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Animals of War Memorial at RSPCA Malaga

Passing Parade

John Farrow passed away on 12 September 2017 aged 77 years. He joined the Army as an 11th Intake Army Apprentice Architectural Draughtman in 1956. He served in Wewak PNG with 24 Const Sqn.

Peter Attwell-Brown passed away on 25 September 2017 aged 79 years. Peter was called up for National Service in January 1957 and joined 13 Fd Sqn in April. After completing his 6 years obligatory service Peter left the Army as a Cpl and began a career as a Marine Electrical Engineer on the MV Cape Don supplying lighthouses from Esperance to our NW and as far as Groote Elyandt, in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

John Dillon passed away on 12 October 2017 aged 81 years and 5 months. He joined the Army as a 7th Intake Army Apprentice C&J in 1952. He was a member of 22 Const Sqn from 1955 - 1962. John joined the Department of Works in 1962 as a building supervisor and remained with them until he retired. John and Neville Clark were mates at the Apprentices School and 22 Const Sqn. John was a past president of the Ex 22 Association.

Kevin Myers passed away on 13 November 2017 aged 84 years and 6 months. He was called up for National Service and joined 44 Rlwy Sqn. When the Unit closed he joined 13 Fd Sqn and was promoted Lt soon after joining. In 1962, with the expansion of 22 Const Sqn, Kevin was the Tp Comdr of the CMF Tp that became 3Tp, 22 Const Sqn. Kevin was a member of the Association.

Ken Barker passed away on 22 November 2017 aged 82 years and 10 months. Ken served in Vietnam from January to December 1970 as Sgt with 1 Fd Sqn and 17 Const Sqn

Matthew Carroll passed away on 30 November 2017 aged 73 years and 6 months. Matt served in Vietnam from June 1966 to May 1967 with 581 Sig Tp and from December 1968 to October 1969 with 1 Fd Sqn. He was also a member of 22 Const Sqn in 1970/71.

1st Meeting for 2018

The first meeting of the Association will be a general meeting on **Sunday 11th February** This is our El Kantara meeting in which we acknowledge the service of Western Australian sappers who were in the trenches at El Kantara when the Turkish Ottoman army attempted to cross the Suez in February 1915. The meeting will be held at the regular watering hole, the Ryan Club, Karrakatta.

IN MEMORY OF

JAMES FRANCIS (JIM) KIMBERLEY



Jim was born in Bruce Rock on 1 March 1941 and had three brothers and two sisters. The family moved to Gosnells, where he attended Gosnells Primary. They then moved to Belmont where he attended St Annes and later St Patricks.

Jim was 14 years old when he started work on the roads in the southwest with his father.

In January 1961, he joined the Australian Regular Army Special Reserve and after recruit and Corps training was posted to 1 Fd Sqn. In March 1963 he was posted to 4 Tp RAE, BCFESR and in November of that year was transferred to 2 Tp, Indep Fd Sqn.

On his return from Malaya in March 1965, Jim was posted to 22 Const Sqn as a Spr FE/Dvr. He did a tour of duty to Borneo with the Sqn from June to December 1966. Whilst with 22 Const Sqn he was discharged from the ARASR in January 1967 and the next day enlisted in the ARA Supplement. He remained with the Sqn until 1969 and during that time was promoted up to T/Sgt.

In November 1969, he was posted to 17 Const Sqn, SVN and in June 1970 was transferred to the AATTV until he returned to the Sqn that year after a 12-month tour of duty.

In January 1975, Jim was posted to SME as WO2 Asst Instr, in 1977 was posted to 3 FER as SSM, then transferred to LWC as an instructor in the WO Training Wing. In December 1980, he was posted back to 22 Const Sqn as SSM on promotion to WO1.

Jim had the honour of being posted to 22 Const Sqn as a Sapper and 15 years later being posted back to the same Sqn as WO1 SSM.

On his return from Vietnam, Jim met Judith McComish nee Hovey and in 1972 they married, and Jim inherited 3 step children, 1 boy and 2 girls who he treated as his own children.

Jim took discharge in January 1982 and worked with Main Roads WA as a Technical Officer. Jim and family lived in Bedford until he finally retired from active work and he and Judy moved to Glen Forrest where they remained until Jim passed away on 27 September 2017 aged 76 years and 7 months.

UBIQUE

Cover Page Story

In early 2000, the RSPCA relocated to Malaga and following discussions with Neil Fancourt, it was decided to build a 'Dogs of War' memorial at the front of the new depot.

At the opening of the RSPCA Depot in early 2002, the 'Animals of War' Memorial was unveiled, a change of title was made to include all animals who served their masters through all wars in which Australian soldiers have been a part of.

Three Association members, Neil Fancourt, Seamus Doherty and Jim Duffield took part in the unveiling ceremony by releasing the flags at the top of the flag poles.

Neil also presented the RSPCA with a framed photo of tracker dog 'Caesar' which hangs in the entrance foyer of the Administration Building.

Over the years, weather conditions were wearing the original memorial plinth away. Recently the RSPCA replaced the original memorial with the one shown on the cover.



MEETING OUR MEMBERS



Brian O'Toole

Brian was born in East Melbourne and grew up in Benalla (Vic). He has four siblings, two of whom are deceased. He attended school in Benalla and Abbotsford College.

Brian was 16 when he started work as a sewing machine mechanic for a clothing factory.

In 1958, Brian joined the CMF and the ARA in 1959 and served for 31 years with 17, 21 & 22 Const Sqns, 1FER, 2/3 FER, 2RTB, 56 Engr Wksps, DEngrs, HQ 5 MD and SME. He also served in SVN in 1968-69 with Det 55 EWPS and in 1970 he was posted to PNG where he served 17 months at Pependetta and Mendi.

On leaving the Regular Army, Brian joined 13 Fd Sqn as the QM until 1994. While with 13 Fd Sqn, Brian worked for ALCOA as security and first aid officer.

Brian married June in 1958 and has 3 sons and 2 daughters. In 1980 he married Lorna and they currently live in Coodanup.



Geoff Hackett

Geoff was born in Naracoorte, SA in 1953. He has 5 sisters and 1 brother (dec aged 14 mths). He attended Naracoorte and Pt Augusta Primary Schools and Naracoorte High School.

He left home at the age of 16 and undertook itinerant work in SA and Vic. In 1970 at the age of 17 he joined the Army and served in Reinforcement wing at SME, HQ RAE 3 Div and spent 4 years with 22 Const Sqn, taking discharge in 1976.

One of the memorable moments of his career was finishing in the top 5 students of a Subject A & C promotion course, the other 4 top students were SASR Troopers.

After leaving the Army, Geoff worked in the music industry, IT (Micrographics) industry and is currently the Business Development Manager with Toner Plus.

Geoff married Sandra Sampson in Ballarat, Victoria in 1976 and they have 2 girls and 2 boys and 4 grandchildren. They currently live in Wanneroo.

Where Our Association Started (Part 2)

From after World War 2 to June 1989, there is very little known about the happenings of the Association during that time as there are no minutes or other documents available for that period.

What we do know is that in 1948 the Royal Australian Engineers Ex-Services Association was formed and Victor (Vic) Steffanoni was the President and William (Bill) Robinson was the Secretary.

When Roy Abbott was appointed the grounds curator at the West Australian Cricket Association, it was decided that all meetings would be held at the WACA where members would have access to the Association facilities.

In 1961, the Perth branch of the Commonwealth Bank wrote to the Secretary of the Ex-Services Association of Engineers and Allied Units advising him the bank account had not been operated on since 1940 and that any funds in the account would be transferred to a Depositor's Unclaimed Fund.

The Secretary informed the bank that the Association was no longer operating and requested that any monies in the account be transferred to the new Association which had opened an account at the Commonwealth Bank branch in Mt Hawthorn. The amount of sixteen pound, one shilling and nine pence was transferred into that account on 11 July 1961.

A copy of the first Constitution was adopted by the Association in 1988. A copy which has been fastened to the first page of the minute book used to record the minutes of the first meeting in 1989. It is not known when the Royal Australian Engineers Ex-Services Association changed its name, but the Constitution has the heading 'Royal Australian Engineers Association of Western Australia', our current title.

The first recorded minutes were of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th June 1989. The meeting was held at the Washington Street depot in Victoria Park. T Davey and Ron Beard were elected President and Secretary respectively.

Meetings were held at Washington Street until 1992 when 13 Field Squadron moved back into Irwin Barracks and into the old 22 Construction Squadron buildings.

At the June 1989 AGM, it was moved that annual subscriptions be raised from \$4.00 to \$10.00 commencing from 1 June 1990.

At the July 1989 committee meeting, Brian O'Toole, who was an active member of the NSW Sappers Association at the time, reported that in 1987 the NSW Sappers Association had approached the National Corps Committee of their proposal to bring all Engineer Associations together in a National body.

As no reply was received from the National Corps Committee, the Sappers Association of NSW along with the Old Sappers Association of Victoria proposed to form the nucleus of a National Association and invite other Engineer Associations to join them. A Constitution had even been drawn up for the new National Association.

The committee decided to hold the matter of registration over until more information was available.

In the 1989 Edition of the “Sapper” magazine, the National Corps Committee decided to proceed to establish a National RAE Association however in February 1990 it was decided not to proceed, and the matter was dropped.

In 1994, the Association applied to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Protection to become an Incorporated Association. This was approved and on the 8th December 1994 and the Association became known as the “Royal Australian Engineers Association of Western Australia (Incorporated)”.

At the AGM held on 9th June 1996, the membership fees were raised to \$15.00 and remained at that until the AGM in 2003 when they were raised to \$20.00. Fees have not changed since then.

At the February 1999 General Meeting and many years of painstaking work, Harry Hickson announced that the new “Banner” was completed and on display. In October 2003, a timber frame was installed and fixed to the wall of the Ryan Club to house the “Banner”. The original Banner was donated to the Tasmanian RAE Association in 2005.

At the 1999 AGM a vote was taken to change the name of the “The Devil’s Inn”. With all members present agreeing, the boozer became the “Ryan Club”.

The Association for some time published a newsletter but in February 2000, Mick Ryan, who was then President, published the first “Purple Circle”.

Back in 1998, Warwick Broomfield was given the task of designing an Engineer Memorial and his design was presented to the Association and approved. Work started almost immediately and was completed at the beginning of 2000. On ANZAC Day 2000 the Memorial was officially opened and consecrated by Chaplain Howard Eaton.

Since that day, the Memorial Precinct has been the place the Association and 13 Fd Sqn have held ANZAC Day services to honour past sappers who have paid the ultimate price in war.

The only upgrade to the Memorial has been the placing of the new granite plinth and bronze slouch hat.

Prior to 2001, the Waterloo Dinner was celebrated by serving and retired Officers and by serving and retired senior NCO’s, each in their respective Mess dining room. As numbers of each group started to dwindle the event was combined to be an Officers and senior NCO’s dining in night.

With the closure of 22 Const Sqn and the further decline in retired numbers, it was decided that the Waterloo Dinner held in June 2001 would be an “All Ranks” event and has continued as such ever since.

At the June 2003 AGM the Association received a donation for the sole purpose of setting up a Welfare Fund to help sapper’s and their families in a time of need. With

the support of a benefactor and fundraising by the Association, the Welfare Fund is still operating.

After many hours of sketching and drawing, Spr Ian Coate presented to the Association/13 Fd Sqn at the 2004 AGM, the painting “100 Years of Engineering” which is displayed on the back wall of the Ryan Club.

Over the period from 1926 to today, a period of 92 years, the Association has had 3 titles (1 title pre-WW2), 15 Presidents (2 pre-WW2), 7 Secretaries (2 pre-WW2) and 11 Life Members.

The longest serving President was Michael Ryan who held the position for 23 years and the longest serving Secretary were Hugh O’Doherty and Neville Clark who held the position for 22 years.

Acknowledgement:

The Editor would like to acknowledge that some of the information used to compile the history of how the Association began, came from the book “Sappers in the West” written by Graham McKenzie-Smith.

13 Field Squadron

On the 12 Dec, 13 Fd Sqn held their end of years presentation night where the OC Maj Jamie Kurz and the 2IC Capt Leigh McWhirter were farewelled. Jamie goes to 16 Battle Gp as XO and Leigh goes to SME as Adjutant.

The new OC is Maj Daniel Kennedy-Stiff comes in from Brigade HQ where he spent 3 years. His career included 10 years in the ARA where his last posting was as 2IC of 23 Spt Sqn at 1CER.

Capt Glen McDermott will take up the position of Sqn 2IC coming over from the Combat Training Centre.

We wish Jamie and Leigh all the best in their new postings and say welcome to Daniel and Glen.

At the 13 Fd Sqn presentation night Spr Alexander O’Neil won the Top Sapper for 2017 winning the Ryan Club “Silver Sapper” award and Cpl Daniel LeBron won the RAE Association award for Top Junior NCO for 2017.

The week before at the 16 Battle Group award night, the SSM Glen Donaldson was promoted to Warrant Office Class 2 and Cpl Matt Wiltshire was named the Battle Group’s “Top NCO” for 2017.

3CER Exercise Freedom of Entry



Above: CO 3CER Lt-Col Jennifer Harris receives the Freedom of Entry scroll from Whitsunday Region Council CEO Barry Omundson, centre, and mayor Andrew Willcox on behalf of the unit.
Left: 3CER soldiers exercise their Freedom of Entry to the region.

Maj Al Green

3CER from 3 Bde in Townsville has been granted Freedom of Entry to the Whitsunday Region in recognition of its assistance during Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

On November 10, the regiment of 300 soldiers participated in the event in Bowen, as well as Remembrance Day celebrations the following day.

The Freedom of Entry protocols include a ceremonial 'challenge' by the town constable, in this case Inspector Steve O'Connell of the Queensland Police Service. Once the Freedom of Entry scroll is presented signifying the unit's authority to enter, the unit is then 'allowed' to pass. This tradition harkens back to Medieval times.

The host officer for the event was former CO 3CER Maj-Gen Steve Day, and guest commander of the 3 Bde, Brig Christopher Field, who was appointed State Recovery Coordinator following TC Debbie.

Mayor Andrew Willcox said the specta-

cle was a fitting tribute to 3CER.

"It is important to show our respect and gratitude to the regiment for helping the entire Whitsunday region get back on its feet after Debbie," he said.

"By granting a Freedom of Entry, we are demonstrating our trust and commitment to building a strong relationship with the ADF."

CO 3CER Lt-Col Jennifer Harris said they were honoured to be offered this auspicious opportunity.

"3 Bde, but particularly 3CER, has a long and proud association with the North Queensland community. We are proud to be part of this region and stand ready to support in times of need," she said.

"It was a team effort, including government, emergency services and volunteers that came together to support the people of the Whitsundays in the aftermath of TC Debbie.

"This is an opportunity to celebrate the resilience of this community and continue to build the strong relationship between the ADF and the people of the Whitsundays."

Story and pictures courtesy of Army Newspaper

6ESR & AACAP 17

Sappers from 21 Const Sqn, 6ESR were at it again providing support to isolated communities under the AACAP system.

Their project this time was to construct a new multi-purpose facility for the Toomelah and Boggabilla community in the far north of NSW.

Also helping the community was 33 Dental Coy who provided dental treatment in the form of extractions, fillings and general dental hygiene.

