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The Purple Circle

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Summer Edition 2019



Association members photographed after a General Meeting in February 1999.
Names of attendees shown on last page.

Passing Parade

Colin George Wright passed away 18 October 2018, aged 76 years 10 months. Colin served with 32 Small Ships completing three trips to Vietnam between July 1968 and October 1970. He sailed twice on the Clive Steele and once on the Brudenell White.

Stuart (Kiwi) Fraser passed away on 30 October 2018, aged 72 yrs 6 months. Kiwi was called up for NZ National Service before moving to Australia where he joined the Australian Army and served with 7 Fd Sqn, Enoggera and 22 Const Sqn.

Gerald Andrew Lyall passed away on 2 November 2018, aged 70 yrs. Gerald served in Vietnam from October 1969 to October 1970 with 1 Fd Sqn.

John George (Joe) Skubis passed away on 27 November 2018, aged 73 years. Joe was a 17th Intake C&J Army Apprentice and served in Vietnam from January 1970 to January 1971 with 17 Const Sqn.

Wallace Menzies (Wally) Weir passed away in June 2015, aged 97 yrs 3 months. He joined the army in Nov 1942 and was discharged in March 1946. Wally served overseas with the HQ, 7th Australian Divisional Engineers on Balikpapan, Borneo.

Correction

A couple of months ago, I was given books of the Minute of Committee and Quarterly General Meetings dating back to June 1955. In the Summer Edition 2018, reference was made to the first Constitution being adopted in 1988, however this is not correct as the first Constitution was adopted in 1961.

The objects of the RAE Ex-Serviceman's Association back then were very similar to our objects today, being –

1. Promote social activities among members
2. Promote the general welfare of members
3. Foster the good fellowship and friendship formed in the RAE Corps
4. Maintain the traditions and prestige of the Corps of Engineers
5. Protect and represent the interests of the RAE ex-Servicemen at public functions.

As a matter of interest, annual subscriptions set back then as shown in the Constitution was 5/- (five shillings) or 50 cents.

MEETING OUR MEMBERS



Ron (Curly) Stark

Curly was born in Hobart in 1952 and grew up in WA and Victoria. He has three older sisters.

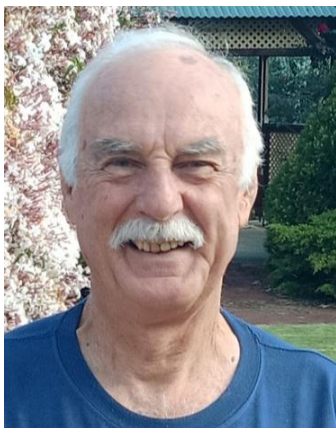
He attended Dalkeith Primary School and first attended Hollywood High School then Armadale High School.

At the age of 15, Curly joined the Army Apprentices School in January 1968. His first posting was to 22 Const Sqn and then it was to ACT, PNG, AW Branch HQ 3MD, Tonga and Fiji, AW Branch HQ 2MD and HQ 4MD. In 1990 Curly accepted a commission but in 1993 resigned his commission after 25 years' service. On leaving the Army, he stayed on in AW Branch as a construction supervisor.

In 1993, Curly he joined the Ares and served with 5MD Rec Trg Unit and 13 Fd Sqn.

After many years working for the Army, Curly moved to York where he had a handyman's business.

In 1978 Curly married Cathie in Port Moresby. They have 3 sons, 2 granddaughters and 1 grandson. He and Cathie live in York where they are active in the bowling club, are social members of the football club and is the current treasurer of the York RSL.



Chris Hannah

Chris was born in Darlinghurst, Sydney in 1948 and grew up in Brookvale near Manly. He has one sister.

After attending Brookvale Primary School, he attended Manly Boys High School. When he left school at 17, he started work at Woolworths.

Chris was called up for National Service and joined the Army in 1969. After initial training he was Corps posted to 1 Armoured Regiment and Armoured Centre at Pucka before taking discharge 2 years later. In 1979 he enlisted in the Army Reserve and joined 13 Field Squadron, finally leaving the Army in 1985.

Chris spent a year travelling Australia before started work in Perth with Repco as an Automotive Spare Parts Assistant, retiring in 2016 as the State Distribution Manager.

Chris first met his wife, Jill in 1973 and then met up again in 1981. They married in Eastbourne, England in 1982 and have 2 boys.

Chris and Jill live in Kalamunda where Chris continues his service with the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and part time with the Kalamunda Bushfire Mitigation Crew. He is also secretary of the Kalamunda RSL.

Mt Hawthorn Bus Shelters

In the last edition of the Purple Circle, there was an article on the ANZAC House Bus Shelters. The heading should have read ANZAC Cottage, not ANZAC House. Apologies from the Editor.

The bus shelters were unveiled on 21 October before a good crowd of onlookers including members of 13 Fd Sqn and our Association who paraded with our National and RAE flags.

The 13 Fd Sqn members who helped with the construction work were Sappers Lisa Lehtonen, Mark Johnson and Thomas Ellis. A job well done.



Vietnam bus shelter on Anzac Rd, Mt Hawthorn



Gallipoli bus shelter on Kalgoorlie St, Mt Hawthorn

Association Lunch in York

On Thursday 22nd November, the Association, with the help of Curly Stark, organised a get together lunch with Sappers living in and around York. A total of 13 people attended. There were 7 men and 4 wives/partners along with the president of the York RSL and his wife.

Present were – Bill Cebula, Curly and Cathie Stark, Ian and Colleen Johnston, David and Michelle Evans, Tex McPherson and partner Kaye Dallas, Keith Whitfield, Trevor Jones and Keith and Maureen Trent (RSL)



Bill Cebula, David Evans, Curly Stark, Ian Johnston, Tex McPherson,
Trevor Jones and Keith Whitfield



It was a very pleasant way to spend a couple of hours together with friends and for those who came up from Perth, it was a very relaxing drive home.

Many thanks to the Settlers Arms restaurant for providing a wonderful venue and food.

Celebrating 100 Years



On 26th December, Frederick Andrew Banyard, Fred to his mates, celebrated his 100th birthday

Apart from the obligatory emails, cards, etc from royalty and politicians, our Head of Corps, Brig David Wainwright sent a letter of congratulation to Fred as well as the Corps Certificate.

Well done Fred, may there be many more parties to celebrate in future years.

13 Field Squadron

On Tuesday 11th December, as well as being the last parade night for the year, it was also the Squadron's 'Presentations and Awards' night.

Spr Simon Capozzi won the "Top Sapper of the Year".

Cpl Russell Beazley won the RAE Association award for top "Junior NCO".

Cpl Russell Beasley was also presented with his 15 Year Service Medal.

Encouragement Awards were presented to Cpl Will Pickard, Spr Kalon Ford and Spr Tameron Turneff.

Sgt Ryan Bellis was farewelled from the Sqn for posting to PNG

WO2 Stephen Wilson is being posted in as the new Trg WO, the position Sgt Brendan Dickson has ably filled for the past 2 years.

As there was no suitable Plant Sgt to fill the vacancy left by Sgt Bellis, Sgt Dickson has signed a new 2-year contract to fill the Regular Army position of Plant Sgt.

Congratulation and good luck to all the above.

The Association is looking forward to continue the close working relationship with 13 Fd Sqn in 2019.

SAS dog awarded 'VC for animals'



The award was presented by British charity the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) during a ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.



Kuga served with the Special Air Service Regiment from 2008 and was recognised for his actions during a Special Operations Task Group patrol in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, on 26 August 2011.

During the patrol, Kuga alerted his handler to an enemy presence ahead.

Upon being released by his handler to investigate, Kuga crossed a river to expose an enemy ambush position, drawing small arms and heavy machine gun fire.

Despite being shot five times during the action, Kuga continued to engage the enemy until being recalled by his handler.

Kuga was evacuated by helicopter and treated at a number of coalition medical facilities in Afghanistan and Germany.

Kuga died in Australia in 2012, likely as a result of stress and physical trauma associated with his wounds.

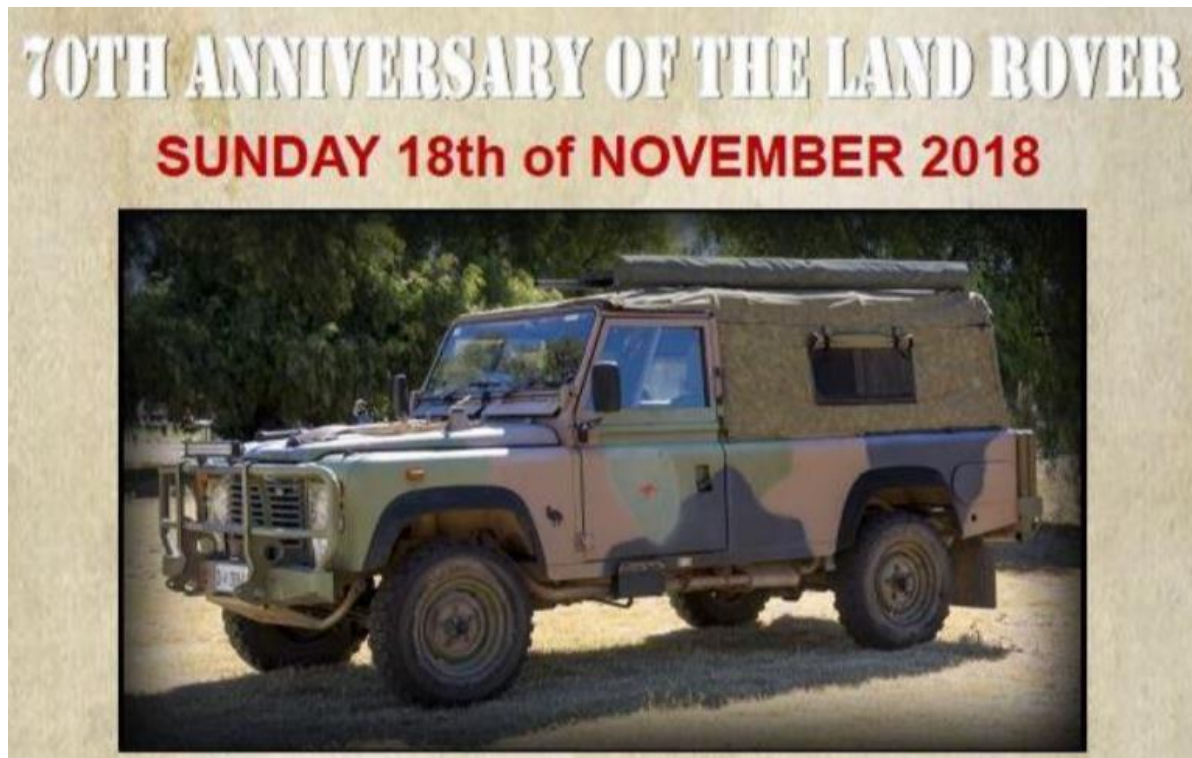
Kuga was nominated for the Dickin Medal by the SASR soldiers of that Special operations Task Group patrol for his extraordinary courage and dedication to duty, preventing them from entering into an enemy ambush.

Kuga, a Belgian Malinois, is the 71st recipient of the Dickin Medal, and the first Australian dog to receive the award.

The award was accepted by Cpl Mark Donaldson, VC, and retired SOMWD Odin on behalf for handler Sgt J and Kuga.

Cpl Donaldson said it was a great recognition of not only Kuga's efforts, but of all the canines and handlers for their years of blood, sweat and tears.

A Piece of History



Many of us in the Association would remember this old work horse, be it the short wheel base and long wheel base. For some, they would be good memories of driving over rough terrain, fording creeks etc. For others, there would be bad memories of being tossed and jolted around sitting in the back.

Did You Know

The “ODE” that we read at funerals and to remember past members, came from the poem “For the Fallen” written by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869 - 1943) and was published in the London Times on 21 September 1914.

The “ODE” is the 4th paragraph in the 7-paragraph poem.

Laughs



Being ‘over the hill’ is better than ‘being under it’.

Association “ETHOS”.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA INCORPORATED

ETHOS – “Camaraderie and Sapper Kinship” of being a SAPPER

The RAE Association of WA (Inc) was first formed in July 1926, when a group of Ex Engineer soldiers held a meeting to form an association, who had an interest in being part of an organisation that was to be built on camaraderie and the kinship of being a Sapper.

There have been many ups and downs over the years both in relation with membership numbers, the structure of the association in regard to government regulations and control of Not for Profit Organisations and also in some cases the expectations of members.

This statement of Ethos and/or The Meaning of being a member of The RAE Association of WA Inc, is made to both remind and encourage us all, to follow the path of the intention and benefits of being a member.

As for any organisation, a committee is elected and in place to both run the administration of the organisation and convene meetings, gatherings, events, etc. and so forth for the benefits and participation of its members and the organisation overall.

In doing this committees provide a variety of activities, events, meetings, to hopefully cater for as wide a number of their members as possible.

However not all things are suitable to all members, all of the time.

So, this is when each member must remind themselves that the committee of an organisation and indeed the organisation itself, is not there to specifically to entertain its members.

It is there for all to participate in and be involved with each other and the organisation on the basis of the ethos and reason of the organisation’s existence/being.

Which in our organisations case, it is, “**Camaraderie and Sapper Kinship**” above all else.

In addition to the Ethos / Reason of the existence of the RAE Association, the following is a resume of other member benefits:

- **Purple Circle Newsletter** – The composition and production of this unique circulation is the very epitome of the Sapper spirit, **Ubique** (everywhere), because it has been and still is the result of the efforts of just one Sapper. It was never intended to be so, but the position of President of the RAE Association of WA (Inc) seems to automatically carry with it the roles of writer, printer, editor, producer, photographer, distributor and provider to the organisation of four excellent newsletters per year, being the editions of:
 - Spring
 - Summer
 - Winter
 - Autumn

The receiving of each copy of The Purple Circle Newsletter, would be the single most significant thing to most members, apart from them being a member of the association itself.

The Purple Circle Newsletter has become an integral part of the association and especially because it informs and communicates with all of the members.

It would be nice if it could become the endeavour of all members to contribute in any way possible to assist in the composition and production of this marvellous little circular.

- **Membership Cards** - Provided by post, with receipts of membership fees or handed to members where possible at our meetings.
- **General Meetings** - Are held four times a year with times, dates, location etc. notified to members via the Newsletter and email bulletin.
At each meeting a light luncheon is provided, normally via the good old BBQ or similar, together with free drinks as well.

Normally a small raffle is run also at each meeting.
- **Annual General Meeting** – Once a year event of course, normally held in July. Luncheon and drinks are provided as for the General Meetings but with a little more upmarket trend. A raffle is also run at the Annual General Meeting.
- **Register of Assets** – The association maintains a record of material items that are in the association’s possession and those that are donated. For further information please contact the Committee via: Secretary RAE Association WA email at raeassocwasec2017@gmail.com
- **Welfare Fund** – The association has a separately operated bank account to the everyday business/general account of the association.
The funds in this account are there for granting to any member who may have extreme financial hardship.
An Association member who is able to demonstrate financial hardship shall upon written application and approved by a minimum of three members of the board, be entitled to welfare assistance.
- **Fellowship Lunches** – Organised by our Social Members at no cost to the Association. Members and friends attend at their own cost and transport needs. Carpooling is encouraged for those unable to travel independently or wish to enjoy ale. Venues where Seniors Lunches or similar low-cost meals are on the menu are normally selected.
Where possible other venues of interest are considered for the event.
- **Flag Bearing Party** - This band of Volunteers provide a service to present Flags of:
 - Australia
 - RAE Association
 - 13 Field Sqn
 - 22 Const Sqn
 - RAE Banner to special events – such as Anzac Day
 - Funerals of members, at the family’s request or special events endorsed by the Committee.

- **Fund Raising**

- **Bunnings Sausage Sizzles**

Small numbers, big effort, great results.

Our association has a very small group of heavy lifters; let's call them our Volunteer Members because they really are the back bone of the organisation.

They provide their time and service to assist in gaining support funds to retain our low cost membership fees. We take our hats off and say thanks to those who support these events.

- **Raffles**

It would be very nice if our Volunteer group was a little larger, so if you can stand, walk and talk there is a spot waiting for you in this group.

- **Special Events**

Where special events such as tours with bus hire, entry fees or similar costs are incurred. The costings are then tabled at a Committee Meeting to ratify that expenditure.

- **Representation of the Association**

The committee, principally the President, provides the Association with representation to other like groups, organisations and bodies that the Association may be affiliated, including but not limited to:

1. 13 Field Squadron
2. 16 Battalion Group
3. SASR Association
4. RSLWA
5. Army Museum of Western Australia
6. DVA
7. Other affiliate Corp Associations

- **Register of Members**

The committee, principally the Secretary keeps a detailed list of all members which enables the organisation to be able to keep and make contact with every member.

This can also be a valuable tool for members wishing to know the whereabouts of one of their mates.

Having a register of members can help to reunite Sappers and Families that have drifted apart over the years.

- **This is your Association, what you put in, is what you get out of it.**

The Australian Pocket OXFORD Dictionary meanings of:

Ethos – “characteristic spirit, tone, of a community, settled character”

Comradery – “feeling of comradeship

Kinship – “kindred peoples, subjects, spirits”

NOTICES

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Association will be a General Meeting to be held on Sunday 3 February. Dates for following general meetings are Sunday 14 April (ANZAC meeting) and Sunday 26 May.

Membership

If you have not paid your membership dues of \$20 for the financial year 2018-2019, this will be your last "Purple Circle".

Website

Our website is currently being updated. Once the updates are completed the site may be viewed by googling -

www.wasappers.com.au

Names of Attendees

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

ASSOCIATION OF W.A. INC.

Held at: Devil's Inn, 13 Field Squadron, Karrakatta Army Camp.
On: 14th February 1999

SITH ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

Pat Scally 556379, Lou Athanasiou 553054, Ron Hochkircher 321389, Chris Brooks 44857, Owen Christmass 535240 - holding banner, Harry Hickson 54277 - holding banner, Jack Maunder 5814, Chris Connolly 24762028, Brian Cooperdam 58614, Neil Fancourt 52464, Mervyn Spear 571496.

FIFTH ROW:

Jon Bennett, Paul Talma 57271, Col Bufton 5713789, J Crozier 23733522, Bob Waddell 23778624, Pete Wells 513714, Glyn Thomas 58700, Ian West 5102926, Brian Griffith 243237, Vance Bond 514175, George Anderson WX 827, Ken Ward WX 22431, Arthur Murray 44951, Bob Whiteside WX 39838, Terry Hanrahan 14563.

FOURTH ROW:

Alfonso Hernandez 522747, Seamus Doherty 5102595, John Thompson 21187265, Bob Sweeney 54590, John O'Sullivan WX 2778, Brian O'Toole 36623, Frank Edwards WX 37254, Les Rawlings 19137394 PE, Evan Jones 5102639, Eddie Carnegie 24265241 RE, James Mackenzie WX 37183, Bob Quin 5/410798, Cecelia Durmin.

THIRD ROW:

Christopher Bennett, Bill Peart WX 31870, David Ridley 23993491, Rubin White 57306, Tim Bloxsome, Bob Gianatti 56186, Harold Smith WY 32323, Harry Stephens 212777, Trevor Smart 53812, Jim Spink 520179, Gary Daily 551302, Joan Guilfoyle, Gloria Clark, Neville Clark 58548, Jack Raybould 2072545, Warick Broomfield 513799.

SECOND ROW:

George Bristow VX 133977, Robert Donaldson 55830, Kenneth Swetman, Martin Healey 311567, John Williamson 1929595 RE, Richard McKenzie 242700, Ted Cox 1946470, Lyn Cox, Allyn Bryant NX 191033, Allan Glossop WX 41852, Fred Banyard WX, John Metcalf WX 28061, Ron Beard W 4010, WX 27985, 513700, Cedric Etheridge WX 28659, Frank Manning WX 37055, Max Schulze 523393, Ann Rawlings.

FIRST ROW:

Mike Jones 24270938 CPL. RE, Graeme Nagle 5103849, Rob Hop 523422 Cpl. R.A.E., John Martin BC 6500, Dave Carr 2348818, Mick Ryan 61434/614440, Shawn Goodbody 553953, Mark Race 555162, Gary Howell 62276, Glenn Firth 326502, Mick Durnin 514171, Laura Durnin.

LYING DOWN: Wade Howell.