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The Purple Circle

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Association members and guests paid a visit to SASR Museum on 19 July 2017

Passing Parade

Lionel Randall passed away on 1 July 2017 aged 70 years. He was called up for National service in early 1970 and was a member of 22 Const Sqn from 1970-72. Lionel joined the WAFB in 1973 and served with them for 44 years.

Kevin (Midnite) Williams or Middy as he was known, was a member of 22 Const Sqn.

Kenneth (Dasher) Wheatley passed away on 24 September 2017 aged 70 years and 4 months. Dasher served in Vietnam in 1968-69 with 1 Fd Sqn.

James (Jim) Kimberley passed away on 27 September 2017 aged 76 years and 7 months. Jim served in Malaya with 2 Troop and 4 Troop, Borneo with 22 Const Sqn and Vietnam in 1969-70 with 17 Const Sqn and AATTV. He served with 22 Const Sqn on several occasions and had the honour of being a Sapper and WO1 SSM in the same Squadron. Jim was a member of the Association.

Sick Parade

Bob Gianatti spent a couple of days in hospital having a knee replacement operation. He is back home now and well on the road to recovery.

Norm Foote suffered a mild heart attack and had a stent inserted but is up and about again and looking fighting fit.

Ian (Lofty) Warren has a spell in hospital after a slight stroke which was more complicated than first thought. After a series of tests, a faulty heart valve was detected and replaced. As only a plantie would describe it "He had a valve replacement, a good tune up and is now right for another 1,000 hours". Ian is at home again and taking it easy.

Bob Horrocks spent a couple of nights in SCGH after suffering a minor stroke. He is back home taking it very easy and giving Coral a hard time.

Ladies, if a man says
he will fix it, he will.
There is no need to
remind him every 6
months about it.

It is funny when my
girlfriend gives me the
"silent treatment."
She thinks it is a
punishment.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be a general meeting to be held on 12 November. The meeting will start at our usual time of 11.00 hrs. Ian Coate, the military artist who painted our 100 Years of the Sapper, will be our guest speaker.

Dates for meetings in the New Year have not been set yet as the Association is waiting for a confirmed printed copy of 13 Brigade's training program for the first half of 2018.

Elected Committee for 2017-2018

At the Annual General Meeting held on 23 July 2017, the following members were elected to form the Association's Committee for the financial year 2017-2018.

Executive Committee

President – Ian Johnston Vice President – Russell McEntyre

Secretary – Trevor Jones Treasurer – Neville Clark

Committee Members

Bob Horrocks, Trevor Johnson, Duncan Jordan, Graham McKenzie-Smith, Steve O'Neil, Lynne Reynolds, Paul Talma and Ross Byron (13 Fd Sqn Rep).

In case you have not noticed, the President has a new Association email address. The new address - raeassoc2016@gmail.com - is his new email address for all matters regarding the RAE Association. His other address is his wife's email address and for private use only.

The Secretary also has a new email address - raeassocwasec2017@gmail.com - all correspondence relating to the Association should be to this email address.

Please amend your address book to include the new email addresses.

The Association also has a new postal address - RAE Association of WA PO Box 94 Dianella WA 6059. All post mail and parcels should be posted to this address.

MEETING OUR MEMBERS



David Evans

David was born in West Perth in 1948 and grew up in the Scarborough area. He has 5 siblings, 2 brothers and 3 sisters.

He attended Doubleview Primary School and Scarborough High School. David left school in 1965 and started as an apprentice cabinetmaker with Modern Furnishings in East Perth.

In February 1966, David joined 13 Fd Sqn as a member of 2 Troop. He was lucky enough to have spent his first annual camp at SME that same year. On his second camp, 2 Troop built Devil's Crossing

During his years in the Army, David completed a storeman's course and moved into the Q store where he worked for some years. He served with the Unit for 14 years, reaching the rank of Corporal and was acting HQ Troop Sergeant when he left the Reserves.

David married in 1984 and then married Michelle in 2010. He has 3 stepchildren and 8 step grandchildren. He and Michelle currently live in Swan View.



Robert (Bob) Horrocks

Bob was born in Perth in 1943 and grew up in Mt Lawley. He was educated at Sacred Heart College Mt Lawley, Christian Brothers Highgate and Marist Brothers.

He started work in 1959 with Boans in their tailoring section, then worked in the display section at Aherns, Foy & Gibson, Walshes, David Jones and at Myers in Fremantle as their display manager.

He also worked as the marketing services manager for British Paints. He sat for the Master Painters exam and worked for many years as a painter.

Bob joined the CMF in 1960, first with 2/28 RWAR and after 1 year transferred to 13 Fd Sqn where he served for 2 years. He joined the Association in 2000 and has been a committee member since 2002.

His hobbies are many, he enjoys playing the guitar and banjo, model ship making, painting and gardening.

Bob married Coral in 1979 and lived in North Fremantle where they raised 2 daughters and a son. They have 2 grandchildren. They currently live in Dianella.

A letter from our new Head of Corps



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AN7569882

To Sappers past and present,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Head of Corps, RAE, an appointment that I see as a tremendous honour and a distinct privilege. I am also greatly appreciative to take over this role from the well-established reins of Brigadier Wayne Budd. On behalf of you all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Wayne for his outstanding leadership for RAE for over a decade as the outgoing HOC; and wish him and his family all the very best for retirement.

I would equally like to express my thanks to the wide RAE Regimental family that extends from associations, regional committees, through to every unit and support groups. Your commitment to our sappers home and abroad is something that has always been highly impressive. I look forward to working with you with these continued endeavours.

As you are aware, the Chief of Army has four standing priorities: support to operations, support to our wounded, injured and ill; modernisation; and reform. As Head of Corps, I am keen to work in a supporting role with all Sappers in the pursuit of these key areas. In doing so, I would like to add one point of emphasis to these key priorities as HOC. I see the essence of support to our people, our fellow sappers as an area I will seek to concentrate on as HOC. I welcome your input and assistance in this task.

I equally see a cross over in my current role in Army Headquarters as Director General Future Land Warfare. Whereby we learn from the past, understand the present; and most importantly, design, and shape the future. Our Corps has an extremely rich history and esteemed heritage to build upon, combined with the introduction of some new and exciting advanced technologies/capabilities. In the coming months, I look forward to engaging with you as your Head of Corps on these matters, attending Corps Conference in mid-October and collectively embracing key issues that will help shape and posture our Corps for the future.

Ubique

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wainwright'.

David Wainwright DSC
Brigadier
Head of Corps
Royal Australian Engineers

16 August 2017

Hotel Lunches

Since the last "Purple Circle", our Social Organiser, Trevor Johnson has been busy organising hotel venues for our members on a "pay your own way" lunch to get members together for a chat and a meal in an informal hotel setting.

On Wednesday 26 July, 12 people turned up at the Wembley Hotel and enjoyed a choice of four meals from their \$15 menu. Steak, chips and salad was the popular choice of meal.

Then on Wednesday 20th September another social gathering was organised at the Greenwood Hotel where 6 people had a choice of 5 senior's meals from the menu.

Although the numbers were down, it is hoped that another lunch could be organised before the end of the year.

A Walk on the Grass

The room was full of pregnant women with their husbands.

The instructor said, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial - strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surfaces, like a grass path."

"Gentlemen, remember -- you're in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for you both."

The room suddenly became very quiet as the men absorbed this information. After a few moments a man, name unknown, at the back of the room, slowly raised his hand.

"Yes?" said the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right, if she carries a golf bag?"

Where Our Association Started (Part 1)

ENGINEERING WAR UNITS. A well attended meeting was held at the Soldiers' Institute on July 23rd, for the purpose of inaugurating an association of all the engineering units that served in the Great War of 1914-19. A Provisional committee was formed to draft a constitution, draw up the necessary rules, and generally lay the foundation of what is hoped will become one of the great associations of Old war comrades, worthy to rank with the South African Veterans, 28th Battalion, and other kindred associations. It was decided that under the tentative name of the "Ex-Service Association of Engineers and Signallers" the following units should provide the membership, viz, the Engineers, Tunnellers, Pioneers, Signallers, Railway Boring and Mechanical, and the Royal Engineers, the last being the ex-Imperial men. The object of the association will be to foster the friendship formed whilst on active service, to assist those in distress and to look after the welfare of the widows and dependents of the men of the various units. This will be achieved by socials, re-unions, and other forms of gatherings. The subscription has been fixed at 2/6 annually. The chairman Mr. G. D. Shaw c/o Soldiers' Institute, Perth or the Hon. Secretary Mr. Robert Tyler of Barton Street, Rivervale, Perth will receive subscriptions or reply to inquiries.

It was further decided that the next general meeting be held on Monday August 16th in the R.S.L. Board Room, and that arrangements would then be made for the Annual Re-Union to be held during Show week, in Perth.

The date July 23rd, 1926 is a memorable day in the history of the Royal Australian Engineers Association of WA. It is the date when a group of engineers from World War 1 Engineer Units held a meeting with the idea of starting an Association for sappers who served in the Great War of 1914-19.

The name proposed for this new Association was the Ex Services Association of Engineers and Signallers and would encompass Engineers, Tunnellers, Pioneers, Signallers, Railways, Boring and Mechanical, and the ex-Imperial men of the above units.

At this meeting, Major George Shaw, CO 13 Fd Coy, was elected President and Robert Tyler was elected Honorary Secretary. Colonel J Nicholson, Commander Royal Engineers, agreed to be the Patron.

The first general meeting was held on 16th August and the second general meeting on 31st August, at which a total of 21 people attended. Then on Monday 4th October, the first Annual Reunion Smoke Social was held in the Soldiers Institute, St. George's Terrace, Perth.

By the end of 1926, the Association of Ex-Service Engineers and Signallers had a total of 116 members.

In early 1927, the Association changed its name to Ex-Services Association of Engineers and Allied Units.

In 1929, Angus McLennan took over as the Secretary and H Oldham took over as President in 1931. Both men served until 1941.

The following is an extract from a letter sent by the Hon. Secretary A D McLennan to the “Listening Post” for August 1930: -

‘On the Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo 18th June 1930 Waterloo Night was held by the Association of Engineers and Allied Units after their fifth Annual General Meeting in the Soldier’s Institute, Perth.

The night was dark and stormy but it did not prevent about 50 old soldiers assembling once again in order to renew that comradeship and “esprit-de-corp” so well cemented around them in the old A.I.F. days’.

After the General Meeting closed, short speeches and long drinks and plenty of harmony was the order of the night’.

This is the first mention of the Battle of Waterloo but it is not known when the first Waterloo Dinner was held but a Dinner held in 1934 was heavily reported.

With the outbreak of World War II and many of the members re-enlisting or being called up for service, in 1941 the Association went into recession.

Sapper at Invictus Games



Spr Curtis McGrath OAM, continued his love for competitive sports by participating in the Invictus Games held recently in Toronto Canada.

We all remember Curtis was wounded in Afghanistan in 2012 when an IED exploded causing him to lose both legs.

In 2016 he won a gold medal in the Rio Paralympic games.

Photo courtesy of Army Newspaper and photographer LS Jayson Tufrey

New Constitution

During the last financial year, the Committee has updated the Associations Constitution so that it complies with the new Department of Commerce Consumer Protection changes when the State Government to the Associations Incorporation Act 2015

The new constitution was submitted to the Department at the beginning of July and we now wait for the Department to accept the constitution and issue us with a new Incorporation Certificate.

The Committee has now formed a Sub Committee to work on a set of By-Laws to enhance the constitution and to form guide lines and assist the Committee in the running of the Association in accordance with the new constitution

Membership Categories

When our constitution was updated, it was decided that seeing as how full and associate members paid the same amount of membership fees, both categories would be combined and be Full Members. The main stipulations required to be a member of the RAE Association are that you must be a retired or serving sapper, a direct family member of a Sapper or a relative. These stipulations will be one of the items covered under a By-Laws.

Association Website

The Association website has been updated with the new committee and mug shots of the Executive Committee. Some photos, new and old have been added to the gallery going from WW1 to current day.

Due to the lack of interest, the Forum page has been deleted and a couple of new articles and Purple Circles have also been added.

Our new website address is: - www.wasappers.com.au

21 Engr Spt Tp Reunion 2018

The 2018 reunion for 21 Engineer Support Troop will be held at Hervey Bay Queensland from 10 to 14 September 2018. All ex members of 21 Engr Spt Tp should contact: - john Pole at vpole@bigpond.net.au or Wally Robinson at walr1@bigpond.com for further information.

Sausage Sizzle

The Association manned the sausage sizzle stand at Bunnings Malaga on Saturday 7 October and it was good to see so many members attend to put in a couple of hours helping. We are required to provide supplies for 800 hot dogs which turned out not to be enough so Neville had to organise for extra rolls and sausages to be supplied.

A special thanks to Neville Clark for all the time he spends in organising all the food, drinks and members to fill the shifts on the day.

Membership Fees

As we have started the new financial year, you are bound to have received notification from the Treasurer that your 2017-2018 membership fees are now due and payable.

Prompt payment of your fees would be appreciated.

If you are paying by electronic banking make sure you include your name and / or membership number on the deposit slip or if paying by post with cash or cheque, that you write your name on the back of the envelope.

There is nothing harder than trying to track down a \$20 direct deposit or \$20 in an envelope with no means of identifying who the money came from.

NOTE: If you were an unfinancial member at the end of the 2016 – 2017 financial year and have not paid your membership fees for this financial year before the 31 December 2017, your name will be deleted from the Association membership register.

Change of Address

If you have change any of your contact details, could you please let Trevor or myself know (contact details at top of front page). It is nice to have the correct details when trying to contact someone or when sending out the "Purple Circle".