



"SAPPER SUMMIT"

RAE CORPS NEWSLETTER

**VICTORIAN
ENGINEERS**

March 2002

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Number 37

Have you paid your 2002 Subs for Sapper Summit??

If your name was printed in ORANGE on your address label, then you have not paid the current year's subscription ... a mere \$8.00 to keep in touch!

See page 9

EDITORIAL

As he has done for some twelve years, Cpl Eric Howatt from 4 Combat Engineer Regiment will lead a team of sapper-collectors and friends working for the Royal Childrens Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

It's a drill these days, with several businesses supporting the operation. The National Bus Company's coach will pick up Eric and his Ringwood mates from the depot. They'll work from intersections along Flemington Road and nearby major streets. They'll have a free slap-up lunch at the Albion Hotel in Curzon Street before the afternoon shift, finishing at Southbank for a meal and a drink. Finally the National bus will return them home.

Last year they extorted \$17,000, down on previous years because of the new freeways. However, over the years Ringwood units have raised almost \$200,000 for 'the Childrens.' Once the gang collected in uniform, until a middle-ranking officer saw them on television; some might even have been enjoying a well earned beer! They still invariably make the television news!

Eric's association with the hospital, of which he's an Honorary Life Governor, stems from the long illness of his son, Adam, who died of a very rare cancer in 1989. Deeply grateful for the care shown to Adam, Eric vowed to reciprocate. Since then he's collected money by running events and raffles, and, also with the help of sapper friends, organised numerous dinners for families staying at Ronald McDonald House. He knows how tough it is,

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waiting, hoping for your child to recover from some very difficult illness.

Beyond his charity work, Eric, now 48, has returned to full-time duty as operations sergeant at 4 CER. Normally a postman, his first stint with the Regular Army was during 2000, the Olympic year. He loved it so much, Eric came back for more in January 2002, his twenty-third year in the RAE.

It's not widely known, but throughout 2000, three Ringwood corporals and seventeen soldiers signed up as members of the Joint Instant Response Unit. Eric commanded a regular section of ten men in the High Risk Search Squadron. The group started with six months intensive training in Queensland, both technical and field.

Individual soldiers would go away to learn how to operate the various items of high-tech, non-destructive search equipment, then come back and train everyone else. The men field-tested gear, and in many cases reported on strengths and weaknesses direct to the manufacturers. Much of the field training was in rugged country – adventure activities to build morale, confidence and trust within sections.

Eric came home to carry the Olympic torch through Healesville; which he enjoyed immensely.

East Hills camp in Sydney's west was home for the last half of the year. Visits to one's real home were very occasional - indeed the men only ever got single days off. Transport was Army vehicles, and occasionally a helicopter. Eric recalls with amazement that, during the Games, Sydney's legendary fierce and full-on traffic was really very manageable.

The sappers worked flat-out, usually at night, visiting every venue and accommodation area. They relished the many insights behind the scenes into how each program was organised. They saw rehearsals for the opening ceremony. They even got a smile from Chelsea Clinton when they cleared her car and the lobby of her hotel.

At the end, the army awarded Eric a certificate of commendation, now hanging on the wall at the home on the edge of Melbourne which Eric shares with wife Joanne, and children Mark, Neil and Sarah. If you want to financially support this likeable and principled NCO with his insoluble ties to one of the world's best hospitals, you can contact him at Ringwood, or by email: erichowatt@defence.com.au

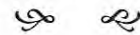
Next issue we'll investigate the Olympic experiences of 22 Construction Regiment.



SUCCESSFUL SIR CLIVE STEELE LECTURE

On Friday 23 November last year, Lt Col Bill Van Ree, the current CO of 22 Construction Regiment, gave the Sir Clive Steele Lecture at Ringwood. The lecture was well attended by both current and former serving members. He spoke on the problems of developing appropriate landmine clearance strategies.

His experience comes from mine clearance work with the Army in overseas theatres and as head of the United Nations civil program in Afghanistan from 1993. The talk was highly informative and appropriate, given we are going through "Afghanistan Revisited" since September 11. Unfortunately, much of the good work done in the 1990's was destroyed in 2001.



"SAPPER SUMMIT" NEEDS PRACTICAL SUPPORT

Readers are reminded that their views on various aspects of the committee's activities are always welcome and any contribution you may have to offer would be very much appreciated. Should you have any suggestions regarding the following, the committee would be pleased to hear from you.

(1) FUTURE SIR CLIVE STEELE LECTURES

Les Malseed would appreciate any suggestions on future speakers or subjects. His telephone is: 5977 9968.

(2) ARTICLES FOR "SAPPER SUMMIT"

We welcome news items, suggestions, letters to the editor, etc, including any constructive criticisms, either to Bruce Campbell on Tel: 9568 0320; or Austin Byrne on Tel: 9803 1061 or email to: austbyrne@bigpond.com. Our deadlines for articles for this year's issues are:

- May issue ... by 3 May
- August issue ... by 16 August
- November issue ... by 1 November

COMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Anzac Day 2002 falls on a Thursday, and will be celebrated with the usual ceremonies, including a Dawn Service at the Oakleigh Barracks.

The ceremony at the Oakleigh Barracks will follow the normal arrangements:

0530 hours	Gunfire Breakfast
0600 hours	Dawn Service
0630 hours	Breakfast in gym

(contribution requested).

The Old Sappers Association do not intend providing a bus this year for personnel wishing to go to the City for the March and Shrine service. The use of the bus has fallen away over recent years, and it is no longer viable.

Personnel who are going to the March are reminded to wear hats as a protection against the sun's rays, wind and weather.

4 CER will, as usual, be fully committed providing guards and cataflaque parties to local ceremonies. The Ringwood service will be at the Clock Tower under the aegis of Ringwood RSL.



MAY EXCURSION

Steele-Lincoln Foundary, Dandenong May, 2002

Bill Atkins has the job of arranging excursions for us. He has organized a visit to Doug Maxwell's foundaries at Dandenong during May. Doug was RSM at 7 FER at Ringwood in the 1970's.

Details are:

Location: Steele-Lincoln Foundary (Vic) Pty Ltd
318 Hammond Road, Dandenong

Host: Doug Maxwell

Timing: 1.30pm start; lasts about 2 hours
Includes afternoon tea.

The tour will include:

- Ferrous foundry (Cast iron & steel)
- Non ferrous foundry (Silicon bronze)
- Electrolytic induction furnaces
- Chemical bonded sand cores
- Spectrographic chemical analysis
- Moulds for Australian Glass Industry

Doug cannot confirm a date at the moment because of other work. However it will either be in early May or in late May. If you are interested, ring

Bill Atkins before mid April on 5996 1013. At that stage he will be able to confirm the visit date.

WATERLOO DINNER

This year's Waterloo Dinner will mark the Centenary of the Engineer Corps in the Australian Army, the Corps having been formed following Federation, from the various State Engineer units. The official date of the Corps formation was 1 July 1902.

The Dinner will be held on Saturday 15 June. Details of the Dinner are included in an insert in this issue.

The RAE Corps Officers Mess Golf Day 2002

Evans-Zoller Memorial Trophy

Captain Bill McAuley is still in the throws of arranging the Annual Golf Day.

The following details are fixed:

Date: Thursday, 10 October, 2002.
Venue: The Royal Melbourne Golf Club,
Cheltenham Road, Black Rock
Cap on numbers: 20 players

Timings and other details are provisional:

Timings: Arrive NLT 1130 for lunch
Arrive NLT 1400 for golf only.
Luncheon served 1200-1400 hours.
Tee off: 1430 sharp.

Full details will be in the next issue of Sapper Summit, including an entry form.

You can make a phone booking with Capt McAuley, or get the final details by contacting him on (03) 5489 3218 or Mobile 0428 486 018.



RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH MONDAY 1 JULY 2002.

There is to be a parade in Melbourne on 1st July to celebrate Reserve Forces Day and support will be provided this year by members of the permanent forces.

The above information was provided by MajGen G Garde AM RFD QC ACRES at the conclusion of his address to members of the Naval and Military Club in Melbourne on 20/2/02.

MajGen Garde addressed the members on Government Policy and initiatives with regard to the ARES. Further details will be included in the next issue of Sapper Summit, as will full details of the March.

The 2001 March was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all participating. So mark this date in your diary for 2002 and help the RAE put on another good show.



NEWS FROM THE UNITS

4 CER

Since the last Sapper Summit, 4CER participated in the first 4BDE combined arms Exercise Hamel at Puckapunyal in Late Nov 2001. The exercise was designed to test the deployment capability of the BDE units. 4CER deployed a Fd Tp and Plt Sect to the exercise commanded by a Sqn HQ, and OC 10 Combat Engr Sqn, MAJ Longmire was the Engr LO to the EXCON.

While the exercise involved only trained soldiers 4CER supplied another 20 pers (pre Initial employment training) to act as an enemy for the exercise. They were treated to a wide range of new experiences including mech familiarisation. The Ex was deemed a success with engr support to the Rear Area Security (RAS) rotation with strongpoint construction, Vital Asset Protection (VAP) and Vehicle Check Points (VCP). The mounted company rotation was supported with Battle Noise Simulation (BNS) and the Medium Girder Bridge (MGB) for gap crossings. The third rotation was a company defensive position with general engr support in the construction of the CP and RAP. The planties were occupied with general exercise support and running a concurrent plant upgrade course.

On the 15th Dec 01, 4CER conducted the hand-over parade from the outgoing CO, LTCOL Don Hughes, to the incoming CO, LTCOL Greg Mirabella. The parade was reviewed by COMD 4BDE BRIG Alkemade.

The COMD presented the following awards:
 Soldiers Medallion LCPL Robinson
 Soldiers Medallion SPR Saritschniy

Annual Unit Awards:

Best JNCO	LCPL M. Skoblar
Leadership	LCPL M. Poole
Proficiency	SPR B. Bishop
Best Sapper	SPR Rowland

Promotions

MAJ S. Cowie
 WO2 D. Colligan
 WO2 J. Brown

There is a lot in store for the year ahead from the standard requirements of Army Individual Readiness Notice (AIRN) to HAMEL 02, Corps skills and BDE Offr training. 4CER will also be driving recruiting as a priority to fill the new SED and meet LCOMD directives. Full time manning has been an issue recently with the raising of a new RAE unit in Holsworthy, the Incident Response Regiment (IRR), and six reserve members are now on FTS. The discipline, development and progression of soldiers is in good hands with WO1 J. Cochbain marching in as the RSM.



4th COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENT REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE JOE COCHBAIN

SERVICE HISTORY

Warrant Officer Class One Joe Cochbain enlisted into the Australian Regular Army on 3 April 1979 and after completing 13 weeks Recruit Training at Kapooka, he was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers as a Field Engineer.

WO1 Cochbain has served in a variety of units including 17th Construction Squadron 1979 to 1985, where he was promoted to Corporal, Recruit Instructor at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion 1986 to 1988, Section Commander 2 Troop (Airborne) at 1st Field Squadron, 2/3 Field Engineer Regiment 1988 to 1990. In 1990 he was posted to the School of Military Engineering as a Sergeant Instructor Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence. During 1991 he was posted to the United Nations Mine Clearance Training Team serving in both Pakistan and clearance operations in Afghanistan. At the completion of a six month tour of duty, he returned to the School of Military Engineering as a SGT instructor in the mine warfare cell. In 1993 WO1 Cochbain was posted on promotion as Troop Staff Sergeant of 3 Field Troop (Mechanised) 1st Field Squadron, 1st Combat Engineer Regiment until 1996. WO1 Cochbain received his Warrant on posting back to the School of Military Engineering in 1997. During this time

he was the Officer In Charge of two training sections at Combat Engineer Wing until being posted as the Squadron Sergeant Major for 3 years with the Australian Defence Force Chemical Biological Radiological Response Squadron from 1999 to 2001.

In addition to his Combat Engineer skills, WO1 Cochbain has qualified as a Recruit Instructor, Driver, Parachutist (Static Line), Nuclear Biological Chemical Defence Instructor, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, Search Adviser, Driver M113A1, Crew Commander M113A1, Instructor M113A1 all variants, Trade Testing Officer M113A1 (all variants), Instructor Gunnery and Floating Support Bridge Instructor. In addition WO1 Cochbain has qualified as a Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessor and is currently undertaking studies for a Bachelors Degree in Education.

WO1 Cochbain has had operational service with the United Nations, Bougainville, and a number of operational Explosive Ordnance Disposal /Chemical Disposal tasks in the South Pacific and Australia. To date WO1 Cochbain has been awarded the Australian Service Medal with Peshawar and Bougainville clasps, the Defence Force Service Medal with clasp and the United Nations Special Service Medal.

WO1 Cochbain enjoys most sports, particularly touch football and rugby union/League. His other interests include reading, fishing, medal mounting and photography. WO1 Cochbain is married to Mel, and has three young sons 10yo, 6yo and 14 months.

WO1 Cochbain was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 4th Combat Engineer Regiment on the 14th January 2002.



22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

LtCol W Van Ree has recently reported that he is engaged in a detailed review of the 22 Construction Regiment organisation.

He expects that this will result in the expansion of the Regiment to two Squadrons and supporting sub-units. Details will be included in our May edition.



105 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON

105 Construction Squadron has a Construction Troop, a Plant Troop, a Resources Troop and a Training Troop. This report comes from Cpl Phil Dall, acting Troop S/Sgt, on the work done by the Construction Troop:

During the second half of last year the Construction Troop went through a bit of an upheaval, while still being fully committed to small construction tasks. The first task was a renovation job at 3 Recovery Depot at Korumburra which ran over two weekends.

From there we ventured up to the Mt Blowhard job, replacing the bottoms of the external support post. A new floor was built in the old snow plow shed section, together with an external front wall. This was installed on a weekend when it snowed. "We didn't want it to snow" as this weekend was to test our driving skills and equipment.

Following this, we had the CO's Challenge, and the December parade weekends to do, before we could make time to return and finish the roof on the veranda at the Puckapunyal Mill Site. Corrugated iron sheets were screwed on the wall at the Mt Blowhard hut, while all the time attempting to give our construction trainees as much hands on as possible to get the work done.

We are looking forward to this year. After the Course camps in February, we hope to have a Construction troop AFX, demolishing then rebuilding the other part of the Mt Blowhard hut as planned by Capt Tipton.



VALE

364206 WO 11 Edgar Thomas Vial
26/8/1934 – 12/11/2001

Members of the RAE family were saddened by the sudden death of our respected member WO11 Edgar Thomas (Eddie) Vial, on 12 November 2001.

Eddie Vial commenced his military service as a teenage member of the Scotch College Cadet Unit in the 1940's, and continued, first as a National Serviceman.

He enlisted G Coy, 15 NS Bn as a Sapper on 18/8/53, his Platoon Commander being the then Lt Brian Florence - later to become Col Florence; well known as OC 1 Fd Sqn then CI at SME. He received the MC in Vietnam in 1967.

On completion of his 3 months initial training Eddie, on Lt Florence's suggestion, was appointed to 3 Fd Engr Regt at Swan Street, on 29/11/53. There he quickly became involved in NCO Promotion Courses, which he continued until 1958, resulting in a rapid series of promotions, first to T/Cpl on 29/9/54, T/Sgt on 5/7/55, T/S/Sgt on 11/12/57 and substantive S/Sgt on 20/2/60. He was then appointed WO11 on 17/6/63.

His service in RAE included appointments to 8 Fd Sqn, then a sub unit of 3 Fd Engr Regt, on 18/8/58, followed by a short period in 2 MC Trg Gp commencing on 10/7/59, before transferring to 3 FER on 13/8/60, and returning again to 8 Fd Sqn on 27/4/61.

He served initially at Swan St (then referred to as Batman Avenue) but moved with RAE 3 Div to Ringwood probably on 1/11/64. He returned to 8 Fd Sqn again on 22/11/66 with the appointment of SSM, and finally took his discharge, at own request, on 27/5/68.

His service was recognised by the award of the Efficiency Medal on 16/9/66.

His service included extensive periods in charge of Squadron and Regimental Orderly Room activities, where he was most efficient and earned the reputation for ensuring that when he was in charge, everything worked smoothly.

He also enjoyed a short period as Acting RSM.

After retirement Eddie joined the RAE Association at Ringwood, being for a short period Asst Treasurer, before being elected President in 1995, a position he held until his death.

In February 1999 Eddie joined the RAE Historical & Heritage Committee and was immediately elected Secretary. In that position he also had a major role in the production of Sapper Summit, for which he carried out formatting and arranged printing throughout the years 2000 - 2001. In fact the production of the November issue had just been commenced at the time of his death, hence the use of a different format for that issue.

Another important contribution made by Eddie was to the production of the bibliography of approx. 1000 names for the book RAE History Vol 4, which is now about to be printed. For this project

Eddie was one of a small group of volunteers organised by the Historical & Heritage Committee, who met weekly over a period of about 15 months, to peruse military records and compile data on all personnel mentioned in the book. Eddie spent 2 days a week on this task and completed all the computer data input.

Eddie suffered what appeared to be a minor heart attack in September 2001.

By-pass surgery was prescribed but, in the lead up to this, a cancer problem was also discovered. Nevertheless it was decided first to proceed with heart surgery, and after passing over his various files and records on Cup Eve, Eddie, in his usual cheerful manner, entered hospital on Cup Day and was operated on the next day. Although the operation was proclaimed a success, unfortunately he never recovered consciousness afterwards and died the following Monday.

Eddie is survived by his three sisters, each of whom took a part in his funeral service, held on 15/11/01. They all spoke of his contribution to the family, his role as uncle to their various children and his interest in his various hobbies, including photography, fishing and shooting.

Many of Eddie's RAE friends including serving members in uniform, RAE Association members and most of the Historical & Heritage Committee members attended the funeral, with Committee Chairman Bruce Campbell speaking of Eddie's contribution to the RAE.

Eddie will be sadly missed by all his friends and associates in the Sapper family, to whom he was always such a great friend and supporter and we all join in extending our sympathy to his family.

VALE

**3162062 Capt Douglas Campbell (Doug) Boyle
RFD ED.
18/9/1932 – 23/11/2001.**

Capt Doug Boyle, a member of RAE Historical & Heritage Committee, passed away on 23 November 2001, after a lengthy battle with illness.

Doug had been a tremendous contributor to RAE in Victoria over a period of 4 decades, first as a member of 22 Construction Regiment and later as a member of the RAE Historical & Heritage Committee.

Doug qualified as a Mechanical Engineer after completing studies first at Bendigo High School, followed by Bendigo Technical College and Bendigo School of Mines.

On completion of his studies Doug worked first with Department of Works and Housing in Canberra, then the English Company Wallace & Tiernan, before joining the then Country Roads Board of Victoria, as a Mechanical Engineer.

Doug's friends in the CRB lost no time in persuading him to join the 22 Construction Regiment, and he was enlisted into the CRB's sponsored 104 Const Sqn on 5/9/60. He immediately demonstrated his soldierly abilities by winning the Regimental rifle shoot, at his first Annual Camp.

Doug quickly moved through the NCO ranks, being promoted T/Cpl on 1/4/61 then T/Sgt on 1/8/63. On completion of his studies for Commissioned rank he was made Lieutenant on Prob. on 1/4/64 and his rank was confirmed on 2/10/65.

On completion of further studies he was then promoted Captain on 3/11/71.

His appointments in 22 Regt included:

1964-67	Troop Comd, 104 Const Sqn
1968-75	Adj. 22 Const Regt
1975	Short period as Admin Comd 107 Plt Sqn
May/Sept 1979	2ic 22 Const Regt

He then retired, on reaching age 47, on 18/9/1979.

Doug was best remembered in 22 Regt for his excellent work as Regimental Adjutant in 1968-75 as well as his fine work in conducting NCO Promotion and Driver's courses.

Doug's service was recognised by the award of both the Reserve Forces Decoration and the Efficiency Decoration.

Some time after retirement, when the RAE Historical & Heritage Committee was formed in April 1992, Doug became a foundation member and continued to carry out his role there, with particular emphasis on maintaining the Sapper Summit mailing list, until failing health led him to revert to being "just an ordinary member".

He also carried out valuable work as a member of the volunteer group preparing the bibliography for RAE History Vol 4.

Throughout his service career and his Committee membership Doug was remembered as a hard worker, a trusted friend and a quiet contributor who had positive opinions on matters and "always called a spade a spade".

Doug's funeral, held in the High Street Road Uniting Church, Mt Waverley on 29/11/01 was attended by more than 200 people, including family and friends and many of his associates from CRB, RAE, and the Masonic Lodge, in which he had taken a most active role. Members of his family took part in the service and the principal eulogy was given by his old friend Keith West.

Doug's interests also included golf, athletics, baseball, tennis, swimming and maintaining the family motor cars, in all of which his abilities ranged from being simply proficient to quite outstanding. In later years one of his greatest pleasures was to spend time on board RAN ships with his son Roger, who has in recent years held a command position in the RAN.

Doug is survived by his wife Jenny, who provided tremendous support in all his activities, son Roger and daughter Felicity and their spouses, and their 3 grandsons.

All members of the RAE express sincere sympathy to Jenny and her family on Doug's death - he will be sadly missed by us all.



ASSOCIATION REPORTS

22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT

REUNION

The Reunion was held at Bendigo over the weekend 9-11 November 2001.

On Friday night some 30 members and partners met at the Services Club for a counter tea, a few drinks and a yarn.

Saturday was a day of leisure to do what your partner wanted. Some went on the Talking Tram, some down the Gold Mine, some to Bendigo Pottery, some to other attractions in Bendigo and some rested. A semi-formal dinner was held at the Services Club on Saturday evening and 49 persons attended. It was good to see old faces and to

reminisce on former times.

On Sunday morning we attended the Remembrance Service at the Bendigo memorial. In the crowd was Major Tom Glazebrook AM RFD ED (Retd). Many ex-members congratulated him on his recent award. A BBQ was held in the park for lunch and hopefully all returned to their homes safely.

Thanks to Barry Carboon and family, and to Peter Bloor, for organising an enjoyable weekend.

RAE VIETNAM ASSOCIATION

The AGM of the RAE Vietnam Association Inc, was held at the Turf Club Hotel, North Melbourne, on 21st October 2001.

The same committee was re-elected:

Patron: Col John Wertheimer
President: Alan Brown
Vice-President: Roger Herren
Secretary/Treasurer: Max & Loraine Livingston

Newspaper Editor : Bobby Pride
Committee members are Allan Rantall, George Hawkins, Jim Muir, Jim Crosling and Les Cowell.

A motion was adopted to try and recruit new members to the RAE Vietnam Association Inc. A second adopted motion was to make a donation to the RAE Vietnam Memorial, S.M.E.

This year's Anzac Day will be our 20th Anniversary of the Association. Our first re-union was held at the Vacluse Hotel in 1983 and 63 members attended. Our annual re-union now has up to 150 members attending.

Hoping to see you all at the Turf Club after the March.

16 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

It is 50 years since 16 Construction Regiment was formed. It was a Supplementary Reserve Unit and was sponsored by the State Electricity Commission. Its last Annual Camp was in 1975.

As part of the celebrations, former members are holding an Anniversary Lunch at the Oakleigh Barracks on Sunday 13 October 2002, starting with pre-lunch drinks at 11.30 am.

The organizers would like an early indication of numbers to help with catering arrangements. Those interested should contact:

Lt Bob Fitzwilliam, tel 9889 5791

Capt David Eakins, tel 5253 2780

OLD SAPPERS ASSOCIATION INC FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Association is currently planning two events to coincide with the centenary year of our Corps.

- Firstly, our Waterloo Dinner will be held at the Noble Park RSL Clubrooms on 9 June.
- Secondly, we plan to be at SME on 1 July for the centenary activities. To achieve this we plan to hire a coach, travel to Sydney on Sunday 30 June, attend SME on Monday 1 July, visit Canberra on Tuesday and travel home on Wednesday.

We urge all members to attend the next Association meeting Sunday 10 March when we will decide the finer details of this trip. For inquiries or early bookings please contact Jim Crosling on 9438 2273.

Please note our association will not be providing buses to the Shrine on Anzac Day but the Dawn Service will be as usual at Oakleigh Barracks.

RAE ASSOCIATION

The Association was saddened to hear of the death of its esteemed President, Eddie Vial, in early November, and remain highly appreciative of all his efforts.

All the members of the Association join in extending our sympathy to his family.

WE WERE WRONG

The Editor apologises for an incomplete report on service by S/Sgt Raymant, which appeared in 22 Regiment's Activity Report, published in Edition 36 of Sapper Summit.

The report mentioned 32 years service by S/Sgt Peter Raymant. In fact he served a total of 42 years, made up of 7 years and 9 months in CMF, 6 years in the RAAF and 28 years and 3 months in the ARes/G Res.

Like all good newspapers nowadays we'll blame the error on information provided by a reporter!
Happy retirement, Peter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We received a letter from Col Peter Hutchinson who is being posted away from Victoria. It is a great epistle. After complimenting us on our 'excellent rag', he offered the following 'few thoughts':

As I leave Victoria for possibly the last time as a resident (at least for the foreseeable future), I thought I would give you a few thoughts as a senior regular Sapper in the State. I have thoroughly enjoyed my times back in my home state with postings at HQ 3MD, OC 21 Construction Squadron and more recently as Commander Combined Arms Training and Development (CATDC) and now Commandant Army Combat Arms Training Centre (CATC).

Victoria is a great State to live in and I have had challenging and enjoyable jobs, working with wonderful people. In particular, I believe Army has undersold Puckapunyal and other Victorian postings. Hopefully, I have done my bit to redress this and much more still needs to be done. Brigadier Vince Williams as the Army Area Representative for Puckapunyal is working on this.

Over my time in Victoria, I have been disappointed to see the demise of 6 Engr Gp, LSF Engrs and the downsizing of the RAE GRes capability. Army has now realized it needs to improve engineer command and control for operations and that our overall sapper strength is at a critical point. Col Rod West as CLCE has been working hard to provide options for the Land Commander in this regard. There is also a window of opportunity to take a leading role in Civil Affairs. You may recall that Gen Gratton commanded 1 CA Unit in Vietnam. I challenge all senior sappers to contribute to the debate and development of options here.

The current challenges and opportunities in Army, whether part time or full time members, are the most exciting in my 27 years of soldiering. I hope to be able to continue to contribute as I move off to Defence College for a year of stimulating networking, reflection and study. I hope that you all continue to enjoy your 'Sappering' and that those of you who are in a position to do so, take up the challenge of addressing some of these key issues I have raised.

Good luck to you all and 'Follow the Sapper'.

P J Hutchinson
Col
Commandant
Army Combat Arms Training Centre

AN EVENING OUT ??

Kiss Me, Kate!

A past member, Peter George, is involved in the Barbirra Music Theatre. He says anyone who comes along will have a good night at their forthcoming production of ***Kiss Me, Kate***.

Dates are 31st May to 15th June at the Whitehorse Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

For further information, ring tel 9878 4979.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Historical and Heritage Committee held its AGM on 6th February 2002. There were ten members present and the following office bearers were elected:

Chairman	Bruce Campbell
Vice-Chairman	Les Malseed
Secretary	Austin Byrne
Treasurer	Norm Dodgson

The main work of the Committee over the last year was the production of four editions of Sapper Summit, arranging excursions and the presentation of the Sir Clive Steele Lecture. Additionally, work is continuing on the production of "The History of 22 Regiment's First 50 Years".

Bruce Campbell paid particular tribute to the two Committee members who passed away in November. Capt Doug Boyle and WO2 Eddie Vial had both put many hours of work into the Committee.

Over 95% of the Committee's expenditure was Sapper Summit production and mailing (Approximately \$500 per edition). The main concern of the Committee is the reduction in the mailing list. The work and cost of magazine production could not be justified if the paying readership was to fall away further.

SAPPER SUMMIT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2002 ARE DUE NOW

It costs the Historical & Heritage Committee approximately \$2.00 to produce, print and mail out each copy of Sapper Summit. The Committee only has three sources of funds for this work:

- The Corps Committee pays for about 100 copies distributed to 4CER and 22 Const Regt. They also pay for a limited distribution of "official" copies to other Engineering Units, Unit Associations, and places such as the National Library of Australia.

- The RAE Association at Ringwood pays an annual contribution to cover all its members (about 70)
- Payment by individuals who forward a cheque in response to a reminder in Sapper Summit.

The problem with readers in the last category is that they are often not sure if they have paid for the current year or not AND the problem for the Committee is 'at what stage do you drop non-payers off the mailing list'?

Our solution is to COLOUR CODE the address label.

If your label is blue, then your subscription is paid by the RAE Association at Ringwood.

If your label is ALL in black, you do not need to pay. Either the Corps Committee has paid for you, or you have already forwarded us a cheque for 2002.

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