

*1871 - 2020*

*'A' Fd Bty Association Inc.*

*National Newsletter*

*June 2020*

**President's Report.**

Greetings one and all, I trust we are all staying Covid-safe and socially distanced from the rest of the world. There is an old Chinese curse that says "May you live in interesting times" and it seems we are certainly doing that at the moment. As far as the lockdown is concerned, the only change it has made to my life is I wear a mask at the shops now, and I have to make an appointment to attend the rifle range. All other aspects are the same as they were before Covid-19 came along so I am handling it well. If you know of others who might be badly affected by it, reach out and check on your mates.

**1) Our Next AGM.**

I have been in touch with the relevant QLD government department and have been assured that our AGM may be deferred by up to 6 months. This means that since we are bound by constitution to hold it before the end of the year (usually we hold it in September), we can legally extend it up to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 without penalty. I would hope that we can hold it well before that date. Quite possibly it will be at Sawtell with all of the arrangements that we had in place for this year's AGM, but at a later date. Further details will be distributed as soon as they can be confirmed.

There is an alternative to having a physical AGM, that is having a virtual meeting via Skype, Zoom, or another of the various conferencing software packages. Skype and Zoom are free to use but there may be some limitations on duration and numbers attending. This will be investigated as our Plan B for the AGM. Our committee members already use Skype for our regular meetings given the distances involved (Mackay to Melbourne) and it is working quite well so far with only the odd minor hiccup. We may have found a way to conduct the elections via electronic media. Our vice-president, Rick Polley, has suggested that while not everyone has a computer, almost everyone has a mobile phone. It is possible to email or SMS most of our members a list of candidates and to select someone (not sure who yet but working on it) as the returning officer. All votes could be SMS'ed to his mobile phone and checked for validity (current membership status, not voting twice, etc) and the results revealed at the appropriate time during the AGM.

I have also discovered that we can purchase a one month access fee for a Zoom conference which is only around \$21 at last check and doesn't have the restrictive time and attendee limits. I have had some experience with Zoom, I attend a Friday night socially-distanced drinking session using it where I and some ex-Telstra employees each sit in our own houses and "get together" via Zoom. More recently I attended another Zoom meeting with around 50 attendees and it worked quite well. I would encourage all of our members with a computer to download Zoom (its free, only the session

organiser has to pay the fee) and use it to contact others you know, friends or family, to gain some familiarity with it as it looks like the main contender for our AGM if travel restrictions aren't lifted any time soon. All of those who don't have a computer and would like to attend a Zoom AGM, see if you can get a grandchild to set it up for you. They seem to know everything these days. It is also possible to download a Zoom app to a mobile phone and dial in to the meeting that way. This may be easier than getting a computer for some of us. And in the new, post-Covid world, this virtual AGM system may become the new normal.

## **2) Missing in Action.**

Recently we lost another of our members, Colonel Alexander William Reynolds. As Major Reynolds, he was the BC of 'A' Fd Bty during its time in Malaysia 65 – 67. Alex Reynolds passed away on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, he was 89. We have no further details at this time, and unfortunately the current situation requires that very few of us are able to attend funerals anyway.

We have had some members who seem to have disappeared over the past few months and I am hoping there may be someone else out there who knows what has happened to them. The first is Max Ptolomey, our WA State Liaison Officer. Max is not at his last known address in Greenwoods WA and his phone has been disconnected. If anyone knows of his whereabouts please let me know so we can check on his welfare and get his new contact details.

Next is Greg Laird from Port Macquarie. His phone has been disconnected and his email mailbox has not been read for some time as it is full and won't accept any new emails. It may have been an oversight on his part to notify us of a move or it might be a health issue that has caused it. Another AWOL member is William (Billy) Walker from Darch in WA. He usually get a snail mail newsletter but the last one came back recently. Again, it may be an oversight or something more serious. Either way, we would appreciate any feedback you can give us regarding these or any members who have been out of contact for a while. This may get to be a regular part of the newsletter as a lot of us are getting to the stage where remembering things is not as easy as it once was.

## **3) Special Project.**

We have had a response from DVA regarding a grant for our refurbishment of Henry Green's grave. They have determined that our project does not meet the criteria under which a grant may be given and have declined to contribute to it. This does not mean the end of the project, we still have several other options to raise the funds. These are being investigated currently for practicality and legality. Further details in future newsletters. Since this is a 2021 project we are still within the timeline for completion.

## **4) 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

Both of our applications for a commemorative stamp and coin were rejected by the Royal Australian Mint and the Australia Post Philatelic division. The grounds for both rejections were similar, in that they choose not to commemorate individual units or members of the armed forces, but rather the entirety of the military (e.g. ADF or an arm of it). I have passed along this information to Major Gary Down of the ADF's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative committee in Canberra and informed them that they may have better luck applying for a stamp or coin to mark 150 years of our military forces. Never mind, at least we tried, and it may have got them thinking. I also heard recently from Major Gary Down that they are applying for a mint issue commemorative

coin and stamp set. This means they will only be sold as a collector's edition and not as a circulated coin or stamp. I hope they have better luck than we did.

## **5) Going National.**

We recently received an email from the QLD Department of Fair Trading (they look after incorporated not-for-profit associations like ours) saying they are having a look at the regulations that apply to us and relaxing some of them. One is that we may have an electronic AGM (e.g. Zoom) without having to modify our constitution. There are some other minor items as well, however none of them addressed the problem of the requirement that the secretary be a QLD resident. In light of that and the fact they are overhauling the regulations, I have written to the QLD Minister for Justice, Ms, Yvette D'Ath, who oversees the Fair Trading Department, requesting that they also look into this requirement as it seems to be an anachronism these days. I suspect it is a leftover from pre-automobile days. That letter was only sent last week so it may be some time before I get a reply. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

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

**P.S.** If anyone wishes to take on the role of Merchandise Officer, they are welcome to volunteer. Currently it all resides at my place in Sydney and would have to be shipped or transported to its new home. Someone else might also like to be the NSW liaison officer. Any volunteers may contact me as these are not elected positions, so may be directly appointed.




We are also awaiting confirmation of contact details for Peter Suckling who has volunteered to be the WA liaison officer. These will be printed in the next issue when they become available. Thanks Peter, all assistance is gratefully received.

## A Field Battery RAA Association Merchandise Price list

**NOTE:** All prices are for goods only. Postage will be extra and will vary depending on weight of order. Contact Dodger Noonan on

Mobile: 0407-904-506

Email: noonanrf@bigpond.net.au

Item	Price (Ea)	Comments
Caps	\$15.00	
Car Windscreen Stickers	2 for \$6.00	
Badges, Plaque	\$25	
Plaques, Complete	\$40.00	
Books "Malayan Episode"	\$20.00	
Shirts, Polo (New Pattern)	\$35.00	Sizes S to XXXL
Shirts, Polo (Old Pattern)	\$35.00	
DVD, "Malayan Episode"	\$10	Currently out of stock, last one lost by Officeworks. More copies available soon.
DVD, "The L5 Pack Howitzer Restoration"	\$10	
DVD, "The Year of the Road Runner"	\$10	
DVD, "Cinesound Newsreels, October 1958"	\$10	
DVD, "The Gun"	\$10	
Vietnam Veteran bumper sticker	\$3	
UCG bumper sticker	\$3	



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 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 CLIVE CASTLES KEITH CHRISTENSEN RAYMOND CLARKE REG CLATWORTHY HARRY COOK PAT DALY RAY DAVIS TOM DAWSON DON DONKIN MBE JOHN DOWNES R.M. DUCAT (OAS Malaya) RICHARD DUGGAN NOEL EGAN JOHN CHARLES FERGUSON BEVAN FILCE MAURICE FONTAINE GEORGE FORSYTHE MAX FRANKLIN M.K. FUSSELL (KIA Afghanistan) BILL GALLAGHER LANCE GILKINSON	ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY GEOFF HAACK BARRY HANDLEY NEIL HARDEN MICK HARKEN DAVID (BANGER) HARRIS RON HART B.D. HENDERSON (OAS Malaya) TERRY JOBSON REG KELLY KEN KENNEDY JOHN KNIGHT BOBBY LEWIS BILL LIDDELL OAM KENNETH LYONS JOHN MACDONALD BERNARD McMAHON 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. PARKER (OAS Vietnam) DARYL PATCH GODFRAY PRIEST AM DAVE QUIRK JOHN RAINEY PETER RAINSBURY CLIVE RALFE ALEX REYNOLDS	JOE ROUSE JOHN SALMON CBE BRIAN SCOTT PETER SEDDON PETER SHARP JOHN SHEEHAN ALBERT (ALBY) SHERIDAN ALAN SINGH NOEL SMALL R. F. SMITH ALLAN (BRUNO) SNEDDON LESLEY (SQUIZZY) TAYLOR ROHAN THOMPSON IAN UHLMANN DONALD DAVID WEIR BRIAN WHISKER JACK WHITEHEAD JOHN WHITELAW AO, CBE BERNARD (PLONKY) WINE GUS WOOLFE JOHN WORBOYS
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## 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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