



**Austin Byrne—Editor**

# Sapper Summit



**Catafalque Guard — Central Park Malvern Cenotaph  
— 105 Construction Squadron —**

## From the Editor

This issue is about a week later than anticipated, and so we were too late for closing dates for bookings for two Waterloo Dinners and for an invitation to a display exercise at Newborough. To overcome this we put out a News Sheet on Monday 4 June covering these items — this was a first time. It was restricted to the Victorian subscribers and was mainly by email, but with about 40 mailouts.

*See page 4 for the Sir Clive Steele Lecture report and proposals for only one Regiment in Victoria from 2014!*

## Inside this issue

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| From the Editor .....            | 1  |
| Sapper Summit Support.....       | 2  |
| Rob Youl's Column .....          | 2  |
| Recent Events .....              | 4  |
| ⇒ Bluetongues .....              | 4  |
| ⇒ Excursion .....                | 4  |
| ⇒ Sir Clive Steele Lecture ..... | 4  |
| Coming Events .....              | 5  |
| ⇒ Waterloo Dinners .....         | 5  |
| ⇒ Ex Waterloo.....               | 5  |
| ⇒ Reserve Forces Day .....       | 6  |
| From the Units .....             |    |
| ⇒ 4 CER .....                    | 7  |
| ⇒ 22 Const Regt .....            | 10 |

## Special points of interest

- Association Reports..... 11
- RAE (Vic) Historical & Heritage Assn President's Report ..... 12
- Vales..... 14

Printed by Kwik Kopy  
6 Burwood Highway, Burwood

## 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 target dates for articles for the remaining 2012  
issues are:

August issue by 3 August  
November issue by 19 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.***

## Rob Youl's Column

I devoted last column to two ordinary soldiers, fellow sappers from the Vietnam era. My following pieces are about two exceptional soldiers, both Victoria Cross winners: NZ's Charles Upham and Australian Keith Payne—see next issue.

Upham, born 1908, came from a middle-class Christchurch family. Always a hardy individual attracted to rural life, he completed agricultural college (now Lincoln University), then became a farm worker—a shepherd in fact, an alien term to us, but in New Zealand someone who works closely with sheep on station properties, in his case in the foothills of the Southern Alps. This country is rugged and greatly attractive, perhaps the most dramatic, romantic and harshest of New Zealand's landscapes. Later he was a government rural property valuer. In 1938 he was engaged to Molly McTamney, a nurse and distant relation of Captain Noel Chavasse VC and bar (WWI—RAMC). When war came, Upham, with five years territorial service and by now a sergeant, immediately joined, but as a recruit.

By December however he was with 20 Battalion, his three chevrons restored, embarking for Egypt. In August-September 1940 he finished OCTU, way down the list because he had continuously ignored the non-battlefield aspects of command. However, Lieutenant Colonel Kippenberger, CO 20 Battalion, wanted him back. Although new officers **never** returned to their units, with Upham's low graduation position apparently the Military Secretary decided this time it didn't matter. Hard training followed, then the NZ Division went to Greece in March 1941. Upham's platoon was evacuated to western Crete—for much of the retreat he had suffered terribly from dysentery, and was still weak when the Germans invaded. On 22 May two incomplete NZ

battalions (20 and 28—the Maoris) set out to retake Maleme airstrip. Upham's platoon advanced 2700 metres unsupported, destroying numerous enemy posts through fire and movement, guile, guts and ingenuity. Withdrawing from Maleme, he brought out wounded men, located a company 600 metres behind enemy lines and guided it out, then, although wounded by shrapnel and a bullet in the foot, and still dysentery-ridden, he led his platoon through several holding actions that left many enemy dead, as ever employing subterfuge, flexibility, nerve and unit discipline. The last skirmish, on 30 May at Sfakia above the evacuation beach, when 22 enemy died and the rest dispersed, very likely enabled many more Allied soldiers to embark for Egypt. Reading his biography and his citation, dated 14 October 1941, shortly before the medal was presented to him in the field, he seems superhuman. He also said of the award, 'It's meant for the men!'

Allied forces grouped along the Nile, and Upham's battalion—he was now a captain and OC, C Company, 20 Battalion—was in Syria and Lebanon when recalled to Mersa Matruh as Rommel swept east. The NZ Division was deployed on a bare ridge at Minqar Qaim when attacked on three sides by the Afrika Korps. Again Upham ranged all over his company position, oblivious to enemy fire. When the division broke through to the east, Upham led his men, leaving the hand-to-hand fighting to them. Instead he had a sack of grenades that he expended, ruthlessly destroying German trucks and cars trying to escape: he was a commander and a combatant, his biographer said. The breakout was successful, much of the divisional transport got through, and the other elements with luck and skill manoeuvred

across the desert to El Alamein, fighting, digging in, moving somewhere else, digging in again. By now it was early July 1942.

Axis troops occupied Ruweisat ridge 'overlooking' El Alamein. The NZ Division was part of a night attack covering ten kilometres. General Gott withdrew tank cover planned for the division's western flank, but promised it would be there at first light. Upham's CO directed C Company to send a man forward to assess the slowed progress. As ever, Upham went himself with jeep and driver. He learned that some of the Kiwis had reached the not especially conspicuous ridge, but, as dawn broke, that the Axis forces, with tanks, were in great number on the flats between the ridge and the rest of the NZ division. A firestorm erupted; Upham was ordered to immediately attack the German guns, which he did, in the lead. Two platoon commanders were soon dead and Upham was severely wounded in the left arm. When the noise died he had 150 Axis prisoners, guns and a truck full of German battle maps. However nearby, 22 Battalion was forced to surrender, amidst fitful Allied attempts to counter-attack the ridge—and Gott's tanks never appeared. Upham was at the RAP for three hours then walked back to rejoin the tiny remnant of his company, where he was again wounded—in the leg this time—still belligerent as the Axis forces closed in and captured them.

Whilst Italian medics performed crude amputations around him, Upham endured days in a filthy cellar, refusing to have his arm removed. Eventually he sailed from Mersa Matruh to Reggio Calabria, was marched barefoot through hostile crowds and entrained for Naples, truculent as ever. His arm somewhat repaired, he moved to the Modena prison in March 1943 with its large Kiwi contingent. When his health improved further, he attempted his first escape through a roof. On 9 September, when the Germans took over northern Italy, they moved Upham's group by truck then in cattle wagons through Austria to, eventually, Weinsberg, east of Heidelberg. En route he tried to scarper near the River Po. After more attempts at Weinsberg, he was deemed dangerous. He entrained with three escorts in late summer 1944 to Colditz, south-east of Leipzig, and even then tried his luck jumping via a toilet window from the speeding train. His escort, with assistance, recaptured him a day later. The winter of 1944-45 was harsh, escape was impossible from Colditz and escapees were certain to be shot if recaptured. On 10 April 1945, inmates heard distant battle sounds. Despite talk of moving prisoners to Austria, the German garrison surrendered to the Senior British Officer on 15 April. Upham soon met US soldiers, grabbed a uniform and weapons and prepared to fight again, but after four days was caught up in the repatriation program.

Amazingly Molly McTamney was by now working in occupied Germany. Reunited in London, where King George VI presented Upham with his VC (a second time) on 11 May 1945, Charles and Molly married in

late June 1945 in Hampshire. Soon after he sailed home without her—no room for wives! Lady Freyberg, learning of this, ordered an immediate flight for Molly, but the latter refused—like Charles, she sought no privileges. He arrived in Lyttelton on 2 September and went straight to his parents' home. Civic recognition followed, with Upham a reluctant and ultra-modest participant. He was sitting unwillingly for a portrait when a telegram boy delivered the news that his conduct at Minqar Qaim and Ruweisat, now known as the First Battle of El Alamein, merited a bar to his VC. (I can't find when and where this was presented.) Life became more complex; great adulation ensued; Upham and his mother sequestered themselves in a beach house. Prominent Christchurch citizens launched a successful appeal for £10 000 to buy Upham a farm. He refused the money, directing it instead to university scholarships for ex-servicemen's sons (but not daughters?); the fund still runs, with gender apparently now irrelevant.

Molly disembarked at Wellington in December 1945. By this time Upham, still insisting there be no concessions to his heroism—and he now also had an MID for his PoW escape attempts, had decided to acquire under the NZ soldier settlement program an isolated 500 hectare sheep and cattle farm at Conway Flat, near Hundalee, North Canterbury fronting the Pacific with great coastal views. Urged to go into politics, he wisely declined. The NZ PM, Peter Fraser, coerced the ever-disinclined Upham into going to the 1946 victory parade in London. (Maybe the second investiture took place then?) He settled down to farming, visited Greece with Kippenberger in 1950, and London again in 1956, and with Molly raised three daughters. He eventually grew into his role as a national figure and took more part in public life, and relished his RSA and unit connections and reunions. He was described as possessing 'burning integrity', and was a confidante to various NZ and world dignitaries. The Uphams lived at Conway Flat until 1994 when they retired to Christchurch, where he died on 22 November that year. His military funeral drew 5000 people.

Kenneth Sandford wrote Upham's biography in the early 1960s in a courtly, very admiring manner. In other words, fifty years later, it's rather dated. But nothing can take away the brilliance of Upham as an infantryman and battlefield tactician, his unique modesty and his earthiness.

Reminding us of the adverse inter-generational effects of fame, Upham's children sold his medals to the Imperial War Museum in 2006, which then loaned them to New Zealand for 999 years. (NZ law prohibited their export anyway.) This sale caused great public controversy, given Upham's legendary demeanour and patriotism, and that the NZ government had unsuccessfully offered the family \$1 million for the set. They were displayed at the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum, Waiohuru, near Tongariro National Park, until 2 December 2007, when Upham's VCs were among nine stolen from secure cabinets. On 16 February 2008, NZ

police announced that all medals had been recovered, thanks to a \$300 000 reward offered by two citizens.

... Rob Youl

Mark of the Lion. Kenneth Sandford (Hutchinson and Coy: London) 1962

## Recent Events

### BLUETONGUES

#### -- 105 Const Sqn Camping Reunion --

-- Held 18 to 20 May --

George Weeks said that it was again a very good weekend on the banks of Majors Creek. There were some 30 members who camped, plus some 10 family members. In addition there were drop-ins during the day.

As usual food, stories and companionship were excellent.

### EXCURSION

#### -- Search Exercise at Puffing Billy --

-- 12 May --

This excursion to view the 4CER weekend exercise at the Puffing Billy station at Belgrave was organised at relatively short notice. Some 10 people came along.

The aim of the exercise was to test the troops in a clearance search for improvised explosive devices. There was a scenario that had a threat to the railway system. The troops had to set a strategy for prioritising areas and then implement the search. At each step, there was a requirement to brief the search team, and then carry out the clearance.

We arrived on the Saturday afternoon. We were conducted around the area and briefed on the activities, however the search team was at the briefing stage, which seemed to go on for ever (understandable, given IEDs are now so complex with a wide range of initiation systems). However the complexity and the thoroughness was obvious.

And the coffee was good afterwards.

## SIR CLIVE STEELE LECTURE

*The lecture was held on 22 May at Oakleigh. There were two speakers. LTCOL Steve Gliddon, SO1 Force Engineer, gave an update on Corps Capability and LTCOL Craig Jolly from the CIED task Force gave an outline of what is now involved in counter-IED activities.*

**LtCol Steve Gliddon** started with a video from SME which showed engineers in recent activities and the range of roles they now have—from indigenous support projects to field operations in Afghanistan.

He commented that there was a certain amount of doom and gloom in some areas about the impact of the recent Federal budget, but there was a need to keep our aspirations realistic and keep going.

Plan Beersheba is the Chief of Army's plan to upgrade the Army. It is based on the need to be ready to fight the 'future' fight — not one based on old perceptions of what might come at us. There are some 15 key activities in the plan, but the primary requirement is to have multi-role manoeuvre Brigades. A key aspect of this was that the Reserves task would be to augment the Regular Units. This means that there will be two ARES Construction Regiments, one based in NSW, and one based in Victoria with the task of being able to support the Regular Engineer Units.

**The key implication for Victoria is that there will be only one Regiment.** It will be a construction type, and it is expected to be able to support regular units, both in normal sapper tasks, and also in some yet-to-be-determined specialist roles that regular units are unlikely to have -- examples include field timber milling and quarrying.

The decision has been made that the new (unnamed) Regiment will be based on the HQ of 4CER, and the HQ of 22 Construction Regiment will be 'disestablished'. There is a two stage review under way:

- 1<sup>st</sup> stage: Assess current situation, strengths, skills, specialist capacity, etc
- 2<sup>nd</sup> stage: By Anzac Day 2013, finalise the new organisations for the 2 new Regiments.  
Reorganise in January 2014.

Further comment was that:

- Most of the work on the general thrust of Plan Beersheba was done last year.
- With regard to Victoria, there will need to be a new appropriately structured ARES RHQ.
- The Construction Squadron(s) would most likely use a template based on 17 and 21

Construction Squadrons.

- There would most likely be an amphibious capability.
- Calculations for rapid deployment would be based on a 5:1 ratio – to get 1 person mobilised in the field in an emergency, you need 5 people on the books in the Regiment.

+ + +

**LtCol Steve Jolly** spoke on the sophistication of improvised explosive devices and of the systems in place to counter them. IEDs are now the weapon of choice in many theatres. In Afghanistan, they account for 80% of casualties. He is on a CIED task force and their mission is to coordinate all aspects of IED activities.

The taskforce is multi-service and monitors all IED activities. CIED is coordinated internationally, and information and strategies are assessed and discussed with other Countries involved in our theatres of activity.

The main things that came from the talk were:

- All IED incidents (both detonated and discovered devices) are examined forensically.  
*What is it? What are the components? How was it made? How was it placed? How was it activated? Are the components and assembly similar to other systems? Can you deduce a designer, a common instruction on making, installing and detonating? What is the local pattern of use ... types, locations, detonation systems? What are the conclusions regarding the local theatre and the local Enemy? What is the detection success rate? What techniques work?*  
*What is the impact on personnel and equipment? Are local CIED techniques working ... such as reinforcing undersides of vehicles?*  
*Does any of this fit in with our Allies in this theatre?*
- Local assessments are reviewed upwards and across Corps and Services, hence the Task Force.
- The Australian Task Force talks to similar organisations in Allied countries.  
*Where are components coming from? Are commercial firms making components? Do they know they are for IEDs? Who are their customers?*  
*What strategies can be developed and implemented to counter production, identify the makers, identify users, minimise impact, etc?*

All different from 30 years ago and the simple topics of “booby traps” and “minefield clearance”

... Austin Byrne

## Coming Events

### WATERLOO DINNERS

The Officers Waterloo Dinner will be held at the Officers Mess, Simpson Barracks, Watsonia on Saturday 23 June.

It was advertised in the previous issue with a reminder sent out on 4 June. Bookings close 12 June.

The Old Sappers Waterloo Dinner will be held on 17 June (see the Old Sappers Report). Bookings have closed.

### EX WATERLOO

**Saturday 16 June 2012  
at Newborough Depot**

22 Const Regt invites former Sappers to Ex Waterloo.

— Starting at 5.00 pm —

**Buffet Dinner**

**Mess Games**

**Presentations by:**

— VicPol — CFA — Ambulance Victoria — SES —  
and Defence Reserve Support Council.

***Make a night of it!***

**POC:** Lt Natalie Canham  
A/ADJT, 22 Const Regt  
03 9550 3947  
0417 792 817

**KEEP SUNDAY 12 AUGUST FREE —  
PROPOSED EXCURSION  
TO 22 Const Regt at Pucka ...**  
(see 22 Const Regt article on p 10)

**The RAE Corps Officers Golf Day 2012**  
at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club.  
Keep **Friday 19 October** free  
Tee off is 1000hrs

If you need more details before the next Issue, please contact:  
Capt Bill McAuley on (03) 5489 3218 or  
Mobile 0404 197 100.

# **RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE MELBOURNE Sunday, 1 July, 2012**

## **General:**

The 2012 Melbourne Reserve Forces Day Parade will be held at the Melbourne Shrine on Sunday, 1 July, 2012. This is the one day of the year when Reservists, both serving and retired, have the opportunity to demonstrate together pride in their service to their country as well as to enjoy time together at post-parade reunions.

The theme of the parade this year will be remembrance of Australian volunteers who served in the Boer War – a war that ended 110 years ago on 31 May, 1902. This war was the first in which Australian volunteer troops served. The parade will be led by a Light Horse mounted contingent in Boer War uniforms. There will also be a static display of military vehicles, including two new prototypes.

At this year's Parade, medallions will be presented to direct descendants of Boer War veterans as well as to partners of serving and retired reservists. Nomination forms for these were distributed by email / mail-out last month.

The march will commence in Government House Drive near Birdwood Avenue and continue to the Forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance, when Reservists will parade in Review Order. The Parade will be inspected by His Excellency, the Governor of Victoria, and following this there will be two short speeches and Presentation of Medallions. Should the weather be suitable, RAAF will provide a fly-over.

Reservists who are no longer physically fit to march are invited to bring their own folding chairs so that they may watch from the under cover shelters which will be provided.

## **Detailed Arrangements:**

### **Assembly:**

Reservists will assemble in the Government House Drive outside the gates (Melway Ref. Map 2F, K11) at 10.00 hrs, for march off at 10.15 hrs. The site will be marked by our new RAE flag as well as the usual OSA and Woodpeckers banners. For a gold coin donation, Salvation Army personnel will be there, as last year, to provide tea and coffee. Early arrivals should be able to park their cars in the adjacent Birdwood Drive or St Kilda Road.

### **On Completion:**

RAE personnel are invited to assemble at the Emerald Hotel, 415 Clarendon Street (corner Clarendon and Raglan Streets), South Melbourne (Melway Ref: 2K, E4) for a re-union lunch. This is the same hotel as we used in 2011. It would be helpful if those intending to attend would ring Bruce Campbell on Tel: (03) 9568 0320 be-

forehand so that he may be able to advise the hotel of the approximate number attending. The 'Red Room' has been reserved for our use.

## **Neatness of Dress and General Bearing:**

As at previous parades, participants will present wearing neat attire. National Service Associations continue to set a good example with their uniform style and, while we may not equal that standard this year, we will strive to emulate it. The suggested dress code is as follows:

### **Berets:**

Should you still have your old RAE black beret and cap badge, then wear this. You may want to buy a replacement for the future – these are available from Platypus Outdoors, 353 Little Bourke Street (cnr Elizabeth and Lt Bourke Streets).

### **Dress:**

A black reefer jacket with grey trousers is suggested with a white or light coloured shirt and RAE or similar tie; alternatively, a suit is acceptable. While we will not insist on such dress for this year's parade, it would be appreciated if members could keep as close as possible to the suggested dress code. It has been noted that good quality reefer jackets may be purchased from time to time for between \$10 and \$25 from the Salvos or other second-hand clothing stores. We are urged to avoid very casual clothes such as "hoodies" and jeans. Shoes worn should be black.

### **Decorations and Medals:**

Only your own officially issued decorations and medals are to be worn on this occasion. Medals such as those issued to relatives should not be worn. Lapel badges, if any, should be limited to a maximum of two.

### **Attendance:**

Participation in the march is limited to serving and retired members of the Reserve Forces only. Serving members are especially invited to attend but must understand that this is not a paid parade. Should serving members wish to wear uniform, they are asked to discuss this beforehand with their unit commanders.

### **Queries:**

Should you wish further clarification of any details, please do not hesitate to contact me on Tel: (03) 9568 0320; or  
e:mail: bandbcampbell@optusnet.com.au.

... *Bruce Campbell*



## From the units

### 4 CER

4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment once again demonstrated its capacity to readily take action to provide engineering capability and know how by deploying a number of members in support of the flood relief effort in Nathalia. A separate article in this edition from LT Matthew Ho summarises the achievements of the team.

On the return of the team from supporting the flood relief effort the Commanding Officer of 4 CER, LTCOL Glen Pilbeam, received a letter of thanks from the principal of the Nathalia Primary School, thanking them for their efforts in the floods and in particular for reinstating the goal posts on their school oval. The letter was accompanied by 17 drawings by the students depicting the goal posts.

As mentioned in the last edition of Sapper Summit, 4 CER marched in the City of Melbourne on ANZAC day. The day commenced with a dawn service at the unit. For a while it looked like the weather would hold, then during the playing of the Last Post and National Anthem it absolutely bucketed down. Then it was quickly into the drill hall for a gunfire breakfast and into the city for the march where once again it poured with rain. The Regiment was also able to support a range of other ANZAC commemorative activities in the local area by providing catafalque parties at a number of RSL services.

The Regiment supported the Ringwood RSL again this year with a march through the City of Ringwood to the Ringwood Clock Tower on 22 April. The weather was just the opposite of ANZAC day with plenty of sunshine to draw out the crowds.

On 27 April the unit hosted a visit by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney and the Federal Member for Deakin, Mr Mike Symon.



They received a brief from LTCOL Pilbeam about the history of the unit and its connections to 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Field Company's in WWI, current operations including deployments to Afghanistan and Timor Leste, future operations including Rotation 30 of OP ANODE (Solomon Islands) as well as a briefing on PLAN BEER-SHEBA and its implications for 4 CER and 22<sup>nd</sup> Construction Regiment. The Senator was clearly impressed as he immediately expressed interest in a return visit to the unit's search activity in May.

Our May search weekend was conducted at Belgrave, with the focus of the activity being engineer search in and around the Puffing Billy Railway. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Reserve Response Force assisted the search and provided an extra element to the scenario, which provided a valuable opportunity for the unit to practice working with other elements in the Brigade. The second day of the exercise was attended by Senator Feeney, the Commander of 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Major General Steven Smith, and the Commander of 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Brigadier Robert Marsh. MAJGEN Smith commented on how impressed he was with both the setting and environment of the activity as well as the professional approach of the soldiers of the Regiment. Both MAJGEN Smith and BRIG Marsh spent most of their time at the activity talking to the Sappers conducting the search tasks.

The Sir Clive Steele lecture was held on 22 May at Oakleigh Barracks. The event was well attended by Engineer Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers in the Southern Region. The key note speakers LTCOL Craig Jolly and LTCOL Steve Gliddon gave great insight into current operations and the future of the RAE under PLAN BEERSHEBA, particularly within an Army Reserve context. The implementation of PLAN BEERSHEBA will result in significant change across the Army. At the local level it will result in the amalgamation of 4 CER and 22 Const Regt, with the amalgamation into a single Regiment expected to take effect from 1 January 2014. Whilst this change will be considerable it will better enable the Reserve to provide directed capability to Army into the future.

... *IS GREEN*  
*LT*  
*ADJT 4 CER*

*See p 9 for photos*

## VIC Flood Assist Nathalia Deployment. — 11-15 March 12 —

I received a call just after lunch on a sunny Saturday afternoon. It was a 4BDE SGT enquiring if I could deploy up to Nathalia tomorrow. He informed me I would be deploying with some of my 4CER colleagues. It's always easier if you have some Combat Engineers to work with.



Our task was to relieve the 4RRF HQ element that had deployed earlier. After an in-depth Hand Over / Take Over and recce of the local area we were ready to go. Our main effort was to provide support to the evacuation of the local population. This was largely due to the fording depth of UNIMOG, of up to 1.5m. This was too deep for a 4WD but too shallow for a boat crew.

We liaised daily with SES, Vic Pol, CFA and DSE agencies and the diggers assisted with the filling of sandbags in preparation for further inundation. We were lucky enough to have PTE Tanner who brought up his set of bag pipes. He lived to regret bringing them as he was the busiest member of the contingent, playing venues from the local pub to the hospital and the community hall too. He was supported by his guitarist PTE Robinson and pianist PTE Kumar.

Our accommodation was Nathalia Primary School. Principal Vicki McManus was very supportive and offered the facilities to us. CPL Howatt and this section of CE's thanked her hospitality by erecting goal posts on the school oval.

## Nathalia Primary School

We would like to say thankyou for putting our new 2012 goal posts. They are great and we have used them heaps.



We hope that you enjoyed the stay on our school grounds. We thankyou also for helping out with the floods.

# THANKYOU

FROM ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS OF  
NATHALIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

SSM, WO2 Tom Herter, ensured the ANF was hoisted at 0800 daily at the school, as if we were on any army base and taken down at 1700 of an evening. SGT Harvey was very amused by yabbies and the freshwater shrimp that could be seen clambering over sandbags trying to get oxygen and would always recount stories of his holidays in Robinvale.

We constantly checked the official flood gauge on Broken river, as well as the sandbagging done by the diggers around the cemetery and the levee system. Our UNIMOG's and drivers delivered medicine and groceries to cut off townfolk too.

The town of Nathalia was very grateful for the support given from our diggers. I'm sure the efforts of our soldiers will be remembered for years to come.

... LT Ho





4 CER marching to the shrine ANZAC day 2012.



ANZAC day Timor 2012 at the monument constructed by the TLTG 4 Engineers

## 22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT REUNION GROUP — 2012 REUNION

The next Reunion will be held at Lakes Entrance over the weekend 26-27-28 October. Planning is underway and with the interest shown so far it will be a great weekend.

Deposits of \$100 per booking must be received by 30th June to confirm the number of rooms. Balance payable by 10th September.

.... Cheers Jen

Organisation is by Jen Eaton: tel 0427 196 038 Email: [jenmaree57@gmail.com](mailto:jenmaree57@gmail.com)

## 22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

### EX BIG BANG 09 – 13 AUG 12

22nd Construction Regiment will be conducting a 4-day training exercise in vicinity of Puckapunyal Military Area (PMA) over the period 09 to 13 August 2012. The activity will focus on providing task-orientated training for specific regiment capabilities. The activities will be conducted along three concurrent Lines of Operation, focusing on the conduct of a demolitions range to practice explosive obstacle breaching techniques, and maintain Combat Engineer demolitions capabilities; the reconstruction of a cricket pitch on the Number 2 Oval in support of the PMA community and refurbishment of the regimental headquarters building at the Engineer Compound; and the conduct of various plant tasks to continue refurbishment of the Engineer Compound, in order to develop the compound as a viable training area. ***An invitation to PMA for the EX- Sapper Associations to view the demolitions activities Sunday 12 Aug will follow in the next Sapper Summit edition.***

### AASAM 2012

The Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM) 2012 was held over the period 02 – 17 May 2012 at the Puckapunyal Military Area. AASAM is designed to test and assess the marksmanship skills of teams and individuals, in various practices and events. AASAM exercises and develops marksmanship capabilities with the use of current in- service small arms weapon systems and diverse combat shooting techniques. The Meet included RAAF teams and BDE teams in the Domestic event, competing concurrently with an International event including teams from the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, French Forces New Caledonia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Brunei, and Timor-Leste.

RAE was well represented in this year's 4BDE team, consisting of five Sapper Shooters including; LT N. Canham and SPR S. Keilty from 22 Const Regt, and SPR M. Radziszewski, SPR Challman and SPR Myszka from 4CER.

Photos from AASAM 2012 can be found at [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/muegm1yhc0e6nkj/5pjp\\_sMT8v](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/muegm1yhc0e6nkj/5pjp_sMT8v)

### EX GRYPHON 16-25 Mar 12

22 Const Regt conducted EX GRYPHON from the 16-25 Mar 12 at Puckapunyal Military Area and the Latrobe Valley Region. In the first five day block 39CS conducted tree felling and combat engineering tasks. This included felling and crosscutting trees at Blue Rock firewood coupe and Crinigan Bushland Reserve, and

concreting at Darnum. 39CS used this opportunity to exercise their skills, while also contributing to the local community.

105CS undertook works at the Engineering Compound, Puckapunyal. 105CS activities involved backfilling and compacting a slope and associated drainage works, including the re-shaping and aligning of table drains, the construction of rock weirs and the rock lining of drains. The combination of these construction tasks will provide lasting silt and erosion control measures for the compound.

The last four day block saw all 22CR Sappers undertake Search and Field Machinery Tasks. The search activity required a route clearance in the Puckapunyal Range and the Field Machinery component had the Sappers build an Aerial Rope Bridge. Both activities were successfully completed, with valuable training gained by the Sappers.



**CEs from 22 using the Stanley Power Pack on the rainwater drainage system at the Lysaght Building**



**LCPL Vander Veldan explaining the construction of the Aerial Rope Bridge.**





**Slope stabilisation works at the Engineer Compound PMA.**



**Route search activity at PMA.**

\* \* \*

## **ANZAC Day and Boer War Day 2012**

It has been a busy five weeks for the 105<sup>th</sup> Construction Squadron supporting requests for Catafalque Guards for ANZAC Day and Boer War Day.

The Sqn had the privilege of providing members in two simultaneous ANZAC Day ceremonies and participated as a part of 4 Brigade in the city march to the Shrine of Remembrance. Services were conducted for the East Malvern RSL, held at the Cenotaph in Central Park Malvern East, and the Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL service, held at the Cenotaph in Warrawee Park, Oakleigh. On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> May, the Sqn provided members for Boer War Day with the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace

Treaty, a commemoration service held at the Shrine of Remembrance. The service commemorated the end of hostilities and remembered those who did not come home.

... SPR Fossett

### **Boer War commemorations**



**at the Shrine of Remembrance**  
(see also page 1 photo)

\* \* \*

## **From the Associations**

### **OLD SAPPERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

We participated in the Anzac Day Dawn Service conducted at Oakleigh Barracks where some sound judgment saw us inside the gymnasium.

Our Waterloo Dinner is set down for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June and will be conducted at the East Malvern RSL. Bookings and payments **must be** with the Secretary by COB Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June. This year we will be privileged to have one of the few remaining survivors of the 2/22 Battalion Lark Force as our guest speaker. Lark Force, which contained an element of Fortress Engineers, played a key role in the defence of Rabaul during 1941/42.

Planning has commenced for this years' Reserve Forces Day March scheduled for Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne. Any members wishing to march should assemble in Government House Drive by 1000 hrs. Look for the Old Sappers banner.

We are always keen to welcome new members and anyone interested should contact our Secretary, John McNabb on 8802 8293.

... Jim Muir, President

## WOODPECKERS

*Mick wrote this before the AGM,  
see the comments at the end.*



The Woodpeckers RAE Association Inc AGM is scheduled for Sunday 3rd June 2012 at Box Hill RSL. Hopefully the AGM will see/lead to a rejuvenation of interest and participation going forward !

Last Anzac Day 13 Members ( Alan Webb, John Dunn, Beth Steveson, Graham Spring, Chris Costello, Geoff Morsby, Colin Ely, Harry Marsh , Tony Jackson, Oliver Raymond, Rob Youl, John Morey and Mick Murray carried/escorted the WWII Forestry Companies Banner with pride and dignity. I'm sure the inclement weather deterred some potential marchers !

Thankyou to Sharon C and boys for following the March and to Cath and Paul Cunningham, Richard Fosset and Daryl the piper, for their company over a beverage at Clocks. It was unfortunate that 22/105, in accord with the MOU, were not able to supply uniformed soldiers as a banner party due to commitments to 4 Bde who also marched.

In the last SS edition, I informed readers of Woodys in the news. I overlooked the photo of the Melbourne Marathon runner 1645 and her two male colleagues —page 27 Sunday Herald Sun, Oct 9, 2011. Fiona, where did you finish and did you beat the boys home ? Well done WO2 Ince.

Well done to our country members, like Wayne Kennelly, who fought on the levee banks of many townships to protect their communities from flood waters earlier in the year. Whilst in Shepparton with the Red Cross, I used Wayne for intell on Nathalia and Moira Shire. Picture the man with the shovel doing drill movements like a RSM !!

Reserve Forces Day will allow the Woodpeckers Banner to be paraded. Again, serving sappers are invited to join retired sappers in a service celebration and a beverage and meal afterwards ( note the arrangements of the H&H Assoc.)

... Mick Murray.

*President.*

### **Follow-up from the Editor:**

*I was invited to the Woodies AGM, and wish to report:*

- *There were some 20 at the meeting and they seemed an active group.*
- *The meeting noted the death of Bob Brasher in May 2011.*
- *The meeting passed a resolution in favour of an umbrella type RAE Association, where associations such as the Woodpeckers retain their individuality.*
- *They are planning a 'Getaway' weekend for Autumn in the Dimboola area ... more to follow.*

*The new Committee is:*

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>President:</i>       | <i>Rob Youl</i>        |
| <i>Vice-President:</i>  | <i>Tony Jackson</i>    |
| <i>Secretary:</i>       | <i>Richard Fossett</i> |
| <i>Treasurer:</i>       | <i>Graeme Ford</i>     |
| <i>Welfare Officer:</i> | <i>Rob Youl</i>        |

*... Austin Byrne, Editor*

\* \* \*

## **RAE (Vic) HISTORICAL AND HERITAGE ASSOCIATION Inc 8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **President's Report to Association**

**17 April, 2012.**

#### **GENERAL**

##### **Our First 20 Years:**

April 2012 marks the twentieth anniversary of our organisation which was formed as a sub-committee of the RAE (Southern Region) Corps Committee in April, 1992, and which later became an Incorporated Association under the auspices of the Corps Committee.

The original sub-committee comprised retired RAE personnel, ranging in rank from Sapper to Colonel, while at the same time including Pilot Officer Bill Goodall. Foundation Chairman/President was Lt Col Bob Eastick, with the undersigned Major Bruce Campbell appointed Secretary. Lt Col Rob Youl was appointed editor of our Newsletter "Sapper Summit".

##### **Activities of our Committee/Association during the past twenty years have included the following: — Newsletters**

Publication of 77 editions of "Sapper Summit" to provide news and information regarding coming RAE events to Victorian Sappers. Rob Youl continued as editor for several years, followed then for brief periods by Bruce Campbell and later by the now deceased Eddie Vail. For the past eleven years RAE (History and Heritage) has been appreciative of the services of Maj Austin Byrne who has been responsible for the last 40 editions.

##### **— Historic Publications**

Members of our group have assisted in the production of the following RAE publications:

— **Swan Street Sappers:** A number of personnel assisted editor Rob Youl in his production of this excellent publication.

— **Volume 4 of the History of the RAE (1945-1991):** A working party of RAE (History and Heritage) produced the bibliography of the 800 personnel mentioned.

— **22 Construction Regiment's First 50 Years:** A Historical and Heritage publication.

— Initiated the Production of **16 Construction Regiment's History**, produced by Maj Mike Meany.

— **Marking Historical Sites**

The Committee organised the placing of historical plaques at each of the three major RAE HQ sites in Victoria covering the period 1868 – 1991.

— **Excursions**

At times in partnership with his RAA counterpart, the now deceased Capt Bill Atkins organised a number of excursions for our members to view training and to examine subjects of common interest.

— **Sir Clive Steele Lectures**

For a number of years before this became the task of RAE Regimental staff, Maj Les Malseed of our committee organised the series of Sir Clive Steele Lectures.

— **Reserve Forces Day Marches**

In recent years our Association has provided liaison between RAE and the Reserve Forces Day Committee.

**Acknowledgement of Key Support**

Special mention is made of support given by the following key personnel over our first twenty years:

- Foundation President Lt Col Bob Eastick who “got us started”;
- Foundation Editor of “Sapper Summit” Lt Col Rob Youl who remains our most valued contributor;
- Maj Les Malseed, assisted by his wife Elaine, who organised the Sir Clive Steele lectures for the first several years;
- WO 1 Norm Dodgson, Treasurer who has held this office since we first needed one;
- Capt Bill Atkins who organised our excursions for most of those twenty years;
- WO 2 Eddie Vail for a short time Secretary and Editor of “Sapper Summit”;
- Maj Austin Byrne who has meticulously carried out the duties of Secretary and Editor of “Sapper Summit” for the past eleven years.
- Capt Maurice Squirrel for his valuable work in auditing our books over several years.

**THE YEAR 2011**

**General**

The Association continued its regular task of producing and distributing four editions of “Sapper Summit” during 2011. Our publication has been greatly improved this year by the introduction of coloured versions distributed by email. We have had only limited success in our other tasks.

Our interaction with Corps Committee in 2011 was somewhat limited, in part due to the lack of a Col Commandant. The representatives of 4 CER and 22 Constr Regt have continued to be most co-operative and supportive. Further, we are now encouraged by our Col Commandant's recent return to duty.

**Association Personnel**

We have been much saddened by the death of our Vice-President, Capt Bill Atkins, on 21 September,

2011. Bill was one of our few surviving original members. We have been pleased to welcome Lt Col Colin Bowater as a new member of our Committee of Management.

**Major Activities of the Committee for the Year 2011**

To re-iterate, four editions of “Sapper Summit” were published in 2011, which was no mean feat. Rob Youl continues to provide a splendid series of leading articles and the units have supplied regular activity reports. Maj Mike Meany's production of the history of 16 Constr Regt has been a great success and sales in the early months of 2011 have covered production costs.

We were able to arrange a very successful excursion to a Puckapunyal range practice in June last year. Whilst 4CER coordinated the excursion, the grenade and demolitions practices involved personnel from both Regiments. The day was excellent and gave a great opportunity to talk to the Sappers on what the Reserve is like in 2011.

We have finally made some progress in our attempts to arrange placement of a new plaque at AAMI Stadium as a joint commemoration to the activities of RAE and RAA at the site from 1935 to 1991.

Following agreement with the RAA Association President, I have provided a suggested wording and layout for a joint memorial plaque. This has been submitted to the Trustees of the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust for approval. In response, the CEO of the Trust has held discussions with Mr Ross Bastian (who is recognised for his work in designing military plaques) and it is now hoped this matter will be resolved within the next few weeks.

We have continued in a role of providing information to serving and retired RAE members regarding the Annual Reserve Forces Day March. The 2011 March was considered a real success as was our luncheon held afterwards at the Emerald Hotel, South Melbourne. A feature of the 2011 March was the presentation of medallions to the wives and partners of personnel in appreciation of the support they provided while those soldiers were absent on ARes duty.

LCpl Don Darwin received the Military Medal in early 1918 for mapping part of the Western Front at times under fire. He was in 10 Field Company Engineers. His family has provided us with a box of memorabilia from this time, and are seeking advice on what should happen to it for prosperity. We have carried out a preliminary review and have arranged for Lt Col Rob Youl to look at it from the point of writing the information up. We are also talking to others on preservation and where it could be retained for the long term. 10 Field Company is now 10 Combat Engineer Squadron, and based at Ringwood, so we have a local connection.

**Financial Aspects**

The Association continues to enjoy good financial health with cash in hand at the end of 2011 being \$6,022.60, which is considered adequate to meet our



2012 obligations.

### Disappointments of the Year 2011

The number of subscribers to "Sapper Summit" continues to decline, although with the introduction of email our readership has been maintained. Little progress has been made with our other projects.

### Aims for the Year 2012 include:

- Continuation of our efforts to widen Association membership and maintain communication with recently retired Sappers, as well as widening the subject matter in "Sapper Summit".

- Effective work on the memorabilia collection, plaques and production of Unit histories.

- Continued support for the Reserve Forces Day March.

- Identifying a way to reduce the workload of our Secretary/Editor.

- A start on the production of a Unit History for the Ringwood Units over the last 40 years.

Thank you everyone for your support, which has been most appreciated.

... *Bruce A Campbell (Maj)*  
*President.*

## VALE

### Capt M J K (Mick) LODGE

17 April 1925 — 8 February 2012

An outstanding engineer and oil industry executive, Matthew James Kane 'Mick' Lodge, also had an interesting military career, died on the 8<sup>th</sup> February.

Born on 17 April 1925, he graduated from RMIT with a civil engineering diploma. Serving firstly from 1948-53 in 16 Construction Squadron RAE, one of Swan Street's original post-war CMF sapper units, he then joined the ARA via RAS (B), a grading within the Regular Army Supplement that allowed qualified people with valuable skills to be commissioned without the conventional Duntroon or Portsea training.

In February 1954 he transferred to the ARA, remaining there until early 1962 with postings to 21 Construction Squadron; SME as a student and staff member; 2 Airfield Construction Squadron RAAF at East Sale; and 6 Construction Group, Swan Street. Apparently CMF postings followed in 15 Corps Field Park Squadron and Group. He left the army as a CMF captain in October 1969.

Noted military historian Mike Cecil, formerly of AWM Canberra and now resident on the US West Coast in Washington state, is a nephew. He says, 'Mick was a loving uncle, and he and Aunt Shirley were marvellous to my siblings and me. We are sad to see him go, but he

had been ill quite a while.' Mike Cecil provided these notes on Mick.

During his studies, and on finishing RMIT, Mick worked for the family stonemasonry firm, Lodge Brothers, founded in 1918 and operating today in Preston and Geelong. Its projects included churches around Melbourne, and the WW II memorial and forecourt at the Shrine, which Lodge Brothers had completed in 1934. Dick Lodge, Mick's father, ex-2 Pioneer Battalion RAE, 1 AIF, was a principal in the company. Mick was the model for the boy holding the lions at each corner of the shrine.

In the ARA, Mick worked on improvements to runways and facilities at East Sale, Darwin and elsewhere. As an SME instructor, he helped erect the Sir Clive Steele memorial gateway. Leaving the Army in the early 1960s, he worked for various engineering firms including Costain, the MMBW, and briefly as a consultant.

In the mid 1960s, Esso-BHP engaged him to head onshore works on the new Bass Strait project, including design and construction of major facilities: LPG plants at Long Island Point, Westernport Bay; the onshore rig jacket construction and rig servicing facility at Barry Beach near Welshpool; the Longford gas plant near Sale; and the vast pipeline network.

Woodside-Burma (later Woodside Petroleum) then approached Mick Lodge to lead onshore construction for the North West Shelf project, including Karatha's infrastructure. This meant a move to Perth. The story goes that construction offshore was experiencing some delays, while onshore was ahead of schedule and under budget, so the GM approached Mick to become deputy GM and chief of construction, onshore and offshore. Mick got everything on track in his usual style, and the entire project came home on budget and on time. Eventually an AM recognised his services to the petroleum industry. There are great images of him the day the 26 000 DWT North Rankin rig jacket arrived by barge, and was slid off into the sea. Mick always said that those few minutes after the rig jacket slipped off the barge and disappeared beneath the surface of the Indian Ocean, until it finally resurfaced, to be righted and floated into position over the well, were the longest minutes of his career!

Retiring from Woodside, he returned to Melbourne, did occasional consultancies and started building a steam traction engine—around one-eighth scale. He was very, very particular, so while each completed part was a masterpiece, the engine remained unfinished when old age forced him to give up. Upon his death, grandnephew Chris Cecil took over Mick's extensive workshop and the unfinished engine. Chris will complete the project to Mick's high standards.

Mick Lodge was a remarkable man: engineering in its many forms, and Shirley, his wife, were his entire life.

... *Rob Youl and Mike Cecil*

## VALE

### Capt COLIN WALTON MOSLEY ED

9 September 1930 – 17 April 2012

Capt Colin Mosley, who passed away on 17 April was one of those energetic people that you come across occasionally – whatever he took on, it got both his full effort and his flair.



Colin was born in Orange NSW and the family moved to Coburg shortly afterwards. Beside the social side of growing up in Coburg, he excelled at whatever he turned his hand to -- cricket, football, baseball, cycling, tennis, athletics.... He was house captain, cricket captain of and football vice captain and school prefect. He also was part of the Air Training Corps (Air Cadets now days).

When he left school he went to work for the Board of Works. He was also selected to play football with Carlton in 1948 and 1949.

In 1953, the CMF were recruiting within organisations like the Board of Works and the CRB and Colin joined up. He joined 106 Construction Squadron, a CMF Engineer unit sponsored by the MMBW. His first camp was at Site 17 at Seymour.

Just after this camp, he thought he would try his chances at the Air Force. One of the most competitive and difficult jobs in the armed forces. He started training at Archerfield near Brisbane in December 1953. After six months training in Queensland he did not make the final cut and returned to Melbourne.

He got his old job back with the Board of Works and married Mavis, and saved for a home. He did the design for it! Colin was also doing engineer subjects at RMIT.

In June 1955 he re-joined 106 Construction Squadron. Over the next few years, he rose in rank to Sergeant. At this stage, the Army system woke up that he had been in the RAAF, and had been an officer! He was discharged as a sergeant and appointed Lieutenant on 7 May 1962. Henceforth RAAF pilots wings would adorn his army uniform.

Also, in 1962 Colin joined the Shell Company -- a job he would continue to hold until he retired. As well as family life, the CMF and work, he was also fitting in cricket and baseball -- and all with this flair and determination and professionalism.

Colin stayed with 106 Construction Squadron until after the 1967 Annual Camp. The last camp was typical of many -- at Scrub Hill, Puckapunyal. It was in September, four to a tent and nights were c-c-cold! As well as Colin's full effort, you got his cheeky smirk -- after all, life was to be lived! His family say that he hated ration packs. He would go around and swap items with others from their packs. In the end he would end up with one item....plum pudding....he would live on it for a week at a time.

Colin transferred to HQ 6 Const Gp in 1968. By 1973, Colin had reached the rank of Captain, and administered command of 8 Field Squadron at East Ringwood. He had received the Efficiency Decoration in 1971. He was back at Swan Street by 1976 when he filled the position of Works Officer with 22 Construction Regiment during the Annual Camp. He retired from the Army Reserve in 1979

Meanwhile in civilian life, his drive continued in his job with Shell. He enjoyed the culture of the Shell Company...his peers, his bosses .... he **was** Shell! He managed Spraypave, a roadmaking division of Shell. Family holidays were in the winter during this time because you cannot make roads when the pavement temperature is too low!

After Spraypave, he was involved in the rapidly developing area of automotive gas. With GOGAS Colin designed and developed the roll-out of gas tanks for Shell. He was key in the design of the first underground gas tank. Thus removing safety concerns of above ground tanks being hit by cars.

His second wife, Jan came into his life in 1980. He retired from Shell in 1990, and cricket and baseball were replaced by bowls and travel.

Our condolences go to his wife Jan and family.

.... Austin Byrne,  
with information from Ian Mosley

**RAE (Vic) Historical  
& Heritage Association Inc**  
(Reg no. A0046126U)  
C/- Oakleigh Barracks  
1318 North Road  
Oakleigh South Vic 3167

**Print Post Approved**  
PP 306958/6008

***Sapper Summit***  
June 2012

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**