

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



# SAPPER SUMMIT

*Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper*



## ANZAC DAY 2015

The centenary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli will be remembered at events around Australia on 25 April 2015. This year, all Sappers, regardless of affiliations, deployments, serving or retired, ARA or ARes will have the opportunity to participate in the Melbourne ANZAC Day march and commemorative service. The RAE Association (Vic) has been granted permission to participate in the Melbourne march on this most historically significant ANZAC Day. Sappers are asked to assemble in Collins Street, west of Swanston Street (southern

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## SAPPER SUMMIT

Sapper Summit is produced four times a year  
By the RAE Association (Vic) Inc  
The President is Lt Col Colin Bowater (Retd)  
The Secretary is former WO1 Jim Davis  
The Editor is Graeme Lambert

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See: [www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)

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## ANZAC CENTENARY SAPPER MUSTER OAKLEIGH BARRACKS



**Serving or retired sappers  
See Sapper Summit p 5 for details.**

side) at 1030, and be ready to step on at 1105hrs. The Association has had a banner made and this will be proudly carried on ANZAC Day by volunteers from the Melbourne High School Army Cadet Unit. At the time of publishing, the Association is attempting to engage a photographer to record its first participation in the ANZAC Day march and it is hoped that participants can assemble for a group photograph on the steps of the Shrine of Remembrance after the march. The President invites all Sappers to meet at the Ringwood RSL to conclude what will be a significant ANZAC Day for all Australians as well for the RAE Association. The President, Colin Bowater, will lay a wreath on behalf of the RAE Association at the Ringwood RSL Dawn Service on ANZAC Day. The Vice President, Don Hughes, will lay a wreath on behalf of the Association at the 22 ER Dawn Service at Oakleigh Barracks.

22 ER will form up with other 4 Brigade units in Swanston Street in the vicinity of the Melbourne Town Hall. The unit is scheduled to step on at 0920 hours. Members are encouraged to support our local serving sappers before assembling with the Association's contingent.

On ANZAC Day 2015, we will reflect on 100 years of Australian military service and sacrifice. The President and Committee understand that this day has a special significance to everyone who has worn our country's uniform. In recognizing this, we invite all Sappers to join us on this most significant ANZAC Day. Ed

#### **RAE ASSOCIATION WEB SITE EXPANDED**

The RAE Association (Vic) web site has developed significantly since the last issue of Sapper Summit. Members and friends of the Association are invited to check the web site on a regular basis, as the latest news and announcements are put onto the web site each day.

The web site provides information on events and projects as well as providing news for members. There

are links to other organizations that may be of interest to members. We are in the process of developing a page with historical links and there is a page offering RAE merchandise for sale.

Previous editions of Sapper Summit can also be downloaded from the web site.

Members are advised that all Annual General Meeting documents can be accessed on the web site.

Please put this address in your browser "favourites" and visit often:

[www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)

The web site is a "work in progress" project. If you have news or know of an event or service that may be of interest to the sapper community, please forward details to: [admin@raevictoria.asn.au](mailto:admin@raevictoria.asn.au)

We are always on the look out for photographs or videos of sappers doing what sappers do.. In the meantime, check out the videos of demining in Mozambique and Afghanistan as well as the RAE Sovereign's banner being paraded in Melbourne on ANZAC Day 1994. Ed

### **President's Column**

Dear Fellow Sappers,

2014 was a very busy first year for the Association. Some of the achievements were:

- change of name for the Association to make it more relevant.
- The Back to the Regiment social function in March which was very successful with 130 attendees.
- Membership increase from 20 to 140, a terrific effort.
- Sapper Summit with editor, Graeme Lambert, producing a magazine of excellent quality
- A committee formed to start work on the Unit histories of both 4 CER Ringwood and 22 Construction Regt Oakleigh.
- the establishment of a web site to better communicate with Sappers. The web master Graeme Lambert, has applied a great deal of time and effort into constructing the site. The site log on is [www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)

- the Association presented awards to the members of 22ER in the following categories:
  - most outstanding Sapper
  - most outstanding Jnr NCO
  - most outstanding Jnr Officer

The Association will present these awards on an annual basis.

2015 looks like being another busy year for the Association. Listed are some of the activities.

#### **The centenary of WW1 Sapper Muster**

The muster is for all Sappers, serving retired, ARA or Reserve, their partners and friends. It will be held at the Oakleigh Barracks from 1700 hrs to 2300 hrs on Saturday, 11 April 2015. Please see attached flyer for all details.

#### **Anzac Day 2015**

The Association has been invited to march in this year's Anzac Parade. This is a wonderful opportunity for Sappers to participate in this significant anniversary of 2015.

The RAE Association has had a Banner made. All sappers are invited to proudly march behind the Association's banner.

See <https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/projects-and-events.php> for full details of these events and the Association's 2015 events calendar.

#### **The Australian Light Horse Memorial Park Seymour – site 17**

The Association has had two brass plaques manufactured. Plaque No. 1 commemorates units of the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers known to have trained in this area during the following periods:  
World War 11 Units 1932 to 1945  
Army Reserve Units 1948 to 1960  
Plaque no. 2 details some of the procedure in the construction of a Bailey Bridge and the role of the RAE.

In 2014, 22ER built a Bailey walkway bridge in the park with an additional panel at the side of the foot bridge for the mounting of the plaques. This will be undertaken by 22ER. When the plaques are mounted the Association would like to conduct an unveiling ceremony and officially open the footbridge. Hopefully, this will be in October this year. More information to follow.

The AGM for the Association will be held on **Tuesday 14 April** commencing at 1500hrs at the Ringwood

depot. All members are welcome to attend, please bring photo ID to obtain entry to the depot.

Ubique

Colin Bowater

PRESIDENT

## **RAE Association Recognizes Change of Command at 22 ER**

The RAE Association Committee held an end of year luncheon function at Box Hill RSL on 6 December 2015 to recognize the change of Commanding Officer at 22 Engineer Regiment. The Association made presentations to both the outgoing Commanding Officer, LTCOL Glenn Pilbeam and the incoming Commanding Officer, LTCOL Michelle McCormack.

Association President, Colin Bowater, expressed the Association's gratitude for the support it has received from LTCOL Pilbeam. He also recognized the efforts of LTCOL Pilbeam in successfully guiding 22ER through the



period of the amalgamation of 4CER and 22CR.

Colin also extended the Association's welcome to LTCOL McCormack with whom the Association looks





forward to working closely to benefit the entire sapper family here in Victoria.

Pictured opposite are, left to right, LTCOL Glenn Pilbeam, LTCOL Michelle McCormack, Don Hughes (Vice President RAE Association-Vic) and Colin Bowater

#### RAE CORPS SHOP

If you wish to get items from the Corps Shop:  
Telephone them on (02) 8782 5401 on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 1000 and 1400 hrs, or email them at: [corpsshop@aamme.com.au](mailto:corpsshop@aamme.com.au)



## Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria Incorporated

### CENTENARY OF WW1 SAPPER MUSTER

The President and committee of the Association would like to extend an invitation to all Sappers, family and friends to join us at the Centenary of WW1 Sapper Muster to be held at the Oakleigh Army Barracks on Saturday 11 April 2015.

**Who:** the Muster is for all sappers, serving, retired, ARA or Reserve and their partners and friends

**Timings:** 1700hrs to 2200hrs

**Where:** Oakleigh Barracks Messes

**Dress** neat civilian attire

**Cost** \$10 per head members and partners.  
15.00 per head non-members and partners

**Food** finger food and light supper.

**Alcohol** at bar prices

**RSVP** not later than 27 March 2015 with full payment to Jim Davis 0413479157

**Direct Deposit** RAE Association (Vic) Inc. Westpac Bank  
BSB 033 181 Account No. 16-9032

**Include your name in the reference place if you direct credit**

**Postal** Cheques made out to RAE Association (Vic) Inc. posted to the Treasurer Maureen Rundell 16/65 Gordons Road South Morang Vic 3752



LT S H Watson supervising the building of Watson's Pier, Gallipoli, June 1915

More information available from Colin Bowater President RAE Association (Vic) Inc 0400809444



## From The Regiment



### Commanding Officer's Column

For those of you whom I have yet to meet, my name is Michelle McCormack and I assumed command of the 22nd Engineer Regiment in January. When the team at Sapper Summit invited me to write a column I was thrilled to have the opportunity to share with the wider Sapper community the good work and commitment that the men and women in Victoria are doing, and to give an update on where we are focussing our efforts into the short to medium term.

Since the last edition, which showcased a variety of tasks and activities that the Regiment undertook in the last period of 2014, our soldiers have taken a well-deserved rest from Army over the Christmas stand-down period. We are well and truly back into it with two key activities undertaken in the late Jan/early Feb period. The first activity was with the senior leadership group within the Regiment, where I took the opportunity to articulate my vision for the unit, and how I believe we need to focus our efforts in order to achieve that. This activity also enabled sub-unit commanders the opportunity to plan their training for the year around this vision and our mission. The outcomes from the weekend will, and should, remain a work in progress but I am inspired by and confident in the enthusiasm, experience, adaptability and commitment of the men and women of the Regiment to meet our Unit and Corps requirements. But, more on that later!!

The second key activity undertaken was in early February for the Unit's Force Preservation Awareness (FPA) training and Army Individual Readiness Notice (AIRN) compliance activities. The FPA training is our basic building blocks, our enabling elements. I see this as a

fundamental, but vitally important, activity as it sets the minimum standard and capability impact for the upcoming calendar year, whether that be in relation to Workplace Behaviour, Safety, Logistics Management, or use of Alcohol, Tobacco and other drugs to name a few. If we properly address and thoroughly understand the expectations placed on all ADF members before we kick off our work for the year, we are not distracted by issues or incidences that hinder capability. The AIRN activity included both our Basic Fitness Assessment and Weapons Testing mandatory requirements in order to be a soldier in the Army and as a Commander it provides me a snapshot of individual readiness within the unit. Coming new to the unit in 2015, I was pleased to see that across the board, individual readiness health within the unit is very good.

So, back to the Regiment's priority for 2015:.....

Under Plan BEERSHEBA, the role and relevance of the Army Reserve was reviewed, and each Reserve Brigade now pairs with another Reserve Brigade to provide a reinforcing Battle Group to one of our ARA Combat Brigades. In our case, as the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, we pair with South Australia/Tasmania's 9th Brigade to support the 1st Brigade from Darwin. 22nd Engineer Regiment's role within this, supported by Adelaide's 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Squadron, is to provide a relevant and capable Engineer Squadron for the ARes Battle Group, but importantly, we also support the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment as the extra Engineer Squadron for any Brigade operation. Although as a Regiment our focus has shifted from times past, our role is no change from what we, as a Corps, practice in doctrine. Further, I see that the impact to our soldiers on the ground will be minimal – they will continue to train for and provide their Sapper skills and *Sapperunity* in support of operations. If anything, the impact will be a positive one as they will have more opportunity to exercise within a combined arms context and will have better access to equipment and other resources dependent upon which stage of the Force Generation Cycle the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade is in at the time.

In other activities for the Regiment in 2015, ANZAC Day will be celebrated and commemorated in a Dawn Service at Oakleigh Barracks followed by our participation in the Brigade march in the city as part of the Gallipoli Centenary events. All past members, families and members of the community are invited. Also coming up will be our annual Waterloo Dinner on 20 June, with extra significance as it will also be the 100 year anniversary of the first dinner of LT Watson and the Engineer officers at Gallipoli following completion of Watson's Pier. More will be promulgated on that as we get closer to the date.

Michelle McCormack Feb 15

## ANZAC DAY 2015



### 22nd Engineer Regiment

The Commanding Officer and members of 22nd Engineer Regiment cordially invite family, past members, friends, associations and employers to the ANZAC Day Dawn Service to be held at Oakleigh Barracks on the 25 Apr 14.

Host Officer: LTCOL MA McCormack

#### Timings:

Gunfire breakfast – 0500 h  
Service commences - 0600 h  
Service concludes – 0630 h  
Breakfast – 0645 h  
Bar Closed – 0730 h

## SAPPER SUMMIT SUPPORT

Can you help with news items, suggestions, and letters to the editor, etc.?

Articles, essays and reviews are welcomed.

Please forward your contributions to  
Editor, Sapper Summit  
PO Box 610  
HEATHMONT VIC 3135  
or email:

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

The target dates for articles for the next edition in 2015 is: June issue by 15 May 15

Please send items in MS Word format.

***Note that articles or opinions of authors or contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Royal Australian Engineers Association (Vic) Inc. The format and clarity of the articles is the responsibility of the contributor.***

Family stories from World War 1 would be especially welcomed throughout 2015.



#### Inclement weather:

In the case of inclement weather, the Dawn Service will be held in the garrison gymnasium.

#### Bring your Employer:

Unit members are invited to bring their employers to the dawn service to share the respect and sacrifice of service on this morning.



**RAE Association (Vic) Caps  
Ideal for ANZAC DAY**  
\$15 pickup, \$22 posted.

Contact Treasurer,  
Maureen Rundell:

[treasurer@raevictoria.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@raevictoria.asn.au) Other merchandise:  
<https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/merchandise.php>

## SAPPER PROFILES



### **LT Stephanie Hogan 22 Engineer Regiment PLT/TPT TP COMD, 105 CONST SQN, 22 ER**

**LT Stephanie Hogan** joined the Army Reserve in 2009 and complete the First Appointment Course at Melbourne University Regiment. Upon graduating from the Royal Military College in February 2012, LT Hogan was posted to 2/10 Field Regiment in the Royal Australian Artillery. Whilst LT Hogan found this post enjoyable and rewarding, she decided to corps transfer to the Royal Australian Engineers in mid-2012.

On transfer, LT Hogan was posted to 4 CER fulfilling Troop Commander (TP COMD) roles in both 10th Combat Engineer Squadron (10 CES) and 8th Combat Engineer Squadron (8 CES). During her time as TP COMD, she completed her Regimental Officer's Basic Course (ROBC), Demolitions Supervisor course and Emergency Management Liaison Officer course.

In January 2014, she deployed with 22 ER and other 4 Bde members on Operation RESOLUTE as a Platoon Commander in the tri-service Transit Security Element Rotation 72 (TSE-72). On deployment, LT Hogan deployed on various RAN ships and patrol boats in support of Op RESOLUTE and border protection. *"I found the deployment to be one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life, and I feel the deployment enabled me to mature as an officer and also grow on personal level"* LT Hogan noted.

Returning to Melbourne in June 2014, LT Hogan recommenced her role as TP COMD in 8 CES completing Module 1 of her promotion course for Captain in Enoggera. In 2015, LT Hogan aims to complete another RAE specialist course, as well as support all unit activities and attend the Brigade exercise - EX COURTNEY'S POST - as Plant/Transport Troop Commander in 105th Construction Squadron (105 CS) at Oakleigh Barracks.

LT Hogan is 31 years old and currently employed with Department of Justice & Regulation in Investment and Performance Analysis. Prior to this, she worked at Department of Treasury and Finance for the three years as a Financial Policy Analyst, and subsequently as the Departmental Liaison Officer in the Treasurer's

Office. LT Hogan holds a Bachelor of Science (majoring in Mathematics) and a Bachelor of Commerce (majoring in Economics) from the University of Melbourne.

LT Hogan was the recipient of the RAE Association (Vic) Awards Junior Officer of the Year for 2014 for outstanding performance.

Photo - LT Hogan (left) on parade for TSE-72 Medal Ceremony in Darwin in May 2014. LT Hogan was Platoon Commander to predominantly 22 ER Sappers



deployed on Operation RESOLUTE.

### **LTCOL Colin Bowater RFD (Retd) RAE Association (Vic) President**



Colin joined the CMF in 1968 at the age of 28 years. The nearest depot was Ringwood where RAE 3 Division was based. It consisted of a Regimental Head Quarters and 3 Field Squadrons (over 600 soldiers).

He completed a twelve month recruit course which culminated in a 16 day annual camp. Colin was then posted

to 10 Fd Sqn. In 1970, he was accepted into the Officer Cadet Training Unit and graduated in 1972 as a Lt and posted as a Tp Comd 10 Fd Sqn. He was promoted to Capt in the mid 1970's and commanded both 8 Fd Sqn and 10 Fd Sqn for two years each.

Colin was promoted to Maj in 1981 and appointed as OPSO at 7 FER. He was posted to 6 Const Gp in 1984 as the SO1Ops. In 1986 he was promoted to LTCOL and CO 7FER, a posting which he held for "three most enjoyable years." In 1989 he was posted as the SO1OPS at HQ 3 DIV. Colin was retired on the 4 Feb 1990, that being his 50th birthday. Colin said, "Even though sometimes challenging, these 22 years of service were most rewarding and fulfilling."



In his civilian life Colin was a tradesman and in 1968 he was accepted as a Technical School Teacher at the age of 28 years. He retired in 2000 at age 60. Colin is married to Mae. They have four children,. His two sons are ADF members. Stephen is a Capt in the RAN, currently CO of HMAS Cerberus and Michael is an Army Reserve rifleman with 11/28 Bn Royal Western Australian Regt.



LTCOL Bowater (left) CO 7 FER

## Centenary of ANZAC Podcast



In 2015 Australia will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli.

It will be a momentous occasion and once again the nation will reflect on the role our brave men played in the Great War.

ABC New England North West, using the expertise of history experts from the University of New England, will follow the events that led to the war.



LTCOL Bowater CO 7 FER Freedom of Entry City of Croydon July 1988

## Black Diggers Podcast

The untold and exceptional stories of Indigenous Australian soldiers going to war and how they were treated. A story every Australian should hear as told by historians and veterans.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radional/programs/bigideas/black-diggers/5733698>

They will discuss what was happening around the world and in Australia leading up to the first shots being fired and will explore the political manoeuvrings that went on behind closed doors.

Click on the link below to take you to the web page where you can listen to this podcast whilst you read the remainder of Issue 89 of Sapper Summit.

[http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2014/05/15/4009976.htm?&date=\(none\)](http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2014/05/15/4009976.htm?&date=(none))



**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)

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

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

DATE OF BIRTH:    /    /    NAME OF PARTNER/WIFE/NOK: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

DATES OF ENLISTMENT AND DISCHARGE    /    /    TO    /    /

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

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

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

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

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ / /

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

1. Support the purposes of the Association.
2. Comply with the rules of the Association.

*Note: Under the Application for Membership clause in the Association Rules, 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.*

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR 2015 HAS BEEN SET AT \$15.00 AND IS PAYABLE NOW WITH YOUR APPLICATION. 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.**

Electronic Banking: Payment can now be made by electronic transfer. Please use the details below and during the transfer please ensure that you show your full name and write in "subscription" in the reference box. **Show here that you sent subs/donation electronically on    /    / and amount \$**  
**Don't forget to post off the original application to the Hon Secretary-address is above.**

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

## Rob Youl's Article Malayan Confrontation (cont)



My Malayan and Malaysian series ends with Confrontatio , the violent undeclared war with Sukarno's Indonesia from 1961-66, and the little-known Communist-led insurgency that continued internally until 1990, despite the Emergency ending in 1959.

### Opposition to federation

Having sovereignty over three-quarters of Borneo, which Indonesia calls Kalimantan, the young nation contemplated the rest of this vast island. Indonesia had already bearded the Netherlands over the latter's New Guinea colony, today's Irian Jaya, winning it diplomatically in 1962 with little effort. Later that year, Indonesia fostered a brief and unsuccessful insurgency in the Sultanate of Brunei, also part of Borneo (but never within Malaysia), via the pro-Indonesian North Kalimantan National Army (Malay abbreviation TNKU), an anti-colonialist pro-liberation party.

On 20 January 1963, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Subandrio announced that Indonesia would pursue a policy of *Konfrontasi* (Confrontation) with Malaysia, reversing its previous acceptance of the proposed federation. Was Sukarno emboldened by his success in West Papua, or was he trying to deflect Indonesians from the appeal of Communism? Maybe both factors prevailed? Moreover he supported the idea of Maphilindo, uniting Malaya, Indonesia and the Philippines. The latter had claimed eastern North Borneo, because of historical links via Sulu archipelago, but desisted from fighting Malaysia, which however broke off diplomatic relations when Manila failed to support Malaysia's formation. The UN became involved. On 27 July 1963 at a Manila summit, Sukarno famously declared he would 'ganyang (crush) Malaysia'. US threats to withdraw aid meant nothing. Throughout, his policies were wily, maverick, duplex – for instance, although denying Indonesia was involved in fighting he later suggested peace talks.

When Malaysia was declared on 16 September 1963, uniting the Federation of Malaya and colonial states Sarawak and British North Borneo (later Sabah), Indonesia immediately sent Malaysia's ambassador home, and crowds threatened the British embassy in Jakarta. Its junior military attaché, a keen piper, stoically kept playing to disperse the menacing crowds, and with the ambassador and his CO, defended the embassy strongroom. Two days later the mob torched the building. Also invaded were the Singaporean embassy and homes of its diplomats. In Kuala Lumpur, with Indonesian agents under arrest, vengeful crowds attacked the Indonesian embassy.

During Malaysia's war with Indonesia, most action occurred on Borneo (Kalimantan) along Indonesia's borders with Sarawak and North Borneo (today's East Malaysia) via platoon- and company-scale operations by Commonwealth forces. Conflict was generally isolated rather than concerted. The country was rugged and unroaded, covered with rainforest, and radio communications were poor. Indonesian infiltrators sought to provoke the region's diverse populations and foment dissent and disloyalty to the new state, Malaysia.

Both sides needed light infantry units and air transport, but Commonwealth forces had better helicopters, air infrastructure and resupply. Aerial forces were also vital for combat support, and naval forces secured the seas around East Malaysia – all controlled by GHQ, not the RAF or RN. Rivers were often important for transport and infiltration, with some hovercraft employed. British elements formed the backbone, with steadily growing Malaysian support, reinforced later by tri-service Australian and NZ forces, doubtless including some readers, from the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) stationed on the Peninsula and in Singapore. (RAE had traditionally contributed a field troop to 7 Independent Field Squadron RE from late 1955.)

### Border skirmishes

Local, highly trained TNKU and Sarawak (see later) guerrillas began the first Indonesian raids in April 1963, but in time, and through training teams and injections of regular troops, infiltration became more professional. The British responded with covert incursions into Indonesian territory. Indonesia countered by launching audacious airborne and seaborne incursions into West (Peninsular) Malaysia around the 1964 Merdeka Day (independence) celebrations, but with little success. On 17 August, as Sukarno pronounced his 'Year of Dangerous Living', the first attack, on south-east Johore, comprising some 100 paratroopers with a few Malay communists, was soon rounded up. On 2 September, when three Hercules flew low from Jakarta to southern Johore, 150



kilometres from Singapore, one aircraft crashed whilst avoiding a British fighter, and a storm scattered the paratroopers from the other two aircraft. Some landed near a Gurkha bungalow and a Kiwi bungalow, not a good place to be! It still took a month for 1/10 Gurkha and 1 RNZIR, under 4 Malaysian Brigade, to capture or kill the invaders. One NZ soldier died.

(Presumably one such raid hit Terendak, Malacca. Remember how, when Keith was away on northern jungle patrols, Flo Payne and family's 3 RAR beachfront married-quarters lines were attacked, with commandos targeting electricity pylons? Later however Keith helped capture Indonesian raiders.)

This brought on the Sunda Strait crisis, when carrier HMS *Victorious* and two destroyer escorts were set to attack Sumatran staging areas if Indonesian forces revisited the Peninsula. After three tense weeks, diplomats cooled it down.

However, the somewhat disconnected 1964 Singapore race riots (Chinese versus Moslem) helped undermine federation, with Singapore expelled, maybe not reluctantly, from Malaysia in 1965. Furthermore, the charismatic, Soviet-backed (including technology, aircraft, weapons) Sukarno, a world symbol of anti-colonialism and founder of the Non-Aligned Movement, was on the way out.

When strong Indonesian forces gathered on the border in December 1964, Britain drew on its home-based Army Strategic Command, and Australia and New Zealand deployed troops on short tours from West Malaysia to Borneo in 1965-66.

Meanwhile Indonesian politics boiled over. General Suharto's troops suppressed a military coup on 30 September 1965, blamed it on the PKI (Indonesian Communist Party), launched a bloody anti-communist clearance and ousted Sukarno, allowing Suharto, unenthused by Confrontation, to take over, eventually confirming his presidency in 1968. New peace talks began well beforehand in May 1966, ending in August 1966, when Indonesia formally recognised Malaysia.

Australia's main role

As Canberra reasonably feared that Indonesia threatened the Irian Jaya-PNG border, it stonewalled British and Malaysian requests to deploy Diggers, although it mobilised them immediately after the aforesaid attacks on West Malaysia, when 3 RAR helped mop-up the invaders. Earlier in 1962 it had delayed approving the FESR RAE field troop's movement from Terendak to Borneo with 7 Squadron RE. However, on 16 April 1964 Canberra allocated 7 Field Squadron Group RAE to Borneo for construction

tasks, which challenged the then reduced Brisbane unit. (The troops leaned of the move to Sabah from the ABC, before orders reached their OC. The embarking 2IC was Captain EJ Wertheimer.) The subsequent December 1964 enemy build-up brought the swift commitment of a bungalow group to Borneo, where a series of company bases on the border protected population centres. The British government became more aggressive, with cross-border operations to gather intelligence and unsettle the enemy. The Indonesians devoted more time and men to protecting positions, and less to offensive operations, although these continued at reduced levels.

Some of the fiercest action was in 1965-66. From March-July 1965, 3 RAR served in Sarawak as part of 28 Commonwealth Brigade, patrolling extensively both sides of the border, with four major contacts; it twice suffered casualties from landmines. Although life was quieter for its replacement, 4 RAR, deployed from April-August 1966, it also crossed the border, clashing with Indonesian regulars. Two SAS squadrons, a signals troop, several artillery batteries and the RAE field troop were also involved, as were several RAN ships and RAAF squadrons.

Moreover, working on six-month tours from May 1964 to late 1966 on the isolated and perhaps tactically nebulous (but doubtless useful today) Keningau-Pensiangan Road in Sabah, with associated roading and infrastructure including airstrips and camps, were RAE's 7 Field Squadron, 1 Field Squadron, 24 Construction Squadron, 21 Construction Squadron and 22 Construction Squadron (as many readers will well know). Naturally engineer stores, RAEME and other groups supported the project. Thirty challenging months, under insecure conditions, saw 100 kilometres of main road constructed through rugged mountains, a fine achievement. The last RAE unit in Malaysia, tri-national 28 ANZUK Field Squadron Group, disbanded in December 1973.

Confrontation saw sixteen Australians killed (seven in action) and nine wounded - out of 114 and 181 overall British casualties. Two SAS soldiers, missing, presumed

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS FOUNDATION



For information about the Foundation and news of events and projects, visit the Foundation's web site or click this link:

[www.raefoundation.org.au](http://www.raefoundation.org.au)



dead, probably drowned crossing a swollen river. British Commonwealth forces peaked at 17 000 in Borneo, with 10 000 more in Malaya and Singapore. As in the 1950s, police forces were well trained and very effective. Moreover special forces, the SAS, Marines, Paras and SBS, were frequently invaluable, as were intelligence-gathering and psyops. Indonesian forces, in eight operational groups commanded from the Kalimantan coast 150 kilometres away, numbered maybe 1500 officers, with an unknown complement of regular troops and local volunteers. Estimated casualties 590 killed, 222 wounded and 771 captured.

#### Volatile regional politics

In Sarawak the ruling Brooke family, 'white rajahs', ran the colony for a century until World War II ended. Thereafter Britain provided high commissioners, with the second, Duncan Stewart, assassinated by local dissidents. These were numerous and varied: an - colonial, communist, an -Japanese cadres from the recent war, Chinese, Muslim, youth groups. In 1952, Sarawak's colonial government deported Wu Chan, who led the wartime Borneo An -Japanese League, to China. (Remember that other WWII hero, Chin Peng?)

Two Communist guerrilla movements coalesced: the an -Malaysia North Kalimantan People's Army (PARAKU) and the Sarawak People's Guerrillas (PGRS), lumped together by Britain as the Sarawak Communist Organisation (SCO). Malays and the indigenous Sarawak races were unenthusiastic by the mostly Chinese SCO, which nevertheless numbered 24 000 at its peak when Maoism was prominent. Moreover, labour unions were sympathetic, as were some members of the Sarawak United People's Party, founded in 1959.

The Sarawak Insurgency began after 1962's Brunei Revolt; seeking a leftist independent North Kalimantan state, SCO allied with Bruneian rebels and Indonesians throughout Confrontation. Another complication: the Bruneian rebels might have joined Malaysia if the unified three territories of northern Borneo had had their own sultan. They sought a figure strong enough to resist domination by Malaya, Singapore, Malay administrators and Chinese merchants. The PKI also participated, engendering the ire of Indonesia's military elite.

#### Two more woeful decades

The accord with Indonesia's new leader did not halt the Communist forces; local conflict continued in East Malaysia until 1989, and in West Malaysia. This period was called the Second Malayan Emergency, or the Communist Insurgency War. The protagonists: the Malaysian Communist Party (MCP) and the Malaysian government. And it coincided initially with renewed

internal tensions in Malaysia and an accelerating Vietnam war. Chin Peng's ethnic Chinese Malaysian National Liberation Army (MNLA) had regrouped and retrained in southern Thailand from 1960, seeking Malay and Indian recruits and learning new tactics from Vietnam. Most enlistees were Thai Malays or from the far northern state of Kelantan. Some 1500 strong, sometimes more, the MNLA launched the Second Emergency with an ambush at Kroh-Betong in the far north on 17 June 1968. For a time China helped the MNLA, until Beijing and Kuala Lumpur established diplomatic relations in June 1974.

In 1970, the MCP split into the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Malaya, and the Revolutionary Faction. Few Malays joined; Chinese dominated both parties. Internal dissent increased, especially because of widespread informing, and Malaysia's growing prosperity made the cause redundant to many. Instead of declaring a 'state of emergency' as did Britain in 1948, Malaysia's government relied on policy initiatives, including a consultative Security and Development Program that continued to relocate and bolster rural communities, and improve living conditions, infrastructure and commerce. To increase security and communal defence, Neighbourhood Watch and People's Volunteer Groups operated. Neither North Vietnam nor the Soviet Union supported the MNLA's activities.

The Communist Insurgency War ended on 2 December 1989 when the MCP and government signed a peace accord, not a surrender, in southern Thailand at Ha Yai, at which time Communism was collapsing in Europe. Chin Peng was to be allowed to return home, but despite high court challenges, successive Malaysian administrations barred him. One ruling required him to produce his papers, which Chin claimed police had seized in 1948.

Wikipedia has very good pages on campaign tactics and logistics – obviously written by a practitioner. RAE history Volume IV has a fascinating and full chapter on the Sabah road.

National Service started in July 1965 (a half-century ago – wow!), with Confrontation still underway. At 18 Field Squadron, Wacol in late 1966, our hoped-for move to Sabah that January did not eventuate. But I recall in December 1966, several JTC staff running the three-week Vietnam indoctrination course were SAS and ex-Borneo. One described a river ambush; after several days in position his patrol destroyed an Indonesian longboat as it chugged past.

## CENTENARY of ANZAC

### An Australian Story—Just One of 65,000

My grandparents' home was small and very 'modest'. It was built in 1926 and was only just retained during the depression years when everyone in the store where my grandfather was employed, worked on every second day so everyone could keep at least a part time job.

Their living room was one of those "for best" things that so characterized that generation and as children, we were rarely allowed in there. It was dark but I remember two large, framed portraits hanging on the wall. I knew one was my grandparents' wedding photo. The other was a portrait of a young man, never spoken of and only known as "Uncle Alex".

Family legend has it that Alex, born into and a resident of Wickham, an inner suburb of Newcastle, had never been far from home and had never been to the big city - Sydney.

In January 1916 at the age of 23, he enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF and embarked for Europe at Sydney on HMAT A46 "Clan McGillivray" on 3 May 1916. On 17 November 1916, he was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division Pioneer Battalion - posted "in the field" from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcement Battalion. On 30 August 1917, Alex was killed in the Ypres salient.

Details of Alex's service are sketchy but the details of his death are extraordinarily detailed. A 10 minute wait was all that it took for the staff at the Australian War Memorial to retrieve a stained and faded envelope that had not been opened since 1920. Within it were handwritten accounts of Alex's death. Some were written by diggers at the time - written in pencil on scraps of what was probably paper. Others are written by officers much later - typed from somewhere in the UK. All accounts are clear that Alex was struck by a large piece of artillery shrapnel under the left armpit. The diggers' accounts claimed he took hours to die. The later officer written accounts estimated that he lingered for 20 minutes.

Whatever the details, Alex can only have suffered a painful and brutal death on a distant battlefield.

At the time of his enlistment, Alex was "stepping out" with a young Marjory Harrison. Marjory was devastated by his death as was his older brother who was his next-of-kin. Over time, their shared grief brought them closer. They were eventually married and had four children, the youngest of whom was my father. Marjory named her first son, Alexander

MacArthur after Alex who had not returned from Ypres. The reverence in which he was held, explained the large photograph hanging in the lounge room for all of those years.

All that remained of Alexander MacArthur's life in a tangible sense were his service medals, a "Dead Man's Penny", a commemorative scroll, some service papers and a New Testament returned from Belgium.

With my grandparents' passing, so passed any real connection with Alexander MacArthur.

As I looked at his medals and "Dead Man's Penny" I found myself thinking that this life, lost in such terrible circumstances but a life intimately crucial to my own history and representatively crucial to Australia's history, deserves something more than to just fade away in the Reninghelst Military Cemetery.

In 2013, I found Alexander MacArthur's grave. In doing so, I was left speechless by the vision of cemetery after cemetery in the countryside, towns and villages around Ypres. Like all the others, the one in which Alexander is buried has a surreal beauty to it. The rolling green fields with faint sounds of a distant farm dog or cow could not be more of a contrast to the muddy, blood soaked, shell scarred hell hole where Alexander MacArthur spent his last agonizing 20 minutes or two hours.



It was a moving experience to return some soil from the Hunter River to his grave site, to say a few words and to place an Australian flag in this place that is so far away now but which must have been inconceivably distant in 1917. It was haunting not only to see the headstones as symbols of the extent of the sacrifice that occurred there (after all there are 55000 names on the nearby Menin Gate recording those Commonwealth soldiers for whom there is no known grave) but to also comprehend the section of the cemetery where young men "shot at dawn" were buried. One could only wonder at the story behind the men, now buried and identified as Chinese labourers. Each one has a story to tell. Each one was somebody to someone. There are



just so many, it is difficult to comprehend.

Another feature of my grandparents' home was that it was named. A plaque with the word "Thillooy" stood above the front door. The house was so named because this was where "uncle Alex died". Sadly, taking the pilgrimage to Belgium undid this piece of 90 odd year family legend. Alex's resting place is not within hundreds of kilometres of any place remotely resembling Thillooy. I suppose though, it is good that those who so cherished that thought are not here to have it shattered.

Wars are fought on all scales but to each soldier, the action is personal to him or her. In Belgium, I wondered what Alexander, who had never been to Sydney, must have thought of where he found himself and the circumstances that were going on around him. How remote must Wickham, Marjory and his family have been! How terrifying it must have been to die a slow and painful death on the battlefield of the Ypres salient! How far away, Australia!

On the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ANZAC, lest we forget Alexander MacArthur, lest we forget all the diggers.



Sapper Summit invites readers to submit a family story from the Great War to be published during 2015. It is hoped that each edition of Sapper Summit in the ANZAC Centenary year, will carry a reader's story. Contributions should be submitted in MS Word format and sent to [sappersummit@gmail.com](mailto:sappersummit@gmail.com) Edited



## Mud, blood, romance: A compelling story of war

*New novel captures the essence of the human spirit during heady times*

NEWCASTLE, Australia – Where there is no struggle, there is no strength.

In his new book "The Red Rose of Romance and War," author John A. Yates unravels the complications and opportunities of war during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

"It can be extremely emotional to delve into the heartbreak and horror soldiers faced," Yates said. "At the same time, war gave soldiers the opportunity to travel and see the world for the first time, and sometimes even fall in love."

The novel follows an Australian soldier's heroic tour of duty in Europe during World War I until trench foot brings his service to an abrupt halt. After reclaiming life in the rural bush in Australia, the protagonist is called back to duty during World War II.

Yates is the son of a World War I veteran and nurse, a wartime romance that inspired his novel. He draws on his father's experiences as an Australian soldier to write a fresh perspective on war and its effects.

"The Red Rose of Romance and War" shows readers the balance between spirit, heroism, hardship, romance and adventure.

"The Red Rose of Romance and War"

By John A. Yates

ISBN: 978-1-4525-2451-1

Softcover retail price: \$23.99

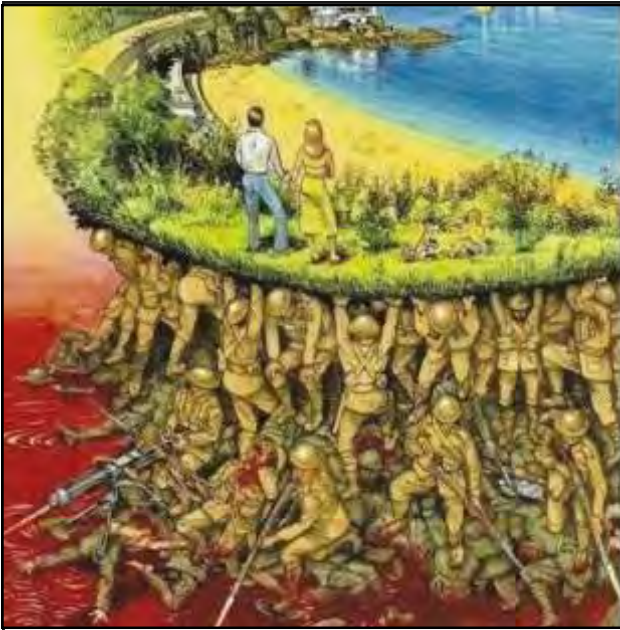
E-book retail price: \$3.99

Available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Balboa Press

### About the author

John A. Yates is a director of a packaging company in Newcastle, Australia. He is the son of a World War I veteran, which inspires his writing. Yates has three children and seven grandchildren. This is his first book to be published.





## The Lost WW1 Diary of Private Paddy Callinan

Damian finds an old diary in a Warrnambool



op shop. Is Paddy Callinan the mysterious digger his family never speak of?  
*Who Do You Think You Are?* meets *All Quiet on the Western Front* as the three-time Barry

nominee (*Backyard Ashes, Spicks and Specks, skitHOUSE*) brings the page's characters to life and finds it's a long way to Tipperary without GPS.

Obsessed from a young age by the Anzac legend Damian routinely circumnavigates all regional war memorials in search of diggers bearing his name.

Intrigued by the mystery surrounding the identity of two diggers from a family photo, Damian sets out on a quest to put names to the faces. Whilst holidaying in Warrnambool, a series of curious events lead him to the discovery of a war diary in an opp shop that may finally link him to the legend.

A renowned stand up and character comedian, Callinan [*Backyard Ashes, Spicks & Specks, skitHOUSE, 774ABC*] brings to life the pages of the diary as we meet Paddy Callinan and his 'push' as they set off for 'The Big Show.'

Callinan combines detailed research, hilarious but believable characterisations, black humour, absurdity and deft writing to swing the mood of the story from rollicking farce to aching pathos in a heart beat.

*'This is a cleverly written and pitch-perfect delivery of a piece of theatre ... the humour, is topical, witty and best of all, it feels real.'* - *Herald Sun* – 4 stars

**Show details – 2 performances**

**When – Saturday July 25 2.30pm and 7.30pm**

**Where- Alexander theatre, Monash University, Clayton**

**Bookings- Phone 9905 1111 or on line at [www.monash.edu/mapa](http://www.monash.edu/mapa)**

**Tickets from 12.00**

### Also at MONASH UNIVERSITY

**"A Young Na on Goes to War"**

**RARE BOOKS COLLECTION and VIRTUAL EXHIBITION**

**See: <http://monash.edu/library/collections/exhibitions/world-war-one/> for details.**



## Centenary of ANZAC Feature

### SERVICE RIFLES OF THE GREAT WAR

(This is not an exhaustive list but it provides a snapshot of the variety of standard issue firearms used by the major combatant forces.)

#### AUSTRALIA

##### SMLE No1 Mk III and SMLE No 1 MkIII\*

Length	1130mm
Weight	3.7kg
Calibre	.303"
Operation	bolt
Feed	10 round box
Muzzle Velocity	738m/p/s
Sights	1829m



#### USA

##### US Rifle Model 1903 (Springfield)

Length	1097mm
Weight	3.94kg
Calibre	.30"
Operation	Bolt
Feed	5 round box
Muzzle Velocity	813m/p/s
Sights	2469m



#### BRITAIN and Commonwealth Forces

##### SMLE (Short Magazine Lee Enfield) No 1 MkIII and SMLE No1 MkIII\*



#### GERMANY

##### Gewehr 98

Length	1250mm
Weight	4.1kg
Calibre	7.92mm
Operation	bolt
Feed	5 round box
Muzzle Velocity	870m/p/s
Sights	2000m



#### Ottoman Empire

##### Rifle Model 1890 Turkish Mauser

Length	1295mm
Weight	4kg
Calibre	7.65mm
Operation	Bolt
Feed	5 round box
Muzzle Velocity	641m/p/s
Sights	1950m



Russia

Mosin-Nagant Model 1891

Length	1.305m
Weight	4.37kg
Calibre	7.62mm
Operation	bolt
Feed	5 round box
Muzzle Velocity	810m/p/s



Austria-Hungary

Mannlicher Model 1895

Length	1027m
Weight	3.78kg
Calibre	8mm
Operation	bolt
Feed	5 round box
Muzzle Velocity	619m/p/s



France

Fusil Berthier mle 1907

Length	1.306m
Weight	3.8kg
Calibre	8mm
Operation	bolt
Feed	3 round box
Muzzle Velocity	725m/p/s



## UNIT HISTORY WRITING PROGRESSES

As announced in Sapper Summit No 88, the Royal Australian Engineers Association (Vic) has commenced the task of recording the unit histories of 4 CER 1995-2013 and 22 Constructio Regiment 2000-2013.

A combined implementing team has been formed by BRIG "Hutch" Hutchinson DSC (Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region) to spearhead the production of the unit histories.

The approach taken by the team is to break the history of each unit into "commanding officer eras" and use a team approach to write a chapter on each era.

The CO's of each regiment have been contacted about this project. The writing team wants two books, each to be in final draft format by 16 September 2015.

MAJ Russell Kirby, 2IC 22ER is the overall co-ordinator. CAPT Noel Tipton is the point of contact for the writing of the 22CR unit history and Don Hughes is the point of contact for 4 CER.

The suggested writing template and other information on this significant project can be found on the Association's web site at:

<https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/projects-and-events.php>

If you have any material that may assist the writing teams such as photographs, memorabilia or personal stories, please email these along with any questions regarding the project to:

[sapper.history.vic@hotmail.com.au](mailto:sapper.history.vic@hotmail.com.au)

This is a major project to record the history of sappers in Victoria. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

## WO2 Michael Durnin – OPSWO

### 22 Engineer Regiment.

Mick Durnin retired from the Defence Force after completing 42.5 years of service both as a Reserve and ARA soldier. His retirement was effective as at 25 December 2014 on reaching Compulsory Retirement Age (CRA) for ARA members. I am sure that as we see changing life styles and attitudes we will not see too many people render this length of service in the future.

It was Mick's ambition to continue his military service as a Reserve soldier, which would have given him another 5 years of service, however under changes to employment conditions Mick could not pursue this avenue with the result that the RAE has said goodbye to a loyal and wonderful soldier.

I am writing a few words about a soldier that I admire – not the tall snappy slim standout RSM type of soldier but a quiet dedicated, dependable and very knowledgeable RAE Warrant Officer.

I have had the pleasure of attending a number of courses with Mick and in addition worked alongside and with him at 4 CER.

I am not sure when I first encountered Mick but I think it was on a course at SME. At this time he was a Policeman (Motor Cycle Officer) with the Western Australian Police and used to keep us all amused with his stories and details of his exploits. On these various courses I was always amazed how Mick managed to get up so fresh in the mornings and present to the syndicates in such a professional manner – I did not get a chance to enjoy that drink after class as I would rush back to my donga to study a Battle Map or try to solve the nightly problem question given by the DS while Mick spent leisure time in the Mess. Maybe I just took these courses too seriously and should have been more like Mick but the end result was the same and that was we both passed the courses.

Mick started his Military career with 13 FD SQN (Perth) where he rose through the ranks reaching WO2 – he transferred to the ARA in 2000 and was posted to a number of roles including SME, CATC, DMO and CER's. While at DMO Mick was responsible for the procurement and introduction of the current in service portable sawmill (replacing the MDS). He has also seen active service.

These few words will not do justice to Mick's length of service, contribution to his nation, dedication and loyalty to the Corps and his friends but it would be remiss not to acknowledge him.

I am sure that Mick will take many happy memories into his retirement with him along with friendships that will last a lifetime and we wish him all the very best for his future endeavours.

Thanks Mick.

Jim Davis



### RAE Association Stickers Now Available



Click link for ordering details

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

## FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS

### Bluetongues

This section of Sapper Summit is available to all Sapper organizations to promote their activities and make announcements to the wider sapper family. Please forward your announcements in MS Word format to:

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

### Annual Camping Weekend 2015

This year we are shooting for the Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> and Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May

That's it so like it or Lump it (Mitch will not be there as he will be in Alice Springs for those who care)

We would like you and any other of 22const to join us (you can even bring a mate if you have one)

BBQ supplied bring your own everything else

Fire Supplied

George 0427 546 411

Fox 0429 337 470

Site is the same as it's always been.

Turn off the Goulburn Valley highway when you see the sign to Mitchellstown Winery, follow bitumen until it runs out and continue on over Majors Creek. We will be camped on the right hand side beside the creek

If you are coming from the other way turn around or work it out yourself

If all else fails phone a friend

Some of the eager beavers will be there again on the Thursday to get the best spot and because it takes them an extra day to set up

### From Mr John S Meade (Formally; 3143209 Spr: MEADE J.S. From 1980 to 1991)

Hello fellow Sappers,

I would like to share with you all, of my involvement in a project to commemorate the ANZAC Day dawn service this year, at the Doncaster RSL and of how I became involved in this project. Basically, I was approached in June 2014 by Mr Charles Collins, who is the current President of the Doncaster RSL and who was once a Commissioned Officer in the RAN.

Charles was also my former boss in The Corps of Commissionaires, when this organization operated as a Commercial Security Business and we have now known each other for about fifteen years. I was approached, because he was aware of my membership in a US Civil War re-enactment group, which is affiliated with the

Australasian Living History Federation. He is also aware that I have more than a general interest in Australian military history.

The theme of this ANZAC DAY Commemoration project is to emulate some of the aspects of the recruitment drives, also known as "Cooee Marches" and which took place in parts of Australia, by having a few period (Carts/Wagons etc.), displays with willing re-enactors participating in period clothing or in the type of uniforms worn by our troops at the time.

The initial plan was to have five participants, who also have served & who are also re-enactors to be dressed in period uniform, for the purpose of providing a Cenotaph/Colour party. Four of the participants were to be equipped with SMLE 303 Rifles, with bayonets and the other participant was to be equipped with a sword.

The main problem found, is that the vast majority of re



-enactors, who specialize in WW1 re-enactments are tied up in 2015, with other ANZAC Day commemorative commitments and are unavailable. This includes members of the group I belong too, who are also members of WW1 &/or 2 re-enactment groups.

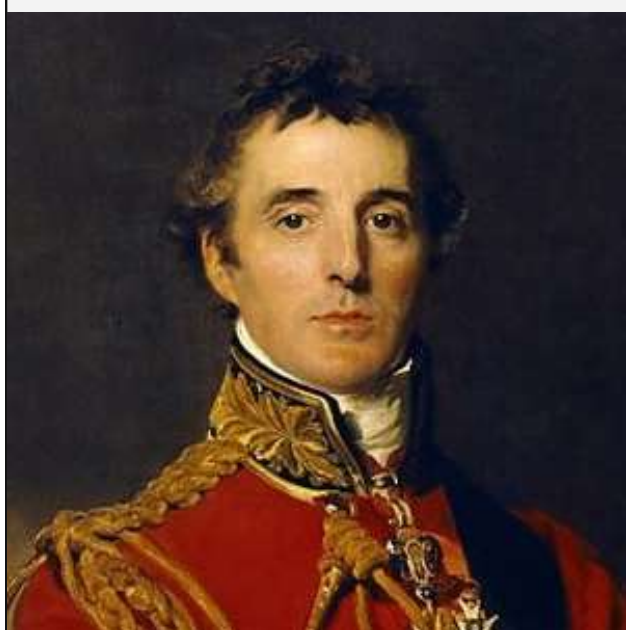
Then there were the other legal and logistical problems encountered, which has put the original idea possibly on hold for this year. Thus, the new plan is to have a few volunteers, preferably ex-service personnel to be dressed in period civilian or military attire and who can engage with the general public and discuss their own personal service or that of their forebears.

If you think you can help in some way, then please call me or leave a message on 0474 636 447 or by e-mail on [johbus@hotmail.com](mailto:johbus@hotmail.com).

Finally, the photos are of me, during Remembrance Day. Besides from the ADM, the medals on the right of my chest are awards received from The Corps of Commissionaires.

Kind regards to you all,

John S Meade.



The Duke of Wellington

## THE CENTENERARY OF WW1

### Why are all RAE Officers Bastards? (THE WATERLOO TRADITION!)

*By Sapper Don Hughes*

*Old Sappers' Association of Victoria*

Australian 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF Infantry Private, and later Major General, Gordon Maitland AO, OBE in his 2014 book, ***Honours & Awards in the Australian Army***, highlights that historically the British Army did not embrace the awarding of medals to all participants in all conflict.

Its upper echelons considered that to decorate a soldier for doing his duty might indicate that such duty was optional! This attitude prevailed until the issue of the Waterloo Medal in 1816 which is now often regarded as heralding the start of the modern era of operational service medals. ***This year we celebrate the Bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo!***

The Duke of Wellington (1769-1852) crushed Napoleons' forces at the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815. ***The centenary of this infamous battle coincided with the completion of the Australian Engineers***



The Battle of Waterloo

***first operational task: constructing a pier at Gallipoli under Lieutenant Stan Watson on 18 June 1915.*** Thus a great Royal Australian Engineer Tradition of the Annual Waterloo Dinner to celebrate the completion of operational tasks was established and is commemorated every year by Australian Sappers wherever they gather! Any excuse for a social get together!

***The Old Sappers Association of Victoria are custodians of a highly valued Waterloo Medal*** that was issued (in 1816) to all ranks who participated in the Battles of Waterloo during the Napoleonic Campaign (some 39,000 medals were issued). Circular (37mm), the silver medal has the profile of the Prince Regent on the obverse and, on the reverse, the seated figure of "Victory" with "Wellington" above and a tablet below

inscribed "Waterloo" under which is the date of the battle. The Riband of the medal is crimson with blue edges – the Military Riband of England, and corps colours of both the Royal Engineers and Royal Australian Engineers.

General Maitland highlights for us a little known fact that at least one soldier who fought at the Battle of Waterloo was Australian born, and possibly, the first Australian born to be commissioned into the British Army. The soldier was **Andrew Douglas White**, born on 23 September 1793 to Rachel Turner, the convict housekeeper to the First Fleet's Surgeon General John White. The Surgeon General eventually left Australia and returned to Britain, but made generous provision for Rachel and Andrew. Andrew received a British education and entered the British Army with a commission (dated 1 July 1812) as a second lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. He went to France in 1813 and **served at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815 as a Captain of the Royal Engineers!**



The Waterloo Medal



Captain Andrew White RE finally returned to Australia to his emancipated mother (Rachel) who had never married his father, John White the Surgeon General of the First Fleet. She however, later married a wealthy emancipist. Andrew White died on 24 November 1837.

## AUSTRALIAN SAPPER MAGAZINE 2014 PUBLISHED

"Australian Sapper" magazine 2014 has been published. To access this excellent publication from the Corps, please click the link below:

[https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/resources/Australian%20Sapper2014\\_eVersion1.pdf](https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/resources/Australian%20Sapper2014_eVersion1.pdf)

## CENTENARY WATERLOO DINNER



The RAE Southern Region Centenary Waterloo Dinner will be held on 20 June 2015.

22 Engineer Regiment will host this event. Please check the RAE Association's web site [www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)

Regularly for details and booking arrangements.

## Sir Clive Steel Lecture

Tuesday 28 April, Oakleigh Barracks at 2000 hrs. The 2015 lecture will be given by LTCOL J. Durant, CO 3 CER. The theme of this year's lecture is:

**The Centenary of ANZAC and its relevance to the Sappers of today.**

Contact 22 ER or check the RAE Association web site for more details.

## WELFARE AND WELLBEING



### RINGWOOD RSL President's Column

This year is the Centenary of the ANZAC Cove landing during which we will be honouring the memory of those gallant servicemen and women who stormed the beach at ANZAC Cove and into the pages of history. They embodied what we know today as the "Anzac Spirit" and forged a heritage that is at the very heart of the Nation. Today it sustains the men and women of the Australian Defence Force. This commitment to the task and each other is deeply embedded in our culture, the sense of fairness and mateship is what makes us different from other peoples. There will be many commemorations here and across the World honouring the Nation's service personnel, both past and present and we can only hope that these will not be hollow occasions covering a lack of real commitment to today's defence personnel and their families.

An enduring image in my mind is the Turkish memorial to our ANZACs on which is inscribed;



***Those heroes that shed their blood and  
lost their lives...***

***You are now lying in the soil of a  
friendly country. Therefore rest in  
peace. There is no difference between  
the Johnnies and the Mehments to us  
where they lie side by side here in this  
country of ours...***

***You, the mothers, who sent their sons  
from faraway countries wipe away your  
tears; your sons are now lying in our  
bosom and are in peace, after having  
lost their lives on this land they have  
become our sons as well.'***

***Ataturk, 1934***

How far we have come from the wisdom displayed by the first President of modern Turkey and the compassion, respect and tolerance he displayed in this inscription. We cannot take the ANZAC spirit nor the sentiments of Kemal Ataturk for granted. There are dark forces that would pull us apart to refashion a different society with an alien world view in which our easy going and tolerant nature would have no part. As well we continue to battle the indifference of many in the political and government administrations more intent on maintaining power and position than advancing the wellbeing of the Australian community. Too many have abandoned the concept of one's "word being his bond" and instead take an "expedient" or "pragmatic" approach leaving a trail of damaged people in their wake. We are in desperate need of visionary and effective leadership at all levels where the lure to tax payers at election time is not what benefits are on offer (with the costs carefully hidden) but instead strategies to build the future where our children can get a high class education, where families can live in an harmonious community, where employment opportunities are abundant and Australia is an economic powerhouse selling its products, services and expertise to a World eager to buy and learn from us.

The need for a "Military Accord" or covenant between the Australian Parliament and members of the ADF outlining their mutual obligations has never been more apparent than at present as the nation focuses on the centenary of the ANZAC landing. It is in this context that the Ex-Service Community must seek to contribute to improving conditions for veterans, ADF members and their families. This is a never ending task and we have made a few advances over the last year but as you are aware there are many issues where the government and its administration are stonewalling. It will be our continuing objective to encourage our elected representatives to support serving and veteran communities' national representatives' objectives for fair and equitable treatment serving and former members of the ADF.



## Ringwood Sub Branch Club News

### ANZAC Services

The Ringwood RSL ANZAC Commemorative Services will be held at the Clock Tower Memorial Park as outlined here;



Sunday 19th April – March from Target Square to the Clock Tower Park commencing at 1000 Hrs followed by a wreath laying service starting at 1030hrs. Refreshments will be served following the service.

ANZAC Day Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Dawn Service commencing at 0600hrs. However it is advised anyone attending should plan to arrive no later than 0530Hrs due to the size of the expected crowd.

### Renovations

We will have our new entrance, bar and gaming areas open in time for ANZAC Day as well as the existing Bistro, however other areas will be a construction zone so as we expect big crowds following the commemorations we will put in place other temporary arrangements to provide food and beverage services. You are welcome to visit any time to view the progress on the development of our facilities and enjoy the hospitality we provide.

**David Jamison President Ringwood RSL**

## 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.**



Phone: 0418 326 670

8/23 William Road, Croydon Vic.

E-Mail: [info@eaglehealth.net.au](mailto:info@eaglehealth.net.au)

P.O. Box 1062, CROYDON VIC 3136

## Men's Health – Does it really Matter?



**Promoting Health and Wellbeing  
in Men, Boys, Families and Communities.**

**Our Programs are Positive, Proactive  
and Practical.**

We work with outstanding people in their fields like Steve Biddulph, Celia Lashlie, TaikOz, Brendan Doherty, Steve Zanon and Andrew King to bring you cost-effective, enriching learning experiences and community events.

Our programs under the group title *Invictus* are endorsed by the Australian Institute of Male



Health and Studies, associated with the University of South Australia – one of only a handful of Victorian programs.

Contact Brian now to discuss your needs or ideas.

**Principal Consultant: BRIAN MIER B Health Admin, Trained Secondary Teachers' Cert.**

Phone: 0418 326 670

PO Box 1062

E-Mail: [info@eaglehealth.net.au](mailto:info@eaglehealth.net.au)

CROYDON VIC 3136

Web: [www.eaglehealth.net.au](http://www.eaglehealth.net.au)

Eagle Health Resources is proud to support **Melton-Brimbank Men's Health Network, Light the Night Lilydale, the Leukaemia Foundation, BeyondBlue, various men's sheds**, and local, state and national organisations which seek to help people and in particular men and boys to be the best they can.

## Alcoholics Anonymous

Specialist Meeting for the Services: Current & Past members including; Police, Fire, Ambulance, Army, Navy, Air Force, Prison etc

**The Phoenix Group**  
**Unity Service Recovery**  
**1800hrs First Friday each Month**



AA Victoria Central Service Office  
Level 1, 36 Church Street (Corner Elizabeth Street)  
RICHMOND 3121 Melbourne, Australia  
[www.aavictoria.org.au](http://www.aavictoria.org.au)

**24 HOUR TELEPHONE: (03) 9429 1833 (1300 AA HOPE)**

*"Emergency & Armed Services personnel who have a problem with alcohol and want to do something about it, can now access dedicated support through Alcoholics Anonymous in Melbourne, Victoria.*

*Alcoholism is a battle that can be overcome with the right kind of attitude and help as hundreds of thousands AA members can attest.*

*The AA "Phoenix Group" can help personnel with a drinking problem "Rise from the Ashes!"*

## ANGEL SQUAD



I am very pleased to announce that since the last edition of Sapper Summit, the extra funding we were seeking has been found and the "Angel Squad" program for young veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and related drug and alcohol issues has recently commenced operation.

It is interesting to ponder the old adage that claims "you never know who your friends are" and this was certainly true when it came to raising funds. Various Corp and Veteran's organizations who have close traditional ties to the people we will be helping were long on praise for the idea but failed to part with a cent, while a diverse group of others from varying service backgrounds (and even other branches of the military who have no former members in our group) recognized the urgent need to assist our younger veterans who are suffering from these debilitating problems, and unselfishly came forward with the financial assistance we required. They know how grateful we are.

The 'Angel Squad' program is open to all former ADF members who served post-1998, who have completed an approved detox/rehab course within 3 months of applying to join the squad, and who have a genuine desire to remain clean/sober.

The Squad meets for 'debriefing' twice per week (Tuesday and Friday) at 11am in the Melbourne CBD close to Flinders Street Station and all other forms of public transport. The debriefings are a vital means of discussing each individual's past few days' triumphs and difficulties, and Squad members rely heavily upon

peer support and peer counselling to assist each other to move forward with their recovery goals. Various "Guest Mentors" will also lend their valuable experience and knowledge to assist the Squad from time to time.

Tuesday debriefing is followed by a group fitness/health activity such as Gym work, Tai Chi, Meditation etc. and Friday debriefing is generally followed by a more social group activity such as a movie, a surfing lesson, go-carting or working on restoring our VL Commodore. Once completed, the car will be used for speedway drag racing etc.

Work on the car can also be carried out at any time during the week.

All fitness and social activities are at no cost to the Squad members, but the pre-activity debriefing session **MUST** be attended prior to participation.

We are extremely proud of our Angel Squad insignia; this emblem is exclusive to Squad members and newly-accepted participants will be invited to accept and wear one of our 'badged' caps as a commitment to their own recovery.

The rear of the cap shows a system of 'bars' with one, two or three bars indicating three, six or nine months personal success with the program. At the successful completion of twelve months, the cap will carry a star in place of the bars.

**We welcome any inquiries and questions regarding the operation of the Squad. For Application forms and other queries please email Colleen McKenna (Founder) at [photoexplorer57@yahoo.com.au](mailto:photoexplorer57@yahoo.com.au) or Damon Valenne (Team Leader) at [j10damo@yahoo.com.au](mailto:j10damo@yahoo.com.au).**



Committee members and other members of the RAE Association (Vic) attended the Operation Slipper Welcome Home Parade in Melbourne on 21 March 2015. The parade provided the opportunity for Australia to "welcome home" those who had been deployed on Operation Slipper which was Australia's longest military operation.

As Sapper Summit was being published at the time of the parade, it is hoped that a more extensive coverage will be available in Sapper Summit 90.





## SOLDIER ON

"Supporting Our Wounded Warriors"

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

RAE Association (Vic) is a proud supporter of

## SOLDIER ON



Australian Sapper 2014 is now available. To view this excellent magazine and to download your own copy, click on the following link:

[https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/resources/Australian%20Sapper2014\\_eVersion1.pdf](https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/resources/Australian%20Sapper2014_eVersion1.pdf)

## RAE CORPS SHOP

For a price and stock list from the Royal Australian Engineers Corps Shop, email your enquiry to:

[corpsshop@aamme.com.au](mailto:corpsshop@aamme.com.au) or

[patrick.doherty1@defence.gov.au](mailto:patrick.doherty1@defence.gov.au)

All web sites and email addresses in Sapper Summit are hyperlinked. Just click on the address for immediate connection.

## Victorian Sappers A History in Photographs Feature No 3

### Albury to the Sea—"Or BUST!"



1979 2LT Don Hughes, Royal Australian Engineers (right), with 21 Construction Squadron, Puckapunyal, canoe team. The team established a Guinness Book of Records attempt of canoeing the Murray River in 17 days.



Murray River Marathon 1979

### All Saints Chapel Townsville

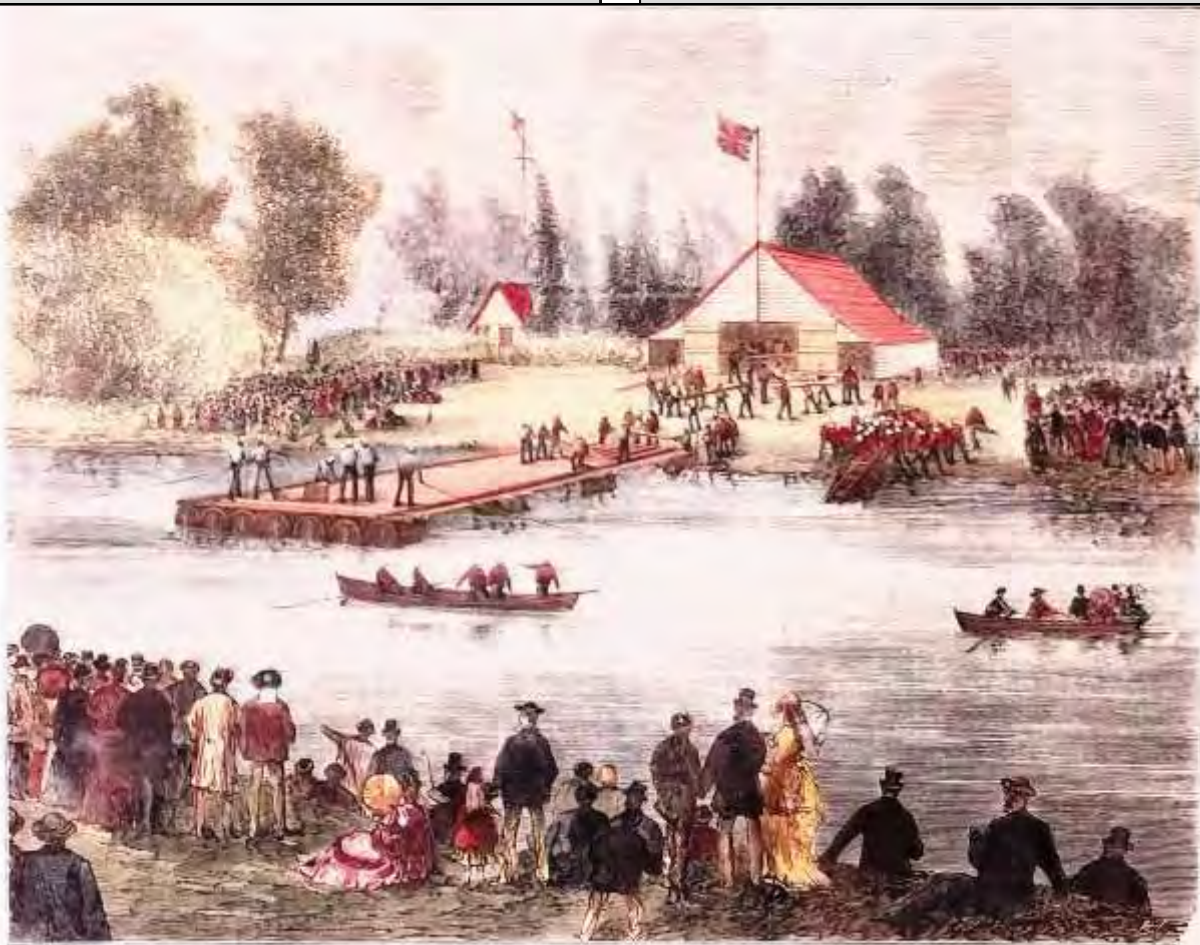




1979 CPL "Blue" Rantall and 2 LT Don Hughes both worked on the All Saints Chapel, Lavarack Barracks Townsville.



7FER engineers build a floating bridge across the Yarra River in Melbourne 1981.



THE VICTORIAN VOLUNTEER ENGINEERS CONSTRUCT A FLOATING BRIDGE ACROSS THE YARRA, 1872—SEE PAGE 254

Victoria Volunteer Engineers Construct a floating bridge across the Yarra River in Melbourne 1872  
Imaged published with the permission of Alan Smeaton (ex 22CR)

*Request for contributions from readers:*

*If you have photographs of Sappers from Victoria "doing what Sappers do" please scan them and forward the copies to [sappersummit@gmail.com](mailto:sappersummit@gmail.com) along with a brief description of the event and the date. With your contributions, Sapper Summit can continue with this historical feature.*



## 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, click on:

[www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)

### Association Shirts Available to Order



<http://www.raevictoria.asn.au/merchandise.php>

### 2015 AGM

The AGM of the RAE Association (Vic) will be conducted on 14 April 2015 at the Army Barracks Ringwood East at 1500 hrs. If you cannot attend, then you are encouraged to submit a Proxy Vote. To help you prepare for the meeting all meeting documents are available to view and download at: <http://www.raevictoria.asn.au/documents.php> For entry purposes at the Ringwood East Depot, you will require photo ID. Please advise the Secretary of your attendance so a nominal roll can be prepared.

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

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