

PRESIDENT

Mr Bob Gianatti

14 Pownall Gardens,
CHURCHLANDS WA 6018

Ph: 08 9204 2782

Mob: 0411 235 696

Email: robello@inet.net.au



HON. SECRETARY

Mr Nev Clark

26 Linthorne Way,
BALGA WA 6061

Ph: 08 9342 5808

Mob: 0409 342 580

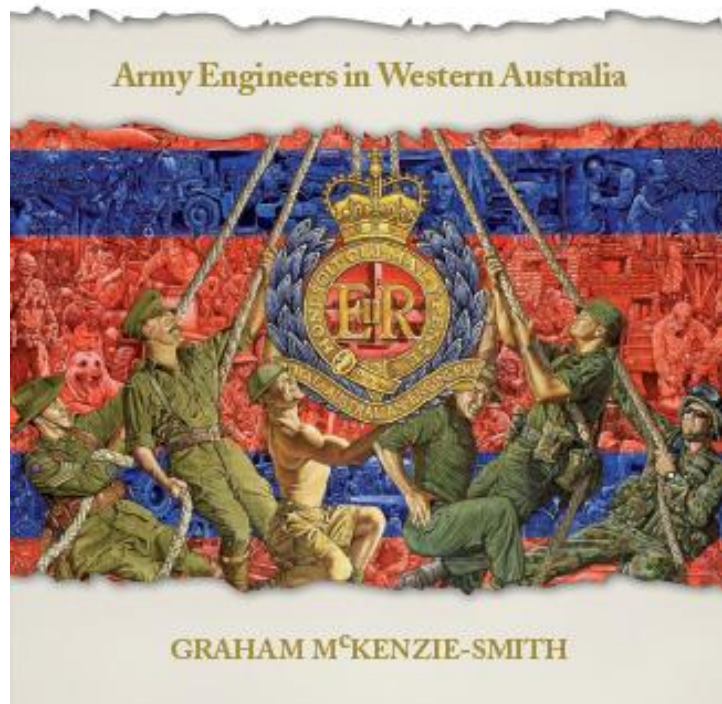
Email: gloria.clark3@bigpond.com

The Purple Circle

Editor: Ian Johnston. Contact 9448 5590

Summer Edition 2015

SAPPERS *in the* WEST



Due out in 2015. Watch this space to order your copy

Association Committee for 2014 - 2015

President Bob Gianatti

Senior Vice President Ian Johnston

Junior Vice President Mick Ryan

Secretary/Treasurer Neville Clark

General Committee Members - Geoff Hacket, Chris Hannah, Bob Horrocks, Duncan Jordon, Graham McKenzie-Smith, Steve O'Neil, Lyn Reynolds, Mike Robinson, Paul Talma, Mike Tolson and Ross Byron (13 Fd Sqn Rep)

Next Meetings

The first meeting of 2015 will be held on 1st February at the Ryan Club, Karrakatta. Meeting to start at 1100 hrs. Lunch will be provided following the meeting.

Further meetings are planned for :- 19th April (pre Anzac Day) and 14th Jun.

Meeting dates for July to December are still to be finalised.

Did You Know

Did you know that in the 1950's, the Australian Army had 6 Construction Squadrons. That's right 6.

A Squadron was located in each state,

17 Const Sqn - Sydney

21 Const Sqn - Puckapunyal

22 Const Sqn - Perth

23 Const Sqn - Adelaide

24 Const Sqn - Brisbane

25 Const Sqn - Hobart

Sick Parade

There have been no reports of sickness or illness to report. Although there have been plenty of aches and pains caused by people getting older and self-inflicted illnesses caused by over indulgence during the festive season.

Passing Parade

Robert Albert (Bob) Whiteside passed away on 1st October 2014 aged 91 years. Bob serviced in WW2 with 35 Fortress Engineers, 2/7 Advanced Workshops and 1st IMF Water Craft Workshops and served overseas in New Guinea and New Britain

Colin William (Col) Symons passed away on 25 October 2014 aged 78 years. Col was called up in the 1955 National Service draft, served in the CMF 1955 - 58, Regular Army Special Reserve 1958 - 60 and the ARA 1960 - 78. Col served in a number of postings and saw overseas service with 32 Small Ships in New Guinea and Vietnam.

Bluey Evans ex 23 Const Sqn. No other information available at time of going to print.

Roger Anthony Perfrement passed away on 27th December 2014 aged 69 years. Perf joined the Army in 1962 as a 17th Intake Army Apprentice carpenter & joiner. Perf served in a number of Units and saw overseas service with 21 Const Sqn in Borneo and 17 Const Sqn in Vietnam

Retirements

Michael Durnin has finally reached his 'Used by Date'. Discharge date was 25th December 2014. Mick did a combined 42.5 years service in the ARes and ARA. Mick and Cecelia are planning to be in Perth later in January.

Graeme Nagle - It is reported that Nages is retiring. More to follow.

Moving On

Maj Chris Lequaiertermaine is posted as 2IC of 16 Battle Group (RWAR)

Maj Jamie Kurz is being posted in as the new OC of 13 Fd Sqn (RAE)

MEMBER PROFILE

JOHN EDWARD "JACK" O'SULLIVAN (WO2 - RAE - Retd) WX 2778

Jack was born on 7 April 1916 in Dwellingup WA, the oldest of seven children. His six siblings are all deceased.

Jack's early life in Manjimup was centred around family and as a career forester. He picked up his nickname Rogue in these early days as a lad in Manjimup. He joined the 2nd/2nd Forestry Company in 1940 and sailed from Fremantle on 31 May 1940 bound for France to assist in the supply of timber. During the voyage France fell to Germany and his ship was diverted to UK where his company was sent to Thornhill, Scotland to supply timber for the British Army.

In Thornhill he met Jean Glendinning and they married in June 1943. Jean sailed to Australia in 1944 on one of the first war bride ships. She lived in Manjimup with Jack's family until his discharge in 1945.



Jack and Jean 1943



Jack 1993

In late 1943 Jack's company returned to Australia because of the imminent Japanese invasion. He then served as a physical training instructor (WO2) at Wagga Wagga in NSW before being discharged in October 1945.

Soon after his discharge he was appointed as a mature age entry Police Constable (Number 2014). During his police service (1945 - 1976) he worked in Liquor Licensing and then established the Missing Persons Unit before retiring at age 65 in 1976.

Jack and Jean had four children: Glenda (Hollingsworth), Barbara (Wilmot), Evan (deceased) and Grant. They have ten grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. In addition to Jack's Army and Police service, he led a busy family and sporting life. He was awarded life memberships of: Claremont Junior Football Club in 1971, Floreat Park Bowling Club in 1972, the RSL in 1997 and the Forestry Company in 1999.

Jack and Jean lived in Floreat for many years before moving to St Ives in Northshore. Jack recently moved into Lady McCuster Home, Duncraig with Jean a regular visitor.

Jack and Jean celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last year.

Jack is the last surviving member of the 2nd/2nd Forestry Company.

NEW EQUIPMENT



The ADF's first-of-class Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) HMAS Canberra was formally commissioned into service at Fleet Base East in Sydney on 28 November 2014.

The ship and triservice crew will service Australia with great pride.

The second LHD is scheduled to be delivered this year.

Latest in Enemy Mine Clearance Machines



Thongs recommended.

Some Old Faces



REMEMBRANCE DAY

York Sub-Branch member Keith Kermode, who served in Vietnam with 3 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers, meets Daniel Faulkner, head boy of York High School, who made a well researched speech on the significance of the red poppy on Remembrance Day at York Memorial Park.

It's an amazing coincidence Keith said, that last ANZAC Day Daniel read his winning RSL sponsored essay about his grandfather Stewart Law of Bundaberg, Queensland who served with 3 Field Troop and quoted a poem written by him.

3 Field Troop was made up of only 69 regular army Sappers who went to Vietnam with 1st Battalion Group attached to US Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa.

It was 3 Field Troop who discovered and searched the now famous Cu Chi Tunnels and are regarded as the original Tunnel Rats. The first battalion group were subsequently awarded the US Army meritorious unit commendation for service in Vietnam.

Remembrance Day - 2014



Ashley with Katie & Bob Keatch meet Lt Gen & Mrs Sanderson - 2000

Sappers at Work in 2014



Spr Kye French, of 2CER, searches boxes in a storage area at the Brisbane Convention Centre in preparation for the G20 Leaders' Summit. Inset, Spr Peter Knight, of 2CER, and military working dog Bundy make their way through a storage area of the Brisbane Convention Centre with Queensland Police Service Snr-Const Kim Ensinger. Photos by Cpl David Cotton



Sappers from 1CER, 2CER and 3CER provided support to the G20 Leader's Summit. 2CER were responsible for searching the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre while 1CER and 3CER joined the ADF Support to G20 Security Task Force.

Sappers at Work in 1944



Sapper William Tester (left) and Sapper D'Arcy of the 13th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, connect up a compressed air sump pump used for pile driving, during the building of a new bridge across a creek in the Jacquinot Bay area in December 1944. Dozens of bridges were needed to traverse the many creeks and streams in the area. (AWM 027662)

Personal Contact Details

If you have changes any of your personal contact details in the last 2 years could you please advise Ian Johnston - email: ijoh2988@bigpond.net.au - or phone: 9448 5590 OR Neville Clack - email: gloria.clark3@bigpond.com - or phone: 9342 5808.

It makes it very difficult to contact you if your contact details have not been kept up to date.