

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

1992

Vol 1 No 6



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION  
WARRANE ROAD WILLOUGHBY 2068

Dear fellow gunners,

It is with great pleasure that I submit to you my report for the conclusion of another very busy and successful year.

I would like to thank your committee for their loyalty and for the enthusiastic manner in which they have carried out their duties. I especially wish to thank our Secretary WO2 John Balfour for his great support and assistance, to Barney Flanagan for his assistance and to Laurie Hindmarsh (our collector of things!) what can I say?, other than a big thank you and keep up the good work.

On Sunday 28th July 91 members and their families enjoyed a day at the Holsworthy range during the Regiments' direct shooting competition. We had a good roll up and saw some good shooting.

On Friday 2nd August 91 myself, Owen Saville, Barney Flanagan and Keith Leek represented the association at a Dungeon luncheon at the Willoughby depot.

On Saturday 10th August 91 representatives of the association again attended an Artillery Assembly at the School of Artillery. The assembly was well attended and many attendees stayed to enjoy the Gunner dinner.

Another successful reunion was held on Friday 27th September 91 at the Willoughby Legion Club with a good roll up, (5 guests, 46 members) with some new faces attending. Our questionnaire confirmed this function is to your liking.

On Saturday 16th November 91 my wife and I were guests at Lodge Ubique, Willoughby where our member Laurie Hindmarsh gave the Remembrance address and unveiled a fully restored "Cohorn Mortar". We are now exchanging information with the lodge.

On Sunday 1st December 91 members attended the RAA Associations' annual church service at the Garrison Church.

On Australia Day 26th January 92 association member WO2 Peter Muir was awarded the OAM for services rendered. Congratulations Peter.

On Tuesday night 18th February 92 at the Willoughby depot we presented to L/Bdr Anthony Gaspardis of HQ Battery our second award for "The most proficient soldier" for the year ended 31/12/1991.

On Friday night 21st February 92, 24 people from the association attended the Commanding Officers function, to receive the thanks of LtCol Fairless for the support given to the Regiment in 1991.

On Sunday 15th March 92, 22 people from the association, members of the Regiment and other guests attended the associations' first annual church service at St John's Anglican Church, Willoughby. Our oldest member Ken Lewis-Hughes who turned 96 on the day was also in attendance. An enjoyable morning was had by all and my thanks to Mrs Balfour and Mrs Falconer for their assistance with preparing the morning tea.

My wife and I, together with committee members Barney Flanagan and wife Joyce, Keith Leek, Alec Burke, Danny Toplis and Owen Saville represented the association on Sunday the 7th June 92, when our Regiment and especially 113 Field Battery was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Newcastle.

This day was another unforgettable one, the organisation superb, the weather fine and cool, the council staff outstanding and the ceremonial skills of the Regiment were on full display for all to see.

The 6th August 92 is the 25th anniversary of the award of the MC to our ex unit member N.J. (Nobby) Clarke and Nobby was invited to be guest of honour at the next reunion but due to work commitments he is unable to attend.

Your Association has donated \$100.00 to the RAA Association (NSW) to assist with its programme of supporting the serving gunners.

Congratulations were passed on to Mr Tom Hyslop, President of the Willoughby Legion Club for his receipt of the "Premier of New South Wales Community Service Award".

Membership now stands at 193 with 26 life members, and 1 Hon. life member, please keep trying to locate other interested gunners.

In conclusion, I thank you again and offer the continuance of my support.

Max Falconer President.

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EDITORIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY J.BALFOUR

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FROM THE DESK OF LTCOL J.A.L. FAIRLESS  
CO 7 FD REGT

I offer my congratulations to all Gunners past and present on the occasion of the Corp birthday on 1 Aug 92.

1992 started with a rush and has continued ever since. It is hard to believe we are in August with less than two months to AFX. During the first part of the year several live fire exercises have been conducted at both Holsworthy and Singleton ranges. These have varied between Battery and Regimental level.

Also during this period the Regiment celebrated its 76th Anniversary with a Church Service at the Willoughby Church of England Church. The service was followed by tea and coffee back at RHQ. Thankyou to all the association members who worked so hard in the preparation of the morning tea. A new L119 Hamel Gun was on display for the Association members to peruse. A side note to this story is that Reverend Jason Page who conducted the service was so impressed he has enlisted in the Reserve and has officially been posted to the Regiment.

The Regiment once more had a large bill for the commitment to ANZAC Day services. A total of nine catafalque parties and numerous other support tasks were conducted in 11 different locations. Unfortunately the level of support was such that it stretched our resources beyond a reasonable limit. A review is being conduct to establish a priority of effort for our support next year. This lowering of support will be beneficial as I intend to conduct a Regimental Dawn Service in 1993. The venue will probably be 28 Field Battery depot at Dee Why.

Another highlight was the trip by Hercules transport aircraft to Puckapunyal in early May to view the El Alamien fire power demonstration. A party of 13 personnel mainly Officers and SNCO witnessed an awesome display of the ADF's weapon systems.

By far the biggest activity the Regiment has undertaken this year is the Freedom of the City of Newcastle. All personnel especially the Adjutant and RSM in preparing for the parade are to be congratulated. I considered it a great honour to be the Commanding Officer of the Regiment especially during the drive past of the City Hall. The Mayor and Town Clerk were extremely impressed.

A review of the parade card indicates that the remainder of the year is set to be just as busy. The August and September weekends are to be used for the conversion courses to the Hamel Gun. At this stage it is hoped that at least six new guns will be issued by the end of August. (only time will tell as the Q system is fickle). This aside however, the Regiment will deploy to AFX with Hamel. If need be, with borrowed guns from 23 Field Regiment. The camp promises to be enjoyable with the emphasis in the first week on individual soldier skills followed by a Regimental Exercise to familiarise the soldiers with the new Gun.

In closing I would like to wish all the Association members my best for the remainder of the year and thankyou for your continued support, it is truly appreciated.