

7 Field Regiment Association

Yandoo

Royal Australian Artillery

1997

Vol 1 No 11



7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION

2 SUAKIN STREET, PYMBLE 2073
(P.O. BOX 206 FRENCHS FOREST 2086)

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1996/97

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for the support over the last three years, and to wish our new President, Don McVay, good luck and good leadership for his term as President.

I would also like to thank the Committee who have supported me, especially John Balfour who has once again proved invaluable, and is continuing to do so. I wish the new committee good luck and congratulate them on their selection.

It was good to see the number of people who attended the AGM. For once there were more than enough people to fill positions, and have some left over. It is pleasing to see serving gunners such as Bdr Pat Gates and Sgt Rod Chetwynd on the committee.

The last year as previously has shot by. The Church service was held at St Johns but was poorly attended from both the Association and the Regiment's point of view. Please endeavour to attend next year. Bdr Gus Elgersma was presented with the award for Most Proficient Soldier ; congratulations Gus.

The 10th Anniversary Reunion was a great success, but we were not able to fill the auditorium at the Legion, in fact we had only average numbers. Despite this a great night was had by all.

**FROM THE DESK OF LT COL R.J.BRENNAN RFD
COMMANDING OFFICER, 7TH FIELD REGIMENT RAA**

1997 Kicked off with a new team, a new focus and a new and invigorated attitude to the way business would be done at 7 Field Regiment. At the pinnacle of this new focus was the mission to have an AFX interstate this year - and it will happen in October with the Regiment deploying to Wide Bay Training Area, Queensland, for two weeks !.

Gone from last year's full time component was both the OPSO and Adjutant with MAJ Simon Kirby and CAPT Shaun Harding taking over the reigns respectively in 1997 (Simon coming on posting from P&EE Port Wakefield and Shaun from the Directorate of Artillery). Both SMIGs also moved on with WO2 Wes Pine taking over at 113 and WO2 Brett Franklin setting up camp at 28. SGT Tom Devereaux (Tpt), BDR John Blaik (Q Store) and CPL Steve Blair (clerical) were also new additions to the **full time component**.

In the part time camp it was generally **situation no change after a minor** reshuffling of appointments. LTCOL Ray Brennan took over from LTCOL Andi Kariks as Commanding Officer, on promotion. CAPT Andrew O'Brien took over from Gary Bryant as BK 113, CAPT Simon Worboys (promoted in June) took over as BK HQ Bty, LT Jones, RA Sigs became the Regimental Signals Officer, LT Mark Lockhart took over as OC TST from Ian Bruce, LT Mark Schweikert was re-posted to the unit as IO, WO1 Brian Marshall was posted on promotion to DARTY-A and WO2 Mick Banham took over as BSM HQ Bty.

On a sad note, this year saw the untimely passing away of WO2 Tony Jones. WO2 Jones contributed much to the unit in his tenure with 113 Fd Bty and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts still go out to his family and loved ones.

MAJ Michael Shevak resigned from the Army in June and handed over command of 28 Fd Bty to MAJ Gus Pallot who will be re-enlisted some time in September. MAJ Shevak contributed a wealth of experience and knowledge to the unit in his two year tenure as Battery Commander 28 Fd Bty but leaves his sub-unit in capable hands.

Training has focused on FO and gun end training with LFX's in Singleton and Holsworthy. The biggest concern has been with getting FO trained to an acceptable level and then encouraging them to attend both Tuesday night and weekend parades regularly enough to 'keep their eye in' and shooting skills up to scratch. A lack of resources, notably a lack of 'bombs' combined with problems such as fuse restrictions have made this dilemma a somewhat challenging predicament. Fortunately a combination of leadership and creative management of resources has assisted in solving this problem with both Batterys being able to field an FO party for the AFX in October.

'Try Before You Buy' recruiting initiatives have continued to be a great success. I am convinced these weekends alone, and the figures back this up, have been responsible for the gradual increase in the posted strength of the unit in 1997. It is a fact that in weekends when such recruiting weekends have not occurred, the effective posted strength of the unit has actually decreased. At the time of writing, the effective strength of the unit had increased from 174 in January to 213 in September !. Much of the credit for success of these activities should go the RSM, WO1 Darryl Kelly, who has been inspirational in his commitment to this and many other unit initiatives and activities this and last year.

Initial Competency Training has been both initiated and trialed for the RAA by 7 Fd Regt with both OPCP Fd and Gun Number courses being conducted within the unit with a great degree of success. The ICT Signals Course will also be trialed by 7 Fd Regt later in the year.

Along with the standard LFXs, the unit has also been committed to or been involved in the following events already in 1997 ;

Support to School of Artillery Courses

Regional Cadet Unit support

Provided soldiers for the Chief of the Navy Farewell salute in Canberra

Sent Safety Parties to support Exercise Rhino Charge in South Australia

Will support 4 Bde exercise in NT later in 1997

Provided support for Legacy

Supported McDonalds "McHappy Day"

Supported Exercise 'Dustoff Dawn'

COMD 2 Div Commendation awarded to WO2 Timothy Rhys Jones

Soldiers medallion awarded to LCPL Douglas Manny

Australia Day Medallion awarded to GNR Darrin Warming

Provision of a section of guns for the School of Artillery farewell Feu-de-Joie



Guest of Honour
(Lt) Nobby Clark MC
addressing the Annual
Reunion 1 Nov 1996

Patron Brig. John Keefe making a special presentation to John Balfour
for 10 years dedicated service as Secretary of the Association - 1 Nov 96



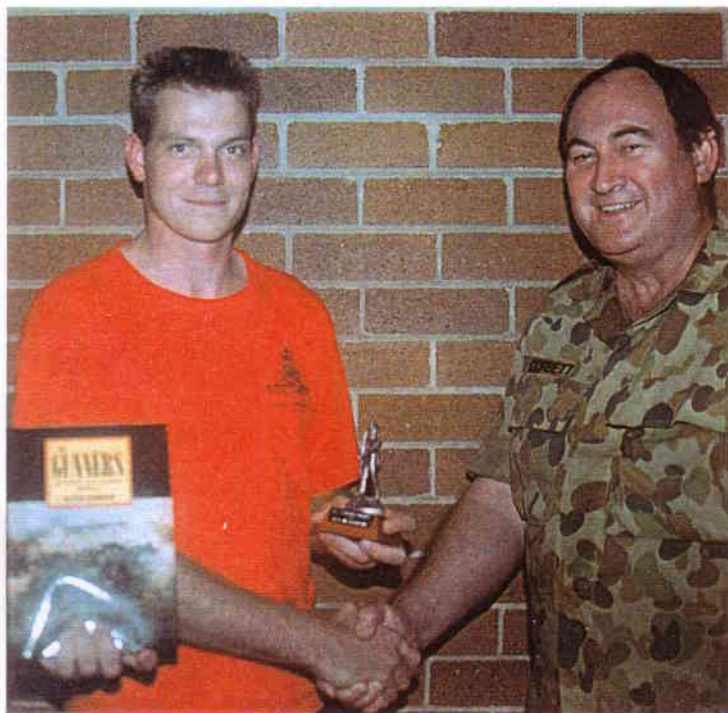


Gunner Dinner, School of Artillery - 9 August 1997

**LtCol Stuart Staziker, WO1 John Balfour, Brig John Keefe, Max Falconer,
Peter Mendl, Danny Toplis, Maj Bob Corbett, Fred Bastock**

Most Proficient Soldier
7 Field Regiment 1996

**Bdr Gus Elgersma
(HQ Bty) receiving
his presentation
from President
Maj Bob Corbett.**



Commanding Officer (continued)

Worthy of special note is the entrance of a team in this year's 8 Bde Military Skills Competition. The section, led commendably by BDR 'Gus' Elgersma won the competition and was proud to boast the only female entrant in the Brigade, PTE Natalie Smith.

Also worthy of special note is the unit's commitment once again this year to Exercise Bunny Hop. Also an RSM Darryl Kelly initiative, this exercise involves soldiers visiting hospitals around our depots and providing a bit of Easter cheer by way of giving chocolate eggs and other gifts. The event received media coverage through Channel 10 and gained the support of many reputable sponsors.

As can be seen, this year already has been remarkably busy - situation no change for 7 Fd Regt really 1. The remainder of the year will see another LFX, AIRS training at the School of Artillery Phoenix facility, a CDA's seminar, an AFX in Queensland, an RMW and an 8 Bde CPX !. That should see us through to Christmas stand-down period at which time we will have to unfortunately farewell the following members of the ARA staff :

CAPT Bill McMurtrie - resigned WEF Sep 98 (MNRE from 7 Fd 1 Jan 98)
WO1 Darryl Kelly - posted 4 Fd Regt as RSM
WO2 Bob Field - posted 8/12 Mdm Regt
SGT Danny Maroney - posted 22 Construction Squadron
CPL Neville Berlin - posted HQ Trg Comd

Of the GRes staff it is not clear at time of writing as to the exact posting plot and therefore not appropriate to presume anything just yet though it is quite probable that there will be some changes to the unit key personnel manning.

R.J.Brennan RFD
LT COL
CO 7 Fd Regt

**HISTORY of the ORIGIN and FORMATION of the
FIELD ARTILLERY of NEW SOUTH WALES**

When the first Battery of Permanent Artillery was formed in 1871, there were 4 S.B. 9 Pdrs and 2 Howitzers. The harness and guns had been the property of the Imperial troops and had been left in the Colony when they ceased to serve here. The whole of No 1 Battery drilled at these guns ; contractor's horses, 4 per gun being used and drills extended over about 20 half-days a year. The Officers at that time were Captain G.J.Airey, Captain W.W. Spalding, Lieuts Russell and Lindeman.

In 1876 a second garrison battery was formed and the Field Artillery was composed of men from this Battery, the Officers being Major W.W.Spalding, Lieuts H.le Patorel, A.Le Patorel and Murray.

In 1877 a third Battery was formed ; but the Field Artillery was worked principally by officers and men from No 2 Battery. The Officers at that time were Major Spalding, Lieuts A.Le Patorel, Nathan and H.P.Airey.

In 1882 ten 16 Pdr R.M.L. guns were purchased by the Government of New South Wales and were taken into use by the Field Artillery and used by No 2 Battery.

In 1891 the Battery became "A" Battery consisting of 5 Officers, 14 N.C.O.s and 55 men; the Officers being Captain and Brevet Major H.P.Airey (in command) , Captain Kyngdon, Lieuts Dangar and Antill and Veterinary Surgeon Scott.

In 1892 permanent stables were built at Victoria Barracks to accommodate 60 horses, also Gun Park, Harness Rooms, Collar-maker's and Wheel-wright's shops and a shoeing forge.

In 1893, upon the reconstruction of the Military Forces under Major General E.T.H. Hutton, CB., A.D.C. to the Queen, Brigade Division and Field Artillery was formed consisting of three batteries, "A", "B" and "C" under the command of Major H.P.Airey, DSO who was also in command of "A" Battery, "B" and "C" Batteries being partially paid.

In 1893 Major H.P.Airey, DSO was sent to India for the purpose of going through a course of special training and instruction with the Royal Horse Artillery, Field Artillery and Cavalry.

In 1894 Captain Dangar was sent to India for special training and instruction.

In 1894 "A" Battery marched to and from Bathurst (a distance of 125 miles) and took part in the manoeuvres there. The return journey was accomplished in 5 days ; the last day's march being 56 miles in 17 hours.

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7 FD REGT RAA ASSOCIATION
1997/98 COMMITTEE

7th Field Regiment RAA
Key Postings - 1997

President	D.B.McVay	C O	LtCol R.J.Brennan RFD	
Vice- Presidents	Maj R.M.Corbett RFD	2IC	Maj R.M.Corbett RFD	
	M.L.Falconer MBE	Adjt	Capt S.E.Harding *	
Secretary	WO1 J.G.Balfour	RSM	WO1 D.J.Kelly *	
Treasurer	M.D.Laurence	QM	Capt W.McMurtrie *	
Committee	WO2 K.S.Aiston	OPSO/BC HQ	Maj S.R.Kirby *	
	F.J.Bastock ED,RFD	BSM HQ	WO2 M.Banham	
	A.R.Burke	OC TST	Lt M.Lockhart	
	R.Chetwynd	ASM	SSGT A.J.Brincat	
	K.E.Flanagan	BC 28	Vacant	
	S.A.Fulcher	BK 28	Capt S.Flower	
	T.J.Gwilym	BSM 28	WO2 S.Noakes	
	P.G.Gates	SMIG 28	WO2 B.Franklin *	
	WO2 P.G.McGrath	BG 28	Vacant	
	WO2 S.W.Noakes	BC 113	Maj P.Broad	
	WO2 P.Sengos	BK 113	Capt A.T.O'Brien	
	R.C.M.Toplis	BSM 113	WO2 G.Nicholls	
	Patron	Brig J.P.Keefe RFD	SMIG 113	WO2 W.Pine *
	Legal Advisor	J.A.Nelson	BG 113	Vacant
Hon Auditor	W.J.Neill	* ARA		

ANNUAL REUNION

Friday 7 November 1997 - Willoughby Legion Club

BE THERE***BE THERE*****BE THERE*****BE THERE*******