



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.**

NEWSLETTER – JUNE / JULY 2014

Postal Address: 12 Chatsworth Grove, TOORAK GARDENS SA 5065. Phone (08) 8332.4485
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**** NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS ****

raaassocsa@gmail.com

The old e-mail address has now been closed! Please update your address list.

**** GUNNER DINNER -2014 ****

On behalf of the Committee I have much pleasure in inviting all Gunners to attend the 2014 Gunner Dinner, details of which are as follows:

Date: Friday 29th August

Time: Assemble by 7.00pm – Move to Dinner at 7.30pm

**Venue: Naval, Military and Air Force Club of SA,
111 Hutt Street, Adelaide – parking on-site for Club members only.**

**Dress: Mess Dress, or Mess Dress (White Jacket), or Dinner Suit, or
Lounge Suit, all with Miniatures**

**Cost: - Association Financial Members - \$66.00
- Non-financial Members - \$76.00 (see note 1)**

Please make cheque payable to RAA Assoc of SA Inc

Please see attached RSVP slip for direct credit details.

**If you use direct credit option please ensure that you advise me
you are attending, to ensure that we allocate a seat.**

RSVP: Not later than Friday 22nd August,

By return e-mail, or to

Maj Geoff Laurie, 12 Chatsworth Grove, TOORAK GARDENS, 5065

– Enquiries 0418.852.661

**Special Diet: When replying, please advise of any special dietary
requirements / restrictions.**

**Note 1. If non-members who attend the Dinner join the Assoc within 3 months, \$10 will
be deducted from the first-year subscriptions.**

GHAN ANZAC TRIBUTE TRAIN 2014

Many thanks to [Colonel Trevor Olsson](#) for the following article:

“I was fortunate to be able to obtain a berth on the above train, which departed Darwin for Adelaide on the morning of 23 April last. It was a massive undertaking, with the two locomotives towing some 37 carriages. Many of the passengers were ex-service men and women of various ages.

The organisation of the special trip was first-class, as were the service and meals on board.

On arrival at Katherine just after lunch, we all participated in a boat trip up the Katherine Gorge, followed by demonstrations by local indigenous persons. The weather was perfect and the scenery in the Gorge nothing short of magnificent. Following a bonfire and musical interlude in the Katherine Rail Yards that evening, the train proceeded on to Alice Springs, arriving about mid-afternoon on the 24th. After some free time around the town, we all attended an excellent dinner under the stars in the East McDonnell ranges, which included a first-class country music presentation and camel rides for the adventurous.

Reveille was at 0400 hours the next morning. We were bussed to the top of Anzac Hill (overlooking Alice Springs Township) for a truly spectacular Anzac Dawn Service. That service was followed by an excellent gunfire breakfast at the RSL, the traditional Anzac Day march and a later visit to the Desert Park complex. The turnout by the locals was remarkable. Even more remarkable was the number of quite disabled ex-servicemen who participated in the march.

The Ghan departed Alice in the afternoon and arrived at Port Augusta at about 8 AM the next morning. We were all treated to a steam “troop train” ride through the scenic country between Port Augusta and Quorn.

On return to Port Augusta, the Ghan proceeded on to Adelaide, arriving at about 7:30 PM. All in all, it was a top-class event which is to be repeated next year. I can highly recommend it.”

A DIGGER’S BEST FRIEND



“Wounded, injured and ill soldiers from south-east Queensland have a new tool to boost their recovery and return to work – an energetic border collie named Jesse.

She is just a lovely and obedient dog and very suited to being here (Soldier Recovery Centre, Brisbane).

Although Jesse will be used as a therapy dog at the centre, she is also in training to be an assistance dog, which will enable her to offer more help to some soldiers and to attend events outside the base where animals are not normally allowed.”

‘Army 24 Apr 2014’

YOU CAN DEPEND ON THE GUNNERS!



“Bdr Glenn Littlechild has directed fire support from a range of platforms in Afghanistan, including Super Hornets, Apaches and artillery.

(Then) Gunner Littlechild, he deployed on Op SLIPPER to Afghanistan with 8/12 Regiment, and controlled everything in the sky over Uruzgan province in his role of providing offensive support to units on the ground for the 8/12 Regt Joint Fires Team (formerly known as the FO party).”

The role of a soldier in the rank of Gunner has certainly changed, and now attracts a great deal more challenge and responsibility.

‘Army 24 Apr 2014’

Summary of 6/13 Light Battery Training - 2014

Many thanks to the BC 6/13 Lt Bty, Maj Peter Wirth, for the following summary:

Ex Borneo - 48 Tp. 22-23 Mar 14

48 Troop, 6/13 Light Battery took the opportunity to train at Keswick Barracks during Ex Borneo. On Saturday Gunners were hands-on with the mortars conducting drills and working on achieving their benchmark timings. Training at Keswick Barracks allows maximum time on the weapon to focus on technical skills. Gunners rotated through each position on the tube as Section Commanders kept a close eye on training. On Sunday the Gunners moved into the CP to fresh their firing drills. With key equipment on loan interstate the Gunners took the imitative to practice their skills using the map and protractor. The CP Bombardier was able to bring the CPO's up to speed, which stood them in good stead for the LFX in April.

Ex Kokoda 11-13 Apr 14

6/13 Lt Bty were fortunate enough to have 8 members of 16 Tp (Tasmania) join them on the mainland for the conduct of the first LFX of the year. The BC's aim for the activity was to qualify a number of key personnel with outstanding training shortfalls, specifically relating to Live Fire components. The Bty concentrated at 48Tp on Friday night and settled into their Battle Rhythm. The BC issued deployment orders to the Mortar Line and the Joint Fires Team (JFT) (formerly the FO party) and early Saturday morning the Bty deployed to Murray Bridge Training Area. The first activity was dry-fire CPX to allow the gunners time to integrate their TTP's. It also allowed the trainees to refresh their drills prior to their live fire assessment. The LFX began Saturday afternoon with the first mission qualifying three proud RAA Artillery Light gunners. Successive missions rotated trainees through various positions in order to achieve their qualifications. Despite earlier forecasts for hot weather and fire bans, the training area was blanketed with fog on Sunday morning. After some delay, the Bty continued to fire. Throughout the day trainees rotated through their positions, and up to the OP situated on a low sandhill, to gain their qualification. The live firing also provided good training for the qualified gunners. The Bty redeployed to 48Tp, with 16Tp members dashing to the airport to get home on time. 6/13 Lt Bty qualified 7 personnel in 9 different competencies from 5 different courses, an outstanding result for all involved.

Ex Alamein 2-4 May 14

6/13 Lt Bty were fortunate enough to have 7 members of 48 Tp travel to Tasmania to marry-up with 16Tp for an LFX at Stoney Head Training Area. It was a valuable opportunity for SA-based members to see how the other half live and work, as it is more often than not that Tas-based members travel to the mainland for training. The Bty concentrated at Patterson Barracks (Launceston) on Friday night before deploying to the field. Early Saturday morning the Bty deployed into the first Mortar Line position and the JFT to their OP. Despite a sluggish start, the troops began to amalgamate and truly work as one battery. Once up to standard, the live firing commenced. The Bty fired a number of missions using HE and SMK munitions. The high rates of fire put the detachments under significant pressure to answer the calls for fire, but in the proud gunner tradition, they were on time and on target. Saturday evening allowed the Bty to fire ILLUM munitions, which thankfully are the last of the Denel issue that necessitate onerous safety requirements. Firing at night always presents new challenges, and valuable lessons were learned. The Bty finished the weekend with a dry deployment to revisit issues identified earlier in the activity. The BC, always keeping good leadership in mind, provided some refreshments to the gunners at the conclusion of the activity to reward the hard work done over the last few months and to ensure that the two Troops grow together as one Bty, despite the significant distance between their home locations.

THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY'S NEW ROLE – AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS



2 RAR is the 'core battalion' in support of the Amphibious Ready Element, a joint task force training for air, land and sea operations during Ex Sea Dawn.

'During the exercise troops conducted helicopter, boat and vehicle operations, casualty response and recovery, landed forces ashore, tested communications and reaffirmed command arrangements.'

In general terms, the ADF began training for amphibious operations a couple of years ago in order to enhance its capability to respond quickly with a balanced force to operational or civil emergency scenarios.

'Army 24 Apr 2014'

The Army Cadet

A drill sergeant had just chewed out one of his cadets, and as he was walking away, he turned to the cadet and said, "I guess when I die you'll come and dance on my grave."

The cadet replied, "Not me, Sarge. No sir! I promised myself that when I got out of the Army, I'd never stand in another line!"

NEW AUSTRALIAN MULTICAM CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORM



The photo at left shows the new style of 'multicam' combat uniform being introduced into the Australian Army. The 'disruptive pattern' is somewhat different to the style that has been worn for the last couple of decades, and the uniform is more 'tailored' to enable a better fit when wearing body armour. Although the associated article that appeared in the 'Army' newspaper (dated 10 April) offered some criticism of the new pattern, and the fact that the 'tailored' style more readily presented a human shape, it was pointed out that it had been developed after extensive consultation with troops in the field, and Defence Science & Technology Organisation (DSTO).

('Army' 24/4/2014)

CULTANA TRAINING AREA – LITTLE CHANGE OVER THE YEARS!

During our time in the Army many of us will have spent weeks doing one type of training or another at Cultana.

The photo at right probably brings back a few memories of the terrain. It shows a member of 7RAR firing the Javelin (heat seeking) missile during the recent 'direct fire support weapons course' held at Cultana.

'Army 24 Apr 2014'



** A BENEFIT FOR VETERANS **

I think that it is fair to say that most people within South Australia will be unaware of a benefit to veterans that is available from the South Australian Government, through Revenue SA (previously titled the State Taxation Office).

For several decades, veterans who served in World War 2, Korea, Malaya, Malaysia or Vietnam (certain dates apply in each category) have been entitled to a rebate on the stamp duty paid on the purchase of their home. People in this category would use the form titled 'Application for Exemption', accessible on the RevenueSA website.

Given the involvement of the ADF in more recent operations (eg. Iraq and Afghanistan), the entitlement to this benefit has recently been extended.

Members of the ADF who have been awarded the Australian Active Service Medal 1945 to 1975 and/or the Australian Active Service Medal are now entitled to apply to Revenue SA for consideration of payment of the rebate. Entitlement extends to both serving and past-serving members.

The relevant form ('Application for Ex-Gratia Relief') requires that evidence of the award of one or other of the above medals to the applicant be confirmed:

- ✚ For **serving members**, this can be done by the orderly room, signed by a WO2 (E) or above;
- ✚ For **past serving members** the medals can be sighted and confirmed by a Justice of the Peace.

A fundamental condition is that the person must own and reside in a property in South Australia. Revenue SA maintains a data-checking process with the Lands Titles Office.

The rebate can be applied for at the time of purchasing the property (when payment of the stamp duty occurs), OR retrospectively in regard to a property already owned.

The amount of rebate will not exceed \$132, and is **payable only once** to any one veteran.

Further information, including access to the relevant form (2 forms exist – be careful to use the correct form, ie for recent service, 'Application for Ex-Gratia Relief'), is available on Revenue SA's website (www.revenuesa.sa.gov.au) or by ringing (08) 8226.3750.

THE ANZAC CENTENARY 18 POUNDER GUN PROJECT

Members will be interested to learn that the 18 pdr Gun is coming back into service..... well, at least one of them anyway! The RAA Historical Company (based in Sydney) has assembled a team of ‘Gunners’, the vision of which is “*to produce a living memorial to the Australian Artillery and the troops they supported by deploying the gun and team for commemorative events starting in 2015 for the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli*”.

It is intended that the gun & limber will be fully restored, and together with detachment and horses, and newly-purchased harness will be paraded on appropriate occasions. It is proposed that an 18 pdr projectile will be collected from each battlefield where Australians fought and placed in the ammunition limber.

It is anticipated that the cost of the project, up to Anzac Day 2015, will be \$228,580. It is a mammoth task, and we wish the project team every success. (*Cannonball, March 2014, p43*)



ARMY'S NEW GENERAL PURPOSE JACKET

Diggers in the Southern States can expect to be issued with the new GP Jacket before the end of winter this year.

The new jacket is intended for use in barracks and non-operational environments, to provide warmth and protection against the cold and wind chill in damp and light rain conditions. The outer fabric has water repellent and wind-resistant qualities, and the jacket has a stowable hood and a removable fleece liner to enable the wearer to adapt the jacket's use in a wide range of climatic conditions. It is designed as part of a layered system, and is part of the Army's new Australian Multicam pattern. (*Army 19 June 2014*).

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

2014 – 2015

Colonel Commandant

Yet to be advised

Committee:

President	Major Geoff Laurie RFD (Retd)	8332.4485 (H)
Treasurer	Major Rex Jones RFD (Retd)	8388.4201 (H)
Secretary	Sgt Jan Burgess	0411.446.656
Members	LTCOL Stefan Landherr RFD (Retd)	8289.4013 (H)
	WO2 Hector Korsten	8344.8386 (H)
	WO2 Don Millard	8263.5334 (H)
	WO2 Tony Matz	0412.824.600
	Sgt Eddie Tanzer	8263.0167 (H)
	Sgt John Nield	8339.6421 (H)
Assoc Reps at Army } Museum of SA }	Sgt Eddie Tanzer Sgt John Nield	
16 AL Regt	LTCOL Bernard White	CO 16 AL Regt
6/13 Lt Bty Rep (formerly 48 Fd Bty)	Capt Dave Haupt 48 Troop (6/13 Lt Bty)	8305.6256 (Tues Night)
P&EE (Pt Wakefield)	OC - Maj Jonathon Abundo =====	(08) 8867.1005 (W)

Committee Meetings:

The Committee endeavours to meet on the second Monday in February, May, August, and November.

Agenda items, and Newsletter Articles to: Geoff Laurie or Jan Burgess

Memorabilia (when available) from the Secretary

RAA Tie	\$40	Plaques (Pewter Badge)	\$25	RAA Lapel Badges	\$5
Book, 'Roundshot to Rapier' – A History of RAA in SA)			\$5		

Membership Fee:

Full Member:	Annual Subscription:	\$30	Joining Fee \$20 (at Committee's discretion)
Affiliate Member:	50% of above annual subscription		

GUNNER DINNER – 29 AUGUST 2014 - RSVP

(Please tick approp boxes)

I wish to attend and my cheque is enclosed.

I wish to attend, and I have paid / will pay by direct credit:

Institution: Commonwealth Bank. BSB Number: 065 000

Account Number: 00909698

Account Name: Royal Australian Artillery Association of SA Inc.

I have the following special dietary restriction.

.....

I am unable to attend.

Name: