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# The Purple Circle

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**The Kapooka Tragedy Memorial**

## **Passing Parade**

**Bryan Albert Frederick Heal** passed away on 16 January 2021 aged 81 years and 2 months. Bryan served in Vietnam from December 1966 to December 1967 with Det 55 Advanced Engineer Stores Squadron.

**Lancelot Terence (Terry) Radford** passed away on 13 March 2021 aged 93 years and 9 months. Terry served with 32 Small Ship Squadron making 3 trips to Vietnam between December 1968 and December 1969 on the AS3051 John Monash and 1 trip in September – October 1970 on the AV1354 Brudenell White.

**Trevor John Boaden** passed away on 23 March 2021 aged 76 years and 6 months. Trevor served in Vietnam from April 1970 to March 1971 with 17 Construction Squadron and 1 Field Squadron.

**Graham Keith Cusack** passed away on 28 March 2021 aged 75 years and 7 months. Graham served in Vietnam from November 1971 to October 1972 with 21 Construction Squadron.

**Warren Hugh Johnson** passed away on 30 March 2021 aged 76 years and 8 months. Warren did 2 tours to Vietnam from April 1966 to February 1967 and March 1968 to January 1969, both with 17 Construction Squadron.

**David Bertram Kenneth Laughton** passed away on 5 April 2021 aged 98 years. David served in WW2 from 1941 to 1946 with 2/10 Field Company, a part of 8 Division 2 AIF.

**Robert Henderson Watt** passed away on 12 April 2021 aged 96 years and 8 months. Bob served with 4 Aust Field Regiment artillery during WW2. He joined the RAE in 1954 and served with 24 Construction Squadron in Brisbane before being posted to SME, where he retired in 1969.

**John William Scanlan** passed away on 26 April 2021 aged 72 years and 2 months. John served in Vietnam from February to October 1971 with 21 Engineer Support Troop and was with 1 Field Squadron when the Unit returned home to Australia.

**James (Taipan) Truscott OAM** passed away on 28 April 2021 aged 64 years and 11 months. Jim served with 1 Field Squadron and 1 Field Engineer Regiment before transferring to SASR and the Commandos.

**Anthony John (Tony) Harris (Williams)** passed away on 8 May 2021 aged 75 years and 11 months. Tony served in Vietnam from January to June 1968 with 32 Small Ship Squadron on AV1356 Clive Steele.

**MAJGEN Peter Julian Day AO** passed away on 8 May 2021 aged 85 years and 4 months. Peter served in Vietnam from July to December 1966 as Officer Commanding 17 Construction Squadron and with Head Quarters Australian Forces Vietnam until April 1967.

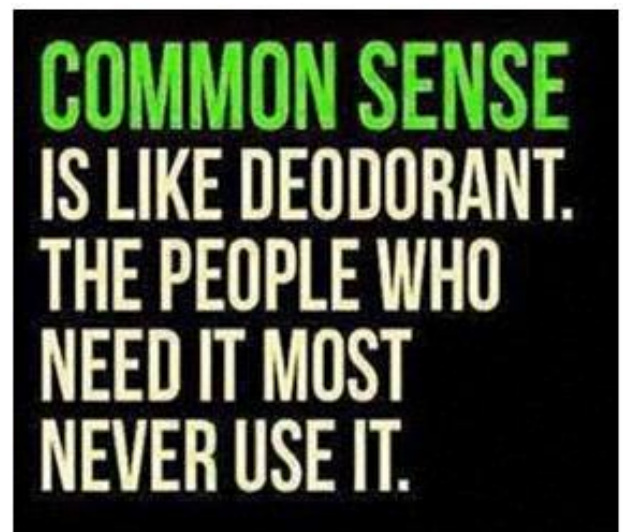
**John Townley (Pea) McGregor** passed away on 26 May 2021 aged 75 years and 9 months. John served in Vietnam from January to June 1967 on AV Vernon Sturdee, from December 1967 to January 1968, February to March and October to November 1969 on AV John Monash.

**BRIG Michael George Holton** passed away on 3 June 2021 aged 88 years and 1 month. Michael served in Vietnam from June 1966 to June 1967 with Headquarters Australian Forces Vietnam.

Late Notice - **Leslie McIntosh (Geordie) Stephenson** passed away on 17 April 2019 aged 87 years and 4 months. Geordie served in Vietnam from May 1966 to June 1967 with 21 Engineer Support Troop and 55 Engineer Works and Park Squadron.

Late Notice – **John Pes** passed away on 23 June 2020 aged 66 years and 4 months. John served in the Army Reserve with 13 Field Squadron.

## LEST WE FORGET



## MEET OUR MEMBERS



### Robert (Bob) Quin

Bob was born in Cottesloe in October 1939 and has 1 sister and 3 brothers. He attended Swanbourne Primary School, Fremantle Boys High School and then Denmark Agricultural College.

Bob left school at 16 to work as a farm hand. He joined the army in 1958 and served with 4 Field Troop until he took discharge in 1964. He served overseas in Malaya, Borneo and Thailand.

On leaving the army, Bob worked as a milk vender and with Dalgety's before being appointed manager of swimming pools in Moora and in Northam where he held the job for 15 years.

Bob met Roslyn on the Indian Pacific train when he was travelling to Kapooka to begin his basic training. They married in 1960 and have 3 daughters and 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

When he retired in 1995, Bob and Roslyn lived on a small farm in Northam and operated a pottery studio. In 2003 they moved to Walpole. He was also a Civil Celebrant.

Both liked to travel with Bob attending many army reunions from 2003 to 2019. Bob suffered a stroke in 2015 which curtailed the amount of travelling they could do.

Bob and Roslyn currently live in a retirement village in Mandurah.



### Wayne Loughrey

Wayne was born in Glenhuntley, Melbourne, Victoria in 1947 and has 1 brother. He attended Eastwood Primary School and Ringwood High School. After leaving school, he headed north to the Riverina area of NSW to gain farming experience.

He joined the CMF (ARes) in January 1964 until April 1975 and was called up for National Service in 1967 but because he was a serving member in the CMF, he was excused from NS service duties. Wayne served with 16 Fd Sqn, 8/13 VMR, 105 Const Sqn and 22 RVR.

Whilst servicing in the CMF, he took full time employment in the agricultural business with Bayer Australia in Shepparton before moving to WA in 1985 and working with DuPont until he retired in 2013

Wayne met Rosemary at a mutual friend's wedding and 6 weeks later became engaged. They married in 1972 and have 2 daughters, 1 son and 7 grandchildren.

Wayne is a long time committee member of the Kalamunda RSL sub-branch serving as President from 2013 – 2016. He is also a member of the South of Perth Yacht Club, was a Civil Marriage celebrant until 2019 and works part time as Pilot Escort escorting oversize vehicles around Australia.

Wayne and Rosemary currently live in Lesmurdie.

## 3CER on Exercise Thunder Strike



**S**APPERS from 3CER's 18CE Sqn stormed Pallarenda beach during Exercise Thunder Strike, achieving their small-boat certification in the process.

Integrating with 35 Water Tpt Sqn, the engineers conducted assembly and maintenance tasks on the Zodiac fleet before hitting the water to complete man-overboard drills, tactical formations and beach landings.

2IC 18CE Sqn Capt Callum Griffiths said exercises such as Thunder Strike highlighted the versatility and niche contribution the squadron provided to 3 Bde.

"As the mechanised squadron within 3CER, we're typically

mounted in armoured personnel carriers, but we also hold and maintain the medium girder bridge capability and the small boats fleet," Capt Griffiths said.

"Completing this training means we are able to rapidly deploy in tactical environments and on disaster relief operations, which provides a vital watersmanship capability to 3 Bde."

Thunder Strike was the first opportunity for many sappers within the squadron to exercise their small-boats skills, and LCpl Brendon Bagwill said it also gave the more senior soldiers the chance to mentor and guide their sections through the activities to build trust and cohesion.

"We have quite a few new members so it was really challenging for some as the conditions were rough and windy, but I'm really happy with how well the team pulled together," LCpl Bagwill said.

"Being the person overboard is a bit nerve-wracking the first couple of times, but once you're waiting in the water and you hear the guys shout that they've got eyes on you, seeing the boat turn around and knowing they're coming to get you is a great feeling.

"Everyone put in a really good effort; we executed the commander's intent and I'm really proud of the team."



8CE Sqn sappers tackle the surf as they achieve their small-boat certification during Exercise Thunder Strike. Photo: Sgt Jake Sims

Photos and Story courtesy of Army

## Early Australian History

b. 15/05/1843 Sydney, Australia. d. 26/06/1903 Windlesham, Berkshire.

Mark Sever Bell (1843-1903) was born in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia on 15th May 1843, the second son of the late Hutchinson Bell, who originally came from Yorkshire. He was educated privately and at King's College, London (where in later life he was made a Fellow in 1890), and he entered the Royal Engineers in 1862.

He served in the Bhutan Field Force, commanding the Royal Engineers and Bengal Sappers and Miners 1865-1866 (gaining the Campaign medal and clasp). He then commanded the Royal Engineers as Assistant Field Engineer in the Hazara Expedition, 1868, being mentioned in despatches for his forced march of 600 miles. During the Ashanti War of 1873-1874, he was Adjutant to the Royal Engineers, Brigade and Special Service Officer. He received the campaign medal, and was mentioned in despatches for several acts of gallantry notwithstanding the action which led to the award of the Victoria Cross (London Gazette, 20th November 1874).

At the Battle of Ordashu on 4th February 1874, whilst serving under the command of Colonel Sir John Chetham McLeod of the 42nd Regiment of Foot, Mark Bell distinguished himself. McLeod observed Bell's actions and stated that he saw Bell always at the front, urging on and encouraging an unarmed party of Fantee labourers, who were exposed to heavy fire from not just the enemy, but also from the wild and erratic fire from the Native Troops in the rear. Bell's actions were vital to the success of the day.

Following the announcement of his award, he was presented with his medal just six days later, on 26th November 1874 by Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle. In 1875, he married his first wife, Angelina Helen, daughter of Captain Dickenson of the 15th Regiment of Foot. Sadly, Angelina died just four years later, leaving Mark a widower. He was promoted to Major in 1882, and was Intelligence Officer during the Burma Campaign of 1886-1887.

He had been promoted to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel in 1883 and Brevet Colonel in 1887. He was then appointed Aide de Camp to Queen Victoria in 1887. He re-married in 1890 to Nora Margaret, daughter of Hext Roger of Inceworth, Devon. In 1893, he was created Companion of Bath and in 1898 was placed on half-pay on account of ill health. He was well known as a great traveller of the East, and traversed over 12,000 miles over uncharted territory of Central Asia, China and the Far East.

Colonel Bell died at Earlywood Lodge, Sunninghill, Windlesham, Surrey on the 26th June 1906, aged 63. His eldest son, Anthony Harley Mark Bell served in the Great War in the 3rd Hussars, earning the Military Cross, and being mentioned in despatches. His youngest son, Robert, would be killed in action in September 1916. Mark Bell was buried in All Soul's Churchyard, South Ascot, Berkshire. His medals are held by the Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham, Kent.

LOCATION OF MEDAL: ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM, CHATHAM, KENT.  
BURIAL PLACE: ALL SOUL'S CHURCHYARD, SOUTH ASCOT, BERKSHIRE.

## Lapel Pins

There are still 20 lapel pins available so if you didn't order a pin in the first round of offerings and would like to purchase one now, the cost is \$5.00 and if postage is required, it will cost an extra \$3.30.

Contact Ian Johnston if you would like to purchase one of the remaining pins.

The pin depicts a sapper and an explosive detection dog in gold on a red disc.

## Waterloo Dinner

This year, the Corps in WA will be holding the Waterloo Dinner a week later on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June so as not to clash with a 16 Battalion Battle Group training weekend which commences on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and includes 13 Field Squadron's participation.

### The Lone Setting



This table is set in a place of honour to remember our mates who are still on patrol. It is set for one and is set with symbolism. This table is our way of recognizing the fact that members of our service are missing from our midst. We will not forget.

They are commonly called KIA, WIA or MIA but we call them mates. They are unable to be with us today and so we remember them because of their sacrifice. Absent here, but never forgotten, they remain our brothers and sisters.

The table is round to show that our concern for them never ends.

The tablecloth is white, symbolising the purity of their response to our country's call to arms.

The empty chair depicts an unknown sole, representing no particular Soldier, but all who are not here with us.

The Australian National Flag placed on the table is a symbol for which so many of our mates have fought and died

The napkin is black, symbolising the emptiness left in the hearts of the families and friends left behind.

The single red poppy on the table reminds us of the blood shed by our missing mates in defence of our country.

The candle represents freedom. The light of the candle will guide us so we may execute our own duties in memory of our mates.

The slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of their bitter fate. There is also salt on the bread plate, symbolic of the families' tears as they wait and grieve.

The KFS set is unbroken, the dixies folded, and the cups canteen with folded handle in inverted because our mates cannot eat or toast with us tonight.

**We will remember them**

**LEST WE FORGET**

## 2CER help with Operation NSW Flood Assist



An Army HX77 and excavator being used to reconstruct a bridge near Wauchope, NSW, which was damaged by the floods. Photo: Private Jacob Hilton

Sappers from the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment (2CER) put their skills to good use on Operation NSW Flood Assist, repairing a bridge near Wauchope damaged by the floods.

They were helped by engineers from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces who were in Australia for training when the floods hit.

Floodwaters and debris washed away the foundations of the vital bridge in the tight-knit farming community, leaving many residents stranded and having to rely on kayak or dinghies to get to their neighbours or into town for supplies. The 2CER sappers, working alongside local contractors, removed felled trees and rocks before linking with the local council to start repairing the bridge.





## Cadet Certificate Presentation

Back on 16 March, the President, Ian Johnston visited the Australian Army Cadet Corps WA headquarters at Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta and presented Daniel Lawson with his scholarship certificate and award on his promotion to Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major for the year 2021.



I don't know what parents are feeding their kids when they are little as most 14 – 17 year olds now tend to tower over me. I ended up with a stiff neck having to look up so high just to make eye contact with a 17 year old.



## Things Our Parents Taught Us Growing Up in 1950's

1. **My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE .**

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

2. **My mother taught me RELIGION .**

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

3. **My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL .**

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

4. **My father taught me LOGIC.**

" Because I said so, that's why ."

5. **My mother taught me MORE LOGIC .**

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

6. **My mother taught me FORESIGHT .**

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

7. **My father taught me IRONY.**

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

8. **My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS .**

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

9. **My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM .**

"Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

10. **My mother taught me about STAMINA .**

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

11. **My mother taught me about WEATHER .**

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

12. **My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY .**

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"

## Website

Our Website will be updated at the end of this month with more information and pictures from around the units.

## RAE Association Membership Fees

The Association membership fees have been increased to \$30, effective for the new financial year commencing 1 July 2021. If you have paid fees in advance for the next year or so, there will be no additional payment required for those pre-paid years.

## Next Meetings

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 18 July at which time a new committee will be elected.

The meeting will be held at the Osborne Park RSL commencing at 11.00am followed by a light meal provided by our catering staff along with a couple of beers or goffas to wash the meal down with.

## Visit to Pinjarra

42 members, partners and mates gathered at Pinjarra for lunch and to visit the suspension bridge over the Murray River, built by 22 Const Sqn back in 1985. The bridge is being taken down and replaced by a similar design suspension bridge made out of modern materials to improve safety at both ends of the bridge.



