



From the President's Chair.

G'day fellow members,

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and I hope you all have a fantastic year ahead. I didn't have a great time as late on the 16th December I slipped down some stairs carrying a ceramic pot, the pot dropped on my foot splitting it open, so on my birthday, 17th, I was in surgery having my foot repaired, I was in hospital for six weeks and got home last week. Needless to say I was careless as I broke the pot and I had to learn to walk all over again.

I must say that Vet' Affairs looked after me, getting the railings in the bathroom and toilet and a new shower head; they also supplied me with two walkers, toilet chair and shower chair.

On a sad note, we have lost another of our Malayan Emergency members, Lloyd Mitchell passed away on the 1st February 2018, and may he now rest in peace.

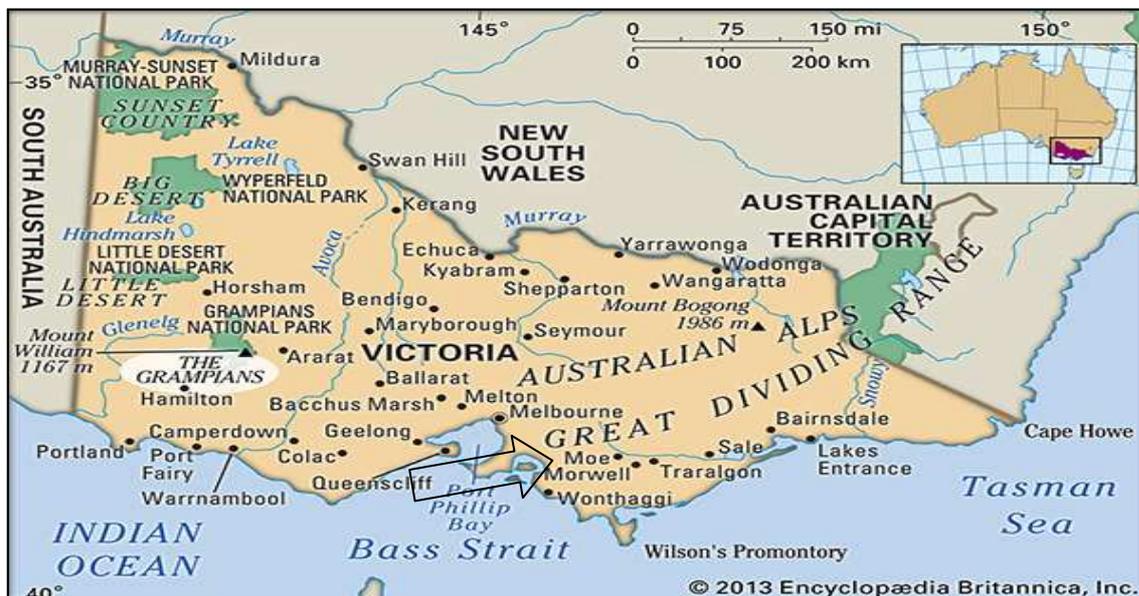
The Annual General Meeting and Reunion is to be held at Morwell RSL, Victoria, Les Maher volunteered to host this function and I do hope we have a great turnout, come

on all you Victorians and New South Welshmen, it will be a lot closer than the Sunshine coast and what Les has let us know, the costs are very reasonable. Details are in this newsletter.

There are still a lot of members who have not paid their subs for years 17/18, it is only \$20.00, so if you are one of these members, please pay ASP. We have just spent \$6,500.00 on trying to bring the Henry Green room back to what it used to be and also \$1,000.00 to the 'A' Bty funds. Remember the financial year is 1st July.

There is going to be an National Gunner Dinner, once again in 2019, these functions are fantastic and I would encourage you all to come along and enjoy yourself. Check the Royal Australian Artillery's website for details. That's enough rambling from me for this addition

Good health, Tex



‘A’ Field Battery Association Inc.

Committee Meeting.

The meeting was held at Mr & Mrs Don Sinclair residence, 61 Gordon Parade, Manly, Qld, on the 3rd December 2017.
Meeting Opened. 1000hrs

Present. Ron Bassan, Robert Cunningham and Greg Kittelty.

Apologies. Ian Leven.

Visitors. Don Sinclair, Carol Sinclair, Christine Cotterall.

Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting, which was held at the Maroochy Waterfront, Camp and Conference Centre, Maroochydore, Qld, on the 9th September 2017, were read by the Secretary, Mr Ron Bassan and confirmed by Mr Greg Kittelty, that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by Mr Robert Cunningham and carried. Business Arising. Discussed as read.

Inward & Outward Correspondence. The inward and outward correspondence was read by the Secretary, Mr Ron Bassan, and moved by Mr Robert Cunningham, that the inwards be received and the outwards endorsed, seconded by Mr Greg Kittelty and carried.

Business Arising. Discussed as read.

Treasurer’s Report. The Treasurer, Mr Robert Cunningham, read his report and moved that his report, which is attached, be received and cheque numbers 767073 to 767083 be passed for payment, seconded by Mr Ron Bassan and carried.

General Business,

That an additional grant of \$1,500.00 be made to the Henry Green Room, moved by Mr Ron Bassan and seconded by Mr Robert Cunningham and carried.

The committee confirmed that the Annual General Meeting and Reunion be held at Morwell, Victoria.

The Vietnam Veterans were concerned about the comments from Mr Don Sinclair. The committee noted their concern but no action is to be taken.

The committee was not impressed that the Vietnam Veterans were doing their own thing again in Townsville, they wondered how many will come to Morwell.

There is only three years to go until ‘A’ Battery turns 150 years old and it will be the 50 year reunion of the Battery being in the Vietnam War. If anyone has any suggestions, please let us know.

New Member. It was confirmed by the committee that Mr Martin Dutton be accepted into the ‘A’ Field Battery Association Inc; as a paid Life Member.

At the re-launch of the Henry Green Room, the President is to present a cheque for \$1,000.00 to the Battery Commander, for their Battery Funds and also present a book on the life of Gnr Bernard Gowing, who was the first soldier to die in action from his wounds in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. The book was donated by the author, Mr Christopher McQueen.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is to be held at Mr Greg Kittelty’s residence, 2004/14 George Avenue, Broadbeach, Qld, on the 15th March 2018.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 1104hrs and thanked Don and Carol for their hospitality and the members for their attendance.

2018 REUNION MORWELL VICTORIA

As you can see by the heading we Victorians have finally secured a reunion in Victoria.

This will be held in Morwell on the 7th. 8th. And 9th of September 2018.

The programme will be as follows :

Friday September 7th..... Meet and greet Morwell RSL. 7pm.

Saturday..... AGM at 1000 RSL.... Reunion Dinner 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

Sunday..... Coach trip to Vietnam Veterans Museum.

All charges relating to the reunion will be forwarded to you in the New Year

Hope to see you at the reunion... Les Maher Victorian Rep.

Email... lesmaher@netspace.net.au

Mobile...0490 137 344

Costs known at this stage:

Motel Deluxe \$105.. Twin \$110 per night... Breakfast \$15

Friday Meet and Greet RSL...\$12

Saturday night Dinner...\$25

Museum.. \$10 Phillip Island RSL lunch \$12 - \$14

Bus Costs to follow



Corner of Hazelwood and Commercial Roads,
Morwell



Morwell Railway Station

When the military took Bowral: 40 years on from the Commonwealth leadership fleeing the Hilton bombing

It was February 1978 when the sleepy New South Wales town of Bowral was occupied by the Australian military, armed soldiers descending onto the streets to protect some of the world's most important people.

The Southern Highlands town was not under attack, but a day earlier the Hilton Hotel in Sydney was.

The inner city hotel was the scene of a bomb targeting the first Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting (CHOGRM) and the dignitaries had to be moved to safety.

Last week marked the 40th anniversary of the bombing and the time the unlikely town of Bowral was deemed under occupation by 800 military personnel.

The heads of state were always going to visit Bowral for a social outing, but with the terrorist attack the decision was made to move them earlier, along with a cavalry of the Australian Army.

"I was living there at the time and at 5:00am I was making coffee, looking out and on the main road there's truck after truck passing-by of military personnel," former resident Rowen Cahill said.

"I hopped in my car and went down town and found the Army had moved into town and was now staking it out, Belfast-Northern Ireland-style.

"There was no announcement, but the afternoon before military helicopters had been in and out."

Mr Cahill rang ABC radio to tell them his town was now occupied by the military.

The journalist on the other end of the phone did not believe him.

Ten minutes later, and after they had verified the information, the broadcaster called Mr Cahill back to ask if he would provide a live cross on-air.

Now an honorary fellow at the University of Wollongong's Faculty of Law, Humanities and Arts, Mr Cahill has co-authored a paper about the events in Bowral in 1978.

Mayor told only after leaders arrived

Former Bowral mayor David Wood was ready to officially welcome members of CHOGRM to Bowral, only to discover they had already arrived by helicopter.

"I rang Berida Manor [where the dignitaries would be based] and Malcolm Fraser invited us to go and have the evening dinner with them to get over the problem of me not being able to welcome them," he said.

"I was surprised but not worried. They were guarding the number-one people of Commonwealth countries so I wasn't worried at all."

Part of the military presence included an encampment on a football field, while helicopters used the golf course for take-off and landing.

Mr Cahill said the military presence might not have even been legal.

"It was a dodgy event to begin with because it didn't have any clear constitutional legal authorisation, and perhaps even the troops — if they engaged in a firing incident — they would've been liable under civilian law," he said.

"They were there for three days with no public explanation and the soldiers wandered around as if they didn't know what they were doing."

In Australia during times of peace, Mr Cahill said the agreement was that civil authorities — like the police — would deal with social order.

He believes that the military presence in Bowral was a contravention of that principle.

Mayor's phone tapped, friend later assassinated

It was an especially unusual time for Mayor David Wood who was regularly called upon during the three days by the media to provide commentary about what was happening in the town.

Little did he know that his phone had been tapped by the military for the duration of their visit.

"At the end of the whole proceedings, the army chief rang me and told me they were impressed with how I'd handled the media," he said.

"I was very surprised (he knew that), I can tell you. We had a lot of calls.

"We've always been a tourist destination but most of them don't come in uniform."

Mr Wood also formed a brief friendship with the then-prime minister of Bangladesh, a squash opponent.

"I would've liked to have kept in touch with him after our game of squash, but about six months later he was assassinated," Mr Wood said.



Probably one of the few CHOGRM leaders and here for official photo are seen, with Mr Wood, centre in the grounds of Berida Manor prior to Wednesday night's dinner

The Demise of the Artillery Associations

At this time in my life (I turned 80 last Xmas) I am so sad to see so many of our Artillery Associations closing up shop. What is happening, and what was the cause?

I don't know how many have already gone to the wall, but there are some just hanging on by their teeth, which include two of the largest, 'A' Battery and 105 Battery.

It is all about membership, or lack thereof. Why? Because time is passing and we are getting old and passing on. Many of our members would be surprised to learn of the number of old members we have to scratch off the books every month or so, remembering that the association was originally formed by many members of the Malayan campaign of 1957-59 and later the Vietnam war of 1971.

I can remember being called 'chicko boy' (Malay for baby) as I was one of the younger members of the Battery, and I am now 80.

So where are the new members of the Battery? The truth is, they are not interested. It is not their fault, they are young, and if you can remember our first members were already in their 50s and 60s when we decided to get together to form the association. We were not interested earlier as we had other things to do, go to work, raise a family, and make money. But as we got older and had more time, we would start to think of those boys we shared some memorable and exciting times with, and where are they now? And what are they doing? So it seems that the other associations have closed for the same reasons.

And let's not forget times have changed, and that includes the military. We were professional soldiers, this was our selected occupation. We were a close brotherhood, mainly because of the way we lived as soldiers. We slept together in the one hut, shared toilet and shower facilities, worked all day together and at night went to the canteen to drink or play snooker together. Went on leave together (mainly in uniform), got drunk together, and got in fights together. Few had cars, so we kept together to share the transport.

We were a brotherhood. And later as we got older, we maintained it. But a lot of this style of living is not practised in today's army. And that is the truth.



1st. FIELD CADRE LEAVING VICTORIA BARRACKS, SYDNEY WITH THEIR NEW 1936 FORD TOURER CARS

Model ship of Sirius removed from Department of Health office block ahead of Australia Day

A model of the flagship of the First Fleet removed from a federal government department building in Canberra ahead of Australia Day was not removed due to controversy over the national day, the department has said.

A miniature of the ship Sirius was until recently displayed in the Woden office block of the same name, occupied by the Department of Health.

HMS Sirius sailed under the command of Captain John Hunter, and set out with the First Fleet from Portsmouth, England, in 1787 to set up the first British colony in NSW.

together people from around the world. It's about the strength of who we are," Mr Hunt said.



The ship carried Captain Arthur Phillip, the first governor of NSW. It was wrecked on a reef near Norfolk Island in 1790. The timing of the removal fuelled speculation it was connected to Australia Day

But a Department of Health spokeswoman assured the Canberra Times that was not the case.

"The Department of Health has been working with the School of Artillery Puckapunyal at the Department of Defence on an arrangement to loan the Sirius Model Ship to the School," the spokeswoman said.

"The School of Artillery is currently undertaking restoration action on various HMS Sirius's artefacts and the intention is that this be used as part of a display for the next 12 months. The model has been moved from our foyer in preparation for transport and loan to Defence for 12 months."

Debate on whether the date of Australia Day should be changed divided the nation ahead of January 26.

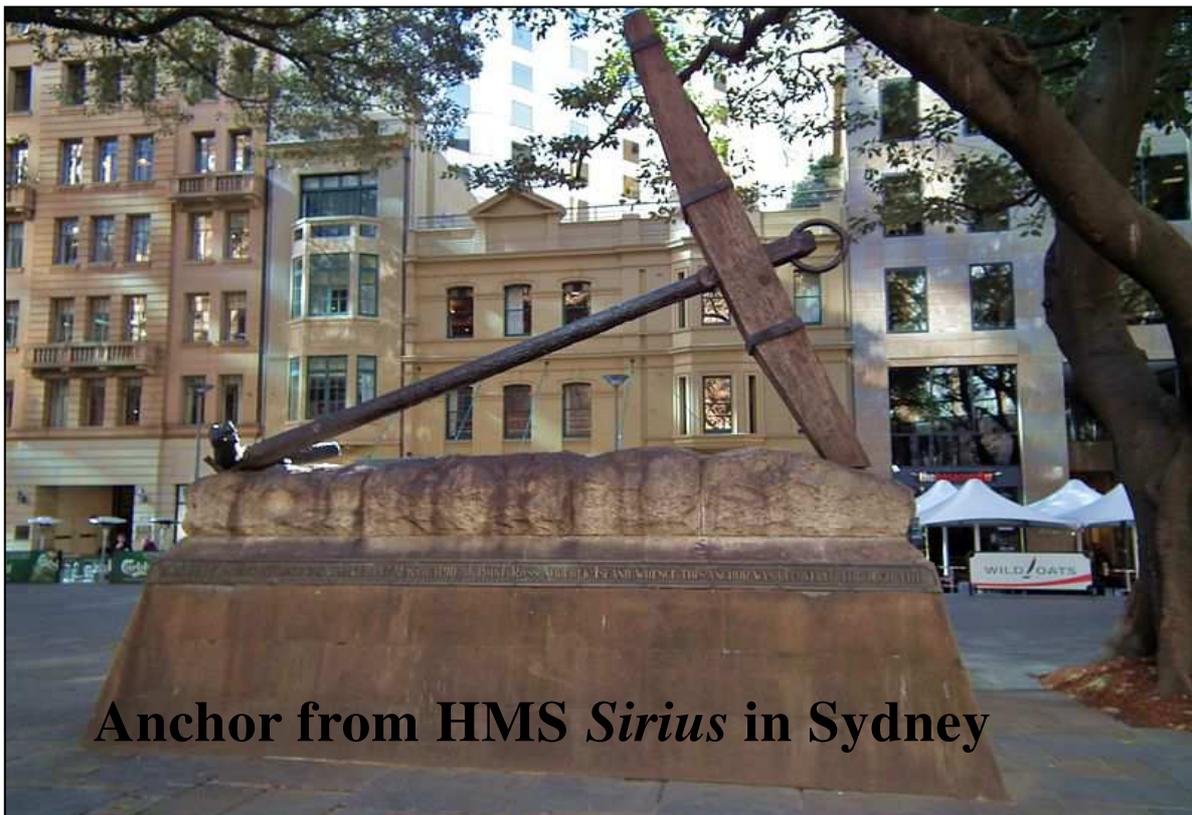
Pink paint was dumped on a statue of Captain James Cook's head at St Kilda on Thursday, with the words "no pride" painted beneath his feet, along with the Aboriginal flag, AAP reported.

A bluestone monument near Melbourne zoo commemorating Burke and Wills was vandalised with green paint and the word "stolen" written on it.

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt last week told media the government was "committed" to Australia Day.

He said opponents of the national holiday were from the "radical left" and they were at odds with the rest of Australia.

"Australia Day is about celebrating one of the world's most successful nations. A nation which brings together people from around the world. It's about the strength of who we are," Mr Hunt said.



Anchor from HMS *Sirius* in Sydney

This cutting from the Glasshouse Country News was sent by Fred (Lofty) Ruddick. He personally recommends their work and has recently had a framed copy done of the photo of all of us at the AGM dinner

Personalised gifts, framing and friendly service at TFM Awards

Locally owned family run business TFM Awards offers an incredible selection of products and services based around their core business of Trophies, Framing and Medals.

Operating in Beerwah since 2000, Rod and Jo Eccles are both highly experienced and qualified picture framers who also specialise in memorabilia and medal mounting as well as trophies, figurines, laser cutting and engraving services.

Previously the couple ran Frame D'Art, Trophies Won and their medal mounting service as three interconnected businesses, however they found that having three separate names was causing confusion amongst clients, so 12 months ago they decided to rebrand as TFM Awards.

With a motto of 'Preserving your Memories and Achievements', Rod and Jo have the experience, equipment and resources to create a huge range of tailor-made trophies, framing, preservation, memorabilia and medal mounting solutions.

They have recently purchased a top of the range laser engraver and cutting machine and offer a comprehensive service menu of precision

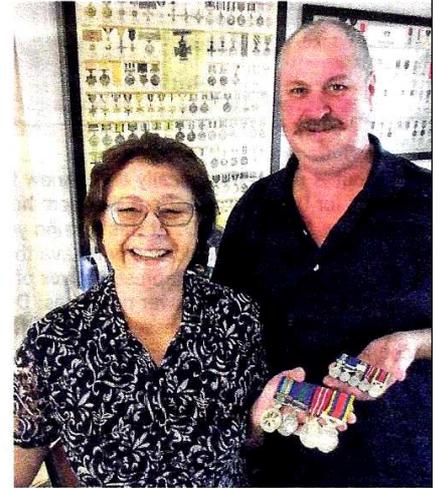
cutting, engraving and sublimation options – your personalised message can be engraved or etched on just about anything including plastic, wood, rubber, stainless steel, aluminium, glass, ceramics and even leather!

With over 34 years combined experience in the picture framing industry, Rod and Jo can provide expert advice on options for art framing so as to best preserve your items, and present them in the most suitable, fashionable and stylish ways, to help you ensure that they will look great on your walls or as a unique and stunning gifts.

TFM Awards can frame anything from sporting equipment and guitars to sentimental or unusual items and signed memorabilia.

"We love the challenge that different items present us with. We put a lot of thought and consideration into getting everything right from the preservation process, to choosing the perfect backing and frame that will best complement the item," explains Jo.

With Christmas fast approaching, TFM Awards have a huge range of unique gift options that can be beautifully personalised.



Why not turn your favourite photo of your family or fur baby into a puzzle? Or explore numerous engraved giftware options that will guarantee a unique and personalised present

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TFM Awards

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Medal Mounting



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

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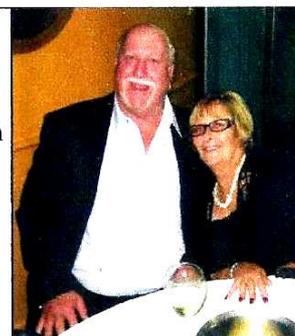
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