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The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc. Feb 2009 Volume 41



20th STA Regiment's Most Outstanding Junior NCO (2008) BDR Matthew Muir, receiving his award from Locating Artillery Association South East Queensland Branch President, Mr Andrew Lloyd-Jones



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrons

Mr Rusty Priest AM
BRIGADIER Wayne Goodman AM
Head of Regiment

President

Allan Harrison RFD

Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer

Joe Kaplun JP

Secretary/Public Officer

Bob Morrison RFD

Treasurer

Diane Wood

Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

Web Master

John Posener

Newsletter Editor

Ken Clements

DVA Advocate

Kevin Maker JP

Merchandise Warehousing & Distribution

Phil Paton

Committee Members:

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Joe Elkus, Ron Hartmann, Graham Johnson, Ivan Mills, Wayne Nash, Bob Owens BEM (Mil), Bob Smith

Postal Address: 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213

Website: www.locatingartillery.org

Email: info@locatingartillery.org

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held regularly and members are cordially invited to attend. General enquiries may be directed to the Secretary, **Bob Morrison** Tel (02) 4861-6463, Mob 0417 447 504 or by email at robmor@ozemail.com.au

DIARY DATES

29 Mar 09	RAA National Museum Work party
19 Apr 09	RAA National Museum Work party
17 May 09	C'tee Mtg Paddington RSL 1115 hrs
31 May 09	RAA National Museum Work party
5-6-7 Jun 09	Coffs Harbour re-union
28 Jun 09	RAA National Museum Work party
12 Jul 09	(AGM) Paddington RSL 1115 hrs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings

I attended the Qld Gunner Dinner held in the UAV Hangar at 20 STA Regt on 4 Dec 2008. The Dinner was jointly hosted by 20 STA Regt and 1 Fd Regt. The CO 20 STA Regt (LTCOL Dean Pearce) was Dining President.

The capacity of the hangar as a dining room (500) was fully tested as both regiments were very well represented.

It was a top night and featured a Long Service presentation to Dave Larter, a farewell presentation to outgoing Colonel Commandant (Northern Region) COL Arthur Burke and a stirring speech from incoming Head of Regiment BRIG Wayne Goodman AM.

The following photograph was taken by Andrew Lloyd-Jones at the dinner and depicts from L to R Greg Flint, MAJ Andy Straume and Dave Larter

Ubique

Allan Harrison
President



**COVER STORY - 20th STA REGIMENT 2008
MOST OUTSTANDING JUNIOR NCO**

Congratulations to BDR Matthew Muir on his being awarded 20th STA Regt's 'Most Outstanding JNCO' for 2008, an Association-sponsored award.

Matthew enlisted in 1998, and after Recruit Training was allocated to the RAA. After successful completion of a gun course, he was posted to 6 RAR Fire Support Company where he got his first look at STA and UAVs.

When the FSC was disbanded late in 1999, he was posted to 105 Fd Bty, 1 Fd Regt.

In 2000, Bdr Muir attended an OPCP course, and was deployed on OP Gold (Brisbane).

The following year, he was posted 103 Mdm Bty, 8/12 Mdm Regt as an OPCP.

In 2002, he attended an FO course and was then employed as an FO Ack.

2003 saw him deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth as a section 2IC.

In 2006, Bdr Muir was posted to 53 Bty at the School of Artillery and during this time he qualified as an OP AMS and was posted to 132 UAV Bty, 20th STA Regt.

After attending a Scan Eagle UAV course in USA, he was subsequently deployed to Iraq, OBG (W) 3 in 2007.

2008 saw Bdr Muir deployed on Exercise Long Look with 32 Regt RA and deployed to Afghanistan on OP Herrick .

LAST POST WO1 MICK PONDER

Head of Regiment, Brigadier Wayne Goodman AM has asked that the following message on the passing of WO1 Mick Ponder be distributed within the Gunner Community.

"I am saddened to inform the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and the wider Royal Australian Artillery community that Warrant Officer Class One Michael

(Mick) Ponder has passed away on Sun 15 Feb 09 after suffering from ill health over the last year. Mick enlisted in 1973 and served for 25 years in various RAA units as a 'gunner' prior to his transfer to RAAOC. His skills and expertise were recognised through his appointment as the RAAOC Conductor Operator Supply trades in 2006.

The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery mourns the loss of Mick and sends our sincere thoughts and deepest sympathy to his wife Margaret (Marg), family and friends.

Mick and Marg's eldest son Daryl is in the RAN and currently posted to Canberra. He is married to Melissa who is currently serving in the RAAF. Matthew is currently serving in the RAAOC and is on leave from operations. Stephen currently resides in Canberra.

I will pass on our deepest sympathy and comfort to Marg and family on behalf of all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery."

The funeral service was held at St Paul's Chapel at RMC on Fri 20 Feb 09. A private cremation service followed. A celebration of Mick's life with his friends was held at the Aislie Football Club.

Mick's family requested donations to Legacy in lieu of floral tributes.

Letters of condolence may be sent to the family addressed to Marg and family through CAPT Chris Osborn - DCO Canberra. on chris.osborn@defence.gov.au or fax (02) 6265 8730.

Alternatively, messages may also be sent to MAJ Darryl Kelly as the RAA and family POC to darryl.kelly@defence.gov.au. Darryl will collate your messages and forward them on to the family.

**URGENT CALL FOR GUNNER HELP FROM
RAAHC**

The following call for Gunner help has been received from Kevin Browning, Chairman of the RAAHC.

“A rare opportunity is at hand for the Museum to purchase a set of Crimean War Medal issued to a Royal Artillery gunner who subsequently saw service in Australia.

We are seeking your financial assistance to allow us secure the set for the National Artillery Museum’s collection.

The medals were originally presented to Gunner Michael McBride, Royal Artillery. McBride enlisted in County Derry, Ireland on 21 April 1854 and was discharged at Plymouth in 1875. Apart from his Crimean service he also saw 3½ years service with the RA in Melbourne.

We need to raise \$2,000. The Gunner community is asked to support us in this venture. Donations above \$2 are tax deductible.



Please send your donation to:

*Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
PO Box 1042
Manly NSW 1655*

Alternatively you may wish to use electronic transfer in which case our account details are:

*RAAHC Gift Account
BSB 032 096
Account No 179231*

*If using electronic transfer and wish a receipt please notify David Leyshon
northfort@bigpond.com*

Your generosity is appreciated and any amounts in excess of the total required for this object will be held for future unexpected artifact purchase

Ubique

*Kevin Browning
Chairman RAAHC”*

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVOCATE (DVA)

Kevin Maker JP advises that a report on Veterans entitlements and other pension benefits will be handed to the Government at the end of February 09. Recommendations from the report will be considered in the May Budget statement.

For any further information Kevin’s contact details appear below.

Ph: 0249342172
Mob: 0408946224
Email: kevinmaker@hotmail.com
Postal: PO Box 366 East Maitland NSW 2323

LOCREP DELIVERY MEANS

Association members are advised that the Committee wishes to expand the number of copies of LOCREP which are sent electronically and reduce the number sent by post.

To this end, this issue of LOCREP is being sent electronically to all members for whom we have an

email address on file, with an option to return to mail delivery.

The advantages of this measure are that you will receive the newsletter more quickly in PDF format which you can the download/print and you will have a better copy as the resolution is far superior.

Secondly the Association will save money by not having to use Australia Post facilities to the current extent.

COFFS HARBOUR RE-UNION ITINERARY AND ATTENDANCE APPLICATION

Friday 5th June 2009

1000 – 1500 - To Be Advised
 1700 - Meet and greet, finger food, cocktail party until late.

Saturday 6th Jun 09

0800 – 0900 Breakfast in Brasserie
 1700 Service at Cenotaph
 1800 Regimental Dinner and Dance

Sunday 7th June 09

0800 – 0900 Breakfast in Brasserie
 1000 – 1300 Bare foot bowls (charity fund raiser) followed by Bar-B-Q lunch bowling club
 1800 Dinner at Club in casual dress.

Monday 8th Jun 09

0800 – 0900 Breakfast in brasserie
 1000 Coral/Balmoral personnel meet for planned activities
 1000 All others a bus trip to Ulong with BBQ lunch.

Some Accommodation Tips

Bentleigh Motor Inn across the road on Hwy 02
 6652 2566

Chelsea Motor Inn across the road on Hwy 02
 6652 2977

Town Lodge across the road on Hwy 02 6652
 1288

Hotel Formule 1, 200 metres south of club almost
 on Hwy 02 6650 9101

Please return your attendance application along with your deposit to:
 LOC ARTY ASSN
 31 Sandra Close
 Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

MERCHANDISE

The following items are available or are in a re-design phase in the pipeline (ITP)

Stubby Holders	ITP	
Car Badges	\$28.00	
Baseball Caps	\$23.00	
Lapel Badges	\$ 6.50	
Woven Beret Badges (Logo and Dragon available)	\$10.50	
Polo Shirts	\$40	(Navy or white, sizes S to XXL)
Plaques	\$28.00	
Woven Pocket Patch Logos	\$10.50	
Bar Coasters	\$ 4.00	for 10
	\$ 7.00	for 30
	\$15.00	for 65
	\$20.00	For 100
Key Rings (2-sided, Assn & Dragon Logos)	\$ 6.50	
Bucket hats	\$20.00	(Royal Blue or Light Khaki)

Above prices include postage and handling except for Car Badges and Plaques which incur an additional \$8.00 for postage because of weight.

Enquiries, please call **Diane Wood** on 02 9774 1473 (H) or 02 9377 2041 (W) and leave a message.

An order form is available on the website www.locatingartillery.org or you can order by simply writing to Diane at 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213 and enclose your cheque/MO payable to the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Work party dates prior to our 2009 AGM have been set (See Diary).

Work parties commence at 0900 hrs and conclude with an Association-funded lunch at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess.

The current focus is on re-building the Locating display in the floor space allocated by Museum management.

Restoration projects in particular require considerable effort by volunteers and we would greatly appreciate the assistance of anyone available to work on Locating Artillery projects.

The Museum is open to the public on weekends, Wednesdays and Public Holidays from 1100 hrs to 1600 hrs. Guided tours are provided.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION and FORMATION OF A SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND BRANCH

The registration of the Association as a National Registrable Body is now complete with ASIC formalities concluded. This means that the Association can operate in any State or Territory, while being incorporated in NSW.

This process had become necessary through the emergence of a group of former 131 Bty people, led by Andrew Lloyd-Jones, who wished to form a Branch of the Association in South East Queensland.

We welcome Andrew and his team on board with the formal announcement of the formation of the South East Queensland Branch. This group has close ties with 20th STA Regt and we look forward to an even greater involvement and liaison with the Regiment, via the new Branch.

This evolution of the Association, with now three Branches in existence, has led to a need to have members clearly identify their affiliation with a particular branch, **should they choose to do so.**

The Association's rules allow for branches to levy their own membership fees and to this end, the

SEQ Branch hierarchy has decided to take up the option of branch fees.

Coffs Harbour and Newcastle/Hunter Valley Branches will not charge fees.

New members on joining will have the option of affiliating with a Branch and existing members will have a similar option when renewing membership.

The member application form has been redesigned with this in mind and is now available on the website www.locatingartillery.org.

Initially, we need to know if **existing** members wish to affiliate with a Branch.

Those members who wish to nominate a Branch should do so in writing to :

The Secretary, 63 Highland Drive Bowral NSW 2576

or preferably send an email to: robmor@ozemail.com.au

indicating which Branch they wish to join, South East Qld (SEQ), Coffs Harbour (CHB) or Newcastle/Hunter Valley (NHV).

If you do **not** wish to affiliate with a Branch, **DO NOTHING.**

MERCHANDISE - PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL

With this issue of LOCREP, we are including a special merchandise flyer. We now have a number of new items for sale and the enclosed flyer shows photographs of most items and includes an order form.

The Association relies heavily on merchandise sales to stay afloat financially as membership fees do not cover operating expenses. Your support in buying merchandise will assist materially in keeping membership fees at their current low level.

GUESS WHO

The following photograph was provided by Chris Whetton and has created a lot of interest with a number of members already trying place names to faces. How many old faces can you identify?



The following photograph was provided by Mal Scott. Again how many old faces if any can you identify?



Many thanks to Chris Whetton and Mal Scott for the photographs.