"SAPPER SUMMIT"

RAE CORPS NEWSLETTER

VICTORIAN ENGINEERS

April 2010 *ISSN 1325 - 7676* *Number 69*

Sapper Summit Subs for 2010 are due.

We are now seeking subscriptions for 2010. Anyone on our subscriber list who has not paid the current year's subscription will have a reminder notice inside.
Subs have increased to $12.00 See page 2.

Note: Blue Tongues Reunion:
14 - 15 May at Mitchellstown .... See page 8

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FROM THE EDITOR

This short editorial covers several matters:

Firstly, welcome to Sapper Summit for 2010.
We are a little late with this first edition, but we held it until details of the Sir Clive Steele lecture were finalised.

* * *

The Sir Clive Steele Lecture will be held at Oakleigh Barracks on Tuesday 11 May.

Timing is 1745 for 2000 hours.

The speaker is COL Stuart Yeaman who commanded Reconstruction Task Force 4, based in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan.

See page 4 for further details.

* * *

Sadly, BRIG ATJ Bell, OBE MID passed away on 21 April, aged 97. He was a WW2 veteran and a former Chief Engineer. VALE.

See page 8.

* * *

BRIG Peter Hutchinson, DSC has been our Colonel Commandant since late 2008. Unfortunately, he has shifted to Perth with his civilian employer. He is now Manager Building and Infrastructure for the NT & WA for consultinging engineers Sinclair Knight Mertz.

He wishes to thank everyone for their support and enthusiasm during his time here. It will be some time before a replacement is named.

... *The Editor*

SAPPER SUMMIT

Sapper Summit is produced four times a year by the RAE (Vic) Historical and Heritage Association Inc. (Reg No. A0046126U.)

The President is Maj Bruce Campbell (Rtd)
The Secretary/Editor is Maj Austin Byrne (Rtd)

Mail can be sent to:
The Editor, Sapper Summit,
RAE (Vic) Historical and Heritage Association Inc,
C/- Oakleigh Barracks,
1318 North Road,
OAKLEIGH SOUTH, VIC, 3167

SAPPER SUMMIT SUPPORT

Can you help with news items, suggestions, and letters to the editor, etc. Send them to either:

Austin Byrne on Tel: (03) 9803 1061
email to: austbyrne@netspace.net.au OR

Bruce Campbell on Tel: (03) 9568 0320
email: bandbcampbell@optusnet.com.au

Our deadlines for articles for this year's issues are:

- June issue by 28 May
- August issue by 6 August
- November issue by 22 October

Note that articles or opinions of authors or contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Association. The format and clarity of the articles is the responsibility of the contributor.

SAPPER SUMMIT SUBS ARE DUE

It is now time to renew your subscription to Sapper Summit!

We have had to increase the subscription rate for 2010 by $2 to $12.00 to cover increasing costs.

We have two different groups of readers:

- If you have a ► beside your name on the address label, or there is no address label, then the RAE (Victoria) Corps Committee pays for your copy. The Corps Committee pays for serving members of 4 CER and 22 Construction Regiment, and for a short list of official copies which go to other Units and Associations.

- Everyone else is a general subscriber and is expected to pay the $12.00 per year subscription. (Once you have paid the current year, there is a ♦ beside your name on the address label)

Anyone who has already paid for 2010 will have a sticker saying that they have paid already. We will not seek the $2.00 increase as the administrative costs of doing this is about $2!

You can also pay your Corps subscription. This is voluntary for retired personnel. The rates are detailed on the reply sheet.

One cheque can cover both subscriptions. We pass on the Corps Subs to the Corps Committee.

Reminder: **The RAE Corps Officers Golf Day 2010 ... at The Royal Melbourne Golf Club.**

Keep **Friday 15 October** free.

If you need more details before the next issue, please contact: Capt Bill McAuley on 0428 486 018.

ROB YOUL'S COLUMN

TWO VIGNETTES

KENNETH JACK

Kenneth Jack is one of my favourite Australian artists. In 1968 I bought a linocut of a paddle-steamer at Echuca and thereafter always enjoyed his paintings and prints of Australia's cities, towns and outback landscapes. His biographer, Lou Klepac, wrote that Jack had 'documented practically every nook and cranny of this vast country'. I met him in the mid nineties when he judged a Landcare art prize I helped organise. He and his wife were generous and friendly. He died in 2006, aged 81, leaving a vast body of work.

In the 1980s, I bought an early painting of his at auction. I guessed it depicted a scene from north-eastern Victoria. Determined to locate it, I wrote to the artist. He said that, as a young RAAF survey draughtsman at Victoria Barracks during the War, he'd taken a train to Yea one weekend and walked out of town, climbed a hill and set to work. Recently I took the painting with me and marched up through a hobby farm homestead and horse paddock to find the spot as he'd described it, but the painting looked southwest, rather than southeast as I'd imagined.

Ken Jack's father was a commercial artist with the Victorian Railways, who did ticket-writing at night for local pharmacies. Ken was obviously an artist too, with his sketches regularly adorning the children's pages of *The Sun* (Corinella and the Sunbeams?), and a gallery owner buying his watercolours for five to ten shillings each. He joined the RAAF at eighteen in December 1942, after topping the state in Leaving Honours art. Down the corridor was Harold Freedman, art editor for RAAF magazines and Christmas books, and later a war artist – and much later Victoria's State Artist and a muralist. Freedman encouraged Jack to contribute to RAAF magazines.

After fifteen months , Kenneth Jack, now a corporal in 5 Airfield Construction Squadron, 'the flying shovels', was posted to New Guinea, via Liverpool, NSW. In late March 1944, the squadron boarded a Liberty ship headed for Lae, with Ken sketching all the way, sometimes portraits of his comrades-in-arms, sometimes the tropical coastlines and reefs. He disliked living in the jungle, with its mosquitos and airlessness and disease, but drew and painted it, using drops of sweat to move colour.

Landing at Aitape, right after the beach had been seized, he drew the scene in a few minutes, with its landing craft, barges, smoke and fighters overhead. Later MacArthur came ashore. After the unit built an airstrip at nearby Tadji in three days, there was spare time for more art, as there was during the six-month stint that followed on Noemfoor Island, in the then Dutch New Guinea. Later he was on Biak Island, all the time honing his skills and speed. He cut up tents for canvasses and primed them with house paint; his father sent art materials and paper, but often typing paper had to do, and even cardboard from tobacco packets. He made and flogged Christmas cards, sold a few of his paintings, which he later regretted, and decorated a US plane, for which he was paid in whisky, not much use to teetotal Jack.

Then it was Morotai and the Labuan landing, where Jack met official war artist Donald Friend, the gifted but outrageous painter and writer. Finally in mid July 1945, Kenneth Jack sailed for Morotai, then took his first flight – in a DC3 to Madang. From there he flew to Cairns and entrained for Melbourne, arriving home the day Hiroshima was bombed. He brought with him over 500 drawings and paintings, which he packed away for some 40 years. He resumed his art studies, and taught at Caulfield Technical College until 1967, when he became a full-time painter. In 1966 he was invited to be a war artist in Vietnam; he declined for family reasons, and one of his Caulfield colleagues, Bruce Fletcher, was the first to go.

In the mid 1980s, he looked up his wartime work and, following negotiations, sold 80 items to the Australian War Memorial, and donated the rest. What an extraordinary contribution from a simple serviceman!
I am heavily indebted to Scott Bevan's book *Battle Lines: Australian Artists at War* (2004), and Kenneth Jack's *World War II Paintings and Drawings* (1990).

GEORGE HENRY THOMAS

I've just become aware of a fascinating American military story, that of General George Thomas (1816 – 1870). Of Welsh descent, the Thomas family owned 685 acres and 24 slaves in southern Virginia by 1829. Thomas supposedly taught their slaves to read, which was illegal in Virginia. Thomas graduated from West Point in 1840 as a gunner, served in the Seminole and Mexican-American Wars and remained with the United States Army throughout the Civil War, winning one of the first Union victories, Mill Springs in Kentucky. His resolute defence at Chickamauga prevented a rout in 1863, and he later won decisively at Chatanooga and Nashville. Grant and Sherman overshadow him, perhaps because of his deliberate nature and lack of self-promotion.

In 1851, he had returned to West Point as an instructor under Lt Col Robert E Lee, and associated

with officers such as Bragg, Fitzhugh, Lee and Stuart, whom he would eventually face in battle. He married a northerner in 1852. In 1854, when his artillery regiment transferred to California, he led two companies to San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama, and marched them under grueling conditions overland to Fort Yuma. His next posting, to 2nd US Cavalry, had him working again closely with RE Lee and Bragg. In 1860 in Texas, he took a Comanche arrow in the chest, his only combat wound. He pulled it out himself, had the injury dressed and continued to lead his troops. Later, en route home, he fell from a railway platform, injuring his back, which left him in pain thereafter.

When the Civil War began, nineteen of his 36 fellow cavalry officers resigned, including three superiors—Albert Sidney Johnston, Robert E Lee, and William J Hardee. Southern-born officers were torn between their states and their country. Thomas remained with the Union, possibly influenced by his northern wife and his dislike of slavery. At home, his family turned his picture to the wall, destroyed his letters, and never spoke to him again. Moreover, when Thomas sent his sisters money, they refused it, declaring they had no brother. JEB Stuart, his former student and fellow Virginian, wrote to his wife, 'Old George H Thomas is in command of the cavalry of the enemy. I would like to hang, *hang* him as a traitor to his native state.'

When war ended, Thomas commanded large parts of south-eastern USA; during Reconstruction he protected freed slaves from abuses, he enforced labour contracts to remove bias against Blacks, and his troops protected communities from the Ku Klux Klan. When offered the rank of general-in-chief, he declined, wishing to avoid politics, and instead sought command in the west. He had a fatal stroke at San Francisco's Presidio, whilst rebutting an article denigrating his career. He was buried in Troy, New York – no blood relatives attended the funeral, but Sherman and Grant did. Although some historians name him the best Union general after Grant and Sherman, he was little acknowledged in his lifetime. He destroyed his private papers, and died before the wave of Civil War memoirs.

Besides Wikipedia, my friend John Dyett helped with this article.

.... *Rob Youl*

♠ ♠ ♠

COMING EVENTS

4 Combat Engineer Regiment and
22 Construction Regiment present:

THE 2010 SIR CLIVE STEELE LECTURE

The Sir Clive Steele Memorial Lecture is an opportunity for Defence Force Engineers and civilian counterparts to gather together and hear keynote addresses on current topics in the filed of engineering.

This is a great opportunity for members with similar interest to get together to exchange views.

Mess facilities will be available after the lecture with refreshments being served at bar prices.

Date	**Tuesday 11 May 2010**
Where	Model Room, Oakleigh Barracks, 1318 North Road, Oakleigh South, Vic.
Timings	2000hrs (please be seated by 1945 hrs)
Speaker	COL Stuart Yeaman – DCOORD-A (Office of the Chief of Army).
Subject	**Experiences as Commanding Officer, Reconstruction Task Force 4, based in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan.**

To attend, ring CAPT Thomas Whale at 4CER on (03) 9870 7073 . He will accept late bookings.

WATERLOO DINNER

The 2010 Southern Region Officers Waterloo Dinner will be held on **19 June 2010 at RAAF Williams (Laverton).**

It was to have been at Victoria Barracks, but the Officers Mess was damaged in the March hail storm.

As we go to press, details for the relocated dinner are still being arranged:

- Cost is likely to be $65 for the dinner.
- Accommodation will be available for those wishing to stay overnight, but the cost is not yet confirmed.

If you wish to go, **book now** with:

Captain Thomas Whale, ADJT at 4CER, on (03) 9870 7073 ; thomas.whale@defence.gov.au

Cut-off date is 19 May.

See page 7 for information on the Old Sappers Waterloo Dinner.

RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH SUNDAY 4 JULY

The Reserve Forces Day March in Melbourne this year will be held on Sunday 4 July.

Details fixed to date are as follows:

Marchers to assemble on 4 July at 1000 hrs for step off at 10.30 hrs.

Speeches will be reduced to a maximum of two and will be considerably reduced in length. The emphasis will be on the parade itself, with good support from bands, and the parade will include vintage military vehicles. The RAAF will also provide a Fly Over. It is expected that the Salvos will provide tea and coffee before and after the event. Unit reunions will follow the March, with RAE having their usual drinks and lunch at Bill Bell's pub in South Melbourne.

A newly reconstituted Reserve Forces Day Council (Vic) is arranging the event and plans to use the occasion to raise the esprit de corps of the Reserve and celebrate the success of Reservists to date. There will be more emphasis on uniformity of turn-out and the opportunity for us to show how we used to perform in the past.

Final details will be given in the next Sapper Summit. In the meantime, however, I encourage you get together with your old Reserve mates and persuade them all to come along on 4th July.

Should you have any comments/suggestions, please feel free to contact me on Tel: (03) 9568 0320 or Email: bandbcampbell@optusnet.com.au

... *Bruce Campbell*

* * * * *

BLUE TONGUES GET TOGETHER

The Blue Tongues Weekend will be held at Majors Creek at Mitchellstown over the weekend **14/15 May 2010.**

It's a 105 Construction Squadron Reunion, PLUS Others.

See page 8 for details.

NEWS FROM THE UNITS

4 CER REPORT

WO1 Jim Davis has taken over as Editor of the 4CER magazine "The Bill". The February edition gave an overview of 2009, recognised those soldiers who excelled in the past year and gave a quick "heads up" on training opportunities for 2010. The following are extracts from it:

From the Commanding Officer:
Hello and Welcome.
2009 will most likely be recorded as the most momentous year in 4 CER's history. The efforts by all involved in the Bushfire Recovery was outstanding and second to none. Our impact on the local Kinglake Ranges community is still being positively felt. The Regt 2IC, RSM, Chief Clerk, RQMS and I had great pleasure in representing you recently at Kinglake on the First Anniversary Commemoration service. The local community warmly welcomed us back and they could not say Thankyou often enough for the work that the Soldiers of 4 CER did during our time there. Well done to all!

2010 is shaping up to be a great year. Several SGTs have been moved into the 2 x SSM and REGT OPS WO jobs in preparation for their WO subject courses and (hopefully) future promotion. This will have a 'knock on' effect, opening up SGT, CPL and LCPL appointments throughout the REGT. Therefore I encourage our future leaders to nominate for and complete their promotion courses this year!

Training activities this year include Explosive Hazards Awareness and Protection Training (EHAPT), Small Arms live firing, Demolitions, Domestic Search in a 'Landmark' Melbourne venue and horizontal construction. Deployment opportunities exist for 9 x soldiers to join 22 Construction Regiment for 2 weeks in northern South Australia for AACAP (Army Aboriginal Co-operation Assistance Programme). I look forward to working with each and every one of you again this year. Keep safe and good soldiering.

... *Contd*

4 CER Report Contd

Congratulations to the following award recipients from 2009:
Soldier's Medallion: CPL Seccull
Comd4 Bde Award for Excellence: WO2 Templar, SGT Willis, SGT Warren, CPL Wilson,
CO 4 CER Award for Excellence: PTE Harapas
4 CER Sapper of the Year: LCPL Goddard
RSM'sAward: SPR Kelly-Grimshaw

Significant dates for 2010:
12-14 Mar: Sqn trg weekend. Horizontal const & counter explosive hazards.
25 Apr –ANZAC Day activities.
14-16 May: Sapper and Soldier Skills Weekend Pucka.
4-6 Jun: Field Ex including demolitions activity.
26 Jun –11 Jul: AACAP deployment under control of 22 Const Regt. Nominated personnel only.

Postings:
In
CAPT Blanch -RMO
CAPT Whale –Adjt
WO2 Fisher –OPSWO
WO2 Harmon –TrgWO10
WO2 Ford –TrgWO 38
WO2 Somerville –RQMS
CPL McCall –Ops SGT
CPL Dierke–TptNCO
PTE Sellars– Q store Store

Out:
CAPT Cuypers
CAPT D'Rozario
CAPT Rzetelski-West
CAPT Mason
WO2 Durnin
WO2 Meehan

22nd Construction Regiment

Since the start of 2010, 22 Const Regt has been finalising the construction of a Lysaght hut at the Tank museum for handover. This tasked has provided a good training opportunity for the Const Sqn to practice levelling of a construction site and the pouring of concrete for the footings of the hut.

203 Works Sect has been busy planning for AACAP 17 at Pukatja. Pre-deployment training was conducted early in April which included vaccinations for all members allocated to the deployment. Whilst 22 Const Regt has the lead for the task, members that make up the troop to be deployed include personnel from 22 Const Regt, 4 CER, 13 Fd Sqn (WA) as well as three personnel from other 4 BDE units. Further training for the members is to be conducted in May 10 prior to the move to Pukatja the second half of June this year.

Tasks to be conducted on AACAP include; construction of two (2) grandstands on the local school sports oval, construction of three (3) shade structures within school boundaries. The repair and upgrading of the existing water reticulation on the school sports oval, upgrading the drainage around the school sports oval via construction of swales and V drains. Also if time is available other tasks of opportunity.

22 Const Regt currently has two members deployed on operations overseas, this includes the RSM, Stuart Rutledge who is on OP Slipper and WO1 Gary Lewis is deployed in East Timor on OP Astute. We await the member's safe return.

The Regt would welcome's the new ADJT CAPT Russell Collins who has just returned from OP Astute and farewell the Ex ADJT CAPT Adam Tull who has just been posted to PNG.

... WO1 Andrew Howes

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

OLD SAPPERS ASSOCIATION INC.

The 75th AGM of the Association was conducted during December where the following members of committee were re-elected:

President – Jim Muir,
Vice President – Albert Eyssens,
Secretary/Treasurer – Jim Crosling,
Deputy Sec./Tres. - Norm Dodgson,
Ordinary Members of Committee: -
John Carroll, Frank Hosemans and Allan Rantall.

During January we joined members of the 2/22 Lark Force for their annual Shrine Pilgrimage. Interesting to note there has been a renewal of interest by descendants attending the service, which should ensure it will continue for the foreseeable future.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service at Oakleigh Barracks was a success, however numbers continue to decline.

The Waterloo Dinner is on 6 June at the Oakleigh Barracks. Timings are: 1230 hrs for 1300 hrs. Ring Jim Crosling for further details and bookings.

We are always keen to welcome new members and anyone interested should contact our Secretary, Jim Crosling on 9438 2273.

... *Jim Muir*

La Trobe Valley Sappers

The La Trobe Valley Sappers meet at the Newborough Depot OR's Mess from 1600 hrs on the first Friday night of every month for a drink and a yarn.

They also put out a newsletter.

There is a standing invitation to any Ex-RAE in the area, or anyone just visiting the Valley, to join them for a pleasant Friday night.

The President is Terry Olsen, tel (03) 5167 1756
The email contact is Spencer Goss, contactable on email: **lvsappers@bigpond.com**

NOTE:

They want to see you!

WOODPECKERS ASSOCIATION

See Page 10 for a report on Bruntons Bridge ... a piece of historical Gippsland – dear to the heart of Woorpeckers.

The Blue Tongues

The Blue Tongues Weekend will be held at Majors Creek at Mitchellstown

over the weekend

Friday 14 / Saturday 15 May 2010.

It's a 105 Construction Squadron Reunion, PLUS Others.

It is a regular successful event and is well worth coming to.

* * * * *

What to bring: "Whatever you want to eat, drink and sleep in!"

If you are interested, ring:

George Weeks: 0427 546 411

Mitch: 0427 529 034

.... You can just lob up too!

Directions:

- *Turn off from the Goulburn Valley Hwy, south of Nagambie.*
- *Take the turnoff to the Mitchellstown Winery. Follow the road over the Goulburn River and past the Winery.*
- *Continue on the bitumen and then the dirt road until you come to the bridge over Majors Creek. The camping area is on the west bank of the creek.*

VALE --- MARJORIE HOSKING

All RAE friends of Lt Col Peter Hosking RFD have been saddened to learn of the passing of Peter's lovely wife, Marjorie, on 27 December last and extend their deepest sympathies to Peter, their daughters Jenny and Sally, son Ian and extended family.

Marjorie had been a tremendous support to Peter throughout his long period of service in 22 Construction Regiment, in which he served for almost 20 years, until his retirement as Commanding Officer in 1981. She was a great friend to all members of the Regiment, their wives and families. Throughout Peter's time in the Regiment and for many years afterwards, Marjorie was a great supporter of Regimental functions and continued as an enthusiastic attendee at retired Officers Mess functions, until the deterioration of her long illness rendered this no longer possible.

Unhappily, Marjorie became hospitalised throughout the final years of her life. Theirs was a very close and loving partnership and during this time Peter visited Marjorie daily when he also found the opportunity to act as a volunteer bus driver and "jack of all trades" at the hospital.

Marjorie's funeral service was held at the Anglican Parish of St Stephen and St Mary Church, Mount Waverley on 31st December 2009 where the large congregation included a good representation of retired friends from 22 Regt.

To Peter and all your beloved family – we want to reassure you our thoughts are with you.

... *Bruce Campbell.*

VALE

BRIG A T J BELL, OBE MID

Just as we were about to go to print we learnt that BRIG Alfred Thomas Jarkins Bell OBE MID, also known as 'Ding' passed away in Perth on 21 April. He was 97.

The RAE community extends their deepest sympathy to his daughter Rosemary and son John and to the extended family.

He had an extensive military career, graduating from RMC in 1933, and culminating in becoming Army Engineer- in-Chief in 1960.

He served in India, the Middle East, South West Pacific, Japan, Singapore.

He was also Registrar of the University of Melbourne, and Mayor at Flinders.

A more extensive VALE is being prepared for the next issue of Sapper Summit.

* * * * *

VALE --- COL BASIL ELMS, ED

COL Basil Elms was born in the UK in 1920.
He passed away on 12 December 2009 at Kew.

The RAE community extends their deepest sympathy to his wife Judy, and family.

He joined the Royal Engineers in1938 as a territorial, In WW2 he started as an anti-aircraft gunner. He subsequently held a GSO3 position in a Unit which fostered elements of 1 and 6 Airborne Divisions involved in the D Day Landings.

He migrated to Australia with his family in 1950, joining stockbroker JB Were. Later he moved to Doncaster, and became the first Mayor of Doncaster and Templestowe. In 1962 he founded BS Elms & Co which planned, designed and fitted out offices.

In 1973 he became a counselor for the City of Melbourne. He subsequently became a member of the Administrative Appeals tribuneral.

He joined the CMF in 1951, and was initially a GSO3 (RA) at HQ 3 Div. He then returned to Engineers as DAQMG (Movement and Transportation). He was PMC of the Swan Street CORPS Officers Mess from 1962 to 1964. He was Deputy Commander to Col Ian O'Donnell at 6 Const Gp, and finally Chief Instructor at the Staff Officer Training School. He retired as colonel in 1970.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From LTCOL Don Hughes:

Australian sappers have been actively and continuously involved in the majority of over 60 United Nations Peacekeeping Operations conducted since the first UN mission to Indonesia in 1947.

To recognise the sacrifices Australian Peacekeepers (including military police and civilian participants made to these operations, a Peacekeeping Memorial is planned to be constructed on ANZAC Parade in Canberra.

Peacekeepers safeguard, repair and build communities in many far flung corners of the world in often difficult and dangerous environments. The contribution to these missions by Australian sappers over the years has been exemplary and much appreciated. An inspiring new memorial will be formally dedicated for these efforts on Australian Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Day (14th September 2012)

Sappers of all ranks and trades, whether you have served on a Peacekeeping mission or not, should pledge your support to this important national memorial project. Please see the projects website for further details. This also raises the question – should Victorian Sappers generally, or individual units independently, construct and dedicate their own memorials?

In pursuit of peace:
www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

LtCol Hughes served with the United nations Peacekeeping Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) in 1994/5 ... *The Editor*

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NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

The Historical and Heritage Association held its AGM on 13th April 2010.

The out-going committee was re-elected:

President	Maj Bruce Campbell	
Vice-President	Capt BillAtkins	(#1)
Secretary	Maj Austin Byrne	(#2)
Treasurer	WO_1 Norm Dodgson	
Members	Cpl Margaret Hendte	
	Cpl Tony Jackson	(#3)

#1 ... also excursions manager.
#2 ... also editor, Sapper Summit.
#3 ... also curator.

Matters reported include:

"The Association has continued to operate most satisfactorily in some key areas, such as in the production and distribution of "Sapper Summit". As in the recent years, other activities have again suffered from the shortage of time available to key members of the executive."

"Maj Les Malseed retired as Vice-President last year after giving excellent service since the formation of the original H & H Committee. He was replaced as Vice President by Capt Bill Atkins.
Also last year, Capt Tony Bourke retired due to ill health. Margaret Hendte and Tony Jackson joined the Committee of Management and Tony Jackson took on the position of Curator."

"Contributors such as Rob Youl and Jim Newlands regularly provide substantial and interesting articles for Sapper Summit."

"Sale of the 'History of 22 Regiment's First 50 Years' have virtually stopped"

"The Association continues to operate as a profitable organization. At present the Association holds $5,176.48 in cash and stock. This is adequate to meet future planned outgoings."

"Future actions include:

- We still need to widen Association membership to include more representation of the Unit Associations, as well as rank and file members of the serving Regiments. This is an on-going problem.
- We would like more "Sapper Summit" articles from serving members, Unit Associations and retired groups.
- Complete the move to an email version of "Sapper Summit", as well as hard copy.
- Continue development of the Memorabilia Collection. We have sorted a large quantity of PAMs recently.
- Placement of a plaques at Site 17 Seymour and the Trades Hall.
- In association with Corps Committee, seek permission to place a plaque at the new Rectangular Stadium when construction is complete.
- Continue arranging interesting excursions in conjunction with other corps, such as RAA, RAEME and Pay Corps. "

BRUNTON'S BRIDGE

Oliver Raymond, Woodpeckers President sent in a 7 page report on Brunton's Bridge. We don't have that sort of space, so here is a seriously edited version.

A prefabricated, cast iron bridge, Brunton's was erected over the Thomson River on the road between Cowwarr and Walhalla in 1887. Subsequent wildfires burnt the timber decking of the bridge and it fell into disrepair. In 1978, Andy Ringin of the City of Moe & District Historical Society approached Major Oliver Raymond, OC of 91 Forestry Squadron RAE CMF (SR) to see if the Army would undertake the redecking of the bridge. There followed a long and torturous process of fighting through bureaucratic bumpf before the project finally went ahead.

The bridge was initially "ownerless", ... but finally, the Forests Commission's District Forester, Ray Baker, in a fit of frustration, said: "O.K., we own it. Go ahead and re-deck it."

Major Geoff Hall was OC of 39 E & M Sqn and the Squadron agreed to undertake the job of doing the actual re-decking if 91 Forestry Squadron would mill the timber required.

Students from the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education under their lecturer, Ian Round carried out a structural of the bridge ... to confirm it was still strong enough to carry the load of .... a footbridge built on the standing cast iron sub structure.

91 and 39 carried out a detailed recce, and it was decided to establish a camp at Happy Go Lucky, an old gold mining settlement not far from the bridge.

It was decided that 91 would go into camp a week before 39 so that 91 could stockpile sufficient sawn timber to allow 39 to get on with the redecking without any delays. Work started in October 1979.

The Forestmil used for the production of the timber proved extremely unreliable, and it took the ingenuity of Lt Alan Garside from 3 EME Services Unit and his small contingent of troops to keep it going.

The decking of the bridge by 39 E & M started in the second week of camp. The job was completed successfully on time.

Fast forward 27 years. A major wildfire swept through the area and burnt the bridge's timber decking so that it was no longer possible to use the bridge for foot traffic. However, by this time the desirability of redecking Brunton's had been appreciated widely and local Forester Peter West from the Department of Sustainability and Environment got on to the task of raising sufficient money to replace the timber superstructure with something longer lasting. Raising money from a number of sources, he finally let a contract to a local Latrobe Valley firm, BMC Pty. Ltd. of Morwell, to carry out the job. GHD was engaged to assess the suitability of the sub structure to carry the new decking, and Ian Round, who currently works for GHD, was involved, as he had been 30 years ago.

BMC prefabricated the galvanised steel pieces in their workshop and then assembled the cross members and the footbridge in approximately 3 metre lengths on the home bank. A winch was anchored firmly by means of a buried concrete deadman on the far bank, and as each section of the bridge was bolted on to the home bank end, the whole superstructure was winched forward 3 metres at a time.

The old, burnt timbers were removed as the new galvanised steel bridge advanced on ski shaped runners, lined with Teflon to reduce the friction.

Finally, the job was completed in less than 2 weeks of fieldwork, and an opening ceremony was held.

Ian Round and Major Oliver Raymond were given the job of unveiling the bridge's information sign, as two of the original movers of the project 30 years ago.

The finished bridge is a credit to all those involved, and it is to be hoped that it will stand the test of time and vandalism, to be enjoyed by generations to come. Anyone visiting the Walhalla area can drive a car down to the bridge over a fairly rough dirt road to view the finished project, and marvel at the strength of the original structure that has withstood the passage of over 100 years with all the stresses that nature has thrown at it over that period.

The original Brunton's Bridge

Installing The New Decking -- The Burnt-out 1980's Deck in the Background.

The Official Opening -- By Ian Round and Major Oliver Raymond