



# Army



## Fact Sheet No 5

# Puckapunyal Combined Arms Heritage Learning Centre





The Federal Government's decision to construct the Puckapunyal Combined Arms Heritage and Learning Centre (CAHLC) will provide a modern, purpose-built facility to house the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) and Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) heritage collections. When it opens in financial year 2024-2025, the CAHLC will place the RAAC heritage and technical collections under one roof for the first time. For the RAA, the CAHLC will provide the first permanent home for the heritage collection since the Artillery Museum's closure at North Head, NSW in 2010.

We have been involved in each step of the CAHLC's design process, and look forward to its opening when soldiers, veterans and their families, as well as the broader community, will have direct access to one of the world's best collections of armoured fighting vehicles and artillery pieces. More importantly, it will showcase the proud history of the RAAC's and RAA's soldiers and their contribution to Australia's security. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the AAHU museum staff and volunteers for your continued work to promote our history and protect our heritage.



# Head of Corps, Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC)

## Head of Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA)

In December, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works approved construction of the Puckapunyal Combined Arms Heritage Learning Centre (CAHLC) to house the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) and Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) heritage collections. Defence's Security and Estate Group continues to manage this project, and has commenced procurement activities for a Head Contractor who will be responsible for the construction of the CAHLC. Contract award for the Head Contractor is anticipated to occur in mid-2022, with construction of the CAHLC estimated to be complete in late 2024.

The CAHLC will replace the existing Australian Army Tank Museum and the Australian Army Artillery Museum, which is currently in storage since it was relocated from North Head in 2011. When it opens in Financial Year 2024/2025, the CAHLC will be the Australian Army's fourth purpose-designed museum (the others being the Flying Museum at Oakey, the Infantry Museum at Singleton and the Museum of Military Engineering at Holsworthy). This decision brings the total investment in new museum facilities for Army since 2005 to \$100 million, reflecting Army's commitment to promoting its history and preserving its heritage.

With over 5000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, the CAHLC will be the largest of Army's sixteen museums. Exhibition planning is at an advanced stage, in consultation with the RAAC Head of Corps and the RAA Head of Regiment. The exhibitions will provide an engaging and educative window into the history of the RAAC and RAA and reflect on the similarities between the corps' historical roles and how they are conducted today.

In the large exhibition space, this will be achieved through the use of the combat functions for both RAA and RAAC as the primary themes. These systems are quickly recognisable to Corps members and, although many of the themes will have a contemporary name, the functions can be traced back to the very start of each Corps under a different title. This will provide rapid comprehension for serving members but also be easily understood and educative for other visitor demographics. For example, large heritage equipment from different periods will be able to be displayed under one theme (offensive support, for example) which would otherwise be difficult to achieve. The smaller climate-controlled exhibition spaces will highlight the achievements, development and people of both the RAA and RAAC throughout their respective histories.

This exhibition concept will allow the CAHLC to **support the training and development** of RAAC and RAA personnel, as well as across Army, the Australian Defence Force and the Department of Defence more broadly. It will also provide **direct public access** to the RAAC and RAA collections for veterans and their families, and the broader Australian community. The CAHLC will be located on a Greenfield site, immediately west of the Puckapunyal base's main entry gate on Blamey Avenue, which means that public visitors will not have to enter the Puckapunyal base to visit the CAHLC.



## The Australian Army Tank Museum

Work on the RAAC heritage and technical collections continues, in preparation for the CAHLC's construction.

This Centurion Main Battle Tank 169053, "3-Charlie", has been undergoing restoration works over the past 12 months. 3C has been sandblasted, repainted and is now undergoing external works to restore it to the way it looked in South Vietnam in 1970. Research has been undertaken using in-theatre photos and original logbook entries.



## The Australian Army Tank Museum

These Saracen Armoured Command Vehicle and Armoured Personnel Carrier are currently undergoing internal and external works. Over the past twelve months, both vehicles were repainted and markings applied to represent two different roles within the same time period: Australian Olive Drab and 4th/19th Prince of Wales' Light Horse markings for the Armoured Command Vehicle variant, and early 1960s bronze-green and 1st Pentropic Division markings for the Armoured Personnel Carrier.



## The Australian Army Tank Museum

Detailed restoration works have been undertaken over the past six months on this M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier 134222 fitted with 106mm Recoilless rifle in the Anti-Armour role. This role was unique in that only two vehicles were converted, the first being a standard Armoured Personnel Carrier (unit prototype), while the second was a production-run vehicle with modified internal fittings. Restoration of and research into "61-Bravo" – the call sign allocated to the prototype vehicle – has been undertaken using photos and information from current and ex-serving member of the 5th/7th Battalion Royal Australian Regi-



## The Australian Army Tank Museum

This Leopard Main Battle Tank, relocated from Bandiana twelve months ago, has had the Mobile Camouflage Systems applied to the hull and turret, and will bear markings of the 1st Armoured Regiment's Special Equipment Troop (part of Headquarters Squadron).



## The Australian Army Tank Museum

This Leopard has been repainted to the original German Federal Green colour when the tanks were first introduced into service after arriving in Australia. Colour matching was conducted in Melbourne using original paint from (Complete Equipment Schedule) equipment items. This vehicle will carry markings applied to represent call sign '3-Delta" (Dozer tank C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment) as it appeared



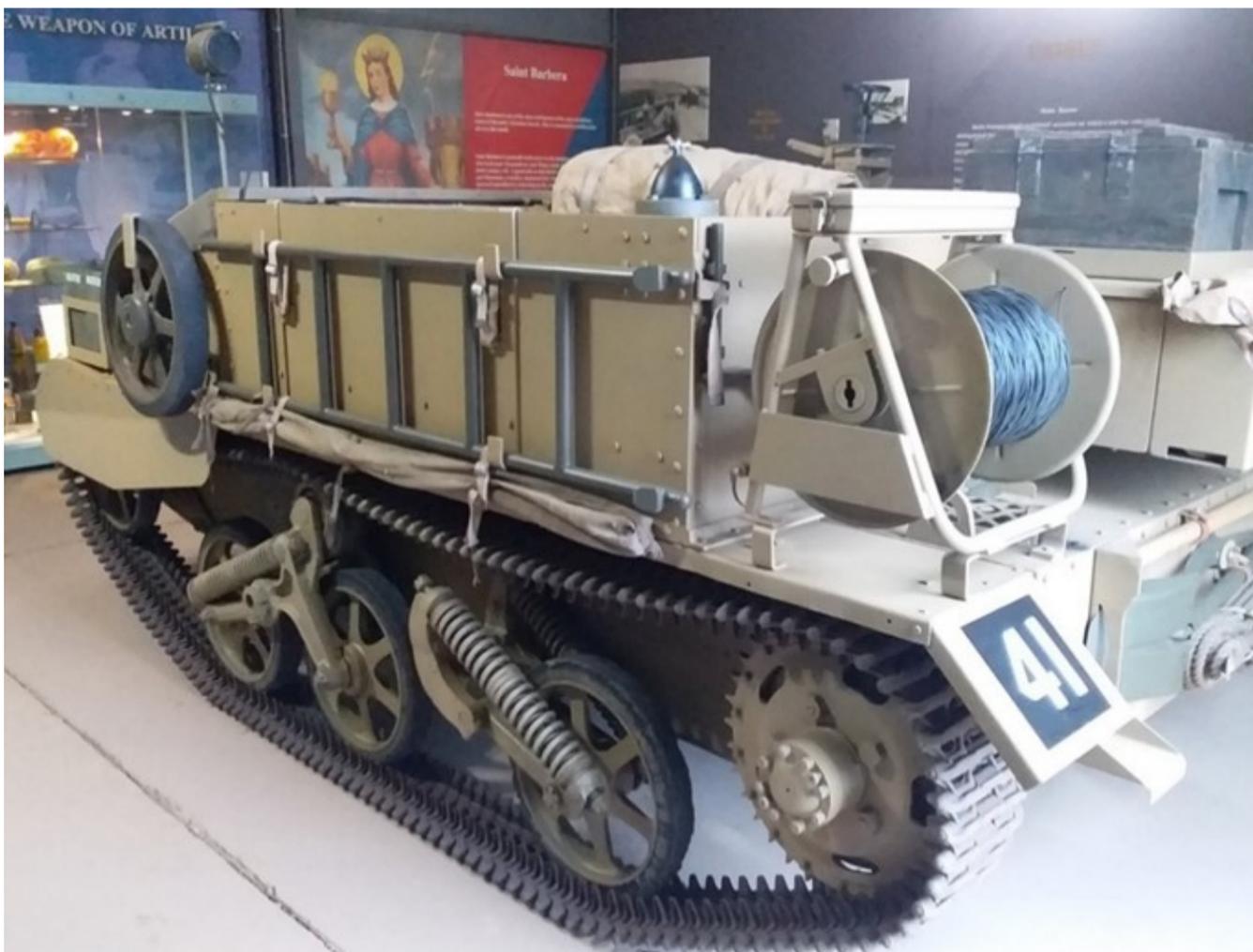
## The Australian Army Artillery Museum

Work on a Marmon Herington gun tractor with a Mark I 25-pounder Quick Firing gun and limber is progressing, with the gun almost complete. The gun tyres are currently being replaced, to be followed by the limber tyres. Work on the wooden floor boards for the bed of the truck is planned next once space becomes available in the workshop. The Marmon Herington's cabin will require sheet metal work and painting at a later date.



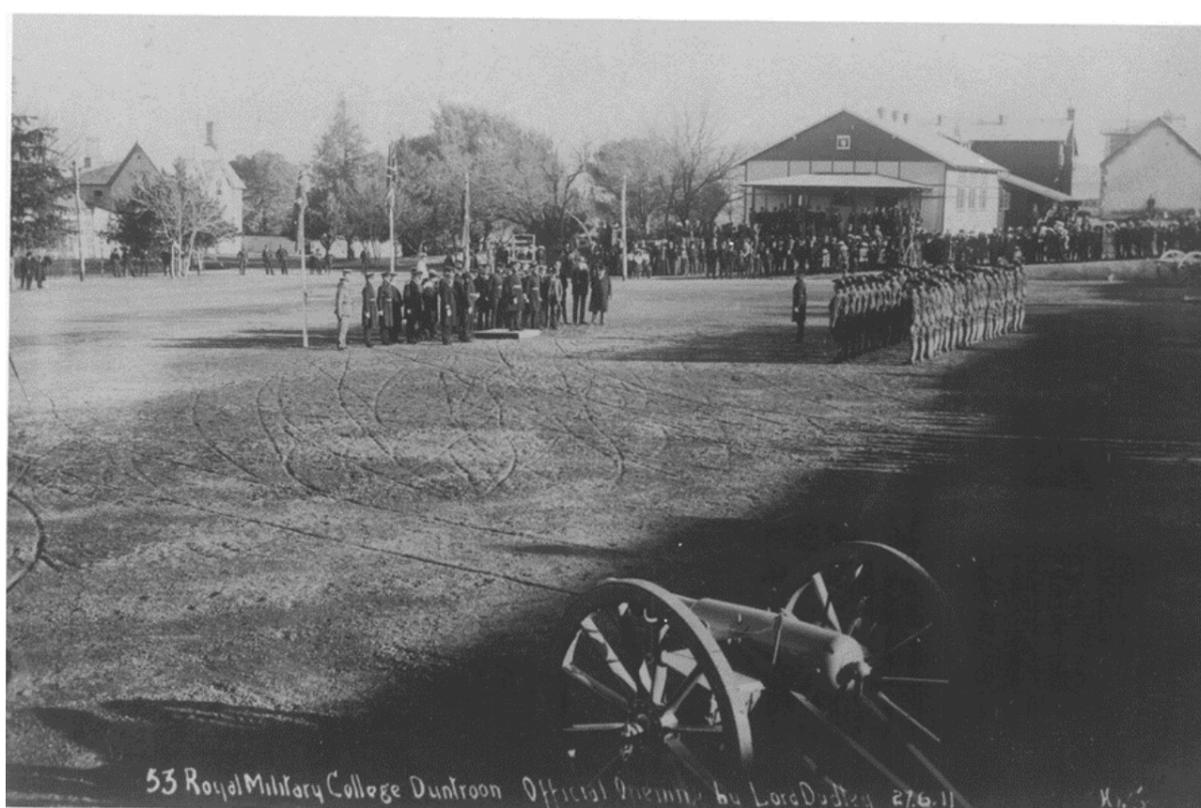
# The Australian Army Artillery Museum

Restoration is complete on the Artillery Observation Post – Carrier Universal.  
This is a new addition to the Artillery Museum collection and will be displayed in the CAHLC.



## The Australian Army Artillery Museum

There have also been some recent acquisitions to the collection. Last year, AAHU acquired a 9 Pounder 6 CWT gun serial number 416 (see image below). Six 9-pounder guns were used by the permanent battery of the New South Wales Field Artillery and saw active service with the NSW Sudan contingent in 1885. The guns were replaced in 1898 and disposed of around 1910. Two of the six guns, serial numbers 362 and 416 (the one now in the RAA heritage collection) were retained at RMC Duntroon as sentinel pieces (see image below). The gun will require some restoration and a new carriage but is a significant addition.



## The Australian Army Artillery Museum

Recently, AAHU also acquired an Ordnance QF 18/25 Pounder Mark I (image below). This gun will also require some work but is rare and represents a significant addition to the collection.

