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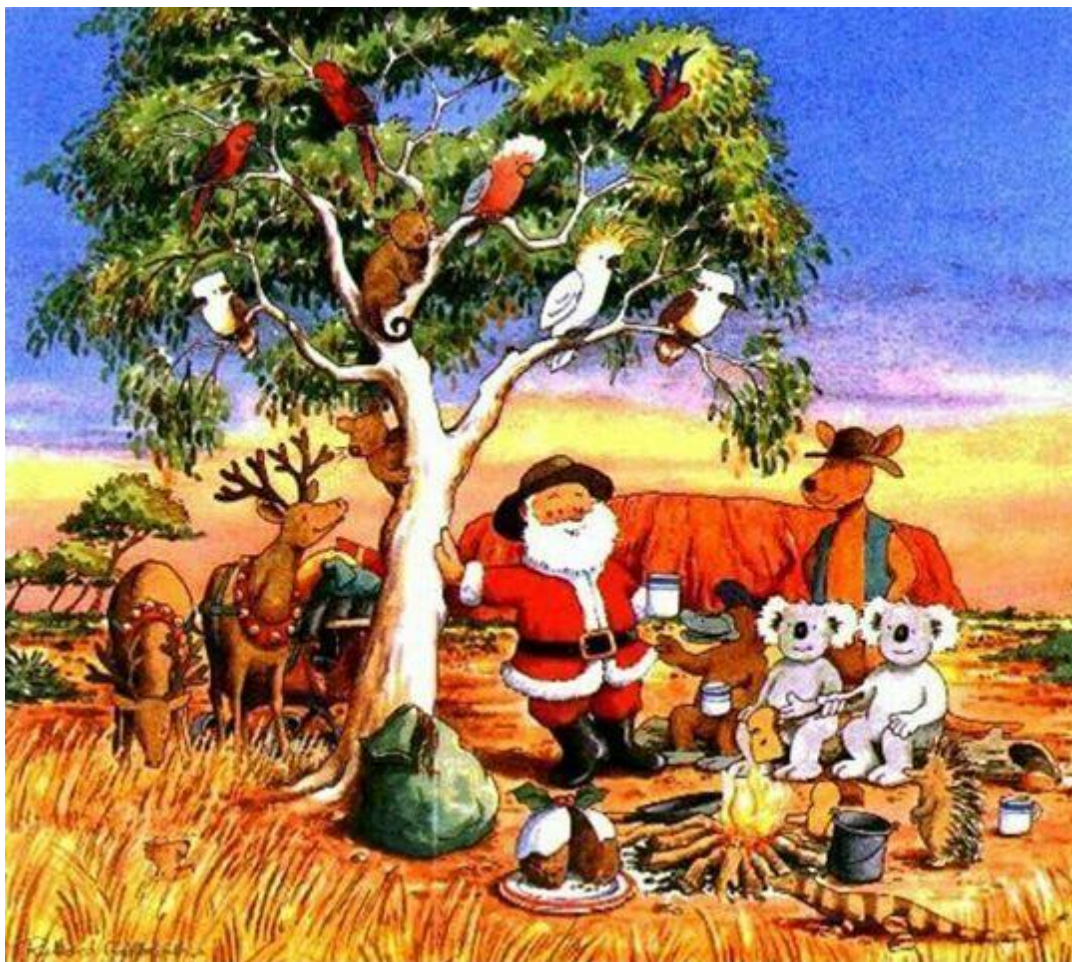
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The Purple Circle

Editor: Ian Johnston

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Summer Edition 2023



The President and committee of the RAE Association of WA would like to wish all our members, families and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

PASSING PARADE

Peter Michael Cachia passed away on 26 September 2023 aged 83 years. Peter served in Vietnam from September 1965 to September 1966 with 3 Field Troop.

Peter John Tierney passed away on 1 October 2023 aged 78 years and 6 months. Peter was a member of 32 Small Ship Squadron and sailed to Vietnam on the AV1356 Clive Steele from June 1966 to November 1966.

Brigadier John Francis McDonagh passed away on 11 October 2023 aged 97 years and 1 month. John served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan after WW2 and in Vietnam from June 1967 to March 1968 with 1 Australian Civil Affairs Unit.

Robert James (Bob) Freeman passed away on 13 October 2023 aged 74 years and three months. Bob served with 32 Small Ship Squadron and sailed to Vietnam on the AV1356 Clive Steele four times from January to April 1969, July 1969 to January 1970, July to September 1970 and February to March 1971.

Kenneth John (Ken) Mitchell passed away on 4 November 2023 aged 79 years and 5 months. Ken served with 22 Construction Squadron as a cook for 8 years, he did a tour of duty to Borneo in 1966 with the unit. Ken was a member of the Association.

Bryan John Ingram passed away on 10 November 2023 aged 78 years and 8 months. Bryan served in Vietnam from Jun 1968 to June 1969 with 17 Construction Squadron.

John Paul Opie OAM passed away on 20 November 2023 aged 85 years and 10 months. John served in in Vietnam from September 1965 to September 1966 with 3 Field Troop and 1 Field Squadron.

Dennis John Anspach passed away on 23 November 2023 aged 84 years and 2 months. Dennis served in Vietnam from November 1968 to November 1969 with 1 Field Squadron and Headquarters Australian Forces Vietnam. He was a 12th intake Army Apprentice carpenter & joiner.

William Mervyn Stinson passed away on 12 December 2023 aged 85 years and 3 months. Bill served in Vietnam from May 1966 to June 1967 and from February 1970 to January 1971 with 21 Engineer Support Troop.

LEST WE FORGET

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Rodger Kelly

Rodger was born in Perth in March 1955 and has a brother, Bruce and a sister, Sandra. He grew up in the northern suburbs of Perth and attended Northwest Scarborough Primary School and Balcatta Senior High School.

Rodger left school in 1972 at the age of 17 and started work at the BP Fuel Depot in Roebourne. At age 15 he worked part time at a plant nursery.

He joined the ARA in 1973 and after training as a FE, retrained as a fireman and finally re-allocated to the clerical stream in 1981. He spent the majority of his time with the ARA serving in Townsville, Brisbane and Sydney. In WA he served with 22 Const Sqn and 13 Fd Sqn and HQ 13 Bde before transferring to the GRes in 1995 where he was posted to Army Reserve Recruiting Perth, APA Perth and again with 13 Fd Sqn until 2015 when he took discharge after 42 years of service. Rodger also served overseas for a two-year posting with 12 CE Works in Mendi, PNG during his time in the ARA. He attained the rank of WO2 in 1991

After leaving the Army, Rodger joined the WA Government Public Service where he worked at the Family Court, Office of Youth Affairs and finally with TAFE until his retirement in 2020.

Rodger met his wife Jennifer in Brisbane in 1981 and they married in December 1983. They have 1 daughter, Laura.

In his spare time, he likes to travel, tinker with cars and scuba dive.

Rodger and Jennifer currently live in Greenwood where they have lived for the past 32 years.



Graham McKenzie-Smith

Graham was born in Sydney in April 1949 and has 2 brothers and a sister. He grew up in the Blue Mountains where he attended Primary School and Katoomba High School. He studied forestry at the University in Canberra on a New Guinea cadetship, working at Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul during holidays. On graduating in 1971, he was called up for National Service and posted onto the staff at SME.

After discharge in 1972, Graham returned to university, and then joined ACT Forests, the department managing the pine plantations around Canberra where he managed Uriarra Forest in the hills west of Canberra. He came to Donnybrook in

1981 in a team to develop a new pine sawmill and by 1985 was managing the Softwood Operations Division for Bunnings Forests Products. He returned to Canberra in 1991 as Chief Executive of ACT Forests. In 1999 he returned to WA as Forestry Director of Australian Plantation Timbers. He left in 2003 and helped establish the Tiwi Island Plantations in NT before retiring in 2006.

Graham has had a long-term interest in military history, he had his first book published in 1995 and has since had ten books published including “Sappers in the West”.

He was made a Life Member of the Association in 2019 and awarded an AM for service to military history and forestry in 2021.

Graham has two sons, living in England and Tasmania and four grandchildren. With his wife Vera, he currently lives in Mt Pleasant.



13 ENGINEER REGIMENT

13 ER held their presentation and awards night on Tuesday 12 December in the Ryan Club. Thanks to RSM Eron Sage, the members of 13 ER were award winners, promoted or posted out of the unit. Postings in will be recognised in the March 2024 Edition after march in of new members and names and position known.

End of Year Awards

Junior Officer – LT Neil Hannaway (22 ENGR SQN)

Junior NCO – LCPL Richard Manship (22 ENGR SQN)

Top Sapper – SPR Aldridge De Souza (13FD SQN)

Other Awards

SPR Lachlan Willis – Australian Defence Medal

CPL Nick Sloan – National Emergency Medal w/clasp – TC Debbie 2017

Promotions (with effect from 15 January 2024)

LT Neil Hannaway – promoted to CAPT

LT Leroy Cox – promoted to CAPT

WO2 Glen Donaldson – promoted to WO1

CPL Nick Sloan – promoted to SGT

Postings

MAJ James Kurz – posted to Army Head Quarters, Canberra

CAPT Kane Bell – posted to Army Head Quarters, Canberra

WO1 Glen Donaldson – posted to DRSCM-A

WO2 Brendon Hall – posted to Head Quarters 13 Brigade, Irwin Barracks

Congratulations to all Sappers who were award recipients or promoted.

Lunch at the Ravenswood Hotel

Tuesday 14 November saw 20 members, partners and friends rock up to the Ravenswood Hotel for lunch by the Murray River. In attendance were Alfonzo Hernandez, Amanda and John Koekemoer, Dale Skimmings, Julie Whitely and Ruby Fraser, Harry Hickson, Kaye Dallas and Tex McPherson, Geoff and Margaret Simpson, Dave Hewett, Brian O'Toole, Roly and Maureen Daily, Trevor and Sue Johnson, Ian and Colleen Johnston and Trevor Jones.





Thanks again to Trevor Johnson for organising the luncheon and for being the photographer on the day.

WW2 Commemorative Medallion

On Friday 17th November, Harry Hickson, John Koekemoer and Ian Johnston had lunch with Gordon Briglin and his daughters and their husbands, Lin and Chris Robins and Sandra and Bill Donovan, at the RAAFA Club in Bull Creek.

The purpose of the lunch was the presentation of the Commemorative Certificate and Medallion to commemorate 75 years of World War II. It was given to all living WW2 service personnel in appreciation of their service.



Ian Johnston & Gordon Briglin

Lin Robins, Gordon & Sandra Donovan

Gordon marked his 104th birthday on 1 July this year. He served with 5 Amphibious Vehicle Increment sailing out of Morotai Island in support of Australian troops during the assault on Borneo and surrounding Islands in 1945.

13 Brigade

13 Brigade has a new Commander. Brigadier Amanda Williamson has been promoted and posted in as the Commander, 13 Brigade as of 6th December.

Some of us will remember Amanda from back in May 2021 when she was the guest speaker at our general meeting. Members got the opportunity to look at and feel the weight of the current day combat packs and equipment and to open and taste some of the 24-hour ration packs being issued today. The ration packs are a big change from the old type A, B and C ration packs of the 1960s-70s-80s that most of us had to endure when out in the field.

Congratulations to Amanda, a Western Australian girl, on her promotion and posting.

Karrakatta Visit

Ray (Brute) Carroll, who is not travelling all that well, was taken to Karrakatta by his son for a visit to the 22 Construction Squadron lines. He was met by the 13 ER CO Lach Robertson and RSM Eron Sage and given the cooks tour of the old 22 area.

When visiting the Ryan Club, he couldn't find his father's WW2 Forestry Company axe which started a search for it, but it wasn't found. Brute was a bit upset about not seeing it and at the request of the Association, it was found and taken to Brute's place in Hamersley by the President and Brute was once again able to hold his father's axe.



Do You Know

The unknown sapper in the last edition of the Purple Circle was Rosco Clark. Peter McMullan was the only member who sent in the correct answer.

This Edition's sappers served with 13 Fd Sqn for a short time as well as other WA units doing unit audits.

Do you recognise the Sapper on the right!



NOTICES

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the “El Kantara” General Meeting held on Sunday 4 February. The following meeting will be held on Sunday 21 April.

Annual Fees

Annual subscriptions are now overdue for the 2023/2024 financial year. For those members who have not paid yet, you are no longer a financial member.

If you still want to be a member, late payment can be made directly into our bank account at Bank of Queensland-

Account name - RAEA of WA. Inc

BSB - 126548. Account No - 28326462

Subs/fees are set at \$30.00.

Contact Details

When you move house or change contact details, please do the polite thing, and let the Secretary know of your new details so we can stay in touch. It saves a lot of hard work and time by committee members to chase up details.

The Secretary, Trevor Jones can be contacted by phone - 0413 376 273 or by email - raeassocwasec2017@gmail.com

Laughs

Turn a sofa into a sofa bed by simply forgetting your wife’s birthday.

Husband arrived home from work and asked his wife ‘What’s for dinner’

Wife ‘Nothing’

Husband ‘We had nothing last night’

Wife ‘I know, I made enough for two days’

We live in a time where intelligent people are silences so the stupid people won’t be offended

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren’t a robot

When a kid says “Daddy I want mummy” that’s kids version of “I’d like to speak to your supervisor”



Things you don't see anymore



The Editor of the Purple Circle would like to wish all of his readers

**A Very Merry Christmas
And
A Happy & Prosperous New Year**

I hope to see you back here next year reading the Purple Circle once again after a safe and pleasant holiday.