

THE ARTILLERY NEWS.

MARCH 2009 - MAY 2009



Official Correspondence.

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

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R.A.A.A.T. NORTHERN HISTORICAL WING. EARLY BRIEFING – SOCIAL WING CALENDAR

R.A.A.A.T. Secretary, **Norm Andrews**, and our Social Committee, are pleased to advise that our 2009 venue premises were inspected for suitability, and dates and starting time for the two major Northern social functions have now been confirmed.

2009 SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Date (1): - Saturday - 30 May 2009

Date (2): - Saturday - 7 November 2009

Location Venue: - Lions Club – 18 Merino St., Kings Meadows.

Starting time: - 6.00 – 6.30 p.m.

The cost is still very reasonable at:- **\$25.00 per person**

As usual, two choices of traditional meats and desserts will be made available by the caterer to satisfy most requirements for the time of year.

The **6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.** start appears to be convenient for most of our members – however, any other relevant details, or alterations to the schedule, will be circulated to RAAAT members in the usual manner.

The premises are licensed to serve bottled beverages, spirits and wines and our members and guests can enjoy drinks at club prices .

Tea and Coffee will be provided as usual.

This year, R.A.A.A.T. members and their guests will be hosted in a completely private and dedicated function area - without any distractions - and we have been assured that we are welcome to relax and chat - *if we care to* - until late.

Traditional toasts and ceremonies will be undertaken during the evening.

PARKING – A small, but easily accessible, car park is located right next to the building – and on-street parking is also available on the city-side of Merino St.

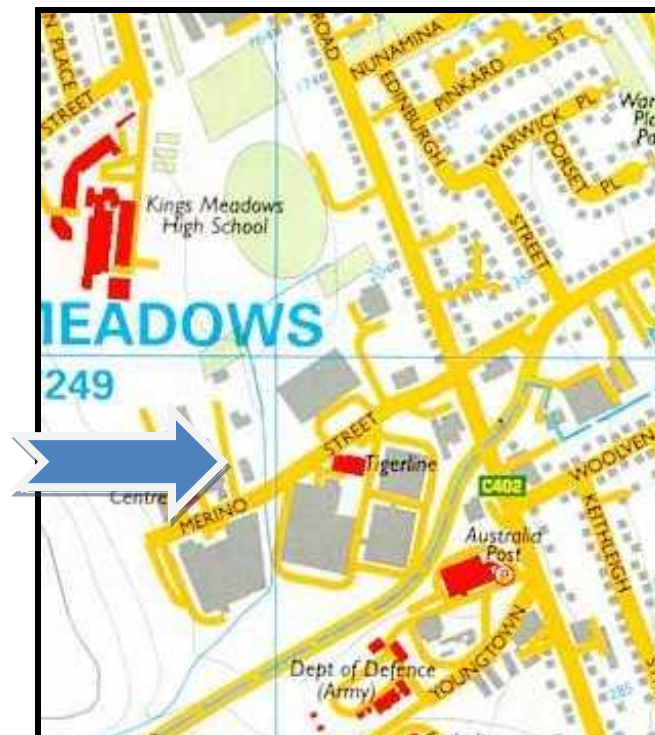
There are no steps to negotiate - but due care should be observed while walking to the doorway from the car-park as the surface is a bit uneven.

DONATIONS – Suitable gifts - to be used as ‘GunCrew’ Raffle/Lucky Door prizes - are always welcome.

R.S.V.P. - **BOOKINGS WILL BE NECESSARY TO ASCERTAIN NUMBERS.**

ALL R.A.A.A.T. MEMBERS, GUESTS AND FRIENDS OF THE ARTILLERY ARE WELCOME. SO - REMIND A GUNNER FRIEND RIGHT NOW!

Cheques, or money orders, should be made out to the Association and forwarded with details of your acceptances to our Secretary ASAP and, at least, by the Tuesday before the function to give the caterers adequate notice.



**The Lions Club is located at 18 Merino St. Kings Meadows.
(on the same side – but prior to - the Indoor Cricket Centre complex.)**

RECENT INFORMAL GATHERINGS HISTORICAL- SOCIAL WINGS

The beginning of this year has been a little chaotic for the current Historical-Social Wing Committees due to the amount of business which had arisen at our last meeting in December 2008.

Some details were mentioned in our '**Special Edition**' '**Artillery News**' issued in January/February 2009 - so we will start with a brief recap to advise members what we have been chatting about at our informal bi-monthly gatherings at the Queen Victoria Museum at the Railway Complex, Launceston.

As usual, **Hon. Sec. Norm Andrews**, had a loose agenda which advised members present of Artillery news from elsewhere, he also raised a few local items which needed attention - and we were invited to join in with ideas.

Our last gathering held in December 2008 was attended by:

Norm Andrews, Bevan Filce, Lloyd Saunders, Rick Wood, Gunter Breier, Graeme Petterwood and Marc Smith – with apologies from Harold Mullins, Charles Tee and John McIntee.

The Social Wing committee had decided that it would give consideration to a suggestion from a member that we should approach the Lion's Club in Merino St., Kings Meadows and arrange an inspection of their premises for suitability and get an idea of costs to hold two of our social functions there in 2009.

The R.A.A.T. have been 'located' socially in this area for some years now – albeit at different venues - and most members are familiar with the district.

A group of 'volunteers' was selected from the Social Wing Committee to meet with the Lion's Club representative, at a time to be arranged, in February 2009.

As this was the last meeting for 2008 the 'formal part' of the informal meeting was fairly brief and the members enjoyed a nice shared afternoon tea and sorted out a few minor things over a 'cuppa and cake'.

We also briefly discussed the functions for 2009 and started making some of the usual arrangement plans – subject to our sub-Committee report in mid- Feb.

At that time, Lloyd Saunders also formally thanked the Association for resolving the matter of a 25 Pounder gun which was to be obtained and refurbished to a suitable condition for installation as a memorial piece to be located at Mathinna.

(See Special Edition' for details)

The first informal meeting for 2009 started on time at 2.00 p.m. on Feb. 12th. and it was attended by those of the usual stalwarts - who could bear the heat:

Norm Andrews, Des Salter, Rick Wood, Graeme Petterwood. Gunter Breier, Trevor Giles, Bevan Filce, Marc Smith - with apolgies from Charles Tee and John McIntee

The available dates for this year's functions were confirmed and the Social Committee was reminded of the arrangements to inspect the Lion's club facility at Kings Meadows. **(An appointment was made for Monday 16th Feb. and, as mentioned previously in this newsletter –the premises and facilities did prove to be suitable and the venue has been booked for our two social events this year.)*

Other matters which came in for discussion were the usual arrangements we would need to make for **Anzac Day** and **El Alamein Day** – and also the advent of the **Hobart Volunteer Artillery Anniversary** *(which will be celebrated in December 2009).*

It is understood the Hobart anniversary will be a slightly more low-key event than the **Launceston Artillery 150th. Anniversary** due to the broken line of voluntary service by the Hobart Town Artillery.

The original **Hobart Town Artillery Company** was disbanded in 1875 and didn't re-form until 1878 as the **No. 2 Battery, Australian Field Artillery (Southern Troop).**

It was also decided that the **Launceston Volunteer Artillery 150th. Anniversary** details also need to be considered as soon as feasible - at a total community and military involvement level - as it may be beyond our historical and social Wing's organizational expertise to host it in the important manner it should be afforded in 2010. Members are requested to advise Norm as soon as possible if they are able to assist in a sub-committee so that Col. Steve Carey can be notified.



134th Anniversary LVA celebrated by members of the former Artillery Historical Trust - June 4th 1994

WO Mick Hayes, Norm Andrews, Gunter Breier and the late Lt-Col Winton Hudson.

At this stage, some of the matters that were discussed are still unresolved - except for the most obvious dates - and they will be discussed further by the Social - History Committee, prior to the next informal meeting and our function, so that members might be advised and invited to participate.

ANZAC DAY – 25th. April

SOCIAL FUNCTION – 30th. May (Evening).

EL ALAMEIN DAY – 23rd. October

HOBART ARTILLERY – December – *date to be advised.*

SOCIAL FUNCTION – 7th. November (Evening).

Formal meetings are advertised in the appropriate Public Notice columns of the major newspapers in the state

Informal meetings (Launceston) are usually held on the **2nd.Thursday** of every even-numbered month with the exception of October when, due to the Launceston Show, we either find another venue or change the time. This year we will postpone for one week and meet on the 3rd Thursday in October - at the usual time and place.

All members of the Royal Australian Artillery Association, gunners of all ranks - both retired or serving – members of other Artillery associations and groups, as well as ‘ friends of the Artillery’, are always welcome to join us, when appropriate, at the appointed times and places to share our interest in matters Artillery and expand the fraternity of our gunner comrades.

The next informal gathering of the R.A.A.A.T. Historical and Social Wing will be held on April 9th 2009 commencing at 2.00 p.m. sharp at the Queen Victoria Museum Friend’s Lounge, Railway Complex. Inveresk, Launceston. Former and current gunners, or friends of the Artillery, are welcome to visit, get involved in our plans, enjoy afternoon tea and have an informal chat. Ask at the Museum’s Information desk if you want to locate the Friend’s lounge - which is located just off the foyer area.

The following details are extracted from previously published sources which were re-compiled and submitted by former Colonel-Commandant Tasmanian Artillery, Col. Mark Cameron RFD.

HOBART VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY 1859 – 1875, 1878 - to present

1859 – Hobart Town Artillery Company. Disbanded 1875.

1878 – No 2 Battery, Australian Field Artillery. (Southern Troop)

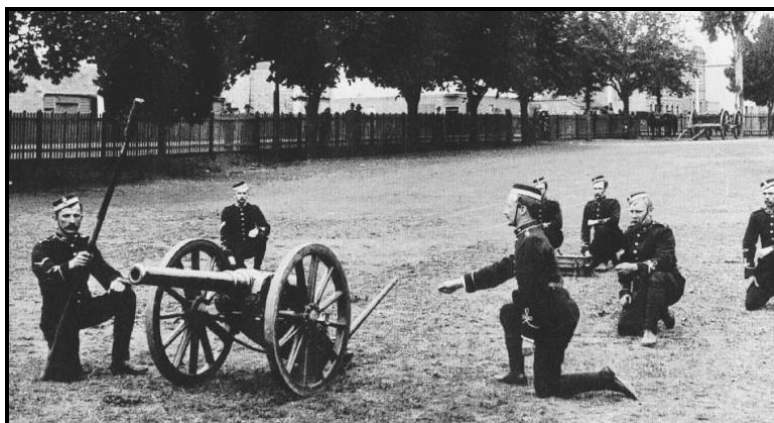
1887 – No 2 Battery Southern Troop Detachments. (Alexandra and Kangaroo Bluff Batteries)

1903 - No 1 Tasmanian Company and Hobart Section, No 2 Battery, Australian Field Artillery, Australian Garrison Artillery.

1911 – 16 Battery Australian Field Artillery
 1914 – 41st Battery Australian Field Artillery. No1 Tasmanian Company, Australian Garrison Artillery.
 1921 - 106 Howitzer Battery, 6th Field Brigade
 From 1936 – 106 Howitzer Battery, 6th Field Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery (Militia)
 1940 – 106 Howitzer Battery, 6th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.
 1948 – ‘Q’ Battery, 6th Anti Tank Regiment, RAA.
 1950 – ‘Q’ Battery, 6th Field Regiment, RAA.
 1959 – ‘B’ Troop, 112 Field Battery, RAA.
 1962 – ‘Q’ Battery, 6th Field Regiment RAA.
 1966 – 112 Battery, 6th Field Regiment RAA.
 1973 - Regimental Headquarters, 6th Field Regiment RAA
 1976 – 16th Field Battery RAA (Independent) Hobart Detachment.

Note - According to the *“Oxford Companion to Australian Military History”* compiled by Peter Dennis, Jeffrey Grey, Ewan Morris and Robin Prior in 1995, the records show that - **on 1 March 1901** – *“the total artillery resources of the new nation comprised 32 field and heavy guns as well as a range of obsolete pieces.”*

Other sources report that, at that time, the total military forces comprised 18,602 and an additional 8,862 unpaid volunteers. The 1901 audit also revealed that Tasmania’s contribution to that number was 2,764 All Ranks - plus 210 Cadets.



Launceston Volunteer Artillery training at Paterson Barracks 1902

LAUNCESTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY 1860 – to present

1860 - Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps.
 1878 – No 2 Battery, Australian Field Artillery. (Northern Troop)
 1890 – 1896 Northern Troop Trainee Cadets attached.
 1896 - 1911 – Launceston Church Grammar School Cadet Corps Attached.
 1911 – Commonwealth Cadet scheme commenced.

1903 – No 1 Battery (Launceston) Australian Field Artillery and Launceston Section, No 2 Battery, Australian Field Artillery of No 13 Company, Australian Garrison Artillery.

1911 – 15 Battery Australian Field Artillery.

1914 – 40th Battery, Australian Field Artillery.

1916 – Under command 14 Field Brigade AFA.

1919 – 9th and 17th Batteries, 14th Field Brigade.

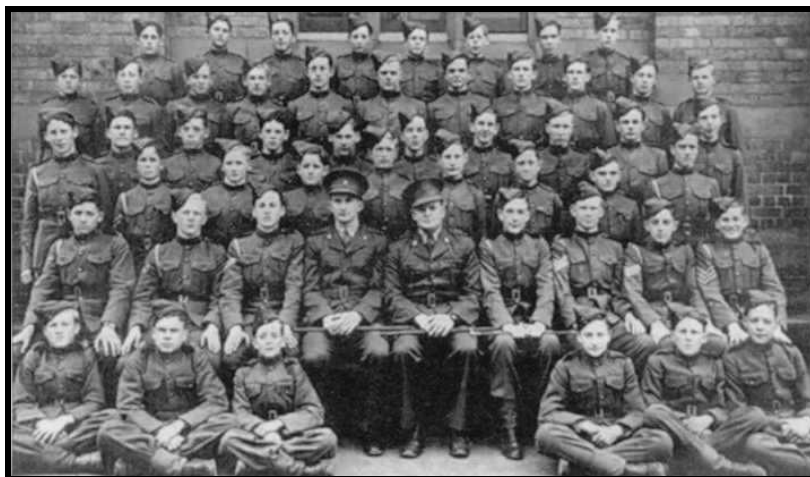
1921 – 16th Field Battery, 6th Field Brigade

1936 – 16th Field Battery, 6th Field Brigade, R.A.A. (Militia).

1940 – 16th and 17th Battery, 6th Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery



16 Battery, 6th. Field Regiment R.A.A. – 1940 (including the Editor's uncle).



Launceston Junior Technical School (Editor's school) - Army cadets 1941

1941 – 17th and 68th Battery, 6th Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery.

1948 – 'P' Battery, 6th Anti Tank Regiment, RAA.

1950 – 'P' Battery, 6th Field Regiment, RAA

1952 – 'P' and 'R' Batteries, 6th Field Regiment RAA.

1959 – 'A' Troop, 112 Field Battery, RAA and Battery Headquarters.

1963 – ‘P’ Battery and Regimental Headquarters, 6th Field Regiment RAA.
1966 – 16 Field Battery, Headquarter Battery and Regimental Headquarters,
6th Field Regiment RAA.
1971 – 16th Field Battery, RHQ and HQ Battery - 6th Field Regiment RAA
1976 – 16th Field Battery RAA (Independent) Launceston Detachment and
Battery Headquarters.



Live shoot - Stoney Head Artillery range - June 2008

***P.S. - ANNUAL MEMBERS
Have YOU paid your Annual Subscription!!***

The Artillery News.

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