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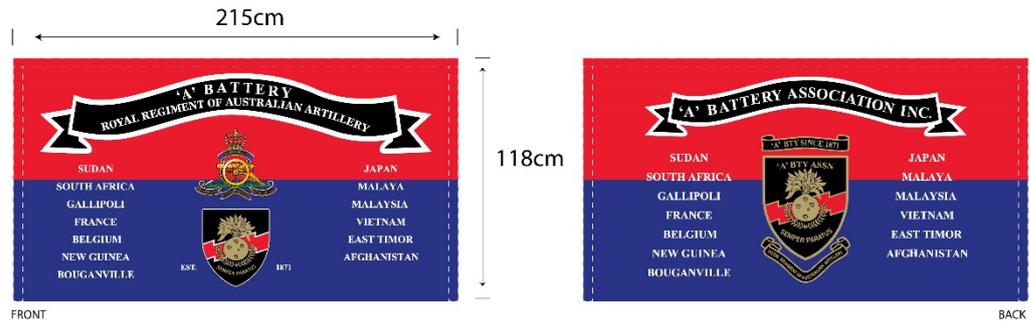
'A' Battery Association Inc. National Newsletter

'THE ROAD RUNNER' March 2024 Biannual Edition



Beep Beep! Next edition will be in October 2024

Breaking News: This year, for the first time in 'A' history, the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated ('A' Association) will have a Parade Marching Banner in each Australian capital city.



From the Editor. The 'A' Battery Association Incorporated ('A' Association) has no benefactors that edit or print this newsletter like a number of other RAA veteran associations and organisation may have. 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 and articles to the 'A' Association, EC group email abtyassn@abtyassn.org.au .

It is the intent of the EC to have better reaching and a more fluid link in communication with both the 'A' Associations membership, and 'A' State and Territory Coordinators. The EC has put in place an information gathering and distribution system so that the 'A' Association can be represented appropriately and easily in each Australian State and Territory. To do this the EC is utilising the 'A' Association Website which is linked in via the Australian Artillery Association (AAA) website; and using SmugMug (an online image sharing, image hosting service, and online video platform on which users can upload photos and videos); and Facebook. Therefore all 'A' Association members can have visibility of relevant information pertinent to their State or Territory. All SmugMug photographs, videos, and documentation within the 'A' SmugMug Photographic Album are free to download. A prime example of support information that can be found on SmugMug is the Parade Marching Banner Register and ANZAC Day Planning and Coord which can be found at this link:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-A-Battery-Association>



2024



'A' ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATION INFORMATION FOR YOUR CAPITAL CITY

This year the "A' Battery Association Inc ('A' Association) has an 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching banner based permanently in each Australian State and Territory capital city. The 'A' Association, Executive Committee (EC) has made a request to each State and Territory capital city ANZAC Day Organisational Committees, that the banners not be placed/positioned in any specific military conflict theatre or era (i.e. Vietnam or Malaysia eras/contingents/groups). To be inclusive to all those that who have served under the 'A' umbrella the EC has formally requested that the banner be placed/positioned in an all-inclusive 'A' group within the parade march. Therefore this represents all that have served within and under the 'A' umbrella. The idea and intent behind this change is to bring all 'A' generations together and to march and support each other as one complete identity.

Queensland – Brisbane – 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching banner – 'A' Coordinator and contact is Mr Paul Johnston gld@abtyassn.org.au – In liaison with Scott Mackie, Executive Officer, Anzac Day Parade Brisbane events@rslsouthqueensland.org. It has been confirmed that the support from Barnes Auto Co (supporting with transporting the guns since 2008) will be delivering the 25-pounder Field Gun and 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer Gun to and from the parade march. The Military Heritage Vehicle club also continues its support in towing the guns on the parade march in Brisbane. More public information on the Brisbane ANZAC Day 2024 Parade March can be found at the following link:

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-on-and-events/search>

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

10:00am Anzac Day Parade March. Order of March is that 'A' Battery Association Inc (leads Group 7 - Army Associations). 11:05am Step-Off for 'A' Battery/'A' Battery Association Inc.

Brisbane Parade March Map:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/2020s/2024/2024-ANZAC-Day-Brisbane/i-dhCvfg2/A>

For more information on 'A' Association ANZAC Day Planning and Coordination in Brisbane can be found at the following two SmugMug links:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord> ; and

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/2020s/2024/2024-ANZAC-Day-Brisbane>

Watering-Hole: The **Stock Exchange Hotel** <https://www.stockexchangehotel.com.au/> is the designated after parade march watering-hole for both the 'A' Battery Association Inc and for the Royal Australian Artillery in Brisbane.

New South Wales – Sydney – 'A' Association 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching banner – 'A' Coordinator and 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> <https://rslnsw.org.au/commemorations-ceremonies-and-events-portal/anzac-day-2024/sydney-cbd-march/>

4:20am Dawn Service. The state's official Anzac Day Dawn Service will get underway from 4:20am 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.

Sydney Parade March Map (note: Contingant 20): chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://rslnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-RSL-NSW-Anzac-Day-Map-V4_Final.pdf

Order of March (OOM) (note: Contingant 20): <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://rslnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-Order-of-March-v1.pdf>

For more information on 'A' Association Planning and Coordination in Sydney can be found at the following SmugMug link:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord>

Watering-Hole: Directly after the parade march meeting at the Hotel Coronation <https://www.hotelcoronation.com.au/> for a quick drink then moving onto the official designated after parade march watering-hole for the 'A' Battery Association Inc in Sydney which is the **Fortune Of War** <https://www.fortuneofwar.com.au/> . The following two pictures are of a large wooden plaque (date 25 April 1970) and a framed information notice (date 25 April 1948) of the 2nd Australian Mountain Battery (part of 'A' Battery lineage in history).

Lets keep the tradition going!



Australian Capital Territory – Canberra – 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching banner - '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>

5.30am Dawn Service. Begins at the Australian War Memorial at 4:30am.

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

4:30pm Last Post Ceremony. The memorial's final service, the traditional Last Post ceremony is at 4.30pm at the Australian War Memorial. To attend you must be booked well in advance as it is a ticketed event.

Canberra Parade March Map: TBA

For more information on 'A' Association Planning and Coordination in Canberra can be found at the following SmugMug link:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord>

Watering-Hole: **The Assembly – The Peoples Pub** <https://thepeoplespub.com.au/> is the designated after parade march watering-hole for the 'A' Battery Association Inc in Canberra.

Victoria – Melbourne – 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching 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) and <https://www.shrine.org.au/anzac-day-commemoration>

Order of March (OOM): <https://rslvic.com.au/anzac-day-melbourne-march>

Note: The banner this year is not placed/positioned in the Vietnam or Malaysia eras/contingents/groups. To be inclusive to all that who have served under the 'A', the banner is now in GROUP 12 as per the 2024 ANZAC DAY ORDER OF MARCH spreadsheet - page 3 - serial 12.01
Form-up time is 8:30am on Flinders Street West (near the Young & Jackson Hotel), Step-Off at 9:35am.

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.

Melbourne Parade March Map: TBA

For more information on 'A' Association Planning and Coordination in Melbourne can be found at the following SmugMug link:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord>



Watering-Hole: The **Clocks At Flinders** <https://clocksatflinders.com.au/> is the designated after parade march watering-hole for the 'A' Battery Association Inc in Melbourne.

Tasmania – Hobart - 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching banner – 'A' contact is tas@btyassn.org.au - [ANZAC Day – RSL Tasmania](#)

Hobart Parade March Map: To be updated <https://www.rslwa.org.au/events/anzac-day>

For more information on 'A' Association Planning and Coordination in Hobart can be found at the following SmugMug link:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord>

Watering-Hole: The is the designated after parade march watering-hole for the 'A' Battery Association Inc in Hobart.

South Australia – Adelaide – 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching banner 'A' contact is Mr Bob McEvoy sa@btyassn.org.au - [Anzac Day – RSL South Australia, Northern Territory & Broken Hill \(rslsa.org.au\)](#)

Order of March (OOM): The 'A' Battery / 'A' Battery Association Inc banner is to be located between the South Australian Mounted Rifles and Air Defence Artillery sections in Group 11, IAW corps and regimental seniority. The Group 11 assembly area will be on the western side of Pulteney St (south from Rundle Mall to Grenfell St).

Adelaide Parade March Map: To be updated <https://www.rslsa.org.au/anzac-day>

For more information on 'A' Association Planning and Coordination in Adelaide can be found at the following SmugMug link:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord>

Watering-Hole: The Union Hotel <https://www.theunionhotel.com.au/> is the designated after parade march watering-hole for the 'A' Battery Association Inc in Adelaide.

Western Australia – Perth – 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching banner - 'A' contact is wa@btyassn.org.au - [Perth CBD Services - RSLWA](#)
<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.

Perth Parade March Map: To be updated <https://www.rslwa.org.au/events/anzac-day>

For more information on 'A' Association Planning and Coordination in Canberra can be found at the following SmugMug link:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord>

Watering-Hole: The designated after parade march watering-hole for the 'A' Battery Association Inc in Perth at this stage is back at 3 Battery located at Irwan Barracks.

Northern Territory – Darwin – 'A' BATTERY / 'A' BATTERY ASSOCIATION INC parade marching banner - 'A' Contact is Mr Brett Fidler nt@btyassn.org.au – [Anzac Day – RSL South Australia, Northern Territory & Broken Hill \(rslsa.org.au\)](http://Anzac Day – RSL South Australia, Northern Territory & Broken Hill (rslsa.org.au))

Darwin Parade March Map: To be updated <https://www.rslsa.org.au/anzac-day>

For more information on 'A' Association Planning and Coordination in Canberra can be found at the following SmugMug link:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/Parade-Marching-Banner-Register-ANZAC-Day-Planning-Coord>

Watering-Hole: The **Hotel Darwin** <https://www.thehoteldarwin.com.au/> is the designated after parade march watering-hole for the 'A' Battery Association Inc in Darwin.

BASIC MILITARY COMMUNICATION

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"Put it over the tannoy!"

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Executive Directors Report

Mr Shane Cooper – ABRS DIR 036 42416 19942 62; Email: exec@abtyassn.org.au
From the very beginning of my term in office as the Executive Director, I stated that the success of the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated depended on our members and our continuous membership drive. I am happy to announce that due to some excellent work by our Management Director and the rest of the Executive Team we are well on track to have a successful year. We had 18 life members sign up last year and 18 more so far this year. As an association, we are progressing well, but we need to continue this trend in growth if we wish to succeed. Sadly, a lot of other associations around us are closing due to the lack of support. The executive committee has continued to advance the association at a fast pace this year. We are financially sound and will shortly roll the \$15,000 term deposit over again. I wish to commend the members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Committee for all the good work they have done. I especially want to thank Paul V Johnston for his tireless work. The association has a sound financial structure but like all associations the ongoing running cost will always represent a challenge for us. Our minds now must turn towards generating income through merchandise and other avenues. If any member has a sound idea for merchandise material please contact the Merchandise Manager or the Management Director. A reminder to all that the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated Annual General

Facebook posts, but we can see that there our Facebook page is attracting a lot of attention and public relations exposure.

Website: The 'A' Associations website is linked via the Australian Artillery Association (AAA) website:

https://www.australianartilleryassociation.org/a_bty_association/index.html

SmugMug: This media platform is proving to be a very valuable tool for all public access to the 'A' Associations history, both photographic and import documentation. This ensures that our 'A' photographic history is stored in a safe and transparent place showing the public what the 'A' is all about.

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/>

If you are unable to use the internet or are not digital media savvy, then either send an email to the Management Director at management@abtyassn.org.au or via snail mail to PO Box 1161, NEW FARM QLD 4005.

MINISTRY OF
FINANCE

Finance Directors Report

Email: finance@abtyassn.org.au

The 'A' Association operates under the Queensland Office of Fair Trading, Association Number IA18673, and has an Australian Business Number (ABN) 22664274223. Currently the Finance Directors position is vacant as nobody nominated for the position at the last AGM. Therefore as the 'A' Association Constitution states that the Management Director assumes the additional duties until a member comes forward to act as an Interim-Finance Director or a new Finance Director is elected at the next AGM in September 2024. The 'A' Associations revenue stream consists approximately of the following: 93% - New Life memberships; 4% - Interest maturity on the \$15 000.00 (6 month Term Deposit) with Heritage Bank; and 3% - Merchandise sales. Therefore a modest target of approximately 5% increase in new Life Members each year is a must for the 'A' Association to utilise in administration running costs; supporting commemoration activities; and to conduct minor projects.

Membership Directors Report

MEMBERSHIP



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

Current: Life Members 163 – Ordinary Annual Members 0 – Associate Annual members 0 – Honorary Members 11. A modest goal was set by the EC in 2022 to attract and maintain at least a 5% increase in new Life Memberships each financial year. The EC has been proactive in trying to rejuvenate and innovate, design and implement, improve and maintain an effective marketing plan to entice new members. At this stage the current marketing plan seems to be working. To date, this financial year we have had 18 new Life members come on board. In the financial year 22/23 we had a total of 18 new Life Members; and in the financial year 21/22 we had a total of 9 new Life Members come on board. Prior to this there was only one new Life Member that signed up in five years. <https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/A-History-and-A-Books/A-Membership>



Public Relations Directors (PRD) Report

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

Maintaining good media platforms is time consuming and can wear on one's patience. Public Relations (PR) is not easy and at times can be frustrating as we cannot please everybody. There will always be some negativity, some detractors and haters (trolls). Our association social impact space has been greatly enhanced by our Facebook and SmugMug social media platforms with continual posts and updating. It appears our current marketing strategy has heightened our PR profile favourably, and as they say, "The proof in the pudding" as the positive results show in the association membership growth.

'A' Facebook ([A Battery Association Inc](#)). The uptake of members on the 'A' Association Facebook page has been steadily improving. We may only have 229 followers on the associations Facebook page; however, the analytics in the management of the page shows over 3000 individuals have been reached on the page and over 2250 engagements or interactions have occurred with our posts. To search and find our 'A' Association Facebook page go to [A Battery Association Inc](#)

'A' Website. The 'A' Associations Webpage redesign has currently stalled. The Australian Artillery Association (AAA) Webmaster, Mr Graham Hampton, has been helping in updating the website but due to his current health status this has stalled.

https://www.australianartilleryassociation.org/a_bty_association/index.html

'A' Battery / 'A' Battery Association Inc Parade Marching Banners. The 'A' Association now has a parade marching banner in each Australian State and Territory capital city. However, the 'A' Association is having trouble finding volunteers to act as State or Territory 'A' Coordinators to be our 'A' eyes and ears on the ground. At present the State and Territory capital city Returned Services Leagues (RSL) ANZAC Day organisational committees are holding and storing our banners, except in Sydney and in Canberra. For the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated to become a true national body, to stay active and relevant, we need to have in place our volunteer State or Territory 'A' Coordinators.

THE 'A' BASTARD CARD.

The 'A' Bastard Card is only issued to 'A' Association Life Members. Each card is individually numbered and has a bar code. The card numbers are recorded on the 'A' Association Membership List against each individual Life Member that has been issued a card. If you believe you are an 'A' Association Life Member and you have not been issued your 'A' Bastard Card then send an email to the Management Director



management@abtyassn.org.au

1st Regiment RAA Family Information Evening 2024

On 22 February 2024, the 'A' Association set up a Public Relations and Support Stand at the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) Family Information Evening. The intent was not just to attract new Life Members but also to show that the 'A' Association is there to support 'A' Battery members and their families. The 'A' Association Management Director (MD), Mr Paul Johnston, and the Public Relations Director (PRD), Mr Shane Crotty attended the evening sharing their 'A' wisdom and 'A' History (helping in spreading the 'A' word!). On the evening the 'A' Battery Commander (BC) gave both the 'A' Association MD and PRD each an 'A' Battery BC's Challenge Coin. The evening was a great success with five (5) 'A' Battery members signing up to become Life Members.

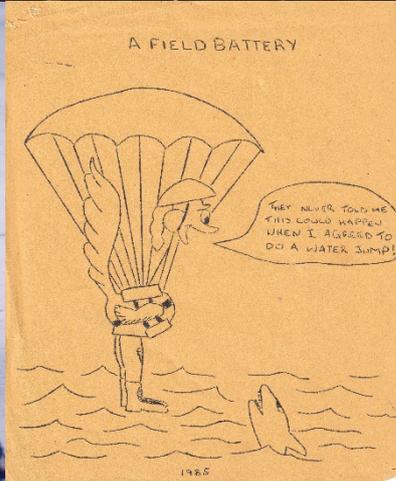
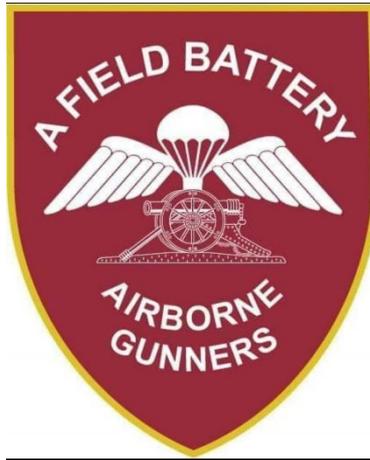


Vietnam 1971 - Battery Commander - 'A' Field Battery

The 'A' Executive Director, Mr Shane Cooper and the 'A' Management Director, Mr Paul Johnston invited, Mr Tony Williams, being the ex-Battery Commander of A' Field Battery Vietnam 1971 to the Royal Australian Artillery Association Queensland Branch luncheon at the Brisbane Tattersalls Club on Thursday 29th February 2024.



ONCE UPON A TIME – AIRBOURNE – WINGS CLIPPED



'A' Blast From The Past – on SmugMug



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN
ARTILLERY**



'A' ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The "eyes and ears" for the 'A' Association Executive Committee (EC): The creation of an Advisory Committee (non-elected committee positions) consisting of the Vietnam Era and the Malaya/Malaysia Era Representatives has proved to be a valuable tool for the EC to understand the sentiment of those who they and we represent in the 'A' Association. The present Advisory Committee consists of three members, and their reports are as follows:

Vietnam Era Representatives Report

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

18 August – Vietnam Veterans' Day

Reunions. A Vietnam 1971 Union was held in Townsville 14-20 AUGUST 2023. Bill and Jannette Downie organised and hosted the event.



Malaya/Malaysia Era Representatives Report

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

31 August – Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day

Reunions. Nil to report.



Merchandise Coordinators Report

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

Medallions. Last year the 'A' Executive Committee (EC) had approved a design and ordered 50 of each of the 'A' 'LIFE MEMBER' Medal/Medallions and 50 of each of the 'A' Vietnam 50TH Anniversary Medallions. At present the 'A' Association has only 18 of 'A' 'LIFE MEMBER' Medal/Medallions and 16 of the Vietnam medallions remaining in stock. The EC is looking at other new merchandise items for procurement in the near future. There is no stock remaining of the old 'A' FD BTY ASSN caps; and the EC are looking at a better quality new cap style and design replacement. The EC is also looking to update the Association polo shirt design, and also introducing an 'A' Battery T-Shirt. The current 'A' Association merchandise list will soon be on our website, meanwhile you can email the Merchandise Coordinator merchandise@abtyassn.org.au for more info.

**VIETNAM 1971 50th ANNIVERSARY 'A' FIELD BATTERY MEDALLION
\$45.00 (postage and handling included)**



'LIFE MEMBER' MEDAL/MEDALION \$45.00 (postage and handling included)



Key Commemorative Dates Event Planner Calendar

- 19 February - 'A' Executive Committee Meeting ('A' ECM - 01/24)
- 31 March - National Newsletter Edition 'The Road Runner'
- 25 April – ANZAC Day
- 25 April – Gallipoli Landing, Turkey (1915), Anzac Day
- 8 May – Victory in Europe (1945)
- 13 May - 'A' Executive Committee Meeting ('A' ECM) - 02/24)
- 30 May - RAA Assn QLD Luncheon - Brisbane Tattersalls Club
- 31 May – Boer War ends (1902)
- 07 June - KIA 07 June 1971 Vietnam - 2LT Ian George Mathers
- 15 June - Back to the School of Artillery Manly - Event Function
- 29 July - 'A' Executive Committee Meeting ('A' ECM - 03/24))
- 27 July - Korean Veterans' Day
- 15 August - Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day
- 18 August - Vietnam Veterans Day
- September - 'A' Annual General Meeting ('A' AGM) - Fulham (Adelaide), 2024
- 31 August - Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day
- 02 September– Battle for Australia Day
- 14 September – Australian Peacekeepers Day
- 20 September – Arrival of INTERFET in East Timor (1999)
- 30 September - 'A' Executive Committee Meeting ('A' ECM - 04/24)
- October - National Newsletter Edition 'The Road Runner'
- 11 November - Remembrance Day
- 11 November - 1st Regiment RAA Remembrance Day Service
- 27 November - KIA 27 November 2008 Afghanistan - LT Michael Fussell
- 02 December - 'A' Executive Committee Meeting ('A' ECM - 05/24)
- 04 December - St Barbara's Day
- 05 Dec - RAA Assn QLD Luncheon - Brisbane Tattersalls Club
- 31 December – Conclusion of Operation SLIPPER, Afghanistan (2014)



FROM AROUND THE GROUNDS

STATE AND TERRITORY COORDINATORS

Northern Territory Coordinators Report

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

Western Australia Coordinators Report

(looking for 'A' volunteer); Email: wa@abtyassn.org.au

South Australia Coordinators Report

(looking for 'A' volunteer); Email: sa@abtyassn.org.au

Tasmania Coordinators Report

(looking for 'A' volunteer); 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

(looking for 'A' volunteer); Email: nsw@abtyassn.org.au

Queensland Coordinators Report

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

- The 23/24 'A' Battery Commander (BC) is Major Steven McBride
- The 24/25 'A' Battery Sergeant Major (BSM) is Warrant Officer Class Two David Morgan
- 'A' Henry Green Historical Collection ('A' HGHC) is located at 'A' Battery, 1st Regiment RAA; a digitalised virtual tour can be found on the 'A' Association SmugMug page <https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/A-Henry-Green-Historical-Collection>
- 'A' historical items recovered from a 1st Regiment RAA unit clean out. Looking for an 'A' team to clean, document and digitalise records of items for 'A' HGHC
- 'A' Public Relations Sandwich Boards put in place at 'A' Battery & for ANZAC Day
- Presentations made to businesses that supported the making of the new banners
- 'A' Battery marching with the 'A' Battery Association Inc on ANZAC Day, Brisbane
- 'A' Battery Association Inc leads the way on 25th April Anzac Day, Brisbane March
- Royal Australian Artillery Association Queensland Branch (RAAAQ) Luncheons at the Brisbane Tattersalls Club every three months
- Australian Artillery Association (AAA) Gunners Lunch – Monthly Catch Up
- 07 June - KIA 07 June 1971 Vietnam - 2LT Ian George Mathers
- Vietnam Veterans Day 18 August - 'A' Association attending Brisbane service
- Remembrance Day 11 November - 'A' Association attending wreath laying service
- 27 November - KIA 27 November 2008 Afghanistan - LT Michael Fussell
- St Barbara's Day – Victory Hotel, Brisbane – Annual Gunner Catch-Up



The 'A' Battery Commander Report

Major Steven McBride (BC 'A' 2023–2024)



For those that missed my introduction to the 'A' Battery Association, my name is Major Steven McBride, the current Battery Commander of 'A' Battery within the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. After an extremely busy year in 2023 with a deployment of the Battery to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand on Rifle Company Butterworth 140, it is my privilege to be serving a second year within 'A' Battery in 2024. Whilst 2023 saw 'A' Battery primarily focus on deploying overseas and acting as an all-corps / infantry element during Rifle Company Butterworth 140, 2024 gives us the opportunity to refocus significantly back on our Corps role and gunnery in general. The Battery has already completed Exercise Barce 24, which saw the conduct of live fire missions, field rehearsals and training, as well as each Joint Fires Team conducting a live fire rehearsal for the Danger Close Battle Runs that they will be conducting later this year with our supported unit, the 2nd / 14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry). What was also excellent to see was support provided by the Royal Australian Air Force with PC-21s, for a day of dry Close Air Support training, and a C-27 Spartan for simulated Air Drops within the Shoalwater Bay Training Area. For the remainder of 2024, the Battery will continue to prepare for real-time Large Scale Combat Operations on exercise, and continue to prepare for deployments in Australia and overseas, in an increasingly unstable world, and period. Most importantly, the Battery is again exceptionally lucky to have a group of soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Officers that are so capable and highly motivated to learn and increase their skills every day. They have big shoes to fill in Australia's oldest sub-unit with such a history, and they are rising to that at every opportunity. Finally, the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery will again be marching in Brisbane City on ANZAC Day; I look forward to seeing you all there for the march, or at the Stock Exchange Hotel afterwards.

'Semper Paratus'

Respectfully,
Steven McBride
Major
Battery Commander
'A' Battery, Royal Australian Artillery



More photographs can be found on Facebook and at the following SmugMug Weblink:
<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/2020s>



THANK YOU 'A' BATTERY

The 'A' Associations would like to thank the 'A' Battery Commander (BC) and the Gunners and Soldiers of 'A' Battery for their continued support of their 'A' Battery Association Incorporated. The 'A' Battery 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. The 'A' Associations Executive Committee have had the privilege of meeting and liaising with both the current 'A' BC, Major Steven McBride, and the 'A' Battery Sergeant Major (BSM) Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) David Morgan about 'A' Association matters frequently. 'A' Battery help maintain the 'A' Associations 25pounder Gun and the 105mm L5 Pack Howitzer, which both proudly appear each year in the ANZAC Day Brisbane Parade/March. Recently 'A' Battery positioned both the 25pounder and L5 guns in front of the Enoggera Barracks Sergeants Mess for the 5/11 RAA Association Dining-In Night which the new L5 Gun Shield was officially handed over to the 'A' Association. In 2023, Major McBride had commissioned an oil painting while the Battery was on deployment to Malaysia. This oil painting is now hanging proudly in the hallway at the 'A' Battery Headquarters as part of the 'A' Henry Green Historical Collection.



BARNES AUTO CO.

SUPPORTS ANZAC DAY IN BRISBANE

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! <https://barnesautoco.com/locations/coopers-plains/>



**Head Office: 81 Norbury Street,
Coopers Plains Queensland 4108 (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 start. **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:*

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

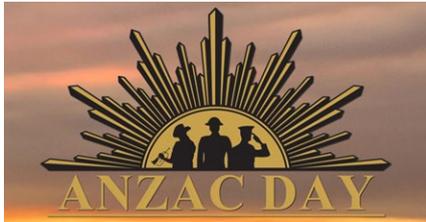
'A' Public Relations Promotional Sandwich Boards



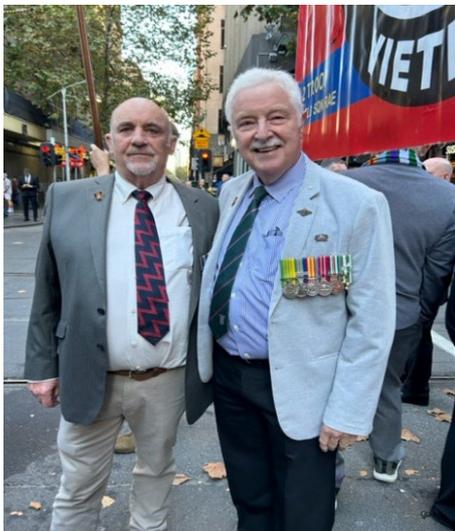
The 'A' Association, in a 50/50 joint financial venture, with Barnes Auto Co purchased and put in place two public relations (PR) sandwich boards. One sandwich board is located in the 1st Regiment RAA gun bays, where the 'A' Association 25pounder Gun and L5 Pack Howitzer are stored and maintained along with the 1st Regiments M2A2 Ceremonial Guns. The second sandwich board is located at the entrance to the 'A' Battery Headquarters. On ANZAC Day both 'A' PR sandwich boards will accompany the 25pounder gun and L5 Pack Howitzer gun to the Brisbane ANZAC Day parade march vehicle and equipment marshaling area to be displayed and to inform the public of both Barnes Auto Co's support each year on ANZAC Day and who and what the 'A' Battery and 'A' Battery Association Incorporated are all about. It was very noticeable each year at the Brisbane ANZAC Day that the public stopped to ask about the history and ownership of our two historical RAA gun equipment's. Now by putting the 'A' PR sandwich boards in place we can capitalise on a great PR opportunity to enhance and increase the public exposure of the 'A' Association and 'A' Battery/'A' Field Battery history.

Send in your 2024 ANZAC Day Photographs to management@abtyassn.org.au
Your photographs might just get published in the October Edition of 'The Road Runner'. More photographs can be found at:
<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/2020s>

ANZAC Day 2023 Brisbane



ANZAC DAY 2023 Victoria



Controversy Corner

'A' Under the Microscope

Fortune favour's the brave, have your say!



The 'A' Battery Plaque. In 2023, the 'A' Battery Association Inc requested through the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) to have the current 'A' Battery plaque/shield emblem officially recognised and ratified. The 'A' Battery Commander and Regimental Sergeant Major put forward to the RAA Head Of Regiment our concerns that neither the blue or the black versions of the 'A' Battery plaque/shield emblem are officially recognised/ratified. The only officially ratified and recorded 'A' Field Battery plaque/shield emblem is dated 1945, being the RAA emblem on a red background. If you would like more information on this subject then go to our SmugMug page, see weblink:

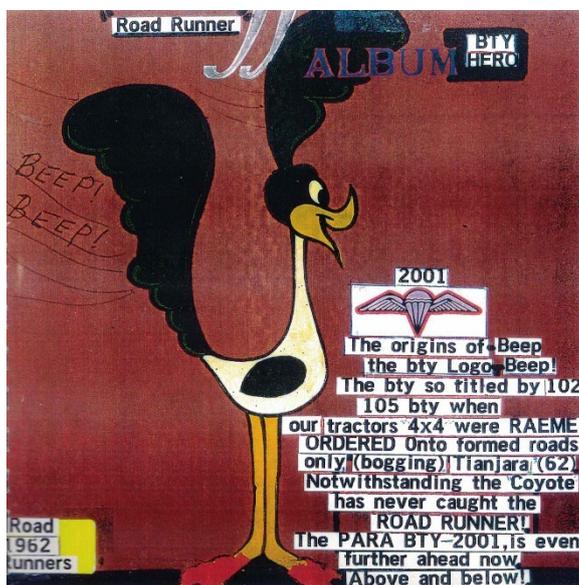
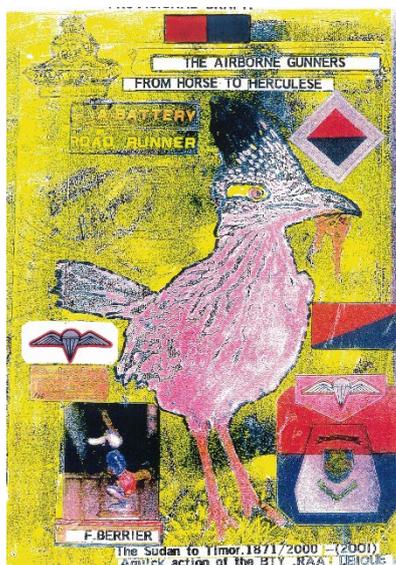
<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/A-History-and-A-Books/A-Battery-Sheild-History>

Beep Beep! Warner Bros. Entertainment Australia Pty Ltd.



A letter has been received from Warner Bros Entertainment Australia granting the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated the rights to use 'The Road Runner' as an 'A' Battery emblem/Logo, until December 31st, 2026. In the 1980's/1990's a framed letter was presented to 'A' Field Battery giving official permission to use 'THE ROAD RUNNER' as a Battery logo/emblem. However, it is believed that it was destroyed in the 2010 Brisbane Floods when the 'A' Battery Henry Green Historical Collection was in transit while 'A' Battery was being relocated from Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney to Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane. If you would like more information on this subject then go to our SmugMug page, see weblink:

<https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/A-History-and-A-Books/A-The-Road-Runne>



5/11 Battery L5 Pack Howitzer Gun Shield. The 'A' Battery Association Inc thanks 5/11 Battery Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) Association for their generosity in transferring ownership of a L5 Pack Howitzer Gun Shield to the 'A' Association. A long story short: The L5 gun shield was noted missing from the 'A' Associations L5 Gun in 2020/21, while the L5 Gun was stored at the 1st Regiment RAA. After an extensive investigation using our recorded registered L5 Gun Shield serial number, it was found that somebody in the 1st Regiment had made an executive discission to remove the 'A' Associations L5 Gun Shield and have it placed on a L5 Gun located at Fort Lytton, Brisbane. The 1st Regiment has on lone to Fort Lytton a L5 Pack Howitzer and a 105mm Hamel Gun. The 'A' Association missing shield is now proudly displayed on a 1st Regiment L5 Gun which was repainted to match the 1st Regiment L5 Gun colour scheme. However, it was found that whoever repainted the shield had painted around the 'A' Field Battery sticker and emblem on the shield. Therefore, the 1st Regiment L5 Gun at Fort Lytton proudly depicts to the public that it represents 'A' Field Battery. The 5/11 RAA Association held its annual Dining-In Night in early February 2024, which they formally handed over a 5/11 L5 Gun Shield to the 'A' Association. The 'A' Association Executive Director, Mr Shane Cooper, was in attendance to formally accept the transfer of ownership. The 'A' Association's 25pounder Gun and the L5 Pack Howitzer (with the new Gun Shield on it) were proudly displayed at the Dining-In Night evening entrance at Enoggera Barracks Sergeants Mess. If you would like more information on this subject then go to our SmugMug page, see weblink: <https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/2020s/2024/New-folder-4>



The 'A' Association's L5 Pack Howitzer (with the new Gun Shield on it) was proudly displayed at the 5/11 RAA Association Dining-In Night evening entrance at Enoggera Barracks Sergeants Mess.



The Public Relations Director of the 'A' Battery Association Inc, Mr Shane Crotty, safely painting the 5/11 RAA Association donated L5 Gun Shield to match the colour scheme of the 'A' Association L5 Gun.



The same style of 'A' Field Battery sticker that is found on the 1st Regiment RAA owned L5 Pack Howitzer at Fort Lytton, Brisbane.

VIETNAM 1971 REUNION - Townsville 2023

Article by David Gibson ('A' Vietnam Representative and 'A' Advisory Committee Member)



'A' Association Executive Director, Mr Shane Cooper, formally handing over the old 'A' Field Battery Parade Marching Banner to Assistant Curator to the 4th Regiment Paddy Durnford OAM Historical Collection, Mr Steve Wilson.



'A' Association Life Members laying a wreath at the 4th Regiment Memorial Monument.

'A' Battery Vietnam veterans held a reunion in Townsville between 14 – 19 August 2023 where over 60 members and partners attended. Organised by Bill and Janette Downie, the reunion included a welcome dinner at the Townsville RSL where Colonel Bob McEvoy welcomed everyone and thanked Bill and Janette for their hard work in organising another reunion. The Association was represented by President Shane Cooper who presented Life Membership Certificates and Medallions to those Life Members in attendance. Trips to Magnetic Island, Lavarack Barracks where a memorial service, BBQ lunch and tour of the gun lines and other facilities were undertaken and enjoyed by all. Vietnam Veterans Day was celebrated at Riverway, Thuringowa Central, Townsville with a solemn and moving ceremony with wreaths laid by former battery members followed by a dinner back at the RSL. A farewell dinner was held at the Rowes Park caravan park. The next reunion is to be advised.

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia <https://www.vvaa.org.au/>

Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2023

50th Commemoration Anniversary of the Ending of the Vietnam War



Mr Peter Zannino and Mr Don Green (both 'A' Life Members) representing 'A' Battery Association Inc in Sydney



Mr Kevin Mobbs ('A' Life Member) representing 'A' Battery Association Inc in Brisbane



Mr Brett Fidler representing 'A' Battery Association Inc in Darwin



Mr John Swan and RAA Head Of Regiment Brigadier Damian Hill AM ('A' Life Member) representing 'A' Battery Association Inc in Canberra



The new 'A' Battery / 'A' Battery Association Inc Banner was the only banner paraded in Brisbane due to windy conditions



'A' Battery Association Inc Executive Director, Mr Shane Cooper, and Membership Director, Mr Chris Flavel laying a wreath on behalf of the 'A' Association at the 4th Regiment RAA memorial monument in Townsville



Remembrance Day 2023



Mr Shane Crotty, Mr Paul Johnston, Mr Shane Cooper and Mr Mark Thomas (all 'A' Life Members)



The 'A' Battery Association Inc Executive Committee laid a wreath at the Brisbane ANZAC Square Shrine of Remembrance. This wreath had a laminated double-sided A4 size information page all about 'A' Battery/'A' Field Battery and the 'A' Association. Our wreath and the attached A4 information page were displayed at the Shrine of Remembrance, attached to the entrance gate, for more than four (4) weeks after the event. A little Public Relations coup!



The Joint Ceremonial Queensland, and Directorate of Operations & Training Area Management QLD, Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) David (Paddy) McGarry telling onlookers tall stories about his time in 'A' Field Battery as a Gun Sergeant (The 'A' Association Management Director "taught him everything he knows!")



Send in your Remembrance Day photographs to:
management@abtyassn.org.au



'A' BATTERY BLOODLINE

Chief of Joint Operations

Lieutenant General (LTGEN) Gregory (Greg) Bilton AO, CSC

Lieutenant General Greg Bilton was the Battery Captain (BK) in 'A' Field Battery from July to December 1994, then he was posted as the Adjutant of the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) in 1995.

The following biography is courtesy of the cove.army.gov.au :

Lieutenant General Greg Bilton is currently the Chief of Joint Operations at Headquarters Joint Operations Command. He is responsible for ADF Operations and Joint exercises both domestically and internationally as directed by the Chief of the Defence Force in order to achieve Government strategic priorities.

In executing this mission, Lieutenant General Greg Bilton is responsible for the planning, control and conduct of all Australia's military campaigns, Operations, joint exercises and other activities in order to meet Australia's national objectives. Lieutenant General Bilton was born in Melbourne, Australia. After completing his secondary education at Melbourne High School he entered the Royal Military College in 1983 and graduated to the Royal Australian Artillery in 1986. He completed regimental appointments as a Lieutenant and Captain in the 1st and 4th Field Regiments, the 8th/12th Medium Regiment and the School of Artillery. Lieutenant General Bilton has held command appointments as Battery Commander 104th Field



Battery, Commanding Officer 4th Field Regiment, Commander 7th Brigade, Deputy Commanding General United States Army Pacific, Commander Forces Command and Deputy Chief of Joint Operations. He has served in staff appointments in the Directorate of Officer Career Management, the Directorate of Force Structure (Army) and as Director General Development and Plans (Army). He has also been an instructor at the Australian Command and Staff College. Lieutenant General Bilton deployed on Operation MAZURKA in 1993 to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) Headquarters. In 2008, he deployed on Operation SLIPPER as Deputy Chief of Staff for Security Sector Reform on Headquarters Regional Command South, Afghanistan. Lieutenant General Bilton is a graduate of the Long Gunnery Course at the UK School of Artillery, the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, Weston Creek. He also holds a Bachelor degree in Military Studies and a Master's degrees in Military Art and Science, and Strategic Studies. He is also a recipient of prestigious academic honours; the Lieutenant General Hans Schlup (US) award for excellence in International Relations and the Blamey Award (Australia) for Leadership. Lieutenant General Bilton has been awarded the Force Commanders Commendation for his work on Operation MAZURKA in the Sinai, a Conspicuous Service Cross for his force structure work at Army Headquarters, the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal for his work in Afghanistan, the United States

Legion of Merit and the Japanese Defence Cooperation Medal for his work at United States Army Pacific. He was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2014 in recognition of his work as Director General Development and Plans at Army Headquarters and as Commander 7 Brigade, and has since been appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia for his achievements as Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army in the Pacific, Commander Forces Command and Deputy Chief of Joint Operations. On promotion to Lieutenant General in June 2019, he was appointed as the Chief of Joint Operations. Lieutenant General Bilton is married to Rachael, who is a registered nurse. His eldest son Alex is an Infantry Officer posted to the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and his youngest son Nic is a Pilot in training in the Australian Army Corps of Aviation.



The Head of Regiment (HOR) Brigadier (BRIG) Damian Hill, AM

Brigadier Damian Hill was the Battery Commander (BC) 2006 & 2007, and the Battery Captain (BK) 2002 & 2002 of 'A' Field Battery. Brigadier Hill is a Life Member and a staunch supporter of the 'A' Battery Association Incorporated.

The following biography is courtesy of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company:

Brigadier Damian Hill joined the Army via a scholarship to the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1993, graduating from the Royal Military College in 1996 to the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA). He has fulfilled the full suite of Regimental positions including Section Commander, Gun Position Officer, Signals Officer, Forward Observer, Battery Captain, Battery Commander and Commanding Officer. Aside from his Regimental postings, Brigadier Hill has served within the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJFHQ) and within Army Headquarters. Brigadier Hill attended Australian Command and Staff College in 2008. In 2009, Brigadier Hill was posted to the United States Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL) in Quantico, as the Plans Officer. For his service with MCWL, Brigadier Hill was awarded the United States Meritorious Service Medal. In 2016, Brigadier Hill assumed command of the Combat Training Centre (CTC), responsible for the conduct of advanced collective combat training to high readiness land forces. In 2017 Brigadier Hill was temporarily



assigned Commander of the 3rd Brigade which included command of Joint Task Force (JTF) 661 Operation QUEENSLAND ASSIST established in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. In 2018 Brigadier Hill undertook the duties of Chief of Staff to the Vice Chief of Defence Force, followed by attendance at the Defence and Strategic Studies Course in 2019. Brigadier Hill is currently posted to Force Integration Division as the Director General Capability Interoperability, Test and Evaluation (CIT&E) and in this role is responsible for the provision of interoperability direction and doctrine to the ADF. Brigadier Hill has three deployments to Timor Leste; INTERFET in 1999, AUSBATT 6 in 2002 and with Joint Task Force (JTF) 631 in 2006. Brigadier Hill was awarded a Chief of Defence Force Commendation for his work with JTF 631 and was appointed a Member



of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in June 2018. Brigadier Hill has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma of Defence Studies and a Graduate Diploma of Management in Defence Studies from the University of New South Wales and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from Deakin University. Brigadier Hill is an Australian Rules umpire and a long standing member of the Army AFL committee. Brigadier Hill is married to Katrina, a career social worker and they have four children.

Parade/Marching Banner Register

email: abtyassn@abtyassn.org.au | management@abtyassn.org.au

	'A' Battery Bullion Banner	'A' Battery / 'A' Battery Association Banner	'A' Field Battery Banner	Email Contact
New South Wales		1		nsw@abtyassn.org.au
Victoria		1	2	vic@abtyassn.org.au
Queensland	1	3	3	gld@abtyassn.org.au
South Australia		1		sa@abtyassn.org.au
Australian Capital Territory		1		act@abtyasnn.org.au
Western Australia		1		wa@abtyassn.org.au
Tasmania		1		tas@abtyassn.org.au
Northern Territory		1		nt@abtyassn.org.au

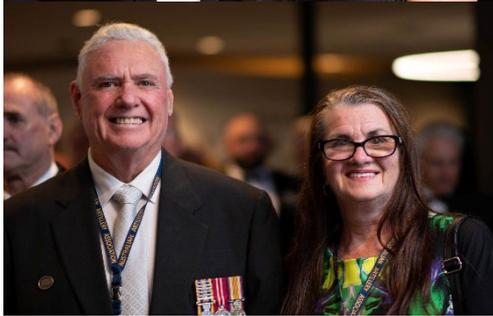
Laying up of the Victorian 'A' Field Battery Association Banner

'A' Association Life Member and 'A' Vietnam Representative Mr David Gibson and Alec Colvin-Smith presented to/handed over the Victoria 'A' Field Battery Association Banner to Mrs Caitlin Allen the curator of the Army Armour and Artillery Museum at Puckapunyal. David along with his brother, Peter, and Alex were given a tour of the facility which is currently being remodeled and set up with a view to reopening in November 2024.



2023 National Gunners Dinner Australian Artillery Association

The dinner was held in Caloundra, QLD. The 'A' Battery Association Inc had three tables at the dinner and was the largest association group represented. This just shows how the 'A' is revered by those who have served within and under the 'A'. It is always a great weekend at the National Gunners Dinner.



THE HONOUR ROLL - IN MEMORIAM

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.

Please note that the 'A' Memorial List records and indicates the passing of 'A' Battery Association Incorporated members that were 'Life Members'.

*"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."*



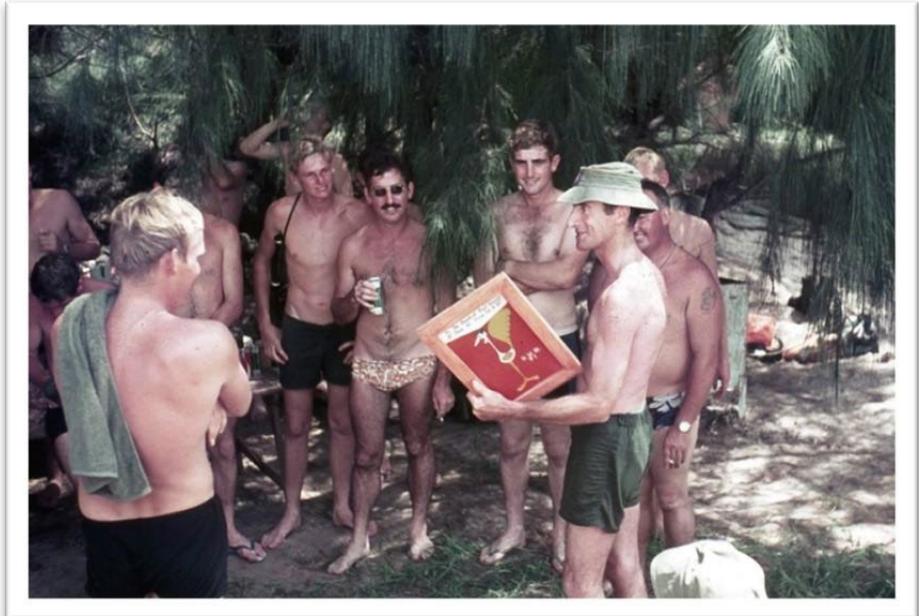
"LEST WE FORGET!"



Arthur John Bretherton OAM - Life Member – Eulogy

Born 26 April 1937

Arthur Bretherton enlisted into the Australian Army and commenced recruit training at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion on 17 May 1955. Allocated to the Royal Australian Artillery he was posted to the School of Artillery at North Head. In May 1956 he was promoted to Bombardier and posted to the training staff of 14th National Service Training Battalion at Puckapunyal in



Victoria. In May 1957, Arthur moved to the 20th National Service Training Battalion, also in the Puckapunyal area and continued his employment as an instructor and clerk. In August 1960 he was posted to the Royal Military College, Duntroon, as a Drill Sergeant. In March 1964 he was posted to 1st Field Regiment, Holsworthy, where he was employed as the Command Post Sergeant with 103rd Field Battery. In 1965, the then WO2 Arthur Bretherton was selected to attend a Long Gunnery Staff (Air Defence) Course at the Royal School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery in the UK where he was introduced to the Air Defence Rapier missile system becoming the "go to man" on this system when it was introduced into the Australian Army. While overseas he was attached to

one of the RA Air Defence Units with the British Army on the Rhine, (BAOR) in Germany. In January 1967 he returned to Australia and was posted as an Assistant Instructor Gunnery, Air Defence Wing, at the School of Artillery, North Head. In October 1969 Arthur was posted as Battery Sergeant Major (BSM) of 'A' Field Battery, 12th Field Regiment. Arthur deployed to Vietnam with "A" Battery in February 1971. With the withdrawal of Australian Forces later that year Arthur returned home in November 1971. On return to Australia, Arthur was posted on promotion to Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) and appointed Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of 2nd Field Regiment, a Citizens Military Forces unit based in Batman Avenue, Melbourne. He was subsequently appointed RSM of 12th Field Regiment at Holsworthy in July 1972. 12th Field Regiment and 8th Medium Regiment were linked in November 1973 and Arthur became the first RSM of the 8th/12th Medium Regiment. He remained there until February 1974 when he was posted to the Royal New Zealand School of Artillery as an exchange instructor. In December 1976 he returned to Army Office in Canberra to the Operations Branch where he worked with the Director of Artillery in career management for Other Ranks in the RAA. In November 1977, he was appointed RSM of The Royal Military College, Duntroon, being the first non-Infantry Warrant Office to hold that esteem position. On Australia Day, 1980, Arthur was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, (OAM) in recognition of his services as RSM of the RMC. In January 1981, Arthur accepted a Prescribed Service Officer (PSO) Commission to Captain. He remained in Canberra with a posting as Staff Officer Grade 3 Ceremonial with Personnel Branch at Army Office. In August 1982 he moved to Operations Branch as the Career Advisor Artillery, working with the then Director of Artillery, Colonel R V McEvoy. Arthur then returned to RMC in a staff appointment in January 1987. Arthur's final posting in the Army was on promotion to Major to the Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA) in Melbourne. Arthur discharged from the Army on 29 September 1992 after over 37 years' service including active service in Vietnam and deployments to the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Post Army service Arthur served with both the RSL and Legacy Organisations in Wangaratta for over 25 years. His dedication to the service community continued. Admired, respected and loved by his gunners in 'A' Field Battery. Hard but fair, with a great sense of humour, responsible for shaping the lives of many of those who served with him.

The 'A' Association thanks Mr David Gibson ('A' Vietnam Representative) for supplying Arthur Bretherton's eulogy.

VALE - 'A' ORDINARY MEMBER. John Hoban was one of 29 "Nashos" who served in Malaya with 'A' Field Battery for 12 months during 1966/67. He lived in Narrandera NSW for most of his life. Notification of his passing was noted in the NSW RSL magazine memorial list. John was a past 'A' Association Ordinary Member 2019/22 within the 'A' Battery Association Inc.

The 'A' Association thanks Mr Don Green ('A' Life Member) for notifying the association of John Hoban's passing.



2024 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 - 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 Coordinator - 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 -

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

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

South Australia - sa@abtyassn.org.au -

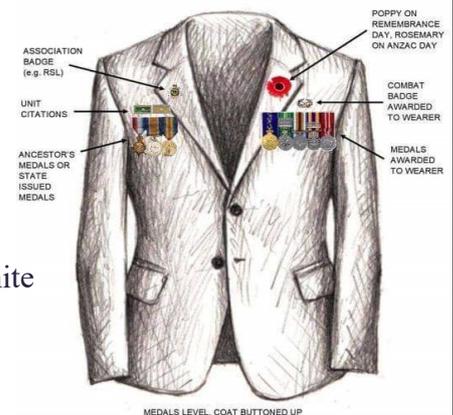
Western Australia - wa@abtyassn.org.au -

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

Tasmania - tas@abtyassn.org.au -

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

WEARING MEDALS ON COMMEMORATIVE OCCASIONS



Mailing Address: **'A' Battery Association Inc.**
PO BOX 1161
NEW FARM QLD 4005



The best way to share your messages or photos is to contact the 'A' Battery Association Inc, Management Director. Want to keep up with the latest, then put the following website address into your web browser favourites: https://www.australianartilleryassociation.org/a_bty_association/index.html

To join the Association **'MEMBERSHIP'**: <https://abatteryassociationincorporated.smugmug.com/A-History-and-A-Books/A-Membership>

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!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 'A' Battery Association Incorporated

Email: abtyassn@abtyassn.org.au | Mailing Address: PO Box 1161, New Farm QLD 4005

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Nickname: _____ Post Nominals: _____

DOB: ___ / ___ / _____ Your last service in 'A' Battery / 'A' Field Battery - Year _____ to Year _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Postal code: _____

Mobile Number: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Preferred contact methods (mark X all that apply): Email Post Mobile Landline

Hereby wish to apply for Life Membership of the 'A' Battery Association Inc (mark X that apply):

Full Life \$200.00 payment, or Fortnightly payment Plan 4 x \$50.00 10 x \$20.00.

Paying subscription by Direct Deposit into:

Heritage Bank BSB: 638-260

Account Number: 8732884

Reference: (your First name and Surname name as reference)



Privacy Consent & Disclosure (*cross out what doesn't apply - ~~*DO / Do Not~~):

'A' Battery Association Inc will not disclose the personal details of any member, to any person or organisation, without the written consent of that member, except where required to do so by law or where necessary to conduct business of the Association, involving or on behalf of that member. The consent below only enables us to publish your name in media or to give your contact details to other members.

I ~~*DO / Do Not~~ authorise my contact details being made available to other members of the Association.

I ~~*DO / Do Not~~ authorise 'A' Battery Association Inc. to publish my name in any correspondence or media, printed or electronic, that the Association publishes from time to time, providing that the information or use of my name is not associated with or connected to any defamatory writings or publications. By signing this form, I declare that the information provided by me is true to the best of my knowledge and I agree not to disclose any personal or confidential information relating to the Association or its members, without the authorisation of the Association.

Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / 20__

Application Eligibility Check by the Executive Committee – Application Approved Rejected:

Committee Member: _____ Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / 20__

Member Notified Date: ___ / ___ / 20__ Certificate Issued By: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / 20__

Badge Issued By: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / 20__

Membership List Updated By: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / 20__

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