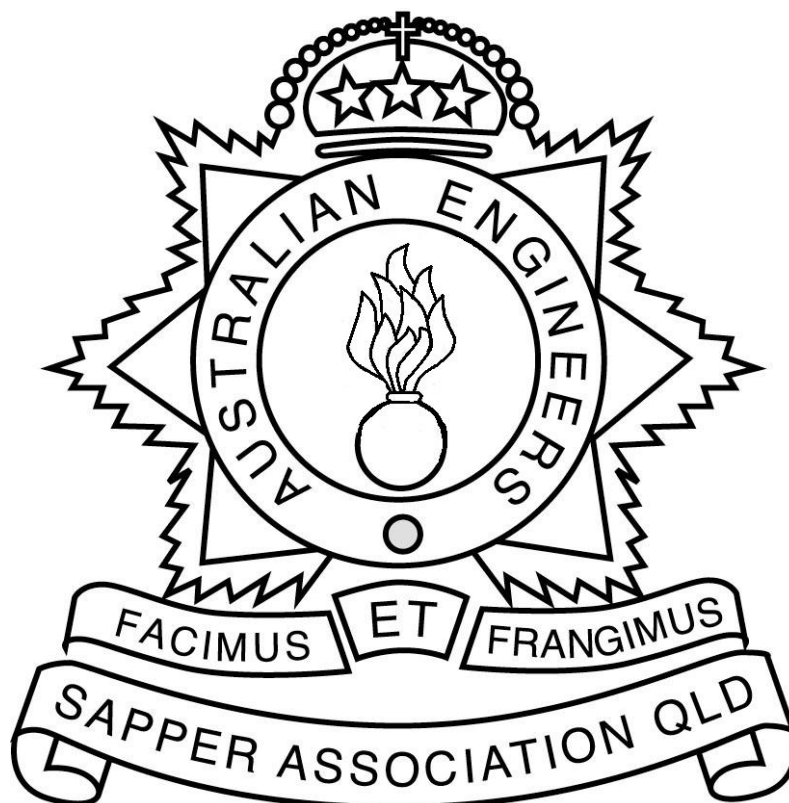


**THE SAPPER**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**QUEENSLAND**  
**(INC.)**

**PATRON**  
HECTOR MACDONALD



**NEWSLETTER 2/2018**

The Sapper Association has joined the 21st century. The association has a facebook page, the address is, Queensland Sapper Association

BRISBANE  
The Sapper Association Queensland (Inc.)  
P.O. Box 1043  
STAFFORD,  
Queensland 4053  
E-mail: [sapper.association.qld@gmail.com](mailto:sapper.association.qld@gmail.com)

NORTH QUEENSLAND  
The Sapper Association Queensland (Inc)  
P.O. Box 1828  
AITKENVALE,  
Queensland 4814  
E-mail: [president@nqsappers.org](mailto:president@nqsappers.org)

### **QUEENSLAND COMMITTEE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

|                                 |                         |                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>PATRON:</b>                  | <b>HECTOR MACDONALD</b> |                     |
| <b>PRESIDENT:</b>               | <b>BOB CRAWFORD</b>     | <b>3359 5338</b>    |
| <b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>          | <b>BARRY BISHOP</b>     | <b>3261 4264</b>    |
| <b>NQ BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE</b> | <b>TONY KEALLEY</b>     | <b>Ph 4779 5951</b> |
| <b>SECRETARY:</b>               | <b>JOHN JESSER</b>      | <b>3356 9297</b>    |
| <b>ASST SECRETARY:</b>          | <b>Vacant</b>           |                     |
| <b>TREASURER:</b>               | <b>Vacant</b>           |                     |
| <b>ASST TREASURER:</b>          | <b>PETER C AYLETT</b>   | <b>3298 5526</b>    |
| <b>EDITOR</b>                   | <b>BOB BANNAN</b>       | <b>3205 1820</b>    |
| <b>ASST EDITOR</b>              | <b>PETER CAMPBELL</b>   | <b>0422 638 218</b> |
| <b>WELFARE</b>                  | <b>PETER CAIRNES</b>    | <b>0427 558 685</b> |
|                                 | <b>HARRY CLAASSEN</b>   | <b>3273 6701</b>    |
| <b>COMMITTEE/SOCIAL:</b>        | <b>BOB PFEIFFER</b>     |                     |
|                                 | <b>BLUE MACKELLAR</b>   | <b>3869 0834</b>    |
|                                 | <b>RON LARSEN</b>       | <b>3822 3787</b>    |
|                                 | <b>MIKE MUIRHEAD</b>    | <b>3371 7527</b>    |

### **NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

|                                  |                       |                     |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT:</b>                | <b>TONY KEALLEY</b>   | <b>0407 242 200</b> | <a href="mailto:president@nqsappers.org">president@nqsappers.org</a>     |
| <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>            | <b>CLIFF KEMP</b>     | <b>0409 892 257</b> | <a href="mailto:vpres@nqsappers.org">vpres@nqsappers.org</a>             |
| <b>MEMBERSHIP/<br/>SECRETARY</b> | <b>JADE PREGELJ</b>   |                     | <a href="mailto:secretary@nqsappers.org">secretary@nqsappers.org</a>     |
| <b>TREASURER</b>                 | <b>GARY BEVERIDGE</b> | <b>0403 266 106</b> | <a href="mailto:treasurer@nqsappers.org">treasurer@nqsappers.org</a>     |
| <b>WELFARE</b>                   | <b>BARRY LOW</b>      | <b>0417 106 435</b> | <a href="mailto:welfare@nqsappers.org">welfare@nqsappers.org</a>         |
| <b>SOCIAL</b>                    | <b>DON CAMERON</b>    | <b>0429034399</b>   | <a href="mailto:camperdown49@hotmail.com">camperdown49@hotmail.com</a>   |
| <b>PROPERTY</b>                  | <b>RON SMITH</b>      | <b>0438508104</b>   | <a href="mailto:maron63@bigpond.com">maron63@bigpond.com</a>             |
| <b>FUND RAISING</b>              | <b>PAT DALEY</b>      | <b>47740028</b>     | <a href="mailto:fro@nqsappers.org">fro@nqsappers.org</a>                 |
| <b>COMMITTEE</b>                 | <b>ALLAN MANSELL</b>  | <b>0416977404</b>   | <a href="mailto:allanandreldi@bigpond.com">allanandreldi@bigpond.com</a> |

### **The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc.**

#### **Brisbane**

Saturday, 21st July 2018 (Redcliffe RSL)  
Saturday, 15th September 2018 TBA  
Saturday, 3rd November 2018 TBA

#### **Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday, 21st April 2019 10 am start**  
**International Hotel**

#### **ANZAC Day**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 International Hotel**

### **The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc.**

#### **NQ Branch**

Thuringowa RSL Club – 11am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

Check with your committee members regarding  
meeting locations.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday, 4th April 2019**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

BOB CRAWFORD.

Issue 2/18 of our Sapper Newsletter tells us that the year is almost on the rundown to Christmas. What a scary thought. It is also our first Newsletter since our AGM's and Anzac Day and all that they entail. A thank you to those members who joined the Committee's at both Townsville and Brisbane. It is becoming increasingly difficult to fill positions on the Committee's. I thank you for your commitment. Without a doubt the highlight was our Reunion in Bundaberg on the May long weekend. Members and Partners of both Branches enjoyed catching up over a few ? drinks and eats. As I have said in my President's Report , it is pity that the combination of cost and distance precludes closer such functions. I would, on behalf of all members, like to thank John, Blue with his committee and Peter for their efforts which made the Reunion the success it was.

Members of the Association have, and will attend a number of Ceremonies during the coming quarter. Details of these events will be advised at the various Branch meetings. Both Branches continue to strengthen their ties with their local CER's. As retired Sappers we maintain a keen interest in the progress of the serving Sapper. We look forward to their reports in our Newsletters. Hopefully in time, some will become active members of our Association, and take over from us oldies.

Enough from me, enjoy the read.



Photoes from last BBQ , Ironbark Gully



### QUEENSLAND (BRISBANE) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION ELECTRONIC BANKING, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

We have now introduced electronic banking so that members have the option of paying annual subs by this method. We ask that all who use this option make sure they identify each transaction as theirs, so our treasurer is able to keep the books of account correctly, as required by the Office of Fair Trading. This will also allow our nominal roll to be kept up to date. Annual Subs are due by 1st April each year.

**Ordinary membership \$20, Country membership \$10. (Over 100km from the Brisbane City Centre).**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>BANK:</b>            | <b>BANK OF QUEENSLAND</b>              |
| <b>NAME OF ACCOUNT:</b> | <b>THE SAPPER ASSOCIATION QLD INC.</b> |
| <b>BSB NO.:</b>         | <b>124021</b>                          |
| <b>ACCOUNT NO.:</b>     | <b>21814271</b>                        |

PLEASE SHOW BOTH YOUR **MEMBERSHIP NUMBER** AND YOUR **SURNAME** AS A REFERENCE.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Back To SME, Holsworthy, is on 9-11 Nov 2018. For details contact WO1 Shawn Goodbody, Mobile: 0402- 115 305 or Email: shawn.goodbody@defence.gov.au**

**VETERANS CARE ASSOC. TRIVIA NIGHT, CAMP HILL on Saturday, 14 JULY 2018;** Held at St Thomas' Parish Hall, 31 Perth Street. Entry is \$20 per person with Teams of about 6. (Sponsored by Australian American Assoc., Brisbane, to raise money for this worthy cause). Prizes & free Supper, Tea and Coffee (Soft Drinks for sale). **For Details contact Mike Harris, Mobile: 0409- 894 264.**

**20 EOD SQN FORMAL DINNER, REDCLIFFE RSL on 3 AUGUST 2018;** This is for all past Squadron Members. **For Details contact David Squires on Email: david.squires1@defence.gov.au .**

**5 FER 24th ANNUAL ARMY REUNION, Sunday, 19 AUGUST 2018; SHERWOOD FOREST PARK, cnr Jolimont and Turner Streets, SHERWOOD (10AM to 3.30PM). For Details contact;**  
**Wendy SPRY, Mobile: 0409- 276 679 or**  
**Robin SLOANE, Mobile: 0411- 788 479**

## PASSING PARADE

It is important that all members understand that we honour the memory of all Sappers who have passed away. Lest we Forget.

The following have passed away since last newsletter.

**Peter MAROTTA, ex Sapper**, who served with 4CER around 2001 till 2004 passed away on Monday, 2nd April 2018.. Peter was a great bloke, and worked in plant troop. He had a single license code for the JD933. He Worked for Telstra and was also in CFA whilst in 4CER. On joining the MFB he left 4CER, In the MFB he worked at Burnley Fire Station and as a trainer teaching new firefighters. Taken way to soon by cancer at only 46. Peter's funeral was held on the 9th April 2018 at Discovery Church, Mt Evelyn, Vic.

**Neville "Nipper" MARWOOD, ex Sapper**, passed away 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018 after a very valiant battle against cancer. "Nipper" was 65 years young. Nipper was a Country Roads Board (CRB) man and was a member of 107 Construction Squadron, 22<sup>nd</sup> Construction Regiment. He served for approximately 15 years. He also had time with 105 Squadron. His funeral was held on ***Tuesday, the 3 April 2018 at 11am at the William Farmer funeral chapel, Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Vic.***

**Henry Francis WRIGHT, ex Sapper**, (DOB 3/05/1918) passed away on Thursday, 3 May 2018. His funeral was held on Thursday, 10th May 2018 at Branyan Gardens Chapel, Cummins Road, Branyan, Bundaberg, Qld.

**John Henry Alan "Paddy" MARTIN, LT COL (Ret'd) RAE**, passed away on the 3rd May 2018. Paddy's funeral was held on Thursday, 10th May 2018 at Norwood Park Crematorium Chapel, Standford Street, Mitchell, ACT.

**35400 (RSM) John William Milence SCORSE, ex WO1, RAE**, passed away on the 7th May 2018. He served 22 Const. Sqn, Aust. Inf. 4 RAR, 3 RAR, 1 RAR (Korea), 21 Const. Sqn, 7 Indep. Fd Sqn, 1 RTB (Staff), SME (Staff), 18 Fd Sqn, JTC, AATTV, 7 Fd Sqn, SME (Staff) and 3 Fd Engr Regt. John was the first RSM at 3rd Field Engr Regt. His family held a Private Service and Cremation for him. Honours: Commendation for Distinguished Service, Mention in Dispatches.

**39754 Sapper Rodney Andrew Percival ARMSTRONG** passed away on the 14th May 2018. Rod served with 17 Const. Sqn in Sth Vietnam, 1970 to 1971, as a Plant Operator.

**Graham (Stewie) STEWART, ex Sgt RAE (TN)**, passed away in mid-May 2018. Stewie served with 34 Water Tpt Sqn at Kangaroo Point Depot. His family held a Private Funeral and Cremation for him in late May 2018.

**Richard (Dick) FAIRHURST, ex Sgt RAE (TN)**, passed away around the 20th May 2018. Dick served with 34 Water Tpt Sqn at Kangaroo Point. He was the Sgt Medic. His funeral was held in late May 2018.

**QX58637, Frederick Alexander WHITCHURCH, ex Sapper**, passed away on Wednesday, 6th June 2018 aged 92 years young. Fred served with 2/9th Fd Engr Coy, 7th Div. AIF . He took part in the landing at Balikpapan, Borneo, during WW2. His funeral was held on Friday, 15th June 2018.

**1201205, Graham John DAUNT, ex Sapper**, passed away on the 9th May 2018 after a long illness with Cancer. He served with 23 Const. Sqn, 7 Fd Sqn, 55 EWPS (SVN) and 24 Const. Sqn. Graham's funeral was held on Wednesday, 16th May 2018 at Centenary Memorial Gardens, Wacol Station Road, Sumner Park, Qld.

### **PASSING PARADE Cont'd**

**2786168, Warren EDWARDS, ex Sapper**, passed away on the 17th May 2018. Warren served with 17 Const. Sqn, 1st Australian Land Clearing Team in Sth Vietnam, 1968. He was wounded in action in August 1968, but recovered and continued serving.

**35924, Athol Leslie BUSK, ex Sapper**, passed away on the June 2018. Athol served with Aust. Inf. 1 RAR (Sigs) (Malaya Emergency), 22 Const. Sqn, 24 Const. Sqn (Borneo), 1 Fd Sqn (SVN) as Plant Operator & Driver, 2 Fd Engr Regt. His family held a private service.

Our condolences go to all their families.

### **SICK PARADE**

Best wishes for a full recovery to all those who are undergoing treatment at present. A special "Get Well" also to all those who may just be "feeling off their oats" right now. Of course, our thoughts are also with their often hard-pressed spouses and families.

**John BENDING** now resides at a nursing home, Buckingham Gardens, Buckingham Street, ALEXANDRA HILLS, Q, 4161. **The Phone is (07) 3824 4623**. He has told us he would like a phone call or visits from old mates.

**Ron HOFFMANN** now is at St Mary's Hostel, 129 Wildey Street, RACEVIEW, Q, 4305. Ron is one of our WWII members who used to be a regular at our committee meetings. His **Phone is (07) 3294 0010**. He would enjoy a chat on the phone or a visit.

**Henry (DAO) TAYLOR** is very ill and has been in hospital undergoing surgery. Dao is now in the Buckland Nursing Home at Springwood NSW. He is far from well but he does recognise friends and family. Dao served in the Malayan Emergency from 1959 to 1961. Anyone who served with him and would like to call Henry, please contact Alan Reece by email; [alanreece@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alanreece@optusnet.com.au)

**Kev CASHION (Snr)** had a stint in hospital recently.

**Chris MITCHELL** has been in and out of hospital.

**Val MORRISON** now resides at Salem Care Centre, Toowoomba. Jack Madden visited recently. Visits or calls from old mates would cheer him up.

### **VX57174 (later 31532), WO2 Raymond Charles (Mick) MACE, MM, BEM.**

A Plaque was unveiled in his memory, just inside the Memorial Gates, Balcombe Army Apprentice School on the 15 June 2018. It is located on the Nepean Highway, 100 metres down from the current Balcombe Grammar School, Mount Martha. He was well known and respected throughout the RAE Corps.

Mick was born on 10 June 1922. He Joined the 2 AIF on 3 June 1941. He served in the Middle East, New Guinea, Morotai, Tarakan, and discharged in late 1945. He rejoined in 1948 with RAEME and instructed at Balcombe Army Apprentice School where he oversaw construction of a sporting oval and various other facilities. In 1954 he transferred back to RAE as a foundation member of 21 Const Sqn. He then served in Wewak, New Guinea, Sabah, Borneo and then Nui Dat, SVN as WO2 Plant Supervisor. Mick left the Army in 1975.

### **BRISBANE BRANCH SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Sapper Association Luncheon, Saturday, 7 July 2018.;** This will take place at Midday in HQ Bistro, Kedron Wavell RSL Services Club. Members order own meals and drinks.

**Sapper Association Christmas Luncheon at Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club, Manly;** This will be held on Saturday, 1 December 2018. A table has been booked. For more details contact Blue Mackellar Phone: 3869 0834 or Ron Larsen Phone: 3822 3787.





## OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Happenings from the Deep North 1/2018

*By John Cotter Esq*



### AROUND THE TRAPS

The ANZAC Day sales Campaign was once again a great success due in no small part to the efforts of Pat and Jo Daley and a small (very small) band of helpers. Great job by all concerned but of course it would have been a much lighter load if more help had been forthcoming.

Happenstance bit Derek Smith earlier this year at Yungaburra and as he said "Old Sapper mates turn up all around the place. Rhonda and I attended the Dawn Service at Yungaburra. I heard a familiar voice behind me and it was Merv Lewis. Had not seen him since a reunion in Darwin in 2015. We also attended the dedication of a memorial to Jim Bourke in Apr. (7 April 2018) He was one of the main drivers of Operation Aussies Home. Also heavily involved was old Sapper mate Peter Aylett. Peter was at the dedication and we were able to have a yarn. My good friend Bill Tweddell (now Chancellor of JCU but back then, our Australian Ambassador in Vietnam) has told me many times that being involved on the diplomatic side of 'Aussies Home' was one of his most humbling experiences whilst filling that post.

Sad to see old mate John Scorse received his final posting order in early May. John was a top soldier and sapper and a firm believer in the Gospel according to Luke by Brigadier LC Lucas, DSO, MC, VD. Especially the second; "Your men are your judges from whom there is no appeal. There is no higher court." Bumped into Bob Brew and his wife Janet the other day. Both looking well and Janet is doing well after the scare a few years ago. Bob is now semi-retired and reckons the fishing in the gulf is great.

I see that a DFRDB Commutation Class Action case is being considered against the Commonwealth of Australia and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits authority of the Commonwealth Superannuation Commission by Ken Stone. Among other things, this has to do with the never ending repayment of DFRDB commutation. If you are concerned about this issue and wish to register an expression of interest in this matter, please contact the writer by email at [marganken@bigpond.com](mailto:marganken@bigpond.com).

Seems some merchants in the retail car industry are loath to pass on the GST exemptions to TPI card holders. The link below provided further information along with a copy of the form members may need to carry when vehicle or parts shopping. Just in case.

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Forms/Exemption-of-GST-on-a-car---disabled-veterans/>

The insignia of the Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) is a gilt rectangular frame surrounding a deep green ribbon. The frame has a design of flames emanating from the outer edges of the frame to the centre. The Citation is awarded to a unit for extraordinary gallantry in action and has been awarded to units involved in the battles at Fire Support Patrol Bases Coral and Balmoral in South Vietnam in 1968. This included 1 Field Squadron Group. To apply for the UCG go to [www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Content/Applications.asp](http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Content/Applications.asp) or contact the personnel that manage this on 1800 333 362. Complete the form and either respond electronically or print the form and mail it to Directorate of Honours and Awards, CP2-1, Department of Defence, PO Box 7952, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610



Our shiny member in the land of the great coat hanger reports that the Purple Warriors are back to compete in the No Koa Hawaii Wounded Warrior Regatta 2018!! The PWAUS have been welcomed back to the Na Koa event again; OBXtek Inc. have graciously sponsored our team. This year we will be entering two crews; one in the Wounded Warrior and also one in the Combat Veterans category. This trip is likely to see the FNQLD Southern son be on deck as a manager for herding the onerous mob! We are in the final stage of negotiation with accommodation etc. so we'll keep you posted! (Racing is in August)Obi-Shine out.

HOLDFAST 2018 is done and dusted and a great time was had by all those who made the trip to downtown Bundaberg. Well organised by the Brisbane Branch it was good to catch up with old and not so old faces from the past. The contingent from the deep North was well represented although we could have done with a few more; maybe the planets weren't aligned for them. The good mail from certain parties was that one of our number left home without a pair of good strides and had to make a sudden detour into Rockhampton to supplement his wardrobe. A case of Donald where's your trewsers? Or did someone have

it down Pat?

I see that Liz Cosson AM CSC is the new President of the Repatriation Commission which is historically automatic as she is also the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. She is the first female Repatriation Commission President in the nation's history and hopefully her military experience will of benefit to DVA clients.

Submissions for the Productivity Commission inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans are being encouraged by Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester. Written submissions are due by 2 July 2018 and more information on the web site.

### **THE COOLBURRA SHIELD** *From Cpl Sebastian Beurich and the Army Newspaper*

A bruised and battered team of 3 Bde rugby players came away with the Coolburra Shield this year after an "extremely physical" match against the Palm Island Skipjacks on April 28.

The annual game, played at Townsville's Willow Sports Complex as a curtain-raiser for the Cowboys and Raiders Anzac round match this year, saw the 3 Bde Thunder beat the Palm Island team 52-24.

Team captain, 3RAR's Pte Andrew Farrell, said the squad only had six league players, with the rest having a union background. "We were confident on our skillset going into the game, but there's lots of different rules between union and league, and some of the team were a bit worried about getting their heads around them," Pte Farrell said. "The score line doesn't represent how physical the game was – the Skipjacks are a big team. "It was only due to our play structures, and working to our sets, that we managed to run away with the game in the last 10 minutes."

Physical encounter Coming away with its largest win margin – ever – made for an ecstatic team, NQ Thunder coach 4 Regt's Lt Andrew Martin said. "I was a bit concerned coming into the game, because we were missing a lot of our bigger players, so our forward pack was undersized this year," Lt Martin said. "We changed tactics, playing wider and a little bit more mobile, which I think helped us out in the end. "The game was pretty fierce, with a lot of big tackles, and played passionately by both teams. We were bruised and battered from the inter-brigade rugby competition a week earlier, but determined to win." Pte Brendon Caldwell checks his surroundings as he runs the ball down the field.

### **THE BIRTH OF THE NORTH QUEENSLAND SAPPERS**

In keeping with the RAE tradition of very close affiliations with hostilities of class and others much less so, the North Queensland Sappers was also conceived and born in a pub. At the Tattersalls Hotel in Townsville on 24 February 1997 the Inaugural Meeting was chaired by mine host Phil Doherty and attended by Ray Luff, Gilbert Harris, Brenton Gibbs, Craig Anderson, Skinny Clarke, Brenton Patterson, Kevin Sweeney, Jason Watkins, Colin Honey, John Robertson, Ross Jackson and Paul Jackson.

Having been conceived in a pub, the birth took place at the same pub on 12 May 1997 when the first General Meeting of the Steering Committee was conducted. Unfortunately there seems to be no record of who attended however the President was Ray Luff, Secretary Phil Doherty, Treasurer Harry Cooling and Members Kevin Sweeney, Jim McCulkin and Doug (no surname recorded). Perhaps someone somewhere has a record or knows who attended?

The Birth Certificate was issued by the Sapper Association Queensland Inc. on 20 April 1997.

And we are still in a hostelry.

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Well another ANZAC day is done and dusted, good turnout at 3 CER with association members and a good Dawn Service put on by the RSM and members. Again our involvement was at the fore front with Jade and Harold protecting the dais with our pick and shovel; well done to them.

Only a small group marched but had many turn up at the RSL for after parade drinks, thanks to all who performed duties on the day. Thanks to the CO and RSM 3CER who joined us for the march and to Jade Pregelj who is probably the only serving officer who knows how to drill correctly with a pick. (And to David Holt for being game enough to stand next to her. Ed.)

We had a pretty good number attend the Bundaberg reunion and on behalf of the NQ mob I would like to thank Blue and the southern sappers for another great weekend with plenty to do if you wanted to.

I'm in WA at the moment with family matters so a bit pressed for time so I will say good bye for now and wish everyone well. A thank you to my committee for looking after everything while I'm away.

Tony Kealley

## COMING EVENTS

| DATE         | EVENT   | TIMING |
|--------------|---|--------|
| 2018         |   |        |
| 14 July      | Mid-Year Function at Sun Doo Chinese Restaurant   | 6.30pm |
| 22 September | Sausage Sizzle Bunnings Fairfield Waters & Domain | TBA    |

### **NORTH QUEENSLAND (TOWNSVILLE) BRANCH.**

Please note that fees are now \$25.00 for country members and \$35.00 for city members.

For those of you who are into electronic banking and would prefer to pay by that means our details are:

**Bank: CUA**

**BSB: 814-282**

**Account Number: 50444302**

**Account Name: Sapper Association Queensland Inc. – North Queensland Branch**

Please use your surname and initial to identify payment.

**FEES DUE BY THE FIRST OF APRIL. IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



20 EOD SQUADRON NEWS  
From WO2 DAVID SQUIRES



On 3rd August 2018, 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron will host a formal dinner for all past and present Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Sappers associated with Royal Australian Engineer Explosive Ordnance Disposal. This includes serving and retired members of The Army Explosive Hazards Centre, 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron and all other Royal Australian Engineer and Royal Engineer Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians. This event is supported by the Australian Army Band – Brisbane.

The evening provides an opportunity to gather as a community, reacquaint with old friends and regale one another with anecdotes of successes and near-misses. It's also an appropriate occasion to remember those Technicians who didn't return from the long walk.

In 2016, 6th Engineer Support Regiment was granted Freedom of Entry to the city of Redcliffe. 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron maintains this strong relationship on behalf of the Regiment and provides regular support to the Redcliffe RSL for any event where uniformed personnel are requested. As such, it is appropriate for the Squadron Dinner to be held at the Redcliffe RSL.

There may be members of the Squadron and Explosive Ordnance Disposal community who have not yet been reached or have been missed. If you know anyone interested in attending let them know or alternatively, information about the event is posted on the 6th Engineer Support Regiment's Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/events/208569859728727/?ti=as>.

**If there are any questions or enquiries about the dinner please contact WO2 D Squires on email: [david.squires1@defence.gov.au](mailto:david.squires1@defence.gov.au).**

Cont'd

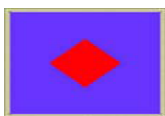


## 20 EOD SQUADRON NEWS CONTINUED.

In closing, the opportunity to gather as friends and colleagues is one that is all too often missed or overlooked. The Officer Commanding, Major Matthew Marcinkewycz, is looking forward to hosting this event and sharing the evening with you all.

### **David Squires**

WO2 EOD TECH  
20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron  
6th Engineer Support Regiment  
Ph: 0455040444 Work: 07 3332 9127



### **2 CER NEWS**

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Haertsch  
Commanding Officer

*Semper Paratus! News Item submitted by Cpl Robert Prowse*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment has hit the ground running these last few months, with the members of the Regiment taking part in specialised search tasks as a part of Operation Atlas. This saw the Sappers working alongside Queensland Police Service in conjunction with the Army's Explosive Detection Dogs, to ensure that all of the venues for the Gold Coast Commonwealth games were safe.

April saw the members attending various ANZAC day commemorative services. Of note, the gunfire breakfast and dawn service at 2 CER, which was attended well by families and friends of the Unit. The day proceeded with a march through the Brisbane CBD where, with great pride and privilege, the Regiment hosted the Corps Banner complete with escort party. The day was rounded off with a gathering back at the unit where many memories were shared.

In May, the Corps Banner saw another outing at the 2CER Corporals to Sergeants Mess dining in night. This event allowed the JNCO'S of the Regiment the chance to bare witness to the formalities of a dinning in night, how they are conducted and the etiquette that is observed. Several members of the Sappers association were in attendance and kindly gifted The Regimental Sergeant Major of 2 CER (WO1 Sean Chainey) a Sappers Association flag, a gesture that was extremely generous and a privilege for the unit to receive.

In the later part of May and leading into early June the unit has taken part in the Joint Land Series held in North Queensland at Shoalwater Bay, where members of 2 CER carried out various trade specific activities in collaboration with other neighbouring nations, Other members of the unit worked alongside our Navy counterparts on HMAS Canberra and HMAS Choules.

After a short break, the members of the Unit have now headed back to Shoalwater Bay to take part in Exercise Hamel; this exercise is designed to evaluate the processes and procedures with in the unit and ensure that the Brigade is operationally ready.



*Mr Bob Crawford of the Sappers association laying a wreath on the 2 CER memorial at the Anzac day dawn service (Photo taken by CPL Marshall 2 CER).*

## EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

Here are a few items of interest.

**Holdfast 2018 Reunion ;** This weekend was great success. Careful and simple planning with a few interesting events meant that all of us there enjoyed the get- together. From the river cruise to the rum distillery visit to the formal dinner at the RSL Saturday night, where Campbell Newman gave the address, to the memorial service and barbeque brunch and refreshments hosted by 9 RQR local members at their depot on Sunday– all seemed to go smoothly. The general consensus was all had a good reunion. We have now handed the reins over to the North Queensland blokes who will organize our next get- together in two years from now.

**A Sappers' Barbeque Breakfast at Ironbark Gully;** This took place on Sunday, 17 June 2018.

We managed to struggle through without John Jesser & Dianne who were missed, Their girls most capably filled the gap (as usual). With McCreadie & Bishop on the utensils, what could go wrong! There was lots of good advice to the chefs and plenty of banter and good humour. We believe all enjoyed the occasion.

**Reserve Forces Day Parade & Recognition Ceremony, Ipswich Workshops Cenotaph;** I attended this event on behalf of our Association with Jim Staunton on Sunday, 24 June 2018. There was a crowd of about 250 there and the guest speaker gave an account of Queensland Railways' contribution to WW1 and service records of several workshops employees who joined the AIF to fight in the Middle East and on the Western Front. Some returned to take up senior positions in the workshops. A few dignitaries attended and laid wreaths– I laid a wreath also. The service went well.

**USA Memorial Day Ceremony, ANZAC Square, Brisbane;** I attended this event on 28 May 2018 at ANZAC Square Cenotaph, Anne Street. The crowd of about 120 people included dignitaries and official guests who laid wreaths. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Battle for Australia Committee and also represented our Sapper Association on the day.

**Reserve Forces Day Cocktail Party, Victoria Barracks, Brisbane;** I attended along with Jim Staunton, representing our Association, on Friday night, 29 June 2018. There were about 90 guests there and a good evening was had by all. Quite a few of our regular guests have been overseas or interstate on holidays this year.

**Visit to Victoria Barracks Military Museum, RUSSI Hall on Saturday, 30 June 2018;** I made this visit along with French Reserve Officers visiting from Noumea and others. We were given an address explaining dioramas and memorabilia from WW1. We were then treated to a morning tea provided by staff.

**Reserve Forces Day Recognition Ceremony, ANZAC Square, Brisbane;** I attended this event along with Jim Staunton, on Sunday, 1 July 2018, representing our Association. The crowd would have totalled 90 to 100 people with a few dignitaries. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Sapper Association, Queensland. We were treated to a late morning tea afterwards, at the Grand Central Hotel, Anne Street, along with our French visitors.

### **The Long Tan Cross**

I am currently curating the permanent exhibition of the Long Tan Cross at the Australian War Memorial. To that end, would you know of anyone who was with 1ATF at Nui Dat in the final months of 1971 who may know anything directly about the Long Tan Cross? I am specifically after information about how the cross was regarded near the end of 1ATF's time in Vietnam. Anyone who may have patrolled out to the cross during that time or any services that may have been held there after the anniversary service of 18 August 1971. I had heard that a small patrol from 4RAR was sent out sometime in the final weeks to check on the cross as well as giving it a whitewash along with the markers. Do you know of anyone that could help? Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Regards Craig Blanch

**Craig Blanch** Curator | Long Tan Cross permanent exhibition  
[craig.blanch@awm.gov.au](mailto:craig.blanch@awm.gov.au)

### **BOOKS OF INTEREST**

“A TWIST IN THE POGO’S TALE” written by Derek Smith.. Price \$25.00 He will post to anyone wishing to buy one. Cost including postage and packaging is \$31.20. email contact is [dvsmith@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dvsmith@ozemail.com.au)—mobile phone number is 0438 221 114. ISBN 9780994 559104.

### **WELFARE & PENSIONS** **THE SAPPER ASSOC., QLD**

Any members seeking advice regarding DVA,  
Pensions or Welfare

Can contact;  
Peter (Fat Cat) Cairnes, Mobile:0427-558 685  
Or  
Harry Claassen, Phone: (07) 3273 6701

### **AATTVA ( Qld BR ) Inc** **Pensions Officer/ Advocate**

**Mr John McDonagh**

Mobile 0423 138 346,

email [aattvqldbr@westnet.com.au](mailto:aattvqldbr@westnet.com.au)

John is a vastly experienced Pensions Officer who has had many years with DVA and Brisbane Legacy. “DVA have discontinued funding for this service. However, he is willing to continue this service by Working from his home. Association members who wish to contact John should Call him via the mobile phone above.

### **SAPPERS’ LUNCHESES, GAYTHORNE RSL**

We had a decent crowd at our luncheon on Thursday, the 7th June. A few wives and friends also came along. There was plenty of banter around the tables and, no doubt, a few old stories from long ago were retold to rekindle memories. Some of the regular faces were missing, but hopefully, will be at our next gathering. The photo shows some of the attendees at one table. We hope to see a good crowd at the next luncheon.

You can contact John (Jethro) Thompson for details on Mobile: 0488 680 360.



### **ITEMS FOR SALE, BRISBANE**

The following items are for sale to members:

|                              |        |                         |         |
|------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|---------|
| Lapel badges                 | \$8.00 | Association Plaques     | \$40.00 |
| Embroidered cloth badges     | \$6.00 | Stubbie holders (tubes) | \$ 2.50 |
| Stubbie holders (with Bases) |        | \$3.50                  |         |

Contact the committee if you wish to make a purchase..

### **Website & Email addresses of interest.**



### **WANT TO RESEARCH A DIGGER RELATIVE?**

For all the clues try:-

RAE CORPS SHOP

RAE ASSOCIATION – WA:

COCKSCOMB –

VETERAN HELP – Central Qld

WATER TRANSPORT ASSOC

MUSEUM OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

THE SAPPERFACEBOOK PAGE IS

RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

<http://www.dva.gov.au/help/digger.htm>

[corpsshop@gmail.com](mailto:corpsshop@gmail.com)

[www.wasappers.com.au](http://www.wasappers.com.au)

<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

<http://talk.to/veteransupport>

[www.32smallshipsqn.org.au](http://www.32smallshipsqn.org.au)

[www.aamme.com.au](http://www.aamme.com.au)

Queensland Sapper Association

<https://www.raevictoria.asn.au>

Please advise the Association Secretary either by email, phone or snail mail when you move to a new address or change your email.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of this association.