

# THE ARTILLERY NEWS.

JANUARY 2006 – MARCH 2006



## Official Correspondence.

R.A.A Assoc. of Tas. Inc.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## R.A.A. ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.

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The A.G.M. of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc. was held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005 at Paterson Barracks, Launceston.

Considering that a clash of Artillery functions was occurring at opposite ends of the State, it was pleasing to note that we had a very reasonable attendance and that several of our key members made the effort to be in two places on the one day even though they faced a long 3 hour drive South after our Meeting.

**Present:** - Maj. Barry Bastick (President), Maj. John Anderson, Chris Talbot (BC 16 Fd Bty.) Capt. Alistair Chilcott (Treasurer) WO1 Joe Ferguson, Mr. Gunter Breier, Graeme Petterwood, Marc Smith, Rick Wood, Eric Ryan, Des Salter, Sgt. Jason Eddington, Tony Cordwell, Brett Coulson, John Knight, Kristine Knight, Charles Tee and Norm Andrews (Secretary) and Wayne Clive (Observer) TOTAL 18 members and 1 observer.

**Apologies:** Maj. Gen. John Whitelaw, Brig. M P Crane, Col. Ray Brown, Steve Carey, Peter Patmore, Lt. Cols. Mark Cameron, William J E Cox, John Findlay, Peter Hodge, Majors Barry Campton, Milton Cunningham, Bob Fisher, Captains Noel Cooke, Jeff Donnelly, David Ezzy, Max Frost, John Gunn, Robert Gunn, Doug Mallett, Stuart Mallett, Lt. Neil Whybrow. Mrs Kate Robinson, Mr John Shelverton, Bevan Filce, John Mcintee, Martin Titherley, Ian Wheeler, Terry Higgins, Richard Mansfield, Adrian Howard, Reg Watson, Toby Edwards, Lloyd Saunders and Max Gofton.

The official Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup>. A.G.M. will be compiled and distributed in the normal manner and this brief note is only to highlight some of the most pertinent items that were discussed.

The Meeting commenced a little later than the scheduled time of 1.30 p.m. but the contributions from our members soon got the ball rolling after the essential formalities had been attended to.

The President's Report highlighted the social and 'business' meetings attended by representatives of the R.A.A.A.T. such as the Anzac Day March in all major cities and towns across the State, the always moving El Alamein Day ceremony in Hobart on 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Launceston Artillery Old Comrades function at Paterson Barracks, the unveiling of the Tasmanian Gunners memorial plaque by the Honorable Lt. Col. W. J.E. Cox AC, RFD, ED., Governor of Tasmania at the Royal Park Cenotaph Memorial Wall on the 4<sup>th</sup> June, and the Gunner Dinner at Anglesea Barracks at Hobart on 20<sup>th</sup> August.

President Barry Bastick acknowledged the assistance that had been forthcoming from members of the association, at all levels, in making these functions the successes that they were. Several historical matters came to the attention of our R.A.A.A.T. Historical Wing and are currently under review or have been dealt with in conjunction with the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery who are preserving our Artillery heritage and our serving comrades at 16 Battery, R.A.A. who assist with the practicalities whenever possible.

However, President Bastick also called for more member input to our committee process and highlighted the fact that the brunt of work is falling on just a few shoulders and that all of us should make the effort to participate at this level – or at least offer – or we could face the possibility of 'burn-out' of essential officers. One very pleasing fact was that our over-worked Secretary, Norm Andrew, can now look forward to some assistance with the appointment of Tony Cordwell as official Assistant Secretary. As we all know, Norm is the 'glue' that helped this Tasmanian Artillery organization build from an idea into a reality, and it is his same dedication that has been holding our Association together and growing over the last 4 years.

The retiring Treasurer's Report, presented by the newly promoted Capt. Alistair Chilcott, indicated that our financial situation was still very sound and that,

despite a setback that has occurred with the MilitaryPost in regard to some misplaced mail, we can still pay our bills and have a bit left over. Alistair will continue to be part of the Committee as Past Treasurer and will be assisting the new Treasurer, Brett Coulson during the changeover period.

Nominations for Executive Office bearers and Committeemen were called for and, despite no pre-meeting nominations being received, the President's words encouraged a few new hands to be raised and a balanced mixture of expertise was achieved and all declared elected by the members present.

Those Committee members who indicated they would stand again, but who were unable to attend this meeting due to other commitments, were also elected in absentia by acclamation.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS for the period Dec 2005 to next AGM August - September 2006**

No nominations were received or duly completed by the Public Officer of the RAA Assoc. of Tasmania by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2005 for this meeting so nominations were called from the floor and they are: -

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Nominator</i>	<i>Secunder</i>
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>MAJ Barry H Bastick</b>	<b>Norm Andrews</b>	<b>Joe Ferguson</b>
<b>VICE- PRESIDENT (2)</b>	<b>Mr Des J Salter</b>	<b>Norm Andrews</b>	<b>Eric Ryan</b>
	<b>COL Steven Carey</b>	<b>Chris Talbot</b>	<b>Marc Smith</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Norm Andrews</b>	<b>Barry Bastick</b>	<b>Joe Ferguson</b>
<b>And PUBLIC OFFICER</b>			
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>2LT Brett Coulson</b>	<b>Barry Bastick</b>	<b>Chris Talbot</b>
<b>Assistant Sec/Treas</b>	<b>LT Tony Cordwell</b>	<b>Barry Bastick</b>	<b>Chris Talbot</b>
<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Joe Ferguson</b>	<b>Norm Andrews</b>	<b>Des Salter</b>
	<b>Marcus Smith</b>	<b>Graeme Petterwood</b>	<b>Rick Wood</b>
	<b>Graeme Petterwood</b>	<b>Norm Andrews</b>	<b>Rick Wood</b>
	<b>Alistair Chilcott</b>	<b>Barry Bastick</b>	<b>Chris Talbot</b>
	<b>Jason Eddington</b>	<b>Norm Andrews</b>	<b>Barry Bastick</b>
	<b>Milton Cunningham</b>	<b>Barry Bastick</b>	<b>Norm Andrews</b>
	<b>16 Fd Bty North rep to be advised</b>	<b>Chris Talbot</b>	<b>Barry Bastick</b>

All nominees have agreed to serve in the positions for which they are nominated.

Several matters were raised in General Business regarding a great Tasmanian soldier, the late Lt. Colonel Henry (Harry) William Murray VC., CMG., DSO and Bar, DCM., Croix de Guerre, and it was decided by members to assist with the costs connected with the proposed erection of an appropriate statue and surrounds at Evandale.

After a discussion with those concerned in regards to actual requirements, a suitable financial donation will be offered to the Evandale History Society's Harry Murray Statue group to help achieve these ends.

The meeting closed at approx. 2.40 p.m.

## **To all ANNUAL Financial Members FRIENDLY REMINDER**

R.A.A.A.T members are reminded that Annual Membership Subscriptions to the Association are now due. They still remain at \$10.00 p.a. and should only be remitted to the official R.A.A.A.T. Registered Office with your name and address clearly marked. We look forward to you renewing your membership, and enjoying the benefits of membership. The R.A.A.A.T. needs your continued financial support and comradeship. Remember the R.A.A.A.T. is here to serve Tasmanian "Gunnery" of all ranks and promote our ideals within the broader community whenever possible. To achieve these goals financial backing is required to keep the wheels turning forward. If you have already paid your subscription, please accept our sincere thanks.

Those members who wish to upgrade their membership. by making a one-off subscription to be granted Life Member status, should contact the Secretary for details.

*P.S. If you have an email address, please advise the Secretary or include details with your subscription as it is a much quicker, easier and more cost effective to distribute Gunner information and newsletters via this method.*

### **Northern Historic Wing Meeting.**

The December general gathering of the R.A.A.A.T. Inc. Northern Historic Wing was held on 8<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 2.00 p.m. at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery at Inveresk in the Friends of the Museum meeting room as usual.

All members of the Association were cordially invited to our totally informal bimonthly get-together, and those who attended brought a small plate of goodies to share. This was the last gathering prior to 2006.

Members present: Gunter Breier, Frank Stokes, Bill Hoyle, Rick Wood, Graeme Petterwood, Norman Andrews, Marcus Smith and Des Salter.

Although this was an informal meeting, we received and recognised the official apologies from Lloyd Saunders, Terry Higgins, Bob Brown, Trevor Giles, Max Frost and Joe Ferguson.

Members of the R.A.A.A.T. Inc. have been invited to attend and view the unveiling of the Harry Murray VC statue at Evandale on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

**Our next informal Historical Wing meeting will be held at the same venue at the same time 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

**Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every second month at this time. Association members always welcome.**

## **R.A.A.A T (Northern Branch Social Wing) ANNUAL DINNER!!**

**Saturday evening JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006 is the tentative date for our next Northern Branch Social Wing (Old Comrades) Dinner! A small sub-committee will be formed and early plans are afoot to hold the Annual Function on that night at the South Launceston Football Club. There will be a choice available for the main meal which will be under \$20.00 per person and liquid refreshments will be available at Club prices. PENCIL IN THIS DATE NOW!!! Official confirmation to follow. Also please note that Annual members subscriptions are due for next financial year.**

## **MEDAL ENTITLEMENT**

We have been contacted by TasMedals of Hobart who have advised us that there have been some changes in the strict requirements for WWII medal allocations. All former Gunners are invited to check their service medal entitlements either with TasMedals or contact your local R.S.L. for details of recent changes.

**TasMedals 31 Victoria St; Hobart. 7000**

**Tasmania. Phone (03) 6231 5281 (Shop) or (03) 6227 8825 (Office)**

## **SHRAPNEL**

Those Gunners who graduated from Brighton Camp in Tasmania during the 18<sup>th</sup> National Service Battalion days - and particularly those of 4 Platoon R.A.A (2<sup>nd</sup> Intake 1956) – who can look back and admit they enjoyed their experience, will probably remember Bombardier Barry ‘Bazza’ McFarland.

Barry was a Regular Army instructor who wasn’t that much older than the troops under his tutelage nearly 50 years ago, but he was respected and liked by most of the ‘Nashos’ he occasionally spoke loud to.

Our well-known northern R.A.A.A.T. member, Harold Mullins, tracked Barry down in N.S.W. and renewed acquaintances last year and passed on greetings from those of us who remember him kindly.



**Bdr. Barry McFarland and Gnr. Harold Mullins (1956)**



Barry McFarland and Harold Mullins (2005)

***Editor's note:***

*Out of common decency- and fear of censorship - I have had to crop this photo, as I am sure the scene from chest down is not that appealing to any of us of this era.*

## **INCOMING**

### **Major General John Whitelaw AO CBE.**

It has been requested, by the R.A.A. Regimental Committee, that we advise our members of the formation of an History Sub Committee (HSC) which occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

“The aims of the HSC are straight forward but still a worthy challenge”, says the representative Colonel Commandant, Major General Tim Ford AO (Rtd) – they are to preserve the history and all the broader aspects of Australian Artillery since inception.

The current HSC Committee members are:

Chairman:

Major General John Whitelaw, AO CBE

Members:

Lt. Col. David Brook

Mr. Kevin Browning OAM

Lt. Col. Arthur Burke

Col. Graham Farley, OAM RFD ED

Col. Don Rae, AM RFD ED

At this point in time, 26 main projects have been identified as being those that our initial primary focus should be applied to.

1. An R.A.A. Bibliography – to aid research in Gunner history.
2. Australian Gunners – a bibliographical dictionary of Gunners who have distinguished themselves in the Regiment and/or public life.
3. Australia's Forts and Batteries – a listing of Australia's forts with a view to assessing future action including the possibility of heritage listing.
4. The National Artillery Register – a register of extant artillery pieces in Australia as a basic reference in the history of the R.A.A.
5. Australia's Coastal Guns – a single source of reference for coastal artillery in Australia up to 1960 including details of guns, radar, searchlights and fire control instruments.
6. Australia's Air Defence Guns and Missiles – a single source of reference of air defence equipments used by the R.A.A. including guns, missiles, sound detectors, radar, searchlights and fire control instruments.
7. R.A.A. Historical Publications – to assist the publishing of historical works on behalf of the R.A.A. community.
8. R.A.A. Unit Histories – to identify gaps in the available range of R.A.A. unit histories and to encourage appropriate publications.
9. R.A.A. Lineage – to record and present the lineage of each unit of the R.A.A. and colonial artilleries.
10. Australian Artillery Dress – a conspectus of dress, insignia and accoutrements worn by the colonial artilleries and the R.A.A.
11. R.A.A. Oral History – to identify existing holdings of Gunner oral history and initiate a program to expand them.
12. Artillery Trophies – to record the nature, location and history of major artillery trophies of the colonial artillery and the R.A.A.
13. R.A.A. Electronic Records – to locate and list electronic records bearing on the history of the R.A.A. to include sound records, tape, disc, film and video.
14. R.A.A. Counter Bombardment – a single source of reference covering all aspects of target acquisition and surveillance artillery methods, equipments and instruments.
15. R.A.A. Pictorial – to compile a reference to, and location of, sketches, photographs, maps and paintings significant in the history of Australian artillery.
16. Anti-tank Artillery – a single source of reference to anti-tank equipments that have been in R.A.A. service.
17. Moving the Guns – to cover the movement of light, field, medium, heavy. Air defence, anti-tank, and pack artillery in Australian service. To include the use of oxen, horses, mechanical transport both wheeled and tracked, parachute, air and sea transport and repository.

18. Australia's Field Artillery – to take the story of field branch artillery forward from where the 'Guns of the Regiment' concluded in 1981. To include details of artillery instruments associated with field branch such as sights, directors, computers, GPS, etc.
19. R.A.A. Honours and Awards – as a first priority to compile a reference list of Australian Gunners who have been decorated for valour, gallantry, bravery or distinguished service in the field. Then those who have been recognised for distinguished service.
20. R.A.A. Communications – to illustrate and detail artillery communication methods and equipment from hand and flag signals through to the present.
21. Artillery Ammunition – to list the various natures of artillery ammunition in its separate components and forms, its handling, storage and magazine regimes while in artillery custody.
22. Air Observation – to cover aerial observation for the guns in the Australian artillery from balloons, air force co-operation, fixed and rotary wing aircraft to remotely controlled aerial vehicles.
23. Meteorology for Artillery – to describe the influence of meteorological conditions on effective artillery fire and the arrangements for obtaining data for the coast, field and air defence branches and for counter bombardments.
24. R.A.A. Radar – to bring together details of all radar used by the R.A.A. for coast, air defence, searchlights, locating and meteorological purposes, including the development and training involved.
25. Searchlights – to cover the use of searchlights in coastal artillery, air defence and movement light, to include arrangements for control, the use of radar and sound locators.
26. R.A.A. Traditions and Customs – to collect in a single volume a definitive reference work on the customs and traditions of the R.A.A. and colonial artilleries.

It is realised that some items are 'overarching' but it is believed that will avoid a problem of gaps in the information.

A list of projects has been made available to the Colonels Commandant in each region as well as state artillery and military history associations. Contact and comment will be most welcome from all in the Gunner fraternity.

### ***The Artillery News.***

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