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# The Purple Circle

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**Autumn Edition 2020**



**13 Fd Sqn – 2019 Award Winners  
Cpl Matt Wiltshire & Spr Jared Bray**

## **Passing Parade**

**Colin Edgar Smith** passed away on 23 August 2019, aged 99 years and 3 months. Colin enlisted on 3 August 1941 and was discharged on 21 February 1947. Colin served with 7 Army Troop Company in WA and Bougainville. When the war ended, he volunteered to stay on and went to Morotai for a short period and then to Japan as a part of the allied occupation forces.

**John Kendall Smith** passed away on 13 November 2019, aged 89 years. John served in the RAE for 6 years from 1948 to 1954. The first 2 years at the SME Tech Trades School and the remaining 4 years with 1 Fd Sqn.

**Stephen William Chapman** passed away in December 2019, aged 71 years and 9 months. Stephen was RAEME and served in Vietnam from October 1970 to November 1971 with 17 Construction Squadron Workshops.

**David John (Tracker) Gordon** passed away on 23 December 2019. Tracker served with 22 Const Sqn from 1978 to 1982 and became a plantie in 1979. He deployed with the Sqn in 1979 to the Montebello Island to assist in the clean up after British explosive testing.

**William John (Billy) Maher** passed away in early January 2020, aged 75 years and 5 months. Billy served in Vietnam from January 1969 to January 1970 with 1 Fd Sqn.

**George Hamill** passed away on 5 January 2020, aged 69 years and 11 months. George served in Vietnam from March 1969 to March 1970 with 1 Fd Sqn and again from August 1971 to March 1972 with Detach 30 Terminal Sqn. He also served with 22 Const Sqn.

**George (Dutchy) Van De Wege** passed away on 21 January 2020, aged 70 years and 11 months. Dutchy served in Vietnam from September 1971 to February 1972 with 21 Engr Spt Tp and 55 Engr Wks & Pks Sqn.

**Peter Rhys Cosh** passed away on 15 February 2020, aged 73 years and 6 months. Peter served in Vietnam from August 1967 to September 1968 with 1 Fd Sqn.

**Kenneth Arthur (Ken) Sargent** passed away on 20 February 2020, aged 74 years and 9 months. Ken served in Vietnam from March 1968 to December 1968 with 17 Const Sqn.

**LEST WE FORGET**

## **Names on the Life Members Honour Board**

**Warwick Broomfield** joined the RAAF and served in WW2 as a navigator in the RAF Bomber Command.

After the war, he joined the CMF in the early 1950's and went to 13 Fd Sqn as a Captain, he also served in the CMF Troop attached to 22 Const Sqn.

Warwick became a member of the Association around 1987 and was elected Jnr Vice Pres in 1989 and Snr Vice Pres in 1990, a position he held until 2005 when he had to step down because of ill health.

Warwick was an architect by profession and at the request of Mick Ryan, he designed our Memorial Precinct in 1999.

Warwick was given Life Membership in 1998.

**Neville Clark** was born in Bunbury in 1935 and grew up in Burekup.

Neville joined the Army in 1951 as a 6<sup>th</sup> Intake Army Apprentice carpenter & joiner. After graduating from the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe, Victoria, he was assigned to the Royal Australian Engineers.

Neville served 30 years having a range of postings in the RAE with 22 Const Sqn, 1 Ind Fd Sqn, 17 Const Sqn, Det 24 Const Sqn (PNG) and then attached to RAOC with 5 Base Ord Depot, 131 Div Loc Bty Wksp, 33 Sup Bn, Log Comd AHQ and 51 Sup Bn Perth.

Neville took discharge in January 1981 with the rank of WO1. He joined the RAE Association in 1988 and became a committee member in 1991, JVP in 1992 and Sec/Treas in 1995. He remained treasurer until 2017 and secretary until 2018 but stayed on the committee as a committee member.

Neville was given Life Membership in 1998

## **Australian Honours & Awards**

The following members received Awards in the Australia Day 2020 Honours List on 26 January 2020:

**Graham McKenzie-Smith** awarded the Member of Order of Australia (AM) General Division for significant services to military history preservation and forestry.

**Ronald Francis (Tex) McPherson** awarded the Emergency Services Medal for services to Fire and Emergency Services Authority WA.

**LTCOL Glen Billington** awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) for outstanding achievement as Commanding Officer and Chief Engineer of 19 CE Works in Sydney.

## MEET OUR MEMBERS



### Jim Spink

Jim was born in East Malvern, Victoria in 1951 and has one brother. His Dad was in the navy and posted to Leeuwin in 1953 and Jim has lived in WA ever since.

He attended Nollamara Primary School and Tuart Hill High School. Jim started work at 16 as a telegram boy and became a Postal clerk in 1969. He had several moves around the Metro area as well as country postings to Gnowangerup, Dumbleyung, Exmouth, Port Hedland and Paraburdoo to name a few.

He enlisted in the CMF in 1970 with 16 Bn at Katanning, transferred to 10LH Perth, then to 28 Bn in Exmouth, 10LH again, Pilbara Regt and finally 13 Fd Sqn in 1986 until he took discharge in 2011.

After leaving the post office, Jim worked as a hotel porter then in 1993 became a bus driver with Transperth where he still works. He is our long standing bus driver on ANZAC Day.

Jim met his wife Alice at a church social in 1969 and they married in 1971. They have 2 sons (one deceased), a daughter and 11 grandchildren.

Jim and Ali live in Balga.



### Gordon Temby

Gordon was born Hamilton, Victoria in 1950 and has an older brother. He grew up on a sheep station riding horses and motor bikes. Gordon attended Hamilton Primary School and Hamilton High School.

He left school at the end of 1966 and his first job was as a surveyor chainman/draughtsman. Gordon joined the army in August 1967 with the hopes of joining the Survey corps only to be posted to the RAE after recruit training.

Gordon was immediately posted to 2RTB Pucka and spent the next 2 years as a drill instructor. He was able to do his Corps training at SME in that time. At the age of 19 he was posted to 3Tp, 1Fd Sqn Vietnam from October 1969 to May 1971 He served as a combat engineer with 9, 8 and 4 RAR, SAS, 3 Cav and 1 Armd Regt.

On return to Australia, Gordon was posted to 18 Fd Sqn, Townsville, then to PNG on bomb disposal duties before being posted as Sgt Instructor at NBC Wing, SME. He took discharge in August 1973 and his replacement at NBC Wing was Sgt Mick Ryan.

Gordon met his wife Fran while travelling around Europe and the sub-continent. They married in 1976 and have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

Gordon is a registered builder and he and Fran live in Margaret River.

## **13 Fd Sqn**

Tuesday evening, 10 December 2019 saw the Sqn hold their 2019 presentation night after a short information training period. Cpl Matt Wiltshire won the RAE Assoc Junior NCO Award and Spr Jared Bray took off the Top Sapper Award (See front cover).

Farewells presentations were made to Maj Daniel Kennedy-Stiff who has transferred to the Inactive list (Sercat 2) due to work pressures. Glen McDermott is the new OC and has been promoted to Major. Capt Charlotte Woollard, Sgt Matt Mitten and Cpl Arron Chandler have been posted to WAUR with their positions being filled from within the Squadron.

## **32 Small Ship Squadron**

In the last Edition, there was a story and photos about 32 Small Ship Squadron. A photo of AT2383 Mollymawk has come into my possession and is pictured below.



AT2383 Mollymawk served with 32 Small Ship Squadron from 1957 to 1963.

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## **Reunions**

The 2020 Ex 22 Const Sqn reunion will be held on 18 April at the RSL Hall in Osborne Park. The reunion is open to RAE Association members. If you intend going, please send return and money to Ex 22 President Norm Wells.

The Association is organising a Sapper Reunion & Picnic for 10 May 2020 at Pioneer Park in Gosnells. The event is open to all sappers and their families.

See attached flyers for both events.



## **RAE Assistance to Bush Fires**

When the Federal government issued a callout for military assistance to help fight the bush fires in NSW and Victoria, The RAE was at the forefront of that assistance.



Both Cpl Ross Lorenz and LCpl Rick Williams are civil engineers by profession. LCpl Williams is also a qualified surveyor



Photos courtesy of Army Newspaper



## **Cadet RSM Certificate Presentation**

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January this year, Peter Billington and Ian Johnston attended the Cadet march out parade at Leeuwin Barrack, East Fremantle. The parade marked the end of an intensive 9 day Senior Leadership course.

It also marked the handover of Cadet RSM's pace stick from the outgoing Cadet RSM ?? to the incoming Cadet RSM Zack Leask.

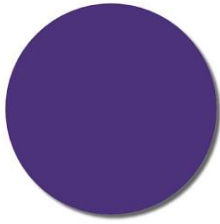
Once again, the parade was a credit to the senior cadets and the cadet staff for the professional way in which the parade was conducted. The parade was supported by the 51<sup>st</sup> ACU Drums and Pipes, Swan Regiment.

To me the parade held on the grass oval did not have the proper parade ground sound of boots on bitumen when doing parade drill.



RAE Association President Ian Johnston presenting Cadet RSM Zack Leask with his scholarship certificate.

## 13 FIELD SQUADRON



**Raised:** 1 July 1912

**Mascot:** 'Red Devil'

### **Brief History:**

Tracing its origins to 7 FD COY Australian Engineers in 1910, 13 Field Company was established on the 1st July 1912 and is one of the longest continually serving units within Western Australia.

Being part of the Volunteer Army at the outbreak of the first World War and therefore ineligible to be deployed as an entire unit with the First AIF, some 4 Officers and 96 other ranks joined the AIF to seek service overseas. This included the Officer Commanding, Major Pidgeon. Some of these volunteers were involved in the first action that Australian Engineers saw in World War One. The war took its toll however with 15 of its member making the supreme sacrifice.

The remainder of the unit in Australia continued active as part of the Citizen Militia Forces during the war.

The unit again took up the challenge at the outbreak of the Second World War. However, this time the unit was mobilised in defence of Australia to build fortifications at Rottnest Island and then Darwin for similar work. In 1943 the unit was deployed to New Britain and New Guinea against the Japanese, constructing lines of communications, wharfs, conducting mine sweeping operations and supplying water to the forces there. At the cessation of conflict, the unit was charged with administering some 140,000 prisoners of war in New Britain.

As part of the general de-mobilisation of the army after the war the unit was demobbed from 1946 to 1947 before being raised once again, this time with the title 13 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers in 1948.

With the designation of Combat Engineers, the Squadron has been serving continuously since that time and has been involved in numerous



activities in and around Western Australia, interstate and on deployments overseas.

As part of their general job description, Combat Engineers conduct mine clearing operations, high risk search for explosives, bridge construction, explosive demolition, plant operation, water supply, forestry and general construction tasks.

The Squadron is based at Irwin Barracks in Karrakatta and is blessed with strong loyalty from past and present members of the Unit. These men and women, who over the years have fostered many traditions and are proud to bear the title-

## **“The Little Red Devils”**

**Author unknown**

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### **Luncheon**

The first luncheon for 2020 was held at the Inglewood Hotel on Tuesday 10 March. 18 members and partners attended and a couple of new faces.

Our next luncheon is planned to be a country event sometime around mid- late June. More information will be provided when location and date have been finalised.

### **Next Meetings**

Upcoming general meetings have been scheduled for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Meetings will start at the usual time of 11.00am in the Ryan Club.

Guest speakers for the 22<sup>nd</sup> March meeting will be CUO Edward Alias and Cdt RSM Zack Leask. For the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May, COL Amanda Williamson has indicated that she will be our guest speaker. COL Williamson is the Colonel Training, Headquarters 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

There will be no ANZAC meeting as there is no training weekend programmed for April.

Members will be advised by email or letter of all timings for our Dawn Service and march through the city when the timings are received from 13 Fd Sqn.

The date for our AGM looks like being Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

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# THE RAE ASSOCIATION OF WA IS

CALLING ALL PAST AND PRESENT  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

TO A SAPPER REUNION

& PICNIC



DATE -10 MAY 2020

TIME - 1100 - 1400 hrs

PLACE- PIONEER PARK,

2120 ALBANY HWY GOSNELLS

BBQs, PARK BENCHS, TOILETS AVAILABLE

THIS IS A FAMILY FUNCTION OPEN TO

WIVES, HUSBANDS, GIRL FRIENDS,

CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN

**B.Y.O FOOD & DRINKS**

IF YOU KNOW AN EX SAPPER, TELL HIM OR HER ABOUT THE  
REUNION

THIS IS A WORD OF MOUTH FUNCTION

*For more details, contact*

**VANCE BOND**

**0433 763 118**

[vancebond006@gmail.com](mailto:vancebond006@gmail.com)

**RUSSELL McENTYRE**

**0408 901 841**

[leanruss\\_59@iinet.net.au](mailto:leanruss_59@iinet.net.au)



## 2020 RE-UNION ATTENDANCE RETURN

**SATURDAY 1200hrs 18 April 2020**

**RSL HALL OSBORNE PARK**

**129 Main Street (Cnr of Cape)**

***Please* RETURN PRONTO**

Are you coming?      YES / NO

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please write any new Email or contact change on back of return.*

*If not attending please let us know if you hope to attend in the future.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
No change to function cost of \$30.00 please enclose with return or bank transfer to:

**Bankwest BSB & Acct No: 306-096 4153107 (Ensure your name included)**

Society Acct: **EX 22 Construction Squadron Re-union**

Any remittance mail or correspondence to President -**Acting / Treas**

(Due to absence of Sec / Treas Kev Poynton)

**Norm Wells at**

**124 Eton Street**

**NORTH PERTH 6006**

**ntwells@iinet.net.au**

Looking forward to your company