



A Field Battery Association, Inc. National Newsletter

September 2018



From the President's Chair.

G'day fellow members, Welcome to the August edition of the 'A' Bty newsletter and this will be my last 'From the President's Chair'. I turn eighty two in December and it is time a younger member takes the reins of the association, if we cannot get a new President, then the association will have to be closed. Bob Cunningham, who lost his wife recently and can hardly walk, is another of the eighty plus brigade, has handed the Treasurers position on to Greg Kittelty. Greg has agreed to take on the Treasurers position for the next two years with the approval of the committee.

At the AGM we will have to elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer (Greg has to be nominated) and committee member.

I would love to see some of our Vietnam Veterans; younger members take on committee positions. Remember, in an incorporated society the committee runs the association. Would all State Reps let me know if they are willing to be our reps again? This includes Editor, Assistant Editor, Property Officer, Web Master, Advocate and Auditor.

Gentlemen, we have sad news once again as we have lost another two members of the assn. and they are: Denis Alfred Atherton and Donald Callaghan, both were life members. Denny joined the Bty at Georges Heights in 1950 and served until late 1951 and then went off to Woomera Rocket Range, I think, he returned to the Bty in 1954 and joined Bravo Troop as a Lance Bombardier, he was soon promoted to Bdr, gun line, I have many good memories of Denny at Georges Heights and our trip to Canungra for 3 Months, with our guns, and our weekends in Brisbane. We all sailed to Malaya in September 1957, I had the privilege of being Denny's driver as he was acting Gun Sgt, Denny and Dick Duggan were promoted to Sergeant, Dick came to Bravo Troop and Denny went to Alpha troop. I had the privilege of then being Dick's driver until we came home in 1959. Both men were superb soldiers and good friends. Denny stayed with the Bty until 1960. Danny left when 1 Field Regt was split in two, to form 4 Field Regiment at Wacol, he was posted to 105 Fd Bty, promoted in the Bty to WO2 and served in Vietnam with them Jan 69- Feb 70. Part of this service was BSM. On return from Vietnam, he was posted to 3 Field Regt, W.A; as a gunnery instructor. Denny took his discharge on the 2nd Jan 1971, after a total of 21 years' service to the nation. I did not see Denny again until I went and visited him in Perth. I do not know a lot about Don Callaghan, I think he was in Headquarter Bty as a Sig, I know he manned the switchboard at our camp at Butterworth, Malaya. I do not know much more about Shorty's army career. I do know he was a menace when he was in hospital and had access to a free phone as he would ring everyone, not just once, several times in a couple of days. Shorty was my predecessor of the Assn.

We do not have a great number of members coming to Morwell, so if you intend coming, please get your money to us before the end of the month, you can direct debit it to the Heritage Bank, A Field Battery Assn, BSB 638070, Account 8732884, and state who it is from. I am looking forward to the visit to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at Phillip Island. The cost is not excessive, \$190.00 a couple.

Gentlemen, we still have a lot of members who are un-financial, you know who you are. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE IN THE ASSN; I can then delete you off our spreadsheet. The other unfinancial members, who still wish to be a part of the 'A' Field Battery Assn. Inc, pay your dues for 18/19 and we will delete previous year's monies. A financial member's subs are still \$20.00, and if you wish to be a paid life member, it will cost \$200.00

'A' Battery has a new Battery Commander, Maj. Jacob Beale. Welcome Jacob. Jacob wishes to bring the Assn closer to the Bty, as well as try to instil an appreciation of history for current serving members of the Bty. I wonder how many members of the Bty know the Bty song. The biggest hurdle for us is gaining entry to Enoggera Barracks, as the people who have visited the Bty know.

I would love to see more members at Morwell, Vic, also fellow members, PLEASE pay your dues.

Gentlemen, this will be the last 'From the President's Chair', from me, so to all members of the 'A' Field Battery Association Inc; all the best for the future. **Ron (Tex) Bassan**

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion, which is to be held at Morwell RSL on the 7th to the 9th September, is approaching fast, so come on all you southern members who always say that we only hold our meetings in Qld And NSW, come along and enjoy good comaradery.

The details are:

Friday 7th Sept. Meet and Greet. 1830hrs for 1900hrs. Casual Attire. Morwell RSL. Cost \$15.00 per head.

Saturday 8th Sept. 1000 Hrs. Annual General Meeting. RSL. After meeting, lunch at own expense.

Saturday Evening, Dinner, two course meal (Chicken or Steak), large choice of sweets, tea and coffee. 1830hrs. for 1900hrs; semi-formal attire, miniature medals to be worn. Morwell RSL. Cost \$25.00 per head. Wines and bar drinks at bar prices.

Sunday 9th Sept. 0800hrs. Breakfast at the Comfort Inn Cedar Lodge \$15.00

Bus Trip to the Phillip Island Vietnam Museum. Depart 0900hrs. outside motel. Cost of bus \$30 per head.

Entry to Museum. \$10.00 per head.

Lunch at Phillip Island RSL. Own expense, large choice of Seniors meals, \$12.00 to \$14.00.

Dinner at Morwell RSL. Own expense.

Total Cost. \$95.00 per head.

For the people who are going, please have your money into the Secretary by the 31st August. Secretary's address, 6 Harveys Road, Beaconsfield, Qld, 4740.

Accommodation: Comfort Inn Cedar Lodge, Mr John Callaway, Phone 03 5124 5877, email cedarlodgemorwell@bigpond.com

I attended the re-opening of the Henry Green Room on St Barbara's Day last December, Don Sinclair is now officially the curator, he has a get in and out of Enoggera card, wish I had one, if you can get into the barracks it is worth going and having a look as Don has done a marvellous job. The association gave a grant of \$6,500.00 towards the restoration. Also we donated \$1,000.00 to the 'A' Bty funds.

I have forty one members who are unfinancial on our books, the new financial year starts on the 1st July, so please pay your dues so we can keep on doing worthwhile projects. I have not sent out reminders this year, as usually I get no response. If you do not wish to be a member of the 'A' Field Battery Association Inc; any longer, please let me know and I will delete you from our members roll.

This December I will turn eighty two years old and if you younger members want the association to continue, please come along to our AGM and stand for either, President, Secretary or Treasurer. Our Treasurer is nearly 81 also.

If we don't get a new committee, then we will have to close the Assn; and pass our assets on to another like organization. I think this would be a crying shame, as we have less than three years and 'A' Battery will be 150 years old.

That's all from me for this newsletter: Tex Bassan





Here is a photo of what the Henry Green Room looks like so far

Australia to purchase M795 155mm howitzer projectiles from United States

April 2018 Global Defense Security army news industry
POSTED ON SUNDAY, 08 APRIL 2018 09:48

The U.S. State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to Australia of M795 with Insensitive Munitions Explosive (IMX) 101 Explosive Fill 155mm HE projectiles for an estimated cost of \$148 million.



A U.S. Marine with Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment stands ready to load an M795 High Explosive round into an M777 Lightweight 155mm Howitzer during the 11th Marine Regiment's Desert Fire Exercise aboard Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif. April 23, 2013. (Picture source U.S. MoD)

‘A’ Field Battery Association Inc.

Nomination Form for Committee We, the undersigned financial members of ‘A’ Fd Bty Assn Inc. Hereby nominate:

*for the position of
*

Proposer*.....Signature.....

Seconder*.....Signature.....

I,*.....A financial member of ‘A’ Fd Bty Assn Inc.

Accept nomination.....(Signature of Candidate)

The Emu War

Australia cannot lay claim to any great empires or epic conquests, but we do have one distinction that no other nation on Earth can boast: we are the only country in history to lose a war to birds.

In 1932, the farmers of Western Australia, fed up with the 20,000 emus that kept dropping in to their farms to eat all their crops, went to defence minister Sir George Pearce to demand he take action to safeguard the precious wheat of the Campion region.

Pearce, a man who knew the value of a show of strength, decided that what the emus needed was a hefty dose of good old-fashioned military might.

And so Major GPW Meredith of the Royal Australian Artillery was sent, along with two soldiers, two Lewis guns, and 10,000 bullets, into the scrubland to show the emus just who was the more highly-evolved species.

Almost immediately the expedition ran into trouble. The soldiers attempted to herd the emus into a suitable place in which to mow them down en masse, but the birds, well-trained in guerrilla tactics, continually split into small groups and ran off in different directions, making it damnably difficult for the guns to draw a bead on them. Also, the guns jammed.

Also, when the guns worked, and when an emu stood still long enough to shoot at, they proved resistant to bullets to an unsettling degree. Meredith wrote:

If we had a military division with the bullet-carrying capacity of these birds it would face any army in the world. They can face machine guns with the invulnerability of tanks.

The soldiers retreated, weary and sick of the sight of feathers. Meredith's official report noted, optimistically, that his men had suffered no casualties. The emus' report noted that humans were slow-moving and stupid.

The House of Representatives debated the matter and questions were asked of the minister regarding whether medals were to be awarded for survivors of the campaign.

The question of why, blessed as we are with a native animal that is essentially a cross between an armoured car and a velociraptor, our military has not taken advantage by training emus for combat duty in the ADF, remains unanswered to this day.



The emu: a native animal that is essentially a cross between an armoured car and a velociraptor.

Young offenders restore war relic

THE Brisbane Youth Detention Centre officially handed over the city's artillery gun war relic yesterday in time for Anzac Day after an intense 10-week restoration project.

Dwarfed by its modern day equivalent, the M777, the gun still stood out as an important piece of history, with brass polished, a shining muzzle and new paint after thorough preservation work by a group of young offenders at the Wacol centre.

The project also gave the presentation ceremony an impressive backdrop with a mural showing the pride the youths took in the work, painting the words Respect ANZAC, courage, teamwork and initiative.

The 25-pounder field gun, which has been a familiar sight in front of the North Ipswich RSL club for many years, was handed over to the Ipswich RSL Sub Branch at a ceremony at the centre attended by both Ipswich RSL groups and soldiers from 7th Combat Brigade of the Royal Australian Artillery's 1st Regiment.

But the Second World War era Howitzer has one more battle ahead of it.

Both the Railway Sub Branch and Ipswich RSL agree the RSL Memorial Gardens in front of the Soldiers Memorial Hall at Nicholas St is a fitting new home for the war relic.

Ipswich RSL Sub Branch President Phil Gilbert said the 25 pounder would be a landmark outside the hall and its war museum but Ipswich City Council was yet to agree to the location.

The 25-pounder field guns were one of Australia's most used artillery pieces in the Second World War. The gun gained legendary status because of its exploits in the deserts of the North African Campaign and in the jungles of New Guinea. It remained the artillery's primary weapon in the field until the mid-1960s.

Partners in the restoration project included the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, RSL Queensland, East Coast Apprenticeships (ECA), 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery, TAFE Queensland SkillsTech and Ipswich City Council.

Project creator East Coast Apprenticeships CEO Alan Sparks said the project was a great opportunity for young offenders to give something back to their community.

"It's been a real joy watching the young people return the 25-pounder to its former glory and learn some valuable skills in the process," Mr Sparks said.

"They also discovered some long-forgotten brass features on the gun, which they have restored.

"It's hoped that the young people involved may consider a trade or military career upon their release."

RSL Queensland State President Stewart Cameron CSC said the project connected young people to Australia's service men and women and the country's proud military history.

"This is a wonderful hands-on experience which I'm sure will live long in the memories of these young people," Mr Cameron said.

"It's particularly significant that its completion comes in the lead up to ANZAC Day and in the year that marks the centenary of the RSL."



RESTORED: This gun was brought back to life by young offenders at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and presented to the Ipswich RSL.

David Nielsen



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
LES ASHBY
DENIS ALFRED
ATHERTON
TOM. BANFIELD
CLARE. (BONNIE) BASSAN
TREVOR. BEER
FRANK. BERRIER
S.J. BLANCH (OAS.
Malaya)
DOUG N. BRYAN
MALCOLM J. BUGG
DONALD CALLAGHAN
GORDON CARMICHAEL
TOM. CARRUTHERS
KEITH. CHRISTENSEN
REG CLATWORTHY
HARRY COOK
DON DONKIN MBE
RICHARD. DUGGAN
R.M. DUCAT (OAS.
Malaya)
PAT. DALY
RAY DAVIS
TOM. DAWSON
JOHN. DOWNES
NOEL EGAN
BEVAN FILCE
MAURICE FONTAINE
GEORGE. FORSYTHE

MAX. FRANKLIN
M.K. FUSSELL (KIA,
Afghanistan)
BILL GALLAGHER
LANCE GILKINSON
ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY
BARRY HANDLEY
NEIL HARDEN
MICK. HARKEN
DAVID (BANGER)HARRIS
RON HART
B.D. HENDERSON (OAS.
Malaya)
REG KELLY
KEN. KENNEDY
JOHN KNIGHT
BOBBY. LEWIS
BILL LIDDELL OAM
JOHN. MACDONALD
BARRY MARR
I.G. MATHERS (KIA.
Vietnam)
IAN. MEIBUSCH A.M
LLOYD MITCHELL
KEVIN MITCHELL
JACK MILLIGAN
E.J. (LOFTY) MOORE
BRIAN. MURTAGH
JIM PONTING

R.J. PARKE (OAS.
Vietnam)
DAVE. QUIRK
PETER. RAINSBURY
JOHN FRANKLAN
RAINEY
CLIVE. RALFE
JOE ROUSE
JOHN SALMON
BRIAN. SCOTT
PETER. SEDDON
JOHN SHEEHAN
ALBERT (ALBY)
SHERIDAN
ALAN. SINGH
NOEL. SMALL
R. F. SMITH
LESLEY (SQUIZZY)
TAYLOR
IAN UHLMANN
DONALD DAVID WEIR
BRIAN. WHISKER
JACK WHITEHEAD
JOHN. WHITELAW.
AO,CBE
BERNARD. (PLONKY)
WINE
GUS. WOOLFE
JOHN. WORBOYS

In Memory of Our Departed Comrades

This page is to pay tribute, as we honour those members of A Field Battery who have passed away but are by no means forgotten.

We remember them as friends and comrades in happy and sad times. Most of them we knew as young soldiers and others, in later years developed a close friendship as we grew older

“A” Field Battery Association Inc, Committee 2017– 2018

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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.

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