



27th April 2012

The President Australian Artillery Association
Dear Kim,

I am writing to you as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) to advise you about developments in our focus and structure and to recommend that our organisations should cooperate on matters of common interest. Over the last 18 months, in light of the changes with the move of the Australian Army Artillery Museum, we have been refocusing the RAAHC as a national organisation aimed at working with others throughout Australia to preserve our Australian artillery history and heritage. This includes cooperating closely with the RAA Regimental Committee, RAA State, regional and unit organisations, and all other parties interested in Australian Artillery history and heritage. We are also broadening national representation in our Board and have recently added a director from West Australia and a serving Gunner to represent their constituencies.

The RAAHC Board meets periodically and functions through a number of Committees and volunteers that coordinate our various activities. The current focus of our activities is:

- . Strengthening the administration and governance for the RAAHC.
- . Building the national identity of the RAAHC.
- . Implementing the RAAHC corporate plan for 2011-2016.
- . Supporting the early construction of the Australian Army Artillery Museum (AAAM) at Puckapunyal.
- . Clarifying the ownership and future of the artillery collection at Bandiana.
- . Assisting the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT) to develop their plans at North Fort.

These activities have been progressing well as outlined on our new website at <http://www.artilleryhistory.org.au/> and in the recent issue of the RAAHC Historical Journal "Cannonball".

The RAAHC is working closely with the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) not only to progress the building of the new AAAM at Puckapunyal as soon as possible, but also to clarify the ownership and maintenance of those items moved from North Fort to Bandiana. We have agreed which items are owned by the RAAHC and it is our intention that where appropriate they will be loaned to the AAHU for display at the AAAM. Some items owned by the RAAHC, which may not be required in the AAAM, will eventually be transferred to other appropriate organisations for display.

It has also been agreed that the Library at North Fort will remain there for the present under the control of the RAAHC. The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has provided us with tenure for the Library and another building for RAAHC activities. We plan that the Library will be developed as a national research facility on Australian artillery. Contact details for the Library are shown on our website.

One of the projects that the RAAHC continues to administer is Australia's Memorial Walk at North Head Sydney. This Walk honours those who have served or supported the defence of Australia in peace or war. The paved pathway links five monuments erected to remember different conflict periods in Australia's history. These are: Colonial, World War I, World War II, Post WWII and Peacekeeping. Funding for construction of the site commenced with a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs with the majority of the funds being donated from the public and organisations whose contributions are recognized with an engraved paver containing words of their choosing. To date some 4000 individual pavers and 65 Centrepiece pavers have been laid and the available space for the Memorial Walk is filling fast. A dedication of the site is planned for December 2012 after which the site expansion will be limited. It is recommended that any of your members seeking to have a memorial paver laid in the Walk before its dedication later this year should initiate their request now.

It would be appreciated if you could pass on information about the RAAHC and the Walk to your members through your publications and website, and consider other ways that we may support each other.

You are very welcome to contact me or the secretary via email to either chairman@artilleryhistory.org or secretary@artilleryhistory.org . Alternatively please feel free to telephone or write to our mailbox.

Yours Sincerely



Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)
Chairman RAAHC Board