

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

2005

Vol 1 No 19



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION

2 SUAKIN STREET, PYMBLE 2073
(P.O. BOX 206 FRENCHS FOREST 2086)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for electing me to the position of President for the coming year.

I would like to thank Colonel John Fairless for his work and efforts as President for the past two years.

Congratulations to those who have taken up the challenge as committee, and I look forward to working with you for the betterment of the Association in the coming year.

It is time for us to look at the membership of the association, and to seek out members who have not renewed, and to seek out new members. If we do not do this we will find ourselves dwindling away to nothing. Any ideas that you put forward will be considered.

The Annual Reunion is on Friday 18th November at the Willoughby Club. In the weeks leading up to the dinner we will be inserting notices in the papers in order to encourage old and new members to attend.

We will continue our association with the RAA, North Fort, and the Unit. The new CO has been most positive in his approach to the Association and has indicated that he would like to see more inter action between the two bodies.

I look forward to seeing you all at Willoughby on the 18th November. Put it in your diary now.

Best wishes,

Rob Corbett
Major
President

DONATIONS PLEASE

At the AGM in July, it was agreed that the Association would sponsor a large centre piece in the North Fort Memorial Walk at a cost of around \$1300.00, to be installed in early 2006.

To commence the process, several generous donations have been received from Senior Committee Members and your further support for this project is encouraged.

FROM THE COLONEL'S DUGOUT

As I write this article on the eve of deploying to Singleton Range for Exercise HAMEL, I realise that I am already more than a quarter of my way through my time as Commanding Officer. This year is the Regiment's 89th Anniversary and it was celebrated with a cake cutting ceremony in the field and later at the Regimental Birthday Cocktail party at North Head. Before I describe what we have achieved in 2005 and where we are headed into the future, let me first remind us of the origins of the Regiment. I do this not for the olds and bolds, but for the 'new chums' to the Regiment.

The Regiment was established on the 17th March, 1916 when the 7th Field Artillery Brigade was formed in Marrickville at the 'Warren.' In July of that year the Brigade was training in England before deploying to the Western Front in December. The Brigade first went into action on the 17 January 1917 at Armentieres, taking part in the battles of Menin Road and Passchendale. The Brigade remained in action for the remainder of World War One and was removed from the order of battle in August 1919.

The Brigade was re-raised in 1921 as the VIIth Australian Field Artillery Brigade at North Sydney before moving to the Willoughby Drill Hall in 1929. In 1940 the Brigade was redesignated to 7th Field Regiment, RAA (Militia). During World War Two, the Regiment served in the Defence of Sydney and in the Defence of Australia in Western Australia where it was redesignated to 7th Field Regiment (AIF). The Regiment returned to Sydney in October 1943 where it was disbanded.

The Regiment was re-raised at Willoughby in 1948 as part of the Citizen Military Forces and since that time has undergone significant change in weapons and organisation. The final reorganisation was in 1976 with 28 Field Battery at Dee Why and 113 Field Battery at Adamstown. The Regimental Headquarters and then Headquarters Battery moved to Pymble in 1996. In 2006, the Regiment will celebrate its 90th Anniversary and in addition, will recognise the 50th Anniversary of the Dee Why depot.

Today, the Regt continues to proudly serve the nation on numerous domestic and operational tasks as it has done for the past 89 years. Current and former members of the Regiment have served in East Timor (now Timor Leste) and supported operations RELIX (protecting our northern approaches from incursion) and SUMATRA ASSIST (the Australian response to the 2004 tsunami). The Regiment provides soldiers and officers for the 8th Brigade, Reserve Response Force (RRF) and is preparing to send soldiers to Malaysia in support of a Rifle Company Butterworth rotation. Closer to home, the Regiment carried out a number of domestic duties including artillery salutes for Australia Day and the Captain General's Birthday and provided support to ADF individual and collective training exercises.

The Regt manages a dynamic and challenging training and social program. For 2005, these activities will have included five artillery LFX, a small arms LFX weekend, Officer/SNCO training, RRF training, artillery salutes, celebrating the 2nd Division's 90th Birthday, support to the Joint Tactical Air Control course, numerous RAA, driver and specialist courses, the Regiment's Birthday Cocktail party and the Sydney and Newcastle Gunner Dinners. The year will conclude with the RAA Church Parade. Underpinning all of this, have been our recruiting and corporate governance responsibilities and actions.

My vision for the Regiment is to re-establish two operating and functional gun troops based on each of 28 and 113 Field Batterys. Currently, the Regiment has a posted strength of 144 – this is an increase of 14 personnel in eight months but still does not allow me to run two separate batterys in the field. My aim is to achieve a posted strength and steady state of 160 over the next 12 months. The Regt is continuously recruiting and in particular I have been targeting ARA soldiers and officers transferring from the ARA and Reserve soldiers and officers who are currently posted against the Inactive Army Reserve. Initiatives such as our Castle Hill recruiting activities are contributing to the establishment of the Pymble gun detachments.

I would like to acknowledge and on behalf of the Regiment, thank a number of personnel who will move on at the end of the year for their personal and collective contribution to the Regiment. They are:

Major Max Shaday – Second in Command;
Major Stuart Seabrook – Operations Officer;
Major Warwick Young – Battery Commander 28th Field
Battery;
Major Sam Nicholson – Battery Commander 113th Field
Battery;
Warrant Officer Class One Greg Metcalf – Regimental
Sergeant Major;
Warrant Officer Class Two Ian Armstrong – 113th Field
Battery;
Warrant Officer Class Two Wayne Piggott – Chief Clerk; and
Sergeant Craig Smith – Regimental Transport Supervisor;

I believe that in the short to mid term future, the Regiment remains viable and will continue to contribute to ADF operations; and training and ceremonial activities. The Regiment is small, but continues to 'punch above its weight' – I have no doubt that this is because of the teamwork, integration and calibre of both Part time and Full Time personnel.

Ubique

Craig Taggart
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

craig.taggart@defence.gov.au



Patron Major Laurie Hindmarsh with Runners-up Most Improved Soldier 2004, GNR James Moran (HQ BTY) & GNR Richard Ilsley (28 FD BTY).

Karen Aiston

Bob Waller

**Most Improved Soldier 2004
GNR Matthew Nicholson
(113 FD BTY)**





WO1 Greg Metcalf

Bob Richardson

Mark Bagster

ANNUAL REUNION – NOVEMBER 2004

Rodney Heys

Darcy Williams

Gary Fry



Rusty Russell

Carl Doherty

Kel Crozier



YOU KNOW WHO HE WAS

If you're old enough you will remember him.

He was the old bloke who lived up the street or maybe just around the corner. He was a taciturn sort of character, some would say a crabby old bugger, civil enough if spoken to, but mostly keeping to himself as though he carried some profound memories, bore some profound burden.

Funny thing though, every year saw him leaving home fairly early in the morning on a day late in April. If you watched a bit closer you noticed how his aging step had a sort of a spring to it and on the left of his chest he wore things even then you recognised as medals. If you were really little you didn't know why. If you were a bit older you did have some understanding.

Although you rarely saw them he did have a lot of mates, men just like himself who, when young themselves, had shared all his experiences. Occasionally you actually got to see them and noticed that one or two were missing a leg or an arm and you wondered what had happened. Once, when your mother took you into the city, you saw one of them working as a lift driver in the old Farmers department store.

They were so alike that when they went into hospital nursing staff would immediately recognise them as belonging to a particular category of person. There was just something about them, some characteristic indefinable but never the less recognisable.

For quite a few years after the end of the event that made him what he was your old neighbour was a popular and influential personality in the broad affairs of the country. So too were his mates.

But the world moved on, times and attitudes changed and he and his colleagues went into an eclipse so far as most people were concerned. Others very different from him took the stage for a while and he, along with his achievements, almost slipped out of the collective folk memory.

However, memory can be restored if the right prompts are given. So it was with him and his history.

Times changed and a few years ago the people started to recall what he and his comrades had accomplished more than sixty years before and realised that their deeds and the attitudes that flowed from them still influenced the way they themselves lived their lives. He remained crabby, but knew in his heart of hearts that he again meant something to that great neighbourhood our nation is.

He is gone now and so are his mates, every last one of them, but what they did lives to some extent in all of us who call ourself Australian. Spare him a thought when next Anzac day you march along the streets once marched along by him.

James Nash

7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
Members as at 1 October 2005

AISTON	Karen	FLANAGAN	Kenneth	LEDWICH	Samuel	SMITH	Roger
ATTARD	Andrew	FLANAGAN	Kevin	LEEK	David	STANFORD	John
BAGSTER	Mark	FLIPPENCE	Addie	LEWIS	Brian	STARKE	Bill
BAILEY	Norman	FLOWER	Stephen	LINCOLN	David	STAZIKER	Stuart
BALDWIN	Murray	FOX	Harry	LONGFELLOW	Virginia	STEDMAN	James
BALFOUR	John	FRAZER	Ian	LYLE	Stuart	STONE	Peter
BASTOCK	Fred	FRY	Gary	MAIN	Rick	STRICKLAND	Kent
BATEMAN	Ray	FULCHER	Sharon	MASON-JONES	Nicoll	SUNDERLAND	Ray
BAYNIE	John	GABRIEL	Reginald	MEGGATT	Thomas	TAYLOR	Harry
BIBBY	Vic	GATES	Graham	MENDL	Peter	THORNTON	Stephen
BLOW	David	GATES	Patrick	MILHAM	Glenn	TOPLIS	Danny
BOWEN	Chris	GIFFENEY	Desmond	MILIC	Karl	TRANTER	Peter
BRADLEY	Leo	GILKINSON	Lance	MOONEY	Ronald	TRENTIN	Mark
BRENNAN	Raymond	GLADEN	Noel	MOORE	Dennis	TRUELOVE	Peter
BREWER	Charles	GRESLEY	Wal	MOKGAN	Robert	WAGLAND	Ross
BRINCAT	Alex	GWILYM	Jack	MORRIS	Douglas	WAGSTAFF	Graeme
BROADHEAD	Ken	HALL	Barry	MOYSEY	David	WALKER	John
BRYANT	Kevin	HAMER	Colin	MOYSEY	Robert	WALLER	Robert
BURNETT	Jerry	HANSFORD	Jes	MUIR	Gayle	WATSON	Alex
BURKE	Alec	HARGREAVES	Thomas	MUIR	Lawrence	WHEATLEY	Murelia
BUZACOTT	David	HARLE	Charles	MUIR	Peter	WHEATLEY	Paul
CARLSSON	Jim	HARRISON	Allan	McCARTHY	Noel	WHITE	Dennis
CARMENT	David	HARROWER	David	McCLELLAND	David	WHITE	Peter
CARSTENS	John	HAVARD	Richard	McFAYDEN	Barry	WHITFIELD	Timothy
CASHMORE	John	HAWKINS	Neil	McGRATH	Peter	WILLIAMS	Darcy
CHAD	Allan	HAYLEN	Ian	McKECHNIE	David	WILLIS	Kenneth
CHASELING	Brian	HECKENBERG	Brian	MCLEAN	Russ	WILSON	John
CHETWYND	Rodney	HINDMARSH	Laurie	MCVAY	Donald	WORBOYS	Simon
CHRISTIE	Carl	HOEY	Ian	NASH	James	WRIGHT	Colin
CLARK	Neville	HOGAN	Christopher	NEALE	Geoffrey	YEATES	Chris
CLIFF	Kevin	HOGGE	Richard	NEILL	William		
CLIFTON	Alfred	HUNGERFORD	Bruce	NELSON	Dene	<u>NEW MEMBERS SINCE</u>	
COASTER-GARTON	Max	IRELAND	John	NELSON	John	<u>JANUARY 2003</u>	
COCHRANE	John	JACKSON	Kim	NOAKES	Steven	AMOR	William
COLE	Mick	IZARD	Michael	OWENS	Robert	BARNETT	Michael
COLLINS	Don	JACKSON	Neville	PINNINGTON	Laidley	BARROW	Gilbert
CONDON	Schon	JAMES	Ian	POSENER	John	BURKE	Leo
COOTE	Glen	JEFFRESON	Edward	POWER	Brian	CLARK	David
COPPARD	Doug	JEFFRESON	Norman	POWER	Phil	CROZIER	Kel
COX	Josephine	JOHNSTON	Warwick	PRIMROSE	Brian	FENDER	Shane
CUNNEEN	Stephen	JONES	Michael	RICHARDSON	Robert	GILLESPIE	Rod
DAVIDSON	Duncan	JONES	Ronald	ROBERTS	Bruce	HEYS	Rodney
DOHERTY	Carl	JORGENSEN	Kenneth	ROBERTS	Paul	HOWE	Robert
DOWN	Patrick	KARIKS	Andi	ROGAN	Robert	JONES	Marcus
EAGLETON	Harold	KEEFE	John	RULE	Donald	LANE	Kathryn
EDWARDS	Hugh	KEEN	Kenneth	RUSSELL	Robert	MARTIN	Graham
ELDERTON	Frederick	KIRKWOOD	John	RUSSELL	Ross	NEWBERRY	Malcolm
ELSLEY	Graham	KNIGHT	William	SAINSBURY	Maurie	ROWORTH	Douglas
FAIRFIELD	Peter	KOHLHAGEN	Paul	SCOTT	Ian	WALLER	Robert
FAIRLESS	John	KOHLHAGEN	Ross	SEDMAN	Evan		
FAIRLEY	Jack	KOINA	Jeffrey	SENGOS	Patrick		
FALCONER	Max	LANGFORD-BROWN	Ian	SHUNWAH	Richard		
FITZPATRICK	Roy	LAURENCE	Michael	SMITH	Colin		
				SMITH	Grahame		

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

CORBETT	Robert
CROWE	John **
LEWIS-Hughes	Ken **
** Deceased	