

**RAE CORPS MAGAZINE**  
**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc**



# SAPPER SUMMIT

*Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper*



## **SAPPERS ON PARADE—ANZAC DAY 2019**

The Royal Australian Engineers Association—Victoria again proudly participated in the commemorative ANZAC Day march in Melbourne. Led by President LTCOL W. Van Ree (Retd) and supported by cadets from Melbourne High School ACU, the association's members joined

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## SAPPER SUMMIT

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Contact details, past copies of Sapper Summit and  
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[www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)



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This edition of Sapper Summit contains a diverse range of articles and reports. I thank each contributor for their efforts in providing material that is informative, reflective and thought provoking. Your contributions are vital to keeping this magazine relevant to the serving and retired sapper communities. Editor

### Your RAE Association (Vic) Committee

President:	Willem "Bill" VAN REE
Vice President:	Don Hughes
Secretary:	Jim DAVIS
Treasurer:	Duncan HOWARTH
Members:	Mel CONSTABLE Eric HOWATT Margaret HANDTE Michael POTTS Graeme LAMBERT

See: [www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au) for up to date news  
about the Association and its activities

Visit us on Facebook:

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with the serving sappers of 22 Engineer Regiment in this year's ANZAC Day march. 22 Engineer Regiment march as part of the 4th Brigade. It was good to see a strong turn out of members marching behind the association's banner on such a significant occasion for all who have served and continue to serve.

## **RSL ANZAC DAY - RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. – 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

Weather conditions this year for the march were very mild which makes all the difference to the participants, attendance numbers and our overall attitude,

This year was a very different one for us as we embarked on a couple of different challenges and we were not sure how these would turn out – success or failure.

This year the 22<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Regiment conducted a Dawn Service at Ringwood prior to departing to participate in 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade city march. The Association was approached by the Regiment asking if we (the Association) could provide a gunfire breakfast for all those attending the Dawn Service. We saw this as an opportunity of being able to show the Sappers that we were there to help them so jumped at the opportunity. It was only in retrospect that it was obvious we would be on a very tight time frame to provide the breakfast and then get into the city to be ready for march off at 9.15 am. With the help of our friend Ron Willis and another cook (Kel Salis) along with the great cooperation of the RSM (Justin Jones)

and the Regiment we achieved the objective to provide food to all those who attended the Dawn Service. The Service was well attended with about 140 people coming along. Wreath was laid at the Service by Don and Michelle Hughes (and Zeus) and Jim Davis did a reading.



Bill van Ree represented the Association at the RSL Clock Tower Service and laid a wreath on behalf of all sappers.

### **David Hirsh Medal Mounting**

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For more details email [corpsshop@gmail.com](mailto:corpsshop@gmail.com)

*David and Ben have been providing outstanding medal mounting services to RAE Association Committee other members for over 20 years. I recommend them to all sappers and welcome them to Sapper Summit. Editor*



Once again the Association participated in the ANZAC Day march but our step out time and location were very different from last years – this year we returned to our original FUP in Collins Street West with step off at 9.10 am (according to MUFTI). At the moment there are many construction sites in the heart of the city and it was thought that these may have caused disruption to the march – many of us still had the memory of 2017 in their minds with the result that a large number of members were in place well before the required time – we had the Cadets in place and banner ready about an hour before step off. Everything seemed to come together and we moved off just a little after our advertised time.

March was led by Bill van Ree and the Association certainly had good support with about 78 people marching behind the banner. Several members travelled considerable distance to be part of this march and it was great to see a contingent of Royal Engineers

join us – thanks to Mike Silvester for arranging this.

To me spectator numbers seemed a little lower but it did not discourage the members marching who without doubt really looked the part in their dress, bearing and drill. I also felt that we were certainly one of the larger groups participating – we should be proud of the support of the people who line the barriers all the way to the Shrine – we all have much to be proud of.

As I mentioned previously there were two new things that the Association involved itself with on Anzac Day 2019 – the 2<sup>nd</sup> being that we had arranged an after match meeting place at the Elephant & Wheelbarrow pub. When we arranged the location we agreed with the hotel that we would spend a certain amount of money and if we did not we would make up the difference – we were concerned because we did not know how well it would be supported but we did not have to worry





Dave Conlan      Thank you all again.  
[Jim Davis](#)



and in fact it was a roaring success. Yes not everyone agreed with the location or some of the costs applied but the success here has encouraged us for next year as it is obvious that everyone was anxious to have a set venue to gather in where they could unwind and enjoy the company of others.

This year we had members of the Doncaster Camera Club who came along and photographed us at various locations including the “class photo” on the rear steps of the Shrine – if anyone is interested photos will be available to purchase from the Camera Club. I have the contact details.

I must make special mention of our old mate Bodo (Kaiser) Boettcher who recently had a very serious operation and is currently confined to a wheelchair – Bodo made the Dawn Service at Ringwood, the march and the after march activity – he was even carried up the rear steps at the Shrine for the class photo. Bodo was assisted by his great mate

## SERVING AND RETIRED SAPPERS ANZAC DAY 2019– The Solemn, The Commemorative and the



22 Engineer Regiment Dawn Service









## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 100th edition of Sapper Summit. The magazine has been telling the story of Sappers here in Victoria for almost 27 years. It has evolved from a duplicated and stapled newsletter into a substantial booklet available in both hard and electronic formats. The magazine is now also supported by both web page and Facebook platforms provided by the RAE Association—Victoria. As the magazine has evolved, so has the structure of the RAE in Victoria. Many readers will remember a time when Waterloo Dinners were patronized by officers from a Reserve Engineer Group and ARA sapper officers from Puckapunyal and Melbourne. Many regiments have disappeared and a few regiments have emerged only to disappear themselves. Now, 22 ER is the only RAE unit in Victoria. Whilst many may lament the changes to the RAE structures here in Victoria, no one can deny that over the same time the professionalism and capabilities of reserve sappers has

continued to develop and everyone associated with this magazine recognizes and respects the dedication, capacity and commitment of the serving sappers in 22 Engineer Regiment. We have, and always will be proud to use Sapper Summit to promote their achievements and commitment to the nation. Nearly three decades ago a few willing sappers came together to ensure traditions of the corps were kept alive and the story of sappers in Victoria was told and recorded. Now the RAE Association has hundreds of members and an energized committee undertaking projects that provide for members, serving soldiers and ensures the recording of the Corp's proud history in Victoria. Sapper Summit will evolve over the next 100 issues to meet the needs of the RAE Association and its members, albeit with a different editor. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy and find something relevant to you in this 100th edition of Sapper Summit.

*Graeme Lambert Editor.*



**AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM of MILITARY ENGINEERING**

**Our Role**  
To collect, preserve and exhibit the history of the Corps of Royal Australia Engineers and the Royal Australian Survey Corps

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Group bookings are essential, other visitors are advised to call to confirm timings.

**Location:**  
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**Contact:**  
Tel: 02 8762 8822 Fax: 02 8762 8842  
Email: AAMME@mailbox.defence.gov.au

**Hours:**  
ADF Members and Defence Civilians: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm  
General Public: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Visits commence at 9:45am and 12:45pm. Other times can be arranged by appointment.











## **RSL RINGWOOD MARCH - RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Once again the RAE Association was invited to partake in the annual RSL pre ANZAC Day 2019 march. The march is normally conducted the week before Anzac Day but this year, due to Easter, it was held 2 weeks prior to ANZAC Day. The march commences at Target Square and moves up the Maroondah Highway does a U turn and ends up at the Clock Tower and involves a large number of local groups such as Army and Air Force Cadets, veterans, Scouts and community groups – it is a family day with many young children representing their loved ones and able to march as the guidelines are not as strict with the Anzac Day city march. Numbers were not as good as last year but we

were completing against many other RSL's and organisations who also conduct similar events on the same day. In addition the Regiment was on duty at Puckapunyal so we did not have the attendance of the serving members.

The RAE Association was led in the march by Bill van Ree. The Association was supported with our banner by members of 31 ACU (Norwood) who are located at the Ringwood East depot. These young cadets are very keen, willing helpers and whilst many are new to ceremonial activities such as this they acquit themselves to a very high standard and certainly did their unit proud. They were assisted in their preparation by their OC CAPT (AAC) Ron Walliker.

The Regiment provided a cenotaph party for the formal activity at the clock tower and the drill was performed to a very high standard – they can all be proud that they represented the Regiment to the highest standard.

The Association welcomed the Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region COL Bruce Murray, AM (Retd) who joined us in the march.

We were very lucky that the RAE Corps RSM (WO1 Sean Cheney) was able to attend and he assisted the CO LTCOL Sharon Coates.

A service was conducted by the RSL at the clock tower including wreath laying, speeches and the normal formalities. Bill van Ree and COL Murray laid a wreath on behalf of the Association, its members and all sappers.

Following formalities at the Tower the gathering moved back to the RSL where finger food and drinks were provided.

All in all a successful day and another that gave the Association of being on display in public. In addition by participating with the RSL on this special day it strengthens our ties with the RSL

**Jim Davis**









## BILANOOK COLLEGE – ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY *(by*

*Jim Davis)*

On 24<sup>TH</sup> April 2019 I was invited to the Bilanook College by CAPT Ian Green (22 ER) to view the College's Anzac Day ceremony. Ian's wife Robyn is a teacher at the school.

A catafalque party was provided by 22 Engineer Regiment which was commanded by SGT David Kelly-Grimshaw. The dress, bearing and drill provided by the party was of a very high standard and a credit to all those involved, and the Regiment can be justly proud of their representatives.

This was a special ceremony as the students had used handmade poppies to adorn a large area around the cenotaph (flag pole) which added a wonderful and unique touch to this very important event.

I understand that the original idea for the handmade poppies came from the husband of one of the teachers – Phillip Johnson who has



taken the poppies all around the world so the school was lucky to be able to use these poppies

It is good to see schools such as Bilanook making the effort to acknowledge the sacrifices that so many have made for the freedom that we currently enjoy and to explain the reason for this to the students and why Anzac Day is such an important day and why it should be recognised.

This was a great day supported by the school, students and many parents and one that I am pleased I attended.



## President's Column



The RAE Association Committee have achieved a great deal since our last edition of Sapper Summit.

### **Heritage and history**

**History Rooms.** Mel Constable and Don Hughes have continued to work on heritage and history projects, improving the quantity and quality of the memorabilia on display in the "Old Sappers Room" at the Oakleigh Depot. We have now signed a memorandum of understanding with 22 Engineer Regiment on the management of the Regiment's "History Rooms". This means that the Association will be able to provide support in the management of Engineer heritage and history artefacts at each of 22 Engineer Regiment's depots. For those of you who have been involved in the management of Regimental property artefacts, you will appreciate that this is a significant undertaking that reduces the bill for non-military activities undertaken by the Regiment. A great help to the Regiment and an opportunity to reduce the risk of losing artefacts.

### **Engineer Heritage Trail.**

The Engineer Heritage Trail project aims to provide a permanent marker (Plaque) and access to information through QR Code readers, at sites where the Corps has made a significant contribution to Defence or the community assistance projects. We will soon

be calling for nominations for the identification of sights that should be marked.

### **Parades and Commemorations**

This edition includes reports on the cessation of the Reserve Forces Day March and the Anzac Day Commemorations. It was pleasing to see large numbers marching with the Association this year, including eight Royal Engineer Sappers. This year was the first time for many years that we advertised a location for a Sappers reunion following the Melbourne City Anzac Day March. We met at the Elephant and Wheelbarrow Hotel on the corner of Bourke and Exhibition Streets Melbourne. With large numbers the room was full of friendly and noisy Sappers of all ages. I would like to thank all the members and friends that attended to make this one of the best events on our social calendar.

### **Social**

Margaret Handte and Eric (Jock) Howart continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of our social events. I would like to thank them for the great deal of time and effort they contribute on your behalf.

### **Association Management**

I was pleased to be able to report to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) that the Association is in a sound financial position. This is largely due to the diligence of both Jim Davis (Secretary) and Duncan Howarth (Treasurer). Their work has included implementing a cloud-based management system that provides all committee members access to the same management systems, reducing duplication and the risk of error associated with the use of personal and disparate systems.

At our last AGM we said farewell to two members of your committee, Ted Boltong (Vice President) and Peter Washusen. Both have contributed a great deal during their time on the committee. Thank you.



As a result, we have two new committee members, Don Hughes who joins us as the Vice President and Michael Potts who comes in as a committee member.

With this new team we look forward to improving on the strong base established by the outgoing committee.

Ubique

*Bill Van Ree*

## RAE ASSOCIATION (Vic) INC.

On 09<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the RAE Association conducted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was held at the Ringwood East depot. Whilst we always wish for more people to attend to provide support there was a good turn up of members providing valuable backing to the Association. There was an estimated 33 members in attendance including COL Bruce Murray, AM (Retd) (Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region) who travelled from Queensland to attend the meeting. The RSM of 22<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Regiment (WO1 Justin Jones) attended briefly to wish everyone the best.

Along with the normal business associated with any AGM there was the election of office bearers for the 2019 – 2020 year which are as follows;

President	Bill Van Ree
Vice President	Don Hughes (and Zeus)
Secretary	Jim Davis
Treasurer	Duncan Howarth
Committee	Graeme Lambert
	Eric (Jock) Howarth
	Margaret Handte
	Michael Potts
	Mel Constable.

At the AGM we saw the retirement of Ted Boltong and Peter Washusen from the committee –

Bill van Ree gave special thanks to both retiring members and wished them all the best. Over the past last few years Ted and Peter have both made significant contributions to the Association and will certainly be missed – both have offered to assist when required. Welcome to Don Hughes and Michael Potts. *Jim Davis*



Back - Mel Constable, Duncan Howarth, Don Hughes, Michael Potts, Eric Howarth, Bruce Murray  
Front Bill van Ree, Margaret Handte, Zeus and Jim

## From The Regiment



### CO 22 Engineer Regiment



LTCOL Sharon Coates

It is wonderful to again be providing an update to the Sapper Summit on the activities of 22 ER. The first few months of 2019 have been a busy time for the Regiment. We are in our 'Readying Year' which will see parts of the Regiment preparing for a major exercise in July at Shoalwater Bay Training Area. A Squadron of Engineers from 22ER and 3FD will join 1CER on Exercise Talisman Sabre, to achieve critical outcomes through some tough training.

I am continually impressed by the time and effort, members of the Regiment give to the unit and the broader Defence community. Over the last six months the Regiment has been called on to support a large number of external requests. Both the full time and part time members of the Regiment have filled these requests. This is on top of our normal training tempo to maintain and develop our engineer skills and promotion courses.

It was a pleasure for the Regiment to host the Sapper Muster in February while the RSM and I unfortunately could not make the evening as the BDE Commander had a recall activity on the same weekend. I understand the night was a great success and enjoyed by all. We look forward to upcoming events with the RAE Association Victoria. These events are a great opportunity for current and former members of the RAE Corps to get to know each other and learn what the Unit did in the past, what we are doing now and the future direction of our Corps. The Regiment always appreciates the continuous

support given by the RAE Association.

This year the Regiment participated in the ANZAC Day March in the city. I felt very privileged to lead the Regiment down Swanson Street in front of thousands of people, as all our members did themselves proud. The RSM and I attended an unveiling of a fantastic sculpture depicting the return of soldiers from WWI at Eastwood Primary School, it was fabulous to see the participation of the school children in the service and there was quite a number of parents who also attended. The Regiment provided support to a number of RSL's in Melbourne and the Latrobe Valley via catafalque parties and guest speakers. In addition to this members of the Regiment were in the catafalque party to the AFL Collingwood V's Essendon match. I'm sure was an amazing experience for them.

Our involvement with Worawa Aboriginal College, through the Indigenous Liaison program continues to grow and strengthen. Recently we participated in a sports carnival with the College, giving us the opportunity to show the students the diverse nature of Army's people and celebrate Reconciliation Week together.

I'd like to use this forum to congratulate a number of soldiers on their promotions, LCPL Dickson, CPL Merre, CPL White, SGT Kelly-Grimshaw and SGT S. White. It is always a joy to be able to promote soldiers, not only does it show that they are developing and growing, it also shows the Regiment is developing a greater depth and skills. Well done to you all for your achievements.

I look forward to updating the Sapper Community on future 22ER events later in the year.

UBIQUE

### 22ER Plant Course 03 – 19 May 19 Summary:

LT John Alekoz

22 ER's 105 Construction Squadron conducted the Civil Construction Plant Course (CCPC) from 03 - 19 May 19 at Puckapunyal Military Area (PMA). The course provided 12 students with the opportunity to obtain proficiencies in various machine groups including front-end loader backhoe, excavator, skid-steer loader, grader, dozer and front-end loader. WO1 Aaron Watts and SGT Geoffrey Smith





A number of trainees undertaking practical training on plant.



Night works being conducted as part of the student's practical assessment.

(Supervisor Civil) worked tirelessly to ensure the course was run to its maximum efficiency, ensuring that instructors and students took the opportunity to develop and enhance their proficiency through the conduct of theory-based learning and live tasks. 3 FD SQN also reinforced their capability as the SQN participated in the course through the provision of their own students. SME and SUR provided support which was fundamental to

the success of the course.

As a Reserve Unit, understanding the growing demand for trade skills in the Regular Forces and the sheer demand for support to Exercises, we are continuously trying to enhance our skillsets to remain current. This course is an example of our members taking time out of their normal tasks and work to commit to gaining the skills necessary to achieve our commitments. All in all it was a successful course that reflected positively on the members involved and their Units.



Excavators in action.

## Tree Felling Course March 2019

In March 2019 CPL Way and CPL Place attended the Federation Training Forestech Tree Felling course. The course which is run over a week saw both CPL's felling 60 plus trees each and learning from professional tree fellers about the different approaches that are required to each tree that you fell. Definitely the biggest take away from the course was that every tree is different. Felling such a wide range of trees with varying degrees of lean, foliage, shape, position, size and wind effect dramatically increased the complications that can occur and the considerations you should make before you fell a tree.

As a Reserve Soldier in Victoria one of the main DACC tasks that we may get called upon to undertake is the clearing of trees and bush fires, as happened in 2009 after the Black Saturday Bushfires. The training received from Forestech left both CPLs in a better position to assess and manage these types of obstacle clearing tasks and ensuring that it is done both safely and within the capabilities of the soldier.

Below: CPL Place falling a tree using the quarter cut technique.



## Ex Holdfast—March 2019

EXERCISE HOLDFAST is an activity conducted at Puckapunyal that focuses on Infantry Minor Tactics (IMT) from the individual level to the section level before culminating into a Troop size activity. The IMT training schedule at the section level focused on patrolling and field signal communications. The importance of field signals allows for the dissemination of tactical orders from the individual to the section without making any noise, which is primarily done through hand gestures. The different patrol formations take advantage of changes in environment to maximise cover and concealment from the enemy while moving. Additionally, the Sappers practiced the contact drill during an initial contact. This drill employs the Sappers to take up a firing position that faces outside of the centre of the formed body that interlinks with other Sappers of the patrol to form an all-round defensive posture.

Concurrent to field skills training, Junior Officers and SNCOs, located with the SQN Command Post, learned the basics of preparing and running a CP as a 2IC. The main take away points from these lessons, were to pre-empt future tasks and conduct preliminary planning for the OC so that tasks could be enacted as quickly as possible. Tracking tasks, stores and personnel were key responsibilities that allow the OC situational awareness of the SQD so that planning for maximum employment of Sappers and resources could be utilized. The next activity involved a quick decision exercise (QDE) that presented the Junior Officers and SNCOs a narrative with a tactical problem to solve. The problem revolved around 3 key tasks:

- Route clearance;
- Area and building search; and
- Force protection.

Listening to the different strategies for approaching the problem provided good





**Above: 22ER Participants in the Puckapunyal Training Area**

**Below: Water Resupply during Exercise Holdfast**



guidance for future tactical considerations on exercise or deployment. The feedback from staff was of good value that focused on the culmination of timings and task orchestration. The next activity culminated the sections together to marry up as one Troop. The task was to occupy a ridge line North of the SQN CP. The intelligence picture provided a friendly recon element to the North West utilizing a screen effect to report any enemy movements in the area to the TP harbour. Once the position was firm in their location, reports of enemy movement heading South came through and subsequent probing attacks were conducted on the position. This tested the layout of the TP harbour whether key features such as re-entrants, dead ground and spur lines were covered by repositions to repel advancing enemy. Second, the probing attacks tested the TP's ability to communicate target indications so that the TP COMD could relay fire control orders. Rapid improvement became apparent after a few engagements with subsequent debriefs. At the end of the exercise involved a TP withdrawal from the position under mortar fire which was executed well due to careful planning combined with rehearsal of concept drills. The overall attitude of the weekend was very positive and set the unit up well for future activities.

Marc Zanier  
LT

## EX SPUR HAYRICK 3-5 May 2019

Over the first weekend of May 22ER held its annual demolitions training weekend at Puckapunyal. The weekend was the product of weeks of lead up and revision which made for excellent training value was obtained for the members of 22ER who attended.

The training started on the Saturday morning with a basic confidence practice. Confidence and accuracy were both demonstrated by all members, with all users achieving detonation of the charge within a two second margin of their fuses.

The day then progressed through a number of serials where the sappers were provided scenarios and targets to hone their skills for both users and supervisors.

The first serial involved the reduction of a concrete obstacles to dust with the application of a Breaching charge using Comp-B, cutting of metal sections with both PE4 and Comp-B. The clean cutting of steel bars using specialist cutting techniques constructed from Primersheet. It also included the removal of a simulated abacus with the obstructing member being blasted an impressive distance away from some well-placed slabs. Finally, a HESCO unit was attacked with a small number of bore-holed PE4 cartridges; whilst the wall was not reduced it did suffer significant damage, displaying the effectiveness of borehole charges.

The second serial involved the reduction of two dragon's teeth obstacles using improvised satchel charges. The durability of HESCO was again tested, this time more substantially utilizing bulk PE4 as a breaching charge, which largely removed the obstacle. Single cartridges of PE4 were also detonated on the side and top of the HESCO unit to simulate the effect of mortar and grenade rounds – to which the HESCO was largely unscathed.

For the third serial concrete culverts were





concussed with both explosive and physical tamping, highlighting the effectiveness and importance of directing the blast. Two suspended bridge panels were cut using different explosives to show the effects of the charges and quantities required to achieve successful V-cuts and again the HESCO wall was subjected to a series of charges.

In the fourth serial the sappers were tasked to deny access to a road using ANFO. Whilst the bang wasn't as large as the audience had hoped, the results were impressive with two substantial craters remaining. In the same serial a final stubborn culvert was destroyed and the 8 CES SSM demonstrated the potential of an impressively improvised water jet. Finally, a Scrooge McDuck-ian safe was breached; unfortunately the application of explosive was too liberal and very little remained of the safe itself, let alone whatever contents it may have held.

On the Sunday morning tactical breaching on CAT 1 and 2 wire obstacles was conducted with sections utilising improvised Bangalore to clear lanes. This was followed by urban scenarios with the doors being attacked by snip, slant and roll up charges as well as a light satellite. Lastly, a sandbag wall was breached with a frame charge.

It was a fantastic weekend with good feedback from all involved and the training was conducted safely under the watchful eyes of the Safety Officer and OIC, LTs Mullholland (10CES) and Nelson (105CES) as well as SGT Van Bakel (8CES).

## **WORAWA ABORIGINAL COLLEGE**

On Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> May, Sappers from the 22nd Engineer Regiment supported the annual Reconciliation Sports Carnival at Worawa Aboriginal College in Healesville, Victoria. Nineteen schools came together in cultural, sporting and social exchange in the

theme of the 2019 National Reconciliation Week *"Grounded in Truth: Walk Together with Courage"*.

For Worawa student, Katelyn Woodhouse, who competed in netball on the day, it was an excellent opportunity "to bring the community together and mingle with students from other schools".

Sapper Phoebe Monahan of 22ER found it a great opportunity to continue the relationship with Worawa staff and students, which the regiment had assisted with various construction tasks over the past 2 years.

"It was good to see so many different organisations and people coming together" Sapper Monahan said.

Highlights of the day included the traditional smoking ceremony, a longest kick competition, guest appearances and live performances by local band "Ruckus" and DJ, Mr Congo.



Above: Aboriginal Elder Uncle Max opens the Worawa Reconciliation Sports Carnival with a traditional smoking ceremony.

Over page.....

Sapper Wolany, Sapper Monahan, Private Campbell, Sapper Gray and Private Muthia of the 22nd Engineer Regiment look on and cheer for the competitors during the Worawa annual Reconciliation Sports Carnival.



Below:

Soldiers of the 22nd Engineer Regiment and students of Worawa together in cultural, sporting and social exchange. From left to

right: Sapper Monahan, Michelle Mosquito, Sapper Wolany, Katelyn Woodhouse, Private Muthia, Lizzie Ward, Sapper Gray, Bianca Douglas and Private Campbell





Below:

Sapper Gray and Private Muthia reflect on the day's events with Worawa students.



## RAE Association Annual Awards

Each year the Royal Australian Engineers Association-Victoria provides awards to soldiers from 22 Engineer Regiment in three categories:

The best Sapper

The best Junior NCO

The best Junior Officer

The 2018 winners of the RAE Association Awards were:

8623781 SPR Adam HOBLEY

8567231 CPL Martyn RADZISZEWSKI

8591628 LT Jake KILSBY



Above:

RAE Association President Bill Van Ree presenting the 2018 best sapper award to Sapper A. Hobley



Above: CPL M. Radziszewski receiving the 2018

RAE Association President LTCOL W. Van Ree (Retd) addressed the regiment's first parade for the year. He addressed the members of the regiment about the role of the RAE Association and its commitment to supporting the serving soldiers of the RAE here in Victoria. Bill used the occasion to present the association's 2018 awards.

CO 22 ER also made a number of presentations:





Above: RAE Associa on President Bill Van Ree addressing the soldiers of 22 Engineer Regiment.  
Le : CPL David Kelly-Grimshaw promoted to Sergeant.



## **RAE ASSOCIATION SAPPER MUSTER OAKLEIGH BARRACKS 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

This night is a very important event for the Association not only for the social and comradery aspect but also it is the major social event on the Association's calendar. This year the Muster was held much earlier in the year (and in line with previous years) which was much better for the Association. The weather is much better in February too.

Once again we were so very fortunate to have the support of the CO 22<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Regiment (LTCOL Sharon Coates) who made the facilities of Oakleigh available for the event – this is an ideal place in relation to location and facilities for a night like this.

An estimate of numbers suggests that over 125 people attended which would have to be considered good.

Even more importantly there were a number of younger serving sappers who came along to the night. It isn't only a night for those who had served but in addition many partners and family also attended. This is a family night. We had Bob and Terry Knight (Queensland Sappers) but were in Victoria and joined us for the night

For the 3rd year the Association provided a spit roast meal which was served in the Drill



Hall – people were not disappointed with the quality or quantity of the meal with many going back for seconds. The meal consisted of a main and sweets. It is hard to fault this method of providing a meal.

As with all evenings there has to be some formalities and these included a report by the President (LTCOL Bill van Ree) on the Association's achievements throughout the year. He went on to welcome everyone to the function. Bill also presented Colin Bowater with his Life Membership which was awarded in 2018.

Regrettably to CO (LTCOL Sharon Coates) and RSM (WO1 Justin Jones) could not attend due to a BDE commitment but special thanks must go to both of these people for the use of the facilities. Major Dan Hayes represented the CO at the function. We also had great support from the staff in the provision of table and chairs. Once again the bar staff in Noel Tipton, Neil Christie and Michael Hutchinson certainly

worked very hard.

Many members of the Association worked hard to make the night a success and thanks to Eric (Jock) Howa, and Marg Handte.

Special guests were COL Bruce Murray, AM (Retd) (Colonel Commandant Southern Region RAE), Patron of RAE Association COL John Wertheimer OA, RFD (Retd), Mr Robert Winther (Repat Hospital) and Mr Geo Coghlan representing the President of the Ringwood RSL (David Jamison)

The night brought together a good cross section of sappers of various ages and ranks and this was the principal objective of the night. It was good to see a number of current serving sappers from the Regiment.

Bearing in mind the ages of some of the guests they did a marvellous job to travel to the function and remain there for many hours. The knowledge and amount of military service in

## Issue 100 Podcast

**NEW RULES OF WAR** What is the future of war? Do corporations, mercenaries, and rogue states now hold more power than the nation-states? The strategies of conventional wars don't work in a world of disorder: global terrorism, international criminal empires, climate change, dwindling natural resources and bloody civil wars. But the US armed forces have failed to adapt to the new conditions. *The New Rules of War: Victory in the Age of Durable Disorder* presented by the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. 13 March 2019. **Speaker** Sean McFate - Professor of strategy, National Defense University and Georgetown University; Think tank scholar at the RAND Corporation, Atlantic Council, Bipartisan Policy and New America Foundation.



[Click the above link to listen to this thought provoking and contemporary podcast.](https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/rn/podcast/2019/04/bia_20190425.mp3)

[https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/rn/podcast/2019/04/bia\\_20190425.mp3](https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/rn/podcast/2019/04/bia_20190425.mp3)

### Editor's Note:

Podcasts listed in Sapper Summit do not promote the views or opinions of the RAE Association Victoria Inc. Podcasts are included to provide readers with material of historical, strategic or military related interest. (Editor)

Below: RAE Association—Victoria immediate past President, LTCOL Colin Bowater RFD (Retd) is presented with his Life Membership of the Association by current President LTCOL W. Van Ree (Retd)



the room is hard to comprehend.

Lots of stories about the old days, two week Exs, SLR's, M60's, on the job training, and winning many battles and the thought that the soldiers of today would not be able to handle the "old days"

Thanks everyone for your support and attendance. I know I have said it before but without your support and encouragement then the Association is headed for nowhere.

A special thank you to everyone who came along and supported this event but more importantly for showing your support to the Association.

Jim Davis



2019 Sapper Muster











## Sapper Profiles



In March 2018 I made the transition from the Royal Australian Engineers to the Royal Australian Army Chaplain's Department, after 29 years of service with the Corps. Not an easy decision to make on a number of levels as I loved the Corps, but I felt a strong call to serve in a role where I could directly help soldiers. Late last year I was also grateful to be given the opportunity to continue helping sappers and former sappers as the Honorary Chaplain to the RAE Association Vic.

By way of background, in 1980 I enlisted in the Army Reserve when I was 17, completed my infantry IET and spent time in a rifle company. In 1983 I was posted to the Mortar Pl at 5/6 RVR. In 1986 I transferred to become a section commander in the assault troop with 4/19 PWLH. I completed the assault troopers course (now known as CAV scouts), the .30/.50 cal gunnery course, and the M113 Light Recon Vehicle (LRV)/APC crew commanders course.

In 1987 I commenced the First Appointment Course at MUR. I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in March 1988 into the RAAC and posted to B Sqn 4/19 PWLH. After completing postings as the Assault Troop Leader, and Recon Troop Leader, I asked my new CO when I would get a chance to lead troops again. He said in about 15 years time as an OC, after doing a series of roles, such as

Sqn Technical Officer, Regimental Signals Officer and Regimental Technical Adjutant, etc. that I had no interest in doing. I then caught up with some mates at 7<sup>th</sup> Field Engineer Regiment (7FER), LTs Shane Cowie and Fausto Marasco. Over a few beers at the Ringwood Mess they said they get to blow up things, build bridges and do troop leading even as a CAPT. While CAV had been good, this sounded great, so I bailed out of 4/19 PWLH and corps transferred again.

My first RAE posting was to 10 Fd Sqn, and then 38 Fd Sqn at Newborough. There was a lot of good engineering work being done, both on extending the Pung Billy alignment by 5 km, including building timber bridges, as well as combat engineer tasks. I returned to 10 Fd Sqn in 1991. I was fortunate enough to command 3 Fd Tp in direct support of 2 RVR during their AFX at Pucka. Lots of defensive positions, including CPs dug in. We provided battle noise simulation (BNS) using comp B, and sacks of plastic explosives to add realism to platoon live fire attacks. BNS was different in those days. One weekend we flew as a troop to RAAF Sale from Moorabbin Airport in a RAAF VIP aircraft, and completed a search of the airstrip, control tower and ops buildings, before commencing a Vital Asset Protection exercise. We worked with the Army Senior Ammo Tech Officer (SATO) from Vic Barracks, and employed their Echidna EOD robot to render safe any finds.

I was promoted to CAPT in 1993 and posted as RECONO to 10 Fd Sqn. In 1994, our OC, MAJ Graeme Lambert, entrusted me with the command of 10 Fd Sqn (-) with approximately 70 pers. We deployed to the 4 BDE exercise at RAAF Tindal near Katherine in the Northern Territory. During that time we supported the Battle Group (BG) based on 4/19 PWLH. Once again advising a CO and his command team on engineering projects. The sqn built permanent defensive positions for the RAAF Base



Combatant Personnel, these were concrete box culverts turned on their side, with dirt pushed up around them, lots of wiring, as well as a range of other defensive works, and route clearance tasks for the BG.

In 1994 I also completed the Search Advisors Course at SME, and became the Sqn Search Advisor for a Low Level Ops exercise at HMAS Cerberus, where 10 Fd Sqn used explosive detection dog teams and army divers who were flown down from Sydney, as well as Victoria Police members.

Members of 10 Fd Sqn became foundation members of 4 CER when it was raised in June 1995. I became 2IC 10 Fd Sqn, with the late Steve Bell as OC. Later I was fortunate enough to command 10 Combat Engineer Squadron, in support of 5/6 RVR on exercise in Cultana.

I later commanded 39 Const Sqn and 22 Const Regt. Both great command roles. I also enjoyed my time as the XO/2IC of 4 CER. I was involved in three major Defence Aid to the Civil Community Tasks (DACC tasks). The bushfires in the Alpine areas in 1993, the Gippsland Bushfires in 1996/1997 when I was CO 22 Const Regt, and the Black Saturday Fires as the SO1 Civil Military Ops. I deployed on a couple of domestic ops, and went to Singapore and Malaysia. During my time as CO I was also appointed as the Deputy Head of Corps (Reserves) and worked for COL Mike Cavanagh and later BRIG Budd in their roles as Head of Corps. From 2007 to 2011 I was the Hon. Aide de Camp to the Governor of Victoria from 2007 to 2011. Other positions included Director Staff and Chief of Staff, Australian Command and Staff College (Reserves) in Canberra, SO1 Soldier Career Management and Chief of Staff 4 Bde. In 2011 I was promoted to Colonel and appointed as the Assistant Commander-Training for 4 Bde, and was the coordinating officer for the deployment of Timor L'Este Task Group 5. I acted as the Brigade Commander of 4 Brigade at various times, including over the 2013/2014 fire season. My last position was as a Senior Project

Advisor to the Cadets, Reserves and Employer Support Division. In my civilian career, I worked as a police officer with Victoria Police for 16 years, including 10 years as a detective. I later went to KPMG, then the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (EL1/EL2 roles), and finally to Consumer Affairs Victoria where I managed regional operations.

Now I'm in my 40<sup>th</sup> year of service, I've found a new lease of life back at 4<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> PWLH this time as their Padre. I've spent more time out bush, backfilled at Kapooka as a Chaplain, been out to sea on HMAS Choules, and acted as a COORD Chaplain on EX Jacka Run. Chaplains are trained in Critical Incident Mental Health Support, Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention, and a range of other skills.

I've recently been appointed as the Vicar of St. Philip's Anglican Church, in Hoddle St Collingwood (next to the Town Hall), and I would be more than happy to see any members of the Association at our 10 am service on Sundays. I'm always contactable by email on [jfraiike@gmail.com](mailto:jfraiike@gmail.com)



#### Editor's Note:

Sapper Summit is pleased to profile John's career in the 100th edition of Sapper Summit. He was serving the Corps when issue 1 was published and continues to serve the defence community.

I personally congratulate him on an outstanding career as a sapper officer and wish well as our association's honorary padre as he continues to serve.



## Ex Chong Ju – 09<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Through the wonderful efforts of MAJ David Bergman (ex 22 ER) the RAE Association was able to obtain 15 seats to the very highly sought-after spots for Exercise Chong Ju.

Exercise Chong Ju is a joint arms firepower demonstration led by CATC and is an annual Army exercise which showcases Army's versatility as a force. The Exercise is named after a 1950 battle in North Korea when the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, supported by tanks and artillery attacked and captured a large North Korean defensive line during their northward advance to the Yalu River.

Now what is the first thing that comes into my mind about the many trips to Puckapunyal in May? Cold, wet and dry, windy, flies, kangaroos, emus. Yes, that was it and it could be all of these in the one day so I warned everyone to be prepared for the worst and to come prepared.

We made our way to Puckapunyal with instructions to be there at the Army School of Transport by 10.00 am to view a static display

of various items of equipment. As we made our way to the first check point on Morobe Road I was convinced that our names would not be on the list and we would be turned away but we were on the list and were directed to the parking area. After registering we were allocated our "pink" wrist bands which was the designated bus colour. We were even given a little "show bag" with goodies in it and after our safety brief we were then allowed to wander around the displays. It was very well organized with tea, coffee and lunch provided.

Obviously, there is a large number of Defence personnel in attendance with also representatives from many countries. Chief of Army LTGEN Richard Burr and RSM (A) Grant McFarlane were there to enjoy the day. There was also a large contingent of RMC Cadets who are given the opportunity of seeing the firepower available to them when they are commissioned. The displays were very varied with equipment, drones, simulation stands, artillery, tanks, vehicles and a variety of others. In addition there were a number of stands provided by civilian supporters of Defence. I wondered how I would fill in my time but it was very interesting and the time certainly went quickly.



Engineers were well represented with one stand conducted by MAJ Jason Law (Ex 22 ER/4 CER) who was trying to sell the benefits of the RAE to some RMC Cadets. Another one that I ran into was CAPT Dave Ferwerda (ex 22 CR, 4 CER and 22 ER) who is currently ADJT 1 CER and down in Puckapunyal on his COAG course.



After lunch it was onto the buses to move out to the viewing area for the commencement of the live fire demonstration. Our "bus monitor" was the Corps RSM for Artillery.

The combat vehicles that were going to be involved today included M1A1 Abrams, ASLAV, PMV medium Bushmaster, Tiger helicopter and some heavy vehicles (artillery). Some of the weapons included EF88 Austler, 7.62 Minimi, M2 Carl Gustav, Javelin, 81 mm mortar, M777A2 howitzer, 66mm M72A6 DFSW.

The setting of the viewing stand overlooked an enemy position located from small arms range out to approx 5km distance. Targets varied from a dismounted enemy section (Fig 11) at close range and mobile/moving targets on through simulated light armoured vehicles (Connexes) and mine field at medium range, heavier armoured vehicles (tanks) approx 2km from the stand to a defended hilltop (Connexes just visible using binoculars) 5km from the stand.

The tactical scenario was of an armoured combat team supported by Artillery, Engineers, Aviation and RAAF, assaulting across an open valley.

The demonstration was split into two parts – the first was a display of the various weapons and their capabilities followed by the attack

Javelin taking flight



using all capabilities

Prior to the commencement of the demonstration the Chief of Army gave a talk to the gathering including the presentation of a 4<sup>th</sup> Clasp to DSLM (35 years' service) but regrettably I cannot remember the name of the recipient which is terrible really as it is such an important acknowledgement.

The demonstration was a great success and went all far too quickly but like me I am sure that all those members from the Association who attended would have enjoyed the day irrespective of the very cold wind blowing in from the rear of us. At least it did not rain.

I am grateful that I had the opportunity of attending Chong Ju and would recommend anyone who is provided with a similar chance to grab it irrespective of the weather conditions.

Jim Davis  
Secretary



Above: 81 mm Mortar and Crew



## The Engineer Who Saved Sarajevo

Think for a moment of the longest siege of a European capital. Maybe Rome, Paris, Berlin or Moscow may come to mind. The answer is, Sarajevo the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The siege of Sarajevo lasted from 5 April 1992 until 29 February 1996. The momentous and tragic event occurred in the lifetime of most readers of this magazine. Not only is the extent of the siege not well known but even less known is the crucial role played by a local engineer in the defence of Sarajevo.

### Background

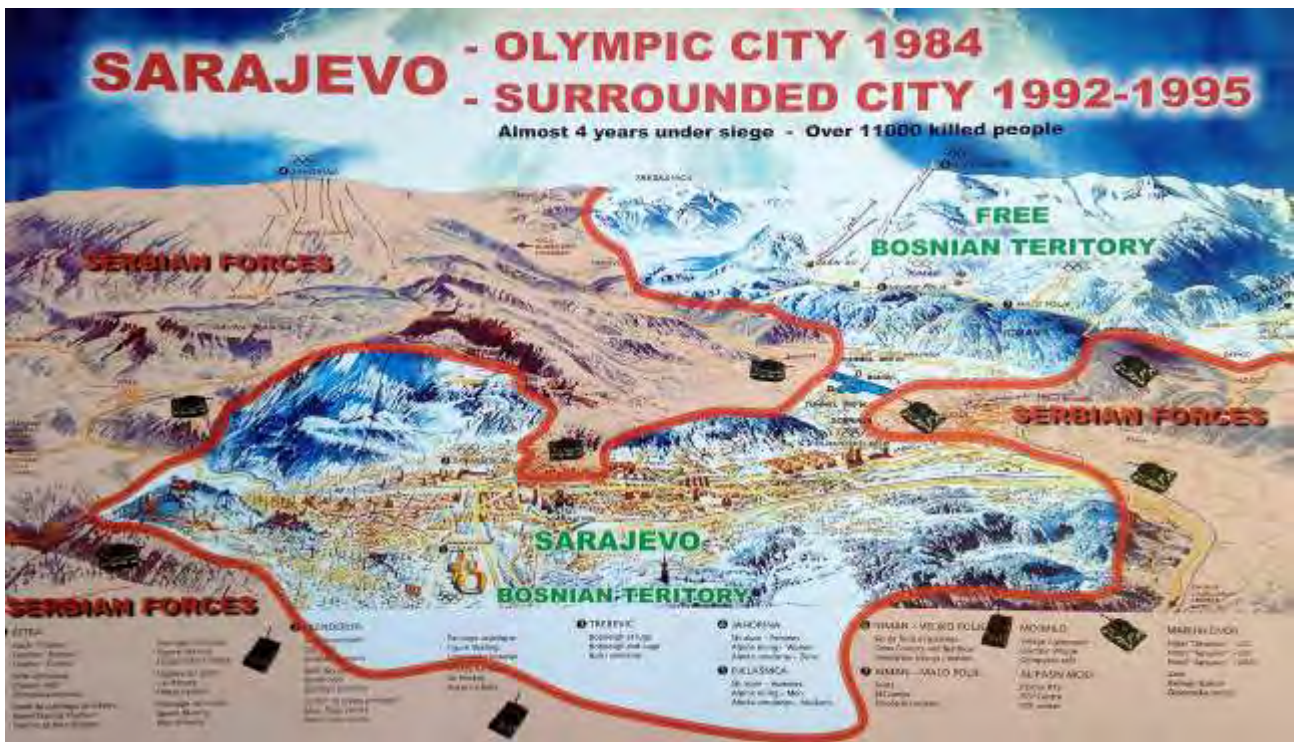
Following the breakup of Yugoslavia after the death of Josip Tito, the Yugoslav state began to unravel as some of the federated states, such as Croatia, sought independence. The Yugoslav Army deployed troops in the hills around Sarajevo on the premise that they were to protect the city. What the citizens of Sarajevo did not know was that the same Yugoslav People's Army was arming and supporting the Bosnian Serb paramilitary forces under Radovan Karadic. Yugoslav President Milosevic's aim was to create a "Greater Serbia" by annexing much of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as parts of Croatia where ethnic Serbs lived.

With the support of the Yugoslav People's Army, Bosnian Serb paramilitary forces easily occupied Sarajevo's residential areas and when the airport was captured, the city was completely cut off. Sarajevo was under siege and without water, food, medicine, electricity and gas. Any armed citizens concentrated in the urban centre of the city. At that time Bosnia and Herzegovina did not have any official armed forces. With the term "ethnic cleansing" now taking on its real meaning in areas occupied by Karadic's forces, people gathered in units called "patriots leagues" to mount some kind of resistance within the city. The Yugoslav Army still occupied barracks in

the centre of Sarajevo. Backed by the Yugoslav Army units the Bosnian Serb paramilitaries attempted to link up with the trapped garrison within Sarajevo by launching a tank led assault on the city. Lacking an armour weapons a small group of defenders confronted the tanks and supporting infantry with improvised anti-tank weapons fashioned in a local workshop. Their tenacity halted the assault and destroyed the lead tanks on a bridge close to the spot where Gavrilo Princip fatally shot Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914, setting in motion a sequence of events that resulted in the outbreak of World War 1. The Sarajevo garrison was eventually allowed safe passage to the Bosnian Serb lines but they had to surrender their arsenal. These weapons became crucial to the defence of Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serb paramilitaries, with significant armoured and artillery assets provided by the Yugoslav People's Army continued to break into the city of Sarajevo but Sarajevo's narrow streets and tall apartment buildings created a Stalingrad type defensive environment and each assault was repelled. Extensive minefields were laid to block more open approaches to the city. Having failed in their efforts to assault the city the Serb paramilitaries laid siege to Sarajevo arbitrarily shelling the city at will. To add to the misery and danger faced by the citizens, sniper positions in the hills around Sarajevo—the same hills that were home to the 1986 Winter Olympics—were utilized to terrorize civilians as they queued for food or tried to find water in street puddles or shell craters.





In July 1992 the UN took control of the Sarajevo airport from the Serbian forces making humanitarian food delivery for Sarajevans possible by way of air. The airport was of great strategic significance to the Bosnian army because it was located between the besieged city and free Bosnian territory. Without food, water or medical supplies, many civilians ran the gauntlet of

Serbian snipers, crossing the airport in an attempt to escape the besieged city. With many people being killed in this way and with the Bosnian forces both within the city and in the free territory without the military strength to break the siege, another solution had to be found.

### The Solution

At the end of 1992 Bosnian Army Headquarters initiated the construction of a tunnel under the UN controlled airport linking besieged Sarajevo with free Bosnian territory. Local engineer Nedžad Branković was commissioned to research and advance the project. The project needed to be undertaken in the greatest secrecy and had to be conducted in such a way as to not jeopardize the safety of the airport. There were two starting points on either side of the airport at Dobrinja and Butmir. The direction and depth of the digging had to be extremely accurate. Soldiers of the Bosnian 5th Brigade began digging on 28 January 1993. Bad weather at the height of winter, a lack of tools and constant shelling made the construction pace very slow. Secrecy was such that the BiH







President was initially unaware of the tunnel project. When he became aware he ordered additional resources into the project. The Sarajevo Brigades provided manpower in the form of workers and construction companies but the work was still all manual and communications between the different entry points necessitated individuals running across the UN controlled airport.

Later in 1993, miners from Miljevina and middle Bosnia joined the diggers who worked in shifts 24 hours a day.

A significant problem with the construction was the presence of underground water. This had to be taken out of the tunnel manually in buckets or canisters. On the Sarajevo side, iron from the city's factories was used to support the interior wall of the tunnel whilst on the Butmir side, locally sourced timber was used to support the tunnel.

News of the tunnel finally leaked to the besieging Serb forces who targeted the areas they thought were the entrance sites with sustained shelling and protested to UNPROFOR which occupied the airport. UNPROFOR did not respond and it is unclear whether this was because evidence of the tunnel could not be found or if a "blind eye" was turned to the issue.

Despite all the obstacles confronting the engineers and the diggers, on 30 July 1993 at about 2100 hrs, two men digging from two different sides managed to touch each other's hands somewhere under Sarajevo airport.

A total of 2800 cubic meters of earth was excavated to create the tunnel which was lined with around 170 cubic meters of wood and 45 tons of metal. It was 800m long with an average width of 1.5 meters.

Initially everything transported through the tunnel had to be carried ....food, medications, weapons and the injured. A small tram line was later installed and small carts made to make the transportation of materials a little easier. Each cart could be loaded with 200-300kg of material but had to be pushed. At one point, directly under the airport, the tunnel dipped to 5m below the surface making the uphill gradient extremely difficult to manage. This is where the underground water was worst especially after heavy rains or when the snow was melting.



Above: Inside Sarajevo's "tunnel of hope".

Tunnel maintenance took place every day between 0800 and 1100. The movement of people through the tunnel was only one way at a time. Groups of 20 to 1000 persons negotiated the tunnel with larger groups sometimes taking 2 hours to travel its 800m length. The daily average was 4000 people. Due to Serb shelling, materials were moved at night with 20 tons being able to arrive in

Sarajevo each morning. Because of the shortage of oil in Sarajevo, an oil pipeline was made through the tunnel. One fuel truck pumped out oil on the Butmir side through the tunnel pipeline and another truck on the Dobrinja side. A risky undertaking when under artillery fire! No fuel truck was ever hit but many shells hit people waiting to enter the tunnel resulting in significant loss of life. These events did not stop the operation of the tunnel as it was literally the lifeline of the city. Over time, other cables were placed in the open waterlogged tunnel. The German Government donated electrical cable which was installed to provide some power to the citizens of Sarajevo. People negotiating the tunnel had to walk through waterlogged tunnel with a fuel line on one side of them and electrical cables on the other. However, the tunnel allowed the transportation of food, medicine, fuel and power to the besieged city. It also allowed the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to function and Members of Parliament to enter the city. The tunnel saved the city from total occupation and the lives of thousands of people.

In August 1995, the international community, in the form of NATO action against Bosnian Serb positions, finally intervened in the conflict. This was a tremendous loss of 200,000 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including some 10,000 people of Sarajevo. It was also just two months after the massacre of 8-10,000 men and boys in Srebrenica. The NATO military campaign put an end to the war, at least in Sarajevo. Finally, in November 1995, the US organized negotiations that led to the Dayton Accords, signaling the formal end to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Nedžad Branković**—the engineer who saved Sarajevo—was an engineer who created the team of professionals to build the tunnel with permission and support of the Bosnian war government and President Izetbegović.

**He was awarded with a most valuable war medal "the Golden Lily" for this success.**



The Butmir entrance to the "tunnel of Hope" today.





Above: A view of modern Sarajevo from a former Bosnian Serb sniper position during the siege.



Clockwise: Sarajevo Rose-fatal shell or mortar fragments scarring painted red. Winter Olympic relics in previous Serbian siege positions. War damage still marks Sarajevo



Post Script: Although the fighting has ended Bosnia and Herzegovina is still a fragmented state with Serbian and Croat enclaves existing in cities and rural areas under their own national flags with their own police forces. Sarajevo survived the siege and is now a vibrant city where mosques and churches exist side by side, where a brewery and wine culture exist alongside halal restaurants and war damage is a constant reminder of a tragic past. One can only wonder what would have become of Sarajevo if it was not for a local engineer and his remarkable tunnel. Editor







Clockwise: Inside the tunnel today. Sarajevo under siege. Tunnel entrance.



Below:  
Sarajevo taking shell fire.

#### Footnote:

RAE Associa on President Bill Van Ree arrived in Bosnia in Mid-1998, working on the United Nations Mine Action Project building multi-ethnic teams to undertake post war mine clearance . Bill said, " My impressions of Sarajevo are the same as many of the places I have had the honour, and probably displeasure of working in. The pointless destruction and the futility of war was evident all over the city. The infrastructure destroyed, the lives lost, people's lives dismantled through the loss of loved ones and destruction of family structures."





## HONOUR FOR RAE VICTORIA

Our newly elected Vice President recently received a **Land Commander Australia "Silver Commendation"** for his work in Mozambique. As the Operations Officer for ONUMOZ and Chief Instructor of the Mine Clearance Training Wing during his deployment in 1994/95, Don Hughes, received the award from the Federal Member for Jagajaga - The Honourable Jenny Macklin MP. The award was presented at the 2019 ANZAC Day service held at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

Initiated by the Land Commander Australia at the time, Major General P.M. (Peter) Arnison AO, Don received the award for his critical role in developing a credible and effective national operational and training commitment that ultimately led *Mozambique being the first Country in the world (2015) declared "Landmine Free!"*

Below:

Jenny Macklin MP presenting Don with the Silver Commendation.



Don was also presented with a **"A Grateful Nation Expresses Its Thanks Certificate"** from the Prime Minister of Australia, The Honourable Scott Morrison MP.

## SAPPERS LOOK AFTER KIDS!

By Don Hughes

The ongoing welfare of Children in Victoria has been one Sappers' passion for the past 30 years. **Eric "Jock" Howa** organises every year, a Team of Sappers and their friends, to help raise funds for the **Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Appeal**.

Results have been outstanding: about \$20,000 every year! Typical Scotsman and Sapper, Jock was able to secure the best road intersections outside the Children's Hospital to let his **"Tin Rammers"** loose. Always providing them with a free bus from Ringwood, his crew dress up in amazing costumes or even just civvy's, and let their enthusiasm do the rest!



Jock is humble about his passion: the end result however, is outstanding and a real tribute to Jock and his team, and most importantly – **The Kids!**



## PEACEKEEPING BOOK LAUNCH

Volume IV of the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping was launched at the Australian War Memorial on 21 March 2019. ***“The Limits of Peacekeeping”, Australian Missions in Africa and the Americas, 1992-2005*** includes; the peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Haiti, Eritrea, Guatemala, Sierra Leone and the Sudan.

*His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)*, the incoming Governor General of Australia and Commander of Australian Forces in Somalia, launched the book on this dynamic period of peacekeeping operations after the Cold War.

John Roberts, Todd MacDougall, Don and Michelle Hughes represented Sappers of the Mozambique Peacekeeping and Demining Operations.

*George Gioses AM*, Australia’s “Peace” Artist, provided the artwork. The book is available from the Australian War Memorial.



RAE Association—Vic Vice President Don Hughes and Michelle Hughes with David Hurley at the AWM



Don with Brendan Nelson AO and Paul Copeland OAM at the Peacekeeping Book Launch AWM.

### Editor’s Note:

Some months ago the RAE Association—Vic received correspondence from David Bailes-James via our Facebook page. He advised us of Terry’s story. President Bill Van Ree, with the co-operation of 22 ER, arranged for an Australian Army slouch hat, complete with 22 ER colour patch to be forwarded to the UK for our fellow sapper from the Royal Engineers. Bill received the following correspondence along with photos of an annual commemorative event, held every ANZAC Day by a group of Royal Engineers and other veterans, at the grave of a 1st AIF digger. This is a story of comradeship between sappers across the globe...a story worth sharing.

## My lost and replaced Australian Army Slouch Hat

At the beginning of 1980 I was a Corporal during my first posting to Osnabrück in Germany, the Commanding Officer of 39 Field Squadron at the time was Major Sco Grant. He asked me if I would like to go on an exchange attachment called “Exercise Long Look” to Australia for four months. After nearly fainting with excitement I said, “yes please sir”. So, there I was, on a Royal Air Force VC 10 plane in August 1980 full of service personnel flying to Singapore. After a





day's rest we all boarded a Royal Australian Airforce plane to Sydney, and the Australian service personnel boarded our VC10 and flew back to England. After recovering from jetlag, I then immersed myself into the task of being attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Field Engineer Regiment at Holsworthy, about an hour's drive from Sydney. After four wonderful months of a mixture of military exercises and travelling around socially to some other parts of that beautiful country, and of course testing and trying a few Fosters amber nectars. Then it was time to say all my farewells and thanks to all my new friends and was treated to a farewell party where I was presented with two 1<sup>st</sup> Field Engineer Regiment Shields. I was also presented with an Australian Army Slouch Hat with a Royal Australian Engineers Cap Badge. Between 1981 and 1987 with three more postings, sadly my beloved slouch hat was lost. About three months ago David Bailes and I were talking about my loss. He said his wife Ruth has a brother in Australia and he would

see what he could do.

It was on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, ANZAC Day, just before the memorial service for SGT Thomas Hunter, "The Lonely ANZAC of Peterborough", when David and Ruth surprised me with the brand new Slouch Hat with an Australian Army Cap Badge on the side and an Royal Australian Engineers Cap Badge on the front, which David said was provided free by the Royal Australian Engineers Association.

After the official activities, we stood in front of SGT Thomas Hunter's grave alongside two of his relatives who travelled to Peterborough for the ANZAC Day service, and the Royal Australian Airforce Officer in attendance presented me with the Slouch Hat.

My sincere and grateful thanks go out to David and Ruth for the hard work they had to replace my lost slouch hat and to the Royal Australian Engineers Association for their generosity.

What a great day

Footnotes:

SGT Thomas Hunter

Thomas Hunter who enlisted in the AIF on 24 Aug 14, served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Gallipoli, Egypt and France. Wounded serving in the “Dardanelles” on 15 May 15 and returned to his unit 2 months later. Died in the Peterborough Infirmary on 31 Jul 16 of “spinal injuries and paralysis” from wounds while serving in France.

The ANZAC Day Service is conducted by The Royal British Legion, Peterborough Branch. The service was attended by The Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire BRIG Tim Seal, TD, DL and the Mayor of Peterborough,

Councillor Chris Ash.

Photograph:

David Bailes-James (the Sapper who approached us), RAF Representative, John Gadsby, Terry Walker (Recipient), Alan Marks, Jason Munday Mr&Mrs D Simpson (relatives of SGT Thomas Hunter)



Peterborough UK ANZAC Day service 2019. Photos kindly provided by Terry Walker, Royal Engineers





## Refl cting on Reserve Engineer O cer Coaching circa 1985

Maj Ashley Bishop.

I recently found a photograph which brought back a number of happy memories. Back in the early days of my career with 22 Const Regt, engineer o cer coaching was done in house. The firs ENGR ROBC was run in September 1983. The young Lieutenants from 6 EGR Gp (that's 22Const Regt and the then 7FER) used to parade an extra weekend at the old Swan St depot to par cipate in learning the sapper o cer skills. Expertly run by the indomitable Maj Phil Chaplin and assisted by My Peter Zambory and Lt Mar n Thomason, we covered Equipment and Non Equipment Bridging, Roads, Minewarfare, Water crossings, Water Supply and Demoli ons. There were many visi ng lecturers all from within the group. The training had the twofold effe t of developing the skills and networks that would do us well into the future.

During the 6 ENGR GP courses camp, usually run in April – May, the students would go out and do numerous TEWTS on Bridge Classifi a on/Demoli on, Road Recon/Design, Water Supply and a few wineries! The accompanying photograph shows the happy band at Oxley in 1985. Note the red cravats worn by all, including RSM Treloar (Le back row), purchased by Maj Chaplin from the Wangaratta woollen mill. There was a certain esprit de corps with these courses, with the camp being based in Wangara a at the ti e. There was at the me an unwri en condi on that to get to LT from 2LT you had to pass this course. The assessed TEWTS were run later in the year and it was quite in mida ng to be surrounded by many a senior Maj and LTCOL most of whom worked for the CRB, State Rivers or the MMBW. Known as the "Subject C" it was a weekend of intense pressure and with the extra pressure of the assessors being your CO/OC!

My role on this exercise was to do the recon as well as par cipate as a student, having

Back Row RSM Treloar, Maj Phil Chaplin (SI), Lt Peter White , Lt Paul Lancaster (Bundy) Lt Mar n Thomason, Lt Ngaire Grenda, Lt Alf Priestly, 2Lt Ashley Bishop.

Front Row Cpl John Schultz (Driver), Major Peter Zambory, Lt Peter George, Lt Brent Rodgers, Lt Paul Trunoff Oxley Reserve 1985



## **'Baines Bridge' over the Goulburn River near Kevington 1966**

From 'The History of Royal Australian Engineers 3rd Division CMF'

During the 1966 Annual camp in the Jamieson, Kevington and Ten Miles area, 8 Fld Squadron under the command of Capt Bill Oakley was to construct a fir access bridge across the Goulburn River near Kevington.

This timber structure was designed by Capt Oakley and constructed by his Squadron, 8 Fld Sqn.

The bridge, similar to the one constructed by 2/8 Fld Coy RAE in New Guinea during the Second World War. The completed bridge was dedicated to this earlier Sapper unit and its members. The members of the 2/8 Fld Coy Association attended the opening ceremony and afterwards enjoyed the hospitality of the Officer Mess.

Apart from the 4 main spars, all timber was won locally by a small gathering party under Capt Williams. Most of the timber was found to have a rotten heart and had to be rejected. The 2 feet 6 inch diameter sill logs posed the greatest acquisition problem. The first and the best of the two was obtained in Knockwood,

appeared from both directions on this previously quiet "no traffic" road. Also, during the fall, telephone lines were carried to the ground, luckily without breakage, limbs carefully cut away and the wires restored to their normal position without interrupting the service

The bridge spanned 40M and stood 6M above the river bed. It represented a fine example of a corduroy bridge. The term corduroy reflects the cross bed of timber saplings running from side to side like the grain of corduroy fabric. The bridge provided an all weather access for vehicles up to 10 tonnes, using Sappers Track to access other tracks from Jamieson. But for a fire which "accidentally" destroyed it in the late 1980's, the bridge would still be here today.

While 2 Fld Sqn carried out basic training, 10 and 16 Fld Sqns with the assistance of 29/15 Plant Sqn (Light) constructed the fir access road to Jamieson.

This is the site today, you can still see the leaning tree in both photos to show the location of the bridge.



and the other, adjacent to the road 2 miles north.

The winning process posed many problems, particularly in the case of the second tree, when from the minute it was felled, cars

Please note, the opinions and comments contained in articles published in Sapper Summit are those of each author. They do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of the RAE Association Victoria (Inc). Editor





We are in discussions with the local authorities to have a mark installed here.

Grid ref;  
37°21.895'S, 146°11.052'E  
On the Mansfield-Woods Point Rd.

### **The 2/8 Field Company Royal Australian Engineers**

**The 6th Division consisted among many other regiments and units**

2/1st Field Company RAE - NSW  
2/2nd Field Company RAE - Victoria  
2/3rd Field Company RAE - SA / Tas / WA  
**2/8th Field Company RAE - Victoria**

2/1st Field Park Company RAE - Qld

They saw service in ;

North Africa, Greece, Crete, Syria, New Guinea, Kokoda, Wau, Wewak

Disbanded in 1946, about 40,000 men served of these 1763 were killed in action or died, a further 3,978 were wounded and 5,153 men became prisoners of war

Activities of Royal Australian Engineers 6th Australian Division, including the 2/1st Australian Field Company, 2/8th Australian Field Company, 2/4th Australian Field

Company, 1st Australian Field Squadron, 8th Australian Field Park in New Guinea were;

Building and maintaining roads, bridges, two airstrips, water holes, storage huts, kitchens and clearing rivers and cutting channels in the Wewak area.

The RAE built a road from Aitape to But (63 miles) and But to Wewak (37 miles). In one year they built 118 bridges and over 100 assault bridges which were later removed to make way for permanent bridges.

### **History and Heritage Trail Markers**

All of the above is an example of information that will be available on these Historical Markers. The project will provide a Marker at the location of the activity or event identifying the contribution of the RAE and, through the use of QR reader technology, provide access to more detailed information on the circumstances of the RAE contribution at this site of significance to the RAE in Victoria.

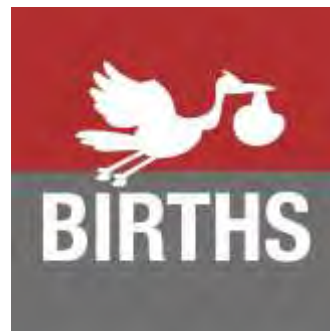
We will soon be able to manufacture and distribute to more sites of significant Victorian



Army Engineer History, thanks to a grant of \$3,500.00 from Southern Region Corps Committee (SRCC).

We are in the process of setting up to start calling for nominations for the project on the Association Website, social media and correspondence sent directly to Association members.

If you have any sites you think need consideration, please email me with the details. Mel Constable, mel@melcon.com.au



Chris and (ADJUTANT) and Alexandra Chessman are proud and happy to announce the safe arrival of August William Chessman who was born on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - a future Sapper.

Mother, father and baby all doing well.

Chris and welcome to the world of sleep deprivation!!!

Jim Davis  
Secretary



## While we waited in the wings ...

*Small Wars, Far Away Places: The Genesis of the Modern World 1945-65.* Michael Burleigh (Macmillan, London 2013)

*The Third Reich: A New History.* Michael Burleigh This readable, insightful book covers the period when my generation grew up: from when gruelling World War II ended and Dad came home, to the last phase of national service in Australia, starting mid 1965 – our own induction to global affairs.

Burleigh covers Cold War hotspots, stirring childhood memories of tabloid press articles, radio bulletins, comics, newsreels (I watched Dien Bien Phu fall via Movietone), black and white television coverage, and, I reckon, seeing men returning from Korea.

Many citizens doubtless expected, prayed even, that World War II's conclusion signaled a long period of peace, especially with an active UN. The victors, large and small, would be rewarded. Instead two bloody awful decades ensued, even tougher for civilians than combatants. That Europe's colonies were anachronisms caused much of the conflict. The fearful further evolution of communism contributed hugely, and the American dilemma: the US had shed its colonial shackles in 1776, and thereby stood for independence (ignore its activities in Latin America and the Philippines), but its global business interests, loyal to France, Britain and Nationalist China, and plans for European reconstruction and stability also counted. In the background: nuclear bombs.

The first chapters cover complex political and military events in Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaya and Indonesia in the late 1940s. Ho Chi Minh, Chin Peng in Malaya and the Huks on Luzon deserved better, since they had fought the Japanese, as had the Chinese Communists, now under Mao.

Burleigh covers dexterously the Korean, Malayan, Vietnam (French) and Philippines campaigns and Indonesian independence. The US had some success in the Philippines via

innovative Colonel Edwin Lansdale and seasoned ambassador, Admiral Spruance. Malaya, stabilised under Gurney then Templer, was also important, not least as the baptism-under-fire of many of the NCOs that the first nashos in the mid sixties faced during basic training. China's 1958 shelling of the Taiwanese island, Quemoy, is briefly recounted.

Unsurprisingly, the Middle East was also fermenting, with Israel emerging, complex politics in Iraq and Iran (a 1953 CIA-MI6-led coup), a shaky monarchy in Egypt (farewell Farouk!) and colony-wide rebellion against France in Algeria – the bloodiest war of all? Then came Hungary, Suez (Britain, France and Israel vs Egypt) and Pakistan vs India in 1947-48, China's incursion into Himalayan India in 1962, and 1965's brief Indo-Pak skirmish across the Rann of Kutch.

By 1960, with Macmillan's 'winds of change' waiving over Africa, the colonial continent, France was creating its network of Francophone nations, although Sekou Touré went it alone in Guinea. In West Africa, Britain had fostered independent states such as Nigeria and Ghana. However, East Africa, home of prosperous and romanised British settlers, saw the Mau Mau emerge in Kenya, trouble in parts of the Central African Federation – which eventually split into Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, and a quick handover and subsequent anarchy in the vast and harshly exploited Belgian Congo. Elsewhere Cuba was a challenge on America's doorstep and later abroad through its African legions, and the Kennedy administration was wrestling with South Vietnam.

Burleigh includes interesting detail and pithy comments on events and personalities in these troubled countries, and covers parallel tensions around Europe that frequently claimed greater attention. Finally there were astounding political currents in Moscow, Washington, London and Paris.

Whilst the book ends in 1965 – roughly when LBJ pledged all-out US support for South Vietnam – the wars did not. Concurrently, my generation of nashos comes onstage.

Incidentally, who else employed conscripts? One French acquaintance's CV includes two years as a conscript gunner in Algeria; another was in Tjibouti. The USA had its draft, which Presidents Clinton, Bush and Trump all evaded. In 1987 on Leninakan railway station I saw Armenian youths en route to their stint in the USSR forces dressed in rags, because the class senior to you traditionally stole everything you had. Now, that's *bastardisation*! From 1947-63 two million British national servicemen wore the colours, mostly khaki, across the globe. Some had official training; many fought in Korea, Egypt, Cyprus, Malaya, Kenya, and possibly Palestine, Jordan, Aden, Sarawak and Indonesia. They would have unloaded Berlin Airlift coal, and absorbed radiation on Christmas Island. Some were in the SAS. Killed on active service: 395 men.<sup>1</sup>

(Apparently, current conscripting nations are: South Korea, North Korea, Eritrea, Switzerland, Brazil, Israel – three years for men, two for women, Syria, Georgia, Lithuania, Sweden, Turkey, Cyprus, Iran, Cuba, Ukraine, Greece, Norway, Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Burma, Egypt, Russia, Thailand and Guinea-Bissau. Google trawl – probably incomplete.)

And, the Portuguese were still to fully decolonise. (Burleigh wrote this up but left it out.) India had marched into Goa in 1961; from then to 1999, Portugal gradually departed Cape Verde, Sao Tomé, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, East Timor, all in the early 1970s and some mess painfully, with Macau reverting to China in 1999. These processes, plus apartheid, dragged in South Africa, which had a conscript army, nearby parts of Zambia and what became Namibia. Don't forget the Falklands! What a tragedy! A (Macmillan, London 2000)

sequel is surely in mind for this veteran historian, whose classic work on Hitler is widely accessible.<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/jun/30/national-service-general-uniform-1945-1963-richard-vinen-review>

*The Third Reich: A New History.* Michael Burleigh (Macmillan, London 2000)

Rob Youl



*Short History of The Fourth Combat Engineer Regiment 1995-2013*

## *The Rampant Platypus*

By Don Hughes

*The Platypus embodies all the great attributes of a Sapper! They work hard by day and night, on land or in water; they are good diggers, tunnellers and builders, and are especially good at camouflage and concealment. They are most capable in amphibious, close country or riverine operations.*

*They have extremely sharp claws and "should not be harassed"! They can fight back with ferocity and explosive vengeance! They can also find their way through difficult and dangerous obstacle systems and then construct a comfortable and safe habitable abode!*



*The Platypus in Latin is “Ornithorhynchus Anatinus”, and in the Aboriginal Wurundjeri people’s language (who first inhabited the area in and around the Yarra Valley in Victoria, Australia), “Wad-dirrang”.*

*The Platypus is a unique and most capable creature: just like the Sappers of 4CER!*

## The Golden Years

At the dawn of this Millennium the Australian Defence Force was strongly focused on its operational commitment to East Timor. The ADF had first deployed there in September 1999. The response by the United Nations Security Council had been swift. It needed to stop widespread violence and slaughter in Dili and surrounding villages with resolution 1264, the establishment of a multinational peace-enforcement force. Australia was asked to lead this *Intervention Force in East Timor (INTERFET)* with assistance from a wide range of countries. The Australian public supported this military intervention with gusto and pride.

The need for both construction and combat engineers in Timor and with impending security operations at home, the overall need for Sappers was extremely high. This operational vacuum created by Timor, needed to be filled by reserve engineer units such as 4 CER and 22 Const Regt. Luckily, the Australian Army had been working hard at improving its “readiness” in the previous decade. In the latter half of the 1990s: ***“the hard work, the reorganisations, the relocations and heightened personal standards of commitment and fitness are now proving there worth. Readiness has become a byword in every aspect of our work”***

These were the words of LT GEN F.J. (Frank) Hickling AO, CSC the then Chief of Army (and a Sapper) in the Australian Army “In Profile” publication 1999. The Army had prepared itself well for these tasks, and likely did it predict that the tempo of operations would remain high for the next decade and a half,

including an ongoing commitment to not only Timor but also highly significant operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan!

## The Beginning

The Fourth Combat Engineer Regiment (4CER) was raised on 1 July 1995 as a result of a real need to fully utilise the great skills and attributes identified within our Victorian Sapper Reserve Forces. LtCol’s Andy Murdoch and Peter Wakefield RFD were the first CO’s of 4CER and did an amazing job of revitalising the Ringwood, Oakleigh and Newborough based unit! Our current RAE Association President, LtCol Bill Van Ree, undertook much background work to make 4CER a reality. Major Graeme Lambert RFD was the OC of 10 Field Squadron at the time: its story of being an independent Squadron for a time deserves a completely separate article.

## Revitalisation of the Reserves

Victoria’s Fourth Brigade (4 BDE) had been chosen by Army to undertake a trial in 1996 for the “Revitalising of the Reserves”! The CGS directive 10/96 – Revitalisation of the Reserves, was initiated to increase the operational availability and capability of the part time component of the Army by the year 2000.

4CER, under command of HQ 4 BDE (BRIG Douglas J. Ball AM, RFD, ADC), had been able to significantly increase its focus on soldiering, sapping and trade skills to improve its operational capability for the ADF throughout those years. In practice, Revitalisation meant that Sappers from 4 CER could participate in Army wide operations particularly; the Joint Incident Response Unit (JIRU) preparing for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, East Timor and the Bu erworth Security Company in Malaysia. Revitalisation also meant: common induction training with reservists undertaking six weeks “recruit” training with their Regular counterparts.

BRIG Ball was happy to point out in his report on the revitalisation trial in late 2000 that: ***“the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade provided from July 1999, 291 reservists on full time service to the ARA to assist in Timor operations, while at the same time providing a 115 strong rifle company to the Butterworth Air Base in Malaysia and also providing 600 personnel to JTF112 (support to the Sydney 2000 Olympics).”***

This is a pretty fair effort for any Reserve Brigade! The Revitalisation trial involved defining the roles and tasks of the Brigade, the allocation of more resources to conduct activities, greater effort in recruiting and training and most importantly, the passing to the Brigade of more professional full-time soldiers and officers. Critically, the intent was to remove the administrative burden from the part-time members and place it upon the full-time members to allow reservists to concentrate on training for war! It worked well!

The “Reserves” became much more accepted and appreciated by their full-time brothers and sisters. The Army needed the “surge” capacity that a strong, well trained reserve component could provide!

### **The Need for Sappers**

This upgrading of operational commitment by Reserve Sapper units was later strongly applauded in early September 2000 at a 4th Brigade Medal Ceremony at Simpson Barracks, by Lieutenant General Peter Cosgrove AC, MC, then Chief of Army, after having Commanded the International Forces for East Timor (INTERFET). He said (without prompting) that, ***“The Sappers played a critical and most professional role in Timor”!***

4 CER's sister unit, 3 CER, played this pivotal role along with other Sapper units in the success of the force in East Timor. 3 CER was commanded by LTCOL Steve Day who was later awarded a Distinguished Service Cross

(DSC) by Queen Elizabeth II for his unit's great achievements, and eventually he became a Major General and the Honorary Colonel Commandant of the RAE. With our frontline sappers deployed on overseas tasks this created a vacuum back home for Reserve Units to fill!

### **The Heart and Soul of an Army**

At that same function at Simpson Barracks, General Cosgrove (later to be Sir Peter and Governor General for Australia) promoted the Quartermaster of 4 CER, WO2 Dale Mitchell and long-term stalwart of the Victorian Sappers, WO2 Jim Davis, to WO1, and commented that; ***“the rank of WO1 is the heart and soul of any Army!”***

**WO1 D. L. (Dale) Mitchell** had served in Timor and was one of those ***“can do quartermasters!”*** Dale was later awarded, a most deserved, **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)** in the 2003 new years' honours list for his tireless and dedicated service to the Royal Australian Engineers including in East Timor and at 4CER.

**WO1 “Jim” Davis** had served in Papua New Guinea with the banking industry and had been a long serving and outstanding sapper NCO and Warrant Officer within the Corps in Victoria. On his retirement he became the ***“driving force”*** behind the establishment of ***the Royal Australian Engineer Association of Victoria (Incorporated)*** in 2014, as its inaugural Honorary Secretary. Jim was recently awarded an **Australia Day Award by the City of Maroondah** for his tireless efforts as Secretary of the RAE Association in Victoria.

### **The Vacuum needs to be filled!**

Prior to 2000 much of the planning and ground work for the increased sapper responsibility and tasking at 4CER had begun. LTCOL Peter Wakefield RFD (CO 4 CER 1998/99) had instigated much of the focus and direction for support to the Joint Incident Response Unit



(JIRU) (both 4CER & 2CER) and the Operational Search Battalion (OSB). 4CER had responsibility for training reserve soldiers from across the Brigade in Security and Search operations for the Sydney Olympics.

Operations Office 4 CER (1998) Major Don Hughes served on the 4th Brigade Headquarters Operations Staff during 1999 and was appointed CO 4CER in January 2000. The RSM of 4 CER in 1999/2000, WO1 Dave Sinai CSC, had been awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) for his excellent work & conspicuous service during deployment to mine clearing operations in Mozambique.

The new CO, LTCOL Don Hughes, had also served in Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom (including the British Army on the Rhine) and in Mozambique as the Commander of the Second Australian Contingent to the Peacekeeping Operation ONUMOS in 1994/1995. Along with WO2 Wayne Hay (TRG WO 10 Field Sqn 94/95 and foundation member of 4 CER full-time staff & later a senior RAE WO1) together they laid a solid foundation for mine clearing operations in Mozambique.

Many of the unit's full-time and part-time members had much technical and operational experience to make the training task for the OSB much more realistic and focused!

## **OPERATION GOLD**

The training for Operation Gold (OP GOLD) was taken extremely seriously by all ranks and trades within 4 CER. This was the ultimate Sappers' task: to train and mould a Reserve Brigade into a highly professional operational search asset for the ADF. This potential experience was a "once in a lifetime opportunity! We must get it right!

### **Operation Gold Personal experiences: WO2 Steve Di Tullio ("Di o")**

The best way to tell a story about an operation

is from the sapper on the ground who was intimately involved in it! OP GOLD is no different; the OPSWO 4CER WO2 Steven Di Tullio (Di o) (Later WO1, OAM and Corps RSM RAE), gave a tremendous personal summary of his OP GOLD experience in the November 2000 issue of **"The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Bugle"**. The article is worth repeating as it highlights the lighter and human side of an important but also potentially boring, dangerous and sometimes thankless operational task: **"How was I involved in Operation Gold?"**

***Signal from 2 Div HQ to HQ 4 Bde – 4 Bde to train 450 personnel to participate in security operations for the Olympics!***

***Telephone call Brigade Major (BM) to OPSO 4 CER (Maj Dave Pies) – Dave, you guys are engineers, you do search stuff, good, you guys are tasked to train the Bde allocation of personnel for security operations for the Olympics. OPSO 4CER – how many? BM – 350 give or take a few!!***

***RSM 4CER to Career Advisor – RAE – We are losing SSGT Mangan at the end of the year (1999) and we have just got a big task for the Olympics, I need a good operator to replace him. CA –RAE – looked around - no good operators left in the Corps they are all in East Timor, can promote Di o from 1CER if you want. RSM 4CER – well if that is the best you can get, we'll take him!***

***Di o (Sydney) – Wow! Promoted and going to Melbourne, home of AFL and some of the best cycling races in Australia this should be a swan song, they do bugger all at them Army Reserve units. Was I in for a shock!!***

***Arrive 4CER – RSM 4CER – "Di o, you are the OPSWO and you are responsible to train the Bde's allocation of personnel for security operations for the Olympics, about 400 of them, give or take a few!"***

***Well after all that I set off to 3 Fd Sqn in SA to watch the first ever Security Search Operator***

***and Team Leader course to be conducted to gather ideas and make sure the 4Bde courses were in line with other courses run around Australia.***

***I was Back to Melbourne after a week in SA full of good intentions and a rough idea on what is now involved in search operations. First course kicked off in JAN 2000 without many dilemmas. From that course my core of instructors was formed: (SSGT Howes – 4CER, CPL Weate and Prictor – 108 SIG SQN, and CPL Willet – 8/7 RVR), for the remaining 9 courses to be conducted up to the end of AUG 2000.***

***A total of 10 courses were conducted training a total of 467 personnel of all ranks up to MAJ. Of which, 409 actually deployed on OP GOLD in either Sydney or Melbourne.***

***OPGOLD Melbourne: MAJ Watson (8/7 RVR) was the OC of the Opera onal Search Company – Melbourne: (OSC-M) and he ran a tight ship at Maygar Barracks (Broadmeadows). Myself (Di o) and the RSM 4CER (WO1 Dave Sinai CSC) scored a cushy job as advisors to the Police during the opera on, in the event that something happened we would advise on our capabilities and how best to utilise the Search Company. Also, during the searches we were ever present overseeing the tasks for quality assurance. OSC – M searched a variety of venues, which included 5 floors of the Hilton Hotel and the Melbourne Cricket Ground."***

### **Opera onal Capability**

The Sydney Olympics provided an invaluable opportunity for the Reserve to demonstrate their ability to provide an opera onal capability. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade supplied almost 400 personnel in support of OP GOLD, with the majority of these personnel occupying roles within the Opera onal Search Battalion (OSB).

4CER played a pivotal role within OP GOLD as the unit responsible for the provision and

training of personnel for low risk search capability. The training conducted by WO2 Di Tullio from 4CER and his team of 4 personnel which he selected and trained from the first search course was first rate. The team included SGT Howes (later CAPT) from 4CER.

The team trained a total of 467 personnel from units all over Victoria (including outside of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade), which included 74 Sappers from 4CER. This was an impressive commitment from a reserve unit with an effective strength of approximately 150 personnel. The majority of these Sappers were allocated to the Opera onal Search Battalion, which had elements in both Sydney and Melbourne. The OSB was responsible for providing security to venues throughout the Games and searched various venues during the opera on.

Some of the tasks undertaken by elements of the OSB in Melbourne were: the search of 5 floors of the Hilton Hotel including a 24 hour Vehicle Check Point (VCP) running continuously over 9 days, a full search of the MCG over 30 Continuous hours, liaison with the Victoria Police Special Operations Group (SOG), 2 VCP's at the MCG during the soccer events and a search of the Exhibition Building for the Prime Minister's (The Honourable John Howard MP) Dinner.

In Sydney all the sporting venues were searched including the Olympic Village, as well as numerous VCP's over the duration of the Games. ***SSGT Andreas (Angry) Seyffert*** clearly remembers leading his search team across an empty and lonely Sydney Harbour Bridge, on foot, clearing the way for the Olympic Marathon event! ***"It felt great to be a Sapper that day; leading a clearing opera on across an empty Sydney Harbour Bridge, I felt on top of the world!"***

4CER also provided Engineer expertise to the Joint Incident Response Unit (JIRU) based in Sydney. The JIRU was tasked to supply qualified personnel to deal with incidents of a



high-risk nature such as Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). About 20 4 CER Sappers engaged in full time service for three months to support the JIRU who in turn supported various units involved with the Olympics. The remaining 70 or so 4CER Sappers devoted 2 weeks of service during the Games to either the OSB in Sydney or Melbourne

### Golden Accolades

The Sappers of 4 CER truly displayed their commitment to their Unit, the ADF and Australia through the service and security they provided to the Sydney Olympics and OP GOLD. Once again, ***the Sappers of the "Rampant Platypus"*** led the way. This commitment was formally recognised by the Maroondah City Council Australia Day Award to 4CER on Australia Day 2002.

As well as this unit award a number of individuals were recognised by Commander 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commendations (Major General C.R.R. Hoebe AM, RFD) for their sterling and invaluable efforts during the operation: Major Dave Pitts, OPSO OP GOLD; WO2 Steve Di Tullio OPS & TRG WO OP GOLD and SSGT Kenneth Daly Search Advisor OP GOLD all received well deserved Commander Second Division Commendations.

SSGT Andrew Howes was awarded an Australian Army Australia Day Medallion on Australia Day 2001 for his outstanding and dedicated commitment as a RAE Search Advisor in both Melbourne and Sydney during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games (OP GOLD). ***Opera on Gold*** highlighted a significant milestone in the role of Reserve forces in the ADF. Reserve Soldiers can provide invaluable expansion capability to our full-time forces in a time of need. The years of training and focus by many at 4CER since the unit's establishment in 1995, paid huge dividends in the conduct and execution of one of the greatest security operations in the world, at the time. Well done 4 CER!

### BRIDGING THE YARRA

#### The "Redwood" Bridge at Warburton

As part of the Reserve Revitalisation program in the later 1990s, interesting and worthwhile construction tasks were keenly sought after to provide appropriate and challenging tasks for young officers, junior NCOs and Sappers of 4CER.

These types of tasks within a civilian community build invaluable skills and goodwill. They also practice construction skills not normally undertaken and necessitate associated negotiation techniques with "real" customers. This includes the ability to work in unique and different environments that can instil a deeper comradeship within the unit and also engenders a broader understanding of the military within the civilian community.

In 1998 the ***Warburton Advancement League*** approached 4CER to construct a footbridge over the Yarra River to connect two walking trails in this beautiful township 100km east of Melbourne. This was a great practical and real task for a vibrant and revitalised unit who were generally used to constructing more expedient tasks. The unit found themselves involved in producing a substantial permanent suspension bridge designed to withstand a 100-year flood!

The suspension bridge boasts some impressive statistics, including: foundations totalling 85 tonnes of concrete, two 10-metre-high Ironbark timber towers, a 34-metre span steel wire rope (SWR) with cables rated to 15 tonnes. All of which go into producing a spectacular structure, which blends remarkably well into its natural surrounds and provides the local community with a major thoroughfare and new landmark.

With the escalation of operational commitments in 1999 with Timor, the JIRU and OPGOLD tasks gaining higher priority for 4CER, the Warburton Bridge schedule was starting to slip. When Combat Engineers

become fully tasked it is time to call on the Construction Engineers, our fellow Victorian Engineer Regiment, 22 Construction Regiment (22 CR). Commanded by LTCOL Bruce McClure RFD, 22 CR were well able to assist and the bridge was opened in grand style on 21 May 2000 and named the "Redwood Bridge" after an imposing stand of Californian Redwood trees nearby.

LT Horsburgh and his band of Combat Engineers and Plant Operators from 4CER erected the bulk of the bridge. Early in 2000 the OPSO 4CER (MAJ Dave Pitts) led a full-time work party to finish a number of remaining elements of the task. The bridge however, was still not complete. 2IC 4CER (MAJ Martin Thomason, a qualified Civil Engineer) liaised with CO 22 CR and a work party under CAPT White completed all elements of the construction task.

MAJ Thomason had spent innumerable hours of professional time as the structural engineer for the "Redwood Bridge" project. Part of the citation for a Commander Second Division Commendation for MAJ Thomason by Major General C.R.R. Hoeben AM, RFD reads:

***"Major Martin Thomason:***

***Your detailed planning and execution of all aspects of the design, preparation and construction of the 34 Metre suspension Bridge at Warburton***

***has highlighted your professional and engineering skills.***

***Your attention to detail and your technical knowledge proved to be a powerful asset to the completion of the task!"***

Well done Major Thomason and to so many others who made "The Redwood Bridge" such a reality for the community of Warburton.

#### **CLIVE STEELE LECTURE 2000**

LTCOL Steve Day DSC, CO 3 CER, gave an arousing address on the deployment of his

unit to Timor in 1999 at the annual Sir Clive Steele Lecture held at Oakleigh Barracks on 17 November 2000.

LTCOL Day will be remembered for his time as a Captain at the Swan Street Depot where he was SO3 OPS with HQ 6 Const Group in 1984/86.

The son of a Sapper General, Major General P.J. Day AO, LTCOL Steve Day was always a personable and inspiring sapper leader who had an uncanny ability to relate well with all, regardless of rank or trade. He led the sappers in Timor with distinction and wisdom.

As well as 3 CER there were five other Sapper units on the INTERFET ORBAT and of course numerous individual representatives from around the country (19 CE Wks, 17 Const Sqn, 21 Const Sqn (-), 1 Topographical Sqn and the Emergency Response Squadron). Initially conducting clearing, reconnaissance and hardening tasks the focus of the Regiment later turned to mobility tasks. The constant enemy was lack of time, the difficult terrain, problematic weather and lack of stores.

What helped overcome these difficulties was strong determined leadership and smart "sapping" at all rank levels, understanding exactly what your commander wants you to achieve, having a humanitarian approach towards the East Timorese people and lastly, but most importantly, the Regiment was the recipient of the most extraordinary moral and material support from all corners of our nation back home! ***"In that sense in Timor, we never walked alone! We had that intangible element of combat power called "morale"- in bucket loads!" Lt Col Steve Day DSC***

#### **FOURTH BRIGADE MIL SKILLS COMP 2000**

Early in 2000 the CO 4 CER casually mentioned at an Orders Group (OGP) that it would be good if we could put a team in the Military Skills Competition run annually by the Fourth Brigade. Essentially, it had been a competition on



between the two Victorian Infantry Bataillons: 5/6 Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment based at Hawthorn, and 8/7 Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment based at Ballarat. The Brigade Sappers thought; they might just have a go at this trophy!

**RSM 4 CER, WO1 Dave Sinai CSC**, decided to take this task on as a personal challenge! He put together a team from 4 CER and personally picked the right people to train them. He chose CPL Stuart Simpson and LCPL Corin Burgess.

The team consisted of Sappers Greg Stevens, Leah Child, James Hamond, Luke Bonnici, Troy Harper, Adam Rowland, Angus McCowan and Stuart Wright.

Fortunately, the majority of the team were on full time service and had the luxury of doing some quality lead up training. The challenges included: basic weapon handling (F88 & F89), Shooing on the Weapons Training Simulation System (WTSS) Range, Wagtail radio operation, endurance run, stretcher carry, run/jump/dodge course, grenade throwing and improvised obstacle (where the Sappers had a distinct advantage). The end result was a 4CER victory in winning the Brigade Military Skills competition on 2 December 2000. A great way to end a great year for 4CER!

#### **MELBOURNE THERAPY CENTRE WARRANWOOD**

The IET course construction phase needed a concreting project. The Melbourne Therapy Centre located adjacent to the Rudolf Steiner School in Warranwood was building a Cancer Memorial Garden as a place for patients to gather and ponder. They needed concrete paths laid so they could then lay their handmade tiles as the finished surface to the paths in the garden. As a bonus the paths were curved and circular: a good and interesting challenge for budding concreter's! The end result was superb and won the Melbourne Therapy Centre an award with the

#### ***Spirit of Australia Sustainable Cities Awards in 2005!***

#### **SPEEDY TRACTOR FOR RAE**

Australian Defence Industries (ADI) based in Bendigo had developed a backhoe and front-end loader that was capable of speeds of 100 KM/HR! The high-Speed Engineering Vehicle was designed and built by ADI to meet an Army requirement. It was a world first, and attracted much interest with Army's around the world. 4 CER was the first reserve unit to assist with trials of the tractor in 2001.

#### **FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF MAROONDAH**

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2001 4 CER exercised its Freedom of Entry to the City of Maroondah. The parade was followed by a function at the Dublin Road Depot featuring unit displays for invited guests, members of the unit, their family and friends. The parade commenced at 10.30am following the Maroondah Highway, Market Street and then into Staley Gardens. ***The Mayor of the City of Maroondah, Councillor Peter Gurr was the Reviewing Officer.*** Councillor Peter Gurr was a Vietnam Veteran who had supported the unit well over the years.

The Regiment was accompanied by the 31<sup>st</sup> Regional Cadet Unit and No 8 Flight Air Training Corps (who both drilled superbly!). Musical Support was provided by the band of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Medium Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

The Freedom of Entry was last exercised in 1988 when the Regiment was known as the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Engineer Regiment. Since then the title of the unit changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment. This was the first time the unit exercised the Freedom of Entry to the City of Maroondah under its new title. This was a significant event for 4 CER within the Australian Army Centenary Federation year!

## VICTORIAN FIRES

4CER was intimately involved in the Victorian Bushfires: this should be the subject of a "stand alone" article.

## HONOURS & AWARDS

Numerous honours and awards have been bestowed on members of 4 CER. These include.

***The 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment – 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Military Skills Competition- FIRST PLACE 2000***

### COMMANDER SECOND DIVISION COMMENDATIONS:

MAJ Martin Thomason: military engineering and the local community.

MAJ Dave Piss: Operations Office OP GOLD.

SSGT Kenneth Daly: Search Advisor OP GOLD.

WO2 Steve Ditulio: Operations Warrant Officer, OP GOLD.

### ARMY AUSTRALIA DAY MEDALLION:

SSGT Andrew Howes, for outstanding professionalism, dedication and commitment as a RAE Search Advisor in both Melbourne & Sydney as part of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games (OP GOLD).

### 4 CER 2000

Sapper Award: SPR Luke Bonnici

JNCO Award CPL Tom Herter

Proficiency Award: SSGT Kenneth Daly

Leadership Award: SSGT Andrew Howes

### SOLDIER'S MEDALLIONS 2000

LCPL "Richo" Richardson

SPR Paul Houching

### 4 CER 2001

A critical award for 4CER's ongoing support to

our Nation was rewarded with a "MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL AUSTRALIA DAY COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2001": ***The 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment: "Organisation of the Year for the City of Maroondah", for your superb support to the Sydney 2000 Olympics and your fruitful and positive presence in the Maroondah community.***

### 4 CER UNIT AWARDS 2001

Best Sapper: SPR Rowland

Leadership: LCPL Poole

Best JNCO: LCPL Skoblar

Best at Trade: SPR Bishop

### AUSTRALIAN ARMY CENTENARY MEDALLION

*CPL Margaret Handte: for her relentless work in supporting the Royal Australian Engineers, particularly the Reserve Sappers in Victoria.*

### SOLDIER'S MEDALLIONS 2001

SPR Saritschniy

LCPL Robinson

### ORDER OF AUSTRALIA AWARDS

The Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Engineers in Southern Region (Victoria), Colonel (John) E. J. Wertheimer RFD, was appointed a **Member of the Order of Australia (AM)** on 26 January 2001 for his incredible devotion to the family of the Royal Australian Engineers in Victoria and also nationally. Well done Colonel E.J. Wertheimer AM, RFD. Colonel Wertheimer had been the CO of 7 FER, 4CER's predecessor unit and OC of 17 Const Sqn in Vietnam.

Also, 4 CER's Quartermaster, WO1 Dale Mitchell, was awarded the **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)** on 26 January 2003 for his relentless work with the Royal Australian Engineers at both home and abroad. Well



done Dale!

#### REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS:

95 Jul – 97 WO1 S. Goss  
97 Aug – 98 WO1 A. McRobbie  
99 – 00WO1 D. Sinai CSC  
01 – 01Vacant  
02 – 02WO1 J. Cochbain  
03 – 03WO1 B. Wade  
04 – 05WO1 P. Mangan  
06 – 07WO1 C. Barne  
08 – 08WO1 B. Doyle  
09 – 10WO1 K. Eaton  
11 – 11WO1 G. Rowland  
12 – 12WO1 S. Middlemis  
13 – 14WO1 P. Stanek

#### COMMANDING OFFICERS:

95 Jul – 96 LtCol A. Murdoch  
97 – 99LtCol P. Wake eld RFD  
00 – 01LtCol D.C. Hughes  
02 – 03LtCol G. Mirabella  
04 – 06LtCol D. Westphalen  
07 – 08LtCol D. Hogben  
09 – 11LtCol C. Madden  
12 – 14LtCol G. Pilbeam



#### THE LEGACY

The Sappers of “The Rampant Platypus” at 4CER, were privileged to serve at a time of an incredible awakening of the importance of Reservists in our nation’s ongoing security. They stood up, took on the challenge and with vigour and gusto, achieved outstanding results! The spirit of the “Rampant Platypus” now resides within 22 Engineer Regiment (Victoria’s Own Sappers); an amalgamation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Construction Regiment on 1 January 2014. UBIQUE

#### Footnote:

A visit to the RAE Corps Museum at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney will reveal a display featuring 4 CER for achieving the most successful recruiting campaign in the history of the Australian Army Reserve.

At the time of its raising, 4CER was at little more than squadron strength. A vigorous and innovative recruiting campaign saw a massive influx of recruits into the regiment in its crucial formative years.

*Editor*

#### BLUE TONGUES REUNION 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019

The annual “Blue Tongues Reunion” was held at Major’s Creek Nagambie during the weekend of 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in very favourable weather conditions although very cold in the mornings.

The reunion is open to all sappers irrespective of rank and as in the past it was supported by ex OC’s, WO’s, SNCO and OR’s with the only provisos being leave your rank at home, come with a great attitude, plenty of photos, stories and be prepared to be amazed by the great people that you will meet.

The area where the reunion is normally held is



at public camping ground but this year there was a dramatic change in the location of the reunion due to the local Government or Parks Victoria undertaking substantial restoration work on the site and adding modern facilities – it meant that the reunion had to move a bit further down the creek but no big deal. I must admit I did drive past the camping ground

As in the past the objective of this weekend is to enable people to catch up with old friends and renew acquaintances. This sees a large turnover of people coming and going with some staying for the entire weekend and others just dropping in to say hello and only staying a few hours. Neil and Sandra Christie, who were on their way to Wagga, called in for a few hours.

Attendance numbers seemed better this year, but it is hard to say exact numbers with the transient crowd.

As previously reported an Honour Board is maintained for supporters of the function who have left us and this year we said goodbye to Brian and Bett Chirgwin, Allan (Ali) Barber and my wonderful wife Mardi Yvonne Davis who have had their names added to the

Memorial Board – on a personal note I was so touched that Mardi was recognised even though not a Sapper (although she was more a Sapper than me). Let's hope that we will not have to add any more names for a long time.

Travel and distance are not something that has deterred people turning up to support this activity with many travelling long distances to attend. "Doc" Kincaid travels from Gippsland - there was a good number of caravans and assortment of tents. David Stevenson proudly showed off the "A" frame van that he had borrowed. A noticeable absentee this year was Tony (Jack) Jackson who was jetting out on Sunday for the UK.

Food was aplenty with wonderful treats and roasts from the camp ovens showing that the boys have not lost their touch. In addition, BBQ's were ongoing with ample nibbles available for those who wanted to venture from the campfire.

This is a great activity and George, Bill and Foxy need to be thanked for their efforts and encouraged to keep up the good work. At the same time thanks must be given to all those people who take the time to come along to



the reunion and support it because without them it would just not happen no matter how much work the organisers put into it.

Well the reunion will now be put to bed (lights out) for another 12 months with the escapades reminisced and talked about until 2020.

If any reader gets the opportunity of participating in the 2020 reunion you should jump at it with both hands and come along for the experience of a lifetime. It is a great weekend.

Without reunions and gatherings like this so much of the Corps Victorian history would be lost and whilst not everyone would agree with the concept of this weekend it is an important event on the social calendar

I will not dwell on my personal circumstances but without my lovely wife my attendance this year was difficult for me but I am so pleased I went along as everyone is made so welcome. Even though I do not stay for long I really look forward to this outing – one year I will take my swag and camp out under the stars (maybe!!)

Thanks again to George, Foxy and Bill and all those who came along to make this a great weekend – you have all helped add some wonderful memories to this old mind.

Jim Davis  
Secretary

## ***ZEUS' CANINE CRUSADES***

### ***Zeus: - "King of all Gods"***

Zeus' victorious encounter with a **"5-foot Brown Snake"** just before Christmas at his minders' front door, earned him a night in the Mount Waverley Veterinary Hospital. Walked and fed every hour while the Nursing staff monitored his blood for venom - he did not get bitten, Zeus thoroughly enjoyed his stay in the Canine Medical encampment! He is quite familiar with hospitals as he regularly visits patients at the *Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital* and also thoroughly enjoyed his first **Good Friday Appeal at the Royal Children's Hospital.**

Recently re-elected as the Official Mascot for the RAE Association Victoria, Zeus had many adventures to report. These included crusades to: Fort Queenscliff; The Vietnam Veteran's Museum at Phillip Island; Balcombe Army Camp (Mick Mace MM, BEM oval); OCS Portsea and Fort Nepean (including the Portsea Pub!).

Along with a number of Ceremonial activities such as Remembrance Day, ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, Peacekeepers Day and the Reserve Forces Day March - Zeus represented the Association at four funerals with dignity and compassion:- CPL Allan "Blue"



*Rantall (Coral/Balmoral & Tunnel Rat); Major Brian Chirgwin RFD, ED (Stalwart Victorian RAE Officer) at Elmore; his own original minder - BRIG Wayne Dunbar CSC, RFD (CO 8/7 RVR, COMD 4 Bde) in Deniliquin and our beloved Mardi Davis.*

Zeus also enjoyed a number of social functions including the Sapper Muster at Oakleigh, the Corps Birthday and "Drinks" at the Ringwood Engineer Training Depot. He thought the Regimental Open Day at Oakleigh Barracks was fun and actually quite enjoys the Associations' Committee Meetings at various locations.

Still only a Temporary Sapper, Zeus is striving to improve himself and attends *Young Diggers Assistance Dog Training* in Melton each week. He has now graduated from his "L plates" to advanced training and was recently upgraded with a new jacket. SME also presented Zeus with a *Formal Ceremonial RAE "Scarlet" Jacket* for his more formal occasions. Zeus was recently presented with his scarf after joining the **Warrandyte Scouts as a Venturer.**



Above: Don and Zeus tossing the coin at the Warrandyte Anzac Day Football match.

Zeus still visits his Mum's Kindergartens in Eltham, Doncaster and Templestowe whilst also visiting his Local, State and Federal Members of Parliament to discuss current canine & broader issues.

Now aged Six, Zeus just loves being a Sapper!

## UBIQUE

### Letter to the Editor

## WATSONS PIER

Dr J.K. Haken

While a rearguard action in the Great War was potentially of great strategic value, the results were tragic. Beach landing at Anzac Cove from small boats of men and supplies under artillery fire was particularly hazardous and it was decided to construct a pier, which would marginally improve the situation, facilitating the turn around of boats. The construction was supervised by Lieutenant Stanley Holm Watson, a signals officer of the AIF Engineers and former South Australia militia engineer officer (1), after whom the pier was named. Until 1925 (2), signals were a function of the engineers, an earlier (Australian) Corps of Signals formed in 1906 (3) being absorbed on reorganisation (4).

The piles for the pier were driven by an improvised pile driver employing a defused unexploded Turkish shell as shown in Figure 1. Construction, although, in a battle field was rapid as Watson arrived on site on 25 April 1915. The pier played an important part in the subsequent evacuation.

A paper back book "Watson's Pier" based on a manuscript by Watson appeared in 2015, the centenary of completion of the pier on 18 June 1915, authored by Dr Joshua Funder, a great grandson of Stanley Watson (5).

A dinner was held on completion, which happened to coincide with the centenary of the Battle of Waterloo where the coalition army led by the Duke of Wellington and the Prussian army led by Field Marshal Bucher defeated the forces of Napoleon Bonaparte.



This dinner was termed The Waterloo Dinner and has become an integral annual function held by engineer units and organisations throughout Australia.

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ISBN 9780522867572 P 304 1 April  
2015

Improvised Pile Driver used on Watsons  
Pier construction (AWM Photograph)

Figure 1:



Look for a report on the 2019 Southern  
Region "Waterloo Dinner" in the next  
edition of Sapper Summit.

*Editor*

#### VALE

Lt Francis (Frank) George TAYLOR  
(5/9/1920 – 3-/1/2019)  
Service Nos. V280296, VX132621  
An Officer and a Gentleman



We have recently lost another of our few remaining Sappers of WW2, with the death of Lt. Frank Taylor, aged 90, on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Frank Taylor was probably better known to his civilian mates, through his long career with the State Rivers and Water Commission (SR & WSC), than to his fellow sappers. His military career was restricted to WW2, mostly in 15 Aust. Fd. Coy RAE, and there are now not many who served with him still alive.

Frank was a quietly spoken friendly man who worked terribly efficiently – a quiet achiever who made no fuss, got things done effectively, and as a result made many friends.

Frank's military service commenced when he enlisted, as a 20 year old, as a member of 20th Field Company. His first period of service in an operational area commenced at Darwin in

October 1942. He then moved to PNG in October 1943 and transferred to 15 Aust. Fd. Coy on 26/2/1944. He served most of the rest of his time as a Lt. Troop Commander, until his discharge on 12/11/1945. He served in PNG and then Bougainville almost continuously from October 1943 until July 1945.

His service in 15 Aust. Fd. Coy included long periods when the company provided support for the infantry, generally in the front line of advance against the Japanese, initially in PNG and later in Bougainville. In one incident, Lt. Taylor, with 2 Cpls. From 15 Fd Coy and a member of 57/60 Pioneer Platoon were apparently the first Aust. Troops to reach BOGADJIH on the north coast of PNG at ASTROLABLE bay, ahead of the main body of infantry.

The 15 Aust. Fd. Coy was acknowledged as having served in some of the toughest conditions of any engineer unit in the last two years of WW2.

Throughout this period 15 Fd. Coy was commanded by Maj JE NEEDHAM, later if

became a Lt. Col. In the A Res. At the same time the Coy 2IC was the then Capt Ken Green, later to become Maj Gen KD Green, - the last commander of the Victoria A. Res 3<sup>rd</sup> Division.

After he was Lt. Frank Taylor became a member of 15 Aust Fd. Coy. Engineers Association and in 1995 celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2, he and the president and Earl Franke as secretary, were largely responsible for the production of the book "MAD MICK'S MOB - A History of the 15<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Company RAE (AIF)". This covers in detail the activities of the unit in PNG and Bougainville in 1943-1945.

In civilian life Frank was born in Warnambool, and the family later moved to the Echuca area. Frank commenced work in the SR&WSC Head Office in Melbourne in 1938.

Frank married his wife Elaine during a short leave break in 1944. On return to civilian life in 1946 he took up studies at Melbourne University and completed his engineering degree in 1949.

Over the next 30 years he worked on a great range of water supply projects around Victoria including channels and irrigation works, at least 8 dam projects and had a spell as Project Director on a UN Irrigation Project in the Awash valley in Ethiopia. He finally retired as the Director of Planning and Development for the SR&WSC in 1983.

He remained active in his many retirement activities until his health deteriorated in 2017 and he moved in a retirement village.

The remaining members of 15 Aust. Fd. Coy. RAE, and his surviving friends from SR&WSC will remember Frank with great respect and affection.

Below: Bruce leading 15 Fd Coy Anzac Day Melbourne



Bruce Campbell



## WELFARE AND WELLBEING

### RINGWOOD RSL President's Column



14-24 Station Street, Ringwood



### Exciting Plans for the Future of the Ringwood RSL Sub Branch

As part of its long term strategy, the Sub Branch Committee has been working on a facilities redevelopment plan for some months. A small redevelopment working party has been engaged in discussions with interested developers and along with the Committee and representatives from the State Branch office has reached a major milestone. A Heads of Agreement document has been negotiated with our preferred developer which will provide a basis for the project to proceed. At the time of writing this column this document is being considered by the Sub Branch Trustees who will have to sign it on behalf of the Sub Branch Committee. The development will span the whole block and be multi-story comprising some 200 residential apartments and the Sub Branch complex. It will be higher on Station Street side and

tapering down towards the back. It offers the opportunity to develop income streams not available to the Sub Branch at the moment and will help strengthen it to gradually lessen its dependence on gaming as the major

revenue source. The proposal also means we will remain on our current site. It provides for a brand new custom designed and built RSL facility with 100 dedicated car parks. Included in the design will be a serviced office/office hub complex, a conference and events centre, gym & pool and a small RSL owned retail space. The project is projected to be finished in 2024 and we will continue to operate during the construction phase albeit with a somewhat restricted range of services.

### Veteran News

#### Australian civilian surgical and medical teams deployed to South Vietnam recognized for DVA benefits

The Government has announced that members of the Australian civilian surgical and medical teams who provided medical aid, training and treatment to local Vietnamese people during the Vietnam War will gain access to their Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card from 1 July 2019. These

teams played a significant part in Australia's contribution to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) aid program in South Vietnam between 1964 and 1972, providing medical aid in Vietnamese civilian hospitals and training to local medical staff. During the Vietnam War, about 240 doctors and 210 nurses, and a small number of administrative and technical personnel worked in Vietnam under contract with the then Department of External Affairs.

This measure recognises that while the medical teams were not under the direct command and control of the Australian Defence Force during the Vietnam War, they were exposed to hazards and dangers as a result of working in a conflict zone for the Australian Government.

In the lead up to the commencement of the Act, eligible members of the Australian civilian surgical and medical teams will be able to submit an application for the Gold Veteran Card.

### **Budget Measures**

The Minister announced it would include investing more to make DVA's online claims site, MyService, more user-friendly, making the claims process easier and faster.

As the rising cost of living continues to put pressure on a lot of Australians, the Government announced a one-off Energy Assistance Payment that will provide additional support for more than 225,000 veterans and widows who receive support payments. The payment is worth \$75 for singles and \$125 for couples.

The Minister also said *"We are continuing to deliver an extensive respect and recognition package with a veterans' covenant, nationally recognised veterans' card, lapel pin and commemorative program of national and international events."*

The Australian Government's commitment to supporting veterans will strengthen with \$24.4 million in funding over four years for a range of programs including:

## **WELFARE and SUPPORT**

Sapper Summit recognizes the demands placed on individuals through their military service. Through Sapper Summit, the RAE Association (Vic) aims to provide information to the Sapper Community on support and welfare services available both locally and nationally. The Association also aims to promote welfare, well being awareness and education. **Members have suggested the following support services.**

\$16.2 million in funding to support grants to organisations who support veterans to deliver innovative programs to support veterans to find meaningful employment

\$4.2 million to extend the trial of the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment which will continue to provide veterans with access to treatment for specific conditions before claims are approved, getting veterans treatment faster and preventing the risk of further deterioration of their condition

\$4.0 million to provide training to volunteers who work with veterans enhancing their capability to recognise mental health risks and to provide intervention and support.

### **Other budget measures include:**

Family violence victims who are former spouses or de-facto partners of veterans will also see an increase in support, with \$6.2 million in funding allocated in the Budget.

Funding for the Partner Service Pensions — eligibility alignment measure will ensure former spouses and de-facto partners will be able to continue receiving the partner service pension after their relationship has ended and divorce proceedings finalised, including where it is determined that special domestic circumstances apply.

Last year the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade completed its inquiry into the use of Quinoline an -



malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force. The government recognises that this is an ongoing concern for some veterans and the Australian Government is providing \$2.1 million so that any concerned veterans can have a comprehensive health check by a general practitioner to identify service-related illness, disease and injury.

\$3.5 million in funding to support the 2020 Anzac Day Dawn Service in France as well as for managing security and attendance in both France and Turkey consistent with previous overseas commemorations and funds for a scoping study for a commemorative site on the Island of Lemnos, Greece, the former site of an Australian field hospital during the First World War.

New and amended listings on the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

### **Computer-based trial designed to assist veterans leaving the military**

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs announced that computer-based tasks will form the basis of a trial program to assist Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel as they transition from military to civilian life. The Stepping Out: Aeron Reset (SOAR) trial is designed to test whether a brief aeron training computer task improves adjustment to civilian life and may reduce the risk for mental health disorders. Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling (formerly VVCS) and Phoenix Australia are partnering with representatives from Tel Aviv University to conduct the research nationally.

Any current full-time ADF members who are transitioning from service in the next 12 months can participate in the trial.

### **ALP Veterans Plan**

The ALP has developed a comprehensive set of policies to support serving and former ADF families and their families. These can be

accessed through <https://www.alp.org.au/policies>.

### **ANZAC 2019**



The Anzac commemorations at the Ringwood Clock Tower Memorial Park commemorated those who paid the ultimate sacrifice paid tribute to those who returned but suffered physical and emotional wounds and celebrated the "Spirit of ANZAC" at the Sub Branch club rooms with a free breakfast, Two Up games and the telling (or retelling) of "warries" between mates or fellow veterans of different generations.

The catafalque party from 22 Engineer Regiment once again did their regiment proud with an impressive display of drill.

The commemorations were well attended by members of the community.

### **Welfare and Pension Support**

If you need advice or assistance please call Nicole the Sub Branch Oasis Welfare Coordinator on 98706604.

### You are welcome

Our club facilities provide welcoming atmosphere for members, guests and their families and a place to relax with friends and family. We welcome serving and former members and their families who wish to relax and chat over coffee. We regularly review the bistro menu to update it and keep it fresh. The children's playroom remains very popular. Every Friday night there is live entertainment in the ANZAC Bar and a member's draw with cash prizes up to \$500.

### Giant Welfare Raffle 2019

Time is running out to buy tickets in the giant welfare raffle with the draw for an MG SUV on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. Tickets are available from reception.



### Ringwood RSL free smart phone app

To keep up to date with Sub Branch news and events, download our free app on your smart phone.

Below: Ringwood RSL Sub-Branch Contact the sub branch if you need assistance with dealing with DVA. Experienced volunteers will assist you with your DVA claims.



## January to June 2019 Your Association in Pictures

### Annual General Meeting



### Annual Sapper Muster





Comradeship and Commemoration on  
ANZAC Day  
Ringwood and Melbourne City



Below:  
Exercise Chong Ju



## THE ANGEL SQUAD



The Angel Squad is a support group for PTSD sufferers and PTSD-related drug and alcohol abuse and it is run exclusively for younger ADF veterans who have served post-1998.

The Squad provides a 'veterans only' support mechanism which enables members to maximise their efforts to reduce their PTSD symptoms and escape drug and alcohol dependence among people who understand their particular problems, share their experiences and speak their 'language'.

Our program has been highly successful in helping many young veterans regain their health and quality of life and find a brighter future for themselves.

Our meetings (known as 'debriefings') are held in the Melbourne CBD close to Flinders Street Station and are strongly based upon peer support and peer counselling.

The Squad also engages in a wide range of social, outdoor, fitness and other activities which are made available at no cost to members. Over the past year we have been involved in abseiling, range shooting, 4-wheel driving and motor sport, to name but a few.

Please direct all inquiries to Colleen McKenna (Founder)

[photoexplorer57@yahoo.com.au](mailto:photoexplorer57@yahoo.com.au)

NB. Some eligibility criteria applies.

The following is reprinted from Soldier On publications to promote the work of Soldier On and as a service to our readers. Editor

### In Brief

Hello to everyone,

Winter is fast approaching we've had a busy month with running our last Family Ties week



end for 2019. It was a very eventful weekend, thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated and got the opportunity to go to the Observatory, sailing, and much more. We also saw our first Prep 4 Pathways event in Melbourne, and we would like to thank the Macquarie Group's Banking and Financial Services team for their support and valuable information for those that attended. The team here in Victoria are busy planning for our next Pathways Networking Event, Base Visits, and Coffee Catch Up's, along with our Kids Activity day in the first week of the school holidays. Be sure to keep warm and rug up over these cooler days! Check out our Other News for the chance to be involved in a couple of studies looking at helping the defence community.

For information about all our other activities and events, head to our [website](#) calendar, or, check out our latest [journal](#)!

### We're on all the social media platforms!

Did you know that Soldier On has Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages? Head on over now for the latest news and updates, pictures and information about events, and to see what's happening around the country! Don't forget to like, subscribe, and leave a couple of comments!



## MERCHANDISE

RAE Associati n—Victoria merchandise is constantly changing. To check our current offeri gs and to order, please visit our web site:

[h ps://www.raevictoria.asn.au/merchandise.php](https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/merchandise.php)

With many events and excursions planned for 2019, dress the part in your associatio 's shirts, caps and jackets.



RAE Associatio —Vic fleece jackets \$50 and matching beanies \$15 now available.



### SOLDIER ON

"Supporting Our Wounded Warriors"

Visit: [www.soldieron.org.au](http://www.soldieron.org.au)

RAE Associa on (Vic) is a proud supporter of

**SOLDIER ON**

## Associati n Shirts & Caps Available to Order



"So Shell" jackets and white Associati n caps are now in stock. Check the merchandise page on our web site. (model not included) Jackets \$90



## The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A significant milestone in the preservation of our Victorian Engineer memorabilia has been achieved by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by 22 ER CO Lt Col Sharon Coates and RAE Association (Vic) Inc President Bill van Ree.

All items of History and Heritage value within the depots will now be photographed, detailed, catalogued, preserved and displayed in the Combined History and Heritage Collection (CHHC) of the Victorian Engineers at the separate Oakleigh, Ringwood and Newborough Depots.

This Memorandum is based on Defence Instruction (Army) Administration 34-1, amendment 2 Management of Army History and 34-2, amendment 2 Management and Operation of Army Museums and Heritage.

All items will remain in their positions at the respective depots and will be recorded and catalogued by local personnel.

Association members will have appropriate identification to enable them to move freely within the depots to do this work.

The Victorian Engineers have a lot of interesting and memorable items that have been collected throughout the years. It is important that the details of these items are recorded, published and shared between all Victorian Sappers, not just left in a corner, on top of a cupboard, or in a location that's out of bounds for most sappers or even worse, disposed of to the rubbish tip.

Please support this major work that is about to be undertaken, you won't be disappointed.

Mel

Below: The Memorandum of Understanding

**22 ER** **Memorandum Of Understanding**

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into between 22 Engineer Regiment (22 ER) and the Royal Australian Engineers Association (Victoria) Incorporated (RAE Assoc (VIC) Inc.).

**Purpose**

References:

- Defence Instruction (Army) Administration 34-1 Amendment 2 dated 18 November 2018 - Management of Army history
- Defence Instruction (Army) Administration 34-2 Amendment 2 dated 18 November 2018 - Management and Operation of Army Museums and Heritage

22 ER maintains items of significance to Royal Australian Engineer history and heritage in three training depots: Ringwood East, Oakleigh South and Newborough. The RAE Assoc (VIC) Inc. maintains a history and heritage collection in their rooms formerly owned and maintained by "The Old Sapper Association" at the Oakleigh barracks. The separate administration, management and maintenance of these collections results in significant duplication of effort and inefficiencies.

References A and B provide authority and administrative guidance for the Commanding Officer of 22 ER to utilise volunteers to assist in the operation of the 22 ER History and Heritage collection.

**Goals and Objectives**

The goal of this memorandum of understanding is to establish a robust and collaborative working relationship between 22 ER and RAE Assoc (VIC) Inc. to foster sharing, collaboration and resource sharing consistent with the requirements of Defence Instructions (references A and B above) and the common aim to showcase the contribution of Victorian based Royal Australian Engineer units and personnel in our nation's military history.

This MOU establishes the Combined History and Heritage Collection (CHHC) of the Victorian RAE community.

The aim of the Combined History and Heritage Collection (CHHC) is to investigate, collect, and maintain items of historical and heritage significance to Victorian based Engineer units, Victorian based individual Sappers and the greater Royal Australian Engineer community.

**Rights and Responsibilities**

Within resource limitations and the requirements as outlined in Defence Instructions (references A and B) both parties shall be responsible to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the CHHC.

Both parties will:

- Meet or correspond annually to review the status and progress of this MOU.
- Notify designated points of contact (POCs) regarding upcoming MOU meetings, MOU status updates, and requests related to the terms of the MOU.
- Track outcomes of CHHC activities to the extent practicable to report on areas of achievement and enhancement.
- Encourage the participation of members of both parties in the development and maintenance of the CHHC.

**Points of Contact**

22 ER and RAE Assoc (VIC) Inc. will designate POCs within their respective organisations to implement the MOU. The POCs will direct and coordinate partnership activities to ensure that mutual benefits and interests are served. The respective officers responsible for implementation and maintenance will effectively communicate and keep all parties up-to-date with activities and operations.

**Annual Review**

Representatives of 22 ER and RAE Assoc (VIC) Inc. will annually review, in or around the anniversary date of this MOU, the progress in the implementation of the MOU. This MOU shall remain in effect unless amended or terminated by the parties. Amendments must be agreed to by both parties. This MOU may be terminated at any time by either party upon sixty (60) days notice to the other party.

**Funding**

Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring 22 ER or RAE Assoc (VIC) Inc. to expend funds on behalf of the purpose, objectives, and responsibilities set for the CHHC except as specifically agreed to in writing by the signatories of the organisations they represent. All expenditures by either party are subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

**Ownership of Collection Property**

The management team of the CHHC will maintain records of the origin and ownership of contributions to the collection. No items of the collection are to be disposed of except as specifically agreed to in writing by the signatories of the organisations they represent.

This MOU shall become effective on behalf of the parties by signature of the undersigned:

**LTCOL Sharon Coates**  
Commanding Officer, 22 ER  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 30 April 2019

**Dr. JAMES**  
Witness  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 30 April 2019

**William van Ree**  
President, RAE Assoc (VIC) Inc.  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 4 May 2019

**James Henry Davis**  
Witness  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 4 May 2019



## **About the RAE Association (Victoria) Inc**

### **Vision Statement**

The Royal Australian Engineers Association (Victoria) Incorporated will be the most relevant and recognized Sapper Association in Victoria with substantial membership and an enhanced profile and standing within the serving and retired sapper community.

### **Mission Statement**

To promote the wellbeing and betterment of our members along with serving and retired sappers by the provision of a collegiate sapper association that values and promotes comradeship, esprit de corps, service identity and traditions.

### **Objectives**

- Increase the Association's membership.
- Develop the capacity of the Association to communicate with the serving and retired sapper community through the enhancement of the Association's journal "Sapper Summit" and through an internet presence.
- Establish and enhance the relevance of the Association to all sappers - serving and retired.
- Undertake the research and recording of sapper history in Victoria.
- Provide sappers with an organized identity for participation in ANZAC Day and other commemorative events.
- Promote the achievements of 22 Engineer Regiment and those of its members.
- Disseminate information relating to sapper events and activities.
- Recognize and acknowledge excellence and achievement within the sapper community.
- Provide and promote awareness of welfare issues and resources relevant to service personnel.
- Promote mateship.
- Promote esprit de corps between all members of the sapper family.
- Maintain and promote the traditions and achievements of the Australian Defence Force in general and the Royal Australian Engineers in particular.
- Seek continual improvement in administrative practices to ensure members receive optimal value for the membership fees and donations.
- Liaise with and develop co-operative working arrangements with like organizations and associations.
- Formally develop succession planning for key appointments within the Association.
- Raise funds to support these objectives and other Association priorities that may arise from time to time

For full details and news about the Association's projects and events, or to download an application form click on: [www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)

You can request an application form from:

The Secretary  
RAE Association Victoria Inc  
c/- 22 Engineer Regiment  
56B Dublin Road  
RINGWOOD EAST VIC 3135

## Join Us—Royal Australian Engineers Association (Vic) Inc

### Membership Categories



1. Ordinary Members and Associate Members (members who support the Association but do not meet service membership criteria) who pay their subscriptions by 1st of January receive a receipt.
2. Concessional Life Membership. A member, who upon reaching the age of 65 years (prior to 1st of January of the membership year) may elect to make a one off payment equal to ten times the annual subscription for an Ordinary Member. Such members will be granted Concessional Life Membership with no further fees being payable. They will receive a letter from the Committee to confirm the granting of this category of membership.
3. Complementary Life Membership. A member who has made a significant contribution to the Association either by way of a substantial financial or memorabilia donation, may be awarded a Complementary Life Membership together with a letter from the committee confirming the granting of this membership.
4. Honorary Life Membership. Members over the age of 80 will be awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their age status and contribution to both the community and the Corps. They will receive a letter from the committee confirming the granting of this membership.
5. Honorary Life Membership. Members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Association will be awarded Honorary Life Membership together with a framed certificate confirming the granting of this membership.

In categories 3 and 5, nominations are to be submitted to the committee with supporting justification and documentation. Nominations will be considered on a case by case basis.

Membership of the RAE Association Victoria costs \$20 per year with subscriptions due on 1 January each year. All members will receive an electronic copy of each issue Sapper Summit, the magazine of the Association. Hard copies will be available to members without email. Members can choose to receive coloured, hard copies in addition to their e-copies for an additional subscription fee. Contact the Secretary for details.

Applicants over the age of 65 may elect to pay ten times the annual fee to receive life membership. Fees are not required from applicants over the age of 80.





**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC  
ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP**



Jim Davis  
Honorary Secretary  
28 Ireland Avenue  
WANTIRNA SOUTH, Vic 3152 E-mail: [jdavis01@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jdavis01@bigpond.net.au)

**(Signed application can be emailed as above or alternatively a hard signed copy posted to the Secretary)**

\*\*SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*GIVEN NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

#PREFERRED NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*DATE OF BIRTH:     /     /     #NAME OF PARTNER/NOK: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*YOUR ADDRESS & P/CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*PHONE: (H):-----\_-----\_---- (W):\_\_\_\_\_  
(M):\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

#REGIMENTAL/PMKEYS No. \_\_\_\_\_ #RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

#APPROXIMATE DATES OF SERVICE                     /     /     TO     /     /

\*\*AWARDS/DECORATIONS HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

#DETAILS OF SERVICE AND UNITS **(any approximate dates would be useful)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*If more space is needed please use back of form.*

\*\*CURRENT OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Mandatory information required for compliance and management purposes.  
# Optional information but would be helpful if provided**

\*\*SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ /     /

Wish to become a member of The Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria Incorporated (RAE Association (Vic) Inc.). In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to:

Support the purposes of the Association.

Comply with the Constitution of the Association.

*Note: Under the Application for Membership clause in the Association Constitution, a person who wishes to join the Association must submit a signed written application to a committee member, and agree to the two items 1 & 2 listed above.*

*Constitution is readily available on the Association's website ([www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)) or by contacting the Secretary*

**Partner/NOK – (optional)** information would be of assistance as an alternative point of contact for the member

**Dates of Service, Service & Units served (optional)** - would assist in understanding your service history and confirm your qualification for membership.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR 2018 HAS BEEN SET AT \$20.00 AND IS PAYABLE NOW WITH YOUR APPLICATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE REVIEWED ANNUALLY AT THE AGM. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CHEQUE OR DIRECT CREDIT (see below). SHOULD YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT, IT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND ALLOW THE ASSOCIATION TO CONTINUE ITS WORK WITH IMPORTANT PROJECTS**

Payment can now be made by electronic transfer. Please use the details below and during the transfer ensure that you show your name in the reference box. **Show here that you sent subs/donation electronically on     /     / and amount \$     .**

**BANK – Westpac Banking Corp: BSB 033181 - Account No 169032 Account Name RAE Association (Vic) Inc.**

*If undeliverable, return to*  
RAE Association (Vic) Inc  
C/- 22 Engineer Regiment  
56 Dublin Road  
RINGWOOD VIC 3134

**Sapper Summit**

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May 2019

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