and a flat-screen TV can be found in each room of the motel.. Guests can enjoy a leisurely stroll to Kings Beach and Golden Beach, less than 20 minutes away. (07) 5491 3301

### **Moffat Beach Motel**

#### **56 Roderick St, Caloundra**

Moffat Beach Motel is a 3.5 star family operated motel in a safe & quiet BEACH suburb. A short walk to flagged & patrolled surf beach. The cafe precinct of Moffat Beach has an art gallery / boutiques / newsagency / restaurants / beauty day spa etc. Close to shopping centres, RSL, markets, the Events Centre and all amenities. (07) 5491 2122

### **Caloundra Suncourt Motel**

#### **135 Bulcock St, Caloundra**

Caloundra Suncourt Motel has well-appointed single, double and family suites with balcony or garden. The friendly motel is at the heart of Caloundra, where safe and uncrowded beaches are abundant, as are good cafes, shops and restaurants. (07) 5491 1011

### **BreakFree Grand Pacific**

#### **100 Bulcock Street**

Positioned on the waterfront looking out to Pumicestone Passage and only 50 metres from Bulcock Beach, you won't find a better location at Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast. (07) 5436 4444

### **La Promenade**

#### **4 Tay Street,**

Guests at La Promenade Hotel Sunshine Coast can take a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool on site. Undercover parking and elevator are also available for added convenience. (07) 5499 7133

### **Oaks Oasis Caloundra**

#### **Landsborough Parade**

Oaks Oasis Resort provides guests with a variety of accommodation styles, with features including air-conditioning, cable TV and a kitchen or kitchenette. It also offers an extensive array of resort facilities, such as a swimming pool, a spa pool, a volleyball court and a tennis court. (07) 5491 0333

### **Fairseas Apartments**
















#### **68 Esplanade,**

Located directly opposite Golden Beach, Fairseas Apartments boast a private balcony overlooking the beach and Fraser Park. Set amongst tropical gardens, the property features an outdoor pool and a covered barbecue area. (07) 5437 5700

### **Rolling Surf Resort**

#### **10 Levuka Avenue, Kings Beach**

Picturesquely positioned alongside the golden sands and entertainment of Kings Beach, this property is close to various activity of Caloundra Town Centre, restaurants, cafes and bars (07) 5491 9777

	Rating	Phone	Prices From	Make a Booking	Travel from landmark
Anchorage Motor Inn	 SELF RATED	07 5491 1499	From \$95/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>10 mins</b> walk (746 meters)
Caloundra Waterfront Holiday Park		1800 550 138	from--/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>2 mins</b> drive (875 meters)
Oaks Oasis		07 5491 0333	From \$118/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (959 meters)
Sails Resort on Golden Beach	 SELF RATED	07 5492 7888	From \$129/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>2 mins</b> drive (1.0 km)
Caloundra City Backpackers	 SELF RATED	07 5499 7655	From \$28/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (1.1 km)
OVR Caloundra		07 5491 0333	From \$70/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (1.2 km)
Tripcony Quays		07 5491 1166	From \$85/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (1.2 km)
Watermark Caloundra		07 5491 3300	From \$110/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (1.2 km)
Windward Passage		07 5592 3666	From \$118/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (1.2 km)
Pumicestone Blue Resort		07 5492 8989	From \$142/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (1.3 km)
La Promenade	 SELF RATED	07 5499 7133	From \$110/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (1.3 km)
BreakFree Grand Pacific Resort	 SELF RATED	132007	From \$111/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>4 mins</b> drive (1.4 km)
Caloundra City Centre Motel		07 5491 3301	From \$69/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>4 mins</b> drive (1.9 km)
Monaco	 SELF RATED	07 5490 5490	From \$129/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>4 mins</b> drive (1.5 km)
Sandy Shores Luxury Holiday Units		07 5492 3400	From \$129/night	<a href="#">Book &amp; Pay Securely</a>	<b>3 mins</b> drive (1.5 km)

The following article was submitted by Rex Martin

## WWI 'sacred soil' ceremony takes place in London

A ceremony has taken place in London to mark the arrival of "sacred soil" from 70 World War 1 battlefields in Belgium.

The soil is going to be laid at a memorial garden marking the 100th anniversary of WW1 in 2014.

The soil, collected by British and Belgian schoolchildren and put into 70 sandbags, arrived on the Belgian Navy frigate Louisa Marie on Friday.

It went on a ceremonial procession through London before reaching its last resting place at Wellington Barracks.

On arrival in London, the Louisa Marie moored alongside HMS Belfast and the soil was transferred to the British light cruiser.

The bags were loaded onto the gun carriage of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery along with a crucible of soil from all the battlefields.

It was escorted by mounted members of the Household Cavalry from the Life Guards and the Blues and Royals, and mounted officers from the Metropolitan Police.

The route of the procession passed Tower Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Horse Guards Parade, The Mall and Buckingham Palace.

It was blessed in a ceremony at the Guards' Chapel at Wellington Barracks - near Buckingham Palace - and will be placed into the ground at the Flanders Fields Memorial Garden

The soil will be placed "at the heart" of the garden where the words of John McCrae's famous poem, In Flanders' Fields, will be inscribed.

With the sound of Jerusalem playing in the background, the youngest member of the Friends of the Guards Museum emptied a ceremonial casket of soil into the memorial garden - which will open to the public next year.

The sandbags of soil were placed at the entrance of the Guards' Chapel and will be added to the garden later on Saturday.

More than 1,000 British and Belgian schoolchildren were involved in collecting 70 bags of soil from the battlefields this summer.

The Guards Museum - which funded the project with help from public donations and corporate sponsors, including a contribution from the Government of Flanders - described the £700,000 project as "unprecedented" and "historic".

Museum curator Andrew Wallis said the garden would stand as a "tangible demonstration of the bond between Britain and Belgium".

The process of bringing the soil to the UK began on Armistice Day with a ceremony at the Menin Gate, attended by the Duke of Edinburgh



**The "sacred soil" was transported across Tower Bridge in a procession**



**There was a ceremonial casket of the "sacred soil" transported to the ceremony**



**The soil was taken through Horse Guards Parade on the way to the ceremony**



**HMS Belfast stored the soil ahead of Saturday's event**



**Belgian Navy frigate Louisa Marie arrived in London on Friday**

## The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery is a ceremonial unit of the British Army, quartered at Woolwich.

It is a mounted unit and all of its soldiers are trained to care for and drive teams of six horses pulling each of six First World War-era 13-pounder field guns used today to fire salutes on state occasions.

Its duties include the firing of royal salutes on royal anniversaries and state occasions, and providing a gun carriage and team of black horses for state and military funerals.

Although the King's Troop is primarily a ceremonial unit, with responsibility for firing gun salutes on state occasions, it has an operational role as part of the territorial defence of the United Kingdom.

Men and women of The King's Troop are trained as fighting soldiers. Six men or women are currently deployed in

Afghanistan or Iraq at any one time. When the Army mobilises, the King's Troop provides HGV drivers who deliver ammunition to artillery units around the battlefield.



**A Royal Horse Artillery 13 pounder Quick Firing gun in WW 1**

## HULLO, HULLO, Can anyone hear me?

Thought this may be of interest to some of our members who are having trouble hearing.

A good idea would be for me to start at the beginning. It's 1959 and the Battery is serving in Malaya. A party arrives at the Battery to conduct hearing tests.

After they have finished they fold their tents and like the Arabs, silently steal away, never to be heard of again or the results of their tests.

It is now November 1962 and I am being discharged, and going through the rigmarole of paperwork and medical tests.

Asked if I had any medical problems, I start outlining the health problems that I had suffered during my enlistment. The medicos show no interest, but start telling me that I have a serious hearing problem. In fact I am now classified as B2. I inform them that I am unaware of any hearing problems, but now they produce the results of the hearing tests that were done three years ago in Malaya!!!

The end result is I am shipped out to a hearing specialist named Dr. Black who is the top hearing man for Veterans Affairs. After he completes all his hearing tests, he informs me that I have a serious hearing problem and starts investigating the internals of my ears.

I continue to debate my so called hearing problem as I am not experiencing any problems. The good doctor then tells me to go over to the nurse (quite easy on the eyes) and give her a ..... I walk over to her and then turn and ask the doctor what was it I have to give her. He replies "I told you to give her a KISS"! Now I wouldn't have missed that, but I now realise that perhaps I was missing some words that have a hiss's sound.

Now came his explanation. He tells me I have what he calls 'Blast deafness', caused not so much by the noise of the guns but by the blast of the shell wizzing out of the barrel. This blast effect has flattened all the small hair like particles in my ears which has had the effect of not stopping my sense of sound, but distorting it so that I can't understand some sounds and therefore take no notice or action.

But he is going to recommend that I receive some form of pension for my injury. Great! When I finally get it, it amounts to so many shillings a week, but I have my white card. This is why my gold card number today is still 88. When the medical services query my small number, I tell people that it is an old number as I am a Boer war veteran. Most just nod approval and move on.

Back to old Doctor Black: After telling me of my

hearing problem I enquire if I will be getting hearing aids. "No" said the good doctor as they won't help this problem and never will. My ears are physically damaged. He suggests that as I get older the problem will get worse, so I should start straight away learning to lip read. And I can now inform you that he was absolutely right.

Now to the present day. My hearing is getting worse. The DVA have conducted so many tests over the last 20 years (for my pension) and have paid for various hearing aids (always suggested by the hearing company) and none of them have worked. Old doctor Black's original conclusion is still spot on.

But now there are new digital all singing, all dancing hearing aids that are supposed to work for my condition. And they only cost about \$6,000, so just recently I thought I would give it another try. Doctor Black has probably been dead now for at least the last 50 years so maybe this new technology could be the answer.

I set up an appointment with the Australian Hearing Service and my examiner is a lady who seems very well qualified and is in fact a Master of Audiology from Queensland University. I tell her my story and she seems very interested, as a case like this has never come her way before. After the test which shows my serious hearing disability, she then tries the different aids including the new expensive digital model. The result is as usual, no benefit at all. She then decides she would like to know more about this 'Blast Deafness' and obtain more info from gunners of my period who wore no hearing protection at all. (Reason being that the ear protection we have today had not been issued at that time, and ear plugs were not recommended as they caused ear problems in the tropics).

A specialist from the Aust Hearing service is now contacting the organisers of the 2014 Gunner Dinner at Caloundra to see if she can attend and interview those gunners who served in that period. The information would be presented to Veterans Affairs to assist in perhaps allowing more funding for better hearing aids.

So there it is. So next time we talk, don't bloody shout, I'm not deaf. Just turn to face me so I can attempt to lip read.

Hope this may be of help to all you blokes from the Malayan era, that is, if you are still alive.

**Don (Saint) Sinclair**

P.S. I would like your thoughts on this so just drop a note to the editor.





The 2 articles below are from Rex Martin, one is an amazing story of his uncle Charles Arthur Wagner.

## Wagner, Charles Arthur (1916–1943)

Charles Arthur Wagner (1916-1943), army officer, was born on 12 August 1916 at Bondi, Sydney, seventh child of native-born parents Edward Wagner, pipe-layer, and his wife Annie Eliza, née Thies.

Educated locally, Charlie became a Boy Scout, gaining his King's Scout award and later becoming a scoutmaster.

While working as a pump hand for a boot-making firm, he served in the Militia, specializing in intelligence. At the district registrar's office, Paddington, on 30 January 1936 he married Audrey Thurza Blackburn.

On 3 June 1940 Wagner enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force. Posted to the 2nd/18th Battalion, he was appointed its intelligence sergeant in September.

The battalion moved to Malaya in February 1941 as part of the 22nd Brigade. Wagner immediately set about getting to know the country, gathering information and learning Malay.

When the Japanese attacked in December, the 22nd Brigade was defending the Mersing area on the east coast.

The 2nd/18th Battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel A. L. Varley, first went into action on the night of 26/27 January 1942, when it ambushed a large enemy force near the Nithsdale rubber estate. At a critical time in the battle, Wagner moved forward through enemy lines and accurately ascertained the Japanese positions; this action allowed supporting artillery fire to land 'with pin-point accuracy amongst the Japanese, causing severe casualties'.

He later went into the area a second time bearing withdrawal orders for the survivors of the 2nd/18th's forward

companies. For his 'coolness, courage and devotion to duty' he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Commissioned lieutenant on 14 February 1942, Wagner became a prisoner of war when Singapore fell next day.

At first he was incarcerated at Changi, but passive acceptance of this fate was not in his nature. Shipped to Borneo in March 1943 as a member of 'E' Force, he escaped from Berhala Island on 4 June with seven companions, among them R. K. McLaren, and the eight made a hazardous journey to the island of Tawitawi.

There the Australians joined the Filipino guerrillas and were attached to the 125th Infantry Regiment, United States Forces in the Philippines. A 'truly aggressive character with evidently some high leadership ability', Wagner was 'short, dark and tough with a ready smile'. He led the first offensive action with the guerrillas in August, when his party ambushed a Japanese submarine chaser as it left the wharf on the island of Bongao.

At least eleven of the crew, including the captain, were reportedly killed.

In late October 1943 the Australians were ordered to report to guerrilla headquarters at Liangan on Mindanao. After a dangerous voyage by boat and an arduous trek across the mountains of western Mindanao, they reached their destination in December.

While helping to repel a Japanese attack, Wagner was killed by a sniper's bullet on 21 December 1943.

Survived by his wife and their two sons, he was buried locally. After the war his remains were reinterred in Sai Wan war cemetery, Hong Kong. He was posthumously mentioned in dispatches.

## **Criminal records begin when their war ends.**

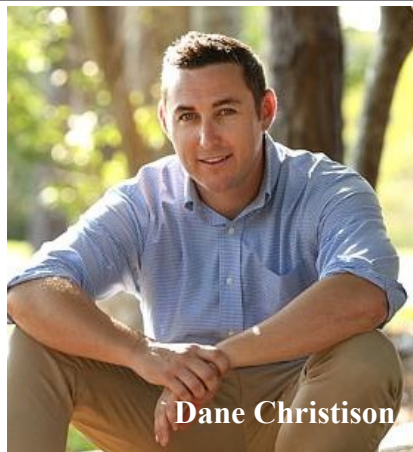
*Rebecca Puddy*, February 03, 2014

TRAUMATISED Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are falling through the cracks and winding up in jail for alcohol and drug related crime, veteran's organisations have warned.

Ex-Military Rehabilitation Centre co-ordinator Ian Campbell, who works directly with jailed and paroled ex-servicemen in South Australia, has called on state governments to create veteran's courts to deal with the special needs of soldiers who had been to war. There were up to a dozen former soldiers in custody, jail or on parole in South Australia alone, Mr Campbell said.

"None of them is able to access any counselling services," Mr Campbell said. "Some of the issues that are causing these people to end up in jail are caused by post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological problems caused by their war service and indeed in some cases just by their military training. The system has failed three particular fellows who are in jail at the moment who went on to re-offend because they couldn't get the appropriate amount of counselling."

Returned and Services League national president Ken Doolan said the veterans organisation struggled to identify those who ended up in the criminal justice system and needed help. "These very issues are raised (by veterans) and we are dealing with it on a day-to-day basis," Rear Admiral Ken



Dane Christison

Doolan said. "It's a case of getting to know who they are and them wanting to ask us for help."

After returning from service in Iraq, Dane Christison was known as a "social hand grenade", drinking to excess and getting into fights. His battle with post-traumatic stress disorder peaked three years after he returned from war, when he wound up in court for breaking a man's jaw in a bar fight. The Brisbane-based man, who now runs a program mentoring those returning from overseas, said he knew of "countless" soldiers who faced court on their return from overseas operations. "These guys don't

have any criminal history behind them - they have a legitimate mental health problem," he said.

In Australia, there is no data that tracks the number of former soldiers who end up in court, but in the US, veterans account for 10 per cent of the prison population and a British study last year found those who had seen combat were 53 per cent more likely to be violent, with strong links to PTSD and alcohol abuse.

Former serviceman Ian Smith, who is running as an independent for South Australian parliament, called on police to identify when a veteran comes into contact with the justice system to make sure they receive adequate support. "They are not getting the support they should be getting - they have fought for their country and deserve to be treated in an appropriate way," Mr Smith said.

## Bushwhacked: It ain't bad here.

By Wayne Gregson,  
Bendigo Advertiser Jan. 31, 2014

Just after Australia Day, while it was being leaked that former Australian Defence Force chief Peter Cosgrove was going to be our next Governor-General, I couldn't help but sit back and think what an absolutely amazing and truly nice place Australia is.

Not because of the Governor-General thing as such – I still find it slightly irritating that Her Maj, Mrs Windsor, needs to have a permanent rep here to make sure the locals don't get too uppity, or to cut ribbons when a home-grown Or-stray-lyarn just would not do. No, what made the positive impact was the way the news was greeted.

Some media alarmists thought the Indonesians mightn't like the choice. General Cosgrove was in charge of the exercise that finally nudged the Indonesian Army off the East End of Timor once and for all – hopefully – and there could be some residual angst. Tough, really.

See, that's how we do stuff here. We come up with an idea, a few people get snippy and we all just seem to roll along and get on with the important stuff, such as newspaper polls about what's better, a holiday by the sea or by a river.

Compare that with other news of the day.

Global-scale fruit-loop Kim Young'n, the grand young'n of the first Kim of North Korea, after murdering his benefactor and uncle had really got on with the job and murdered every one of his uncle's direct relatives, including two ambassadors. Try taking that to VCAT.

In Syria, the aptly named Bashar Al-Ashead was still trying to prove he was the best choice for ruler by continuing to destroy his entire nation, resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands, the displacement of millions and the destruction of some of the most ancient cities on Earth

In Thailand, it seems like half the population is on a permanent day off so they can go for the Guinness Book of Records entry for the world's longest street protest. They hate the government – but (now get this little twist) they do NOT want a re-election. Beats me.

And in the Ukraine, the country is challenging Thailand for the World Outdoor Protest Pennant, and has started to get a bit ugly about it. This is an interesting battle, with most of the country wanting to be part of Europe and most of the government (meaning the president) wanting to be part of the Russian world.

Pakistan, Afghanistan and much of the rest of that part of the world, keep making news for bombing innocent people in marketplaces for reasons no one can ever fathom, least of all those just trying to do their shopping. Angry people in Palestine keep lobbing very poorly directed rockets on Israel.

Egypt appears to be run by a bloke in a California Highway Patrol cap and sunglasses and who looks very much like one of the 80s CHiPs TV show characters. No one seems very happy about that, but are sick of being shot and going to jail for saying so.

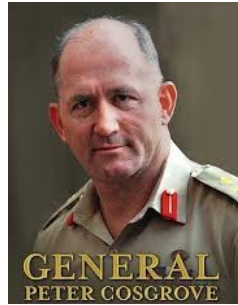
India is curiously playing Happy Families again, with Rahul Ghandi now an early favourite to become Indian Prime Minister, just like his father, grandmother and great grandfather. His mother is the head of India's Congress party, but Rahul says he is definitely not a fan of family dynasties. Okay. Right.

Oh, we could go on and with the weird and whacky world of foreign affairs, with many dozens of countries vying for the Evil Empire of the Hour award, but you get my drift.

Here, we just say: oh yeah, Peter Cosgrove's a good bloke. Don't know if we really need a GG, but if we do, it might as well be a good bloke.

And then we check the calendar to see when the next long weekend is ... heh, Labour Day on March 10, when we celebrate the achievements of workers – by not working.

**You just have to love this place, don't you?**



I'm gonna nuke you

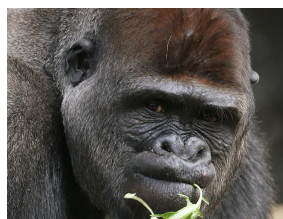


stop laughing guys  
i'm being serious

## It was love at first sight for Taronga Zoo gorillas Kibali and Mbeli

TO some, love at first sight is a myth, something which only occurs in fairytales. To others, like Taronga Zoo's new gorillas Kibali and Mbeli, it is very real. Introduced just a month ago as part of the zoo's breeding program, the two primates have been inseparable since - mating on the first day they met.

With a choice of eligible single gorillas Mbeli and Johari the French raised male silverback Kibali considered his options carefully, for at least three minutes before selecting Mbeli.



**Irresistible: Kibali the silverback**



**A forlorn-looking Johari at Taronga**

The importance of his decision cannot be overstated. Mating rather than television ratings was at stake. To Johari's disappointment Mbeli won Kibali's affections.

We hope he has made the right choice and didn't select Mbeli just because of her good looks. But the love affair has a sad side plot - Johari, is yet to jell with her roommates and has been described by keepers as a "third wheel". Primate supervisor Louise Grossfeldt said 10-year-old

Mbeli took an instant liking to the maturing silverback. "She's been fascinated with him since day one," she



said. "She even sleeps with one hand touching his foot. She always wants to be around him. Ms Grossfeldt said the adolescent 12 year old silverback

had probably taken a liking to Mbeli because of "her lean, supermodel-like body".

Not so with Johari. "At the moment, Johari spends a lot of time by herself," keeper Allan Schmidt said. "She hasn't accepted Kibali or made any effort to initiate contact with him yet."

Mr Schmidt said a third female would be introduced to the group once Kibali was "ready". "It's a man's world but it's a very big job keeping three females under control so we want to make sure he's ready for the task," he said

**Editor's Note: My apologies, I know this has nothing to do with A Battery, it's just that Kibali looks so much like one of our Bombardiers, let me know if you agree. Hang on ! Looking closer I see a resemblance to quite a few from B Troop.**

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.  
*Lest we forget.*

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  
 REG CLATWORTHY  
 RICHARD. DUGGAN  
 R.M. DUCAT (OAS. Malaya )  
 PAT. DALY  
 TOM. DAWSON  
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 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  
 JACK MILLIGAN  
 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

## HERBERT REGINALD “Reg” CLATWORTHY

1930 - 2014



Reg was born on the 27th May 1930 and died on the 27th December 2013. He joined the Army in 1952 and spent time on active service in Korea, Malaya and Borneo.

He served 18 years in the Army Medical Corps and was the Medic for Bravo Troop in Malaya 1957-1959 with “A” Field Battery.

Reg was well known in the Battery for his honest and straight forward attitude to his job.

He was buried in the Toogoolawah Cemetery.

Rest in Peace Reg.

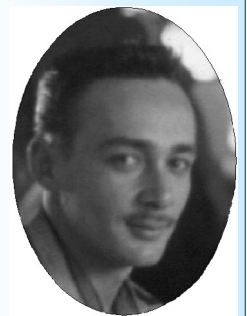


## JOHN SAMUEL “Jack” MILLIGAN

Jack was born on the 12th. June 1938 and

sadly passed away on 11th. December 2013, aged 75.

We all have fond memories of Jack.



# "A" FIELD BATTERY ASSOCIATION. Inc. COMMITTEE 2012 - 2013

## President / Secretary

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

## Treasurer.

Bob Cunningham  
26 Kilburn St.  
Chermside, Qld. 4032  
Ph. (07) 3350 1394  
bobcarol@gmail.com

## Vice President

Donald (Saint) Sinclair  
61 Gordon Parade  
Manly, Qld. 4179  
Ph. (07) 3393 3804  
thesaint@tpg.com.au

## Secretary

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

## Vice President.

Ian Leven  
345 Teven Rd.  
Teven, NSW. 2478  
Ph. (02) 6687 8834  
leftylev1945@yahoo.com.au

## Assistant Secretary.

Ray Alcorn.  
14 Lambourn St.  
Chapel Hill, Qld. 4069  
Ph. (07) 3378 6906  
gunner\_alcorn@hotmail.com

Greg Kittelty  
6 Pearwood Lane  
Robina, Qld. 4226  
Ph. (07) 5593 1212  
gmkittelty@hotmail.com

# COMMITTEE

Vince Greck  
PO Box 31,  
Mt Colah, NSW, 2079  
Ph: 0439 870080  
gook@afdbty.com

## Patron: Barry (Combat) Campbell.

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

Asst. Editor.  
Don (Saint) Sinclair.  
thesaint@tpg.com.au

Property Officer.  
Bob Cunningham.  
bobcarol@gmail.com

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

Liaison Officer. NSW.  
Robert (Dodger) Noonan.  
noonanrf@bigpond.net.au

Liaison Officer Vic.  
Harry Cook (03) 9478 2340

Liaison Officer. ACT.  
Clive Castles  
merilyn@hotmail.com.au

Liaison Officer. SA.  
Bob. McEvoy.  
bottleart19@gmail.com

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

Liaison Officer. Tas.  
Alvin Conacher (03) 6428 6267

Liaison Officer, Northern  
Territory.  
Peter Thomas

Web Master. Peter. (Kimbo)  
Kimball.  
gunner116@bigpond.com.

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

Auditor:  
David. (Banger) Harris

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