

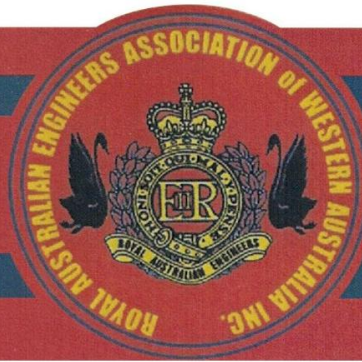
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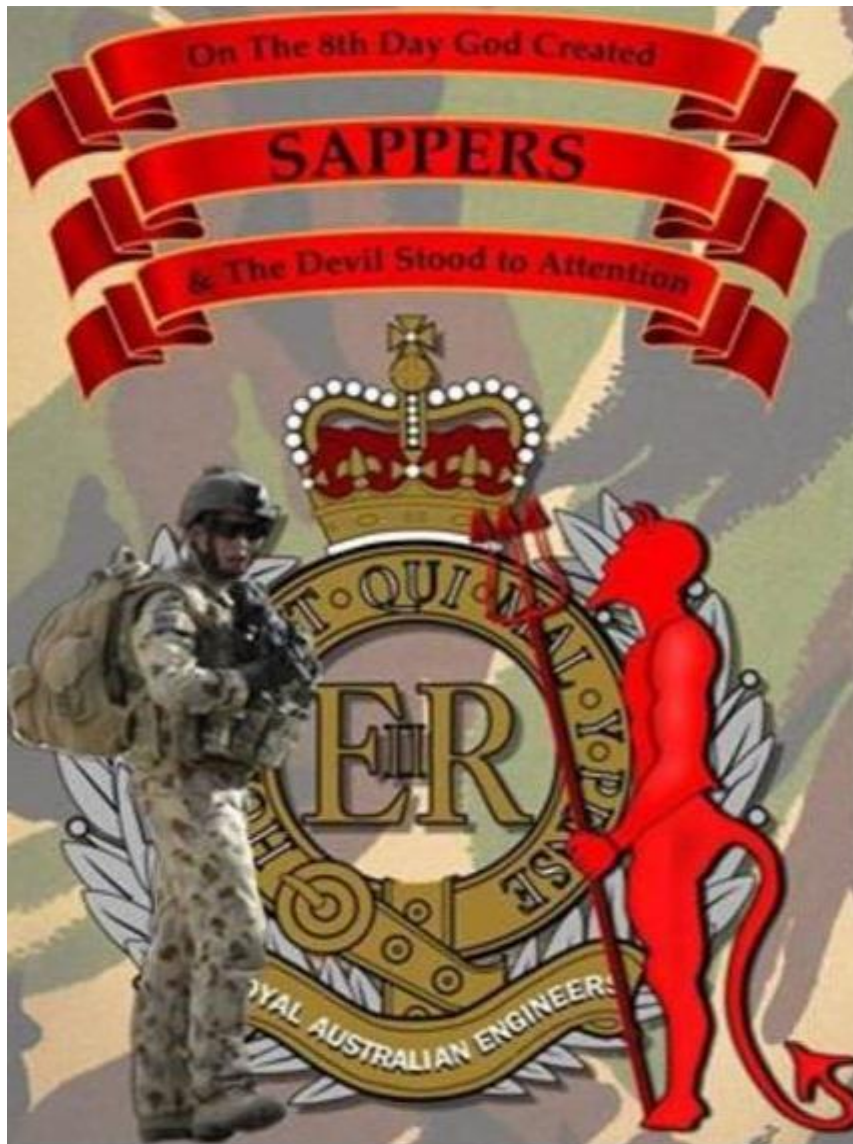
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The Purple Circle

Editor: Ian Johnston.

Contact 08 9448 5590

Spring Edition 2016



New Committee for 2016 - 2017 Financial Year

At our Association AGM held on Sunday 21st August, all committee positions were declared vacant and a new committee was elected.

The new committee is -

President - Ian Johnston

Senior Vice Pres - Paul Talma

Junior Vice Pres - Russell McEntyre

Sec/Treas - Neville Clark

General Committee - Jeff Hacket, Bob Horricks, Trevor Johnson, Trevor Jones, Duncan Jordan, Graham McKenzie-Smith, Steve & June O'Neil and Lynne Reynolds.

The incoming President thanked Bob Gianatti for his work as president over the last 2 years particularly in obtaining support and funding for the publication of the book "Sappers in the West".

Next Meeting

Our final meeting for the year will be held on **20th November** at the Ryan Club commencing at 1100hrs (11.00am).

Dated for our meetings in 2017 will be advised once we have received a copy of the 13 Brigade Training Program and our preferred dates have been finalised and confirmed with 13 Fd Sqn and the Ryan Club.

Help Wanted

In respect to our fallen Sappers, the Association provides a flag party to attend the funeral at the request of the deceased family. At the moment the party is made up of 4 volunteers and most times 3 flags are carried. At times due to work or ill health, the party has had to resort to outside help to carry the required number of flags.

The party is now seeking another 2 volunteers to be on standby should the need arise. Anyone interested, please contact Paul Talma (0412 015 727) or the Editor (9448 5590).

Passing Parade

Rodney Percival (Rod) Pearce passed away on 29 August 2016. Rod was aged 77 years and 7 months. He was a National Serviceman in the late 1950's and then joined the CMF and 13 Fd Sqn. After years of service in the Troops, Rod ended up as the Sergeant Chief Clerk running the orderly room where he remained until 1981 when he transferred to Pay Corps on promotion to Captain. Rod remained with Pay Corps until he retired in 1994.

Noel Beckingham passed away on 9 September 2016. Noel was aged 66 years. He joined the Catering Corp in 1971 and served with 22 Const Sqn from 1972 to 1973 when he took discharge to return to farming in Mukinbudin. Noel was a member of the Association until 2015.

Peter Wells passed away on 14 September 2016. Peter was aged 88 years and 3 months. He served with 13 Fd Sqn from 1949 to 1953 and again from 1958 to 1976, he also did a 3 month detachment with 22 Const Sqn in 1964 - 1965. Peter was a member of the Association.

Norm Quartermaine passed away on 19 September. See "IN MEMORY OF"

Sick Parade

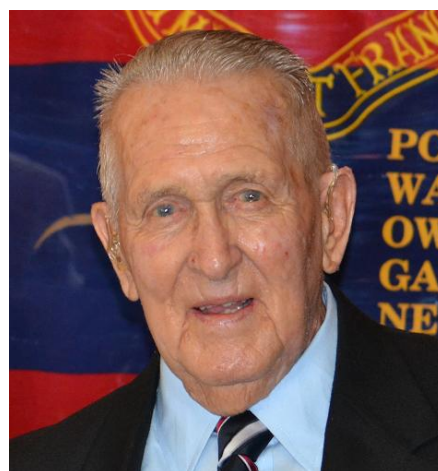
Ron Gomboc went into hospital for minor surgery and ended up spending 10 days in ICU. Ron is now at home and after causing much mayhem for his wife Terrie, is back at work.

Mick McGrath, past SSM 13 Fd Sqn, had a narrow escape from death. He collapsed outside the Leeuwin Medical Centre and was soon surrounded by a team of nurses. Mick had a stent inserted and spent 5 days in hospital. He was admitted a few weeks later to have another stent inserted. He is now back at work if only on light duties.

Fred Banyard had a long stint in Hollywood Private Hospital where he was admitted with a severe bout of the flu.

IN MEMORY OF

NORMAN (NORM) QUARTERMAINE



Norm was born on 30 January 1921 in Katanning WA. He had one brother and three sisters.

Norm went to school in Wagin and then in Midland. He left school at age 14 to work in an office as a clerk. After one year, he left and took up an apprenticeship as a carpenter with a local builder. Norm was in the third year of his apprenticeship training when he joined the part time CMF on 17 February 1941, then on 19 September 1941 he transferred to the CMF on full time duty and on the 6 August 1942 joined the AIF.

Because of his trade, he was assigned to 13 Field Company, RAE. The Unit spent some time working around the Mid West area of Western Australia and whilst on leave in Geraldton with a mate, he met a young lady named Olwyn See and they formed a close friendship.

13 Field Coy moved to the Northern Territory where they constructed and maintained roads and bridges in the area around Batchelor, south of Darwin and carried out repairs to the wharfs in Darwin. In 1944, the Unit moved to New Britain where they carried out general Field Engineering work including road and piled bridge construction in support of 13 Infantry Brigade.

Norm was discharged from the Army with the rank of Sergeant on 1 November 1945 and went back to work to finish his apprenticeship. Norm stayed with the firm and when the owner retired, Norm took over and continued building houses in the Midland - Guildford area until he retired in 1981.

Norm married Olwyn in 1947 and they have two daughters. After living in Midland, they moved to Scarborough in 1956. In 1981 when Norm retired they moved to Albany to be closer to family where they lived for about ten years before moving back to the Perth.

In 2011, Norm unveiled the World War 2 statue at the RAEA Memorial Precinct outside the Ryan Club at Karrakatta.

Norm passed away on 19 September aged 95 years and 8 months.

MEMBER PROFILE

RIGHTON WALTER (WALLY) CAVANAGH



Wally was born on 15 November 1924 in Perth. He had two sisters and a brother, one sister is deceased. Wally went to school at CBC and Trinity College. He left school in 1940 and started work as a clerk with Vacuum Oil Company.

Wally's father, Lt Righton Cavanagh served in the 6th and 3rd Aust Tunnelling Companies on the Western Front in WW1. He was awarded the Military Cross for his actions in Belgium.

In November 1942, Wally joined the militia and was assigned to Fortress Engineers serving on Rottneest Island. In October 1943, he joined the AIF and moved over east where he was placed in a Holding Company bases at the Sydney Show grounds. Wally was then assigned to 5th Army Welding Platoon and was sent to a Water Transport Unit on the Barron River, Cairns to do ship repairs. His unit was then posted to Morotai for training until the assault on Balikpapan in July 1945 where they built bulk fuel storage tanks for the 7th Division.

At the end of the war, Wally returned to Perth and was assigned to Pay Corps to assist in the payment of soldiers returning home to be discharged. Wally was discharged in July 1946.

After retraining as an accountant through the Repatriation system, Wally joined the R&I Bank and was sent to Busselton to work. It was here that he met Valma Kell and in June 1952 they married. They had three children, two sons and a daughter. Because he worked in the bank, they moved around a lot, to Geraldton, Corrigin, Katanning, Perth just to name a few of the places where he worked.

In August 1982, Val passed away and he later met and married Jeanette Knox-Peden.

In 1985 Wally retired from the bank and because of his contacts in the corporate world, he worked as a Director for many Perth companies until he fully retired in 2005.

When Janet passed away in 2008, Wally remained in their Wembley Downs house until 2012 when he moved into a home unit in the Ocean Gardens Retirement Village in City Beach where he still lives. Wally has ten grand children and two great grand children.

MEETING OUR MEMBERS

John Amm



John was born in Bunbury in 1951 and grew up in the Fremantle area. He is 1 of 7 children.

At the age of 15 he left school and started work on his father's fishing boat as a deck hand spending up to 3 weeks at sea at a time.

In 1970, John decided to join the army hoping to get a posting to Small Ships in Sydney. After recruit training and IET, he found himself posted to 17 Const Sqn, South Vietnam (1970-71). On return to Australia, John was posted to 22 Construction Squadron.

After discharge in 1973, John went back to work on the boats. His family moved to the Carnarvon area to continue in the fishing industry as well as operating a tourist charter fishing business. John was forced to retire in 1992 for medical reasons.

Having nowhere to live on his return to Perth, John bought a yacht and lived and sailed out of Hillary's Boat Harbour.

John has 2 adult sons and now lives in a park home in Wanneroo.

Stuart (Stewie) Holmes



Stuart was born in Albany in 1930 and grew up in Denmark. He has one sister.

He left school at the age of 16 and started work as a junior station master in Denmark. When he turned 21 he had to be moved out as he was no longer a junior so he accepted a move to Perth and joined the Railway Road Services (now Trans WA). He drove coaches providing passenger services to WA country towns. His longest trip was the 3 day service to Meekatharra via Dalwallinu and Que returning to Perth via Yalgoo and Geraldton

After 21 years as a coach driver, he was promoted to salary staff and moved upstairs but he retained his coach drivers licence in case of driver shortage. He retired in 1993.

Stewie joined the CMF in 1956 and was allocated to 43 Railway Squadron, a joint SA/WA Unit. In 1958 the Unit separated from S A and became 44 Railway Sqn and he remained there until the Unit was disbanded in 1969.

He transferred to Movement Control until it too was disbanded in 1973. He then joined 13 Fd Sqn where he remained until 1982 when he retired as a SSgt.

Stuart now lives in Gosnells

Overcoming Adversity

Curtis McGrath, a Sapper and a paralympian.

The soldier



Curtis McGrath joined the army in 2006 as an 18 year old and after recruit training and initial employment training was posted to 3CER as a Combat Engineer. Whilst there he spent 3 months in Malaysia and an 8 month tour of duty in East Timor as a part of Operation Astute.

In 2010 Curtis was posted to 6ESR, Brisbane, and it was in late 2011 he was asked to go to Afghanistan.

In 2012, Curtis deployed to Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

Curtis suffered horrific injuries when he stepped on an IED.

As a part of his recovery, he took up para canoeing in 2014, starting with outrigger canoes

In 2015, Curtis started competing in competitive competitions, then in 2016 he won world sprint championships in Europe and the Australian National championship in Perth which qualified him for the Paralympic Games in Rio.

At the Rio Paralympics, he won the gold medal in the para canoe 200m sprint (KL2 Class).

The paralympian



Well done Curtis, you have shown the fighting spirit of an Aussie Sapper.

Veterans' Luncheon

On Monday 12th September, 15 people attended our luncheon including guests and drivers, at the "Karalee on Preston" tavern in Como. Betty Tucker also attended the luncheon but did not catch the eye of the photographer.



Betty Ransome, Judy Gorringe
& Jean Rideout



Ian Johnston, Doreen Cranswick
& Val Pental



Stuart Holmes & Bob Horrocks



Brenda Smith &
Graham McKenzie-Smith



Ann & Frank Kelly



Neville & Gloria Clark

Our next luncheon is planned for Monday 13th March 2017. The usual letter of invitation and pro-forma will arrive in the post prior to the event. For those who qualify to attend - **Put this date in your diaries.**

For a Laugh



What is Happening in Our RAE Units

13 Field Squadron



In the Winter Edition 2016 of the Purple Circle, it was mentioned that Sgt Brenden Dickson was taking over the position as Unit Training WO.

Brenden joined the ARes in 1989 and was posted to 11/28 Battalion as a Rifleman. After attending promotion and training courses, he moved to the Pioneer platoon where he was Pioneer Sgt for 3 years before being posted as an officer cadet instructor at WAUR 1999.

In 2004 Brenden decided to Corps transfer to RAE and after months of training courses at SME was posted to 13 Fd Sqn. After a quick rise through the ranks, he reached the rank of Sgt and was the Operations Sgt when the opportunity came to fill the position as Unit Trg WO on a service requirement posting for 12 months.

Brenden has twice served on the Solomon Islands participating in Operation Anode in 2012 and Operation Resolute in 2015. He is also a member of the High Readiness Reserve.

The Squadron provided the catafalque party for the Sandakan Commemorative Service held at the Sandakan Memorial in Kings Park on Sunday 21 August. Col Geoff Simpson RFD, OAM (Rtd) laid a wreath on behalf of the RAE Association.

The Squadron spent the last 2 training week end up at the old favourite Bindoon Training Area, which a lot of us would remember only too well.

Over the week end 20 - 21 August, training was about route denial by building track obstacles and laying minefields. Then over the week end of 17 - 18 September, they returned to the same area to carry out obstacle breaching activities.

2 Combat Engineer Regiment

From May to August, Sappers from 24 Support Squadron deployed to Malaysia as a part of a Rifle Company to participate in Ex Butterworth 114. Although Sappers were the major force, the Company also included members from 11 other Units including a Platoon from 8/9 Battalion RAR and 23 Army Reserve personnel.

The first phase of the Exercise was Ex Harringaroo with the Australians attached to the 16th Royal Malaysian Regiment and deployed to Sik National Park to conduct a jungle training package. The exercise finished with a motorised advance-to-contact field training serial.

The 2nd phase was Ex Sapper Bersama, the Engineers worked alongside the Malaysian Engineers to carry out construction and refurbishment work to range facilities and rewiring, refurbishing barrack buildings and the construction of a car park.

3 Combat Engineer Regiment

3CER provided Sappers to participate in Ex Hamel 16 held at Cultana Training Area in South Australia.

Sappers also spent time with 2 RAR amphibious element on RIMPAC in Hawaii. The Sappers were able to train with the US Marine Corps which included live breaching serials with US assets.

25 Spt Sqn also spent time on Ex Puk Puk 16 in Lae, PNG. The Sqn was supported by regular and reserve soldiers from across many Corps and units including Navy personnel, UK Sappers and Sappers from the PNGDF.

The exercise will deliver over \$2 Million of training and infrastructure for the PNGDF during the 6 week partnership.

ANZAC House

Most of us will be well aware of the plans to redevelop RSL's ANZAC House and construct a new headquarters building.

In mid October the administration and office staff will move out and relocate to Level 3, 66 St Georges Terrace and the ANZAC Club will close on Wednesday 21st December.

This will mean there will be no RSL dining facilities until the new premises are constructed. As yet date has been given for the possible opening of the new facilities.

Army looking at New Vehicles

Project Land 400 Phase 2 is the Army's biggest-ever capability acquisition project. We take a closer look at the two Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles being considered.

Rheinmetall's Boxer CRV.



Rheinmetall – Boxer CRV

Crew: up to nine – one driver, two in turret, six dismounts
Turret: manned LANCE turret
Main armament: 30mm Mk30-2/ABM Rheinmetall
Rate of fire: 200 rounds per minute
Elevation/depression: +45°/-10°
Main sensor slaved weapon: 12.7mm HMG – commander's RMW, capable of being fired by commander or gunner
Secondary armament: coax – MAG 58 7.62 GPMG
Anti tank guided weapon: Rafael Spike
Engine: MTU 8V 199, 530kW (723hp), 18.7kW/h
Dimensions: (L)7.93m / (W)2.98m / (H)3.24m
Weight (gross): 38,500kg
Maximum speed: 103kph
Range: >650km
Straight gradient (max): 60%
Trench crossing: 2m
Step climbing ability: 0.8m
Turning circle: 18m
Ground clearance: 0.50m

Track: 2.58m
Protected volume: 16m³
Situational awareness:
 – digital gunners stabilised electro optical sensor system – sight (SECSS-S) 360° TV/IR cameras networked with (SECSS-P)
 – automatic target recognition and tracking
 – laser warning and acoustic shooter locating system
 – battle management system and tactical communication
Sighting system:
 – commander's 360° independent digital stabilised electro optical sensor system – panoramic (SECSS-P) sight
Protection:
 – ballistic, mine and IED
 – combined NBC and AC system
 – mine-protected blast attenuating seats
Optional:
 – eight dismounts
 – bomblet protection
 – Rheinmetall active defence system

BAE Systems Australia – Patria AMV35

Crew: up to seven – one driver, two in turret, four dismounts
Turret: manned BAE Systems Hägglunds CV9035 turret
Main armament: ATK Orbital Bushmaster III 35mm cannon
Rate of fire: 200 rounds per minute
Elevation/depression: +37°/-8°
Secondary armament: coax – MAG 58 7.62 GPMG
Anti tank guided weapon: turret integrated (Rafael Spike or MBDA MMP)
Engine: Scania DC13, 450kW (603hp), 15.0kW/h
Dimensions: (L)8.0m / (W)2.87m / (H)3.5m
Weight (gross): 30,000kg
Maximum speed: 100kph
Range: 1000km
Straight gradient (max): 60%
Trench crossing: 2m
Step climbing ability: 0.7m
Turning circle: 17.5m
Ground clearance: 0.430m
Track: 2.45m
Protected volume: 15.6m³
Situational awareness:
 – SAAB Land Electronic Defence System (LEDS-50) laser warning receiver
 – forward, side and rear video cameras, forward IR camera
 – drivers night sight
Sighting system:
 – SAAB universal tank and anti-aircraft sight and fire control system
 – third generation FLIR
 – commander's cupola with independent optical and thermal sights
Protection:
 – level K4 appliqué armour
 – MAAMAB blast protection
 – internal spill liners
 – fire detection and suppression system
Optional:
 – 50mm supershot cannon
 – level K5 appliqué armour
 – hard-hill DAS
 – panoramic sight
 – shot detection system
 – RPG net
 – SAAB Barracuda MCS
 – GVM upgrade

BAE Systems Australia's Patria AMV35 CRV.



Pictures and story courtesy of Army Newspaper

Sausage Sizzle

Our sausage sizzle held on 1 October turned out to be a bit of a fizzer. The weather was shocking and after the manager of the Malaga Bunnings store tried to put the tent up only to see it blow away in the strong winds. After two tries, he decided it was unsafe and cancelled the day on us.

Neville was told to apply for another day and Bunnings will try to accommodate our application for a date later in the year.

New Military Uniforms

The Defence Department has invested in new uniforms for our modern Army of today. The new uniforms have started to be issued to units over east but are not expected to hit the west coast until next year sometime.



Membership Subscriptions

Subs are now due and all members should have received a notice to that effect. To those who have still not paid up, it would be appreciated if you could pay subs promptly as it saves a lot of follow up work by the Treasurer.

Change of Address

Just a reminder that if you change any of your contact details, could you please let Neville or myself know. It is nice to have the correct details when trying to contact someone or send out the "Purple Circle".