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The Purple Circle

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Thanks for the Memories

Association Patron

The position of Patron was discussed at the September Committee Meeting and as a result Maj Geoff Stooke OAM (Retd) is now the Patron of the Royal Australian Engineers Association of WA (Inc). Geoff took up the position on 1st January for a tenure of 3 years.

Next Meeting

Dated for our meetings for 2017, January - July, have been selected by the Committee but have to be confirmed with 13 Fd Sqn, who are on holiday break and will not be parading again until weekend 21 - 22 January, and the Ryan Club.

Our first meeting will be the El Kantara meeting proposed for Sunday 19 February. Other proposed dates are - 19 March, 9 April (ANZAC meeting), 21 May and then our AGM on 23 July.

Passing Parade

Major Stuart Brown passed away on 29 November 2016. Stuart was aged 57 years. He was a 32nd Intake Electrical Mechanic Army apprentice. After completing his trade, Stuart, being a West Australian, was posted to 22 Construction Squadron before being posted to the east coast where he served for the rest of his career. Stuart was a serving sapper when he passed away, filling the position as the Executive Officer of 11 Engineer Regiment in Qld.

Brig Ian David Stock passed away on 1 January 2017 aged 88 years. Ian was OC 22 Const Sqn from 1957 to 1959. After discharge, he joined the CMF and was OC 13 Fd Sqn from 1963 to 1965. Ian was promoted to Brigadier when posted as commander of 2 Task Force.

John Edward (Jack) O'Sullivan passed away on 3 January 2017. Jack was aged 100 years and 9 months. Jack served with the 2/2 Forestry Company in Scotland and as a physical training instructor at Wagga Wagga during WWII. Jack joined the AIF in 1940 and was discharged in 1945. After the war, Jack had a 30 year distinguished career with the WA Police Force. Jack was an honorary member of the Association.

Sick Parade

Fred Banyard has moved out of Hollywood Hospital and is now being cared for in Bethanie Warwick aged care facility. For anyone wishing to visit Fred, Bethanie Warwick is located on the corner of Erindale Rd and Ellersdale Ave (behind Warwick Grove Shopping Centre). Parking is available in the shopping centre, just across the road.

Bill Sweet is not sick but has moved into Regis Care in Embleton. For anyone wishing to visit Bill, Regis Care is located on the corner of Broun Ave and Drake St. Parking is available off Drake St.

Website

Our new website was officially up and running on 1st January. To access the website, go to the URL Address Bar and type in .. www.wasappers.com .. and press enter. This should take you to the Website Home page where you will be able to navigate the Website.

MEMBER PROFILE

John Roland (Jack) Benari



Jack Benari was born on 12th February 1923 in Mooney Ponds, Victoria. His family moved to Perth not long after he was born and lived in Nedlands. He has two sisters who were born in Perth. He attended Nedlands Primary School and Claremont Central High School. His first job after leaving school at aged 14 was as a newspaper office boy.

In January 1940, Jack joined the Militia and remained with the Militia until 1942 when he volunteered to join the RAAF and do his bit in the war. After having his enlistment held up, he joined the Army in June 1942 and was allocated to the RAE.

Jack was posted to the Training Battalion in Northam before joining 7 Army Troops Company in 1943. In July the Unit moved to Northern Australia carrying out works around Alice Springs, Mt Isa, Elliot, Tennant Creek, Derby and Wyndham.

In December 1944, the Unit moved to the RAE Training Depot at Kapooka before going to Bougainville in April 1945 where they maintained the 7th Division base area at Torokina and operated the water, power and refrigeration systems, as well as general base maintenance and providing assisting the 2/2 Forestry Company.

Jack returned to Australia in late 1945 and was discharged in January 1946. He returned to work at the Newspapers until he resigned a couple of years later and joined the Public Health Department.

In May 1950, Jack married Dorothy Cooper and they lived in the Hollywood/Nedlands area. They have 4 sons who all live and work in the eastern states with their families.

Jack and Dorothy were living in Nedlands when he retired in 1963. They currently live in Bentley.

From 1953, Jack was an active member of the 7 Army Troops Coy (RAE) Association until it closed in 2011 when he joined the RAE Association.

MEETING OUR MEMBERS



Neville (Wombat) Clark

Neville was born in Bunbury in 1935 and attended Burekup Primary School and Bunbury High School. He has 2 siblings.

Neville joined the Army in 1951 as a 6th Intake Apprentice Carpenter & Joiner and attended the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe in Victoria. He took discharge in 1981 with the rank of Warrant Officer Class One

During his 30 year career, Neville served with 22 Const Sqn, 17 Const Sqn and 7 Ind Fd Sqn. He also served in many non-corps positions in NSW, Vic and WA and overseas with 24 Const Sqn at Wewak in PNG, 1960 - 61.

He joined the Association in 1988 and was elected Secretary/Treasurer in 1995 and has held that position to this day.

Neville married Gloria in March 1965 and has 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Neville and Gloria live in Balga.



Judith (Judy) Zeplin

Judy was born in Melbourne in January 1958 but grew up in Nollamara when her family moved to Western Australia in August 1958. She has two older sisters and two younger brothers.

Judy attended Westminster Primary School and Balga Senior High. She left school at the age of 16 and started work making greeting cards.

She joined the Army Reserve in 1989 and was assigned to Ordnance Corps, which was Army policy at the time for female recruits, and after completing her Storemans Course was posted to 13 Fd Sqn as a Private in the Q store.

Judy left the Army in 1998 as a Corporal and has been a member of the Association since joining the Army.

She now works for a Accountancy firm and has a portfolio of 8 clients to manage.

From the Past



April 1966

22 Const Sqn final parade before going to Borneo. Right marker is Lcpl Paul Wilmot, inspecting officer is GOC Western Command Brig Hunt with OC Maj Peter Pell to his rear and 2Lt David Duffall behind the OC.



December 1966

Newly commissioned 2Lt Peter Perry and Sgt Des Smith welcome Sgt Ted Rowe, Cpl Simpson and Spr Peter Rosser, home from Borneo at Pearce Air base.



Sappers Bridge

An old bridge in the Walpole - Nornalup National Park was damaged by floods in January 1982. The new timber bridge was built by 22 Const Sqn in October 1982 for the National Parks Authority

RAE Association Member Gets Involved

Chidlow - RSLWA's new sub-branch

Chidlow is going ahead full steam with its Chidlow & District Returned & Services League (RSL) Sub-Branch as it was presented with its Charter by the State President of RSLWA Peter Aspinall, on Sunday, November 6, 2016.

Before he handed over the Charter to Mr Aspinall to present, CEO Mr John McCourt said: "It's not common these days to welcome a brand new RSL sub-branch and Mr President, this is the 133rd sub-branch."

It's hard to believe that this quiet, little place, nestling in the Perth Hills with Lake Leschenaultia, was at one time a bustling hive of training activity for army troops destined for the 'front'.

In fact, Lake Leschenaultia was originally created in 1898 as a railway reserve from where water was pumped into the station yard water towers. The village hall was the recruitment centre and also where the 'medicals' took place.

It is the preservation of Chidlow's military history that will be included in future projects of the new sub-branch as well as the completion of an ANZAC memorial hopefully in time for ANZAC Day 2017.

The driving force for these projects, Mr W. O. (Bill) Scrivener, who is President of the Chidlow Sub-Branch said that he



■ (L-R) Bill Scrivener, Corrina Caswell and RSLWA President Peter Aspinall.

joined the Chidlow Progress Association Inc (CPA) last year to assist with their inaugural ANZAC Day Memorial Service.

Vice-President Corrina Caswell, who as a former committee member of the Mandurah RSL and wholly responsible for the in-house magazine, has been the right person to work alongside Mr Scrivener to 'push and pull' to get the Chidlow Sub-Branch started.

"More than 30 people today have shown interest in becoming members," she said, "some only recently out of the forces, which is both exciting and hopeful for its future success."

Mr Scrivener said that he is not surprised an RSL is so popular due to Chidlow's strong military connections going back to the First World War.

"More than 80 locals received honourable mention during both wars and 12 did not return," he said.

"The CPA learnt recently how important the Chidlow Army Camp was to Australia's defence during the Second World War. Chidlow, (formerly Chidlow's Well) was chosen for its geographical position and for military and strategic advantages. Sharing this experience and Chidlow's military history will ensure its preservation for future generations."

Corrina is a member of our Association.

Reprinted courtesy of RSLWA's "The Listening Post

Service Lives On



Jack Moore Jr and Brig Budd

Jack Moore Sr was a Kiwi who enlisted in the Australian Army and served with 1 Fd Coy and 14 Fd Coy during WW1. Spr Moore saw service at Gallipoli and the Western Front. Jack Jr presented his father's memorabilia to the Museum of Military Engineering which was proudly accepted by RAE Head of Corps Brig Wayne Budd on behalf of the Museum.

Picture courtesy Army Newspaper

What Happening in Our RAE Units

13 Field Squadron

The Squadron had a very successful year fulfilling all the training requirements and weekends as laid out by 16 Battle Group. The turnout of Sappers was excellent and in many cases exceeding the turnout of other units in the Battle Group.

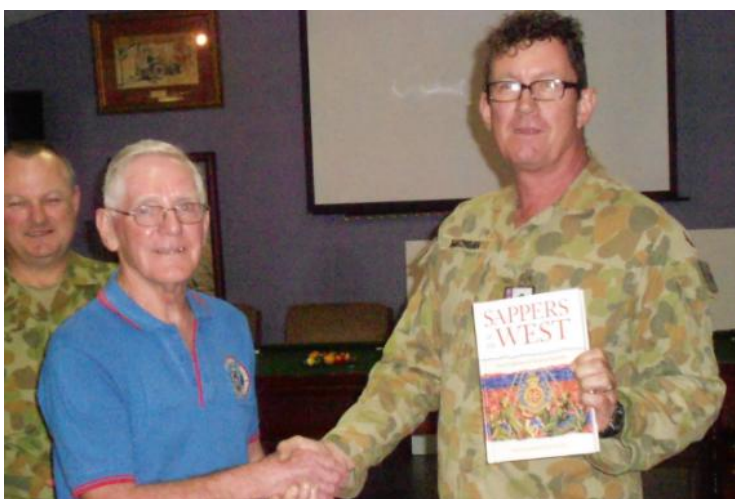
Apart from their normal training, the Squadron provided a Troop to Exercise Brolga Run held in Qld, Cpl Lawson was an instructor for 2 IET courses and Spr Stewart joined 6ESR on the last AACAP in Far North Qld.

On Tuesday night 6 December, the Squadron held their awards night with Top Sapper going to Spr Stuart Smith and Top Junior NCO being won by Cpl Mark Madigan.

Then on the next Tuesday night at the 13 Brigade presentation night, the following Corporals were promoted to Sergeant - Cpl Lawson, Cpl Woodrow and Cpl O'Donnell. Congratulations and the Associations wish you well in your positions.



Maj Jamie Kurz, OC 13 Fd Sqn presenting Spr Stuart Smith with his Top Sapper award.



Ian Johnston, President of RAE Assoc presenting Cpl Mark Madigan with his Top Junior NCO award.

6 Engineer Support Regiment

6 ESR are living up to the Corps motto of "Ubique" with Sappers deployed to the Middle East, PNG, Cultana (SA) and Laura (FNQ).

Laura, a small community town with a population of 70 - 100 people more than doubled in size when 150 sappers descended on the town for AACAP 2016. Led by 17 Const Sqn and ably assisted by East Timorese, Papua New Guinean and Tongan engineers, work included building a waste water treatment system, a multi-purpose facility, a roof over the outdoor basketball court, 1000 metres of footpaths and a number of smaller projects including two new football ovals.



The new waste water treatment system will collect excess water from existing septic tanks and waterlogged backyards and move it to a common treatment area outside of town. It will make a huge difference to the environment health and living conditions of Laura.



The multi-purpose facility will provide the town with a space that could be used by everyone. It has a training room, three office spaces, two storage rooms and a large veranda area that could be used for community outdoor activities and meetings.



The basketball roof will allow children at the Laura school to have a safe playing area away from the midday sun and provides an optional area for outdoor activities in the wet season

Sausage Sizzle

After our cancelled sausage sizzle on Saturday 1 October due to shocking weather conditions, the Association accepted an alternative date offered by Bunnings for Monday 31 October (Halloween). This ended up not being as successful as we had hoped with very few sales.



Both sausage sizzles combined ended up showing a small loss.

Helpers at the Halloween sausage sizzle. Trevor Johnson, Neville Clark, Paul Talma and Ian Johnston.

Thanks to all the volunteers who turned up to the first sausage sizzle only to be sent home again when the day was cancelled and to those who put in their time at the Halloween sizzle.

Neville has received correspondence from Bunnings, Malaga confirming our sausage sizzle dates for this year. We have been allocated Saturday 8th April and Saturday 7th October.

Getting closer to those dates, Neville will be seeking volunteers to man the BBQ and serve customers. If you can spare a couple of hours on either day, let Neville know when he does a ring-a-round. The more volunteers we have, the easier the workload on our regular volunteers.

Jokes



Friends having a common interest

It's not what you know, It's who you know



Book author Graham McKenzie-Smith, Federal MP Honourable Michael Keenan and immediate past president Bob Gianatti

The story behind the photo is that when trying to raise money for the publication of the book 'Sappers in the West' early last year, the Association wrote to the Department of Veteran Affairs seeking a donation.

DVA agreed to be a sponsor and the photo was taken when Michael Keenan presented Bob with the cheque from them.

It seems a little strange that the photo was not made public when taken as a PR exercise as the MP for Stirling was seeking re-election.

The photo was found while scrolling through Engineer websites.

Change of Address

Just a reminder that if you change any of your contact details, could you please let Neville or myself know. It is nice to have the correct details when trying to contact someone or when sending out the "Purple Circle".