

Notice Board Messages

1. Message from The President

I have a number of things to update so please bear with me:

1.1 Corona Virus - I sincerely hope this email finds you all well and trust you are taking precautions to avoid this virus. I expect our membership will suffer from this pandemic and would appreciate any information about our members who might be in strife.

1.2 ANZAC Day - As we know now, the marches in the major cities are cancelled. The Regt does not yet know if the traditional dawn service will have to be cancelled and it may be a couple of weeks before the CO needs to decide. (see below item 3, an update item from CO. Ed) Based on what we know, I expect all ANZAC Day gatherings (dawn services, marches and post march assemblies like the Stock Exchange Hotel) will be cancelled. I am preparing to observe the day quietly with my family. I will advise further as the situation develops.

1.3 Golf Weekend - Steve Lamont has been organising the Golf Weekend in Apr, but I fear it will likely be cancelled due to the virus. I will try to confirm with Steve.

1.4 LSTAA Reunion - We are presently working on a reunion in Oct. The basic concept is:

A. Fri 16 Oct - Cocktail Party at Kedron-Wavell RSL

B. Sat 17 Oct - Participate in the 20 Regt Family Day at Fort Lytton (www.fortlytton.org.au)

C. Sun 18 Oct - Pub Lunch

We have a little bit of planning to do with the Regt before we can push out some better info but I hope to do that soon.

1.5 20th Regt Update

The Regt is busy as usual. The new CO, LTCOL Wade Cooper has certainly made his presence known. The Regt looks refreshed and energised.

132 Bty is in Oakey, QLD conducting an exercise. This one is different, the Bty is flying in military airspace but, for the first time, over civilian land. The Regt continues to push the Shadow drone to its maximum capability. Soon, 132 Bty will head to Townsville to support 3 BDE.

131 Bty is getting ready to deploy to Wide Bay to support STA Wing as they train the Regt's newest soldiers.

CSS Bty continues to keep the Regt moving forward. They are putting the finishing touches to upgrading the Shadow capability from the old UNIMOG trucks to the brand new LAND 121 MAN 40M vehicles.

The Small UAS Troop has now returned from Victoria and the ACT after supporting emergency services during the recent bushfire ops. They did a superb job, providing vital information to the firefighters about the location and movement of fires. They also saved emergency services precious time and resources in providing information about routes and infrastructure after fires passed through areas.

You may also hear about Op Spt Bty. LTCOL Cooper has adapted RHQ into a separate Bty to improve the training and admin of the RHQ soldiers. The OPSO is the BC, and the OpsWO is the BSM. This initiative is working extremely well.

On the future capability front, the Regt is working hard to prepare for the \$400M project to replace Shadow and raise 133 Bty. We expect 133 Bty to commence raising in 2023. We are waiting for the Artillery Modernisation Plan to see where the Regt is headed with Weapon Locating Radar and Long Range Fires.

Safe to say, the Regt is well and, in fact, thriving.

Again, I hope this finds you all well.

Please do not hesitate to come back with any questions.

Russ A Hamsey
President
LSTAA

2. Message from the CO 20th Regiment RAA

As a result of direction from our higher HQ, the ANZAC dawn service at 20 Regt will be cancelled for this year.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The RSM is scoping options to informally meet up for a beer on ANZAC day – adhering to social distancing policy of course!

Wade Cooper
LTCOL
CO 20th Regt RAA

3. Vale Kevin Salter

We have been advised by David Troedel of the death (on 25th March 2020) of Kevin Salter. He had not been well for some time. Kevin was a Stalwart of 101 Battery in Malaya and revered for his survey skills within the Locating community and indeed, the RAA overall.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, no funeral will be held however cards and condolences can be sent to Kevin's widow, Marjorie, at 141 The Palms, 2 Melody Court, Warana. QLD 4575.