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# The Purple Circle

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Autumn Edition 2019



## **Passing Parade**

**Vernon George (Whitt) Tuskin** passed away on 14 November 2018, aged 97 years 8 months. Whitt served in the Middle East, Ceylon and PNG during WW2 from April 1941 to December 1945 with 2/8 Fd Coy.

**Michael George (Mick) Lee** passed away 12 January 2019, aged 73 years 6 months. Mick served with in Vietnam from September 1965 to March 1966 with 3 Fd Tp. Mick grew up in South Perth but had been living in Bali for the last 18 years and suffered a massive stroke 2 days before his passing.

**Anthony John (Tony) Sutton** passed away on 17 January 2019, aged 76 yrs 5 months. Tony served in Vietnam from January to August 1967 with 21 Engr Spt Tp. He also served in Borneo from July to December 1965 with 24 Const Sqn.

**Paul (Glasgow) Harrison** passed away suddenly on 29 January 2019, aged 52 yrs. Paul was a Sapper in 13 Fd Sqn from 1985 to 1989.

**Francis George Taylor** passed away on 30 January 2019, aged 99 years. Francis served in WW2 in New Guinea and Bougainville with 15 Fd Coy (3 Div)

**Zygmunt John (Ziggy) Gnoit** passed away on 8 February 2019, aged 71 years. Ziggy was born in Germany but loved Australia so much that he joined the RAE, he served in Vietnam from October 1970 to October 1971 with 2 Tp, 1 Fd Sqn.

**Colin (Darcy) Darroch** passed away on 12 February 2019, aged 72 years 6 months. Darcy served in Vietnam from December 1967 to December 1968 with 17 Const Sqn and again from August 1971 to January 1972 with 1 Fd Sqn.

**Kevin John Cashion** passed away on 28 February 2019, aged 87 years 5 months. Kevin served in Vietnam from April 1966 to April 1967 with 17 Const Sqn.

**Andrew Seymour (Andy) Toms** passed away on 3 March 2019, aged 69 years 3 months. Andy served in Vietnam from January 1970 to August 1971 with 17 Const Sqn.

**Henry William Burton (Harry) Eustace** passed away on 4 March 2019, aged 73 years 6 months. Harry served in Vietnam from January to October 1971 with 1 Fd Sqn.

**John Anthony Cross** passed away on 16 March 2019, aged 71 years. John served in Vietnam from October 1970 to August 1971 with 1 Fd Sqn.

**John Simon (Snow) Wilson** passed away on 28 March 2019, aged 77 years and 5 months. John served in Vietnam from January 1967 to July 1967 with 17 Const Sqn and from July 1967 to December 1967 with 1 Fd Sqn.

**Kevin Willian Bosse** passed away on 29 March 2019, aged 68 years. Kev was a 22<sup>nd</sup> Intake Army Apprentice carpenter and joiner.

## **Sick Parade**

Our secretary, Trevor Jones has had another stint in hospital for more surgery to overcome a foot problem. He has been back home for a few weeks now and is getting around with the aid of a walking stick and a moonboot once again.

Brian O'Toole is not travelling to well at the moment, he has been seeing a lot of doctors and specialists since Christmas to find out what is wrong with him, but they haven't found the cause of his illness.

## **New Life Members**

At our last general meeting, 2 of our members were introduced as new Association Life Members of the Association. Graham McKenzie-Smith and Lynne Reynolds were presented with their badges by the President.

Graham has been a member of the Association for 11 years and a committee member for 10 of those 11 years. He is a military historian and is the author of the book "Engineers in the West" which took years of research as well as writing and organising the back room work in getting the book ready for publication and printing.

Lynne has also been a member for 11 years and a committee member for 10 years. She is a quiet achiever, doing what must be done with no fuss. Of her own initiative, Lynne would purchase items for 30 food boxes each month and send them to the Sappers serving in Afghanistan. She is also a stalwart when it comes to fund raising helping run the raffle at our meetings and particularly when we run a sausage sizzle, where she not only does her own shift but stays to help on other shifts as well. Lynne is the daughter of WO2 Tommy Mills, plant WO at 22 Const Sqn and is our first lady life member.

As shown on the front page, the Association now has an Honour Board to recognise our Life Members. The Board is the first visual display where all the Life Members are listed in order of recognition of service to the Association. Previously it meant a long search through the minute books.

## MEETING OUR MEMBERS

### Peter McMullan



Peter was born in Accrington, Lancashire, England in 1954 and completed all his schooling in England. He has two sisters.

He left school at 16 and started work as an apprentice mechanical fitter with Michelin Tyres. Peter emigrated to Australia in April 1979 and found employment at the Cockatoo Dockyards, Sydney working on the Australian submarine fleet.

When he moved to Perth, he worked with Skilled Engineering in recruitment and then in the safety/sign industry with Jason Signmakers working on mining, oil & gas projects until he retired in 2014.

Peter joined the ARes in 1984 serving with 13 Fd Sqn and 5 Trg Gp, leaving in 1991.

Peter met Beverley in 1987 at an Army Cadet camp in Northam and they married in 1992. They have 2 children and currently live in Gooseberry Hill.

He is in his final year doing a History Degree at Murdoch University with the hopes of doing Honours. He also volunteers at the West Australian Army Museum.



### Peter Bush

Peter was born in Euroa, Victoria in 1955 and grew up in Victoria until 1960 when his family moved to WA. He has one sister (dec) and 2 brothers.

Peter started school at Violet Town but on moving to WA completed year 1 at Salt River Primary School, then attended Albany Senior High School.

After living and working on a farm as he grew up, his first paying job at the age of 15 was as a deck hand on an abalone boat. After 6 months, he returned to the land working as a shearing shed hand and then as a shearer.

Peter joined the army in October 1974, his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and served with 2 Fd Engr Regt, Enoggera until he was discharged on medical grounds in April 1979.

After leaving the Army, he worked in a variety of jobs from farm worker, sheet metal worker, miner, bus driver, tour operator and bar manager to list a few.

Peter met Kerry in 1980 at a mate's birthday bash and they married in 1981 but unfortunately divorced in 1991. He has 3 sons, 1 step daughter and 8 grandchildren.

Peter currently lives in Carnamah and enjoys riding his motorbike.

## History of 19 CE Works Book Launch

A new book detailing the 55-year history of 19 CE Works has been launched, writes Maj Marianne Phillips.

# Building a lasting legacy

**M**ORE than 100 guests celebrated 55 years of 19 CE Works with the book launch of *Highlands to Deserts* by Michael Tyquin on September 20 at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess.

Head of Corps, Royal Australian Engineers Brig David Wainwright said 19 CE Works was a crucial capability.

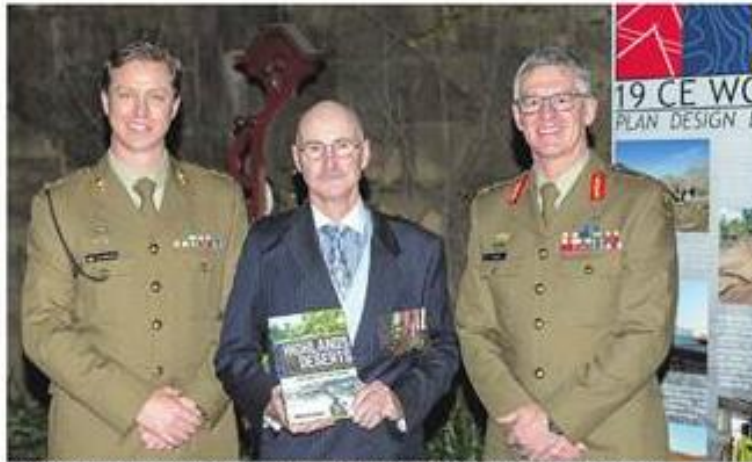
"*Highlands to Deserts* catalogues a solid unit history in all phases of operations, providing advice to peers, sustaining the force and supporting reconstruction," Brig Wainwright said.

Michael Tyquin published the book to address a gap in published history by telling the story of a small engineering unit determined to use more than bricks and bridges to make a difference – not only to Army units but to Indigenous communities in Australia and overseas.

"The book identifies 55 years of experience in partnering and demonstrates not only the uniqueness but also the relevance and versatility of 19 CE Works to build new and evolving future military operations domestically and internationally," Brig Wainwright said.

From humble beginnings in the Aitape-Wesak and west area of Papua in 1963, 19 CE Works managed a scope of works constructing roads, airfields, camp accommodation, electrical power, water supply and land rehabilitation.

The main task for the unit on its arrival was the 80-kilometre-long



CO 19 CE Works Lt-Col Glen Billington, left, author of *Highlands to Desert* Michael Tyquin and CA Lt-Gen Rick Burr at the launch of the book at Victoria Barracks.

Popondetta-Kokoda road and the creation of Popondetta's water supply. Popondetta soon became a three-year posting for the unit members and their families.

The PNG expansion program was estimated to be in the vicinity of \$9

million at the time. By 1967, the program had expanded to include provision of chlorinated, fluoridated water supply, the building of roads and bridges, the construction of a hospital, several airstrips and domestic buildings.

By 1977, 19 CE Works was making

its presence felt around Australia on every military base and training area. Chapels were erected, airfields, roads and bridges were built, and tank fording pools supplied.

Under the Defence Cooperation Program (DCP) the unit was also

tasked to Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Indonesia.

In 1981, the staff travelled more than 59,000 kilometres on duty while other members were tasked to Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

By 1992, the unit was balancing out the DCP tasks with more work at Kapooka, Singleton, Mount Bandy and Port Wakefield.

19 CE Works continued to manage tasks at various stages of planning, design and delivery across a wide geographic area while also satisfying the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program remit in Indigenous communities around Australia since 1996.

From its origins in Papua New Guinea in 1963, 19 CE Works has traversed the globe participating in operations.

CO 19 CE Works Lt-Col Glen Billington said the unit's engineers were nation builders.

"19 CE Works is as diverse and unique as the engineers within it who, plan, design and deliver," he said.

"They engage, plan, design, build and deliver on wartime and peacetime tasks domestically and internationally."

Copies of *Highlands to Deserts* are available at the RAE Museum Holsworthy Barracks RRP \$39.95. All proceeds go towards the RAE Association, a charity that supports engineer veterans.

## Association Lunch at Ravenswood Hotel

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Association, organised a get together lunch for Sappers living in and around Mandurah. A total of 25 people attended, travelling from as far away as York and Perth to attend. It was a very pleasant way to spend a couple of hours having a drink, a meal and chatting with old mate, some who have not seen each other for years and for others to meet for the first time.

Those who attended were – Fred & Ann Abbott, Butch & Glenys Bradshaw, Terry & Veronica Cook, Stewart Holmes, Ian Johnston, Trevor Jones, Bob King, Richard McKenzie & Sheila Thomas, Lloyd Morey, Brian & Lorna O'Toole, Bill Roberts, Geoff & Margaret Simpson, Ron & Cathie Stark, Glyn Thomas, Kieran Thomas, Lofty Warren and Brian O'Toole's sister Maree and her husband Jurgen.

This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> venture out of the Perth CBD and both have been a success. Northam, York and Bunbury are possible destinations for lunches in the hopes of getting our country members together for a meal, a beer and a chat.

Pictures from the Ravenswood Hotel Lunch



# 100 Years of Engineering



With the help of the artist, Ian Coate, the Association has produced prints of our major artwork, 100 Years of Engineering.

100 copies were printed and offered for sale and due to keen interest in wanting to purchase a copy from our members and serving soldiers, we only have a few left, so if you want a print, now is the time to order a copy.

Costs are \$120.00 including postage or \$100.00 if you can collect.

Orders should be made to the President,  
Ian Johnston.



## **ANZAC Day**

This year the Dawn Service is once again being organised and run by 13 Fd Sqn with input from the Association. Everyone should have received an email regarding timings for the gate opening hours and for the Dawn Service.

A reminder that if you and friends are going to attend and have not put your names in for a gate pass, please do so urgently. Names to Ian Johnston.

## **Waterloo Dinner**

I have been advised by the Ryan Club committee that the Waterloo Dinner will be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June and will be at the Burswood on Swan Reception Centre again this year.

## **13 Field Squadron News**

13 Fd Sqn had a very active 2018 with the Unit focusing on a watermanship weekend on Wellington Dam, demolitions at Bindoon, search exercises and obstacle construction, as well as an advanced tree felling course.

The Sqn also provided 5 members to Transit Security Element for Op Resolute, as well as members to Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaya.

Sprgs Tim Lowndes and Malcom Stewart CSM, deployed to the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Programme. Other members provided support to numerous activities and courses throughout Australia including SME and 8 Bde.

In 2019, training will concentrate on improving Sapper skills. One area of training will be non-equipment bridging and advanced training in watermanship and search techniques. Links with 3CER will be continued with sappers on exchange for training exercises and courses between units.

## **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle**

On Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, the Association ran a sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Malaga and raised \$938.65.

Thank you to Trevor Jones and Russell McEntyre for organising and picking up all the food and other items required to up on a sausage sizzle and to all the volunteers who came along and worked 2 or 3 hour shifts to cook and serve customers on the day.

Our next sausage sizzle will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, so put this in your diaries as the organisers will be out looking for volunteers again



## **Blast from the Past**

While sorting through some old photos from Mick Ryan, the Editor came across this in the local Manjimup newspaper. The Unit SSM WO2 Glen Donaldson put the year as 2002.



Members of the 13th Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers on the replica of One Tree Bridge which they constructed at the Timber Park during the weekend.

# Army enhances park

By **KATIE FINDLEY**

FORTY-FOUR members of the 13th Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers built two bridges at the Manjimup Timber Park during the weekend.

The reserve soldiers worked solidly to replicate One Tree Bridge and built a second bigger bridge suitable for vehicle access to the small island in the middle of the park water feature.

Acting troop staff sergeant Rod Ennor and troop commander Lance Roberts said the squadron members were able to apply their training and various trade expertise to build the bridges.

During their training the troop covered construction of bridges similar to those they built during the weekend, but according to Cdr Roberts, the soldiers usually constructed bridges which were designed to be disassembled rather

than remain in place forever.

All the materials for the bridges were supplied by the Manjimup Shire Council and several council workers were involved in the initial stages of laying the logs in place and overseeing the project.

The council workers have to complete ramps up to the bridges before they are open to the public in the near future.

The army was also involved in two basketball matches in Manjimup on Saturday night.

Some of the soldiers working on the bridge, which is capable of vehicle access.



## Laughs



There is nothing government can  
give you that it hasn't taken from  
you in the first place.

— *Winston Churchill* —

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Association will be a General Meeting to be held on Sunday 14 April (ANZAC meeting). The following general meeting is Sunday 26 May. A date for our AGM, to be held in July, has not been set yet as we are waiting for 13 Brigade /16 Battle Group to set their training programme for the coming July to December period.

## Contact Details

There are still cases of members changing their contact detail without letting the Secretary or the President know. The Secretary is the custodians of our membership contact register and it is helpful if he are kept up to date with any contact changes so the register can be updated when changes occur.

Keeping an up to date register is a requirement under the rules of the WA Government's Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

## Website

Our website was updated in January and the site may be viewed by googling - [www.wasappers.com.au](http://www.wasappers.com.au)