

Hi All,

Well the numbers continue to grow for the 2014 National (International) Gunner Dinner with the total number of registrations as at the time of this email being 356. We still anticipate achieving our original target of 400 in fact we now expect the number attending to be between 400 and 500. We have had discussions with the CO of the School of Artillery and the RSM of 8/12 Regiment and both have indicated they will most likely be attending and hopefully bringing a number of serving personnel from their respective units which will be great to have serving Gunners of all ranks involved in the event.

I can confirm that the registered attendees from Scotland, Thailand and NZ are going ahead and will be at the dinner.

Thus far we have extended an invitation to Major General (Retired) Tim Ford AO Chair of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company and his wife Chris, Colonel (Retired) Ian Ahearn and his wife Elizabeth and Christopher Jobson who provides the Australian Artillery Association with a significant amount of assistance behind the scenes with regards to our Customs and Traditions section among other things. All 3 have accepted our invitation to join with us on this fabulous evening. We are awaiting a response from the current Head of Regiment Brigadier Peter Gates, CSC as to his availability to attend the event.

It is planned that the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) will launch their 18 Pounder project at the event. The RAAHC are working towards having the actual 18 Pounder and its limber on display in the foyer of the Event Centre on the day. Additionally should all go well we will have a few guns (most likely M2A2's) on the grassed area at the front of the Event Centre.

Behind the scenes we have been busy with a lot of graphics design but that is all I can tell you at the moment suffice to say everyone including attendees will know we are there.

Accommodation for those attending is plentiful in Caloundra and surrounding suburbs. The best way to view what accommodation is available and at what price including the ability to compare one provider against another is to use wotif.com. The link provided should take you straight to the Caloundra webpage.

Many of you would not know but a group of up to 10 of us from the AAA have been travelling to New Zealand in October each year since 2008 to attend their Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Annual Gunner Dinner (they change location every year which is fantastic) we are made to feel most welcome and we have a great time not only attending the dinner but also sightseeing over a period of 8 to 10 days. They in return have put in a sterling effort to attend our dinner with registrations thus far and we look forward to seeing them all on the night.

A few of you have asked why my wife Hana is not attending the dinner with me – well Hana is a member of the Orchestra (President and second oboist) and will be one of the quartet/quintet members playing during the evening so she will be there just not seated next to me. Kim's wife, Tracey, will also be attending the function however will not be seated at

the head table as she will be joining those members she served with in 133 Divisional Locating Battery, RAA.

It would be greatly appreciated if you were to have your payment for the dinner, in full, made by the 31 May 2014 as by then we will need to start making some significant deposits/payments for the various elements of the event. Those that have already made a payment be it in part or in full should have received an email receipt from me within a period of 24 hours of making your deposit. If you have not received a receipt please contact me direct via email.

Any of you who receive this email who have, since registering, decided not to attend are requested to email me advising such so that I can withdraw your name from the list of Registered Attendees.

Prior to your attendance you will receive in the mail your VIP pass along with a detailed overview of the event inclusive of timings for the various aspects of the event, dress for the concert and dinner and so on. This document will also be forwarded to you via email with a heads up to keep an eye on your letter box for the VIP passes.

Anyone who has changed address since registering should contact me with an updated address as soon as possible.

By the end of July the seating arrangements will be finalised and I will email you all with a comprehensive overview of the seating plan so that you are well aware of where you will be seated prior to arriving at the dinner. A basic overview however is that those that have organised Group Bookings will be obviously seated with your respective group, be that a part of one table or multiple tables all of which will be co-located with the designated group. For the remainder I will allocate seating with a view of mixing things up as much as possible to provide an evening of endless discussion between us Gunners.

Important, should any of you have a specific requirement for seating due to mobility i.e. wheelchair, crutches etc it would be greatly appreciated if you could notify me as soon as possible so that I may take this into account when preparing the seating plan and pre warn the theatre staff to set aside a designated area with easy access.

The Event Centre Caloundra is located at 20 Minchinton Street, Caloundra. To get the best view of its location go to Google Maps then select street view. As you will see the Event Centre is approximately 300 m from the main street of Caloundra Bulcock Street.

Below is an image of the front entrance to the Event Centre.



Overall the entire event is shaping up to be a very memorable occasion, one that I personally am looking forward to.

Should any of you have a question please do not hesitate to email or phone me direct, better sorted no than later.

Kind Regards,

Ubique,

Graham Hampton