



President's Report.

1. Season's Greetings.

Hello, everybody. Firstly, at this time of the year I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New year. Secondly, I have to applaud those people who took the time out of their busy schedules to send me some feedback on the last newsletter. It was all gratefully received, and we even had a few updates and corrections to include in this one. I hope I have successfully managed that to your satisfaction. But if you find anything else that needs fixing let me know and we'll do our best to fix it.

2. Going National.

Since the last newsletter, I have had a conversation with Rebecca Barber, a solicitor working with a group called "Justice Connect" who provide a free legal advice service for charities and not-for-profit organisations like ours. The topic of discussion was "How do we best manage our transition from state-based to national organisation?". The reason this may become an important issue is that as we are incorporated in QLD and subject to their legislation, the position of secretary is restricted to QLD residents (or those who live within 65 km of the border). I suspect this last limit was put in to allow QLD police to do a hot pursuit across the border if the secretary decided to abscond with all the money. I can think of no other reason, and QLD appears to be the only state with this restriction.

The various options we have were outlined by Rebecca and we discussed the pro's and con's of each of them. While they can provide advice, they can not tell us which is the best one for us. That decision is still up to the membership to decide. However, each of the options are now clarified and can be presented to you in a format that we non-legally trained people (or me at least) can understand. I will list them here.

- a) Do nothing and maintain the status quo. This will work until we need to elect a new secretary. If no QLD residents run for the position, the association will have to fold. This option doesn't give any security into the future. To their credit, I am given to understand that the QLD Department of Fair Trading would rather give instructions than fines for any documentary misdemeanours.
- b) Become a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). This option is mainly for profit-based groups or those with a regular financial turnover. There is a considerable ongoing cost to maintain our status as a CLG and a lot more scrutiny by ASIC. Financial penalties for incorrect or late lodgement of documents etc. are also rather steep.
- c) Become a Registered Australian Body. This is very similar to the previous option but is mostly for not-for-profit groups. According to Rebecca, it is a little-known option but ASIC do have a written procedure for making the transition to an RAB. The advantage is there is no restriction on where the office-holders must reside (except it must be in Australia). That only excludes about 3 of our members, sorry fellas, its the best we can do.

Between Rebecca and myself, we both agree that option C) is probably the way to go. I still have to read the ASIC document in depth and contact the ATO to sort out that side of things but I don't foresee any major dramas there. And we have until the next AGM to sort it out properly. I will write up a finalised plan of action to include in a newsletter before the AGM so that all our members can have some input into the decision.

3) Special Project.

On Thursday 28th November I made a trip to Waverley cemetery to get some "before" photos and work out what may need to be done. I will also liaise with the family members in case they want to have an input as to what and how we do the work. The cemetery people have been very proactive in assisting us. Apparently they had approached the Australian War Graves Commission some time ago to help refurbish the grave and they were refused. This may have been because the AWGC only deal with war graves and monuments, and because Henry Green's is not strictly speaking a "war" grave it falls outside their purview. Either way, our effort is a timely one and is sure to be welcomed by the cemetery management and the Green family.

4) 150th Anniversary.

I wrote a letter to the Minister for Defence notifying her of our association's existence, and also that our membership would appreciate being involved in the 150th anniversary events if possible. That letter has been forwarded on to the minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Darren Chester. I am still awaiting a reply from him, however I did get an email from Major Gary Down, SO2 Head of Regiment RAA. He is part of a sub-committee looking into the 150th and planning the events. Here is a small excerpt from his email.

Good morning Robert,

I have recently been reading the Oct 19 edition of the A Fd Bty Assn National Newsletter and noticed the section "150th Anniversary". The planning for this significant Australian Artillery anniversary is something that the Head of Regiment staff and a recently established sub-committee of the Regimental Committee are now actively involved in and indeed leading.

I also note that you intend to explore the possibility of a commemorative stamp and/or coins. Could I please ask that you keep the HOR staff abreast of any developments in this area as we must maintain an all-informed net regarding 150th initiatives in order to ensure that we do not replicate effort.

For your information, I have attached an advertisement that will appear in the next edition of the RAA Liaison Letter that covers the outline plans.

Kind regards,

GM DOWN
Major
SO2 Head of Regiment RAA

I will attach a copy of the flyer at the end of the email version and last page of the printed version. It outlines two major events scheduled for the 150th anniversary of A Fd Bty RAA in particular and the Australian Army in general.

R. F. "Dodger" Noonan
President
'A' Fd Bty Association Inc.

Late News.

!. Albury Gathering.

Some of the people from the 65 – 67 Malaysia tour have been holding joint birthday get-togethers over the years, and one recent one was held in Albury NSW. As this was such a successful event, they have decided to do it again but this time invite everyone who might be interested in attending. It will be held on the last weekend in March 2020. Don Green is organising things, and is the main contact point for any further information and details such as accommodation, planned excursions, etc. He may be contacted on:-

Email: greeniversal@optusnet.com.au

PH: 0412 771 722

2. 2020 AGM.

Tex Bassan has contacted Sawtell RSL (Greg Ray) and he has booked us in for the 11-13th September. So our AGMs should all be on the usual schedule, the second weekend in September. The last one was different because we were not the organising body but we will be from now on. The usual format will apply, meet-and-greet on the Friday evening, AGM on Saturday morning, formal dinner on Saturday evening and perhaps an excursion on Sunday. At this stage this is all the detail we have but will keep you all up to date in the next newsletters between now and then.

R. F. “Dodger” Noonan

President

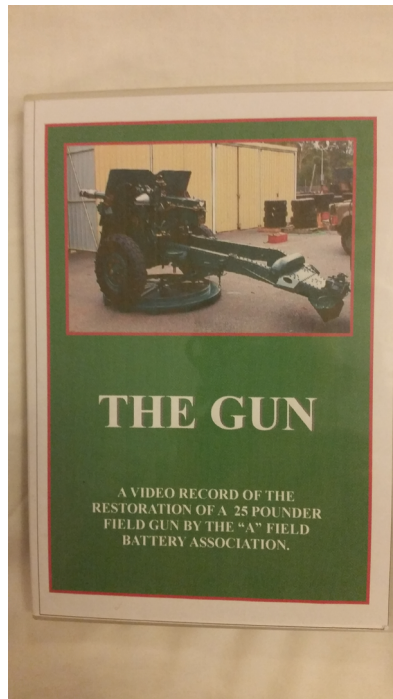
‘A’ Fd Bty Association Inc.

Merchandise For Sale

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Association Caps | \$15.00 plus postage |
| Association T-Shirts Sizes S to XXXL | \$35.00 plus postage |
| Association Plaque | \$40.00 plus postage |



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|-----------------|---------------------------|
| DVD's (Various) | \$10.00 Each plus postage |
|-----------------|---------------------------|





They shall grow not 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 | MAX FRANKLIN | CLIVE RALFE |
| LES ASHBY | M.K. FUSSELL (KIA Afghanistan) | JOE ROUSE |
| DENIS ALFRED ATHERTON | BILL GALLAGHER | JOHN SALMON CBE |
| TOM BANFIELD | LANCE GILKINSON | BRIAN SCOTT |
| CLARE (BONNIE) BASSAN | ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY | PETER SEDDON |
| TREVOR BEER | GEOFF HAACK | PETER SHARP |
| FRANK BERRIER | BARRY HANDLEY | JOHN SHEEHAN |
| S.J. BLANCH (OAS Malaya) | NEIL HARDEN | ALBERT (ALBY) |
| DOUG N. BRYAN | MICK HARKEN | SHERIDAN |
| MALCOLM J. BUGG | DAVID (BANGER) HARRIS | ALAN SINGH |
| DONALD CALLAGHAN | RON HART | NOEL SMALL |
| GORDON CARMICHAEL | B.D. HENDERSON (OAS Malaya) | R. F. SMITH |
| TOM CARRUTHERS | REG KELLY | LESLEY (SQUIZZY) |
| CLIVE CASTLES | KEN KENNEDY | TAYLOR |
| KEITH CHRISTENSEN | JOHN KNIGHT | ROHAN THOMPSON |
| RAYMOND CLARKE | BOBBY LEWIS | IAN UHLMANN |
| REG CLATWORTHY | BILL LIDDELL OAM | DONALD DAVID WEIR |
| HARRY COOK | JOHN MACDONALD | BRIAN WHISKER |
| PAT DALY | BERNARD McMAHON | JACK WHITEHEAD |
| RAY DAVIS | BARRY MARR | JOHN WHITELAW AO, |
| TOM DAWSON | I.G. MATHERS (KIA Vietnam) | CBE |
| DON DONKIN MBE | IAN MEIBUSCH A.M | BERNARD (PLONKY) |
| JOHN DOWNES | LLOYD MITCHELL | WINE |
| R.M. DUCAT (OAS Malaya) | KEVIN MITCHELL | GUS WOOLFE |
| RICHARD DUGGAN | JACK MILLIGAN | JOHN WORBOYS |
| NOEL EGAN | E. J. (LOFTY) MOORE | |
| JOHN CHARLES | BRIAN MURTAGH | |
| FERGUSON | JIM PONTING | |
| BEVAN FILCE | R.J. PARKER (OAS Vietnam) | |
| MAURICE FONTAINE | DAVE QUIRK | |
| GEORGE FORSYTHE | PETER RAINSBURY | |

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.

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| <p align="center"><u>President</u> Robert (Dodger) Noonan 284 Smithfield Rd., Fairfield West NSW 2165 Phone: 02 9604 5163 Mobile: 0407 904 506 noonanrf@bigpond.net.au</p> | <p align="center"><u>Vice President</u> Rick Polley 24 Valepark Crescent Cranbourne VIC 3977 Mobile: 0417 314 890 polmarick@bigpond.net.au</p> | <p align="center"><u>Secretary</u> Ron (Tex) Bassan 6 Harveys Rd., Beaconsfield QLD 4740 Phone: 07 4942 5433 Mobile: 0447 911 116 texbassan@yahoo.com.au</p> |
| <p align="center"><u>Treasurer</u> Greg Kittelty Unit 2004 "Ultra" 14 George Avenue Broadbeach QLD 4218 Phone. 07 5539 8174 Mobile: 0477 184 168 gmkittelty@hotmail.com.au</p> | <p align="center">COMMITTEE 2019 – 2020</p> | <p align="center"><u>Committee Member</u> Ian Leven 76 Dolphin Drive West Ballina NSW 2478 Phone: 02 6686 3478 Mobile: 0412 813 488 leftylev1945@yahoo.com.au</p> |
| <p align="center">State Liaison Officers</p> | | |
| <p align="center"><u>Patron</u> Barry (Combat) Campbell</p> <p align="center"><u>Editor</u> Position currently vacant. Applications welcome.</p> <p align="center"><u>Assistant Editor</u> Don (Saint) Sinclair thesaint@tpg.com</p> <p align="center"><u>Property Officer</u> Robert (Dodger) Noonan 0407 904 506</p> <p align="center"><u>Web Master</u> Peter (Kimbo) Kimball gunner117@bigpond.com</p> | <p align="center">NSW Robert (Dodger) Noonan 0407 904 506 noonanrf@bigpond.net.au</p> <p align="center">QLD Peter (Kimbo) Kimball gunner117@bigpond.com</p> <p align="center">VIC Les Maher 03 5134 2687</p> <p align="center">ACT Position currently vacant. Applications welcome.</p> | <p align="center">S.A. Bob McEvoy bottleart19@gmail.com</p> <p align="center">W.A. Max Ptolomey</p> <p align="center">TAS Alvin Conacher 03 6428 6267</p> <p align="center">NT Paul Winter Darwin Area Mobile: 0407 922 360 ptwinter@bigpond.net.au</p> |

The best way to share your message or photos is to contact Kimbo, our Webmaster.

Want to keep up with the latest?

Log on to our web site and you can read the latest and all the past newsletters. An Amazing collection of photographs and news items covering the 1940's to the present day with 'A' Fd Bty. This web site is addictive, with the news, links, notice board and a great selection of music while you browse away. One of the best web sites available and kept up to date by Kimbo.

You will want to put this address into your favourites.

<http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com>

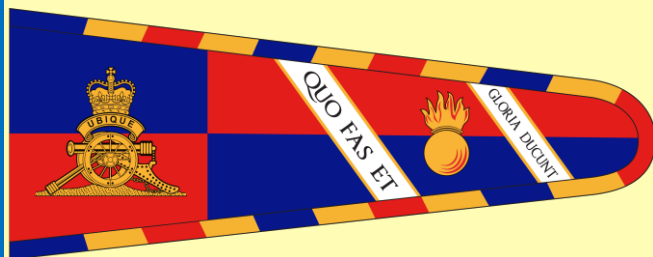
Australian Gunners

(Serving or Retired)



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
CELEBRATE THE**

150th Anniversary of Australian Artillery in 2021



Mark Your Diary

National Events

Where: Sydney

WHEN: SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2021

Where – Canberra

WHEN – SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST 2021

Note: More detailed information will be available in 2020

Unit & Association Events

**Throughout 2021 as advertised by those individual
coordinating organisations.**

SYDNEY

**PARADE &
DRUM HEAD
SERVICE TO
PRESENT THE
NEW QUEEN'S
BANNER**

**NATIONAL
GUNNER
DINNER**



CANBERRA

**Commemorative
Service
RAA National
Memorial
Mount Pleasant**

Further Information:
Major Gary Down
E: gary.down@defence.gov.au
Major Terry Brennan
E: terry.brennan@defence.gov.au