

From: Lithgow City Council
Sent: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 08:58:38 +1100
To: Technology One Connect
Subject: FW: Acquisition of 5.5" Artillery Gun

#ECMBODY

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 February 2021 10:47 AM
To: Lithgow City Council <council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Acquisition of 5.5" Artillery Gun

Dear Sir,

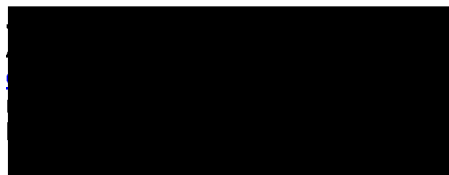
Some years ago, as the Site Manager of the Small Arms Factory, I was instrumental in obtaining the second 3.7" anti aircraft gun from the then ADI site at Maribyrnong Victoria. Initially it was mounted on a concrete plinth inside the SAF fence line adjacent to the SA Museum. It & the second 3.7" AA Gun were later moved to the site at South Bowenfells. The rationale being that the guns, which did play a part in WW2 protecting the SAF from perceived air attack, would be a viable tourist attraction. This expectation never occurred. I was also instrumental in donating the 25pdr Field Gun located outside the factory to the Kokoda Foundation for it to be located at Owers Corner on the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea, where it sits today.

The Lithgow RSL Sub-Branch has not thought through the rationale of obtaining the 5.5" Artillery piece which like the 25pdr Field Gun has no significance to Lithgow history, unlike the Small Arm Museum which does relate to the history. I offer the following to reject the concept:

- There is no evidence that the acquisition of the gun would contribute to tourism (I refer to my comment above regarding the 3.7" AA guns at South Bowenfells)
- Artillery Guns acquired from the ADF by various RSLs & Councils & placed on display outside clubs or in Council parks soon succumb to the ravages of the weather , they rust & become an eye sore & a potential safety hazard to children who want to climb over the displayed guns.

The above for your consideration in rejecting the proposal.





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