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Winter Edition 2017



Constructing Watson's Pier

Passing Parade

The Association has been lucky over this past quarter with all our members still with us and living life to their best health and wellbeing.

Sick Parade

Fred Banyard had a fall and broke his hip in the middle of April and spent some time in Royal Perth Hospital before being moved to Bethanie Care in Gwelup. We wish Fred the best of health as he continues his long life.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be our AGM set for 23 July. The meeting will start at our usual time of 11.00 hrs

This will see the election of a new Management Committee which will be tasked with running the Association for the next 12 months.

If anyone is interested in nominating for a position on the committee, they should nominate on the Nomination Form sent out earlier and have it with the Secretary by 19 July as instructed.

Memorial Wall Plaques

The Association has arranged for family members of our WWII Sappers who have recently deceased to have a name plaque mounted on our Memorial Wall. The new memorial plaques were for WO2 Ron Beard, Sgt Norm Quartermaine, Sgt Jack Hovey, Spr John Metcalf (all 13 Fd Coy), WO2 Jack O'Sullivan (2/2 Forestry Coy) and Spr Hal Cook (2/1 Railway Const Coy).

Membership Fees

As we have started the new financial year, you are bound to have received notification from the secretary 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.

IN MEMORY OF

WILLIAM AUBREY (BILL) SWEET



Bill was born in Caerphilly, South Wales on 16th January 1930. He was the third born in a family of 6 children. He attended Caerphilly Primary School and Cardiff High School. Bill played rugby for Wales in the International Schoolboys Competition against England and Ireland. He was also a member of the Scouts and Boys Brigade.

At High School, Bill completed his University entrance exams but there were no positions available as all spots were saved to returning WW2 servicemen.

He started an electrical apprenticeship in 1946 and was selected to do National Service in 1948 seeing overseas service in Egypt, Cyprus, Eritrea and Sudan. Bill was discharged in 1950 and returned home to Wales.

After 12 months and at the age of 21 years, he took up an offer of the Commonwealth Government for tradesmen to migrate to Australia.

Bill landed in Melbourne and joined the RAE and after a short time at SME did not have to complete his Corps training because of his previous service in the RE.

Bill had many postings on the east coast as he travelled to many depots helping to repair and upgrade electrical installations. As he rose through the ranks his postings were mainly HQ related in planning of Depot facilities and infrastructure.

He saw overseas service in Wewak and Lae in PNG, Borneo (1966) and SVN (68-69), each time returning to be posted to Perth.

In Perth, Bill met Shirley Dye, a widow with 3 young daughters and they married in 1977. Bill became an instant step-father to Robyn, Susan and Penny.

Bill retired from the Army in 1981 and settled in Perth where he worked as a Jury Supervisor at the Criminal Courts until 1988.

Bill passed away on 22nd March 2017 aged 87 years and 2 months.

ANZAC DAY

The Brigade Dawn Service held on the oval was well supported, all comments were that it was much better presented this year. Our Engineer wreath laying service was also well represented by Association members and families and families of 13 Fd Sqn soldiers who were not able to attend because of the 13 Brigade commitment to the march. Also present were family members of some of our past members as well as retired service members of the Royal Engineers who have made Australia home.



The weather for the march this year was much better than last year with brilliant sunshine and was probably the reason for the big turnout of members.

We must give a special mention to Jim Spink who once again got us to the march in plenty of time and home again safely.



Association members were well represented back at the Ryan Club for the afternoon session, chatting and mixing with members of 13 Fd Sqn. It was good to see some of our members who attended their local RSL services in the morning also turning up to the Ryan Club for a beer and a chat in the afternoon.

MEETING OUR MEMBERS



Pat Heatly

Pat was born in Victoria Park in 1948 and grew up in East Vic Park. He has three older siblings.

He attended East Vic Park Primary and then Kent Street High. Pat's first job was as a bee keeper working with the local apiarist.

In 1968, Pat was called up for National Service. He was posted to 1 Fd Sqn in SVN before transferring to 21 Support Squadron. On his return to Australia, he was posted to 22 Const Sqn pending discharge in 1970.

Pat applied for a job with Mt Newman Mines and soon after moved on site to start work. In 1972, Pat married Nada and they lived in a Company house in Mt Newman. It was here in the close-knit community of Mt Newman that they raised their three children.

Pat and Nada returned to Perth when he retired and now live in Willetton.



William (Bill) Stobie

Bill was born in South Perth in 1928 and grew up in and around South Perth. He has three older siblings who were born in Scotland.

He attended Primary School in Applecross and Nedlands and then attended High School in Perth.

Bill was 15 when he started work as an apprentice plumber for a local plumbing firm.

In 1956, he joined the Army and served 12 years with 22 Construction Squadron including a tour of duty to PNG and with 21 Construction Squadron. He also spent 2 years on Rottneest Island as the maintenance tradesman. Bill took discharge in 1968.

He was employed by Mt Goldsworthy Mines soon after discharge to carry out maintenance work in the town and on the camp site. Bill remained with Mt Goldsworthy until he retired in 1988.

Bill married in 1953 and has 5 sons and 4 daughters. He currently lives in a unit in Nollamara.

Tragedy Remembered



CSM D Coy, 1RTB,
WO2 Tom Jesser
reads the Prayer of
the Engineers at the
Kapooka Tragedy
Memorial Service near
Blamey Barracks.
Photo: Sgt Dave Marley

Proud sappers posted to Kapooka-based units had the honour of taking part in a solemn service on May 21 to remember their fallen in one of Army's worst training accidents – the 1945 Kapooka Tragedy.

24 trainee sappers from 'G Coy' died on May 21, 1945 when a bunker on the demolition practice range in which they were having lessons and also containing boxes of explosives detonated.

Two other sappers died shortly after and one luckily survived although badly burnt and blinded.



The soldiers' funeral procession
through Wagga, NSW.

The funeral three days later was described as “The day Wagga stood still” as more than half the town's population of 14,000 paid their respects to the fallen sappers.

The sappers are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in Wagga alongside airmen killed in training accidents around RAAF Base Wagga.

Photos courtesy of “Army” Newspaper

Hotel Lunches

Last month the Association organised a “pay your own way” lunch to get members to attend and mix for a chat and a meal together. Although only 8 of us attended **The Herdsman**, for a first attempt it is worthwhile having another try to encourage members to come along.

Trevor Johnson has been given the task of finding another hotel which serves ‘seniors lunches’ at a reasonable price.

It is intended that the next lunch will be held in October. Plenty of notice will be given for exact date and location.

PHILIPPINE DEPLOYMENT

Cpl Steven Mlinaric and Spr Joshua Park from 6 Engineer Support Regiment were part of an 80 man ADF personnel deployed to the Philippines to take in Ex Balikatan 2017 along with service personnel from Armed Forces of Philippines and United States Pacific Command during May.

The 2 Sappers were attached to the US Air Force 733 Civil Engineer Squadron in Ormoc City on Leyte Island. They worked alongside Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel to help rebuild the community of Ormoc.



Australian, US and Filipino soldiers at work in Ormoc City, Philippines



Spr Joshua Park talking to the children of Ormoc City whilst on deployment to the Philippines

Photos courtesy of "Army" Newspaper

2 CER Help Police Investigation



Spr Justin Letta (pictured) along with other divers and combat engineers of 2 CER enter a lagoon at Deagon Wetlands on April 11 to help Queensland Police search for clues in a suspected cold case murder investigation in Brisbane.

Photos courtesy of "Army" Newspaper

**BEHIND EVERY ANGRY
WOMAN, STANDS A
MAN WHO HAS
ABSOLUTELY
NO IDEA WHAT
HE DID WRONG!**

Been there—
done that. Then,
been there
several more
times, because
apparently I
never learn.

Waterloo Dinner

The Waterloo Dinner was held at the 'Burswood on Swan' Reception Centre on 9th June. Although there was only a handful of Association members attended, which was disappointing, all reports back from those who did attend dined on a first class meal and had an enjoyable evening among fellow Sappers.

Thanks to the Ryan Club committee and function organisers for another excellent Waterloo Dinner.

The following is an extract from the Waterloo Dinner address by Brig Wayne Budd, Head of Corps, Royal Australian Engineers –

RAE Head of Corps Waterloo Dinner Address – 2017

Dining President, fellow Sappers and Distinguished Guests, let me extend to the Sappers of Western Australia my compliments. Throughout my tenure as Head of Corps your Western Australian Sapper community has been a vibrant model for all others to follow.

Defence remains well supported by Government and their commitment to fund the Integrated Investment Plan is evident in our increasing Defence budget.

The Corps is being well served by new Capability expenditure. I have seen the new Land 121 vehicles in units and they add a modern façade to essential vehicle capabilities in units.

Project land 155 – Enhanced Gap Crossing Capability is now delivering four new bridges – a modern MGB, an innovative Dry Support Bridge offering 45m gap crossing, a replacement floating bridge – the Improvised Ribbon Bridge which can handle our M1 Abrams tanks and a footbridge for dismounted crossing. These will be supported by a new bridge erection boat. This capability is hitting units now.

Land 998 – Replacement Aviation Fire Trucks has been delivered into service and achieved IOC this past March.

Land 154 Phase 2 – Joint Counter IED Capability is next in that series of capability enhancement and will deliver a Weapons Technical Intelligence Level 2 Laboratory and enhanced Force Protection Electronic Countermeasures to institutionalise CIED FPECM into Defence.

Land 2110 Phase 1B – is improving Army with a significant increase in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence. It involves electronic warning and reporting, new protective ensembles, and new collective and equipment decontamination systems. This project compliments Land 3025 which is giving the Special Operations Engineer Regiment significant new capabilities.

Land 400 will deliver an Engineer variant of the Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

The Army is in the midst of a significant restructure effort both in the Regular Army and the Reserve Component. The regular Army is reducing hollowness and the Corps has had to reduce in nominal size. We attacked this problem by seeking to reduce unsustainable trade structures where rank bubbles meant that positions generally had no chance of being filled. This restructure will remove most vertical construction capability from the Combat Engineer Regiments but reinforce 6 Engineer Support Regiment.

In the Reserve space, Army is moving to stabilise the size and shape of the Reserve. Most of the changes will occur in the NSW Reserve formation with a strong Reserve training formation to be established. The Corps will lose another Reserve Engineer Regiment but I am confident that the new structure will be strong and vibrant. In Western Australia the role of 13 Field Squadron in support of 13 Brigade remains extant.

I have had the honour to be Head of Corps for the past ten and a half years. I believe this is my 11th Waterloo Dinner address. With Army, I am planning retirement later this year. As such a new Head of Corps will be announced next week. May I say to you how proud I have been to serve with and for you and to share in our collective achievements.

I wish every member of the Corps and the extended Corps family the best in your endeavours, with good health, good luck and even more success. The Esprit de Corps of the Royal Australian Engineers is second to none. You are all the custodians of this spirit and hope that you all see to its continued place in our Army.

Change of Address

If you have change any of your contact details, could you please let Neville 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".