

Yandoo

**The Newsletter of the 7 Field Regiment
Royal Australian Artillery Association**

Vol 2 No 20 (2025)

Website Address: <http://www.7fd-regt-raa-association.com>



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YANDOO – Larkhill, Salisbury Plain -1916

List of all Association Members

Upcoming Events

Annual Reunion - Friday 21 November 2025

ANZAC Lunch - Sunday 12 April 2026

ANZAC Day - Saturday 25 April 2026

Current Committee (Elected 30 July 2025)

President: BRIG J.P.Keefe RFD

Vice

Presidents: K. Aiston & A.McCallum

Secretary: J.G. Balfour OAM

Treasurer: D. McVay**

Committee: J. Brown

K. Cochran

S.Flower

R. Havard

M. Jones

D. McKechnie**

J.Stanford

** Appointed 18 Aug 2025

Regimental

Rep: LT Sam Tsaousis

Patron: COL J.A.L.Fairless RFD

Hon Solicitor: LTCOL G.Barter

Hon Auditor: W.J.Neill

Ex-President's Report

The Association's AGM was held on 30 July 2025 which saw me step aside as President after serving the maximum three consecutive years allowed under the Association's constitution. It was a pleasure to serve as President and now hand over to the new President, BRIG John Keefe. I will be continuing to serve as a member of the new Committee.

You can see details of the new committee on the About page of the website. Thanks also to Don McVay who has agreed to continue serving as the Public Officer in addition to his role as Treasurer.

The new website continues to receive compliments, and I encourage everyone to enjoy the huge amount of history it contains. I encourage everyone to keep your Association membership up to date and to encourage others to be involved. Your membership gives you:

- Access to the Association Facebook group
- Contact with old comrades
- Regimental news
- A way to help preserve Regimental history
- Invites to the annual reunion and other events
- The ability to preserve your old photos and memories on the website.

Our ANZAC Day presence remains strong (fortunately unlike many other associations) and we continue to be joined by increasing numbers of serving members. I hope to see many of you again for the 2026 march. Remember- if you don't march, who will?

The Association was involved with the Regiment over the past year by again running the Annual Soldier's Award, with the winner receiving a certificate for a free weekend at the Army Resort "Bulwarra", at Terrigal. We were also able to assist with providing an amount of artillery and Regimental memorabilia for an historical display predominately at Pymble Depot.

We have also been asked to continue to donate any memorabilia that can be used for other depot displays. As many of you will be aware, when 7 FD REGT was disestablished, much of the old Regimental memorabilia and mess property was either sent to Bandiana or absorbed into other unit messes. The Commanding Officer is keen to rebuild displays with Regimental history and items of interest and on his behalf, I am again asking for your support for any relevant items that could be donated or loaned. Better that items are displayed and enjoyed rather than gathering dust!

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for its support and in particular, the input of JB as Association Secretary, without whom the Association would not run.

Under the leadership of the new President, the Committee is looking at ways to try and make the annual reunion more accessible to our older members. For this year, the Annual Reunion promises to be a great night with Regimental news and updates from the new Commanding Officer. I hope to see you there.

UBIQUE

Steve Flower
Former President

New President's Report

On Wednesday 30th July 2025 at the Association AGM I was elected President ably supported by vice-presidents Andrew McCallum and Karen Aiston.

Colonel John Fairless RFD was appointed as our new Patron on 19 August.

Being a member of our Association can give you a real sense of belonging to your Army Family, and I encourage all members of 7 Bty to join us and enjoy the benefits that our Association provides.

In my case I have been connected with 7Fd since December 1964, over 60 years ago. I was fortunate enough to be a BC, 2IC, CO, Colonel Artillery and Commander 8Bde.

With the steady hand of John Balfour and the members of our Committee I look forward to many more years of friendship.

Ubique

Brig John Keefe RFD



ANZAC DAY MARCH 2025



ANZAC LUNCH – CHATSWOOD RSL APRIL 2025



ANZAC DAY MARCH 2025



VP LUNCH – CHATSWOOD RSL AUGUST 2025



CHATSWOOD RSL ANZAC LUNCH APRIL 2025



GUNNER DINNER AUGUST 2025

7 Battery Key Postings 2025

BC	MAJ Dustin Gold
IG	CAPT Emily Simpson*
BK	CAPT Steve Potter
BSM	WO2 Tristan Strategos
SMIG	WO2 Mitchell Hamer *
TSM	WO2 Shane Fender
25 Tp Comd	LT Sam Tsaousis
28 Tp Comd	LT Andrew Munchenberg
113 Tp Comd	LT Jack Snowden
JFT TP COMD	LT Calvin Zeng
Other Officers	CAPT Brian Davies
	CAPT Andrew Wallin
	LT Rickey Wan
	LT Ash Heming

* ARA

FROM THE CO's DESK

9th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery – A Community of Gunners

Upon assuming command of the 9th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery in January 2025, I reflected on the Regiment's significant transformation and enduring contribution to Army capability. As the Army's Reserve artillery formation, the 9th Regiment has evolved into a force with a clear operational focus: the delivery of Surveillance and Target Acquisition (STA) effects in support of the Joint Force.

The Regiment's mission is defined by four core roles:

1. **Force Generation** – Delivering STA capabilities, including Small Uncrewed Aerial Systems (SUAS), radar systems, and Joint Fires Teams (JFTs), to support domestic and offshore contingencies.
2. **Augmentation** – Providing reinforcement to full-time RAA units as required.
3. **Modernisation Support** – Contributing to the development and implementation of RAA capability enhancements.
4. **Institutional Support** – Upholding Army's reputation through public engagement and ensuring the welfare of our soldiers.

Over the past 12 months, the Regiment has executed these roles with distinction, while adapting to the evolving strategic environment in which the Australian Defence Force now operates.

Transition to 10th Brigade

In 2025, the Regiment transitioned into the 10th Brigade under the 1st (Australian) Division. Despite this change in command authority, our longstanding relationship with the 2nd (Australian) Division remains strong. The Regiment continues to force generate under the 2nd Division's training ecosystem, maintaining habitual ties with co-located Brigades. Concurrently, support to 1st Division has grown steadily, enabling broader operational contributions. During **Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2025**, the Regiment supported both Divisions. Our capabilities contributed to homeland defence under 2nd Division, while also participating in the Combined Joint Live Fire Exercise (CJLFX) under 10th Brigade. This included support to a multinational HIMARS firing involving the newly raised 14th Regiment RAA, the U.S. Army's 17th Field Artillery Brigade, and the Singapore Armed Forces.

The 10th Brigade continues to expand its operational depth and strategic relevance. In 2026, the Brigade will formally raise the 14th Regiment, RAA, which will assume responsibility as Army's long-range strike capability, employing the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). This marks a significant step forward in the ADF's precision fires capability and joint interoperability.

In parallel, the 16th Regiment, RAA has achieved notable milestones throughout 2025, particularly through its operational employment of the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS).

The Regiment's participation in Exercise TALISMAN SABRE demonstrated its growing role in integrated air and missile defence. The unit is currently transitioning from **Woodside Barracks** to newly constructed, purpose-built facilities at **RAAF Base Edinburgh**, further enhancing its readiness and alignment with joint force infrastructure.

Capability Development and Integration

The Regiment continues to refine its employment model, centred on the **Joint Capabilities Team (JxT)** construct. These agile teams integrate one or more of our core capabilities—SUAS, radar systems, and Effects Coordination elements such as Artillery Forward Observers and Tactical Command Parties. Training infrastructure has also advanced. All Batteries now utilise enhanced Flat Screen Trainers, enabling complex scenario-based training. Most Batteries are located near Dome Simulators and have increased opportunities for live fire training alongside full-time RAA units and Reserve infantry battalions.

Operational Contributions

The Regiment has remained operationally focused throughout 2025. We have supported multiple deployments on **Operation RESOLUTE**, contributing specialist surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to secure Australia's maritime borders. Additionally, members deployed on **Exercise ALON** in the Philippines, providing STA effects in one of Australia's largest bilateral overseas exercises.

7 Battery – Year in Review

7 Battery has had a productive and diverse training year, marked by capability development and operational integration.

- **Ceremonial Duties:** The year commenced with the Australia Day Salute at Bradfield Park, Sydney Harbour. LT Daniel Abrams served as Gun Position Officer and represented the Battery in national media interviews.
- **Training and Certification:** March marked the Battery's courses period, including Defence Remote Pilot Licence and Multicopter UAS training using the new TEAL-2 system. Over 20 members were qualified at Singleton Military Area. This culminated in **Exercise Battle Badger**, the Battery's first field training exercise deploying JxTs in tactical scenarios, leading to certification for TALISMAN SABRE.

- **Exercise TALISMAN SABRE:** 7 Battery deployed a JxT Heavy, equipped with multiple SUAS platforms and radar systems, supporting CJLFX and the first Australian HIMARS firing. The team operated across Shoalwater Bay and Townshend Island, integrating with international partners.
- **Ongoing Integration:** Post-TALISMAN SABRE, the Battery has continued training with adjacent units including 2/17 RNSWR and RAAF Williamtown. Members have deployed on nearly all international operations supported by the Regiment including supported **Operation RESOLUTE**, **Exercise ALON**, and **Exercise WANTOK WARRIOR**.

Command Appointments and Farewells

As we approach the end of 2025, several command changes are underway:

- **Major Dustin Gold** will continue as Battery Commander into 2026, supported by **Battery Captain Stephen Potter** and **Battery Sergeant Major Tristian Strategos**.
- We farewell **CAPT Brian Davies**, Battery UAS Officer, who will post to Sydney University Regiment, and **CAPT Emily Simpson**, Instructor Gunnery, who will post to ADFA. Their contributions to 7 Battery have been significant and deeply valued.
- In January, 7 Battery raised a dedicated **JFT Troop** to enhance training frequency and career management for ECN 255 soldiers. **LT Calvin Zeng** will continue in command, following his promotion to **CAPT** in 2026
- In July 2025, **Lieutenant Jack Snowden** (formerly Sergeant Jack Snowden) graduated from the Reserve Officer Commissioning Course as **Student of Merit** and assumed command of **113 Troop**, following the transfer of **Lieutenant Daniel Abrams** to full-time service with the **8th/12th Regiment RAA** in Darwin. LT Snowden has been ably supported by **Sergeant Gavin Hughes** and **Acting Troop Sergeant Matt**

Hansen, whose professionalism and commitment have ensured a smooth transition.

- Also in July, the Battery farewelled **Sergeant Adrian Orellana**, who commenced officer training with the **Sydney University Regiment**. We hope to see SGT Orellana return to the Battery in due course and wish him every success in his training.
- Looking ahead to December 2025, **Lieutenant Sam Tsaousis** will conclude his command of **25 Troop** at Pymble, while **Lieutenant Andrew Munchenberg** will continue in his appointment as **28 Troop Commander** at Dee Why. Throughout the year, **Lieutenants Ash Hemming** and **Rickey Wan** have made significant contributions as Troop Officers, supported by **Acting Troop Sergeants Dave Schwebel** and **Matt Hill**, whose efforts have been instrumental in maintaining troop readiness and cohesion.
- The Battery has also been privileged to have **Warrant Officer Class Two Mitchell Hamer** serve as **Sergeant-Major Instructor Gunnery (SMIG)** across 2024 and 2025. WO2 Hamer will continue in this role into 2026, bringing continuity and deep instructional expertise to the Battery. In addition, **Warrant Officer Class Two Shane Fender** commenced as **Technical Sergeant Major** this year and has made a substantial impact through his technical leadership and mentorship. I extend my sincere thanks to both WO2 Hamer and WO2 Fender for their dedication and enthusiasm throughout 2025.

Finally, on behalf of the officers and soldiers of 7 Battery, I would like to formally acknowledge the enduring support of the **7 Field Regiment RAA Association**. The commitment of the Association's committee members continues to strengthen the Battery's connection to its heritage and community, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing engagement and advocacy.

UBIQUE.

Raymond Brin
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer



Australia Day Salute at Kirribilli
26 January 2025



****Membership Fees are due now****

Annual \$15 – Life (over 55) \$150



Payments for the **Reunion and Membership fees** can be made to:

BSB No 062 – 272

Account No 1001 3543

Association Website Update

Don't forget to periodically look at our website at:
<https://www.7fieldregimentassociation.com.au/>

7 FD REGT RAA MEMORABILIA

7 BTY is calling for any Memorabilia items to set up a Depot Display.
Items can be donated or loaned & all possible items need to be advised to the Secretary (JB) who will coordinate approval, delivery, collection etc.

SOLDIER'S AWARD 2024



MAJ Dustin Gold with Steve Flower & John Balfour at Dee Why Depot presenting GNR Jonah Miller (25 TP) with the Soldier's Award for 2024 plus Runner-up GNR Luca Burman (28 TP).

The other Runner-up was PTE Alexander Adams (113 TP)

The winner received a certificate plus a weekend at the Army's Bulwarra Resort, Terrigal.

BULWARRA RESORT, TERRIGAL proudly supports the 7 FD Regt RAA Association annual **SOLDIER'S AWARD**

bookings@bulwarra.com.au

BULWARRA is a family friendly resort, run by ADF members for ADF members and their families, offering basic but comfortable self-contained, family accommodation; a not-for-profit cooperative in beautiful Terrigal that has provided affordable holiday accommodation for ADF members since 1970.

A very warm welcome to our New members

TSAOUSIS Sam (LT)
PASSLOW Jonathan (MAJ)

Annual Reunion 2024

38th Annual Reunion 22 Nov 2024

For your information, the following attended the Annual Reunion in November 2024 at Forestville RSL:

John BALFOUR, Ken BROADHEAD, Jeff BROWN, Michael CARRODUS, Kathy COCHRAN, Michael CROWE, John FAIRLESS, Shane FENDER, Barney FLANAGAN, Steve FLOWER, Sharon FULCHER, Richard HAVARD, Geoffrey HERBERT, Bruce JOHNSTON, John KEEFE, Andrew McCALLUM, Don McVAY, David MOYSEY, Jim NASH, John STANFORD, Laurie TAYLOR, Sam TSAOUSIS,

LTCOL Philip WONG, BDR Thomas KELSEY

ANNUAL REUNION 2024



LT Sam Tsaousis, BDR Thomas Kelsey, SGT Shane Fender & LTCOL Phil Wong



LTCOL Phil Wong, Michael Crowe & John Fairless



Jeff Brown, Shane Fender, Thomas Kelsey & Sam Tsaousis



Jim Nash, John Keefe & Dave Moysey



Laurie Taylor, Sharon Fulcher & Don McVay



Dave Moysey being presented Honorary Life Membership by Steve Flower

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The next Annual Reunion is to be held on **Friday, 21st November** at **FORESTVILL RSL Club**,
22 Melwood Ave FORESTVILLE

Our Guest Speaker will be the new
CO 9 REGT RAA, LTCOL Ray Brin.

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Last Post



Nicoll [Nic] Gwyn MASON-JONES
15 October 2024 Aged 84

Service Numbers, 5712717, 533851, 54422.

Nic did National Service in 1959-60, CMF 1960-62, ARA 1962-69 and ARES 1969-71.

He attended OCS in January 1962 & was posted to 4 FD Regt, followed by service in 100 LAA, 111 LAA & 110 LAA Bty's. Nic discharged as a Captain in November 1971.

During his time with the ARA he served with the AATTV in Vietnam in 1967-68. Nic was BC of 26 Bty, 7 Field Regiment during 1969-70. He also deployed briefly to Papua New Guinea in June 1964.

John Leslie CARSTENS
12 July 2025 Aged 77

Service No 2105011.

John served with 7 Field Regiment from February 1965 to October 1973. He served as a BDR on Harry Taylor's Gun and was his best Mate & Neighbour.

Walter (Wal) KELLY
18 August 2025 Aged 88

Service No's 2780949 & 2104569.

Wal entered National Service in August 1959 and was later posted to 7 Field Regiment in October 1959.

He was a Driver and discharged as a SGT in July 1966.

Keith Michael FALK
27 August 2025 Aged 78

Service No 2105154.

Keith served with 7 Field Regiment as a Gunner from August 1967 to May 1970.

AUSTRALIA'S MEMORIAL WALK

One last chance to order a paver at NORTH FORT prior to the handover of the Memorial Walk to the Harbour Trust.

SPECIAL OFFER to Association Members only - Orders placed by 31 October \$50 (normally \$70).

Complete the order form at :
"Artilleryhistory.org/memorial_walk".

A few observations from Will Rogers

- There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works
- Never kick a cow pat on a hot day
- Always drink upstream from the herd
- If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment
- Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back
- Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it
- One of the many things no-one tells you about ageing is that it's such a nice change from being young
- Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable & relaxed
- Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf

The only thing I take seriously in the newspapers nowadays is Fish & Chips. And even that I take with a grain of salt



Members List SEPT 2025






AISTON	Karen	🍷
AMOR	William	🍷
ARNOLD	Don	🍷
ATTARD	Andrew	🍷
BAGSTER	Mark	🍷
BALDWIN	Murray	🍷
BALFOUR	Steven	🍷
BARNETT	Michael	🍷
BARRY	Andrew	🍷
BAYNIE	John	🍷
BEETON	John	🍷
BIGNOLD	Peter	🍷
BLOW	David	🍷
BORROWMAN	Gregory	🍷
BOWEN	Chris	🍷
BRENNAN	Raymond	🍷
BREWER	Charles	🍷


BRINCAT	Alex	🍷
BROAD	Paul	🍷
BROADHEAD	Ken	🍷
BROWN	Jeffrey	🍷
BURKE	Leo	🍷
BUZACOTT	David	🍷
CANNON	Megan	🍷
CARLSSON	Jim	🍷
CARRODUS	Michael	🍷
CARTWRIGHT	Andrew	🍷
CASHMORE	John	🍷
CHANDLER	Stewart	🍷
CHASEBERRY	Joseph	🍷
CHETWYND	Rodney	🍷
CHRISTIE	Carl	🍷
CLARK	Neville	🍷
CLIFF	Kevin	🍷
CLIFTON	Alfred	🍷
COCHRAN	Kathryn	🍷
COCHRANE	John	🍷
COLGAN-GORE	Robert	🍷
COLLINS	Don	🍷
COLLINS	Peter	🍷
CONDON	Schon	🍷
CROWE	Michael	🍷
CROZIER	Kel	🍷
CUNNEEN	Stephen	🍷
DONOHUE	Tom	🍷
DONNELLY	Suzanne	🍷
DOWN	Patrick	🍷
DROVER	Angus	🍷
DUTTON	Martin	🍷
DWYER	Peter	🍷
EAGLETON	Harold	🍷
EDWARDS	Hugh	🍷
ELDERTON	Frederick	🍷
FAIRFIELD	Peter	🍷
FAIRLESS	John	🍷
FENDER	Shane	🍷
FENTON	Stuart	🍷
FINCH	Lachlan	🍷
FLIPPENCE	Addie	🍷
FLOWER	Stephen	🍷
FOX	Harry	🍷
FRY	Gary	🍷
FULCHER	Sharon	🍷
GATES	Patrick	🍷
GILLESPIE	Rod	🍷
GILLETT	Paul	🍷

GILMORE	Ian	🔥	LONGFELLOW	Virginia	🔥
GILMOUR	John	🔥	LOWE	Margo	🔥
GOLD	Dustin	🔥	LUCAS	Beth	🔥
GLADEN	Noel		MARTIN	Graham	🔥
GROUSE	Richard	🔥	McCALLUM	Andrew	🔥
HALL	Graeme	🔥	McCARTHY	Noel	
HAMER	Colin		McCLELLAND	David	🔥
HANLEY	Alex	🔥	McDONOUGH	Paul	🔥
HANSFORD	Jes	🔥	McFAYDEN	Barry	🔥
HARROWER	David		McGARRY	David	🔥
HARRISON	Allan	🔥	McGLINN	Les	🔥
HAVARD	Richard	🔥	McGOVERN	Gregory	🔥
HAWLEY	Ted		McILWRAITH	Michael	🔥
HAWTHORNE	Laurie	🔥	McKECHNIE	David	🔥
HEMSLEY	Mark		McLEAN	Russ	🔥
HERBERT	Geoffrey	🔥	McNEE	Greg	🔥
HEWETT	Robert	🔥	McVAY	Donald	🔥
HILEY	Steven	🔥	MERCER	Thomas	🔥
HOBSON	Stuart		MILIC	Karl	🔥
HOEY	Ian	🔥	MILLAR	Anthony	🔥
HOGAN	Chris	🔥	MOORE	Jon	🔥
HORSELL	Drew	🔥	MORIXBAUER	Karl	🔥
HUNGERFORD	Bruce		MORRIS	Douglas	🔥
IRELAND	John		MOYSEY	David	🔥
IZARD	Michael		MUIR	Gayle	🔥
JACKSON	Neville	🔥	MUIR	Peter	🔥
JAMES	Ian	🔥	NEWBERRY	Malcolm	🔥
JARMAN	David	🔥	NEWTON	Neville	🔥
JOHNSON	Bruce		NICHOLS	Grant	🔥
JONES	Marcus	🔥	NOAKES	Steven	🔥
JONES	Michael	🔥	O'NEILL	Mark	🔥
JONES	Ronald		ORGOVANYI	Cornelius	🔥
KARIKS	Andi	🔥	PALMER	Grant	🔥
KEEFE	John	🔥	PASSLOW	Jonathan	🔥
KIRKWOOD	John	🔥	PEDERSEN	Peter	🔥
KNIGHT	Stanley	🔥	POSENER	John	🔥
KNOWLES	Howard		POWER	Phil	🔥
KOHLHAGEN	Ross	🔥	PRIMROSE	Brian	
KOHLHAGEN	Paul	🔥	QUINTON	Graham	🔥
LACZKOWSKI	John	🔥	RICHARDSON	Robert	🔥
LAURENCE	Michael	🔥	ROBERTS	Paul	
LAWSON	Callum	🔥	ROGAN	Robert	
LEDWICH	Sam	🔥	ROWE	Warren	🔥
LEEK	David	🔥	ROWORTH	Douglas	🔥
LEWIS	Brian	🔥	RULE	Donald	🔥
LINCOLN	David	🔥	SCOTT	Ian	🔥
LINSLEY	Peter	🔥	SCHWEBEL	David	🔥
LITTLE	Bruce		SEE	Dhugald	🔥
LONG	Allan	🔥	SENGOS	Patrick	🔥

SEABROOK	Stuart	
SETRIGHT	Russell	
SHADAY	Max	
SHANNON	John	
SHUNWAH	Richard	
SLATER	Peter	
SMITH	Grahame	
SMITH	Peter	
SOTTER	Vernon	
STAMELL	James	
STANFORD	John	
STAPLETON	Gerald	
STARKE	Bill	
STONE	Peter	
SULLIVAN	Kevin	
SUNDERLAND	Ray	
TAYLOR	Lawrence	
THORNTON	Stephen	
TSAOUSIS	Samuel	
WAGLAND	Ross	
WALLER	Robert	
WALSH	Graham	
WARMINGER	Darren	
WEBB	Ken	
WHEATLEY	Murrelia	
WHITE	Dean	
WHITFIELD	Timothy	
WILLIAMS	Darcy	
WILLIAMS	Trevor	
WILSON	John	
WOODING	Don	
WORBOYS	Simon	
WORSLEY	Susan	
WRIGHT	Leonie	
YEATES	Chris	
YOUNG	Warwick	

Honorary Life Members

BALFOUR	John	
CORBETT	Robert	
CROWE	John	Deceased
FALCONER	Max	
FLANAGAN	Kevin	
HECKENBERG	Brian	Deceased
HINDMARSH	Laurie	Deceased
LEWIS-HUGHES	Ken	Deceased
MOYSEY	David	
NASH	James	

NEILL	William	
TOPLIS	Danny	Deceased

Honorary Members

LO	Ina
MARZOL	Shirley
MCDONALD	Trisha
STEVENS	Carol

Yandoo 2025

Compiled & edited by John Balfour, OAM