

1871 - 2021

'A' Fd Bty Association Inc.

National Newsletter

May 2021

President's Report.

1) 2021 ANZAC Day.

You would be hard pressed to get two consecutive Anzac Days that were so different. Last year there were hardly any gatherings or full-fledged marches, this year it was as if nothing had happened in the intervening year. There was a reasonably good turn-out in Sydney, both marchers and spectators, although some of our marchers had intended to march with 102 'Coral' Bty but their banner didn't turn up, so they threw in their lot with 'A' Bty. Most of them had served with 'A' Bty in Malaysia prior to their 102 Bty tour of SVN. As it turned out, we even had a U.S. Naval officer in our group. I have no idea why he was there or where he should have been, but he joined us for a palate-cleansing ale at the Coronation hotel afterwards and was welcomed by all.



Our banner was carried by Sebastian Callum and Jeff van den Heuvel who volunteered on the day as there had been no arrangements for the school cadets to be there as they usually are. And a first rate job they did, it was an experience they enjoyed once they could put the banner down as it is rather heavy. Well done, lads.

2) 2021 AGM.

The next AGM will be held at Sawtell NSW over the second weekend in September, 2021. At this stage, the plan is to book accommodation in Sawtell for Friday 10th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th of September. There are no formal arrangements with the RSL club as yet, and as a result no costing for a formal dinner on the Saturday evening, and so far no organised day trip for the Sunday. Given the fluctuations in lockdowns, border closures, etc., it will be easier to make those arrangements closer to the day and avoid last-minute refunds and cancellations and at this stage we

have no idea of numbers attending. The Friday “meet and greet” can go ahead as normal, barring any major changes to covid-19 restrictions.

We will continue to work towards the Sawtell AGM with Zoom access for those unable to get there. If it turns out we cannot travel at the time, it will just have to be a full-on Zoom AGM like the last one. So, gentlemen, circle the second weekend in September on your calendars and, just in case, brush up on your Zoom practices too. It would be advantageous for a successful AGM if you could let me know if you wish to attend, either in person at Sawtell or online using Zoom. We will need a total of 11 at a minimum to conduct a legal AGM (twice the committee plus 1). If you need to practice your Zoom, let me know and I will set up a meeting for you to log into and get all your settings right.

3) Refurbishment of Henry Green’s Grave.

I received a request from the stone masons who are doing the new headstone for Henry Green’s grave for a digital image of the RAA badge that could be expanded to a larger size without losing any detail. I put out a call to Kim McGrath, president of the Australian Artillery Association, and he came through with a file that he thought would do the trick. I have since heard back from the masons and the image was perfect for their purpose. Thanks Kim. I will publish a picture of the new headstone when it is completed and available for publication. At this stage it is still to be approved and finalised.

4) 150th Anniversary.

I enquired of the ADF’s 150th committee as to whether there was any update to the last email I got from them, and the reply was that there is an ‘informal assumption’ that we should be getting updates from our parent group, 1st Regiment, which so far hasn’t been happening. However, they did supply two spreadsheets covering the ceremonies that will be taking place later in the year. I will attach them to this newsletter. Attendance at any of these events will be up to the individual and may be limited by covid-19 restrictions. I personally will try to get to the Mount Pleasant RAA Memorial on 1st August and the Victoria Barracks events in Sydney on the 6th November.

5) Going National.

I contacted the QLD Department of Fair Trading with a view to finding out if there had been any changes to the rules regarding incorporated associations as a result of their proposed review, and was informed that because of covid-19 restrictions the review had not even begun yet. They also said there was no plan to change or review the state-of-residence status of an association’s secretary, so at this stage we are stuck with the current state of affairs meaning that nobody who is not a QLD resident can apply for the position of secretary if it becomes vacant.

6) Other News.

Two weeks ago I was informed by our secretary, Tex Bassan, that one of our number had passed away. Norman Lindsay John Bostock, a.k.a. Coco, had been afflicted with dementia for some time. At his own request, there was no formal ceremony, just a viewing for the family. I know there are many of us who would have liked to pay tribute to a good mate and a good soldier. He did two tours in Malaysia with ‘A’ Bty, ‘57 - ‘59 and again in ‘65 - ‘67. RIP mate.

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

**RAA 150th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony,
National Synchronised Gun Salute
And Last Post Ceremony
Sunday 1st August 2021**

As part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations, there will be a commemorative service at the RAA National Memorial, Mt Pleasant in Canberra on Sunday 1st August. Simultaneously, across all RAA units and/or Batteries, there will be a 150-round synchronised gun salute comprising the firing of rounds at each location including Mt Pleasant.

1000hrs - All attendees to RV at the ADFA Sgts' Mess Carpark

1030hrs - Shuttlebuses depart carpark for the RAA National Memorial

1200hrs - Commemorative Service and National Gun Salute commences

Later on the same day, the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial will be an RAA commemoration and will honour all fallen Gunners. The soldier specifically singled out for the ceremony is a WW1 Gunner, CPL Frank Oswald Matt DCM who lost his life at Pozieres on 23 July 1916.

Those wishing to attend the Last Post Ceremony at the AWM must be in place by 1630hrs

Please note that all of the activities on 1 August may still be subject to the necessary COVID restrictions in place at the time.



KEY EVENTS

Department of Defence 150th Anniversary Artillery Fire Plan 1871 - 2021



Version 1.0

Fire plan 150th Anniversary of Permanent Australian Artillery	Supporting Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery	Originator Colonel Commandant	Head of Regiment
		Modifications by RAA Gunner Community & Associations	H-hour 01 August 2021
			Sheet 1 of 1
			Date/time group 110600K May 21

Target information					Target information						
L	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	L	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1	Target no.	Description	Location	Alt	Remarks	1	Target no.	Description	Location	Alt	Remarks
1	VZ 0001	Syndrised National Fire Plan - Phase One	National Saluting Stations, Ullupke, Australia	01 Aug 21	From 1200 h (AEST) H - 7.5 Hours FHE	8	VO 0008: 1, 20 Regts, SEQ Assocs	Early Day Picnic, Current & Historical displays	Fort Lytton, Brisbane, QLD	01 Aug 21	Early Day DS to National Fire Plan. RFT by RAA Band
2	VZ 0002	Commemorative Ceremony - RAA National Memorial	RAA Memorial, Mount Pleasant, ACT	01 Aug 21	From 1230 h (AEST)	9	VP 0009: 4 Regt, NO Assocs	Event to mark the 150th & 61st Anniversary of 4 Regt	Chau Pua Lines, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, QLD	04 May 21	RFT by RAA Band & 1 RAR Band
3	VZ 0003	Syndrised National Fire Plan - Phase Two	National Saluting Stations, Ullupke, Australia	01 Aug 21	From 1230 h (AEST) L - 7.5 Hours FHE	10	VT 0010: 8122 Regt	Concert incl 1812 Overture Regiments Ball	Robertson Barracks, Barwin, VIC	10-11 Sep 21	RFT by 1 Bde Band
4	VZ 0004	Last Post Ceremony	Australian War Memorial Canberra, ACT	01 Aug 21	From 1645 h (AEST)	11	VS 0011: 16 Regt, 9 Regt, SA Assocs	Open Day incl 1812 Overture & Cocktail Party	Woodside Barracks, SA	18 Sep 21	RFT by SA Army Band
5	VZ 0005	Parade & Drumhead Service	Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW	06 Nov 21	From 1000 h (AEDT) To: 1230 h (AEDT)	12	VZ 0012: Vic Assoc	Saint Barbara's Day Dinner	Melbourne, VIC	06 Nov 21	
6	VZ 0006	All Rankes Cocktail Party	Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW	06 Nov 21	From 1830 h (AEDT) To: 2230 h (AEDT)	13	VZ 0016: NSW Assoc	Gunner Dinner	Pararamba RSL Club, NSW	7 or 14 Aug 21	RFT by 7 and 23 Bty
7	VZ 0007	Anzac Centennial Gun RAAHC gifting to Army	Barney Square, Russell Offices, ACT	03 Dec 21	From 1600 h (AEDT) To: 1700 h (AEDT)	14	VZ 0015: TAS Assoc	Net Gunner - WIE & Dinner	Caloundra, QLD	30 Oct 21	RFT by 613 Bty
							VO 0017: Soatry	150th Anniversary Dinner	Bridges Barracks, Pucka, VIC	20-21 Aug 21	Happy Hour for 150th Army Dinner Date: TBC Soatry




Schedule													
(f)	(g)	(h)										(i)	
Orig or Fm	Firing unit (Call sign)	Preh	30 Apr	04 May	H:01 Aug	7/24 Aug	20/21 Aug	18 Sep	30 Oct	06 Nov	03 Dec	04 Dec	Remarks
1	RRAA All Callsigns Soatry	Anzac Day 150th Events	VZ 0001	VZ 0002	VZ 0003	VZ 0004	VO 0017 (on Call)	VZ 0005	VZ 0006	VZ 0007	VZ 0001		Note 1: For information on National Events, email RAA_HQR@defence.gov.au
2	RAA Units & Artillery Associations 4 Regt, NO Assocs	VP 0009 General Note	VP 0009 General Note										General Note: For info on local unit or association commemorations and events in your region, contact the respective Unit ZIC or Association executive member
3	RAA Units & Artillery Associations 16 9 Regts, PE & SA Assocs	VT 0010 General Note	VT 0010 General Note										Note 2: More info see AAA website www.australianartilleryassociation.com
4	TAS Assoc NSW Assoc Vic Assoc	VS 0011 General Note	VS 0011 General Note										Note 3: More info see RAAHC website www.artillerystory.org
5	Australian Artillery Association RAAHC	VZ 0016 Note 2	VZ 0014	VZ 0014	VZ 0014	VZ 0014	VZ 0014	VZ 0015	VZ 0015	VZ 0015	VZ 0015	VZ 0015	Superintended Throughput - Essay & Photography Competitions Supported by Merchandise Sales - See AAA & RAAHC Websites
		VZ 0016 Note 2	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	VZ 0016	
		VZ 0017 Note 3	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	VZ 0017	

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, XL out of stock.
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

DAVID ADAMS	M.K. FUSSELL (KIA Afghanistan)	PETER RAINSBURY
KEN AGNEW	BILL GALLAGHER	CLIVE RALFE
LES ASHBY	LANCE GILKINSON	ALEX REYNOLDS
DENIS ALFRED ATHERTON	ROBERT J. (BOB) GRAY	JOE ROUSE
TOM BANFIELD	GEOFF HAACK	JOHN SALMON CBE
CLARE (BONNIE) BASSAN	BARRY HANDLEY	BRIAN SCOTT
TREVOR BEER	NEIL HARDEN	PETER SEDDON
FRANK BERRIER	MICK HARKEN	PETER SHARP
S.J. BLANCH (OAS Malaya)	DAVID (BANGER) HARRIS	JOHN SHEEHAN
N. L. J. 'COCO' BOSTOCK	RON HART	ALBERT (ALBY) SHERIDAN
DOUG N. BRYAN	B.D. HENDERSON (OAS Malaya)	ALAN SINGH
MALCOLM J. BUGG	TERRY JOBSON	NOEL SMALL
DONALD CALLAGHAN	REG KELLY	R. F. SMITH
GORDON CARMICHAEL	KEN KENNEDY	ALLAN (BRUNO) SNEDDON
TOM CARRUTHERS	JOHN KNIGHT	LESLEY (SQUIZZY) TAYLOR
CLIVE CASTLES	BOBBY LEWIS	ROHAN THOMPSON
KEITH CHRISTENSEN	BILL LIDDELL OAM	IAN UHLMANN
RAYMOND CLARKE	KENNETH LYONS	DONALD DAVID WEIR
REG CLATWORTHY	JOHN MACDONALD	BRIAN WHISKER
HARRY COOK	BERNARD McMAHON	JACK WHITEHEAD
PAT DALY	BARRY MARR	JOHN WHITELAW AO, CBE
RAY DAVIS	I.G. MATHERS (KIA Vietnam)	BERNARD (PLONKY) WINE
TOM DAWSON	IAN MEIBUSCH A.M	GUS WOOLFE
DON DONKIN MBE	LLOYD MITCHELL	JOHN WORBOYS
JOHN DOWNES	KEVIN MITCHELL	
R.M. DUCAT (OAS Malaya)	JACK MILLIGAN	
RICHARD DUGGAN	E. J. (LOFTY) MOORE	
NOEL EGAN	BRIAN MURTAGH	
REGINALD ETIENNE	JIM PONTING	
JOHN CHARLES FERGUSON	R.J. PARKER (OAS Vietnam)	
BEVAN FILCE	DARYL PATCH	
MAURICE FONTAINE	GODFRAY PRIEST AM	
GEORGE FORSYTHE	DAVE QUIRK	
MAX FRANKLIN	JOHN RAINEY	

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">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.</p> <p align="center">http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com</p>		