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The Purple Circle

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Spring Edition 2015

The Engineer By Ian Coate

In times of great adversity, when backed against a wall.
When soldier's lives are on the line, there's someone you should call.

When obstacles become too great, do not give in to fear.
Get on your two-way radio and call an Engineer.

They find a way to overcome all problems in their way.
Their skills of ingenuity will always save the day.

They're soldiers with ability to think outside the square.
They'll do the jobs that have the risks, which others wouldn't dare.

They have a mind for making things that sets them from the rest.
And when it comes to breaking things, they've proved they are the best.

In battles past they've shown their worth - they're cunning as a fox.
The way they overcome their tasks is quite unorthodox.

Their soldier skills are dinky-di - as good as any grunt.
When battle starts, they know their place - they're always at the front.

So if you need a helping hand, there's one you should implore.
The soldier from that canny place - the Engineer Corps.

And if you need a real good mate to join you for a beer.
You know the man to call upon - that's right, the Engineer.

Next Meetings

The final meeting before Christmas is planned to be held on 22 November 2015. Dates for 2016 will be advised when the 2016 Brigade Training Program becomes available and we have had a chance to discuss the program with 13 Fd Sqn. At this stage it is anticipated to be early February.

Passing Parade

Thomas Pedersen passed away on 1 August 2015. Tom was aged 83 years. Tom served with 1 Fd Sqn, 7 Ind Fd Sqn and CRE W Comd and saw overseas service in Korea and Japan. Tom was a member of the Association.

Ronald Leslie (Blue) Thompson passed away on 22 August 2015. Blue was aged 69 years. Blue was a 17th Intake Army Apprentice carpenter & joiner. He served with 1 Fd Sqn, 7 Fd Sqn and 22 Const Sqn as well as completing 2 tours of Vietnam with 21 Engineer Support Troop in 1966-67 and 1969-70. Blue was a member of the Association.

Sick Parade

Mick Ryan has been in St John of God hospital since August being cared for and looked after by the wonderful staff. He is no longer able to go home and is being held in hospital as he waits for a position in a care facility.

Fred Banyard had a few days in Bethesda Hospital in September for minor surgery on a sore leg and is back home again. Everything is healing well and Fred expects to be back walking around Claremont and Cottesloe pretty soon.

New Members

Donald Gunn (Cpl) served in the ARA 1965 - 1968. Donald served with 102 Fd Wksps, Vietnam in the vehicle recovery section and with 22 Const Sqn Wksps.

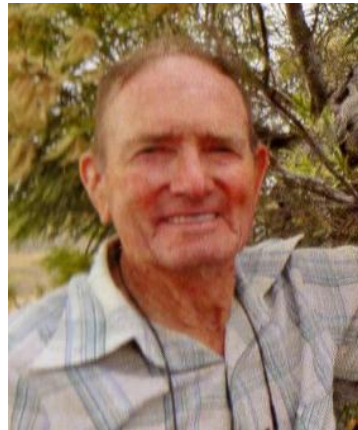
Ross Williamson (Lt Col) served in the Active Reserve 1981 - 2008 and Standby Reserve 2008 - 2014. Ross had 16 different postings across Queensland in his 27 year Active Reserve career including postings to 4FER, 11 Fd Sqn, 2CER, 1 Div Engr HQ and numerous non-corps postings. Ross also completed a 12 month tour of duty with the UN in East Timor. Ross is now a Senior Rail Safety Officer with the Dept of Transport.

Words of Wisdom

Spoil not the present by looking too much at the past.

IN MEMORY OF

Lionel John Metcalf



John Metcalf was born on 30th October 1920 in Northam, one of eight children. John grew up on the family farm and went to school at Koomberkine, travelling by horse and cart to school. He also attended Wesley College but found the class rooms to small for his liking and after one year returned to the farm.

With the depression hitting the farming communities hard, John soon found out he had to pull his weight helping to run the farm.

With WWII in full swing in Europe and North Africa and the Japanese marching toward Australia, John enlisted on 18th July 1942 and was assigned to 13 Field Company serving in Northern Territory and on New Britain.

John started in 2 Section until it became known that he was a farm lad and worked with machinery and was a bit of a handy man with the tools. He was transferred to the workshop section to help repair and maintain the Unit's stores.

John was demobilised in September 1945 and returned to the farm in Dowerin. In 1948 he married Mavis Whelan and they had three children, Carol, John and Dianne.

John had an unquenchable appetite for improving farm machinery and equipment to make life easier on the farm. At the age of 70 John embraced modern technology, learning to use a P.C., he connected to the net at 75, emails at 80 and facebook at 85.

John was the inaugural President of the Dowerin Machinery Field Day committee. He was a member of the Dowerin Masonic Lodge, RSL, WA National Party and the WA Farmers Federation. He was awarded life membership of the WA Farmers Federation and the Dowerin Machinery Field Day as well as a Distinguished Service medal from the National Party.

John passed away on 28th June 2015 aged 94 years 8 months. He is survived by his 3 children, 9 grand children and 16 great grand children.

LEST WE FORGET

Work Acknowledged in Canberra

In the House of Representatives on Wednesday 19 August 2015, MP Ms Alannah MacTiernan acknowledged the work of sculpture Ron Gomboc. Members are always welcome to visit Ron and Terri at their Swan View Studio.



Wednesday, 19 August 2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

116

SPEECH

Date Wednesday, 19 August 2015	Source House
Page 116	Proof Yes
Questioner	Responder
Speaker MacTiernan, Alannah, MP	Question No.

Ms MacTIERNAN (Perth) (10:19): Today I want to acknowledge the talent of Perth sculptor Ron Gomboc and to record how pleased we have been to have helped him with one of his projects. Many members may recall the fabulous Swan Valley showcase that we had in June, in Parliament House, where the great produce of the Swan Valley was on display. And of course one of the people displaying their talents and their produce was Ron Gomboc. At that event Ron showed me this beautiful little statuette which had been produced for the Australian Film Institute and the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts. This beautiful little object here is 22 karat gold plated and has Australian tiger iron, which is a gemstone mined in Western Australia and which really captures, along with the design, the spirit of Australia and the Australian outback.

I think it is important to understand that each of the statuettes is individually produced in order to reflect the individual talent of the recipients. Since 2011 this effectively has been the 'Australian Oscar'. It has been received by the likes of Jessica Mauboy, Cate Blanchett and Meryl Streep. Ron explained to us that he was having some small problems and misunderstandings that had emerged with the AFI over the production of the next set of these glorious objects. But I am very pleased to say that we have been able to sort these problems out, and I really want to acknowledge the helpfulness of AFI CEO Damian Trehwella in expediting this process. We have had a win all around—our Western Australian artist getting to lovingly craft his beautiful design and the brightest stars of our film industry being acknowledged with a fully authentic Australian artwork.

6 Engineer Support Regiment at Work

6 ESR have been very busy this year, along with their AACAP commitments at Titjikala, NT, other Squadrons were involved in work tasks on Bougainville, Holsworthy Range and at Gallipoli Barracks.



17 Const Sqn rebuilding the Piruana School near Arawa, assisted by troops from the US Navy Seabees and Timor Leste Engineers



17 Const Sqn continues work constructing and upgrading of roads at the Explosive Hazards Training Area on Holsworthy Range.



1 Troop, 20 EOD Sqn were involved in training around Gallipoli Barracks while 2 Troop provided support to 7 Brigade on Exercise Talisman Sabre 2015.

Sandakan Day

Sunday 23 August was Sandakan Day and a memorial service was held in Kings Park to commemorate the loss of life at the Sandakan POW Camp and on the Death March in Borneo. Neville Clark placed a Wreath on behalf of the Association in memory of the Sappers who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



Sandakan Memorial



Catafalque Party

13 Field Squadron supplied the Catafalque once again. Aably lead by Cpl Le Bron, the party preformed with great professionalism. They were a credit to the Unit.

Merdeka Day

A commemoration service was held at the State War Memorial, Kings Park on Monday 31 August to honour the service of all Commonwealth Armed Forces personnel who served in South East Asia since the end of World War 2 and to remember those who were killed in the line of duty.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Association by Ian Johnston for the Sappers who served in the Malaysian Emergency conflict, the Malay/ Indonesian conflict in Borneo, Vietnam and the Thai border and East Timor operations.

Merdeka Day is celebrated on the 31st August every year.



Presentation of Life Memberships



As mentioned in the Winter Edition of the 'Purple Circle' Life Membership was awarded to Peter Billington and Ron Gomboc.



At the Association meeting held on 20th September, Peter and Ron were presented with his Life Member badges by Vice President Ian Johnston

Veteran's Luncheon

On 8th September, the Association organised a luncheon for our WW2 veterans, wives and widows. A total of 19 attended including drivers. The luncheon was held at 'Karalee on Preston' tavern in Como.



Betty Ransome and Betty Tucker enjoying lunch and a chat



Brenda Smith and Neville Clark sharing a joke and a hug

Hope & Trust

Every night we go to bed without any assurances of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarm. THAT'S HOPE

When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. THAT'S TRUST

Sausage Sizzles

Since the last 'Purple Circle', the Association held two sausage sizzle fund raising days and Bunnings in Balcatta and Malaga. Both days raising a total of about \$650. The day at Malaga was a wet day and the BBQ area was set up in the trade area where there was little passing trade and sales were poor.

The Association would like to thank all those people who gave up a couple of hours of their time to cook and serve sausages.

Our next sausage sizzle will be on 20 December at Bunnings Malaga. If you are able to help out, please let Neville know by phoning 9342 5808

'Sappers in the West'

Pre -publication sales of our book "Sappers in the West' were excellent and sales after receiving the book from the publishers was good. Sales have slowed now but copies are still available from Neville Clark and Graham McKenzie-Smith.

Moulded Engineer Badges



When new Life Member bars and badges were ordered, the Committee decided to order extra of the moulded Engineer badge medallions for sale to members.

The medallion is 2cm in diameter and are available from Neville at a cost of \$10 each.

Final 'Purple Circle'

A reminder to some of last financial year's members who have not renewed their membership as yet, you have until 31st December 2015 to do so. As this is the last 'Purple Circle' for this year, it will be your last copy if you are still unfinancial on that date . As of 1st January 2016, your names will be deleted from the Association membership register and the mailing list.

Change of Contact Details

We are still getting instances of emails and letters being returned as members have moved or changed contact details. If you move or change your contact details, please let the Secretary/Treasurer (Neville Clark) know so he can keep our records up to date