

# LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.  
March 2011 Volume 47



Outgoing RSM of 20<sup>th</sup> STA Regiment, WO1 Joe Fabri, who has put his pace stick in the Rack and retired after 28 years' service in the RAA. A tribute to Joe, prepared by Andrew Lloyd-Jones, appears in this issue.



**The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield**

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**Branch Presidents:**

**Newcastle/Hunter Valley:** Mick Jenkins

**Northern NSW:** Dave Auld

**South East Queensland:** Joe Fabri

**131 Locators:** Bob Billiards

## Greetings

My optimistic report on the future of the Australian Army Artillery Museum (North Fort) which appeared in the last edition is tempered with the sad news that the museum as we knew it closed in December 2010.

This is very disappointing news especially as North Fort has been the home of the Association since that memorable re-union in November 1998 when the Association was formed.

The new landlord, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT) has been in discussion with the stakeholders of the former museum including ourselves and there will be a museum at the site but it will be dedicated to the defence of Sydney and will include aspects of the Artillery heritage of North Head, including Locating.

Understandably, SHFT is anxious to recruit volunteers with experience of the former museum's operation and exhibits. On this issue the Association has decided not to take a particular position. Rather, it will be left to individuals to make their own decisions concerning future affiliation with SHFT.

On a happier note, I am delighted to announce that Joe Fabri has taken over as President of the South East Queensland Branch of the Association. I welcome this move and look forward to working with Joe in the same way we worked together when he was RSM of the Regiment.

I also want to place on record my sincere appreciation of the work of Andrew Lloyd-Jones for his efforts in pioneering the Branch. His vision and energy created a sub-unit which fulfilled a personal dream of mine.

More good news. The current Head of Regiment, Brigadier David Coghlan AM has kindly accepted my invitation to Join Rusty Priest as Co-patron and, further, has suggested that the honorary appointment be regularised by his staff for automatic progression. This is serious recognition of the value of the links between the Royal Regiment and the Association.

Allan Harrison  
(President)

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The President of the Locating Artillery Association is pleased to welcome a new member to the Association and hopes his membership will be rewarding and enjoyable. The new member is Mr **Geoff Blackwell**. Geoff served in 130 Gun Loc Bty and 131 Div Loc Bty as a National Serviceman. He saw active service in South Vietnam in 1967-68.

## WO1 JOSEPH FABRI

10<sup>th</sup> December 2010 saw the completion of 28 years of dedicated service to Army, many served within Locating, when 20 STA Regiment's RSM Warrant Officer Class 1 Joe Fabri hung up his Slouch Hat and passed over his Pace Stick. The following is an outline of his career.

Enlisting in the Australian Army in November 1982, on completion of recruit training he was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery as an Artillery Surveyor. After completing his Initial Employment Training at Locating Wing School of Artillery, Manly, he was posted to the 131<sup>st</sup> Divisional Locating Battery in Brisbane.

From there he was posted to the Proof and Experimental Establishment, Graytown in November 1986.

In 1989 he returned to 131<sup>st</sup> Locating Battery and was promoted to Lance Bombardier where he was allocated as No 1 of a survey pair. In November 1990 he was promoted to Bombardier.

1991 saw him take a posting to 4 Field Regiment RAA as the Survey Reconnaissance Bombardier. He received a mid-year posting in 1995 to 1 Field Regiment, RAA on promotion and took up the position of Survey Sergeant. 1998 saw him return to 4 Field Regiment RAA.

In June 1999 he was posted overseas on Operation Mazurka, SINAI with the multi-national force and observers.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 at the end of his tour and posted to the School of Artillery as an instructor in Surveillance and Target Acquisition Wing in January 2000.

He once again returned to 131<sup>st</sup> Surveillance and Target and Acquisition Battery in January 2004 as the Troop Sergeant Major, Surveillance Troop.

In November 2004 he was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Recruit Training Battalion as Company Sergeant Major, Bravo Company.

He attended his RSM course in October 2006.

Warrant Officer Class 1 Fabri took up his appointment as RSM 20 STA Regiment on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

On behalf of the Locating Artillery Association and all past and present members of the unit, I would like to express our appreciation for all his hard work, congratulate him on an impressive career and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

Andrew Lloyd-Jones  
Immediate Past President, South East Queensland Branch  
Locating Artillery Association Inc.

## AUSTRALIAN ARMY ARTILLERY MUSEUM

As indicated in the President's report, the museum is no more.

The Association has received correspondence from the Museum Manager, outlining the circumstances surrounding the decision to close the Museum which relates to conditions which the Army was not prepared to accept, hence the decision to close.

Further, the volunteers from the Association who took part in regular work parties at North Fort have received a "Volunteer Commendation" for their work. A copy of the commendation is included in this edition.

## DIARY DATES

25 Apr 2011	ANZAC Day	
5 Jun 2011	Ctee Meeting	Paddo RSL
10 Jul 2011	AGM	Paddo RSL

## ANZAC DAY

The Association website contains extensive details of ANZAC Day commemorations in various locations around Australia. There is too much detail to reproduce here and members are asked to consult the website for information or to contact their local RSL.

The major gatherings of Locators will take place as usual in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Look for the Locator Banners at the FUP's.

Sydney based Locators are invited to a post-march luncheon at City Tatts. Please contact Paul Dickson (President of the 131 Locators Association Inc.) if you want to join the group. Estimated cost is \$60 depending on what you eat and drink.

Paul's email address is [three-zero@hotmail.com](mailto:three-zero@hotmail.com)

## NATIONAL "CORAL" GUNNER DINNER 2011

The third National "CORAL" Gunner Dinner will be held this year in Canberra. Details are as follows.

- Format – Traditional Formal Dinner
- Guest Speaker – LTGEN Des Mueller (Retd)
- Attendance – All serving and retired Gunners are welcome
- Date – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011
- Venue – Federal Golf Course Canberra ACT
- Dress – Minimum of coat and tie, guests are encouraged to wear Mess Dress (Winter for Officers) or black tie with miniature medals
- Cost - \$110
- RSVP – NLT Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011. Acceptances until places are filled
- Contact either Major Terry Brennan or Major Greg Metcalfe by logging onto [www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com) for further information and to book. The link to information about the dinner is on the home page.

## COFFS HARBOUR REUNION 2011

The Executive Committee of the Northern New South Wales Branch has advised that it will host a re-union at Coffs Harbour over the period Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011

A booking form and comprehensive program is enclosed .

The Committee of the Locating Artillery Association Inc. has determined that each financial member who attends may claim a subsidy of \$20 when booking (see booking form).

## DET 131 DIV LOC BTY NUI DAT SVN

The following photo and commentary was provided by Mike Butler and may prove to be of interest to members.



*"I thought you may be interested in the attached photo of myself (on left) and Len Walker (now deceased after an accident). We were both gunners in the Survey Section under Lt Jeff Evans. I was asked by Tim Ford (then Capt) to produce a new unit sign at the entry to the 131 compound at Nui Dat. I think it was late 1970. Len was responsible for the woodwork and I was responsible for the artwork.*

*Hope this is of interest."*

Cheers

Mike Butler

## RSA RAROTONGA – COOK ISLANDS

The following photo was received from Sergeant Mike Marsh, currently posted to the Communications Wing at the School of Artillery.

Sgt (then Bdr) Marsh was the inaugural "Most Outstanding Junior NCO – 20 STA Regt 2007" award winner and has maintained regular contact with the Association ever since.

This annual award is sponsored by the Locating Artillery Association Inc.



*Sgt Mike Marsh and Denis Dwane at RSA Rarotonga*



*Australian Army Artillery*

*Museum North Fort*



# VOLUNTEER COMMENDATION

## AWARDED TO THE

# LOCATORS TEAM

FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE, AS MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF RESTORATION AND DISPLAY AREA CONSTRUCTION. YOUR DISPLAY AREA WORK AND SKILLS IN PARTICULAR, AS EVIDENCED BY THE EXCELLENT LOCATORS DISPLAY YOU HAVE COMPLETED, ARE MUCH APPRECIATED BY ALL VISITORS AND ARE A KEY FACTORS IN THE CAPABILITY OF THE MUSEUM'S SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION OF THESE ARTILLERY HERITAGE ITEMS.

THE QUALITY OF WORK AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL THE LOCATORS' TEAM APPLIES TO THE RESTORATION AND PRESENTATION OF MANY ITEMS OF AUSTRALIA'S ARTILLERY HISTORY IS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER AND BRINGS CREDIT THE ARTILLERY MUSEUM, AND THE REGIMENT. YOUR VALUABLE SERVICE, GOOD HUMOUR, RELIABILITY, DEDICATION, SUPPORT OF THE MUSEUM AND MILITARY STAFF, AS WELL AS YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND ENTHUSIASM FOR AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HISTORY HELPS ENSURE THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY ARTILLERY MUSEUM EFFECTIVELY ACCOMPLISHES IT'S MISSION OF COLLECTING, PRESERVING, REPAIRING, RESTORING, AND EXHIBITING OUR ARTILLERY HERITAGE ITEMS.

THIS TEAM VOLUNTEER COMMENDATION IS PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION, IN RECOGNITION OF, AND IN APPRECIATION OF, YOUR SERVICE TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY ARTILLERY MUSEUM AND TO AUSTRALIA.

Major  
Museum Manager

UBIQUE

11 December 2010

# Locating Artillery Association Inc.

## Northern NSW Branch

### REUNION 2011 BOOKING FORM

#### **COFFS HARBOUR EX-SERVICES CLUB**

Mark boxes with number attending

Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Meet & Greet	\$12.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.	Bowls (Pay on Day)		<input type="checkbox"/>
BBQ Lunch	\$12.50		<input type="checkbox"/>
Dinner	\$25.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	*Breakfast at Club	Pay on Day	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus trip to Urunga	\$15.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf or croquet	Pay on Day		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch	Pay on Day		<input type="checkbox"/>
Coffs harbour	Dinner Farewell	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Band Cover Charge	\$20.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Total	<u>\$110.00 (for each person)</u>		

#### **If claiming a Financial Member's subsidy, deduct \$20 from the total**

Payment by : **cheque/ money order** made out to Locating Artillery Association

**Direct Deposit.** Westpac Coffs Harbour BSB 032-576 Account 203325

If paying by Direct Deposit, use your name as the reference and **please** still send in the Registration Form.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone:.....

Email:.....

**Please return form before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011** to Post Office Box 2433 Coffs Harbour 2450

Paying by direct deposit? Yes/no (circle one)  
Claiming Financial member's subsidy? Yes/no (circle one)

## **ACCOMMODATION**

When booking your accommodation please quote Locating Artillery Assoc.

Bentleigh Motor Inn                      6652 2566     [stay@bentleighmotorinn.com.au](mailto:stay@bentleighmotorinn.com.au)  
94-96 Grafton Street  
Coffs Harbour  
Rooms    Double from \$90.00  
Single                      \$80.00

Chelsea Motor Inn                                              6652 2977  
[chelseamotorinn@hotmail.net.au](mailto:chelseamotorinn@hotmail.net.au)  
106 Grafton Street  
Coffs Harbour

Formule 1                                              66509101     [F5852-GM@accor.com.au](mailto:F5852-GM@accor.com.au)  
1a Maclean Street  
Coffs Harbour  
Rooms    From                      \$79.00

Town Lodge Motor Inn                      66521288     [bobsshop@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bobsshop@bigpond.net.au)  
110 Grafton Street  
Coffs Harbour  
Rooms:    Double queen                      \$80  
Twin queen& single                      \$90  
Queen & 2 single \$110  
Queen & 3 single \$115

Harbour City Holiday Park                                              66521694 Fax 66513632  
[info@harbourpark.com.au](mailto:info@harbourpark.com.au)  
123 Pacific Highway  
Coffs Harbour  
Site                                              \$32 2 person per night  
Cabin    Basic                                              \$80  
Standard \$92  
Deluxe                                              \$105  
All cabins have double + 2 or 3 bunks