

1871 - 2020

'A' Fd Bty Association Inc.

National Newsletter

March 2020

President's Report.

1. 2020 AGM.

What a difference a day makes, as the song says. But the events of the past month have amplified the changes by an unimagineable amount. We were going to have a get-together in Albury, we were going to have our AGM at Sawtell, we were going to have an AGM at all. We could have travelled anywhere in the world, now we can't travel anywhere in our own towns. Who would have thought less than three months ago that this situation would arise.

In light of this, we will be making quite a few changes to our operations as an association. For a start, the Albury gathering was cancelled due to the danger of spreading the COVID-19 virus. And for the same reason, our AGM this year will not be held at Sawtell as planned. I have made enquiries to the QLD Office of Fair Trading and they have confirmed that we may defer our AGM by 6 months or hold it via an electronic hook-up, e.g. Skype or other conference call system. Since we already hold our committee meetings via Skype given the distances involved, this may be a viable alternative until such time as the all clear is given for us to travel and congregate in groups of more than 10 people. Further extensions of time may be granted in future if the restrictions on travel are still in place by the end of this year.

So there will be no physical AGM this year as we have done in the past. It may be held later, possibly early next year, or via Skype. This will be worked out before the next newsletter and notified to all members well before the due date. It is still possible it will be at Sawtell but we have to assume the restrictions will be in place for at least 6 months more. If you don't already have access to a computer (there are still 80-odd members on snail-mail), see if you can find a grandchild who can assist you. Get them to set up a Skype account for you (it is free). If you want to test it out, ring me and I will turn on my Skype pc for a test run. Also see if you can get an email address as it is costing a lot of our funds to do a physical mailout (about \$2.30 per letter, stamp, paper, printer ink etc). And a reminder to all those who may have forgotten to renew their membership, its still \$20 per annum or \$200 for life membership. That's a bargain in anyone's money. Contact Tex to join, renew or change your membership status.

2. 'A' Bty's Birthday.

There has recently been some controversy about 'A' Bty's birthday, 1st August 1871, on Facebook. An online magazine, 'Contact', did some investigating and here is the concluding part of their interview with a Defence Department representative.

CONTACT: *If the official date is corrected, is there any likelihood of a change to the official birthdate?*

DEFENCE: “Army has no plans to change ‘A’ Field Battery’s anniversary.”

This is their official position at the current time but as we are all aware, things can and do change quite rapidly in today’s world. So be prepared just in case. I would also like to point out that the Queen was not born on the second weekend in June (she was born on 21st April, 1926), nor was Jesus born on the 25th December in the year 1 (it was actually some time in the year 4 BC). So there is precedent of a very high order for tradition to maintain 1st August as our unit's birthday, regardless of the historical data.

3. Henry Green Project.

Our Henry Green grave upgrade project is progressing. We have had some quotes from a monumental mason company who do regular work for the DVA and as such are known to them, i.e. not a fly-by-night outfit. Our secretary Tex Bassan has prepared a submission to the DVA for a monetary grant to assist us in this project which he submitted on Tuesday 24th March. Failing approval of this grant, there are several other options that we could utilise to help in raising the necessities but we will leave the details of that until we have a decision from DVA. I have already had an offer of a modest contribution from a member of the public, with no army connections, on hearing of our project.

4. Amendments to Contacts Page.

There have been several amendments to the back page of our newsletter, mostly typos that have been corrected since the last newsletter. If you have been having trouble contacting anyone in the list, have a read of this one. You might find the last issue had a typo or two.

I would also like to welcome David Adams (BSM, ‘A’ Fd Bty, 1965 – 1967), as the association’s ACT Liaison Officer. I’m sure most of you older blokes will remember him from those halcyon days in Malaysia. His contact details are in the appropriate box on the Contacts page.

5. Health and Safety.

I recently heard the sad news of the passing of an old Telstra workmate who I first met in 1964 and last had a drink with last Christmas. He had died alone at home and wasn’t discovered for several days. We don’t know if it was the COVID-19 virus yet. The other sad part is there can be no more than 10 people at his funeral, yet I know there would be several hundred if there were none of the current restrictions.

Please ensure you have at least one person who can check on you on a regular basis, especially if you live alone. If you feel sick, have a fever, a cough, anything out of the ordinary, ring for assistance. It may just be a cold, but let the experts decide. I once had chest pains and rang the ambulance. When they got here and checked me out, they found it was just a chest muscle thing, I felt a bit foolish and told them so. The amboes said they would rather that people call them and have false alarms like that, than a major heart problem and to never hesitate to ring them if in any doubt. So that’s the message for today, stay safe and healthy.

R. F. “Dodger” Noonan
President
‘A’ Fd Bty Association Inc.



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) REG KELLY KEN KENNEDY JOHN KNIGHT BOBBY LEWIS BILL LIDDELL OAM 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) DAVE QUIRK PETER RAINSBURY	CLIVE RALFE 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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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>