

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



# SAPPER SUMMIT

*Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper*



Photograph courtesy of "Magic" Magilton

## **VICTORIAN SAPPERS ON PARADE ANZAC DAY 2017**

Serving and retired sappers turned out in good numbers for ANZAC Day commemorative services in April 2017. This year, 22 Engineer Regiment marched as part of the 4th Brigade in the official Melbourne ANZAC Day commemorative march. The RAE Association also took part although numbers were impacted by confused step off arrangements, caused by the inclement weather conditions. Sappers also turned out in support of the Ringwood RSL's ANZAC Day commemorative march on 23 April and the Dawn Service on ANZAC DAY 2017. ANZAC Day activities will be covered in more detail in this edition of Sapper Summit.

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## SAPPER SUMMIT

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Contact details, past copies of Sapper Summit and  
general information about the RAE Association (Vic)  
and its activities can be found on our website:  
[www.raevictoria.asn.au](http://www.raevictoria.asn.au)



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Sapper Summit is produced in electronic and coloured, hardcopy formats.	

## Your RAE Association (Vic) Committee

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Treasurer:	Duncan HOWARTH
Members:	Tony JACKSON
	Eric HOWATT
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	Peter WASHUSEN
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Don Hughes

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

Visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RAE-Association-Victoria-893405714081186/> meline/

## NEW DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR SAPPER SUMMIT ANNOUNCED

The RAE Association Victoria Committee has decided to change the distribution plan for its magazine, Sapper Summit. This has been prompted by the development of new forms of media that the Association now uses to communicate with members. The Association can now update members in a timely way through its website and Facebook page. The magazine is now less of a publication focussing on what is happening with the Association and more of a chronicle of the Association's activities and the work of the serving sappers in 22 Engineer Regiment.

Sapper Summit will now be published three times a year. There will be an edition published early in each calendar year along with a mid year and end of year edition. The first two editions will be available in electronic format with hard copy, colour magazines available to those who wish to subscribe and to those who contribute to the magazine. The end of year edition will be a larger edition and will be available free of charge to all members in both electronic and hard copy, colour formats.

This edition of Sapper Summit contains a number of links to our web site and Facebook page. Members are encouraged to log into these regularly and these will provide details on upcoming events and they will provide news on activities and matters of interest to the sapper community.

### RAE ASSOCIATION MASCOT

## ZEUS: Our New Mascot

The newly appointed canine Mascot of the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria (Incorporated) is Micro Chip number 95600000340, Temporary Sapper, "Zeus" (Holdfast) Moonbeam, a black Labrador/ Kelpie cross born in Deniliquin NSW



in July 2013.

Zeus' father was "Bruiser" a champion big, black Labrador of impeccable pedigree, famous throughout the Riverina for his incredible breeding capabilities! His mother is a "Huntaway" Kelpie princess from New Zealand. She, as well being a terrific and aggressive hunter, is a bit new age and gave Zeus his last name of "Moonbeam"!

Enlisting young into military service, Zeus undertook recruit and initial employment training with 8/7<sup>th</sup> Royal Victorian Regiment as

### RAE CORPS SHOP



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



a Tracker Dog and then spent some time with Special Forces as a covert reconnaissance specialist, and A pack Dog.

After a stint in Ward 17 at the Repat Hospital recovering from post-traumatic stress, Zeus decided on a career as an Assistance Dog with Young Diggers. He loved the job, but this however, was not enough. He decided to join the Sappers to become an Explosive Detection Dog. He received great training from numerous Sappers around Victoria and loved the excitement detecting explosive devices; but he also missed being an Assistance Dog.

Our new Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region, Colonel Bruce Murray AM, who has had years of experience in the training of young Sappers, recognised Zeus' potential and strongly recommended that he accept the appointment of Mascot RAE ASSOC VIC (INC) to pursue his wide range of interests and capabilities. Zeus literally jumped at the chance, and has been honing his representational and ceremonial skills ever since! He is looking forward to meeting you all.

Zeus can be contacted on 55ubique@gmail.com



The "Team" Zeus and sapper Don Hughes

## **AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL—LAST POST CEREMONY 7 JUNE 2017**

The 17 June 2017, marked the 100th anniversary of the detonation of a number of mines that opened the Battle of Messines on the Western Front in World War 1. The Battle of Messines, although initially successful, set in train a sequence of events that evolved into the disastrous Third Battle of Ypres. Many military historians regard this as the most wasteful campaign, fought in the worst possible conditions, of any during the Great War. Allied casualties exceeded 250,000 and many a reader of military history has been left with haunting imagery of soldiers crawling on their hands and knees through deep mud as they inched their way towards certain death from German machine guns and artillery. These major battles were initiated by sappers who toiled beneath the German lines to prepare the mines that were supposed to totally destroy the German defensive positions. Many readers will have seen these events depicted in the Australian movie "Beneath Hill 60".

In recognition of efforts of these extraordinarily resilient sappers and in recognition of what all sappers have done for our nation, the RAE Association ended the AWM on the 100th anniversary of the detonation of the mines under Hill 60 outside Ypres in 1917. Don Hughes provided wreaths made at the Repatriation Hospital in Heidelberg.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the RAE Association—Victoria by committee members Ted Boltong and Graeme Lambert. In addition to the laying of commemorative wreaths, the Last Post Ceremony also included the reciting of the story of one soldier whose name is recorded on the Wall of Honour. AWM Director, Dr Brendan Nelson, also presented

an address in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Messines and the subsequent Third Battle of Ypres. The Federation Guard mounted a catafalque party at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 7 June 2017 can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcKnX5iyeoA&spfreload=10>



RAE Association —Victoria Committee Members Ted Boltong (left) and Graeme Lambert (right) at the Australian War Memorial “Last Post Ceremony” 7 June 2017. Commemorating the service of all sappers on the 100th anniversary of the mining of Hill 60, Ypres Salient, 7 June 1917. *Lest We Forget*

## AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM of MILITARY ENGINEERING

**Our Role**

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

**Public Access**

The museum is open to the general public. Visitors without a Defence Pass are to meet at the Holsworthy Barracks Pass Office.

Car pass, government issued photo identification will be required for all visitors over 16 years of age.

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

**Location:**  
Macarthur Precinct, Soldiers Way, Holsworthy Barracks, Holsworthy (Enter via Heathcote Road)

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

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

## President's Column



Dear fellow Sappers,

The new year has seen significant changes in RAE Association committee of management as we say farewell and thank you for the significant efforts Colin Bowater our Past President and Maureen Rundell our past Treasurer. Colin and Maureen have made significant and valuable contributions to the establishment of the association, which we acknowledged at both the Sapper Muster and the Annual General Meeting. We look forward to seeing both members at future Association events.

We are fortunate to have Ted Boltong (Vice President) and Duncan Howarth (Treasurer) join the ongoing committee: Jim Davis (Secretary), Graeme Lambert, Eric (Jock) Howarth, Margaret Handte, Peter Washusen, and Anthony Jackson.

This new committee has big shoes to fill but with the help of some guidance of our members I am sure that we can continue grow and take shape to be a relevant and supportive body for the Sapper family in Victoria and beyond. To that end, Graeme Lambert has been focussing on the development of our Facebook page and web site, which are maintained to improve communication between members of the association. So, if you haven't done so already, like us on Facebook to keep up with events activities and news on the Sapper

Family. You can also contribute.

Since taking on this new role, I am heartened by the level of interest in our journey to this point and advice I have received on what our future direction of the Association should be. Over the next few months, the committee will be examining our role in providing welfare and support to fellow Sappers who may benefit from some help from mates or colleagues who share common experiences. In doing so we need to consider carefully what our role should be, given that there are at least sixteen well established Defence Force focused welfare organisations providing support services for veterans and ex-service personnel, we may not be equipped to provide improvement to services currently available. What we can all do is keep in touch with other members, participate in what the association is offering, and encourage others to get involved.

We look forward to hearing from you with suggestions for activities and events that may be of interest and encourage involvement of the greater Sapper community in Victoria.

Ubique

Bill Van Ree

*Feedback, comments and suggestions can be sent to the RAE Association Victoria 56B Dublin Road RINGWOOD EAST VIC 3135 or emailed to [sappersummit@gmail.com](mailto:sappersummit@gmail.com) Letters to the Editor are also welcomed. Editor*

### 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)



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 REPORT

RAE ASSOCIATION (Vic) INC.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 the RAE Association conducted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was held at the Ringwood East depot.

Whilst we always wish for more people to attend to provide support there was a good turn up of members providing valuable backing to the Association. There was an estimated 31 members in attendance including COL John Wertheimer, AM, RFD (Retd) (Patron of the Association) and COL Bruce Murray, AM (Retd) (Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region).

Along with the normal business associated with any AGM there was the election of officers for the 2017 – 2018 year which are as follows;

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee

Bill Van Ree  
Ted Boltong  
Jim Davis  
Duncan Howarth  
Graeme Lambert  
Eric (Jock) Howarth  
Margaret Handte  
Peter Washusen  
Anthony Jackson

At the AGM we saw the re-appointment of two inaugural committee members in Colin Bowater (President) and Maureen Rundell (Treasurer). Both Colin and Maureen made significant contributions to the Association and the newly elected members have large shoes to follow.

We wish both Colin and Maureen the very best for the future and thank them generously for their influence, development and tireless work towards the establishment of the Association.

Jim Davis  
Secretary 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017



RAE Association (Vic) Inc. - Committee 2017 - 2018  
B. Jim Davis; Graeme Lambert; Duncan Howarth, Peter Washusen & Eric (Jock) Howarth  
F. Margaret Handte, Bill Van Ree (President) John Wertheimer (Patron) Insert Tony Jackson

## From The Regiment



### CO 22 Engineer Regiment



This edition of Sapper Summit marks the completion of both our READY year and the first round of the Force Generation Cycle for 22<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Regiment, as well as an opportunity to reflect on our successes for the last three years and where we need to continue to focus our efforts moving forward. As sappers, we will always have more tasks than available time to train so we will continue to prioritise what we train and the level and standard to which we do so, whether it be weekend training at Puckapunyal or block training in Cultana or elsewhere with 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment and Battle Group JACKA.

2017 kicked off with our annual planning activity at Newborough for all Troop Sergeants and above. It was a great opportunity for new and existing members to get to know each other and a rare opportunity to have these members all in one place at the same time. Collectively, the Unit Philosophy was developed, as was the detailed collective individual and logistic training plans.

In the intervening period, the unit's members

commemorated ANZAC Day with our local RSLs at Ringwood, Clayton, East Malvern and Moe amongst others, before moving to the city to participate in the CBD march. Some very moving services were held in honour of our country's fallen and in honour of all of our comrades who served, some bringing the war home with them. We owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans and it was therefore fitting that our unit members gathered with them on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Professional development, known within Army as Professional Military Education (PME), has been an ongoing passion of mine so it was wonderful to be able to acquire some additional resources to run an activity at Ringwood in early May for all Section Commanders and above. Training was at the tactical level for rank/experience group; with a focus on QDEs and TEWTS, Orders training, SHQ and CP training. A few weeks after this, in late May, 22ER hosted the Brigade's office for a PME training session, focusing on engineer operations in the morning and all-corps officer training in the afternoon. Both PME sessions were very well attended and were positively received.

Field training in this period has been focused on mobility and counter-mobility in a number of environments and tasks, ranging from IMTs through to landing zone construction and demolitions. The unit is remaining focussed on its policy of continuous improvement in training methodology and delivery and the latest round of training has been testament to that. Well done and thank you to the OPSO, RSM and the cadre staff for their ongoing work to prepare and conduct realistic challenging and varied training. As well as the ongoing internal unit training, 22ER members have been continuing to be challenged through participation in Exercise BOARS SPRINT with 1CER and AACAP with 6ESR, in addition to external support for our plant operators as well as instructor and general support to training centres.



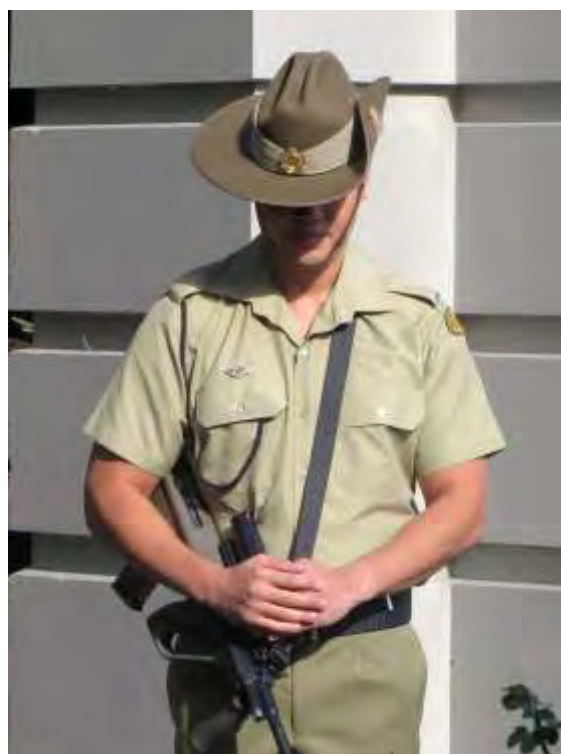
I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Sapper Summit. I want to thank its editor, Graeme Lambert, for the relentless energy he devotes to producing such a wonderful publication and for the opportunity that the Association provides the Regiment in giving us a platform to share with the wider RAE community.

Ubique.

*Michelle McCormack*  
LTCOL

### **Commissioning Cerificates Presentations**

At EX Kick Start (18 – 19th February 2017) the CO (LTCOL Michelle McCormack) presented five Certificates of Commission to members of 22nd Engineer Regiment.



22 Engineer Regiment Sapper—Ringwood  
Cenotaph ANZAC DAY Commemoration 2017



**Commission Certificates - Watsonia 18th February 2017**  
**(L-R) Colin Nelson, Marc Zanier, Simon Duell, Jake Kilsby and Tom Mulholland**

## ANZAC DAY 2017

For 2017, the unit decided to change its focus from internal conduct to external support of ANZAC Day commemorations. This allowed a certain amount of flexibility in the plans of our personnel and ensured that we were supporting our local RSL and community. It also gave our veterans, which comprise 74% of our unit, the chance to be amongst other veterans in the community.

Hand in glove with our move to support the local RSLs during the dawn services, we only provided Catafalque Parties to those RSLs that a) requested it and b) are considered our core supporters from previous years. This doesn't mean that in the future other agencies will be excluded, however with budgets to be adhered to, it suggests that due diligence is required and our folks are employed for effect rather than window dressing.

Our tasks this year were down from 19 in 2016 to a total of nine. Once again our folks did a marvellous job of providing Catafalque Parties, Flag Orderlies and Wreath Layers to the RSLs, so I must thank our junior NCOs for their efforts in ensuring that we would have a very professional outcome.

The march in the Melbourne CBD was well attended and our folks looked great. Unfortunately, it got underway slightly earlier than expected so we missed out on linking in with our brothers and sisters in the Association. We were well received by the public and I overheard some favourable comments about our standard of marching. The CO did well to keep the unit in step which is not an easy feat when you have two bands playing in two different time signatures. Who said Engineers can't do drill!

Once again, our folks up in the valley supported their communities marvellously. It always makes me feel very proud of the effort they put into their ANZAC Day tasks up there.

They often do the heavy lifting for the unit when it comes to ANZAC Day with an "all-hands on deck" approach to executing the tasks. Well done.

I have enjoyed the two very different ANZAC Days that I have overseen at the Regiment. In 2018, there is likely to be another RSM at the helm and he will bring his own style and vision to the position. This will not change you or the great work you do for the CO and I, particularly on ANZAC Day. Keep up the excellent work.

RSM



WO1 Tony Luchterhand  
RSM 22 Engineer Regiment



Above: 22 Engineer Regiment on parade—ANZAC Day  
Melbourne 2017



## **RSL ANZAC DAY - RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. – 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**

What a difference a year makes! – ANZAC Day 2016 was a bright sunny day but in 2017 we awoke to rain and miserable conditions.

The day started with the usual Dawn Services and in most cases these were conducted in very cool conditions and quite heavy rain no doubt keeping numbers down. This year was also different in that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Regiment broke with tradition and did not conduct a Dawn Service at either Oakleigh or Ringwood but instead decided to encourage the Regiment members to support the local RSL Services with the view of integrating more with the local community. Following the Dawn Services the Regiment was bused into the city to participate in the march as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade contingent.

The RAE Association supported the Ringwood RSL with their Dawn Service conducted at the Clock Tower. Ted Boltong and Margaret Handte represented the Association and laid a wreath on behalf of all sappers.

Once again the Association agreed to participate in the ANZAC Day march and as in previous years our scheduled step off was just before midday but due to the weather conditions and reduced numbers participating in the march the Organisers decided to bring forward the step off times for the whole parade but in doing so failed to notify the respective participants of this vital change.

It was only through observation that we noticed that the usual Associations that we march with had started to leave the FUP and were moving down Swanston Street – the Marshalls advised that if we did not move off immediately then we would not be taking part in the march. This step off was some 1 hour and 20 minutes ahead of schedule and certainly caught us on the hop – luckily the supporting Cadets were in place, the banner was assembled and we had enough members

to march behind the banner. It was only quick and decisive action that got us into the march.

There is no doubt that we left behind a number of disappointed people who would have arrived in terms of the instructions only to find a vacant spot in Collins Street – I know a number marched with the Marshalls who are the last to march on the Day.

Led by the banner and Ted Boltong we headed off down Swanston Street at breakneck speed to catch up to the other marchers and whilst our numbers were down we were made very welcome by the crowds that lined the streets – these people who come into the city for the march are just wonderful and make it all worthwhile. They are so appreciative and supportive.

We were (I believe) the last group marching and on our way down Swanston Street we managed to collect a number of stragglers from other Associations along with others who had been caught out by the change in the timings – we were certainly happy to welcome them along but in saying this we also left behind a large number of loyal and dedicated sappers who did not get the opportunity of marching behind their banner and catching up with mates.

The rain held off and irrespective of all the confusion and low numbers the march and participation is truly worthwhile and everyone making the trip contributes to the day and its success and should be proud of their involvement. We all have much of which to be proud.

We have a number of members who travel long distances to attend and be part of this important and historic event and these few words are hardly enough thanks to them and everyone else for your continued support of the Association.

In conclusion yes we were mucked around and there were some disappointed people with



nasty thoughts but we are all adults and having served in the military have learnt to adapt – I am sure you can all remember “great coats on great coats o ” and as such I guess I am saying we have to be adaptable and go with the fl w.

Don't allow this year's confusion to dampen your support and attendance at future parades.

**Jim Davis**







Above: 22 Engineer Regiment  
ANZAC DAY 25 April 2017  
MELBOURNE





Above: Royal Australian Engineers Association – Victoria  
ANZAC DAY 2017  
MELBOURNE



## Editorial

Sappers are used to putting themselves in harm's way. That is what we do. With that in mind, we share a bond with others who put themselves in harm's way in the service of the Australian people.

On the 6 June 2017 a terrorist incident occurred in the Melbourne suburb of Brighton. This resulted in the tragic death of an innocent civilian and the death of the offender who will be neither named or identified in this editorial piece.

Members of Victoria Police, including the Special Operations Group, turned out to deal with the incident in Brighton following a triple 0 call made by a person taken as a hostage.

When members of the SOG attempted to locate the offender, they came under close range gunfire. Three police officers were shot. Two of these required hospital treatment. The injuries sustained by the

hospitalized police were significant .... something not widely announced in the mainstream media.

I take this opportunity, through Sapper Summit, to express the best wishes of the sapper community, to the injured officers and express the hope that their recoveries are as speedy and complete as possible. I also express the sapper community's appreciation of the service of these officers who, like members of the ADF, stand ready to do what is necessary to protect the nation and its people. Thank you for your service.

Editor



## Issue 96 Podcast

### The Great War and Today's World

Are there lessons or parallels to be drawn from conflicts a century ago? Or perhaps this view of history has become too clouded by our contemporary experiences and ways of thinking? Military historian Sir Hew Strachan marks the recent centenary of the Battle of Fromelle and examines the changing meaning and practice of strategy in war. Highlights of *The Great War and today's world* presented by The Centre for International Security Studies and Sydney Ideas, University of Sydney, 19 July 2016. To listen to this podcast through your pc or tablet, click the link below:



Le :

Sir Hew Strachan

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/hew-strachan-great-war-today/7659132>

#### Editor's Note:

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

## RSL RINGWOOD MARCH - RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. – 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2017



For the second time, the RAE Association was invited to take part in the annual RSL pre ANZAC Day 2017 march. The march is conducted on the Sunday prior to ANZAC Day and commences at Target Square and moves up the Maroondah Highway does a U turn and ends up at the Clock Tower and involves a large number of local groups such as Army and Air Force Cadets, veterans, Scouts and community groups – it is a family day with many young children representing their loved ones.

22<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Regiment was represented by the CO (LTCOL Michelle McCormack and RSM (WO1 Tony Luchterhand) along with a number of Officers and Sappers who marched with the Association. The Regiment provided a cenotaph party for the formal activity at the clock tower and this was under the command of CPL Ben Thomson who certainly represented the Regiment to the highest standard.

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

Numbers were not as good as last year but we were competing against many other RSL's and organisations who were conducting similar events on the same day. In the absence of the President, the RAE Association was led in the march by the retiring President (Colin Bowater).

The Association was supported with our banner by members of 31 ACU (Norwood) who are located at the Ringwood East depot. These young cadets are very keen

and willing helpers and whilst many are new to ceremonial activities such as this, they acquired themselves to a very high standard and certainly did their unit proud. They were assisted in their preparation by their OC CAPT (AAC) Ron Walliker.

A service was conducted by the RSL at the clock tower including wreath laying, speeches and the normal formalities. Our past President laid a wreath on behalf of the Association and its members and COL Murray one on behalf of all sappers and the SRCC.

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

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

*Jim Davis*  
*Secretary*

## REPORT ON AWARD PRESENTATIONS AT EXERCISE KICK START

Due to a variety of reasons the Association was unable to present the 2016 annual awards to the recipients at the Regiment's Family Day and accordingly arrangements were made by the CO (LTCOL Michelle McCormack) for the Association to attend Exercise Kick Start being conducted at Watsonia Barracks, to make the award presentations.

Exercise Kick Start is the first training activity of the year for the Regiment and involves completion of the mandatory training activities along with BFA and WTSS and therefore usually involves most of the Regiment attending.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017, Bill Van Ree (Vice President) Jock Howa (Committee) and I attended Watsonia and after the usual security checks and delays at the front gate, we were able to join the Regiment's members and present the awards.

Before the presentation of the awards the CO

gave us the opportunity of promoting the Association and outlining its purposes, goals and aspirations so that everyone would have a better understanding of who we are. It was certainly a privilege to address the supporters of the Regiment and allow them to see some of the Association Executive and learn about us.

In addition it gave us the opportunity of acknowledging the achievements of the 2016 award winners in front of their peers and demonstrates some of the support that the Association provides to the Regiment members – we have not really been able to do this in the past.

This was a unique opportunity presented to the Association and the CO certainly needs to be acknowledged and thanked for supporting us. I am sure that there would be no other Associations who would be afforded this wonderful opportunity.

Congratulations to the award winners.

*Jim Davis*

*Secretary*





## RAE ASSOCIATION SAPPER MUSTER OAKLEIGH BARRACKS 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017

After months of planning, hard work and anticipation of a great night with many old friends, I fell in a great big heap and could not attend the annual Muster, so I am writing this from reports that I have received. I was diagnosed with an "old man's" complaint of shingles and had a face that only a mother could love.

This night is a very important event for the Association, not only for the social and comradery aspects but also it is the major social event on the Association's calendar.

Once again we were so very fortunate to have the support of the CO 22<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Regiment (LTCOL Michelle McCormack) who made the facilities of Oakleigh available for the event – this is an ideal place in relation to location and facilities to hold a night like this where you can expect over 100 people.

An estimate of numbers suggests that over 110 people attended which would have to be considered good.

Even more importantly there were a number of younger serving sappers who came along to the night. It isn't only a night for those who had served but in addition, many partners and family also attended. This is a family night.

This year there was a major change in the format to previous functions in that instead of finger food being served throughout the night, the Association provided a spit roast meal



which was served in the Drill Hall – from all accounts the meal was tops and there was ample left over for seconds.

As with all evenings there have to be some formalities and these included a report by the President (LTCOL Colin Bowater (Retd) along with the presentation of Silver Sappers to David Rundell and David Stevenson who combined, have contributed in excess of 87 years of military service. In addition, the Association was seeing the retirement of Colin Bowater and Maureen Rundell and each was presented with a plaque and Certificate of Appreciation – both Colin and Maureen have been tireless workers for the Association during its formative years.



There was also a presentation by the Patron (COL John Wertheimer AM, RFD Retd) to BRIG Peter (Hutch) Hutchinson, DSC (Retd) who has held the position of Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region for the last nine (9) years. He is handing over the reins to COL Bruce Murray, OAM (Retd) who will certainly have big shoes to fill

In closing special thanks must go to LTCOL **Michelle McCormack** for the use of the facilities along with her staff. In addition, thanks also to Mr David Colligan who arranged for the tables and chairs and set the drill hall up and the bar staff, CAPT Noel Tipton, WO1 Neil Christie and WO2 Michael Hutchinson.

Many members of the Association worked hard to make the night a success and thanks

to Eric (Jock) Howa , Marg Handte, Maureen Rundell and Tony Jackson.

Special guests were **BRIG P.J. (Hutch) Hutchinson, DSC (Retd), Patron of RAE Association** on **COL John Wertheimer AM, RFD (Retd), LTCOL Michelle McCormack CO 22 Engineer Regiment** and **Mr Geoff and Mrs Laurel Coghlan** representing the President of the Ringwood RSL (David Jamison)

BRIG David Westphalen, 4<sup>th</sup> BDE Commander was a very welcome guest along with BRIG Bob Slater, AM, RFD (Retd) – Regretably, BRIG Kerry McManus was a late apology. COL John Raike also found me out of a very busy schedule to come along for a couple of hours. COL Raike is a great supporter of the Association.



BRIG Hutchinson (left) COL Wertheimer (right)

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

Bearing in mind the ages of some of the

guests, they did a marvellous job to travel to the function and remain there for many hours. The knowledge and amount of service in the room is hard to comprehend.

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



Retiring Treasurer, Maureen Rundell



Retiring President Colin Bowater (left) Patron, John Wertheimer (right)

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

I know that I think I am irreplaceable and vital to the night but many thanks to Ted Boltong who at short notice accepted the role "order chief" and did a great job proving that no one is indispensable – I had better watch myself!

**We will start to plan the 2018 event shortly but if anyone has any thoughts or input we would welcome them. Your input may help to make the night better.**

A special thank you to Maureen Rundell and Colin Bowater for their hard work, dedication and contribution to the RAE Association (Vic) Inc. and making a difficult path that little bit more enjoyable

Jim Davis  
Secretary

## **WATERLOO DINNER 2017**

The annual Waterloo Dinner is one of the most important social events on the Engineer calendar and that is eagerly anticipated each year. This year saw a major change in the format of the function in that it was conducted not at a military establishment but at an offsite venue in the Ringwood RSL. Prior to the dinner there were some misgivings from some of the retired members concerned about the loss of traditions by moving away from a military site which obviously has the history and memories but I am sure that after the function everyone would have been satisfied with the venue and conduct.

Whilst customs and traditions are an extremely important part of a function like the Waterloo Dinner, the other characteristic of the night is to bring together members of the Corps in a

social atmosphere where there is an opportunity to catch up with people with similar interests.

Another aspect of having the function at the Ringwood RSL is the Regiment's desire to strengthen its ties within the local community, particularly with community groups such as the RSL which provide such strong links to the military and support to the Defence family.

There are a number of positives to be taken out of having the function onsite and these include the fact that the staff, food, drink, clean up and overhead costs are the responsibility of the venue. At the end of the night it is just a matter of closing the doors on the way out. Another positive for the Ringwood RSL is its convenient location. Other reasons why an onsite venue is ideal is that I am sure everyone would be aware that safety is a high priority at all bases and the entry requirements for non-serving personnel is very demanding. In addition you have to hire stewards and cooks when the budgets of all units are under stress.

As with the tradition commenced with the 2014 Waterloo Dinner, a sendance was again extended to SNCO, WO's and Officers. A total of 65 people attended the night, filling the venue to near capacity.

Dining President was MAJ Paul McComb (XO 22 Engineer Regiment) with the senior guest being BRIG David Westphalen (Commander 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade). Representing the Signals Corps was LTCOL Adam Strickland (CO School of Sigs).

Representing RAE Head of Corps (BRIG Wayne Budd) was COL Bruce Murray (COL COMDT Southern Region). The HOC address was delivered but COL Murray which was very detailed in relation to equipment replacement, activities and positions.

Senior Officers attending the function included Brigadiers Westphalen and Hutchinson along with COL John Wertheimer (Retd) Patron of the RAE Association and COL





John Raikes. There were a number of ex CO's of both Regiments also in attendance and it was great to see an old friend in LTCOL Craig (Spit) Madden who ventured over from Perth – many (such as Bruce McClure and Bob Treller) also travelled a fair distance to attend.

It was also great to see Ron and Mary Brandy attending - Mary Brandy (CSM) is the Honorary Colonel Commandant RAA Nursing Corps but more importantly a pseudo sapper who often attends functions with Ron but normally sits in the car and waits until the function is over.

For those who attended, I am sure that they had a wonderful night with ample food, drink and friendship and the venue was a great choice.

Jim Davis  
Secretary  
RAE Association

## Waterloo Dinner 2017 in Pictures

*(Photographs courtesy of Jim Davis)*



COL J. Wertheimer AM, RFD (Retd) and MAJ P. McComb, Dining President













**RAE WATERLOO DINNER 2017  
RINGWOOD RSL  
HOSTED BY 22 ENGINEER REGIMENT**

## RESERVE FORCES DAY 02<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2017

The annual RFD was conducted at the Shrine on a clear, cool, crisp Melbourne winters day. The RAE contingent comprised RAE Association, Woodies and Old Sappers Association along with several other people which enabled the Engineer contingent to have about 45 people on parade – numbers are certainly down on previous years but it was still a good turnout.

President of the RAE Association (LTCOL Bill Van Ree Retd) led the RAE contingent along with the Vice President (Ted Boltong). WO2 Fiona Ince once again did us proud by acting as the ASM for the RAE.



RAE Banner was carried by Carl Seccull and Athanasios (Porpy) Porporis whilst the Engineer Standard was carried by Tony Jackson.

I would say that the RAE was one of the largest of the groups there and everyone did themselves and the Corps proud not only by their attendance but also dress, bearing and drill. Remember there a lot of older Sappers here who have not been on a Parade Ground for many years but they managed to keep in step and upright! Senior Office marching was COL Howard Ellis (Retd)

Members of the RAE contingent came from far and wide with many travelling long distances to be there for the day – this was particularly evident with the Woodies who make such a strong effort to be there irrespective of the weather conditions. Even with his leg being in a moon boot our good mate Bodo Boettcher made the effort and marched but regretfully had a bit of a fall leading up to the Shrine – glad to say he recovered and was prominent at the Emerald Reserve Forces Day 2017 paid tribute to former and current Reservists, and commemorates WW1 events of 1917 especially the Charge of the Light Horse at Beersheba in 1917.



Reviewing Officer was Major General J. E. (Jim) Barry AM, MBE, RFD, ED (Retd).

I would like to acknowledge the younger serving sappers from 22 who joined us – they were encouraged to come along by Jim Staord and John Wood and their attendance was a very welcome addition to the march – this activity is not supported by the senior ADF personnel and it makes it hard to attract younger sappers.

In the crowd were a large number of family and friends and it is the support from these people that make it all worthwhile and remembering they were the people that had to put up with so much when we were





members of the Defence Force

Upon completion of formalities a majority of the group headed off to Emerald Hotel in South Melbourne which has been the regular after the march meeting place for many years and provides great food – in all there were about 50 in attendance including many partners, family and friends and it gave a chance to catch up with some many that you only get to see on days like this and spin a yarn or two.

Jim Davis  
Secretary  
RAE Association



Sappers on Parade—Reserve Forces Day 2017





## Sapper Profiles



**Colonel Bruce McEwan Murray, AM (Retd)**



Born in Melbourne in 1964, Colonel Bruce Murray joined the Australian Army Cadet Corps in 1979 whilst a student at Melbourne High School and entered the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1983 graduating into the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers in 1986. He has served the Engineer Corps in command, infrastructure and instructional appointments including the 20<sup>th</sup> Divisional Engineer Support Squadron and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment culminating in command of the School of Military Engineering 2005-06.

Colonel Murray's overseas appointments began with secondment to the United Nations Mine Clearance Training Team Afghanistan / Pakistan in 1990. From 1991 until 1993 he served as the Provincial Building Engineer for the 12<sup>th</sup> Chief Engineer Works located in Mendi, the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. In 1997 he returned to mine clearing operations with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre as a Senior Technical Adviser and received a commendation for significantly reducing landmine and IED casualty numbers.

From 2002 to 2004 he served as the Liaison Officer to the US Army Manoeuvre Support Centre at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, USA and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. In 2009 he was appointed Chief of Force Development responsible for the raising and deploying the Afghan National Security Forces throughout Southern Afghanistan. In recognition of growing a 24,000 strong force during high operational tempo he was awarded the US Army Bronze Star.

His personnel appointments include the Directorate of Workforce Planning and the Commanding Officer of the Soldier Career Management Agency, responsible for the career development and retention of over 20,000 soldiers. In 2011 he was appointed Director of Force Development of the Land Warfare Development Centre responsible for preparing Army's strategic capability plan for the Force Structure Review and subsequent Defence White Paper. He was appointed Acting Commander Land Warfare Development Centre throughout 2011-12.

From 2013 to 2016 and was appointed Defence Attaché to Manila, Philippines and was awarded the Philippines Outstanding Achievement Medal for his role in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan and for arranging the transfer of five Landing Craft Heavy to the Philippine Navy.

Colonel Murray is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College, Queensland. He holds Masters Degrees in Defence Studies and Business Management. In 2010 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of service to command, career management and training. He is a former Director of the Royal Australian Engineers Foundation.

Colonel Murray is married to Helena and they have three adult children. He retired from full time service in April 2016 and was appointed Colonel Commandant, Southern Region in March 2017.

## MAJ Les Malseed, RFD, ED (Retd)

Les Malseed joined the then CMF (aged 21) as a sapper recruit member of the newly formed 16 Construction Squadron in 1948

Around 1956 he transferred to 22 Construction Regiment RAE (SR) and continued to serve in the Supplementary Reserve until his retirement at age 49 on 04<sup>th</sup> June 1976 having completed 28 years continuous service.

He was commissioned as a LT around 1957 and proceeded through to the rank of Major.

In 1969 he was appointed as OC of 91 Forestry Squadron (not part of 22 Construction Regiment) until his retirement in 1976 except for the period of 1973-1974 when he took up a staff appointment

He was an enthusiastic and highly effective sapper throughout his 28 years of service. He particularly enjoyed his service with 91 Forestry Squadron where his informal and friendly character fitted in so well with his soldiers.

Les also held positions as PMC of the Office Mess and served on the Corps Committee.

MAJ Les Malseed was a foundation member of the RAE (Vic) Historical and Heritage Committee /Association when it was formed in April, 1992.

At the Committee's inaugural meeting, LTCOL R F Easick was appointed President and Major Les Malseed, Vice-President and Les served in this role for 20 years. On LTCOL Easick's retirement due to ill-health in 1998, Les took over the Presidency until the 1999 AGM, when he reverted to the role of Vice-President and continued in this role until 2009.

Throughout his period of 17 years' service as a senior office bearer in the RAE (H and H) Association/Committee, Les made major

contributions to each of our activities. Most important was probably his work in organising the series of annual Sir Clive Steele Lectures for which Les' task included arranging presenters and venues. This arrangement continued for many years until, due to problems involving training schedules, the task reverted to the Regiments.

Throughout his time with the RAE (H&H) Association Les was strongly supported by his wife Elaine who often provided refreshment for the attendees at these gatherings. In addition they both helped with the Old Sappers Association.

Les also contributed to the preparation of the RAE Vol. 4 History bibliography; also, following his very long RAE service, Les was always a great source of information affecting all our dealings. Following Les' retirement from Committee in 2009, he has continued as a great supporter of RAE (H and H) interests. Over some 22 years, Les' contributions have been many and invaluable.

It is most unfortunate that in the ill health suffered by both Les and Elaine has





prevented them continuing their support to the RAE – all sappers thank them both for their contribution over many years and wish them the best possible retirement.

MAJ Bruce Campbell (Retd) June 2017

Les celebrated his 90th birthday in June 2017. Best wishes from the members of RAE Association—Victoria *Editor*

### COL Bruce Addis, RFD, ED (Retd)



Bruce Addis was first employed by the Renmark Irrigation Trust in 1950 – 1956 and joined the Country Roads Board (CRB) in 1956.

He immediately joined 22 Construction Regiment RAE as a member of the CRB's 104 Construction Squadron and was promoted to LT in 1958. He rose rapidly through the Officers ranks to be promoted Major and 1963 appointed OC 104 Construction Squadron. In approximately he was promoted to LTCOL and

appointed as CO 22 Construction Regiment.

He held the position until 1971 when 22 Construction celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Then after a short period in staff positions in 1973 he was promoted to Colonel and appointed to command 6 Construction Engineer Group – Victoria's top RAE position and continued in this position until his retirement on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1976

COL Addis (sometime referred to as the "angry ant" due to his stature) throughout his military career was a most able and accomplished soldier with very definite views on military matters.

His ability was rewarded with the speed of his promotions. From recruit to Colonel is some 17 years.

The writer considers that one of his most important roles was that of CO 22 Construction Regiment from 1968 – 1971. Through his enthusiastic and positive approach LTCOL Addis changed a Regiment that appeared to be marking time and not reaching its full potential to one that stood out as a top performing Regiment and superior to any RAE Reserve Regiment in Australia. He would definitely be considered 22 Construction Regiment most successful CO over the period 1960 – 1980 and possibly longer.

During his years of service Bruce was ably supported by his loyal wife Marjorie but unfortunately over recent years her health has suffered and as a result Bruce has become her supporter and hence has had little spare time to take part in RAE activities.

It is hoped that Bruce Addis and Marjorie understand that we sappers will never forget their wonderful contribution to our RAE Corps.

Major Bruce Campbell (Retd) June 2017

## Rob Youl's Column

*Unfortunately, Rob was not in a position to provide his usual column for this issue of Sapper Summit. We look forward to Rob's column returning in the end of year edition. In this edition, Rob's column will be replaced by the Head of Corps' Waterloo Dinner address. Editor.*

### RAE HEAD OF CORPS

#### WATERLOO DINNER ADDRESS – 2017

Dining President, fellow Sappers (and Distinguished Guest) let me extend a warm welcome to you all at this our annual dinner. Throughout my tenure as Head of Corps, I have welcomed the opportunity provided through the Waterloo Dinner to update you on the state of the Corps and the Army more broadly.

This year there is plenty to talk about. Defence remains well supported by Government and their commitment to fund the Integrated Investment Plan is evident in our increasing Defence budget. Although it seems that there is a lot of money in the large figures discussed, internal competition for funds remains and core Army capabilities is where the money flows. The Corps is being well served by new capability expenditure. I have seen the new Land 121 vehicles in units and they add a modern façade to essential vehicle capabilities in units.

Project Land 155 – Enhanced Gap Crossing Capability is now delivering four new bridges. A modern MGB; an innovative Dry Support Bridge offering a 45 m gap crossing; a replacement floating bridge - the Improved Ribbon Bridge which can handle our M1 Abrams tanks; and a footbridge for dismounted crossing. These will be supported by a new bridge erection boat. This bridging capability is hitting units now.

Land 998 – Replacement Aviation Fire Trucks

has been delivered into service and achieved IOC this past March. These are modern sophisticated vehicles

Land 154 – Joint Counter IED Capability. Phase 2 is next in that series of capability enhancements and will deliver a Weapons Technical Intelligence Level 2 Laboratory and enhanced Force Protection Electronic Countermeasures to institutionalise CIED FPECM into Defence. Phase 3 of this project is being developed and will refresh route clearance capabilities add further to FPECM and replace EOD robots.

Land 2110 Phase 1B – is providing Army with a significant increase in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence. It involves electronic warning and reporting, new protective ensembles, and new collective and equipment decontamination systems. Government decision is imminent and will include five yearly tech refresh so as not to allow the capability to atrophy again. This project compliments Land 3025 which is giving the Special Operations Engineer Regiment significant new capabilities.

Unfortunately for our Geospatial Engineers Land 1771 has been delayed again for another year. But I can say this year that Projects Land 8120 which will replace our C and D vehicles finally passed the Gate Zero Investment Committee in March; Land 8140 which will provide an intellectual approach to providing a scalable operational infrastructure system (not just buildings) remains on track for Investment Committee decision late this year; and Land 8160 our under armour breaching capability project, which will be based on a M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank chassis, continues to move forward in development. Land 400 will also deliver an Engineer variant of the Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

Projects in themselves are not capability. As a Corps we must look to how we integrate these ideas into battlefeld capability and how our force structures support their employment.

Most of you will be aware the Army is in the midst of a significant restructure effort both in the Regular Army and the Reserve



Component. The regular Army is reducing hollowness and the Corps has had to reduce in nominal size. We attacked this problem by seeking to reduce unsustainable trade structures where rank bubbles meant that positions generally had no chance of being filled. This restructure will remove most vertical construction capability from the Combat Engineer Regiments but reinforce 6 Engineer Support Regiment. This work again highlighted the essential nature of 19 Chief Engineer Works to the Army. In the Reserve space, Army is moving to stabilise the size and shape of the Reserve. Most of the change will occur in the NSW Reserve formations with a strong Reserve training formation to be established based on 8 BDE. The Corps will lose another Reserve Engineer Regiment but I am confident that the new structure will be strong and vibrant.

As Army transforms we must adapt and remain innovative. We must live within our means and remain integrated and relevant to Army's requirements. You will begin to hear about Plan KEOGH the FORCOMD Modernisation Plan for next two Financial Years. We must also support the employment category review process as these modernisation initiatives require us to look at our trade models and training requirements. This address is long already and I haven't addressed the great work that you all do. In what seems an annual event now the Corps was essential to the Cyclone Debbie relief effort in Central/North Queensland. 3 CER and 6 ESR deployed capability and the civilian population in every town they visited were relieved to see the Army arrive. 6 ESR is again out on AACAP and strategically we are engaged in the review of the benefits of this program to the Corps. The major exercise season starts from now and I wish all those deploying a safe activity. I also recently visited 1 Topo Survey Squadron and every sapper would be proud of the work they are doing with technology in support of the intelligence cycle. In the future space, work has already begun to prepare for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast next year where the

Corps capabilities will be central to the security environment.

On the personnel front the Corps continues to shine. In the Australia Day Honours list Brigadier Rupert Hoskin was made a Member of the Order of Australia; Colonel Mark Galton received a Distinguished Service Cross while Lieutenant Colonel Damien Drain was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross. Outstanding RAEME elements were recognised for their support to our engineering outcomes through Warrant Officer Class 1 Kevin Bishop's Order of Australian Medal. In this week's Queens Birthday Honours List, Warrant Officer Class 2 Oliver Page received a Conspicuous Service Medal.

It was noted recently at this year's RSM-A's conference and dinner that there was 17 RAE RSM's present from across Army. This is fantastic representation from a very talented bunch of Sappers. Our new Commanders and RSMs have been announced with LTCOL Rob Haertsch going to 2 CER; LTCOL Dave Evans going to SME and importantly the Deputy Head of Corps role; LTCOL Roger McMurray going to command 1 RTB. In the Reserve, LTCOL Renee Kidson will take command of 5 ER. There is still more reserve command appointments to be announced. WO1 Damien Woolfe is going into the RSM 3 CER role; WO2 Justin Jones will be promoted as RSM 22 ER and WO1 Glen Donaldson will move to RSM SME.

At a senior level Brigadier Michael Ryan, Director-General Training and Doctrine has been selected for promotion to Major General and command of the Australian Defence College in 2018. We all congratulate him on his selection. Colonel Mark Pearce is to be promoted and take command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and Colonel John Carey will also be promoted and become the Chief of Staff of Forces Command. Additionally, Brigadier Rupert Hoskin will become the Commandant of the Royal Military College in 2018. All of these appointments reflect the quality of our personnel in the Corps.

In the representative space, Major General Steve Day has taken on the role of

Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonel Commandant Queensland/Northern Territory, Colonel Bruce Murray is the new Colonel Commandant Victoria and Colonel Ahmad Mostafa is our new Colonel Commandant NSW. I wish to thank the departing LTGEN Frank Hickling, BRIG Peter Hutchinson and COL Mike Hyde for their service to the Corps. Our Colonel's Commandant are essential to our Corps family. We must all work with them to ensure continued connection with our Corps Associations and our sappers.

Lastly let us not forget those Sappers on operations around the globe. This ultimately is the reason we exist and I am confident in their training, attitude and capabilities.

I have had the honour to be your Head of Corps for the past ten and a half years. I believe this to be my 11<sup>th</sup> Waterloo Dinner address. With Army, I am planning retirement later this year. As such the Chief of Army has decided to appoint Brigadier David Wainwright as the new Head of Corps. I know you support him as you supported me. May I say to you all how proud I have been to serve with and for you, and to share in your collective achievements. These achievements occur both in units and in our extended Corps family. We have buried our brave, supported our injured and sick, and celebrated our exceptional together. I wish every member of the Corps and the extended Corps family the best in your endeavours, with good health, great luck and even more success. The esprit de corps of the Royal Australian Engineers is second to none. You are all the custodians of that spirit and I hope that you all see to its continued recognition as something outstanding in our Army.

All the Best

Wayne Budd  
Brigadier  
Head of Corps  
Royal Australian Engineers

## Southern Region Corps Committee Meeting 02<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

Meeting was held in usual location – Bourke Street – in attendance were BRIG P.J. Hutchinson, COL Bruce Murray, Noel Tipton, Paul McComb and Jim Davis with guest Don Hughes. Colin Bowater was an apology as he was in WA.

There is to be a change of COL COMDT with Bruce Murray taking over from BRIG (Hutch) Hutchinson

Meeting commenced with the COL COMDT giving a bit of an overview of what has happened in the 9 years since he took over the role.

### Reports

#### 22 Engineer Regiment

Paul McComb was representing the CO and give an update on what has happened since our last report – of course part of the time the Regiment was on stand down – Noel Tipton gave a brief on works that are being done at Pucka and a 9 day Ex plus work on the Lysart. Bruce enquired on the readiness of the Regiment and Paul gave an update including how the cooperation between 22 ER and 3 FD SQN.

Activities completed since our last meeting include

- a. Sir Clive Steele,
  - b. DACC preparation
  - c. Soldiers Dinner
  - d. Family Day (2017 they hope to have a bigger and better day)
  - e. Dining Out Night,
  - f. Ex-Head Shed
  - g. Ex-Kick Start, and
- Visit to Ringwood by Minister of Defence (Personnel)

#### 1 Further discussion on the following;

1. Waterloo Dinner – location being

considered is the RSL Ringwood – a lot of discussion on the various locations with the RSL not being the preferred one as it was felt that it did not convey the feeling of the dinner and the traditions – in addition you have to share the venue and there are some restrictions placed by venue. Paul will discuss with CO/RSM but the major points were the ample parking, history/traditions, facilities, opportunity for overnight accommodation for serving members

ANZAC Day Dawn Service – Paul mentioned that the CO was very happy with 2016 location at Ringwood and once again may look to hold the Dawn Service at Ringwood

ANZAC Day – 4<sup>th</sup> BDE is to march in the city – there were some concerns with attendance numbers as it is not known if this will be a paid parade.

Sir Clive Steele lecture – lecture is normally held around the mid-year mark but in 2017 it was held in November – this was at the request of the CO and to assist the Regiment – COL COMDT wants to return the lecture to mid-year and asked Paul if there had been any planning in the regard as to speakers etc. COLCOMDT suggested that he has recently attended a lecture of Sir John Monash and wondered if it might not be appropriate to look for a presentation on Monash – the reason being is that there is a push to have Monash posthumously promoted to Field Marshall, the Oakleigh depot is in the City of Monash and there are other numerous other acknowledgements to him thought out the area – he was also a volunteer soldier (CMF)

DON HUGHES – spoke on the proposed plaque being considered for the Repat Hospital and advised that he is looking to have the costs covered by a grant from DVA – he has the support of the local members of parliament (Federal and State) and is confident that this will come through – dedication looks to be later on in 2017 – also

spoke about this being the 70<sup>th</sup> year since the handover of the facility from the Government. Don is a volunteer at the Repat and spoke about its services and facilities. If the grant does not come through there is the potential of a cost of some \$2.0K

#### HISTORY.

Don covered off on what he has done and explained the progress to date – there is no doubt that getting the cooperation of the previous CO's is proving difficult.

Don is going to look at applying for a grant to help with the publication of the project.

COLCOMDT has suggested that maybe we should be looking to employ someone to help with the project – someone who would sit down with the ex CO's and then transcribe the information into an acceptable format – but who?

Noel Tipton gave an update on the progress with 22 CR and like Don he is striking problems getting cooperation from the respective ex CO's even though Noel has served with most of them



and knows them all very well – John Raikes has provided his chapter.

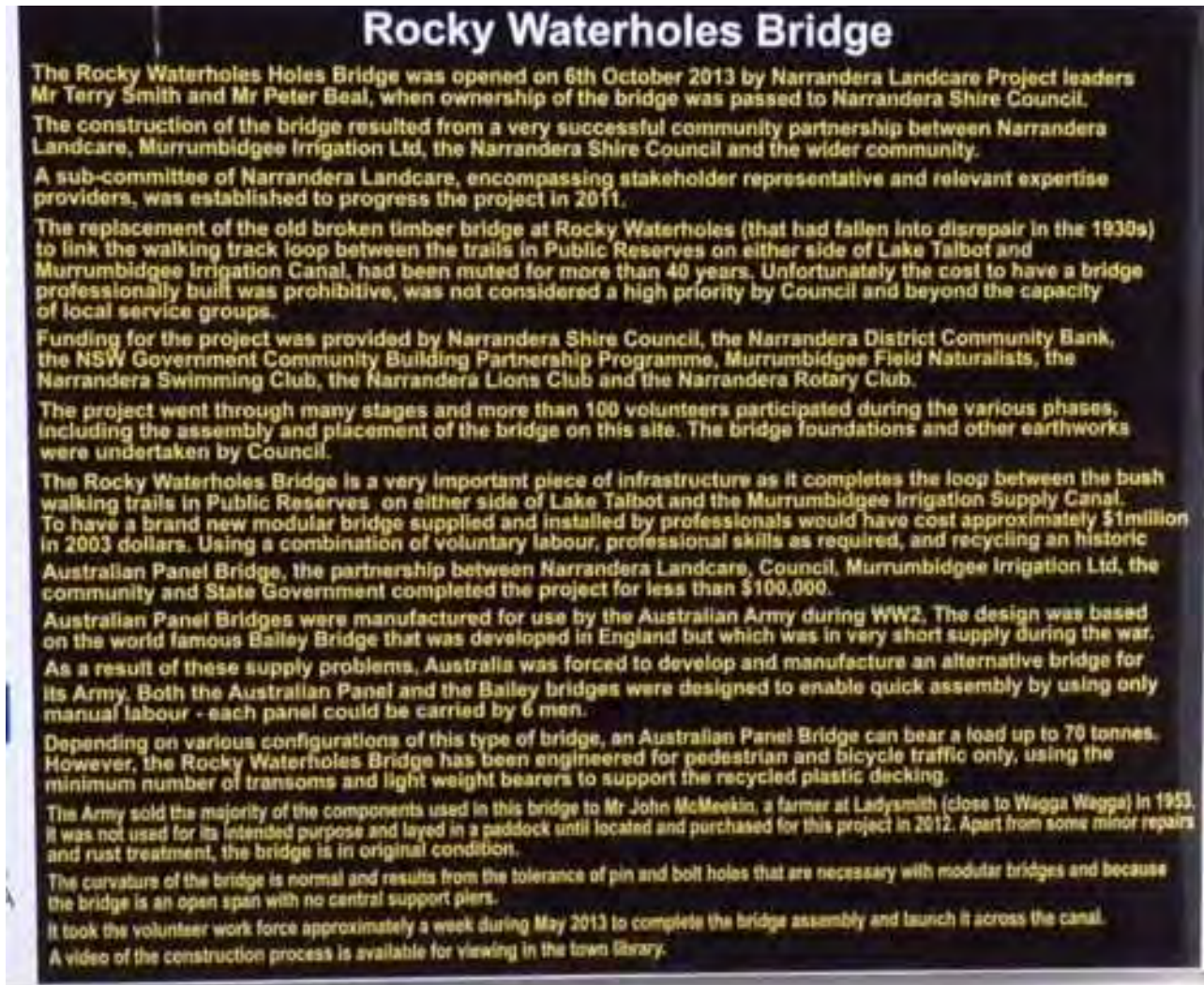
This will be an ongoing project for many years but both Don and Noel are confident that they will achieve the desired outcomes. Due to health



problems Don has not been able to put in as much time as he wanted but now that he has improved he will start to look at getting on with it – he mentioned that he has also been involved in a number of other writing projects and this has also had a bearing on the outcome.

## AUSTRALIAN PANEL BRIDGE

The following photos of the somewhat little known Australian Panel Bridge, were sent to Sapper Summit by Peter Washusen. Although difficult to read, Peter's photo of the Rocky Waterholes Bridge Plaque, provides a good description of the bridge.







Photographs courtesy of RAE Association member  
Peter Washusen

## 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign Australian Small Arms



As you read this edition of Sapper Summit, it is worth reflecting that 75 years ago, Australians were heavily engaged in what has become known as the Kokoda Campaign. At first, militia and later AIF units, were fighting a numerically superior force and for the first time, Australians were fighting in the direct defence of Australia. Also for the first time, they were fighting alone. In 1942, the Japanese strategy was to isolate Australia from support from the United States. Part of the plan to do this required the Japanese to gain control of Port Moresby in what is now Papua New Guinea. A sea borne attempt failed after the Japanese fleet was turned back at the battle of the Coral Sea. The Japanese then attempted a land-based offensive using the experienced South Seas Force under General Hori. This force of approximately 12,000 men landed on the northern coast and attempted an overland assault on Port Moresby. Initially, the only forces available in Australia to oppose the Japanese were a few battalions of militia, the 39th Battalion from Victoria and the unfortunate 53rd Battalion from NSW. As Chris Masters said in his acclaimed documentary "The Men Who Saved Australia", ".....as our first line of defence, we used our last line of troops." The Japanese initially planned to capture Port Moresby in under two weeks. The dogged defence made by both militia and AIF forces held the Japanese up for three months. Overstretched supply and events at Guadalcanal denied the Japanese their objective of Port Moresby. After their withdrawal back over the Owen Stanley Mountains, they were finally and totally defeated in the bloody battles of Buna and Gona.

Readers are invited to follow the attached links to the highly acclaimed ABC 4 Corners programme, "The Men Who Saved Australia" to get a good appreciation of the achievements of these Australian soldiers and both the tactical and strategic situations in which they fought so bravely.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ6oS0v59lg> and for a synopsis and full transcript:

<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/s12899.htm>



Left: Australian soldiers in PNG pose behind Japanese dead, with a mixture of British and American small arms.





**SMLE No1 Mk III** was the standard Australian service rifle during World War 2. Unlike the British who transitioned to the SMLE No4 MkI during the war years, Australia maintained use of the same rifle ANZACs used in the Great War. The SMLE No1 MkIII remained in Australian service until the late 1950s when it was replaced by the SLR L1A1.

SMLE No1 MkIII

Calibre	.303 British
Length	1.133 m
Weight	3.93kg
Muzzle Velocity	634 mps
Magazine	10 round box



Above: **Owen Sub Machine Gun**

Born out of the inadequacies of the SMLE for jungle fighting conditions and the need for a light, dependable, short range, manoeuvrable and high rate of fire weapon, the Australian designed and manufactured Owen Gun became a favourite amongst Australian troops in the South West Pacific Theatre.



Above: US supplied Thompson Sub Machine Gun M1

Thompson M1

Calibre	.45 ACP
Length	813mm
Weight	4.74kg loaded
Muzzle Velocity	280 mps
Magazine	20 or 30 round box
Rate of Fire	700 rpm

Owen Sub Machine Gun

Calibre	9mm
Length	813mm
Weight	4.18kg loaded
Muzzle Velocity	420 mps
Magazine	33 round box
Rate of Fire	700 rpm



Above: **Bren Light Machine Gun Mk1** The standard section or platoon automatic support weapon. Many militia soldiers found themselves in combat against experienced Japanese infantry, without having been trained to assemble and fire this weapon.

#### BREN Light Machine Gun

Calibre	.303 British
Length	1.156m
Weight	10.03kg
Muzzle Velocity	744 mps
Feed	20 round box
Rate of Fire	500 rpm



Above: **Webley Mk VI** This World War 1 vintage revolver was retained for use by both British and Australian forces in World War 2. Its heavy bullet was regarded as a definite "man stopper".

#### Webley Mk VI

Calibre	.455 Webley
Length	286 mm
Weight	1.09 kg
Muzzle Velocity	189 mps
Cylinder Capacity	6 rounds



Above: **Lewis Gun** This World War 1 vintage automatic weapon was carried by the 39th Infantry Battalion in lieu of the Vickers Medium Machine Gun that equipped the AIF Battalions. It was found to be totally inadequate in the Kokoda Campaign.

#### Lewis Gun

Calibre	.303 British
Length	1.25m
Weight	12.25 kg
Muzzle Velocity	744 mps
Feed	47 or 97 round drum
Rate of Fire	450-500 rpm



Above: **Enfield No2 Mk1** Adopted by the British after World War 1 believing that soldiers were hard to effectively train with the heavy calibre Webley Mk VI. This was widely used by the Australian Army. A model with the spur removed from the hammer was produced and issued to armoured corps soldiers.



## Enfield No 1 Mk 2

Calibre	.380 S&W
Length	280 mm
Weight	0.787 kg
Muzzle Velocity	183 mps
Cylinder Capacity	6 rounds

## US ARMY Colt M1911A1

Calibre	.45ACP
Length	219 mm
Weight	1.36 kg
Muzzle Velocity	252 mps
Magazine	7 round box



US supplied Colt M1911A1. This pistol combined a high rate of fire with the heavy hitting .45ACP cartridge. It was not standard issue, as were the Webley and Enfield revolvers but were eagerly sought and widely used by troops.



Left: Ammunition detailed in this article.

Left to Right:

.303 British (In SMLE loading clip)

.45 ACP

.455 Webley

.380 S&W

9mm

### **The Anzac on the Wall**

I wandered thru a country town, 'cos I had some time to spare,  
And went into an antique shop to see what was in there.  
Old Bikes and pumps and kero lamps, but hidden by it all,  
A photo of a soldier boy – an Anzac on the Wall.

'The Anzac have a name?' I asked. The old man answered 'No'.  
The ones who could have told me mate, have passed on long ago.  
The old man kept on talking and, according to his tale,  
The photo was unwanted junk bought from a clearance sale.

'I asked around', the old man said, 'but no one knows his face,  
He's been on that wall twenty years... deserves a better place.  
For some-one must have loved him, so it seems a shame somehow.'  
I nodded in agreement and then said, 'I'll take him now.'

My nameless digger's photo, well it was a sorry sight  
A cracked glass pane and a broken frame - I had to make it right  
To prise the photo from its frame I took care just in case,  
Cause only sticky paper held the cardboard back in place.

I peeled away the faded screed and much to my surprise,  
Two letters and a telegram appeared before my eyes  
The first revealed my Anzac's name, and regiment of course  
John Mathew Francis Stuart - of Australia's own Light Horse.

This letter written from the front... my interest now was keen  
This note was dated August seventh 1917  
'Dear Mum, I'm at Khalasa Springs not far from the Red Sea  
They say it's in the Bible - looks like a Billabong to me.

'My Kathy wrote I'm in her prayers... she's still my bride to be  
I just can't wait to see you both, you're all the world to me.  
And Mum you'll soon meet Bluey, last month they shipped him out  
I told him to call on you when he's up and about.'

'That bluey is a larrikin, and we all thought it funny  
He lobbed a Turkish hand grenade into the CO's dunny.  
I told you how he dragged me wounded, in from no man's land

He stopped the bleeding, closed the wound, with only his bare hand.'

'Then he copped it at the front from some stray shrapnel blast  
It was my turn to drag him in and I thought he wouldn't last.  
He woke up in hospital, and nearly lost his mind  
Cause out there on the battlefield he'd left one leg behind.'

'He's been in a bad way Mum, he knows he'll ride no more  
Like me he loves a horse's back, he was a champ before.  
So Please Mum can you take him in, he's been like my own brother  
Raised in a Queensland orphanage he's never known a mother.'

But Struth, I miss Australia Mum, and in my mind each day  
I am a mountain cattleman on high plains far away.  
I'm mustering white-faced cattle, with no camel's hump in sight  
And I waltz my Matilda by a campfire every night.  
I wonder who rides Billy, I heard the pub burnt down  
I'll always love you and please say hooroo to all in town'.

The second letter I could see, was in a lady's hand  
An answer to her soldier son there in a foreign land.  
Her copperplate was perfect, the pages neat and clean  
It bore the date, November 3rd 1917.

'T'was hard enough to lose your Dad, without you at the war  
I'd hoped you would be home by now - each day I miss you more'  
'Your Kathy calls around a lot since you have been away  
To share with me her hopes and dreams about your wedding day.  
And Bluey has arrived - and what a godsend he has been  
We talked and laughed for days about the things you've done and seen'

'He really is a comfort, and works hard around the farm,  
I read the same hope in his eyes that you won't come to harm.  
McConnell's kids rode Billy, but suddenly that changed.  
We had a violent lightning storm, and it was really strange.'

*Continued on p42.....*



## FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS

### **BLUE TONGUES REUNION 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** **MAY 2017**

The annual “Blue Tongues Reunion” was held at Major’s Creek Nagambie during the weekend of 19 – 21 May 2017.

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

Weather conditions this year were not as favourable as last year with recent rains making it a bit wet underfoot and also a little harder to get to the camping site but these

were only minor setbacks. In addition it was a bit cooler during the day but at least the rain stayed away.

As in the past the objective of this weekend is to enable people to catch up with old friends and renew acquaintances which see a large turnover of people coming and going with some staying for the entire weekend and others just dropping in to say hello and staying a few hours.

I am not sure if it was the weather or just that people had other commitments but the numbers seemed a little lower this year. Regardless there was a good turn up of the originals and old faithfuls.

Travel and distance is not something that has deterred people turning up to support this activity with many travelling long distances to





Honour Board displayed for the first time.

at the end. There was a good number of caravans and assortment of tents.

The group has lost a few members over the years which raised a conversation amongst the assembly about having a memorial to those people who have supported the reunion but are no longer with us. Fish (Colin Fraser) has had prepared a piece of beautiful timber nicely polished that will be inscribed with the names of those people – it will be a fixture but removable and brought along each year and displayed – it will be inscribed “Major Creek Engineers Memorial Honour Board”. Let us just hope it will be a long time before any more names appear on the board.

When the time comes that the activity fades out then hopefully this plaque will be passed onto the RAE Association (Vic) Inc. for safe keeping and displayed for future generations.

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

This is a great activity and George and his team need to be thanked for their efforts and encouraged to keep up the good work.

Well the reunion will now be put to bed (lights out) for another 12 months with the escapades reminisced and talked about until 2018.

If any reader gets the opportunity of participating in the 2018 reunion you should jump at it with both hands and come along for the experience of a lifetime. It is a great weekend.

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

Jim Davis  
Secretary  
RAE Association (Vic) Inc.

....continued

Last Wednesday, just on midnight, not a single cloud in sight,  
It raged for several minutes, it gave us all a fright.  
It really spooked your Billy - and he screamed and bucked and reared  
And then he rushed the sliprail fence, which by a foot he cleared'

'They brought him back next afternoon, but something's changed I fear  
It's like the day you brought him home, for no one can get near.  
Remember when you caught him with his black and flowing mane?  
Now Horse breakers fear the beast that only you can tame.'  
'That's why we need you home son' .... then the flow of ink went dry.....  
This letter was unfinished, and I couldn't work out why.

Until I started reading, the letter number three  
A yellow telegram delivered news of tragedy, Her son killed in action - oh - what pain that must have been  
The same date as her letter - 3rd November 17  
This letter which was never sent, became then one of three  
She sealed behind the photo's face - the face she longed to see.  
And John's home town's old timers - children when he went to war  
Would say no greater cattleman had left the town before.  
They knew his widowed mother well - and with respect did tell  
How when she lost her only boy she lost her mind as well.

She could not face the awful truth, to strangers she would speak

'My Johnny's at the war you know, he's coming home next week.'  
 They all remembered Bluey he stayed on to the end.  
 A younger man with wooden leg became her closest friend.

And he would go and find her when she wandered old and weak  
 And always softly say 'yes dear - John will be home next week.'  
 Then when she died Bluey moved on, to Queensland some did say.  
 I tried to find out where he went, but don't know to this day.  
 And Kathy never wed - a lonely spinster some found odd.  
 She wouldn't set foot in a church - she'd turned her back on God.  
 John's mother left no Will I learned on my detective trail.  
 This explains my photo's journey, of that clearance sale.

So I continued digging, cause I wanted to know more.  
 I found John's name with thousands, in the records of the war.  
 His last ride proved his courage - a ride you will acclaim  
 The Light Horse Charge at Beersheba of everlasting fame.

That last day in October, back in 1917  
 At 4pm our brave boys fell - that sad fact I did glean.  
 That's when John's life was sacrificed, the record's crystal clear  
 But 4pm in Beersheba is midnight over here.....

So as John's gallant spirit rose to cross the great divide,  
 Were lightning bolts back home, a signal from the other side?  
 Is that why Billy bolted and went racing as in pain?  
 Because he'd never feel his master on his back again?

Was it coincidental? same time - same day - same date?  
 Some proof of numerology, or just a quirk of fate?  
 I think it's more than that you know, as I've heard wiser men,  
 Acknowledge there are many things that go beyond our ken.

Where craggy peaks guard secrets 'neath dark skies torn asunder,  
 Where hoof-beats are companions to the rolling waves of thunder  
 Where lightning cracks like 303's and ricochets again  
 Where howling moaning gusts of wind sound just like dying men

Some Mountain cattlemen have sworn on lonely alpine track,  
 They've glimpsed a huge black stallion - Light Horseman on his back.  
 Yes Sceptics say, it's swirling clouds just forming apparitions  
 Oh no, my friend you can't dismiss all this as superstition.

The desert of Beersheba - or windswept Aussie range,  
 John Stuart rides on forever there - Now I don't find that all strange.  
 Now some gaze upon this photo, and they often question me  
 And I tell them a small white lie, and say he's family.

'You must be proud of him.' they say - I tell them, one and all,  
 That's why he takes - the pride of place - my Anzac on the Wall.

Anon

*Poem contributed by Eric (Jock) Howatt.*





## WELFARE AND WELLBEING

### RINGWOOD RSL President's Column



#### Ringwood RSL Collaboration between Peak Veteran Groups

There is widespread recognition that each Ex-Service Organisation in the whole ESO community is acting with positive intent and goodwill. The "missing link" has been the willingness and ability to cooperate more closely in an environment of mutual respect and trust. This is now being actively addressed with all major Ex-service Organisations committing to a "compact" agreeing to collaborate together respecting each organisation's role and legitimacy. So far some fifteen organisations have formally signed the Compact. These include the RSL and the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) and its major partners in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO). Now a small "reference group" has been established to help chart the way ahead in giving effect to the agreement to collaborate. This group will be supported by some expert advisers from both the ex-service community and the professional sector.

#### **RSL & ADSO make a Joint Appearance before the Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee**

In a show of solidarity, the RSL National President and the National President DFWA as Spokesman for ADSO gave evidence together to the Committee Inquiring into the latest piece of Veteran Affairs legislation on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. Both expressed general support for the intent of the bill but had reservations around;

The power of the Principal Member of the VRB to dismiss claims seen to be frivolous, vexatious or misconceived with no prospect of success. Essentially the issue is one of

transparency. It is felt that the definition of the terms "frivolous", "vexatious" and "misconceived" need to be spelt out and a timely report on each such dismissal should be made public.

Reference to "internal agreements" needed clarification.

The disclosure of information provisions needed to be tightened. And

Schedule 8 provisions that impact a veterans ability to claim special rate (VEA) or Special Rate Disability Pension (MRCA) because of an injury resulting from the same service that has been accepted under another Act.

#### **ADF Pay**

The proposed Workplace Remuneration Arrangement for 2017 – 19 is presently being negotiated between the ADF and Public Service Commissioner and is scheduled to be put before the Defence Remuneration Tribunal later this year. The RSL and DFWA are recognised "interveners" before the Defence Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT). DFWA is already working with the ADF Head Personnel Capability as part of its task to ensure a fair outcome for our serving personnel. As it did last time, DFWA will canvas ADF members for their views on the proposed arrangement when details are known and as last time will develop its case to be put before the DFRT based on the feedback received.

It is worth remembering that the views of the ADF last time (with some more than 11,000 responses) caused the Government to backtrack on its withdrawal of a number of ADF service conditions and improve its pay offer as a result of a DFWA campaign in conjunction with many in the Defence family.

## **The 2017 Budget**

The budget contained a number of measures that will be of benefit to ADF members and veterans. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said this year's Budget represented a significant increase in funding of \$350 million in support of veterans.

## **Mental Health Treatment**

The Government announced in the budget that it is expanding eligibility for treatment for those with mental health conditions. Under non-liability health care, DVA will pay for treatment of certain mental health conditions—PTSD, anxiety, depression, alcohol and substance use disorders—whether related to a veteran's military service or not. From 1 July 2016, the requirement to have served three years or more of continuous peace time service will be removed for those with permanent Australian Defence Force (ADF) service. The expansion of eligibility will also provide mental health treatment to those with permanent ADF service prior to 1972. The Government is allocating \$33.5 million for the expansion of the non-liability health care program.

The Minister said the Government understands that partners, families and former partners of veterans are affected by military service. In recognition of this, the Budget will provide \$8.5 million to expand eligibility for VVCS. Under this expanded provision partners and children of our contemporary veterans, who have had one day of full-time service, will have access to the services and support provided by VVCS, including counselling and group programs. Former partners of ADF personnel will also be able to access VVCS up to five years after a couple separates or while co-parenting a child under the age of 18.

As an initial step in the Government's response to the National Mental Health Commission's report into suicide prevention services, and its broader commitment to

addressing mental health issues, it was providing \$9.8 million to pilot new approaches to suicide prevention and improve care and support available to veterans.

The Mental Health Clinical Management Pilot will assess the benefits of providing intensive clinical management to help meet a veteran's complex mental health and social needs on discharge from a mental health hospital.

The Government will also pilot an expansion of the successful Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) program to improve support for veterans with both chronic physical and mental health conditions as a result of their service

VVCS is the frontline mental health service for those in the veteran community and is a vital service that saves lives. It is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046.

## **Veterans Employment Program**

The Government will provide \$2.7 million for the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program, launched in November last year. The money will be used to support the recently established Industry Advisory Committee, create an Ex-Service Organisation, an industry partnership register and develop and manage the annual Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Awards. The Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program is focussed on helping business appreciate the unique skills former ADF members can bring to a job.

## **Nuclear Test Participants**

The Government is to provide a Gold Card to cover the health care costs of the surviving participants of the British Nuclear Test program in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s.

## **BCOF Veterans**

Veterans who served as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) will be given a Gold Card to cover their health

care costs.

The Government has allocated \$133.1 million for this initiative to cover eligible Nuclear Test participants and BCOF veterans.

**Additional Budget Allocations provide for;**

\$9.1 million for accelerated access to rehabilitation services, streamlined access to Incapacity Payments, and improved access to the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated disability pension for veterans working past the age of 65.

\$1.2 million to continue the income support bonus for DVA clients receiving an Education Allowance under either the Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES), or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS).

**DVA ICT Systems**

The budget also provides funds to upgrade DVA ICT systems. Currently DVA uses more than 200 separate ICT applications to support its operations, and the disparate nature of these applications limits the Department's ability to provide "whole-of-client" support and care for veterans. Funding of \$166.6 million is to be provided in this year's Budget to implement the first stage of Veteran Centric Reform to modernise the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) antiquated ICT systems to provide easier access to DVA services. As part of this, DVA will implement a suite of initiatives to support members to successfully transition out of the ADF, such as conducting a two-year trial that will allow veterans to access medical treatment while their *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* or *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* claims are processed.

**Restoration of Pensioner Concession Cards**

Also included is the restoration of the Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) to people who stopped being eligible for a pension

payment due to changes to the assets test. Pensioners who lost eligibility on 1 January 2017 were given:

a non-income tested Low Income Health Care Card (LIC), and

if they were over pension age, a non-income tested Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC).

This measure will allow these non-pensioners to access:

hearing services from the Department of Health, and

discounts and concessions offered by States, Territories and private providers.

These non-pensioners will receive the PCC from 9 October 2017. It will not be income-tested or assets-tested. PCC card holders will need to meet other eligibility requirements. These include portability conditions.

These non-pensioners will also keep their CSHC. This will maintain their current Commonwealth benefits. This will make sure they continue to receive the Energy Supplement. The LIC will be deactivated.

**Energy Assistance Payment**

Subject to the passage of legislation, this measure (costed at \$18m) the Government will pay a one-off Energy Assistance Payment to eligible recipients to assist with energy costs. This will benefit more than 235,000 DVA clients. To be eligible, recipients must be Australian residents and be receiving one of the following payments:

Age /Service Pension

Veteran Disability/Disability Support Pension, or

Parenting Payment,

and be receiving more than the nil rate of payment as at 20 June 2017.

The amount of the one-off payment will be:

\$75.00 for single people, and



\$62.50 for each eligible member of a couple.

People who lodge a claim for one of the eligible payments on or before 20 June 2017 and are later granted will receive the payment. The One-off Energy Assistance Payment will be paid automatically to eligible income support and compensation recipients in the week commencing 26 June 2017. Compensation recipients will receive the single rate. The payment is not taxable and will not be counted as income. People who are temporarily overseas and receiving one of the above payments on 20 June 2017 will receive the One-off Energy Assistance Payment.

### What is missing!

No measures to address the long standing inequities in the Military Super Schemes e.g. refusal to use up to date life tables in calculating DFRDB fortnightly super payments; no decision on portability of preserved MSBS funds; no move to fairly index all DFRDB or MSBS fortnightly super payments. No move to accommodate the TPI's complaint on their Special Rate Pension falling behind in value. No provision for a meaningful outreach program for ADF personnel administered me oquine and related antimalarial drugs. No reinstatement of the provision of "top up" hearing aids when clinical needs dictate that requirement and no move to initiate a "military covenant" outlining the Nation's obligations towards and expectations of its service personnel.

### Ringwood Sub Branch Club News



Winter is upon us but the staff of our Sub Branch Club is there to provide a warm welcome and friendly service and the fire place in the ANZAC Bar will help keep

## 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.**

### THE ANGEL SQUAD



members  
warm.

comfortably

Unfortunately Colleen McKenna was unable to contribute to this edition. We look forward to Angel Squad returning for the 2017 end of year edition of Sapper Summit.

The Committee and Manager are looking over our operations to see how we can improve our service and the internal layout is being adjusted to try and make you more comfortable. We are also looking at adjusting the entertainment program to provide our members with events that are more in keeping with your desires.

My thanks also to those members who helped with our ANZAC Commemorations and to the staff who helped make the ANZAC Sunday and ANZAC Day so successful.

We have been successful in obtaining two government grants, one for the RSL Memorial Flag Pole at the corner of Kendall and Station Streets and the other for a memorabilia display cabinet and library in the VC Room in

*Continued p49.....*

*....continued*

honour of Ted Kenna VC. The Kendall Street



## 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**

## Merchandise News

We now have Royal Australian Engineers—Proud to Have Served, decals available for purchase.

We also have a new range of RAE Association clothing items in the pipeline.

Please check our web site regularly to check on availability and ordering details.

## Association Shirts & Caps Available to Order



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



## RAE Association Stickers Now Available

Click link for ordering details

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



## **Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Specialist Meeting for the Services.**

**Current & Past members including; Police, Fire, Ambulance, Army, Navy, Air Force, Prison etc; Sappers most welcome!**

### **The Phoenix Group:**

***Unity, Service, Recovery***

Phone: 24 hour help line

(03) 9429 1833

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

Facebook - AA Victoria

AlcoholicsAnonymous.Victoria

Facebook - AA Victoria News

Magazine

Alcoholicsanonymousnewsaustralia

Twitter

@aamelbourne

Instagram

alcoholicsanonymousvictoria#



flag pole will soon be joined by another funded by the Womens' Auxiliary on which the Auxiliary flag will be flown.

We continue to provide a full range of activities for members. The monthly raffle on the last Friday of each month has 50 draws for prizes ranging from large screen TVs and other electronic devices, weekends away for couples to garden tools and everything in between. We have bands on a regular basis and of course the bistro with its quality food from its extensive new menu and the children's playroom remains very popular.

### **Pension & Welfare Support**

The pension office is there to support all ex-service personnel and help them to compile and submit claims for DVA support. Kyme Ryan our welfare officer has a wealth of knowledge and an extensive network allowing her to provide expert advice and support to

the ex-service members and their families facing difficulties or just in need of advice on support services provided by DVA, local government or community organisations. If you need advice or assistance please call the Sub Branch on 98706604.

David Jamison: President

### **VALE WO1 John PRINTZ**

*The following is the text of an email sent to members by our Secretary, Jim Davis. It is reprinted here to give maximum recognition to the service of this fine sapper. Editor*

I have received advice of the passing of another very fine sapper in WO1 John Printz who passed away on Thursday evening 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 surrounded by his family.

John was a very active member of the Veterans family in the Latrobe Valley and worked tirelessly for the benefit of all Veterans.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 1992 John was awarded a Medal of Order of Australia (OAM) for his work with Veterans - the following is an extract of his citation;

*John served a total of 27 years in the Australian Regular Army and Army Reserve in the Infantry, Signals and Engineer Corps and on discharge was a WO1. He served in Malaya and Vietnam in 1965/6. He is a National Life member and has held a number of executive positions in the RSL and VVAA including VVAA National Secretary, National President and is currently Victorian State Advocate and Sub-branch Secretary. He currently holds the posts of Chairman of the Training and Information Program in Victoria and Facilitator of the Regional Veteran Centres*



*Project He is a former member of the National Advisory Committee to the VVCS and travelled to the US as part of the PTSD Investigation Team. John has been a practicing Welfare, Pension Officer and Advocate for 31 years, and holds a Certificate of Tribunal Advocacy*

On his return from Vietnam John joined the Army Reserve and I had the pleasure of serving with John when he was RSM 22<sup>nd</sup> Construction Regiment – he was huge in stature with a heart to match.

His daughter Angela was also a member of 22 CR.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad and difficult time – funeral arrangements as per family notices.

Whilst I had not caught up with John for a few years he certainly left an impression on me and I will remember him fondly

Vale – Rest in Peace

## **UBIQUE**

Jim

Jim Davis.  
Hon Secretary,  
RAE Association (Vic) Inc.

*The following article is published as a reader's contribution to Sapper Summit– Editor*

## **THE END OF AN ERA 21 and 22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENTS 1950 - 2013**

Dr J. K. Haken

The names of the 21 and 22 Construction Regiments, the original Supplementary, Reserve units were lost in 2013 after more than 60 years by amalgamation. While both regiments initially operated under the special Supplementary Reserve conditions, most service was under normal CMF (now Army Reserve) conditions.

After WW11 and demobilisation, the Military Force was almost negligible.

In late 1945 the Cairns Group of the Institution of Engineers recognised the shortage of military persons and suggested involvement of employees of state bodies under special conditions. The Council of the Institution considered a letter dated November 1945 from the Brisbane Division on behalf of the Cairns Group (1). The initial appeal to the Army was rejected, but a modified appeal was accepted. The approach was championed by Major General C. S. Steele, a member of the Council and WW11 Chief Engineer. The Secretary of the Department of Army in an undated letter, received by the Institution on 18 February 1949 approved a Supplementary Reserve

of 2 sponsored units, one each in N.S.W. and Victoria (2). The initial history leading to the introduction of the Supplementary Reserve was detailed in 1949 (3) and the units raised have been described (4).

The Victorian Regiment was the 22 Construction Regiment, while the New South Wales was the 21 Construction Regiment. Both were raised in 1950, long after Citizen Military Forces were introduced in 1948 (5).

Both Regiments published brief histories to mark their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2000 (6)(7). The organisational development of both regiments is outlined here.

The 21 Construction Regiment in New South Wales was raised on 28 August 1950, consisting of 101 Construction Squadron sponsored by the Department of Main Roads, 102 Construction Squadron sponsored by the Department of Public Works, 103 Construction Squadron sponsored by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board and the 108 Plant Squadron.

109 Construction Squadron an independent unit administered by the regiment was raised in 1951, sponsored by the Snowy Mountain Hydro-Electric Authority.

The regiment then became part of 5 Engineer Group which was raised on 29 July 1952 and on 1 July 1960 it was re-designated 11 Chief Engineer

(Works) (). 4-77

109 Construction Squadron was re-designated 201 Works Section in 1972 and became a CMF unit when its sponsor completed the project.

The regiment came under control of 2 Divisional Engineers in 1987.

103 Construction Squadron and 108 Plant Squadron were disbanded in 1987 and reformed as 26 Divisional Engineer Support Squadron.

In 1995 members assumed the same conditions as the CMF.

The regiment at disbandment consisted of Head-Quarters, 101 and 102 Construction Squadrons, Litoral and Riverine Survey Squadron and CIMACC Squadron.

On 23 November 2013 the regiment was disbanded, 101 Construction Squadron and Litoral and Riverine Survey Squadron were transferred to 5 Engineer Regiment, 102 Construction Squadron was transferred to 8 Engineer Regiment and CIMACC Squadron was transferred to Head-Quarters Staff 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (6) (8).

The 22 Construction Regiment was raised in Southern Command on 4 August 1950, consisting of 104 Construction Squadron sponsored by The County Roads Board, the 105 Construction Squadron sponsored by The State River And Water Supply Commission, 106 Construction Squadron sponsored by Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and 107 Plant Squadron (Heavy) sponsored by the County Roads Board and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Between 1960 and 1969 the title Light was substituted. The regiment was administered by the Chief Engineer's Branch Southern Command but in 1953 with the formation of 6 Engineer Group command was transferred.

In January 1963, two troops served in New Guinea with 21 Construction Squadron.

In May 1975 104 Construction Squadron was disbanded and the regiment consisted of Head-Quarters, 105 and 106 Construction Squadrons and 107 Plant Squadron (Heavy).

On 1 July 1992, 107 Plant Squadron (Heavy) became 107 Plant troop of 91, later 55 Resources Squadron.

On 3 December 1995, 55 Resources Squadron and 39 Electrical and Mechanical Squadron, joined the regiment together with 105 and 106 Construction Squadrons. Command transferred to Logistic Support Force in 1993 and to Land

Command Engineers on 1 July 2002 (7)(8). At the same time the 39 Electrical and Mechanical Squadron was re-designated 39 Construction Squadron.

In 1997, 106 Construction Squadron was absorbed by 105 Squadron and in 1999 55 Resources Squadron was also absorbed by 105 Squadron.

In 2011, regiment consisted of Head-Quarters, Works Section, 39 Construction Squadron and 105 Construction Squadron (9)

Re-designated 22 Engineer Regiment, formed by amalgamation with 4 Combat Engineer Regiment, effective 1 January 2014 (10).

Consists of Head-Quarters, 8 and 10 Combat Engineer Squadrons and 105 Works Squadron, formerly 105 Construction Squadron (11).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks to Mr B. A Campbell formerly Major (1965-1976) 105 Construction Squadron for his help.

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- Post War Army Document AWM
- R. Grant and K. McKinley Bridging the Gap A History of the 21 Construction Regiment, Royal Australian Engineers 1950-2000 Paragon Printers Melbourne
- Anon (Committee) 22 Construction Regiment Royal Australian Engineers Unit History A Brief Outline 1950-2000 RAE (Vic) Historical and Heritage Association Inc Oakleigh Barracks Victoria 2004
- P. J. Greville The Royal Australian Engineers Paving The Way 1945-1972 Vol 4 Corps Committee Royal Australian Engineers
- Anon 22 Construction Regiment Australian Sapper 2011
- Minister of Defence and Parliamentary

## Comradeship of Sappers





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

### **Vision Statement**

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

### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Objectives**

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

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

You can request an application form from:

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

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

### Membership Categories



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

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

Membership of the RAE Association Victoria costs \$15 per year with subscriptions due on 1 January each year. All members will receive an electronic copy of each issue Sapper Summit, the magazine of the Association. Hard copies will be available to members without email. Members can choose to receive coloured, hard copies in addition to their e-copies for an additional subscription fee. Contact the Secretary for details.

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#APPROXIMATE DATES OF SERVICE                      /     /     TO     /     /

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

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ /     /

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

Support the purposes of the Association.

Comply with the Constitution of the Association.

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

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

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

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

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR 2017 HAS BEEN SET AT \$20.00 AND IS PAYABLE NOW WITH YOUR APPLICATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE REVIEWED ANNUALLY AT THE AGM. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CHEQUE OR DIRECT CREDIT (see below). SHOULD YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT, IT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND ALLOW THE ASSOCIATION TO CONTINUE ITS WORK WITH IMPORTANT PROJECTS**

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

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



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

**Sapper Summit**

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