

1871



'A' Battery Association Inc. National Newsletter



'THE ROAD RUNNER' March 2023 Biannual Edition



Beep Beep! Next edition will be in September 2023

From the Editor. The 'A' Battery Association Inc. ('A' Association) has no benefactors that edit or print this newsletter like a number of other RAA veteran associations and organisation do. The 'A' Association relies on the wisdom of its Executive Committee (EC), being volunteers, to formulate content and distribute as seen fit.

For this newsletter to become truly national and have substance to be more appealing and relevant to its members and readers we then must have input from our members from all over Australia. Please send your ideas to the 'A' Association, EC group email: abtyassn@abtyassn.org.au. The EC is looking at a new format/layout for the newsletter to be implemented at the next edition of 'The Road Runner'.

It is the intent of the EC to have a better reaching and a more fluid link in communication with the 'A' Associations State and Territory Coordinators. The EC is looking to put together a support and information gathering and distribution package so that the 'A' Association can be represented appropriately and easily in each Australian State and Territory. The EC is there to support its members.

ANZAC DAY 2023



'A' ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATION PREPARATIONS

Queensland – Brisbane – 'A' Association Banner – 'A' Contact is Mr Paul Johnston qld@abtyassn.org.au – In liasion with Scott Mackie, Executive Officer, Anzac Day Parade Brisbane events@rslsouthqueensland.org. The 25-pounder Field Gun and 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer delivery to and from the parade is by towing company Barnes Auto, confirmed. Rob McIntyre, heritage vehicle support confirmed. 1 REGT marching with 155mm M777 Gun and Gun tractor, and a 105mm M2A2 Howitzer (Rob McIntyre, heritage vehicle support confirmed for towing of M2A2 with a era vehicle).

[Anzac Day | Brisbane City Council](https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-on-and-events/event/anzac-day-165510266)

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-on-and-events/event/anzac-day-165510266>

4:15am Dawn Service. Brisbane's dawn service begins at 4:28am at the city's Shrine of Remembrance.

10:00am Anzac Day March. Order of March is 'A' Battery Association Inc leads **Group 4 - Army Associations** – 10:15 am (George @ Charlotte Sections A, C & E or George @ Mary – Sections B, D & F).

Rosemary



New South Wales – Sydney – 'A' Association Banner – 'A' contact is Mr Robert Noonan nsw@abtyassn.org.au – In liasion with [RSL NSW | Supporting Veterans & Their Families](https://www.rslnsw.org.au/). <https://www.rslnsw.org.au/>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/about-nsw/anzac-day-2023#toc-attend-the-2023-anzac-day-dawn-service-and-march-in-sydney>



4:30am Dawn Service. The state's official Anzac Day Dawn Service will get underway from 4:30am at the Cenotaph in Sydney's Martin Place.

9:00am Anzac Day March. The march takes place along Elizabeth Street in the Sydney CBD. The march begins at 9:00am at the intersection of Martin Place and Elizabeth Street, proceeding down Elizabeth Street and ending at the Liverpool Street end of Hyde Park. There are many locations to view the March on both sides of Elizabeth Street. The March concludes at midday.

Australian Capital Territory – Canberra – 'A' contact is Mr Sean Lillywhite act@abtyassn.org.au – in liasion with [Commemorations – RSL ACT Branch \(actrsl.org.au\)](https://www.actrsl.org.au/commemorations) <https://www.actrsl.org.au/commemorations>



4.30am Dawn Service. Begins at the Australian War Memorial at 4:30am.

9:30am Anzac Day March. Location and movements TBA.

4:45pm Last Post Ceremony. The memorial's final service, the traditional Last Post ceremony is at 4.45pm at the Australian War Memorial. To attend you must booked well in advance as it is a ticketed event.

Victoria – Melbourne – 'A' Association Banner – 'A' contact is Mr David Gibson vic@btyassn.org.au – in liasion with [Anzac Day | Shrine of Remembrance](https://www.shrine.org.au/anzac-day-commemoration) <https://www.shrine.org.au/anzac-day-commemoration>



5.30am Dawn Service.

8.30am Anzac Day March. The ANZAC Day March will commence from 8.30am with the movement by vehicle of mature of age or disabled veterans to the Shrine. The Official Party will lead marchers from Princes Bridge to the Shrine, **stepping off at 9.00am.** A Commemorative Service will be held at the conclusion of the March.

Tasmania – Hobart - 'A' contact is TBC
tas@btyassn.org.au - [ANZAC Day – RSL Tasmania](https://www.rsltas.org.au/whats-on/anzac-day/)
<https://www.rsltas.org.au/whats-on/anzac-day/>



South Australia – Adelaide – 'A' contact is Mr Bob McEvoy
sa@btyassn.org.au - [Anzac Day – RSL South Australia, Northern Territory & Broken Hill \(rslsa.org.au\)](https://www.rslsa.org.au/anzac-day) <https://www.rslsa.org.au/anzac-day>

Western Australia – Perth – 'A' contact is TBC
wa@btyassn.org.au - [Perth CBD Services - RSLWA](https://www.rslwa.org.au/commemoration/anzac-day/services)
<https://www.rslwa.org.au/commemoration/anzac-day/services>



5.50am Dawn Service. The ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the State War Memorial in Kings Park at 6.00am on Tuesday 25 April 2023. RSLWA recommends



that participants arrive from 4.00am onwards. Please note that at 5.50am, the lights will go out and all will be quiet as the Service begins.

9.00am Anzac Day March - Perth CBD - March participants will step off from the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace at 9.00am. The Parade will proceed along St Georges Terrace, passing the saluting dais before turning right into Victoria Avenue and dispersing at Langley Park.



Northern Territory – Darwin – 'A' Contact is Mr Brett Fidler

nt@btyassn.org.au - [Anzac Day – RSL South Australia, Northern Territory & Broken Hill \(rslsa.org.au\)](http://www.rslsa.org.au) <https://www.rslsa.org.au/anzac-day>

BASIC MILITARY COMMUNICATION

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 'A' ASSOCIATION

"Put it over the tannoy!"

Executive Directors Report

Mr Shane Cooper – ABRS DIR 036 42416 19942 62; Email: exec@abtyassn.org.au

I was privileged enough to be elected to the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated Executive Committee (EC) as the Director (President) last September. I wish to thank all the members who put their faith in me to lead the EC, a group of dedicated members, of such a wonderful association.

The inaugural meeting of the formation of the 'A' Field Battery Association took place at Lindsay Bostock's residence in Hervey Bay, Queensland in late June 1997. It was established with the primary role to foster friendship and esprit-de-corps between all past and present members of 'A' Field Battery. A lot of things have happened within the 'A' Association since then. The EC of the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated, continues to move towards that goal and look forward to developing a strong bond with 'A' Battery and supporting all the current members of the Battery.

During its longevity 'A' Battery has had several name changes and a plethora of roles using various equipment. The only constant in its history is its adaptability. Given the current restructure within the Australian Defence Force it will more than likely change its role again. Each of these name changes brings with it its own identity crisis to the 'A' Association. As an association we will continue the mission of:

- Assisting, through military, civilian and business associates, the operation, and wellbeing of members from both 'A' Battery and the 'A' Battery Association Inc
- Establishing, developing, and maintaining community support for Australian military units and defence needs
- Disseminating current military and topical 'A' Battery information to the 'A' Association members, and
- Providing advice on transition to civilian life for soldiers from 'A' Battery.

The success of the 'A' Association and the members depends on how well the executive leaders execute the responsibilities of their office. The new EC have hit the ground running and some changes that may seem a little fast paced to some but the benefit to all members remains our

Member Survey – Biannual Weekend and AGM 2024

'A' Battery Association Incorporated 13-15 September 2024. Once the 'A' Associations new website is up and running you will be able to indicate in the Management Directors survey if you would be interested in attending Option One (1) or Option Two (2).

Option One (1) Sawtell NSW:

- a. Friday 5pm - Drinks at the Sawtell RSL
- b. Saturday 5pm AGM - Sawtell RSL
- c. Saturday 7pm Dinner - Sawtell RSL
- d. Sunday 10am - River Cruise.

Option Two (2) North Head, Manly NSW:

- a. Friday - Drinks at the – Steyn Hotel
- b. Saturday 5pm AGM at Dee Why RSL
- c. Saturday 7pm Dinning-In Night at Dee Why RSL
- d. Sunday 10am Tour-De-Old School of Artillery and Tunnels at North Head
- e. Sunday 12:30pm Lunch at old School of Artillery Sergeant Mess.



If you are unable to use the internet, then either send an email to the Management Director at management@abtyassn.org.au or via snail mail, PO Box 1001, NEW FARM QLD 4005.

Finance Directors Report

Stephen Orr – ABRS DIR 036 77288 98322 13; Email: finance@abtyassn.org.au

MINISTRY OF
FINANCE

The Executive Committee (EC) applied for and received an Australian Business Number (ABN) 22664274223. The ABN was required for the EC to implement a number of changes to the modernisation in running the 'A' Association Administration. The 'A' Association EC has also agreed to stream-line the administration process to quicken banking transactions by doing away with the antiquated bank check system, this will be updated in the revised Association Constitution to reflected this and be presented at the next AGM to ratify. The EC now has an Australia Post Postal Account and an Officeworks Account. The 'A' Association also needed to apply for a Tax File Number to open and operate accounts even if we are a not-for-profit organisation.

I as the Finance Director of the 'A' Association have now transcribed all financial accounts for the Association to an Information Technology platform using Excel Spreadsheets. An Approval Ledger System for purchases has also been implemented to ensure that the EC is held accountable for it actions and expenditure. There is now no need for petty cash to be held on hand by the EC members and Merchandise Coordinator. With change there will always be a few teething points, but this in the long run will drag the operations of the EC and the 'A' Association into modern day accounting practices and using the online realm.

For transparency and your information the EC has annual ongoing cost of \$250.00 for the operation of the 'A' Associations Australia Post PO Box account. The operation of the PO Box account is to maintain mail security and restrict EC personal address information to the public domain. There are four (4) of the current EC members that

live in the South Queensland/Brisbane area, this therefore allows the PO Box to be accessed and serviced when the Management Director is not able to or available to do so.

The EC is maintaining the ZOOM Pro account for committee meeting purposes at a cost of \$23.09 a month.

The EC has agreed to place \$20 000.00 of the 'A' Associations savings into a term deposit for the next 6 months. This will be discussed further and confirmed at the next EC meeting.

The EC is in the process of putting together a business and financial management plan. The EC will determine the impact on the current 'A' Associations finances and create a list of existing expenses and assets to help with this plan. The EC will create financial projections: This will be based on current, and then anticipated expenses and sales forecasts. The EC will look at and determine goals and plug in the costs needed to achieve them by looking at short term and long term financial, realistic, and achievable scenarios that benefit the 'A' membership, directly and indirectly.

Membership Directors Report

MEMBERSHIP

Chris Flavel – ABRs DIR ; Email: membership@abtyassn.org.au

Current: Life Members 141 – Ordinary Annual Members 3 – Honorary Members 11

There are aspects of membership that are demonstrably valuable to an association and its members, but it's much harder to quantify what a life membership is worth and to nail down a dollar amount. How do we realistically do this? It is difficult in calculating the value of a membership interaction and participation that it may or should supply. But to make money you need to spend money, even in a not-for-profit organisation which the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated is. But it will always come down to supply and demand, but as we get older and wiser, we demand value for our hard earned money.

The exact monetary value associated with serving our members is not always obvious, however members who are better served tend to stick around longer and contribute more to the organisation which we as a veteran association and organisation must create and emphasise on if we are to be successful and then remain successful.

Is the current 'A' life membership giving our Life Members value for their money? At present the one off Life Member fee of \$200.00 is the only income that keeps the 'A' Association a float. In 2021 there was only one (1) new member, in 2022 five (5) new members after an extensive membership drive by the Interim-Secretary. The current Executive Committee (EC) is wanting to put in place new ideas with what the 'A' Association can offer for one, to want and value, to become a 'Life Member'. First identified to do this we must update and improve the 'A' Associations merchandise options. With this there will always be an outlay of funds first before we see any quantifiable uptake and then any substantial improvement with our dollar bottom line.

The proposed 'A' 'BASTARD CARD'. In the early 1990s 'A' Field Battery introduced a novelty card system called the '*Bastard Card*' that was implemented through the then 'A' Field Battery, Battery Funds Committee. The purpose of the '*Bastard Card*' was to impose penalties upon Battery members when approached by another Battery member to be asked to produce their '*Bastard Card*'. It turned out to be a humorous and sometime intoxicating game; "if you know what I mean!" The rules of the 1990's '*Bastard Card*' were very inappropriate and unacceptable for today's social norms; however, the 'A' Association EC under guidance of the Management Director's recollections of using the old '*Bastard Card*' system, wish to bring this card back in a slight differential way. The new 'A' '*Bastard Card*' will be toned down and sanitised to be in an inclusive form that has relevance and is of an acceptable standard that can be used to promote and bring together all our members, in particular 'A' Life Members. This would at the same time enhance the prospect of others to want to become a valued member of the 'A' Association. The implementation process is still to be decided by the EC, taking into consideration the advice from the 'A' Advisory Committee.

The intent is for the 'A' '*Bastard Card*' to form part of the 'A' Life Membership. Therefore each Life Member would receive the 'A' '*Bastard Card*' as part of their \$200.00 Life Membership fee. Based on the best quote, "value for money" for 200 cards, it will cost \$4.60 for each card to be produced and another \$1.40 for postage to each Life Member. The 'A' Association currently has 141 life members; hence this will cost the 'A' Association approximately \$987.00. But for longevity it is proposed to buy 400 cards, bulk purchase is approximately \$1920.00.

Alarm bells may be ringing for some, but please keep in mind we are trying to promote the 'A' Association so that we can entice and grow our life membership base. How do we do this? We start with this 'A' '*Bastard Card*' and then introduce other so called "carrots", like the 'A' LIFE MEMBER Medal/Medallion. Keeping in mind that you can only buy the 'A' LIFE MEMBER Medal/Medallion as an additional purchase, and only if you are an 'A' Life Member. At present the 'A' Associations Life Member fee is \$200.00; is it value for one's hard earned money:

- 1 x A4 Blue Parchment Card 'A' 'LIFE MEMBER' Certificate - \$4.50
- 1 x 'A' 'LIFE MEMBER' Metal Pin/Badge - \$5.00.

The EC wants to rejuvenate and innovate, design and implement, improve and maintain an effective marketing plan that won't break the bank. The EC wants to be 'proactive and not reactive'! To do this we welcome your advice and ideas, and we value your support.

Public Relations Directors Report

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr Shane Crotty – ABRS DIR ; Email: pr@abtyassn.org.au

In the social impact space, great marketing can mean the difference between reaching someone whose life could be transformed with our/your product and never reaching that person at all. When designed well, a marketing strategy serves as a magic lever that will drive not only user growth, but funding, partnerships, volunteers, and 'A' champions. Public Relations (PR) is defined in a variety of ways, and often encompasses

all internal and external communications from an organisation, including crisis management and owned media like email marketing, social media, and blogging, etc.

Earning good media is time consuming and can wear on one's patience. The 'A' Association does not have the luxury of hiring communications support in the form of paid in-house staff or a paid PR firm, PR is not easy but also at times frustrating as we cannot please everybody.

In 2021-22 the Interim-Secretary, now being the Management Director, emailed and/or sent letters to over 300 current and ex-'A' Association members asking for personal member contact information to update the Associations contact records. This in-turn gave a chance for the Interim-Secretary to introduce himself to the 'A' Associations membership. There was only an 8% return; so were the hours of that effort really worth it? However, if we as the Executive Committee (EC) don't do things like this, then we as an association committee are not doing our jobs that we put up our hands to do. This being a prime example of those frustrations that are imposed upon an organisation like the 'A' Association.

We just don't know if changes will be successful unless we try new things and innovate. The 'A' Association started late last year in a positive manner, that had very little push back. This was removing the 'FIELD' from the 'A' Associations naming convention, to be now official renamed the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated. This is the first step of many changes for the better, now the current EC can implement further aligned changes to improve our membership options and attract a membership base, being of the older generation prior to 2010, and being of the new generation being 2010 onwards.

'A' Facebook (@abtyassn.org.au | 'A' Battery Association Inc). The uptake of members on the 'A' Association Facebook page has been slow. The Associations Facebook page is on the user account business platform. This business platform has limitations for direct outside influences as not to compromise the account security. This in-turn helps to keep our Association Facebook profile healthy and hopefully squeaky clean. But with everything there is a "however"! It appears that because the Associations account is on a business platform it has been hard for people to search and find our 'A' Association page @abtyassn.org.au | 'A' Battery Association Inc. It is believed that this maybe because that the Facebook/Meta database algorithms are directly or indirectly not allowing members search engines to be directed to our Facebook page because we as an Association have not been submitting and paying for any advertising on the Facebook page. If we change our current Facebook business account to a personal account framework, then we open the account to abuse and security issues. This then would also impose on the EC an extra unwanted issue to have to be vigilant in monitoring for inappropriate comments and content, which will need to be taken down in a time frame as not to offend anybody or compromise legality issues and requirements.

'A' Website (Domain: @abtyassn.org.au). The 'A' Associations Webpage is currently being redeveloped and revitalised with the help of the Australian Artillery Association (AAA) Webmaster, Mr Graham Hampton. This should be back online NLT

end of March 2023. The 'A' Association Website is in draft mode and at present can be found at: http://www.australianartilleryassociation.org/a_bty_association/index1.html

'A' Tablecloth and Feather Banner. The EC took the liberty of putting together at quick notice, designing and having made an 'A' Association Tablecloth and Feather Banner in ready for the 1st Regiment Family Information Evening. The total outlay for this was \$345.95. Money well spent to raise our 'A' Association profile and assist in future promotional opportunities.

'A' Parade Banners. The EC has proposed that for the 'A' Association to be truly a national Association that each Australian State and Territory should have a 'A' Battery Association Inc Parade Banner located in each State and territory capital city. More on this proposal is outlined an 'A' *Parade Banners* article later in this newsletter.



Your 'A' Association Public Relations (PR) Director busy looking busy, ensuring no clown steals the new PR Tablecloth and Feather Banner at the 1st Regiment RRAA Family Information Evening.

VIETNAM 1971 50th ANNIVERSARY MEDALLION \$40.00



size:68*65*30mm

Iron gold

Front

Back



50.0 mm
50.0 mm
thickness:4mm

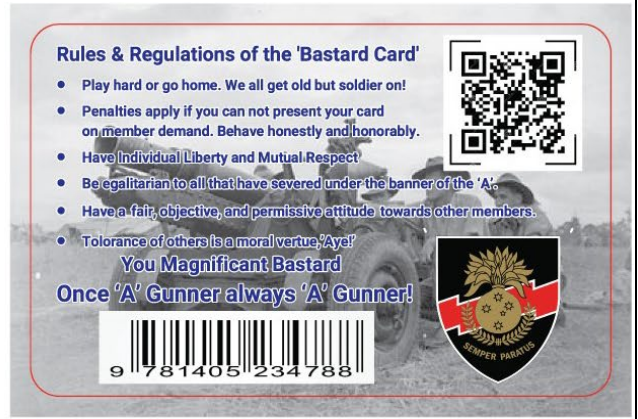
- 485c (soft enamel)
- 1805c (soft enamel)
- 7736c (soft enamel)
- 280c (soft enamel)
- recessed metal
- raised antique brass metal

- 7736c (soft enamel)
- recessed metal
- raised antique brass metal

THE PROPOSED FIRST DRAFT OF THE 'A' BASTARD CARD



FRONT



BACK

ONCE UPON A TIME – AIRBOURNE – WINGS CLIPPED



'LIFE MEMBER' MEDAL/MEDALION

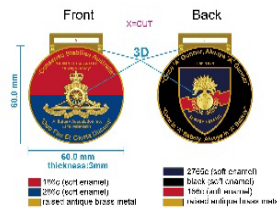
'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC.

size:900*27mm

123C
2765c



size:120*90*30mm
Iron gold
2765c



Front

Back



186c (soft enamel)
blue 072c (soft enamel)
raised gold metal

black (soft enamel)
186c (soft enamel)
raised gold metal

NOTE:

- This item has had a number of minor errors/flaws fixed prior to manufacture. The above is a fairly accurate in design concept of what it should appear as a finished product.
- The first 50 of this item has been ordered.
- \$40.00 each (this includes postage and handling).

'A' ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As stated in the Executive Directors Report, the 'A' Executive Committee (EC) wants the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated to have a better approach to becoming a truly national Association that represent all current members and members that join in the future that have the privilege to serve under the 'A' banner. To do this the EC has implemented a nonelected committee, hence the creation of an Advisory Committee. To be fair the Vietnam Era and the Malaya/Malaysia Era Representatives are the so called "eyes and ears" for the EC to understand the sentiment of those who they represent. Without their knowledge and experience we, being the EC, are "five blind mice" looking after the 'A' membership base. At present the Advisory Committee consists of three members as follows:

Vietnam Era Representatives Report

Mr David Gibson; Email: vietnam@abtyassn.org.au

18 August – Vietnam Veterans' Day

Reunions. Vietnam 1971 Union Townsville 14-20 AUGUST 2023. Contact Bill Downie on 0407 036 344 or by sending an email to: abatteryreunion2023@gmail.com



Malaya/Malaysia Era Representatives Report

Mr Robert 'Dodger' Noonan; Email: malaya@abtyassn.org.au

31 August – Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day

Reunions. Nil to report.



There have been several deaths from the Malaysia era blokes, Ron Pratt at Christmas last year and more recently Leonard "Skeeter" Humphrey. Skeeter was in 102 Bty in Malaysia and stayed on with A Bty for an extra 6 months, he was an "Honorary" Bty member but was not in the 'A' Association.

Merchandise Coordinators Report

Mr Peter 'ZED' Zannino; Email: merchandise@abtyassn.org.au



It is the Executive Committee's goal to make and enhance the range of merchandise available for your purchase. This is not just to raise much needed funds for the Association to stay viable but also to raise the awareness and profile of the 'A' Association. This may also entice those who have served under the 'A' banner to want to become a valued member within the 'A' Association.

Medallions. The 'A' Executive Committee (EC) has approved a design and ordered 50 of the 'A' 'LIFE MEMBER' Medal/Medallions and 'A' Vietnam 50TH Anniversary Medallions. These medallions should arrive to be in stock end of March 2023. Near 45% of the 'LIFE MEMBER' Medal/Medallions that have been pre-ordered have already been purchased; and 10% of the 'A' Vietnam 50th Anniversary Medallions have been pre-ordered and purchased. There are more medallions designs in the pipeline concerning 'A' deployments to Afghanistan, East Timor, The Malaya Emergency and the Indonesian-Malaysia Confrontation. To cover postage and handling the EC has decided to sell all

medallions at \$40.00 each. This gives a small profit margin of approximately \$5.00 on each sale to the 'A' Association.

So as not to be left out of favour a medallion has been in the final design stage for those who had served in 'A' Field Battery from 1972-1998 that had "worked hard, played hard, didn't get deployed anywhere, but had proudly served". This medallion has been named the **'A' Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery 1972-1998 Minions Medallion**. This medallion will be also priced at \$40.00, which includes postage and handling.

The EC is looking at other merchandise items for procurement in the near future. However all items will relate to and only have either 'A' Field Battery Association Inc or 'A' Battery Association Inc insignia on merchandise. The use of the wording **'A' Battery** should and will only be for the current serving unit 'A' Battery itself to use.

The EC is looking to update the Association polo shirt design, and also introducing an 'A' Association T-Shirt and rugby jumper.

At present the 'A' Associations merchandise stock is limited and both the quantity and quality are in question. But as they say, "You have to spend money to make money!"

The current 'A' Association merchandise list will be on our new website, meanwhile you can email the Merchandise Coordinator merchandise@abtyassn.org.au for more info.

FROM AROUND THE GROUNDS STATE AND TERRITORY COORDINATORS

[Key Commemorative Dates](#) for 'A' Battery Association

- 25 April – Gallipoli Landing, Turkey (1915), Anzac Day
- 8 May – Victory in Europe (1945)
- 31 May – Boer War ends (1902)
- 18 August – Vietnam Veterans' Day
- 31 August – Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day
- 2 September – Battle for Australia Day
- 14 September – Australian Peacekeepers Day
- 20 September – Arrival of INTERFET in East Timor (1999)
- 11 November – Remembrance Day
- 31 December – Conclusion of Operation SLIPPER, Afghanistan (2014)



Northern Territory Coordinators Report

Mr Brett Fidler; Email: nt@abtyassn.org.au

Western Australia Coordinators Report

Mr TBA; Email: wa@abtyassn.org.au

South Australia Coordinators Report

Mr Bob McEvoy; Email: sa@abtyassn.org.au



Tasmania Coordinators Report

Mr TBA; Email: tas@abtyassn.org.au

Victoria Coordinators Report

Mr David Gibson; Email: vic@abtyassn.org.au

Australian Capital Territory Coordinators Report

Mr Sean Lillywhite; Email: act@abtyassn.org.au

New South Wales Coordinators Report

Mr Robert (Dodger) Noonan; Email: nsw@abtyassn.org.au

Queensland Coordinators Report

Mr Paul Vernon Johnston; Email: qld@abtyassn.org.au

- New BC 'A' Battery, Major Steven McBride
- 'A' Battery Association Inc leads the way on 25th April Anzac Day, Brisbane March
- Gunners Lunch – Banana Benders Pub – Monthly Catch Up
- 'A' Henry Green Historical Collection ('A' HGHC) – 'A' Battery, 1st Regiment RRAA
- 'A' historical items recovered from a unit clean out. Looking for an 'A' team to clean, document and digitalise records of items
- Vietnam 1971 'A' Battery Reunion in Townsville 14-20 August 2023
- Remembrance Day
- St Barbara's Day – Victory Hotel, Brisbane



1st Regiment Remembrance Day 2022. 'A' Executive Director, Mr Shane Cooper explaining tactics to the 'A' Public Relations Director, Mr Shane Crotty, while the Membership Director, Chris Flavel scans his surrounds in ready to recruit new 'A' Life Members.



The Battery Guide (BG) WO2 Maurice Tauletta and the Battery Captain (BK) talking tactics and All-Round Battery Defence while staying camouflaged. 1992?



East Timor - 'A' Field Battery



St Barbara's Day 2022 – The Old & Bolds RAA Boys at the Victory Hotel, Brisbane

The Outgoing Battery Commander 2021–2022 Major Arron Foster *From the editor,*



The 'A' Battery, Battery Commander (BC), has an inherent obligation to maintain and forge the continued tradition of the longest and continuous full-time serving unit in the Australian Defence Force.

I as the 'A' Associations Secretary/Management Director I had the privilege of meeting and liaising with Major Aaron Foster, the BC, on 'A' Battery Association Incorporated matters throughout 2021-2022.

There were a number of highlights that we as a veteran organisation shared with 'A' Battery in Major Foster's tenure as the BC 'A' Battery. The most important to note was that in late 2021 Major Foster took the time to acknowledge Donald 'The Saint' Sinclair's selfless act of duty and care towards the 'A' Battery history. Major Foster on behalf of the Battery presented 'The Saint' a plaque of recognition and an Australian Artillery Association Commemorative Medallion Set on behalf of the 'A' Association. 'The Saint' was instrumental in putting together the Henry Green Historical Collection when 'A' Battery moved from Holsworthy in Sydney in 2010. 'The Saint' also had a heavy involvement as a key member of the 'A' Association in putting together, restoring and maintaining the 'A' Association's 25 Pounder Gun and the 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer, which both proudly appear each year in the ANZAC Day Brisbane Parade/March. Donald 'The Saint' Sinclair sadly passed away in late 2022, may he rest in peace.

I commend Major Aaron Foster for his devotion and actions in forging a new era in relations between the present and the past of 'A' Battery members and the 'A' Association members. In 2022 the 'A' Association agreed to assist 'A' Battery each financial year with \$1000.00 for any worthwhile Henry Green Historical Collection improvements or additions.

On his departure and handover of 'A' Battery, Major Foster had sent to the 'A' Battery Association Inc., Management Director, an email to clarify a number of questions that 'A' Association members had recently asked. As to not compromise national security, I as 'The Road Runner' Newsletter editor have invoked my editorial duties to promulgate noteworthy content relevant to answering the basics of all concerned, and this is as follows:

*From Major Aaron Foster: 'A' Battery will become an Observation Post (OP) Battery through 2023, adaptation in the short term, and the sentiment is shared across the Regiment. The Battery major muscle movements being supporting the Brigade Warfighter, but more importantly for the 'A' Battery members, a Rifle Company Butterworth deployment to Malaysia for several months. The culture amongst the men and women of 'A' Battery remains strong, with gun detachments moving to other Battery's in the Regiment. The mantra of 'infectious inclusivity' and integration is strong and the detachment teams remain boded well and will no doubt hold their 'A' Battery heritage close to them. **"All the best, Yours Aye, Aaron."***

The Incoming Battery Commander 2023

Major Steven McBride

As the new 'A' Battery Commander in 2023, I've already been impressed by two things. The first is the ongoing interest, engagement and relationship with the 'A' Battery Association Inc, which you may all take for granted after so long, but is increasingly rare in recent times. The second is the desire of the soldiers to shape their own effective and realistic training, and after over 13 years in the Army I haven't seen this level of drive before. Most importantly, this attitude will set us up well for an increasingly de-stabilised future in our near region, and aid us as we move forward.



We have re-rolled as an Observation Post Battery in 2023, however this suits as well as we seek to support 2/14 Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry), and prepare to deploy on a Rifle Company Butterworth Rotation. I expect I'll continue to be impressed by the soldiers of 'A' Battery throughout 2023, and look forward to the year ahead.

'Semper Paratus'

Respectfully,

Steve McBride

Major

Battery Commander

'A' Battery, Royal Australian Artillery



155mm, 52-Caliber K9 "Huntsman" Howitzers

The Australian Army is to acquire 30 155mm, 52-caliber K9 "Huntsman" howitzers and 15 K10 armored ammunition resupply vehicles, both of which are built by Hanwha. (There may be an order for a further Regiment of these equipment's to be added to this procurement.)

The K9 Thunder is touted as one of the world's most advanced self-propelled howitzers in the world, ranked at number four (4). It's designed to provide effective and deep fire support across theatres. The howitzer is now manufactured by Hanwha Defence, a defence contractor of Hanwha Group. The main weapon is the 155mm, 52-caliber gun with a burst rate of fire of three rounds per 15 seconds, and a maximum rate of fire of six rounds a minute for three minutes. It has a firing range of 40 kilometres and is capable of "multiple rounds simultaneous impact" firing. The K9 carries a total of 48 shells for the main gun. It is compatible with standard NATO 155 mm ammunition. Maximum range of fire is 30 km with standard HE-FRAG shell and 40 km with rocket-assisted shell.

An upgraded variant, the K9A1, is in production with improvements in fire control and power systems. DAPA and Hanwha Defence plan to continue to improve the K9's capabilities to add automatic loading and unmanned manoeuvring functions. The K9 has been exported to several countries, including Turkey, Poland, India, Norway and Estonia.

'A' Frame Working Groups (WG)

The 'A' Association Executive Committee (EC) has a number of projects underway. These projects have been designated as individual Working Groups (WG). The WG may have one or more members of the Executive Committee or other members of the 'A' Association working on or within the WG. The number of WG that are active is ambitious but better being proactive than being reactive. At present the WG list is as follows:

WG01_'A'_Henry Green Grave Site (Status – Maintenance Watch - ongoing)

WG02_'A'_ 'LIFE MEMBER' Badge (Status – Completed)

WG03_'A'_ Membership Drive (Status – Continuous ongoing)

**WG04_'A'_ Association Name Change – 'A' Battery Association Incorporated
Number IA18673** (Status – Completed)

WG05_'A'_ Exempt From Using Incorporated (Status – Unsuccessful - Closed)

WG06_'A'_ Social Media

a. **Domain.com (@abtyassn.org.au)** – (Status -Transferred to WG17)

b. **Website (@abtyassn.org.au)** - (Status – Continuous Ongoing – **CURRENT PRIORITY**)

c. **Facebook** – A Battery Association Inc - (Status – Continuous Ongoing)

WG07_'A'_ Association Property (Status – Continuous Ongoing)

(Henry Green Historical Collection, 25 Pounder Gun, L5 Pack Howitzer, etc)

WG08_'A'_ 'LIFE MEMBER' Medal/Medallion (Status – Open – Final stages)

WG09_'A'_ 8 Dual Purpose Parade Banners – State and Territories (Status – Open)

WG10_'A'_ Constitution Re-Write (Status – Working On - **PRIORITY**)

WG11_'A'_ 'LIFE MEMBER' Men's Accessories Gift Box Set (Status – Open)

('A' silk tie, 'A' silk bow tie, 'A' silk pocket square, 'A' tie bar, 'A' cufflinks, and 'A' lapel Pin)(To be released NLT August 2023)

WG12_'A'_ Ordinary Membership Badge (Status – Working On - **PRIORITY**)

WG13_'A'_ Smart Business

a. **Domain** - (Status – Transferred to WG17)

b. **ABN** - (Status – Completed)

c. **Executive Committee Director Numbers** - (Status – Open – Final stages)

d. **Heritage Bank – Visa Debit Card** (Status – Continuous Ongoing)

e. **Australia Post** – (Status – Continuous Ongoing)

f. **Office Works** - (Status – Continuous Ongoing)

WG14_'A'_ Bastard Card (Status – Open – Final stages)

WG15_'A'_ 41PL 1RTB_Sponsor Unit - (Status – Continuous Ongoing)

WG16_'A'_ Newsletter - (Status – Continuous Ongoing)

WG17_'A'_ IT_Comms – Domain.com Email System (@abtyassn.org.au) –
(Status – Continuous Ongoing)

WG18_'A'_ ANZAC Day Parade & March - (Status – Continuous Ongoing)

WG19_'A'_ Vietnam 50th Medallion - Merchandise (Status – Designed and Purchase made – Open - **PRIORITY**)

WG20_'A'_ The Malaya Emergency 1957-1959 Medallion (Status – Open)

WG21_ 'A' Indonesian-Malaysia Confrontation – Terendak Garrison 1965-1967 Medallion (Status – Open)

WG22_ 'A' East Timor INTERFET 1999-2000 & UNTAET-UNISSET 2002 Medallion (Status – Open)

WG23_ 'A'_ Table Cover and Feather Banner Set (Status – Purchase Completed)

WG24_ 'A'_ Merchandise -

a. **Stocktakes – Last stocktake completed**

b. **'A' Plaque – Nil stock - (Status – Redesign and New Purchase/Open)**

c. **Polo Shirt (Old – Blue Emblem) – Stock on hand 3 -**

d. **Polo Shirt (New – Black Emblem) – Stock on hand -**

e. **DVD L5 – Stock on Hand -**

f. **Vietnam Car Sticker – (Status – To be gifted to 'A' Vietnam Reunion - Open)**

g. **Vietnam Unit Citation Car Sticker – (Status – To be gifted to 'A' Vietnam Reunion - Open)**

h. **Book**

WG25_ 'A' FIELD BATTERY RAA 1972-1998 Minions Medallion (Status – Open)

WG26_ 'A' Badge Airbourne Gunners (Status – Open)

WG27_ 'A' Car Bumper Sticker Badge Airbourne Gunners (Status – Open)

Gunnedah - Vietnam Veterans' Day 2022

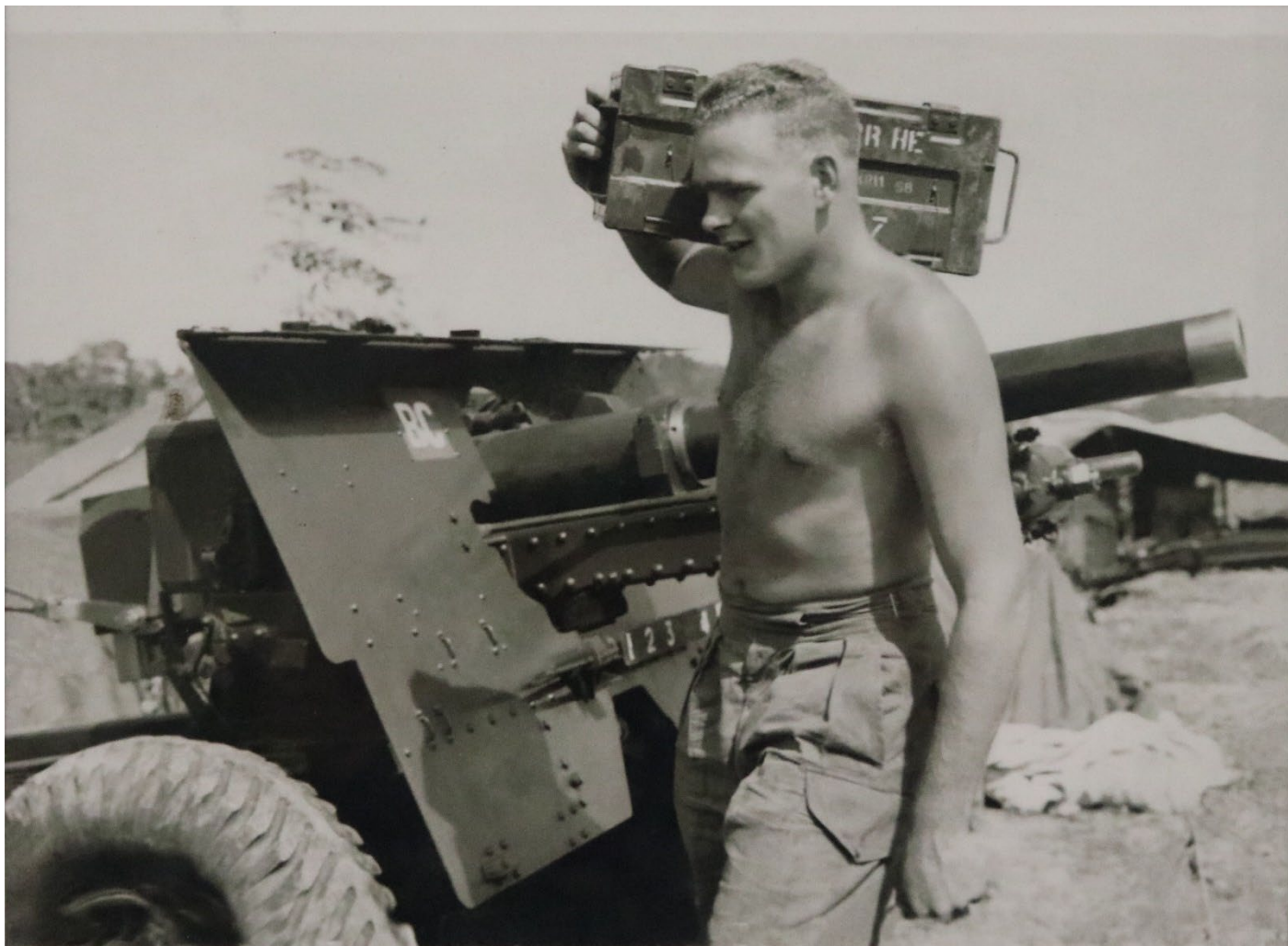
Email to the editor from Robert 'Dodger' Noonan.

In October 2022 I was in Gunnedah visiting my brother Graham for the Agricultural Equipment Show (AgQuip '22) which coincided with Vietnam Veterans' Day in the same week. In anticipation of there being a local ceremony, I took my Anzac Day clobber, and we attended a ceremony at a local landmark. This made the local newspaper, and they sent me a copy of the article and photo. After the ceremony, we were invited back to the local RSL club where we were all shouted to a free lunch and two free beers courtesy of the RSL.



VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY: Gunnedah RSL sub-branch members pictured with Vietnam War veterans after the Vietnam Veterans' Day commemoration at the Long Tan memorial. Back, Malcolm Robinson, Malcolm Jones, John Commins, Mick Hull, John Atkin, Norman Foale (South Australia), front, Peter Clarke, Max De Mestre-Allan, Graham Noonan, Neville Steele, Robert (Dodger) Noonan (Sydney) and Peter Kannengiesser.

Australia Day Awards 2023



Mr Ronald Norman (TEX) Bassan, OAM

The 'A' Association would like to proudly congratulate the Associations previous Secretary and past President Mr Ronald Norman Bassan, OAM; otherwise known as 'TEX'. Tex was awarded the Order of Australia Medal at this year's Australia Day Awards.

Transcribed from the Mackay Life Newspaper dated 03 February 2023:

"Ronald Bassan OAM signed up for the army at age 17, serving from 1954 to 1975 in both Malaysia (known then as Malaya) and Vietnam. He received a long list of awards and recognition for his military service, including the Australian Defence Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal, and Vietnamese Medal 1962. Mr Bassan is a proud return serviceman; a member of 'A' Field Battery Association, Royal Australian Artillery since 1997 and serving as president and secretary throughout his tenure, as well as the RSL Farleigh and Northern Beaches Sub-Branch. He followed his passions for orchid growing and stamp collecting upon returning to Mackay, participating in community groups including the Australian Native Orchid Society Mackay Group, Mackay and District Orchid Society and the Mackay and District Philatelic Society. Mr Bassan was awarded the OAM "for service to the community through a range of organisations."

Republic of South Vietnam Flag Presentation to 'A' Battery

Letter to the editor from David Jackson. In 1971 I was a Forward Observer Signaler (FO Sig) with Call-Sign One-One (C/S 11) in Vietnam, partnered with the Ray Davis, C/S 11 Forward Observer Assistant (FO Ack). We were attached to 1 Platoon 3 RAR. Ray Davis, who was on his second tour, having served with 12 Field Regiment in 1968, most notably at Fire Support Base Coral. We formed a friendship that endured until his death a few years ago. One thing I realised about Ray was that he was an avid collector and before we arrived, he had a plan in mind as to what he wanted.

He bought a flag of the Republic of South Vietnam and set about getting as many members of 'A' Battery to sign it as he could. In this regard he was very effective, achieving almost 100 signatures over all ranks. This was held in his property shed which was set up as a military museum displaying many memorabilia particularly from the Vietnam war era. Following his death in 2016 the flag turned up in the post, sent by his wife to me as she felt I would appreciate it more than any of their family. I had it framed, and it's reposed on a wall at my place for the last 6 years.

However, in recent times I have felt that it was more important than 1 person and represents a unique piece of history, evidencing the Battery's service in Vietnam and the signatures symbolising the men who served therein. The logical place for it was the 'A' Battery Headquarters as part of the Henry Green Historical Collection, on display to be viewed by current and future members of 'A' Battery. Hence the presentation on Monday. I did take the liberty to attach a plaque which outline the origins and credited Ray with its collation.



**Andrew McCann, Major Aaron Foster, David Jackson, David Gibson, Colonel Tony Williams
(serial photo bomber)**

IT ALL HAPPENED ON THE TIN TAILINGS AT SUNGAI SIPUT

Letter to the editor from Mr Paul Clough.

One of the salient features of my time in 100 'A' Field Battery between 1957 and 1959 was the emphasis-on discipline by fear imposed by both officers and non-commissioned officers. I was the unit pay representative at the Battery and recall that in my first 2 months at the job that 16 NCOs were stripped of their rank after orderly room hearings before the BC, I took the pay out of their Paybooks. It was a pretty savage cull rate for a small unit of about 140 souls, one chap, Cunningham, manages to incur 2 DCMs and got 6 months each time. Put another way, he spent half his time in Malaya in jail.

The diggers extracted a form of pay back by going over to the Island. Penang, when flush and indulging in some pillow-talk with the ladies of the night. Naturally, many of them contracted gonorrhoea. Many was the morning when one observed a digger suffering from peeing razor blades. The footwork was as good as Fred Astaire; the squealing reminded one of a small pig; the emotion was complete when the sufferer was given some pills and sent to BMH Kinrara in Kuala Lumpur for 6 weeks to be treated for his ailment; the bonus being 10 shillings a day extra for the Pommy meals. I was the pay representative and facilitated the diggers monetary windfall. They also escaped the harsh discipline for a pleasant 6 weeks.

At any one time there were at least 30 Gun Numbers in KL living the high life in hospital. A significant number from such a small unit of about 125 operatives all up. The loss of gun numbers at the sharp resulted in the guns being manned by about 3 diggers; a gun sergeant, a gun layer and a gun number. AHQ in Australia had a brain wave and decided that it was going to send a photographic unit to 100 'A' Field Battery and photograph the first artillery unit in action since World War 2. The BC saw the writing on the wall. There was very little in the way of gunners to be photographed by the public relations photographers for the future. It also may have reflected on the Be's promotion prospects. Questions may be asked where have the diggers gone and why?

Drastic problems require drastic solutions. All the odds sods and bods of the unit were gathered up and trucked to the gun mound at Sungai Siput. I found myself together with the medical corps corporal and the cook sergeant in a truck with patrol equipment on my way to the gun line. We arrived at about 2030 hours to a dark place to be greeted by the command that we should drop out personal equipment and stand to too fire in about 5 minutes. Coming from a cultured background of pay books and the like it was something of a shock. Prior to this moment my appreciation of gunnery consisted of little more than watching the guns hitched up to big trucks and towed out of the Butterworth barracks. In the five minutes we waited for the command to fire.

A mentor, SGT 'Boof' Duggan, his real name was Richard, but his nickname fitted his instructional personality. All that I remember was that I should only use my fist to load the doings and not let my fingers get in the way of the breech block, I think. All the instruction given was done in the dark and we three novices were

still trying to work out where we stood while this loading was to occur. It would appear that we three novice gunner NCOs were the manual labour that made the whole shebang work. Prior to that first night on the mound, I never knew that there were many ways and sequences for firing these guns. The order to fire was given and we three numb-skulls with much shouting and noise from the gun layer and the gun sergeant somehow fired off the requisite number of rounds. It was fascinating to discover that the doings were in two parts; a shiny brass cartridge case that had coloured bags of explosive and a blob of metal in the shape of a shell that had a fuse in the front. One was warned not to drop the shell on its nose as it could be unpleasant for we three willing but inexperienced helpers. I read recently that Pope Benedict the 6th fulfilled a similar role on an anti-aircraft gun in the Second World war in the Hitler Youth, and I'm not catholic.

Our unskilled sojourn extended over about 10 days. One of the more exciting events occurred one night when, I, as the bomb mound monkey, had to take a blue bag of cordite out of about 3 or 4 shell casings prior to the firing sequence. The task consisted of taking out a cardboard bung, removing the blue bag replacing the cardboard bung. Sadly, I did not replace the bung correctly and during the shoot when swinging the cartridge shell to the mid helper the bung and the other two white and red bags of cordite were scattered onto the ground. Readers should understand this procedure was done in the pitch of night and by an untrained pay corporal. When the order to fire came in sequence instead of a resounding "BANG" our gun gave up an insipid "POP". Fitzzy, the cook sergeant, had the breech handle and promptly said "what happened" as he opened the breech and the cartridge fell out followed by the shell onto the sand between the trail of the gun. The whole lot was smoking somewhat, and I remember saying so. Both Ptolomy and I said, "what did you do Fitzzy to stuff it up". Being a fiery Irishman, Fitzzy took umbrage and replied, "it's not my fault while throwing aspersions on our parent marriages". We two corporals both believed that Sergeants should take the blame for any stuff- ups and decided to take a vote. The vote was two to one and Fitzzy had to accept that he was to blame and had to answer for all of the shouting that seemed to be coming out of the night from the Command Post. One of us said why don't we call on the two artillery bods, the layer, and the gun sergeant to answer the strident shouting from the night. We could not find them. They had disappeared into thin air. Only we three dummies remained with the smoking remnants of the misfire. The most strident shouting was for "No 4 Gun report". But what? Fitzzy was on his high horse and we corporals didn't have a clue. Eventually to placate the noise from the CP, I suggested that Fitzzy shout out "Help". He did so and assorted Warrant officers and Commissioned officers appeared and "investigated" the misfire. The two missing artillery men Bevan Filce and Boof Duggan were found. Bevan had run forward of the gun and was strung up in some black berry bushes and Boof had run backwards in the tin tailing pond and was swimming around in an arsenic lake. After retrieving these two worthies, I observed the two bags of cordite on the ground and discretion being the better part of valour I kicked some sand over them and buried them. What the investigators do not know about will not hurt them.

Otherwise, the time on the firing mound was uneventful. The photographers went around and took photos of whatever they thought was interesting. I was unaware that they took a movie photograph of me when the gun was fired. The noise of the blast was something else. I jumped a foot in air and quivered somewhat each time. The movie crew caught every twitch. Then back to Butterworth and the mundane world of paybooks and paperwork.

Whilst in Malaya, I learnt to fly fixed wing aircraft at a couple of aeroclubs and with 75 hours experience was posted to Pucka to see out my six years enlistment. At the end of my 6 years' service the Army, in its wisdom, sent me on the first Army pilot's flying course to RAAF Point Cook to be taught to fly, military style. I had another 30 hours further experience in August 1960, and I passed the course easily coming second even though I scraped a wing tip on landing once. I was sent to RAAF Amberley and converted onto Bell 47 G2's, called Sioux, in Army terms. I got a set of wings and the booby prize; I was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.

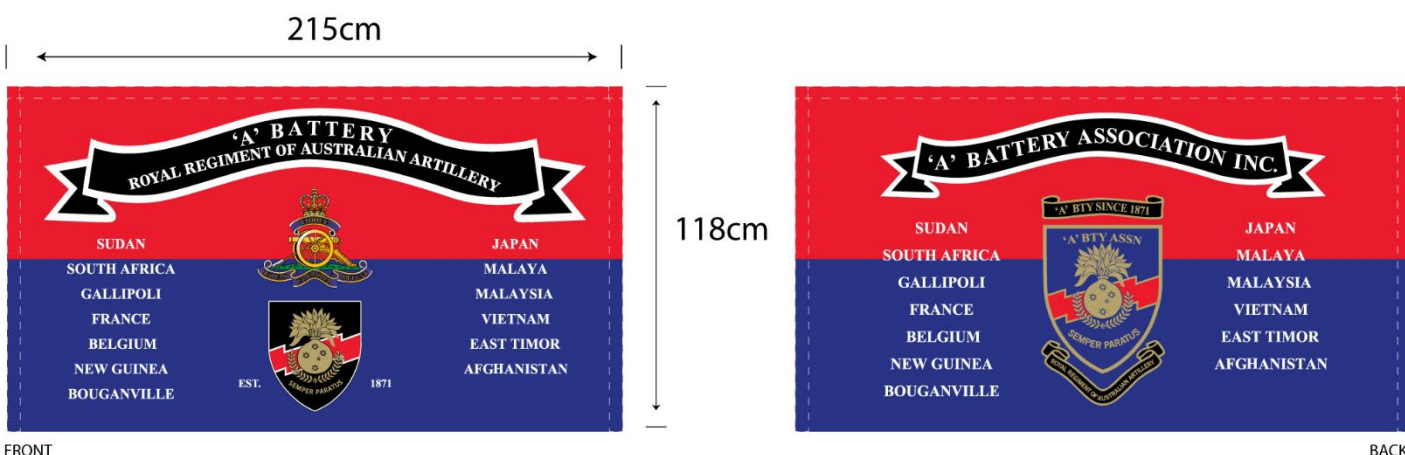
The group of officers that I joined were mainly Duntroon on and Portsea graduates, who each had about 100 of so flying hours total and thought they were God's gift to Army Aviation. Two of them were ex 100 'A' Field Battery Gun Position officers. Neil Haden and Graeme Hill Smith. Quite a few direct entry pilot officers were coming into the squadron and the two 'A' Battery officers decided to get the photographic evidence of the Battery in action at Sungai Siput to show the Army sprog how the real Army artillery worked.

The move showed my embarrassment was complete. Here I was shivering and shaking as each round was fired. I was dressed in a hat, blue shorts, socks, and boots with my back to the camera and resource of much amusement of the assembled pilot flyers at Amberley. Both Neil and Graeme could not remember the tall tremulous Gunner featured in about 5 minutes of the film. I slunk further down in the armchair and hoped the floor would swallow me. Various tall gunners were mentioned but neither Neil nor Graeme thought of the tall pay rep corporal thank God.

humiliation beamed but neither officer thought to ask me, the only other 'A' Battery member present. I lived to fly another day. Strange but true.

Mr Paul Clough (Once 'A' Gunner, always 'A' Gunner!)

'A' New Banner On It's Way Near You



VIETNAM REUNION IN TOWNSVILLE 14-20 AUGUST 2023

The Townsville Reunion will run over the week 14-20 August 2023. The week will kick off with a Meet and Greet on the Monday 14th at the Townsville RSL with a buffet dinner.

The Tuesday 15th will see the group heading off to Magnetic Island for the day. The group will travel to Magnetic Island by a passenger ferry, on arrival a coach will take the group for a tour of the Island and then be dropped off at the Horseshoe Bay Pub for lunch. After lunch the group can spend a couple of hours either taking in the amazing beach walks or browse the boutique shops as long as the group are back at the Horseshoe Bay Pub coach pick up point for our return trip back to the ferry terminal for the trip back to Townsville.

On Wednesday 16th there will be a group coach to Lavarack Barracks where we will be the very special guests of the 4th Regiment (4 REGT), Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. In 1970 at Lavarack Barracks, 'A' Field Battery did its training prior to the Battery's departure to Vietnam in February 1971. A memorial service will be held at 10:00am at 4 REGT, then there we will be a tour of the gun park followed by a lunch break and then a tour of the 4 REGT Paddy Durnford OAM Historical Collection. Then the group will move by bus to the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) Historical Collection as 'A' Field Battery had supported 3 RAR in Vietnam.

The Thursday 17th will be a FREE day.

On Friday 18th August Vietnam Veterans Day will see the group take part in the Townsville Vietnam Veterans Day Service at the cenotaph at The Strand . The group will then make their way to the Townsville RSL for the dinner, then on Saturday 19th the group will enjoy a relaxing BBQ at the caravan park. On Sunday 20th there will be a Farewell Breakfast.

To date there has been an amazing response to the reunion with over 50 people already having confirmed their attendance. The Rowes Bay Beachfront Holiday Park seems to be the most popular place to stay with a great range of cabins and caravan sites and great facilities. It is advised to get in quickly if you plan on attending to book accommodation, the Rowes Bay Beachfront Holiday Park phone number is 1800 751 845.

Polo shirts are available, and orders are being taken.

If you are an 'A' Battery Vietnam 1971 member and would like to attend the Townsville reunion please contact Bill Downie on 0407 036 344 or by sending an email to abatteryreunion2023@gmail.com. The aim for the Reunion is to be a memorable relaxing week where old friendships can be rekindled, and new friendships and memories can be made.



BARNES AUTO SUPPORTS ANZAC DAY

We thank Barnes Auto for their long and outstanding service to assisting our 'A' Association in Brisbane every year. Without Barnes Auto support the Anzac Day march/parade just would not be the same without the 'A' Associations 25-pounder Gun and 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer being present and accounted for.

Support the support!



**Head Office: 1A Mollison Street
South Brisbane QLD 4101
(07) 3274 1111**

**24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week
E-mail: admin@barnesautoco.com**



Invitation to all Gunners (serving and retired) and Members of RAA Assn (Qld)

RAA ASSOCIATION (QLD) INC. LUNCHEONS (EVERY THIRD MONTH)

WHERE: *Tattersall's Club, 215 Queen Street, Brisbane, Qld, 4000*

WHEN: On a Thursday, date TBA, 1130 hr for 1200 hr. **Must RSVP if you wish to attend.**

DRESS: Coat and Tie **COST: \$75.00 per person** (includes meal and specified wine)
(Pre- and post- lunch bar will operate at own cost – see Notes)

Notes: 1. Lunch will be beef main, followed by cheese course, with specified wine included.

2. All bar transactions at Tattersalls are **card only** – strictly no cash – in accordance with Qld Govt. COVID-19 guidelines.

Please advise **Ron West** if you wish to attend this Lunch. Email is the preferred contact method. **Prior payment is required for this event.** Prior payments can be made via direct bank transfer to Bank of Qld: **BSB 124001 A/c no.: 10165789** with your **surname** as reference, *or cheque* payable to **RAA Assn. Qld**, posted to: The Secretary, RAAAQ, PO Box 174, Lutwyche Qld 4030. **Returns to the RAAAQ Secretary**

N.B: Standing rules are that if you indicate that you are attending and don't advise us of a cancellation 7 days before, we have no option but to pass on the cost of the lunch. Enquiries or further information: **Ron West**, Secretary RAAAQ. Ph. (07) 3343 6969, Email: rrwest@optusnet.com.au

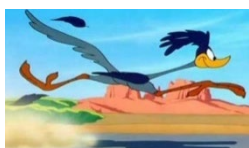
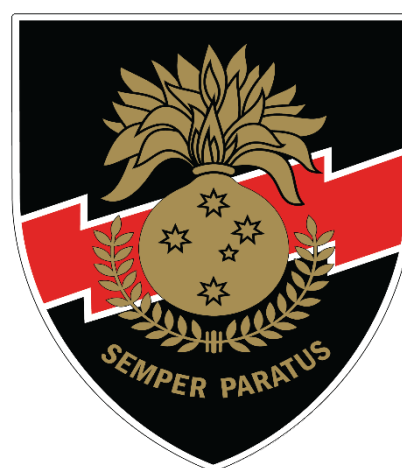
Controversy Corner

'A' Under the Microscope

Fortune favours the brave, have your say!



The 'A' Battery Plaque. Is it an evolution or is it a chameleon effect! Who knows? Is it the colour Dark Magenta Blue or is it now Black? When, why, and who changed it? Does anybody know? We are wishing to explore this further!



Beep Beep! MISSING IN ACTION

One Framed notice/letter from Warner Bros, Looney Tunes, America. This framed letter was presented to 'A' Field Battery in the 1980's/1990's giving official permission for 'A' Field Battery to use 'THE ROAD RUNNER' as a Battery logo/emblem.

Does anybody know the whereabouts of this item or have a picture of it?

BLAST FROM THE PAST – VIETNAM 1971 STYLE

Article by David Gibson

Hi, I have been asked to become the Vietnam era rep for the 'A' Battery Association and I am happy to accept that role. I will include photos and stories from our days with the battery and would be happy to accept stories from you for future editions, I have started with a few memories of days gone by. These three are of members of 'A' Field Battery, 12 Field Regiment, during training in Townsville, on active service and post-Vietnam.



Luke Rutgers, David Gibson & David Pearson (served as Horne) winning the pub raffle at Ingham.



Sergeant Barry Smith
No.1 Alpha Gun. FSB Beth



1st Reunion – Port Macquarie 1997. Hope to see you all in Townsville in August!

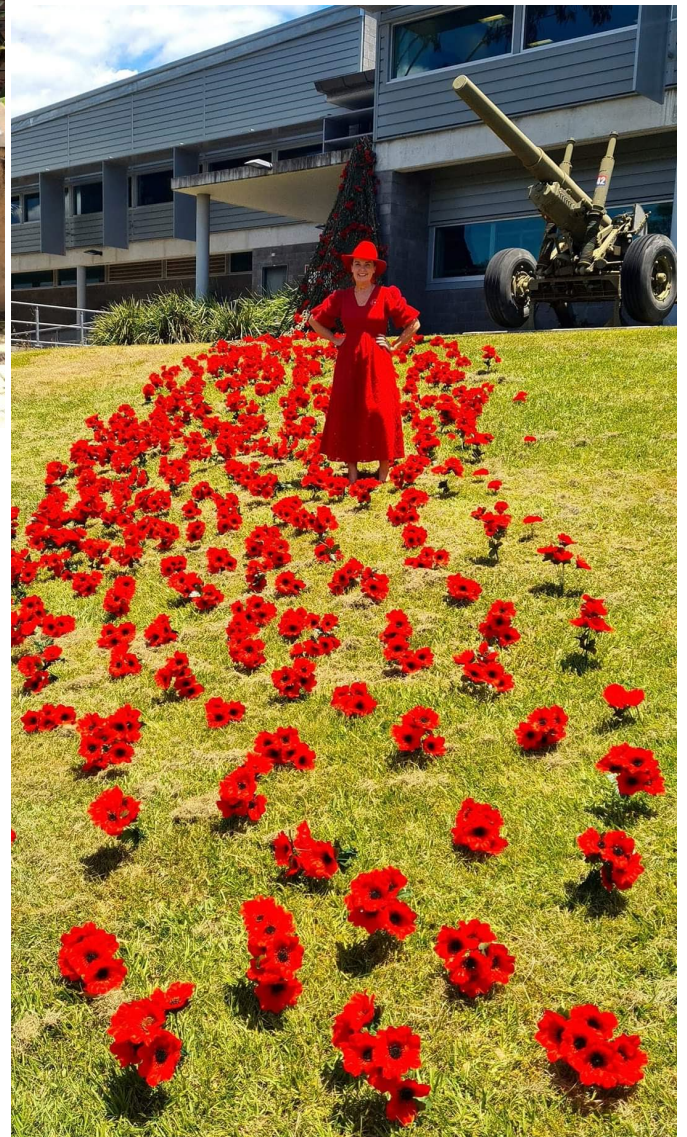
1st Regiment RAA - Remembrance Day 2022



Shane Cooper presents Kevin Mobbs his 'Life Member' Badge and Certificate, with Chris Flavel, Paul Johnston.



'A' Field Battery Vietnam Veterans with spouses, friends and family.



Catherine Johnston doing her best with camouflage and concealment.



RSM 1st Regiment WO1 Matthew Dawson telling Paul and Catherine Johnston to get off the grass.



Lieutenant Ian G. Mathers who was killed in action in June 1971 during the Vietnam War.

Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and 1 Armoured Regiment Centurion tanks were involved in an attack on an enemy bunker system in Long Khanh province as part of Operation Overlord. During the battle Ian had moved forward to gain a better appreciation of the battle in front of 5 Platoon. During this activity he entered an enemy killing ground and received a fatal gunshot.

Ian Mathers was a conscripted economic student and graduated as a second Lieutenant from the Officers Training Collage course at Scheyville, NSW on 16 July 1970 after his call up six months earlier. Ian was posted to Vietnam with 'A' Field Battery, RAA. He was one of three Australians including two from the RAAF, who were killed in action during an enemy contact in Long Khanh on 7 June 1971. Fourteen men were also wounded in the battle. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/37482386/ian-george-mathers>

On Remembrance Day 2022. 1st Regiment RAA took the opportunity to name their High-Performance Centre at Enoggera Barracks, the Long Tan Centre to commemorate 1 Field Regiment's key support to Delta Company 6 RAR throughout the Battle of Long Tan 18 August 1966. Three rooms including a Library and a Briefing Room were also named to honour one member of each Battery who distinguished themselves in the Vietnam campaign.

- CAPT Ken Bade, 105 Battery, Forward Observer B Company 1 RAR, KIA 8 Jan 1966 Operation Crimp
- 2LT Ian George Mathers, A Battery, Forward Observer A Company 3 RAR KIA 7 June 1971 Battle of Long Khan
- CAPT Greg Gilbert, DSM, 104 Battery, Forward Observer D Company 4 RAR, Battle of Nui Le, 21 September 1971.

Members of each Battery Association were invited to the opening on 11 November 2022. 'A' Battery Commander, MAJ Aaron Foster also reached out to the family of Ian Mathers. Through a contact in Adelaide an invitation was relayed to Ian's sister Carol Dean on the Sunshine Coast. In the past such attempts were unsuccessful but this time the invitation was quickly accepted by Carol Dean, her husband Colin Dean, and Chris Madden AO a classmate of Ian's.

Carol cut the ribbon to open The Mathers Room and Carol, Colin and Chris all had the opportunity to meet members of 'A' Battery who served alongside Ian Mathers on the Gun-line and in his Forward Observer party in 1971. This was a momentous occasion for 'A' Battery members as well as Ian's family, being the first occasion we had been able to make contact in 51 years. A memorable Remembrance Day 2022.

Article by Bob McEvoy.

VALE – Mr Donald Thomas 'The Saint' Sinclair



SINCLAIR, Donald Thomas "The Saint"
Peacefully passed away 21st October 2022, aged 84 years.

Beloved husband of Carol (deceased), loving Father of Greg, Donna and Marty.
Cherished Grandad of Riley, Kasey, Finn and Max.

THE HONOUR ROLL - IN MEMORIAM

The In Memoriam – Honour Roll for the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated will be updated and will appear once a year in 'The Road Runner' September Edition, this being in preparation and prior to Remembrance Day each year. At present the EC is attempting to correctly collate a list of our 'A' Association members that have passed away.

*"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!"



LIEUTENANT MICHAEL KENNETH HOUSDAN FUSSELL 1983 – 2008

Lieutenant Fussell was posted in 'A' Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and was serving with the Special Operations Task Group when he was killed in action by an Improvised Explosive Device detonation while conducting a dismounted patrol in Uruzgan province, on Thursday 27 November 2008.

Mike was born on 17 November 1983 at Coffs Harbour, New South Wales.

As a cheeky red headed lad, Mike loved growing up in the rural environment near Armidale. He was at his happiest on a horse, rugby field or in the surf.

He did well academically, learned the piano and loved a wide variety of sports including squash, archery, kayaking, and competitive swimming with a special love for polocrosse and rugby union. In his latter teenage years, he took up surfing and this was an interest he continued to pursue both on his own and with mates.



Importantly he cherished friends and always had a wide circle from school, clubs and sports that he was associated with.

Mike enlisted in the Australian Army in January 2002 and was appointed as an Officer Cadet at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He completed a Bachelor of Arts and was a keen sportsman, continuing his passion for rugby.

He attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 2005, commissioning in December 2005 into the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. During his time at 'A' Field Battery he qualified as a paratrooper. He also deployed to East Timor on Operation Astute in 2006 and 2007. Lieutenant Fussell was posted to 4 RAR (Commando) in January 2008 as a Joint Offensive Support Team Commander.

Lieutenant Fussell's military decorations include the Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Campaign Against Terrorism (ICAT), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Australian Service Medal clasp, Timor-Leste and the Australian Defence Medal.

Michael is survived by his two loving parents, Madeline and Ken, his younger brother Daniel and sister Nyah.



THE 'A' BATTERY TIE

\$35.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling

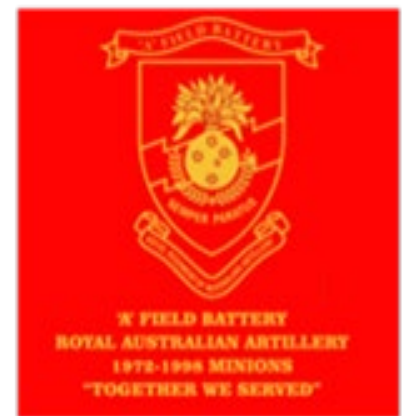
If you would like to purchase a tie, then contact the 'A' Association Merchandise Coordinator, Mr Peter 'Zed' Zannino. Zed will then put you in touch with the 'A' Battery Funds Co-ordinating Officer at 'A' Battery.



WG25 - A' FIELD BATTERY RAA 1972-1998 Minions Medallion



DRAFT MOCK_UP



It will a Maroon Colour Box similar to the maroon coloured beret on the pictured minion



The finished product will be a 3D UV Print Finish.

This Australian Gunners medallion was done using the 3D UV Print Finish

2023 Association Contacts

'A' Battery Association Inc.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) - Group Email: abtyassn@abtyassn.org.au

Executive Director - Mr Shane Cooper - exec@abtyassn.org.au

Management Director - Mr Paul Johnston - management@abtyassn.org.au

Finance Director - Mr Stephen Orr - finance@abtyassn.org.au

Membership Director - Mr Chris Flavel - membership@abtyassn.org.au

Public Relations Director - Mr Shane Crotty - pr@abtyassn.org.au



ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Non-Elected Positions)

Merchandise - merchandise@abtyassn.org.au - Mr Peter 'ZED' Zannino

Malaya/Malaysia Era Representative - malaya@abtyassn.org.au - Mr Robert (Dodger) Noonan

Vietnam Era Representative - vietnam@abtyassn.org.au - Mr David Gibson

STATE and TERRITORY CO-ORDINATORS

New South Wales - nsw@abtyassn.org.au - Mr Robert (Dodger) Noonan

Victoria - vic@abtyassn.org.au - Mr David Gibson

Queensland - qld@abtyassn.org.au - Mr Paul Johnston

South Australia - sa@abtyassn.org.au - Mr Bob McEvoy

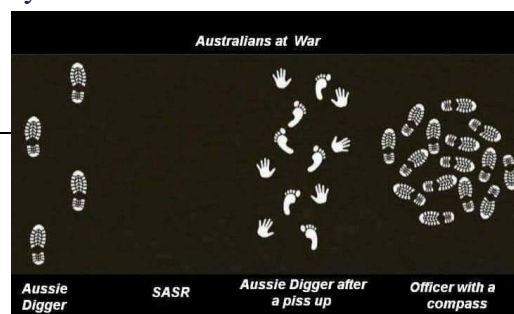
Western Australia - wa@abtyassn.org.au - TBA

Australian Capital Territory - act@abtyassn.org.au - Mr Sean Lillywhite

Tasmania - tas@abtyassn.org.au - TBA

Northern Territory - nt@abtyassn.org.au - Mr Brett Fidler

Mailing Address: 'A' Battery Association Inc.
PO BOX 1001
NEW FARM QLD 4005



The best way to share your messages or photos is to contact the 'A' Battery Association Inc. Web Administrator. Want to keep up with the latest, then put the following website address into your web browser favourites: <http://afdbty.australianartilleryassociation.com>

To join the Association 'MEMBERSHIP':

https://www.afieldbattery.com/documents/membership_application.pdf

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is produced for the membership of 'A' Battery Association Incorporated. Readers should not act, nor refrain from acting solely on the basis of information in this newsletter, on any matter. Neither the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated nor the Editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers. Views expressed by the authors contained in the newsletter, are not necessarily those of the Association. Shot Out!

1st FIELD REGIMENT REUNION



ANZAC DAY 2023



For all former members and partners of
1 Field Regiment

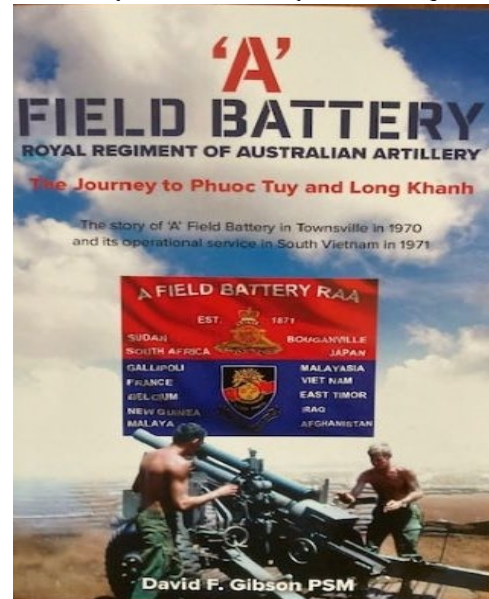
Any serving or former members of 1 Regiment welcome

Public Bar - Port Office Hotel - 9am until late

UBIQUE

'A' FIELD BATTERY ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

The Journey to Phuoc Tuy and Long Khanh



The story of 'A' Field Battery in Townsville in 1970
and its operational service in South Vietnam in 1971

Author: David F. Gibson PSM

\$40.00 plus \$10.00 for postage and handling

If you would like to purchase a copy of the book,
then please send your details to

vietnam@abtyassn.org.au



Mathers Room with Ray Davis's South Vietnamese Flag signed by Battery Members in 1971

Back: Bob McEvoy, Kevin Mobbs, Graham Martin, Andy McCann, Ian Brown, Peter Stephenson

Front: Colin Dean, Carol Dean