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## **NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019**

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Firstly let me on behalf of myself and committee wish all our members a very happy and prosperous New Year in 2019.

The new committee have been very busy since August 2018 to which I would like to thank them on your behalf. What have we been doing?

Firstly, let me thank our Secretary and Treasurer for all the phone calls and emails they have made or sent out to update our nominal roll, they have been very successful in tracking down members who had dropped off the system over the years. At this stage there are still quite a few who we don't know their whereabouts. If any members know of ex Battery members, we have lost touch with over the years let us know any email or phone numbers you may have for them.

Secondly, Brian And Trevor are well in the process of getting us new Battery caps which members at the AGM indicated they wanted, Brian has received the first samples at this stage. We are also having made some 101 Battery plaques for either presentation or purchase by members; details are unavailable at this stage, but we have been in consultation with the Battery

in Darwin. The Darwin Battery is also getting other items made or have, we may or may not purchase for resale e.g. key rings, stubby holders etc. It depends what is on them. Some samples we have seen have 101 Medium Battery 8/12 Medium Regiment on them which is not who we are.

Thirdly, I have also been in contact with the newer veterans 'of 101 Battery Association discussing with their representative that as our group are all getting older there is a need to try and affiliate with them. There is still a long way to go as you can imagine they are all hi tech in their approach to communications. These discussions have also been in conjunction with the National Artillery Association who said other Battery Associations also have declining numbers. I will continue to let you know of the progress of the talks.

Fourthly, you will see in the newsletter profiles of two of our committee members which we would like to be a regular feature. It will let members know what has happened in mates' lives since so long ago. We will complete the committee first then ask for other members who would like to tell their stories. It doesn't have to be huge, even a few paragraphs would create interest.

Finally, in the newsletter you will see details of the Gunner Dinner in August this year, for those who haven't seen some mates for years I would recommend it. I have been to the previous two and they were outstanding, we have tables reserved for both battery tours so if you book indicate you want the 101 Field Battery SVN tables. Brian will provide more details.

**John Pollock**  
**President**

**PROFILE ROSS MILLARD TESCHENDORFF**  
**TREASURER**

Unlike the previous profiles of our President John Pollock and Secretary Brian Collins mine is not a military background. I apologise in advance to my Regular Army colleagues if this review lacks the military flavour of postings and promotions of an Army career.

Although my Army life contributed less than 3% of my current existence it has had a much larger impact on the shaping of my life.

Like most the Nashos that toured with 101Bty in 66/67 I was a product of the First Intake of National Service.

I was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1945 at 12.10 am and when born was a fortnight overdue, so when the number 1 was pulled out of the Tatts barrel my destiny was complete.

Our Company Commander at Puckapunyal was ex 101 Battery Malaya, now Captain Darkie Couzens who along with RDI Bombardier Don Nagle strongly suggested that a posting to 101 Field Battery was what I needed.

Apart from training to be an effective Gun Number and increasing my drinking abilities, a couple of standout memories of Wacol are.

On exercise at Tin Can Bay, having the top of my finger cut off and busting my thumb, thanks to the lack of misfire procedural drill by Bombardier Bluey Brooks.

I was still removing the cartridge case when Bluey pushed back the projectile with his bell rammer, crushing my hand between the cartridge rim and the breech block.

I was transported back to 1Field Hospital at Yeronga in the Battery's short - based Land Rover ambulance with my legs and boots sticking out the back of the vehicle, and by the number of toots, much to the amusement of other road users.

I spent nearly a month in hospital and was surprised by the very large number of 6 RAR guys that were admitted whilst I was there. Thinking their heavy, high risk pre-embarkation training must be the reason, until one digger told me they were all there to be circumcised! Bloody hell, thanks Mum!

Second memory was of the Battery formed up on the drill square for hours on a hot Saturday, waiting in vain, for a person unknown, to come forward

and admit his guilt of depositing a turd on the door step of the Orderly Room.

Rumour has it that cranky Frankie almost stood on it, this understandably, not improving his normal pleasant outlook on life in general or National Servicemen. (maybe Terry Porter or Brian Collins can elaborate on this)

It is now 53 years since this Battery bonding crime was committed, so maybe we should get our bookmaker mate David Bird to run a book on who we think was the culprit with a percentage of each bet going to Battery Association funds.

After return from SVN, the next day, as you would remember, the Battery marched in Brisbane with 6RAR and other returning Brisbane based units, after which I boarded a plane to Melbourne and my army days were over.

That night at a welcome home family dinner there was a realisation that I had changed when I asked my mother to pass the f..king salt!

After a quick medical at Watsonia Army base, with no thanks for coming I was a civvy again.

After a bit of a break I returned to my pre-call up job but soon resigned as I couldn't hack working inside.

In 1967 I joined the now defunct pharmaceutical company Nicholas Pty Ltd as a sales rep. Thanks mainly to the two interviewing managers recognising my 1 Field Regiment polyester tie. Both guys were WW2 Gunners, so after discussing the advantages of 25 pounders versus L5 105 mm Pack Howitzers, the job was mine. Been ex artillery pharmaceutical knowledge was irrelevant!

Stayed there for 17 years rising to Vic/SA/WA Regional Manager but needed a change.

In 1984 I joined American Express as Victorian State Manager, had various positions over the 29 years I worked with Amex, with responsibilities in both Australia and SE Asia.

I was given 12 months sick leave at the start of 2013 after a family tragedy, losing two grandchildren at birth for 'unknown' reasons. The medicos didn't want to know about my SVN experience with exposure to defoliants. I retired at the end of my sick leave.

Things did not go well with me and I ended up at Heidelberg Repat Hospital on a 12 week PTSD treatment program.

I have now been retired for 5 years but keep busy with involvement at my local cricket club where I am Vice President. I have also recently received a 50 year Service Award from Cricket Victoria.

The Melbourne - based members of our first tour of SVN have remained close over the years.

I was best man at Barry Gross's wedding, as he was at mine. KC Ball, Jock Arbuthnot, Johnny Weaver, Kev Perkins, Peter Cusack all kept in contact.

Unfortunately, only KC, Weave, Cusack and I remain.

There is no doubt the camaraderie first formed in 101 Battery some 53 years ago is equally as strong today.

My wife Robyn and I have been married for 47 years, we have 3 sons, and 6 grandchildren.

Life is good and hopefully we get good numbers at Caloundra in August.

**PROFILE RUSSELL A. ROBERTSON**  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

I joined the regular Army on the 6th March 1967 and after recruit training was posted to 1Fd Regt RAA at Wacol.

I became part of the nucleus for the start of 101Bty on their return from Vietnam. during this period 101bty reformed and we started training for their second tour. On return from Vietnam 1970, I was posted to 28 Farelf Brigade in Singapore where I spent another two years between Singapore and Malaya and Indonesia.

After my tour in Singapore, I was posted to Geelong 10 Mdm Regt for two years from there posted to 107 Fd Bty as BDR Driver then TPT SGT. I spent time in various postings from a Drill instructor. ARES posting to Tully as training SGT.

After Tully back to 107 Bty for 6 months then posted to 70 GL Section, spent 2 years as GL Sgt flying to various overseas locations and covering most parts of Australia.

After leaving the GL Section I was posted to 101 Bty on promotion to Staff Sgt as Bty BQMS. As I started my career with 101Bty I elected to take my discharge In March 89 and join the Regular Army Reserve for a period of 5 years.

When I left the Army, I joined the Dept of Admin Services and which saw me travelling to all points of the compass, I stayed with Dept for 10 years and had to retire because of ill health I finally got married again after 22 years of being a bachelor a decade ago.

We have sold our house and down sized to a smaller house in a retirement village and enjoy our retirement by travelling only when my health lets me.

R.A.R.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Firstly let me echo John's wishes and hope that everyone had a good Christmas and hopefully looking forward to a healthy New Year.

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW**

The following people were on the Association roll but have never paid a joining fee or we have lost touch with them and we have no information (address, phone or email) about them. If anyone keeps in contact with them or knows where they are could you contact them and ask them if they are interested in joining our Association, \$10 per year or \$101 as a Life Subscriber. They can contact the Secretary Brian Collins at [b.collins13@outlook.com](mailto:b.collins13@outlook.com) or write to Villa 263, [176 Torrens Road](#),

[Caboolture South, Qld, 4510](#) or Phone 0407162620. They can pay fees directly into the Association account or send a cheque to the Treasurer, Ross Teschendorff. Details as follows:

A/c Name – 101 Field Battery Association, BSB 064413, A/c No – 10066148 or send cheque to Ross at [19 Edro Avenue, Brighton East, Vic, 3187](#).

**66/67 Tour Personnel**

J.A.T. (JOHN) BLACKMAN  
I. (IAN)BOURNE  
M.P. (MICK) DEAR – Catering  
H. (HARRY)HUGHES  
V.W. (VIC) ROWE (69/70 TOO)  
C.J. (CLARRIE) WOOLHOUSE

**69/70 Tour Personnel**

C.D (CHARLIE) ALLEN  
R.J. (RON) BEASLEY  
T.T. (TOM) BLACKER  
P.J (PHIL) BLUNDEN  
G.G. (GRAHAM) BROWN  
K.R. (KEITH) COMPT  
G. (JOCK) CRESDEE  
R.N. (RICHARD) DAWES  
R. (RICCARDO) DERE (LAD Det)  
H.T. (HARVEY) DUNKLEY  
J.L. (JOHN) DELAHUNTY (LAD Det)  
D.J. (DOMINIC) DELLA MORA  
R.J. (RUSSELL) DENMAN  
A.J. (ALEX) FOX  
L.J. (LES) GILES  
K.J. (KEVIN) GILL  
A.T. (TONY) GREEN (RAP)  
J.S. (JOHN) HARVEY  
P. (PAUL) HAYES  
R.J. (ROGER) HAYMEN  
D.J. (DOC) HOLLIDAY  
J.A. (JIM) HOLLINGS (LAD Det)

T.H. (TERRY) JAMES  
N. (NEIL) KARPOWICZ  
R.K. (RON) KEEN (Catering)  
J.F. (KILLA) KILLALEA  
B. (BEN) LANS  
G.W. (GREG) LAW  
K.R. (KEITH) MADDEN  
K.R. (KEITH) MARSHALL  
K. (KEITH) MARTIN  
P.R. (PETER) MATHEWS  
I.S. (IAN) McCLEARY  
W.M. (BILL) McLAUGHLIN  
H.E. (HERB) NELSON  
M.H. (MICK) O'REILLY  
J.R. (RON) ORR  
A.R. (TONY) PARRELLI  
P. (JOE) PAUSIC  
K.L. (JOHN) RUSSELL  
G.T. (GEORGE) SMYTH  
G.R. (GRAHAM) SPENCER  
R.D. (BOB) STODDART – Catering  
A.B. (ALLEN) THOMAS  
D.S. (DAVE) THOMAS  
F.G. (FRED) TIMBRELL  
B.F. (MICK) WILSON  
P.F. (PETER) WILLIAMS  
G.F. (GREG) WILSON  
R.J. (BOB) WINWOOD

If members can afford it I would encourage members to make a donation to the Association to boost our funds like Herb Lynam who made a donation by paying \$101 again for a Life Subscription, good on you Herb. Another point, if anyone changes their email, phone number or address could they just slip me an email so that we don't lose touch with you.

### **2019 NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION DINNER**

For all those members wishing to attend the Gunner's Dinner to be held on 24 August 2019 at Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast just north of Brisbane



and haven't registered yet, please do so by going to [www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com) and then click on the 2019 Dinner icon and just follow the instructions. Please indicate in the appropriate place that you wish to sit at the 101 Bty SVN table or 101 Bty Malaya table. If you have a problem registering or you cannot operate a computer, you could call Graham Hampton from the Australian Artillery Association for assistance on 0401400403.

At the moment there is a table for 101 Bty Malaya and a table of 12 for 101 Bty SVN. It is intended to hold our annual reunion in conjunction with the Gunners Dinner, so roll up your sleeves and get cracking and register. Full payment isn't due until June 2019. From all accounts it is a great time to catch up with old mates in great surrounds.

### **101 BTY MERCHANDISE**

**Caps.** The Association has just recently purchased 101 BTY ASSOCIATION caps, pictured below. They are what they call the "Trucker" style caps that have ventilation at the back. The caps cost \$25 postage included. If you are interested in purchasing one, please submit your payment to the Treasurer details supplied above. When remitting by online banking please supply your name so that we know who to send it to.



**Plaques.** We are currently investigating the design and purchase of 101 BTY Plaques. 101 Medium Battery in Darwin have a plaque but it has 101 Medium Battery on it and that is not who we are, so we want one just for our members and any serving member who may want one in the future. 101 Medium Battery are also looking at purchasing stubby holders, bottle openers etc so when details come to hand we will inform members. So that we may have some idea how many to purchase once a design is chosen could you please advise me by email [b.collins13@outlook.com](mailto:b.collins13@outlook.com) or by mail Brian Collins, Villa 263, [176 Torrens Road, CABOOLTURE SOUTH, QLD, 4510](#) if you are interested in purchasing a plaque when they are available.

### **DVA EXTREME DISABLEMENT ADJUSTMENT RATE OF PENSION**

The following information was put together by our President John and I would encourage anyone who thinks they might fit the criteria or close to it, to contact an Advocate as they know exactly how to word an application etc. Usually your local RSL will have advocates or you could google DVA Advocates to find one closest to you.

Many Veterans of our age are not aware of this disability pension nor that they may be eligible for this payment.

This is a brief insight to the payment so members might like to discuss their case with an advocate to see if they are eligible.

Full details can be Googled on the DVA webpage Fact Sheet DP30.

The Extreme Disablement Adjustment rate (**EDA**) can only be paid to Veterans who have reached 65 years of age who are not eligible to receive a Special (TPI) or Intermediate rate of Pension.

As the name suggests, the degree of incapacity from your war or Defence caused conditions must be extreme for a Veteran to be considered for a disability pension at the EDA rate.

The assessment only takes into account the medical impairment and lifestyle effects of a disability.

Eligibility for EDA rate does not have regard to whether or not the Veteran is employed, nor any regard to income and assets held by the Veteran.

**Who is Eligible for EDA**

- must be over 65 years old; and
- have been determined by DVA to have a degree of incapacity of 100% due to accepted conditions.
- have your impairment rating assessed to be at least 70 and your Lifestyle rating of at least 6.

As stated, the Full Fact sheet is far too long to include in the Newsletter you never know you could well be eligible and receive another couple of \$100 extra in you fortnightly pay.

**John Pollock**

**Advocate/Pension Officer**

**Newcastle Hunter Region Vietnam Veteran Association**

**VALE JOHN TRENNERY**

It is with sadness that I pass on the information received from John's wife that he passed away from cancer of the oesophagus on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018. He died within one month of diagnosis.

John toured with 101 Fd Bty SVN in 1966/67 and was living in Darwin prior to his death.

UBIQUE

**HEAD OF REGIMENT ST BARBARA'S DAY MESSAGE**

For those of you who cannot be contacted by email the following message is repeated. I apologize for the bad reproduction.



**Head of Regiment  
St Barbara's Day Message 2018**

I extend my greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier AG Warner AM LVO, and the Colonel's Commandant for your Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations on 4th December 2018.

As we celebrate Saint Barbara's Day, let us reflect on what we have achieved in 2018 and prepare for new challenges in 2019. This year has once again been extremely busy with the usual tempo of exercises and operations, and significant work in the capability and modernisation areas to progress Gunner projects and introduce new equipment. The raising of 9th Regiment RAA was a significant accomplishment, not only for our Reserve Gunners but also the wider Gunner community. It was also pleasing to see 1st Regiment RAA selected to lead and provide the core of Task Group Taji VIII in Iraq. In addition, 2018 saw significant events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Coral and the 100th anniversary of The Great War. It was fitting that we contributed to the Commonwealth Minute Gun activity by firing across four time zones at 1100 hours on 11th November to mark the time that the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.

I congratulate all who will be taking up new appointments in January next year as Commanding Officers, Battery Commanders and Regimental and Battery Sergeant Majors. It is also a day when many are promoted to the next rank and recognised for their loyal service. To you, I pass on my congratulations for your ongoing commitment to the Royal Regiment and the Army. This St Barbara's Day is also the day on which I will formally hand over the baton of Head of Regiment to Brigadier Richard Vagg and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of you all, to wish him well in his new appointment.

Finally, I congratulate and thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, serving and retired, for their continued service and wish all Gunners serving overseas good shooting and a safe return to their families.

Ubique,

CD Furini AM, CSC  
Brigadier  
Head of Regiment

1st December 2018

Gunners: Accurate, Responsive, Dependable, Joint

One observant member David McDowell picked up a grammatical mistake. Did anyone else pick up that the plural of Sergeant Majors was Sergeants Major (It was probably just a typographical error !!).

### VALE KENNETH MOUNTCASHEL EDWARDS

Sadly Ken passed away on 8th November after a short illness.

All of us extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Rhonda and family.

We've all lost a good friend and a true gentleman.  
Ken was an original member of 101 Battery

3/718636 - 3410380 - A316133

Born 24th June 1934. Warrnambool, Victoria

14 National Service Training Battalion August 1953 to November 1953.

Enlisted RASR-(O) 23rd April 1956.

1 Field Regiment, 104 Locating Battery August 1956.

1 Field Regiment, Q Battery

101 Battery 7th May 1957.

Malaya: Bombardier (Charlie Troop) 101 Battery 4th October 1959.

101 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, 17th October 1960.

4 Field Regiment 21st October 1961.

Discharged 11th June 1962.

Enlisted RAAF 16th September 1962.

SVN: Corporal, HQ, AFV/5ACS, 2 Squadron 14th March 1968 to 19th February 1969.

Malaysia/Butterworth June 1972 to December 1974.

Sergeant Discharged 31st January 1978.

Sadly our numbers are thinning fast.

Of the 225 that served in Malaya with the Battery 134 have passed away with 23 that we have lost contact with.

This leaves only 68 members known still living.

Ubique

David Troedel

Secretary 101 Battery, Malaya 1959-1961 Association

### **FIRST TOUR GUN ACCIDENT 1966**

I have thought long and hard for a number of years about the muzzle premature which occurred on Sergeant Len Dyer's gun one night at Nui Dat during a battery fire mission.

In December 2018 I was talking to two committee members who were on the gun position that night and after hearing my explanation/theory of the incident recommended I pass it on to our members. Even though 50 odd years have passed I guess it has to be told for Sergeant Dyers sake. I had spoken to Jurgen Raasch about it in Townsville years ago.

A short reiteration of what happened; Len had been on R and C in Vung Tau and returned late in the afternoon, in his absence the acting number 1 or someone on the gun moved the thin bamboo pole keeping the tannoy cable out of the mud.

As Len returned to his gun there was a fire mission, a few minutes later when Len's gun fired there was a muzzle premature. Most of the detachment suffered wounds; fortunately no one was killed as most of the shrapnel went forward.

The explanation at the time was that the gun was crested by the tannoy pole and the projectile hit the pole and detonated; therefore the number 1 was held responsible and the blame placed squarely on him. To that end Sergeant Dyer was removed from commanding the gun and reassigned other menial duties in the Battery until we returned home.

This shattered Sergeant Dyer who was a dedicated and a very good soldier, unfortunately several years later he took his own life.

Many years later I attended the 18 month Gunnery instructor's course in the UK where I was taught much more about Gunnery in particular ammunition which was not included in Australian School of Artillery courses. After several posting to the School as an instructor I was promoted to WO1 Master Gunner at Proof and Experimental Establishment (P&EE) Port Wakefield SA.

At P&EE I had to examine documents regarding faulty Artillery ammunition including Fuses and propellant. In one document I discovered that the US army had experienced several malfunctions with the M51 fuse, the type used by the Australian Artillery in Vietnam and Australia.

It stated that there were a lot of faulty fuse batches found which caused premature detonation.

As a former Master Gunner at P&EE and the School I had been trained in ammunition to a high standard I therefore believe that the Projectile from Sergeant Dyer's gun did not detonate because it did or did not hit the bamboo pole but because the fuse safety mechanisms failed.

I will try not to baffle you with too much science but to understand I will explain why I have reached this conclusion.

When the gun fires setback and centrifugal force (spinning) acts on spring, locks and spin detents (locks) allowing the fuse to arm and function before detonating on impact at the target.

These safe separation devices are designed to provide safety and arming features of the fuse. A rotor which carries the detonator is held out of the line of the firing pin by the two spin detents and by a further interlock.

A correct sequence of firing is setback and spin will free the interlocks and detents to the in line ARMED position of the fuse.

As the projectile spin rate increases centrifugal force is the force which release the detents etc and starts the arming sequence.

The time to arm an M51 fuse will mean that the projectile must travel at **LEAST 66 metres or 200ft** this is dependent on the charge fired.

Base on technical evidence of fuse functions I believe that the projectile that night did not detonate after hitting a thin bamboo pole but detonated at the muzzle due to a faulty fuse.

I do not believe that anyone on the gun position that night would have considered this scenario because in those days the inner working of fuses was only basically known. The actions taken that night were made in good faith.

John Pollock Master Gunner Retired.

## PASSING OF ADRIAN CRONAUER

Every Vietnam Veteran has heard this call !!.... Gooooooooood Moooooorning Vietnam !!!! This was Adrian Cronauer, a US Air Force Sergeant and radio personality whose experiences as an innovative disc jockey on American Forces Network during the Vietnam War inspired the 1987 film Good Morning, Vietnam. Cronauer chose to enlist instead of waiting on the draft in the early 1960s. After deliberating about entering flight training, Adrian chose broadcasting and media operations, ultimately becoming an Air Force Radio and Television Broadcasting Specialist. His service spanned the years from 1963 to 1967. He eventually rose to the rank of Sergeant.



While Cronauer is most known for his service in Vietnam, his broadcasting style was more like something a person could hear on Stateside radio than on the military radio and television service. In that day, military radio and television tended to follow its own rigid rules, procedures, regulations, codes and interests rather than focusing on its audience — frequently resulting in broadcasts that were tough to listen to or watch without falling asleep. It seemed as though its mission had very little to do with improving the morale of the American community in Vietnam. He certainly reached the Australian's audience, and many enjoyed his quirky call every morning ..... How could you forget it ?? Sadly, Adrian Cronauer passed away on 18 July 2018, aged 79 years. RIP (Courtesy of Runaway Bay RSL Sub-Branch)



### **CONTACTING OLD MATES**

If any member would like to be in contact with an old mate from 101 Bty and we have their details, we can contact them on your behalf to see if they want to make contact and if they do we can pass on their details to you. This is the way it has to happen because of privacy reasons. Or you could all register for the Gunners Dinner in August and catch up in person then.

### **ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER**

If anyone has any appropriate item, they would like to include in the next newsletter which will be in April, please email me. Also if anyone would like to volunteer their profile for the next newsletter it would be appreciated. I would like one from the 66/67 tour and one from the 69/70 tour.