

RAE CORPS MAGAZINE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc



SAPPER SUMMIT

Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper



Sappers on Parade ANZAC Day

Despite many community restrictions that have been imposed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, serving and retired sappers turned out to commemorate ANZAC Day in various forms in 2021. These will feature in this edition of Sapper Summit. This edition will also cover the Association's activities as well as take readers to the sky over Europe in World War 2 in a powerful, very personal story.

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SAPPER SUMMIT

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and its activities can be found on our website:
www.raevictoria.com



<u>Inside this issue:</u>	Page
President's Column	3
CO Column	4
From The Regiment	4
Op Storm Assist	6
ANZAC Day 2021	10
Shelter from Attack	11
Ringwood RSL ANZAC March	11
Podcast	15
ANZAC Day in Pictures	16
Sapper Profile	19
Post 1975 Obelisk	20
Sapper Muster 21	21
Kapooka Tragedy Excursion	26
Neil Christie	32
Cockatoo Rise Opening	36
Letter to the Editor	39
Memorial Service P. Von Schneider	40
Hamish Goddard	41
Good Friday Appeal	44
Flying in Bomber Command	46
Sir Peter Scratchley's Sword	51
Artist, Miner, Sapper	52
Welfare and Support	55
RSL President's Column	55
RAE Overwatch	58
Merchandise	63

This edition of Sapper Summit contains a diverse range of articles and reports. I thank each contributor for their efforts in providing material that is informative, reflective and thought provoking. Your contributions are vital to keeping this magazine relevant to the serving and retired sapper communities. Editor

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President's Column

Despatches

from the President's Bunker:



Greetings Fellow Victorian Sappers,

The annual Sapper's Muster in February provided a most welcome get-together for Victorian Sapper's of all ranks, trades and backgrounds. We said happy retirement to a stalwart of Sapping in Victoria, Warrant Officer Class One Neil Christie, after an exemplary and exciting 47 years.

The Victorian Sapper family was deeply saddened in March with the devastating news of the untimely and tragic passing of both Officer Cadet Hamish Goddard and Staff Sergeant Colin Haggett - both well-respected sappers. Both were honoured with moving ceremonies.

At Easter, "Jock" Howatt and his team raised a

record \$30,000 for the **Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal**. An unapparelled effort – well done!

Still navigating our way through the remnants of COVID restrictions, we paid respectful homage to our fallen comrades with numerous ANZAC day ceremonies around the State, living up to our motto of UBIQUE.

The History & Heritage Team visited **Fort Queenscliff** to gain further ideas for the ongoing expansion of our History Rooms. They also liaised with **Puffing Billy Railway** to erect further "Heritage Trail Markers" and revitalise our "Gold Pass" for use by all Victorian Sappers and their families.

The need for a well-trained, ready and flexible ADF remains paramount. 22nd Engineer Regiment (*Victoria's Own Sappers*) continued to focus on ensuring they meet the country's defence needs. At the helm, the CO and RSM, LTCOL Scott D'Rozario and WO1 Mark Everingham, are ably assisted by a vibrant and talented team. The 70th (1950-2020) *Short History of the Regiment* is reaching penultimate completion. The Regiment deployed in June to provide Storm Damage assistance to greater Victoria.

A memorable pilgrimage was undertaken in May to pay our respects at the **Kapooka Tragedy Memorial** near Wagga Wagga and to visit a number of heritage and museum sites along the way. The memorial was recently upgraded with assistance from 22 ER and a donation from the Association.

Our AGM was also conducted in May with the Association fortunate to have such a focused, committed and diverse committee re-elected. Due to a significantly increased civilian work commitment, Duncan Howarth has moved

into a support role and Bill Van Ree has taken on the role of Treasurer.

Any member of the Association can assist in helping the committee tackle the important array of issues and functions for Sappers in Victoria. Our Association continues to grow and prosper with 377 members.

**Good Sapping & UBIQUE,
D.C. (Don) Hughes**



Below: Images from the Kapooka Tragedy Memorial excursion



From The Regiment



CO 22 Engineer Regiment



From the CO—LTCOL

Scott D'Rozario

It's definitely great to be posted back to the Corps. I genuinely missed the 22ER camaraderie. I want to thank the entire 22ER Unit group as well as the Association for the welcoming and inviting approach they have had towards both the RSM (WO1 Mark EVERNINGHAM) and myself this year.

Before I continue, it would be remiss of me not to thank LTCOL Sharon COATES (CO 22ER 2018-2020) for the guidance of 22ER over the past 3 years and to acknowledge that she was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for her exemplary leadership and dedication as CO - JTG646.2 on OP Bushfire Assist 2019-20 (a Task Group that was 22ER heavy and led).

Over the last two years I was observing 22ER from afar (well from 4 Bde) and observed all the great work that the Unit was performing and all of its achievements. I observed the Unit deploy as part of the Whole of Government response to the Bushfire threat (Op Bushfire

Assist 2019-20) and then back it up with support to the response to the global pandemic, that has impacted us all (Op COVID-19 Assist). The Unit truly has shown that it can be relied on to get the job done and support the community.

2021 has presented its challenges for a new Command Team already. A new CO, RSM and ADJT trying to settle in and then we were faced with the Victorian COVID Circuit Breaker Lock-Down. This impacted 22ER significantly as this period was planned to be a Regiment kickstart for 2021 to get the Unit all together after 8 months of remote parading and to set the tone of the year. Unfortunately, we were unable to run the activity that would have increased the Unit Compliance. As a result, we have spent a lot of effort in 2021 trying to catch up on governance and compliance requirements.

The Unit was able to get into the field once before ANZAC day and was able to do some

basic soldiering skills. It truly was great to see members' skills (some were initially pretty rusty), shake it off and show that SAPPERING spirit. Members were actually smiling after doing a fire and movement drill. Unfortunately, ANZAC day 2021, again due to the virus, was restricted but the Unit was well represented across the community with catafalque parties in Ringwood, Upwey/ Belgrave, Morwell and Warrandyte

The unit is looking forward to the first Construction Block for 2021 and the Demolitions activity Mid May. I am truly fortunate to come into a unit of dedicated, competent members who want the Unit to achieve the best. We still face current challenges as a Unit – working within the 'COVID Normal' whilst trying to attain the various Readiness requirements whether that be AIRN or completing the various courses to make the Unit as ready as possible.



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 rent, 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:
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Contact:
Tel: 02 8782 8822 Fax: 02 8782 8842
Email: AAMSE.mailbox@defence.gov.au

Hours:
ADF Members and Defence Civilians: Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm
General Public: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Visits commence at 9:45am and 12:45pm
Other times can be arranged by appointment



22ER currently still have members deployed in support of Op COVID-19 Assist and we are able to provide more if there is a requirement. Further we are again in the process of providing members in support of the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Programme to support our indigenous communities.

We all still have the challenges ahead posed by the COVID-19 environment so stay safe. Thank you all for your ongoing commitment and I look forward to the rest of my tenure as CO of the 22nd Engineer Regiment, a Unit that is Committed, Capable and Ready.

Scott D'Rozario



OP STORM ASSIST in Pictures









More pictures of the post storm operations in Victoria can be found at :
<https://images.defence.gov.au/assets/Home/Search?Query=%3Fq%3Ds20211990&Type=HomepageAlbum&AlbumName=s20211990> Sapper Summit acknowledges the Department of Defence as the source of some of the above photos.

ANZAC 2021

UBIQUE

From the President:

ANZAC DAY commemorations this year highlighted the motto of the Royal Australian Engineers – UBIQUE (everywhere).

Rather than concentrating in large numbers, sappers throughout Victoria dispersed to maximise their support to local communities. A wonderful range of commemorations were respectfully attended.

As with our sappers in the Latrobe Valley, RSLs throughout the State hosted respectful Dawn Services and marches. In the Valley, about 100 Sappers also held a reunion to coincide with their commemorations.

Many country and metropolitan communities organised well attended ceremonies to offset the restrictions imposed on the usually massively popular *Melbourne March* and traditional *Service at the Shrine*. Next year promises to be a sensational ANZAC Day march for all Victorian sappers marching to the Shrine. We have already booked the *Elephant & Wheelbarrow!*

The Ringwood RSL commemorative march and dawn services attracted many Victorian sappers as it did in Warrandyte and many other locations. The Regiment conducted its usual array of Catafalque Parties particularly beside the Leopard Tank at Belgrave, the Memorial Tower in Warrandyte, the Clocktower in Ringwood and the magnificent Morwell Memorial.

A deeply moving commemoration thanksgiving for the life of *Sapper Philip "Von" Schneider* was also held for his family and friends. Conducted at the Ringwood Memorial Clocktower on ANZAC Day, the service was led by our Association Padre John Raike. The service honoured Von's tragic passing in Thailand last year.

Personalised ANZAC Day dawn vigils conducted

by family and neighbourly groups in individual driveways and on property boundaries have become increasingly popular. The televised "*Music from The Homefront*" concert by leading Australian artists was also well received. Both are becoming standard features of 21st Century ANZAC Day commemorations.

A WW2 Bomb Shelter at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital (originally the 115th Heidelberg Military Hospital) was honoured with the unveiling of a plaque recognising the 80th year since the hospital (and bomb shelter) has been in operation. Wreaths were also laid at the Engineer's Memorial in Sappers Lane and the Peacekeeping Memorial in the magnificent Repatriation Memorial Gardens. Plaques for the beautiful mosaics representing conflicts in Vietnam and the Gallipoli were also unveiled.

Similarly at ANZAC cove, and other places of pilgrimage around the globe, ANZAC Day commemorations were generally scaled back in quantity, but not in quality. Wherever sappers found themselves, respects were paid. All conflicts and operations involving sappers were honoured.

Lest We Forget





Above: Anzac Day observance at Warrandyte football -President Don Hughes and Mascot Zeus at the centre.

Shelter from Attack

As part of the ANZAC Day ceremony held at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital this year, a plaque was placed on the WW2 Bomb Shelter. Recognising 80 years since the Bomb Shelter was constructed, it has never been used as a last line of defence.

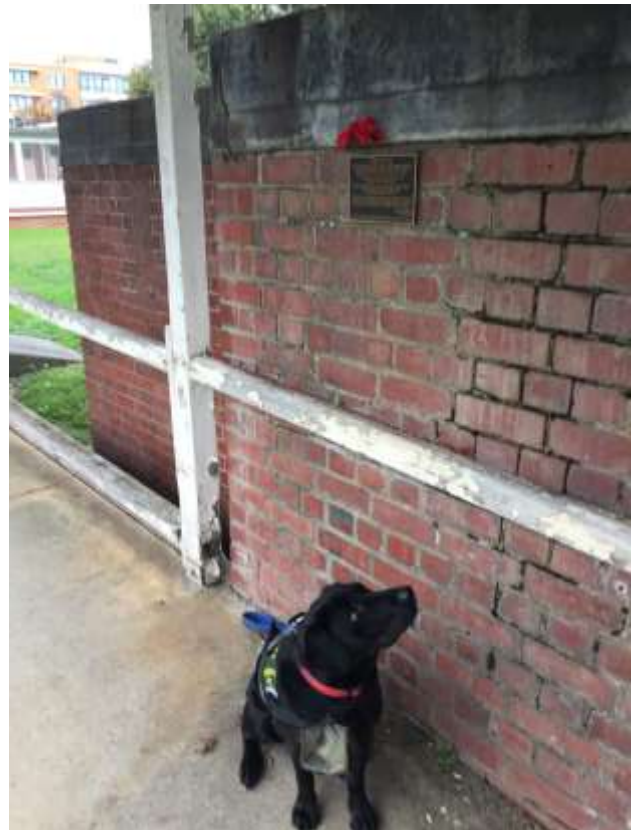
As reported by the Herald Sun in early 1942 Japanese reconnaissance aircraft flew over Melbourne. On 26 February an unfamiliar plane flew low over the suburbs and industrial areas. Nervous residents saw the unmistakable rising sun of the Empire of Japan emblazoned on the plane's side.

RAAF Base Laverton scrambled two aircraft but Warrant Officer Nobu Fujita, the Japanese pilot, was able to complete his reconnaissance flight undetected. He had taken off in the sea plane from a submarine at Cape Wickham on the Northern end of King Island.

Numerous submarine and sea plane reconnaissance probes occurred around Australia at this time. This included the devastating attacks in Sydney Harbour.

The Bomb Shelters at the Repat however, had been constructed the year before and were never needed to shelter from attack. The plaques, at each end of the shelter complex, were unveiled by the President of the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria, Don Hughes and the mascot of the Association - Sapper Zeus.

The Price of Freedom – is Eternal Vigilance!



PRE-ANZAC DAY RSL RINGWOOD MARCH - RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. – 18TH April 2021

Following the disappointment of last year's cancellation (due to COVID-19) the RAE Association was invited to participate in the 2021 march. The march commences at Target Square and moves up the Maroondah Highway to the Ringwood Clock Tower.

It includes many local groups such as veterans, Scouts and community groups and would normally include Army and Air Force Cadets but they were precluded from attending this year due to COVID. This is a family day with many young children representing their loved ones and able to march as the guidelines are not as strict as with the Anzac Day city march.

The day was clear and fresh but no rain so we

had a reasonable turnout of about 35 marching behind the banner.

The RAE Association was led in the march by Don Hughes and his trusty side kick Zeus. The Association was supported with our banner by members of 22 Engineer Regiment (Sappers Shannan Dean and Luke Allisey) and we must pay thanks to the Regiment for their support at such notice and at such a busy time for the Regiment. By having the banner carried it allows the members of the Association to march with their family and friends and not have to worry about this task – with minimal instruction Shannan and Luke completed the task to the highest standard and certainly did their Regiment proud.

The Regiment provided a cenotaph party for the formal activity at the clock tower and the drill was performed to a remarkably high standard – they can all be proud that they represented the Regiment to the highest standard.

A service was conducted by the RSL at the clock tower including wreath laying, speeches, and the normal formalities. Don Hughes laid a wreath on behalf of the Association, its members and all sappers.

Following formalities at the Tower the gathering moved back to the RSL where finger food and drinks were provided and where everyone had the opportunity of catching up and enjoy the day.

All in all a successful day only made possible by the outstanding support of the members of the Association, their family and friends. The day also provided the opportunity to march behind our banner and be on display within our local area of Ringwood. By participating with the RSL on this special day it strengthens our ties with the RSL

Without doubt a wonderful day and one that I hope we will continue to support for many years to come . *Jim Davis*







Issue 104 Podcast

Escape from Greece. To access this fascinating story from World War Two, listen to the podcast contained within this equally fascinating article.

Click on the following link:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-11/the-anzacs-who-beat-the-odds-and-escaped-from-greece/100284226>



This illustration by New Zealand official artist Don MacNab shows the action at Pinios Gorge on April 17.

You can also access the podcast component of this story at:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/shanghai-digger/13322620>



Editor's Note:

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

ANZAC Day 2021....COVID altered but still remembered.....in pictures.



Dave Stephenson-Kerang



Hay bale soldiers: just south of Pyramid Hill on the Bendigo Road, Victoria, Australia 🇦🇺
Lest we forget 🇦🇺









Sapper Profiles



Lieutenant Colonel Scott D'Rozario was born in Melbourne Victoria. He completed his secondary education at Mazenod College, Mulgrave and enrolled at Monash University in 1997, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce - Accounting and a Bachelor of Arts - Psychology in 2002. Whilst studying, Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario enlisted into the Army Reserve as a Medic soldier and in 2002 commenced officer training with Monash University Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario graduated in January 2004 as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Engineers.



Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario has had numerous postings within the Army Reserve environment including Corps postings within the 22nd Construction Regiment, the 4th Combat Engineer Regiment and the 22nd Engineer Regiment including Troop and Squadron Command Roles as well as Non-Corps - Training and Staff postings within Victoria. Notably, he was selected to be the Squadron Commander of the first fully integrated Reserve Engineer Squadron on Exercise Hamel 2016. These roles have provided Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario with a thorough understanding of the capabilities resident within the Mobility and Survivability Battlespace Operating System and the experience and skill to employ these capabilities effectively.

Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario has served on a number domestic, regional and global operations including Domestically: Operation COVID-19 Assist in 2020, as the ADF Liaison Officer to Victoria Police, Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20 in 2020, as the JTF Lead Plans Officer and performed the role as JTF Acting Chief of Staff as well as Operation VicFires Assist in 2009, as the Operations Officer for the Kinglake Area of Responsibility; Regionally: Operation Resolute in 2014, conducting Border Operations as the Company Commander of a deployed Tri-service (Navy, Army, Air Force) Company and Operation Astute in Timor Leste, in 2011 as a Civil Assessment Team member – assessing atmospherics as part of the Civil Military Cooperation Team and again in 2012, as the Policing Liaison Officer for the Commander Joint Task Force (JTF) 631 - providing Key Stakeholder Engagement for all policing agencies in country; and Globally: Operation ASLAN in South Sudan in 2018, as an Operations Officer in the Multinational Joint Interagency Operations Centre within the UN Peacekeeping Force – monitoring activities, allocating tasks and providing situational awareness to the UN Head of Mission. For his Command and Leadership during Operation Resolute Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario was awarded an Army Bronze commendation.

Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario completed Command and Staff College (Reserves) in 2017 and in 2019 was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario spent 2019 and 2020 as the 4th Brigade Staff Officer Grade 1 - Plans and was heavily involved in planning and executing Exercise Southern Magpie 19/Austral Shield 19 and Ex Arras Melbourne 2020 – Joint Victoria Police / ADF: Defence Forces Aid to the Civil Authority exercises. In 2021 Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario returned to the RAE and took command of 22nd Engineer Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario is a Senior Sergeant at Victoria Police where he is one of the Work Unit Managers responsible for Operational Safety Training for Victoria Police at the Police Academy. Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario is married to Denise D'Rozario, a Kindergarten Teacher and together they have two children; Bexley (16 years old) and Skylar (13 years old). Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario is an avid reader of Military History and his leisure activities include spending time with his wife and children as well as recreational running and watching movies. Lieutenant Colonel D'Rozario likes to travel and would one day like to do an African Safari with his family.

MEMORIAL TO THE PAST, A BEACON FOR THE FUTURE (POST 1975 OBELISK)

By Don Hughes

Standing tall like a quiet, monolithic sentinel, an impressive stone Obelisk was recently unveiled on 20 June by the Victorian Minister for Veterans.

Nestled within the heart of the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, in the splendid memorial gardens, this new memorial will honour all military personnel who have served since 1975.

This includes; Iraq and Afghanistan along with a diverse range of Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian, Security and Relief operations at both home and abroad. Recent operations include bushfire and flood assistance operations around Australia, along with the current support to COVID & Storm Devastation operations in Victoria.

Exactly 100 years since a similar Obelisk in Heidelberg, marking the sacrifice of soldiers in the Great War, was ceremoniously unveiled by the Victorian Governor of the day, this memorial will also provide a beacon into the

future for Australian military operations.

The Honourable Shaun Leane MP, the Victorian Minister for Veterans, unveiled the memorial together with Mrs Wendy Charlton, President of the War Widows Guild (Victoria) Incorporated.

The minister *"praised the leadership of Austin Health in providing such significant recognition to the large number of post 1975 military personnel who have served Australia"*. He added that, *"the Obelisk stands proudly within the heart and soul of a place of special significance to all service men and women over the last 80 years"*.

A white stone wreath was also unveiled as a symbol of remembrance for those who ended their journey in life too early. Mrs Carol Hughes, a Legatee, had the honour of unveiling the white wreath.

A restricted range of dignitaries due to COVID protocols included;

Ross Cooke Board Chair Austin Health, Simon Thorn Afghanistan Veteran RSL Victoria, Michael Mosely Tramways East Melbourne RSL Sub-Branch, Jeff Freeman Vietnam Veteran Hospital Volunteer, Noel Blake President National Servicemen's Association Northern Sub-Branch, Sue-Ann Harrison Department of Veteran Affairs Victoria, Kate Thwaites MP Federal Member for Jaga Jaga, Anthony Carbines MP State Member for Ivanhoe and Don Hughes Australian Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Veterans Association and the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria.

Mr Rob Winther OAM, the Veteran Liaison Officer at the Repatriation Hospital, was the master of ceremonies ably assisted by Siobhan Hodgins and the volunteer Veteran Liaison Team, along with the Reverend Mark Dunn, Army Chaplain (Retd), and Bugler, Kathleen O'Reilly.

On 20 June 1921 just after the Great War and the Black Plague, the Victorian Governor of

the day, Colonel the Right Honourable George Edward John Mowbray Rous, Earl of Stradbroke, KCMG CB CVO CBE ADC, unveiled the original Obelisk that still proudly stands at the Heidelberg War Memorial on the corner of Burgundy Street and Studley Road.

This new 21st Century Obelisk is not only a memorial to the past but will also act as a beacon for those who continue to serve in the Australian military into the future.

Lest We Forget



Above: Don and Zeus representing the Association at the obelisk dedication.



RAE ASSOCIATION SAPPER MUSTER OAKLEIGH BARRACKS 27th February 2021

As a result of COVID-19 (coronavirus), most of 2020 saw Victoria the subject of many “lockdowns” and strict guidelines impacting on socialising both individually and collectively with the result many major events and attractions could not proceed and were either cancelled or postponed. Right up to December 2020, it was felt that the Muster would suffer the same fate and be postponed until later in the 2021 year.

Fortunately, in December 2020 the Victorian Government relaxed protocols which gave us hope that the Muster would go ahead, albeit with reduced attendance numbers and strict social distancing rules to follow. So with high hopes, we started planning the function. In February 2021, there was another outbreak of the virus, imposing a further shutdown of the State and forcing us to start rethinking our plans and potential postponement. Luckily for us the State Government lifted the restrictions the day before the Muster allowing it to proceed as planned.

The annual Muster is without doubt the most important event on the Association’s calendar and provides members, family and friends with the opportunity to gather and enjoy the social and camaraderie aspects of the night. More than ever, it was needed this year after the harsh lockdowns that we had all experienced and for many of the people attending this would have been their first social gathering in 12 months.

Once again, we were so fortunate to have the support of the CO 22nd Engineer Regiment (LTCOL Scott D’Rozario) who made the facilities of Oakleigh available for the event – this is an ideal place in relation to location and facilities for a night like this.

The Muster was able to proceed but was

subject to strict COVID-19 restrictions in relation to numbers (limited to 110) and social distancing rules. Entry was via a ticket system but because Victorians have been starved of events like the Muster, the uptake of tickets was exceptional and soon sold out.

As usual Jock and Margaret conducted a raffle with some wonderful prizes – 1st winner to pick a prize was Neil Christie who picked up a wonderful bottle of Chivas Whisky – we were so fortunate this year that Stu (Ace) Williams (a former 4 CER sapper) made a substantial donation to allow for the purchase of quality prizes

For the 5th year the Association provided a spit roast meal which was served in the Drill Hall – people were not disappointed with the quality or quantity of the meal with many going back for seconds. The meal consisted of a main and sweets.

As with all evenings there must be some formalities, and these included a report by the President (Don Hughes) on the Association's achievements throughout the year and potential future events (subject to COVID-19). Don went on to welcome everyone to the function in particular the Patron, CO and RSM.

Our thanks must be extended to the CO for allowing the Association the use of these wonder facilities along with great support from the staff in setting up the depot. Duty Officer (DO) was Ogi Jovanovic who was assisted by SPR Feng. Again the bar was manned by Noel Tipton with support from the DO (Ogi).

Many members of the Association worked hard to make the night a success but particular mention and thanks must go to Eric (Jock) Howatt, and Marg Handte.

Special guests were COL John Wertheimer AM, RFD (Retd), LTCOL Scott D'Rozario (CO), WO1 Mark Everingham (RSM) and the Association's Honorary Padre John Raike.

The Muster is the Association's major fellowship event for the year and is not convened to make money but to bring together a good cross section of sappers of various ages and ranks to enjoy the company of likeminded people. This year we welcomed members of the Royal Engineers and thank them for their support.

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

Jim Davis

Secretary





Back - Mel Constable, Ted Boltong and Keven Moss
Front – Dave Johnson, Jim Davis and Rex Howes

2021 Annual Sapper Muster



Scott D'Rozario (LTCOL-CO), Don Hughes - President and Mark Everingham (RSM -22 ER)





19th – 22nd May 2021 – Kapooka Tragedy Excursion Tour (from Jim Davis)

Annual visits are a feature of the Association's calendar. In 2020, the visit to attend the Kapooka Tragedy Memorial was cancelled due to COVID-19.

A major revamp and beautification of the site has been in the planning stage for some time with the proposed improvements to have been opened on 21st May 2020, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the tragedy, but of course this did not eventuate – the project was under the management of the Corps RSM (WO1 Sean Chainey). The project involved a considerable investment and to fund it, WO1 Chainey sought financial assistance from the wider community including our Association and the SRCC. The project was completed in early May 2021.

Because there was no Service last year and with the beautification work completed and to be unveiled this year, it was decided that we could make a wider excursion of the Memorial trip and call in at various memorials and sites on the way. Under the skilful management and planning of Mel Constable, things got underway.

The trip was structured and planned so that those attending could travel individually and participate in all the proposed tours or only partake in those that interested them.

There was a good response to the call for people who might be interested with Mel and Robyn Constable, Michael and Sue Potts, Neil and Sandra Christie, Rex and Kim Howes, Rod (Rat) Furlong, Dave Conlan, Andrew (Boots) Bryant, Don Hughes (and Zeus) and Jim Davis participating.

Seymour was the starting point and on the 19th May 2021 the group came together to undertake tours of the Vietnam Vets'

Wall, Light Horse Park (Site 17) and tank museum at Puckapunyal. On 20th May 2021, Wagga Wagga was our next planned group activity where tours of the RAAF museum and Wagga War Cemetery were arranged. The Wagga War Cemetery is where the Sappers killed in the tragedy are laid to rest. It is a beautiful and well-maintained resting place. Several of us had an evening meal at the Wagga Wagga RSL.

it was an early start on 21st May 2021 to meet up at a coffee van just outside the Kapooka main gates where we caught up with CAPT Andrew Howes (a serving Defence member at Kapooka) who had arranged for us to attend a passing out parade (25th and 26th Platoons ARA) and then go on and visit several sites on the Kapooka Base. The Passing Out Parade was certainly a highlight with about 100 of the Army's newest members graduating from Kapooka before going on to join their allocated Units. We also got to the Chapel, AFCAN and viewed other sites of the base. Don and Zeus were a bit hit with many Soldiers at the AFCAN.

Following the tour of Kapooka, we travelled to the parking area allocated for visitors attending the Service and were bused to the Memorial Site – the improvements and beautification were certainly noticeable.

There was a good turnout acknowledging this terrible event of 76 years ago. In the audience were relatives and descendants of several of the Sappers who lost their lives. Many of you would know WO2 Les Norton (4 CER) who I understand is related to one of those who died in the accident (SGT Jack Pomeroy) – Les had his brother (Allan) representing the family at this service. A Catafalque Party was provided and were outstanding in their dress, bearing and drill. Representing the HOC was the CO of SME LTCOL Bradley Haskett who

gave the main address. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Association by the President Don Hughes and Zeus

Even though the morning started out being very cool the day turned into a perfect Autumn Day which certainly helped those attending enjoy the Service. There was a lovely afternoon tea provided, which gave the opportunity of catching up with friends and to view the work undertaken.

Some of those attending included the CO and RSM of 22nd Engineer Regiment (LTCOL Scott D’Rozario and WO1 Mark Everingham), ex RSM 4 CER WO1 Tony Luchterhand and MAJ Jason Law (MC for the Service) who was posted to 4 CER.

To conclude our visit to Wagga Wagga it was arranged that for the evening meal we would all catch up at the “Sporties Bar” where, as a surprise, Don Hughes would re-present Neil Christie with his Silver Sapper which was originally presented to him at his farewell parade on 23rd March 2021 but which we took back to have a nicer base added.



On 22nd May 2021, it was off back to Melbourne with a planned stop at the

Museum at Bandiana which, whilst I did not personally attend, I am told was certainly worth the visit – establishing contacts/ friendships at other museums can only benefit the Association and the work that Mel Constable does.

Many thanks to those who came along and supported the Association and trust that you enjoyed the adventure – It was great to see Neil and Sandra join us for this little adventure and hope that they will come along to future excursions. To everyone else so many thanks with special mention to “first timers” “Boots” Bryant, Kim and Rex Howes.

We were so lucky to be undertake this tour at the time that we did as a few days before departure the dreaded Coronavirus reared its ugly head and there was strong talk of further lockdowns and restrictions for Victoria but fortunately, we managed the time away and not long after returning to Melbourne we went back down into lockdown. We achieved our goal by the skin of our teeth.

Finally special thanks to the outstanding and organised Mel Constable who brought this all together, aided by Michael Potts – I know that Mel did a lot of work in the background arranging tours and getting this excursion off the ground and it is his input, hard work and contribution that made it such a success.



Continued.....



WHEN THE SECOND WORLD WAR ENDED IN 1945, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AUSTRALIANS SERVING IN THE RAAF WAS 154,511. OF WHOM 137,208 WERE SERVING IN THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC THEATRE. THE MAJORITY OF THESE AIRCREW AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL WERE BASED AND TRAINED AT A NUMBER OF AIRFORCE TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA. DURING THE SECOND WAR, THE RAAF HAD SOME 6,200 PERSONNEL KILLED IN ACTION. DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, 1939-45, THE NO. 2 SERVICE FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOOL OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE AND OTHER MILITARY TRAINING FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE ARMY SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING, WERE BASED AT WAGGA WAGGA. THE WAGGA WAGGA WAR CEMETERY CONTAINS 82 WAR BURIALS, COMPRISING 40 AUSTRALIAN ARMY AND 42 RAAF AIRMEN AND 1 POST-WAR GRAVE. MANY OF THE RAAF AIRCREW DIED IN AIR TRAINING ACCIDENTS, WHILE 26 MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING BURIED HERE PERISHED ON THE SAME DAY IN A MINE TRAINING ACCIDENT. BURIED IN WAGGA WAGGA GENERAL CEMETERY ARE 12 AUSTRALIAN ARMY AND 21 RAAF ALONG WITH 3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR.



Kapooka Tragedy Memorial
Excursion photos continue....







***Lest We
Forget***

Sir Neil

A Lifetime as a Military Construction Supervisor

By Jim Davis & Don Hughes

As a military construction supervisor, 316664/8230506 Warrant Officer Class One G.N. (Geoffrey Neil) Christie spent a considerable amount of his military career on deployment to Papua New Guinea and far-flung remote corners of Australia.

His naturally laconic style coupled with incisive technical knowledge has been greatly appreciated by the people whose projects he helped supervise. Neil co-ordinated many remote community projects utilising a lifetime of construction and supervisory skills gained as a sapper over 47 years.

The Apprenticeship

Born in Melbourne in 1949 and attending Coburg Technical School, he was encouraged to extend his knowledge of both physics and mathematics. He yearned a technical career.

To deter bullies, he also joined the Police Boys Club and learned Taekwondo. This Korean martial art proved useful (on two particular occasions) and led to his sports teacher (Hawthorn football legend - John Kennedy Senior) recruiting Neil's sporting prowess to ultimately win the Victorian Championship U15 Breaststroke swimming finals.

A week before he turned 16, Neil was accepted by the Imperial Chemical Industry of Australia & New Zealand company (ICI/ANZ – later ICI and ultimately Orica Ltd.) in Deer Park as an electrical Apprentice on a wage of one pound and 15 shillings (A\$3-00) a week. Ironically, the ammunition factory made Gelignite and TNT – an interesting training for an aspiring Sapper.

Later, at the Yarraville factory chlorine gas was manufactured and compressed into liquid for

water purification. Neil later pondered that: *“this knowledge and experience had proved invaluable in later years”*.

Did the Army Need Tradesmen?

When *“he was only 19”* Neil registered for the newly introduced (National Service Act 1964) compulsory national service in November 1969. As he had not completed his Apprenticeship his registration was deferred to June 1971. Having now completed his electrical apprenticeship with ICI/ANZ Neil presented himself to the recruiting centre in mid-1971 to be told ***“the Army did not need tradesmen, just soldiers”*** and was given an “Indefinite Deferment Notice”.

Instead, he married his sweetheart Sandy in December 1971, and embarked on married life to ultimately celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary (50 years) this year.

Neil commenced his own electrical contracting business but crawling through roofs fixing other people's problems reignited his yearning to join the Army. Being “Corps enlisted (4/73)” as an A Grade Electrician (***the Army had decided they did need tradesmen after-all***) on 4th July 1973 Neil underwent Recruit Training at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka with 22nd Platoon. At 23, he was the oldest Recruit in his Platoon and helped “guide” some of the younger recruits *“to knuckle down and get through their time in the Army”*.

Family First

His initial posting with the Australian Regular Army was with 18th Field Squadron, 3rd Field Engineer Regiment based in Townsville. Because cyclone Althea had devastated far North Queensland just a few years previously (Christmas 1971), much re-building work was still needed.

Sandy and Neil moved to Townsville and by June 1974 their daughter, Fiona, was born in Mater Hospital. Although a corps enlisted Electrician, he was soon “informally”

promoted Lance Corporal despite not having completed his Initial Employment Training at the School of Military Engineering (then located at Casula in Sydney).

In late 1974, he reverted back to Sapper and undertook this course and became fully qualified. Returning to Townsville, he was soon re-promoted to Lance Corporal (17 October 1974).

Life in Townsville was tough for the newly married couple with a new child. Lance Corporal Christie was often away at High Range or responding to numerous electrical crisis around the country including the 6th Signal Regiment STRAD facility in Simpson Barracks in Melbourne. Neil was promoted Corporal in November 1975. Along with numerous attachments to 1RAR and 2/4 RAR, and the distance from Sandy's mum in Melbourne, the decision was made to discharge from the Regular Army and move back to Melbourne. Their son, Adam, was born in Melbourne in August 1976.

The Baggy Green Skin

Now settled back into family life, Corporal (Retired) Christie still had a yearning to wear the *"baggy green skin"*. In March 1978 he walked into the 7th Field Engineer Regiment (7 FER) Engineer Training Depot in Dublin Road, Ringwood East and signed up in the Army Reserve. This was a great recruitment for the Victorian Sappers; a fully qualified Corporal tradesman with Regular Army and civilian trade experience.

He spent the next few years as a Corporal in 7 FER before being attached to 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment (4/19 PWLH) in Bairnsdale where he was working. During the time he was attached to 4/19th PWLH Neil was promoted Sergeant (RAE). He remained with 4/19 PWLH until mid-1983 when Antarctica called.

At Mawson base in Antarctica, Neil began his remote construction supervisory journey. He was now well qualified for this lifechanging

adventure that would establish an ongoing pattern for the next four decades.

The Silence Calling

The first Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) had deployed in 1947. As a Senior Electrical Fitter Mechanic (SEFM), Neil commenced his Antarctica adventure in 1983 and reminisces that: *"this was another dream that had caught my eye, I needed to balance my time in the far north, with some-time in the far south – so I applied for the position with ANARE."*

The position of SEFM at ANARE was highly competitive with 352 applicants from around the world applying. Neil had worked in uncomfortable and dangerous places before and had gained vast experience in power generation. As a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) in the Australian Army Engineers, Sergeant Christie knew how to follow instructions and solve problems, along with working within a team and also leading them.

After sailing to Mawson in November 1983 he built a power house with four 110 Kilo Watt, 3306 Caterpillar generators from scratch to commissioning. A formidable, and much needed, achievement.

He returned home in March 1985 to a new baby girl, Carly, who had been born just 6 weeks after setting sail. She was now walking.

Melbourne Water & Reserve Sappering

In 1985 Sergeant Christie was posted (most appropriately) to the specialist Supplementary Reserve unit, 39th Electrical & Mechanical (39 E&M) Squadron, who had just occupied the new Engineer Training Depot at Newborough in the Latrobe Valley. The old Yallourn Barracks had been consumed by the open cut coal mine. Newborough was now the new home of *"Sappers from the Valley"*.

Sergeant Christie was then posted to the 22nd Construction Regiment, gained his Warrant on 3 July 1998, and was employed as the

Mechanical Services Supervisor.

In 2001 Neil assumed the appointment as SSM 38th Combat Engineer Squadron (38 CES) at the Ringwood based 4th Combat Engineer Regiment (4 CER). He was promoted Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) on 1 October 2002 and returned home to 22nd Construction Regiment, Oakleigh.

Joining Melbourne Water in 1996, Neil is renowned as a man who get things done. Often at short notice, he is the “trouble-shooter” at Melbourne Water responding to numerous emergencies throughout the water supply infrastructure network supplying over 5 million people and associated industry and commercial facilities.

As a Sapper WO1 with immense construction and supervisory experience, the Army needed and utilised these invaluable skills, on numerous operations and deployments. The list is impressive and aptly demonstrates the critical value of a strong and vibrant Reserve capability within the Royal Australian Engineers.

Operational Demand for Construction Sappers

From about 1999, with an ever-increasing workload for 19th Chief Engineer Works (19 CE Wks), particularly with projects in Timor Leste, Aboriginal communities throughout Australia along with the ever-increasing Defence Co-Operation projects with Australia’s neighbours, particularly PNG, WO1 Christie’s professional engineering and supervisory expertise were much needed.

These skills were highly valued along with numerous trade skills. Reserve Sappers could help fill the vacuum created.

Operations & Deployments

For the last two decades WO1 Christie’s operational deployments contributed greatly to Australia’s defence and foreign strategic outlook.

2002 OP Bel Isi. Peace Monitoring Group

(PMG) Bougainville PNG,

2003 OP Citadel. East Timor, and

2012 Op Astute. East Timor.

A wide range of defence co-operation projects undertaken by WO1 Christie is impressive:

2005 Kadjina, Yakanarra, Yiyili, WA,

2006 Borrooloola, NT,

2010 Ernabella, Pukatja, SA,

2007 Igam Barracks, Lae, PNG,

2014 Moem Barracks, Wewak, PNG,

2015 Taurama Barracks, Port Moresby, PNG,

2017 Moem barracks, Wewak PNG and

2018 Air Movements facility, Port Moresby, PNG.

Star of Federation – a lifetime of service

After 6 extensions of service to the age of 71 in 2020, WO1 Neil Christie has been awarded the Federation Star to his Reserve Force Medal for faithful and loyal service. Finally, despite still *blitzing* his BFA, his seventh extension of service was not approved by the Chief of Army, after a total of 47 years of service.

His other awards include:

Australian Service Medal (Timor Leste Clasp),

Timor Leste Solidarity Medal and

Australian Defence Medal.

Tankyu Tru Wantok (thank you friend)

At the (post COVID) annual *Sapper’s Muster* conducted at Oakleigh Barracks by the RAE Association of Victoria in February 2021, Neil was farewelled in front of a crowded Drill Hall full of friends and colleagues. He also won first prize in the raffle draw!

On 23 March 2021, also at Oakleigh Barracks, WO1 Neil Christie was formally farewelled from the Australian Army by Brigadier Matt Burr, Commander 4th Brigade, who awarded him a Commander’s Commendation for his exemplary efforts:

“WO1 Christie’s unique and vital contribution to Australia’s Defence Co-operation Program with our international neighbours, numerous projects with Aboriginal communities around the country combined with a number of

operational deployments have been of the highest order and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force. WO1 Christie has been a great ambassador for his country”.

The Head of Corps, Brigadier Matt Galton DSC, and the Corps Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One Sean Chainey OAM, DSM, sent their heartfelt and sincere congratulations on behalf of the Royal Australian Engineers:

“A tradesman, sapper and soldier, WO1 Neil Christie epitomised how the skills of just one person can make a difference. In often remote and far-flung corners of the globe he nurtured and guided many successful projects that improved the lives of many.”

At his farewell, WO1 Christie explained the origins of his nickname “Sir Neil”. Before he was

promoted to Warrant Officer, he was known informally just as Neil. Now wearing a cap, and deserving of the appropriate salutation, everyone just added sir to his name! Sir Neil was therefore crowned by his fellow Sapper Kingdom!

Facimus et Frangimus



Farewell Parade – 316664/8230506 WO1 G.N. (Neil) Christie

On 23rd March 2021 Association President (Don Hughes) and Secretary (Jim Davis) were invited to attend Oakleigh barracks for a farewell parade conducted to acknowledge the outstanding service of Neil Christie upon his discharge from the Army

BRIG Matt Burr (Brigade Commander 4th Brigade) was the principal guest and presented Neil with the Commanders Award for Recognition of Service.

On behalf of the Head of Corps (BRIG Matt Galton, DSC) Neil was presented with Certificate of Service to the Corps by the CO 22 Engineer Regiment (LTCOL Scott D’Rozario). On behalf of the Southern Region Corps Committee, RAE Association and 22 ER Don Hughes presented him with a Silver Sapper.

Neil was supported on the night by his wife (Sandra) along with family members and his civilian work boss Darren Stevenson who spoke of the contribution that Neil had made during his employment.



Neil enlisted in the ARA on 04th July 1973 and after discharging from the Regular Army, he returned to Victoria where he joined the Reserve (7 FER Ringwood) in 1978. After an amazing 6 extensions in Service, Neil retired from Defence effective 30th December 2020 at the age of 71 years.

Throughout his military career (ARA and Reserve) Neil has provided exceptional service with far too many deployments and achievements to be listed here but he certainly enjoyed his many visits to Papua New Guinea (EX Puk Puk) along with AACAP. In addition to his military deployments Neil spent 16 months working for the National Antarctic Research Expedition in the Antarctica

It really goes without writing too much here but he has been a stalwart of the RAE here in Victoria where he has mentored and guided so many past and present sappers and we have all been the better for having Neil around us.

I am sure that we will continue to see his smiling face at functions and around the traps but in the meantime, Neil thank you for everything – you are an amazing sapper.



Above: Neil receiving BDE COM Commendation.

Below: Don presenting Neil his "Silver Sapper"





Above: CO 22ER speaks for us all, "thank you for your service to the Corps."

COCKATOO RISE:

A PLACE OF RETREAT & RESPITE

Travelling through the volcanic country inland from the western Victorian coastal town of Port Fairy you arrive at Macarthur.

Situated on the Eumeralla river, it is the hub of a rural farming community and the gateway to the nearby Budj Bim/Mount Eccles National Park. Half way along the road to Hamilton from the Shipwreck coast, the old Bluestone Macarthur Hotel (built in 1869) has provided a welcome place of respite to weary travellers for over a century and a half.

Bought in 2019 by Vietnam Veteran Greg Carter (6 RAR), he has now turned the old pub into a Museum and a retreat for Veterans. **The Cockatoo Rise War Veterans Retreat** is a place where ex and serving defence personnel and their partners can share time together in a relaxed, peaceful and secure environment.

Officially opened on 6 March 2021 by Senator Jacqui Lambie MP, the ceremony was witnessed by State and Local Shire dignitaries and hundreds of Veterans who came from around Australia on motorbikes, horses and in old army vehicles. Representing the *Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria* were Geoff and Anne Spencer from Warrnambool along with Don and Michelle Hughes (and the Association's Mascot - Zeus) from Warrandyte.

Don and Zeus laid a wreath at the memorial

stone on behalf of all Victorian Sappers. Auntie Glenda Humes, the eldest living daughter of Australia's first indigenous Army officer, Captain Reg Saunders MBE, also paid her respects as did numerous veteran support and welfare groups. A wonderful display of military vehicles (old and new) added great atmosphere to the day.

President of the *Veterans Motorcycle Club Australia, Mid North S.A. Chapter*, "Lefty" and his crew combined with Chapters from around the country to form a guard of honour. Naval Reserve Cadets from *Training Ship Henty* at Portland joined forces with Army Cadets from 314 ACU located in Warrnambool to assist with the ceremony.

Senator Lambie thanked the local community and went on to explain:

"I tell you.... we do not have enough of these retreats to go around.... these guys behind you... they've served in the Middle East over the last 20 years, they're absolutely depleted. A lot of these guys have done multiple tours... they've just been run through the mill like a greyhound on a greyhound track. They volunteered to fight for their country and you won't get a no out of these boys.... that's the way it is..... that's the way they're trained. So, for your service - thank you."

Senator Lambie was extremely interested to hear of Zeus' exploits as an Assistance Dog with Young Diggers and as the official Mascot of the RAE Association of Victoria. She is most keen to explore all avenues to assist veterans in their journey of healing.

Greg Carter was most appreciative of all who supported not only the opening ceremony but also the tremendous amount of work to establish the retreat. **The Museum alone, is well worth a visit.** Greg can be contacted at 26 High Street, (PO Box 6) Macarthur VIC 3286, email: cockatoorise@wideband.net.au or Mobile: 0409 418 332.

Web: www.cockatooriseretreat.com.au



Gillian McCann and Greg Carter (the owners and hosts) with Senator Jacqui Lambie at the Cockatoo Rise War Veterans Retreat opening ceremony.



Senator Jacqui Lambie MP: Opening Ceremony, Cockatoo Rise Veterans Retreat 6 Mar 2021

Below: Senator Jacqui Lambie MP, Zeus and Don Hughes, President RAE Assoc Victoria.





Auntie Glenda Humes, oldest surviving daughter of Captain Reg Saunders MBE



Good Boy Zeus! On viewing the splendid Cockatoo Rise Museum, Zeus detected a M16A1 anti-personnel, bounding, fragmentation landmine (inert) as extensively

used during the Vietnam war. The mine can be activated by pressure applied to the prongs or by a trip wire. It is sometimes nicknamed the "Jumping Jack" or "Bouncing Betty". The Museum also boasts a wonderful array of uniforms and artifacts from all conflicts.

Letter to the Editor

As a former army member (NS intake 4/1967) I am hopeful you may be able to assist with flushing out some information from members of the RAE. Wesley College, Melbourne where I attended for some years, has extensive records and history of past students, who served in WW1 and WW2. Several books have been researched and written by Philip J Powell on the involvement of those students in WW1.

I am compiling a history of former Wesley students who have served/are serving in any capacity post WW2.(article attached below from school newsletter) To that end, I am hoping that a small article or notice might be included in a forthcoming issue of your newsletter.

If that is possible, I have drafted suggested wording that might be used.

In recent years substantial work has been undertaken improving the knowledge of the service of former students of Wesley College, Melbourne in the conflicts of WWI and WWII. Wesley now seeks to expand that work by seeking information on former students who had military service in the post-1945 era.

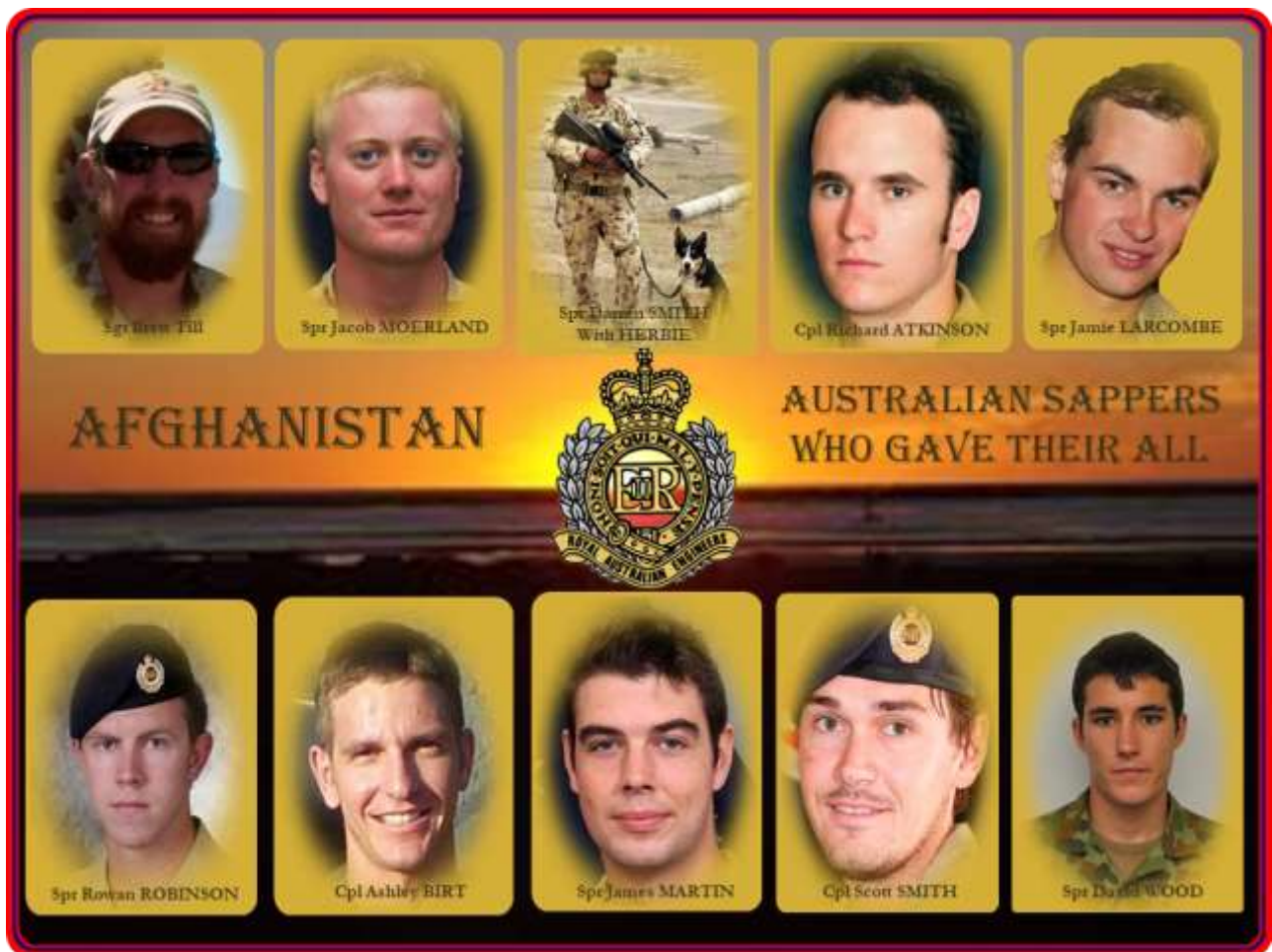
This would include those who participated in full or part time service or National Service. Any Collegians who have served or still serving, or family members of those who are deceased, are invited to contact Leigh Treyvaud (NS Intake 4/1967) at treyvaud-lc@bigpond.com.

Please contact me if any further information is required.

With thanks in anticipation.

Leigh Treyvaud
2/140 Dare Street,
Ocean Grove. Vic 3226

0419 501347



Memorial Service for Phillip (Von) Schneider

Phillip ("Von") passed away under tragic circumstance on 30th March 2020 whilst holidaying in Thailand with his wife Cathy.

Due to the COVID-19 situation along with personal circumstances, it has not been possible to have a gathering and formal farewell for Von but this all changed on Anzac Day 2021.

At short notice and through the great work of Tim Smith, Catherine, and family it was arranged to have a Memorial Service for Von at the Clock Tower in Ringwood which was conducted by the Association's Padre John Raike.

The Service commenced at 8.00 am and was attended by a good number of friends and family and was a testament to the legacy that

Von had made during his 6-year military service with 7 FER.

Don Hughes (and Zeus), Jim Davis and Duncan Howarth represented the Association at the Service.

Thank you to Padre Raike and Tim Smith for arranging the Service and for allowing us all to attend and remember Von and say farewell in surroundings familiar to him.



Above: "Von's" Memorial gathering.



Hamish Ian Goddard

4 July 1980 -18 March 2021

Dawn is coming open your eyes. - SGT David Kelly-Grimshaw

I just don't understand the logic. From the initial feelings of grief that promptly turned into anger, we now are left with the question regarding the structure of life's journey itself. For now, we pensively search for an answer to the surely myopic reason why a man of 40, a father of a young family, a son, husband and a member of our Royal Australian Engineers was tragically taken from us so very early.

CDT Hamish Ian Goddard passed away on the driveway in his Sassafras home from what was believed to be a blood clot, presumably associated with a recent fractured leg. His wife Georgi was with him while the Ambulance attended.

Upon hearing the news, 16 Engineers promptly gathered at a home in the hills. Did what Engineers do and made an excessively large bonfire and just stared at it. We talked, reflected and just waited for news of an error of some sort, or even an explanation that never came. This tragedy did what many could not do for years, RAE members dropping everything and banding together in strength as Engineers. The display of comradery absolved any old feelings and reaffirmed a robust bond between bothers in arms. But as Engineers, we still need the rationale as to why.



An extremely capable Corporal with 18 years of service, then becoming an Officer. We were looking forward to having Hamish return to 22ER after his journey to the dark side at Melbourne University Regiment. We joked how we were going to snigger every time we had to say "Sir", and how he would have to strengthen that saluting arm. As the Sapper Summit is an account of all things RAE, Hamish Ian Goddard is to take his place as a true legendary Engineer.

Almost 60 uniformed soldiers and countless ex service personnel attended his funeral. With permission, the following is an adapted version of Daniel Cato's eulogy at Hamish's funeral, a beautifully written piece that perfectly captured Hamish. I have made some adjustments to enhance and contextualise.

Everyone will have their own individual and

unique memories of Hamish that will bring a smile to their face. There is also no doubt, that there was a thought common to all of us: namely, that he was taken from us far too early. Nevertheless, it is crucial for us to remember that Hamish both achieved more, and positively impacted more lives than most people do with an innings twice as long as he had.

Hamish joined this world on Friday the 4th of July in 1980. Hamish would be the first to admit that he was incredibly lucky to be born into the family he was. Liz and Ian provided a safe and loving home, strong values, and discipline which Hamish occasionally chose to acknowledge and adhere to. Hamish mentioned over the years about how much he enjoyed his childhood. Liz and Ian also ensured Hamish was the beneficiary of a fine education, firstly at St Leonards College followed by senior school at Scotch College. Hamish embraced these opportunities to the fullest, being a keen oarsman, a member of the cadets, and a dabbler in that manliest of sports, Soccer.

Following school Hamish spread his wings attending, or not attending, university, backpacking Europe, and even moonlighting as a Richmond Slumlord for a short while. He would subsidise this lifestyle working at the Pancake Parlour and as a barman at the Imperial on Chapel St, places where he became a real fixture and forged many strong friendships. Hanging with 'The Pancake Parlour Crew' proved extremely providential as it was through them that he met his wife Giorgia, and, the rest as they say, is history.

Simultaneously, amongst all this excitement, Hamish embarked on a part time career that could best be described as the *second* great love of his life. Following initial recruit training at Kapooka he joined the 4th Combat Engineer Regiment, now merged to become the 22nd Engineer Regiment, as a Sapper, then, Corporal before recently being accepted into Officer Training.

As if his dance card wasn't full enough, he also

maintained a civilian career in IT working firstly at Impact Data and for the last seven years at Yarris, ultimately as General Manager, alongside other family members.

A full life indeed, I'm sure you'll agree.

"He was a trojan who was always the last to down tools, yet he always carried himself in good humour"

Hamish did achieve plenty in his 40 years. However, one must be careful about focussing too much on the 'what', as this misses the true essence of who Hamish was. It was never the 'what' with Hamish, it was always the 'how'. It's a subtle difference, but it gets to the very core of why he was so special.

Hamish was the quintessential morale officer in any group with an uncanny ability to lift the mood of everyone around him. He was a trojan who was always the last to down tools, yet he always carried himself in good humour, with a ready joke or a timely pat on the back for others. He was never happier than when he was working long hours alongside his fellow Sappers on a meaningful task like the Bushfire Assist Operations.

Working at Yarris, his innate ability to connect and communicate with clients on a personal level was remarkable, particularly given the highly technical nature of those interactions. His ability to build strong relationships with both clients and staff through his warm and empathetic manner is a capability that will be sorely missed.

Finally, to friendships, Hamish's greatest strength. He was one of those rare individuals with the uncanny ability to make time spent with him require absolutely no effort at all. The ease of conversation, the inordinate amount of hugging, as well as the cheeky and sometimes malicious sense of humour always made people feel welcome and included in his presence, or in any group that he was part of. Many of us will acutely notice a Hamish shaped void in our lives over the coming

months and years. A void that, *sadly*, will always remain just that.

Now before we go too much further, I have to pull up hard here. There is a real risk that your lasting impression of Hamish based on this piece, is of an angelic man, sitting on a cloud, benevolently looking down on us all whilst strumming a harp, with little white wings and a halo. It is a duty to remind you that half the time Hamish carried a pitchfork, and he was *fun*. They say that a good friend will always come and post your bail when you get locked up. Well, Hamish could never do that, as he was always in the cell with you.

Hamish was also a man of contradictions. Whereas for most of us, our contradictions represent character flaws, or annoying habits. For Hamish they never detracted from his personality, and often served as a source of amusement for the rest of us.

Hamish joined the Army Reserve fancying himself something of a warrior. And yet, he still ended up earning the nickname Corporal Cuddles, for looking after others far more than himself.

Hamish would espouse the importance of a healthy lifestyle. And yet, could never say no to anything with even a hint of sugar in it. His mother recently told us that no matter where chocolate was hidden in their house, Hamish, the saccharine blood hound, would always find it. He was a man happy to order, literally just ice cream, from UberEats.

Hamish was wholly dedicated to Giorgi. And yet, for some reason he decided to stand up his future wife at her own brother's wedding, despite several reminders. Apparently ensuring his fellow Sappers didn't drink alone on Anzac Day was a higher priority. Such selfless bravery and reckless disregard for one's own safety is a *rare* trait... Although, in fairness to Hamish, who organises a wedding on Anzac Day anyway.

Even though Hamish is no longer here to directly enrich our lives, he does leave behind a wonderful legacy in the form of his family.

Nothing, and I do mean nothing, was more important to him than Giorgi, Gabriel and Isla. His family was a source of great love and pride for him as well as responsibility. I know that the loss that we feel must be as almost nothing when compared to the great loss that Giorgi and the children have suffered.

Gabriel and Isla should know that they were their father's greatest joy and source of pride. Replacing Hamish is an impossible task. However, it is due to the great esteem in which he was held that there will be a veritable army of people willing to step in and provide whatever support they can to see that Hamish's greatest ambition, the success of his family, is fully realised. Giorgi, will have only to ask, and have no doubt that anyone would offer anything that is within their power to give. Ultimately, these words, our thoughts and discussions, and even our memories will fade over time. Gabriel and Isla, represent the true and lasting legacy of Hamish Ian Goddard and hope that they will walk tall as they navigate their lives, confident in that knowledge of that fact.

For now, Vale brother. The idea that Hamish may be waiting for us on the other side of that opaque and mysterious threshold, likely with a welcoming drink in hand, will surely lessen the sting when our time comes to shuffle off this mortal coil. To bring some good from this untimely tragedy, I hope we can all do our best to emulate how Hamish lived in our own interactions with others. If all of us did that, even just a little, imagine what a better place the world would be.





Sappers Excel

HELPING THE KIDS

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL 2021

By Roving Reporter, Zeus

Eric (Jock) Howatt and his team of “Tin Rattlers” have done it again, raising \$30,143 for the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal! Creating a new record since supporting this wonderful charity 33 years ago - the team excelled themselves.

Many thanks to all those Sappers, and friends of Sappers, who rallied to the call. One of the best hospitals in the world, *The Children’s*, greatly appreciates the ongoing support of its Sapper family! Now in their 90th year, the Children’s Hospital raised over an incredible 17 million for much needed equipment.

Despite last year’s appeal proceeding only virtually, our Sapper team remained highly motivated to make 2021 a winner. Working within the normal COVID protection measures, the sappers worked their three intersections along Flemington Road like seasoned warriors. A special “crack” team led by Jock’s son Neil, was despatched to the Victoria Market to relieve much needed cash from the relentless Easter shoppers on the corner of Peel and



Victoria Streets.

One of the team (who wished to remain anonymous) has been “Rattling” for 10 years: *“I have never had a One Hundred Dollar Note before. This Good Friday, I got Two!”*

Jock explained that, *“despite a late start, numbers of tin rattlers being down, all the COVID restrictions and returning 24 tins unused (which has never happened before) we still cracked our best total ever!”*

Jock also added *“that a friend of mine drove all the way into the city to deposit Five, One Hundred Dollar Notes! The support from the people of Melbourne and our online Virtual tin supporters is just amazing. Words alone, cannot explain my feelings. Thank you.”*



**Good Friday Royal Childrens’ Hospital
2021 Appeal**



Above:

“The Team”

Sapper Summit is indeed privileged to be able to publish this very personal account of one man's World War 2 service. It is an amazing story of courage, dedication and humility. The author sadly passed away in 2018 but the story is published with the full approval of his surviving family. I had the privilege of personally knowing the author, John "Laurie" Williams. *Editor*

Flying in Bomber Command in World War II

Laurie Williams – October 24, 2007



When Britain declared war on Germany on Sunday, September 3, 1939, I was a 15 (going on 16) year-old in Year 11 at Benalla High School. Two years later, as I approached the age of 18, in my first year as a Junior Teacher, and having followed with interest the events of the previous two years, the fall of Poland, Holland, Belgium, France, Norway, the retreat of the allied forces through Dunkirk, and the on-going Air Battle of Britain, I did what many others were doing and had been doing, I applied to join one of the services. My best friend all through high school, who was 4 months older than I, had applied to join the Air Force 4 months earlier, and so did I. Our choice was certainly influenced by the fact that an Elementary Flying School had been established in Benalla during those two years. In fact, where I lived was only about 300 yards from one corner of it, with just an open paddock and the highway in between.

I must point out that the experiences that I had in the Air Force, including my tour of operational duty, were nothing out of the ordinary; or what would be considered as ordinary for thousands of others at that time. By comparison with those encountered by many, they were fairly uneventful. There are many who would

have much more dramatic stories to tell – such as a friend I see each week at golf and who was on the same squadron as I was. He was the navigator in the second last aircraft shot down in the European theatre of World War II. The raid was on Hitler's Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps. They were hit and severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Five of them baled out on the orders of the pilot who then crash-landed the plane in a field with the rear gunner on board. They were prisoners-of-war for four days.

Another colleague I meet at re-unions was the rear-gunner in a plane which had its hydraulic system shot away one night, and they crash-landed in England on return. Six weeks later, they had two engines shot out near Munich and returned on the remaining two. Jack Cannon, the former writer for the Herald, a mid-upper gunner, was the only survivor from an aircraft which crashed on return to England from what was his 9th and last operation. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands with stories like that out there; --- and of course there were thousands of others who didn't survive to tell their stories.

Having passed the medical and other tests for air-crew, I was placed on the Air Force Reserve until my turn came to be called, which was nearly six months later in May, 1942. During that time, Japan had entered the war. Five months of initial training at Somers, during which time we were categorised as Wireless Operators, Navigators or Pilots, according to our perceived and assessed attributes. (There were a few who failed the course, 'scrubbed' was the terms used). Then, for me, along with other trainee pilots, 2 months at Temora, near Cootamundra, learning to fly Tiger Moths (again some were scrubbed; for example, if you did not go solo within 9 hours), at the end of which we were categorised for either single-engined or multi-engined aircraft. For me, on to Uranquinty, near Wagga to go on to the Wirraway training to become a fighter pilot. After three months, including some basic operational training, we were presented with our wings and Sergeant's stripes, (a few were commissioned as Pilot Officers) and sent on final leave, prior to embarkation for somewhere overseas. It was then mid-April 1943, and I was aged 19 and a half.

Three weeks at Embarkation Depots in Melbourne and in Sydney, then on to a train bound for Brisbane. On arrival, straight on to trucks which took us to the docks to board the 'Willard A Holbrook', which was a small American Liberty ship being used as a troopship, some 400 of us, all air-crew, our destination unknown. Once at sea, we learned that we were heading for San Francisco.

It was May 6th when we left Brisbane. Before we left the

wharf, the Hospital ship Centaur went down the river ahead of us, clearly marked with large Red Crosses painted on each side, and an even larger one on each side of the upper decks. We followed sometime around midday. Further down we were joined by a destroyer as an escort which accompanied us until dusk that evening when it left us, and the Centaur turned away to the north. She was well lit up, with strings of deck and mast



AHS Centaur

lights and the large Red Crosses on the upper decks well illuminated.

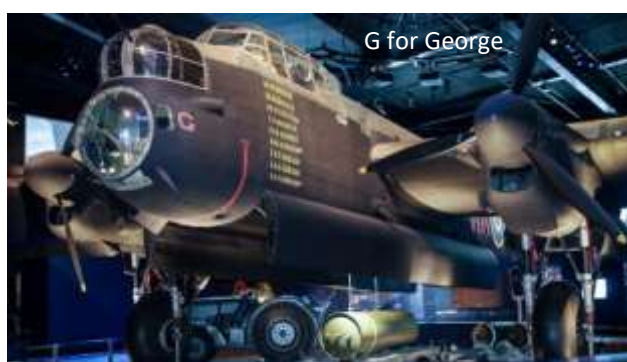
A little over a week later, when we were about midway across the Pacific, we learned via the ship radio that she had been sunk on May 14 by a Japanese submarine with a large loss of life. After she left us, she had been up to New Guinea to pick up wounded soldiers and was on her way back to Brisbane when she was sunk.

Seventeen days to San Francisco, a 6-day train trip across the United States, and 5 weeks in a holding camp near Boston. Then one evening, we went by train to New York harbour, right to the dock-side. At the pier waiting for us was the Queen Elizabeth, and we sailed the next morning, several thousand of us, mainly American army troops, arriving at Greenock in Scotland 6 days later; July 3rd, 1943.

In mid-September we started 5 months of training on the twin-engined Oxford, then 3 months on the large twin-engined Wellington, (which included getting ourselves organised into crews), 3 months on the 4-engined Stirling, and finally a short conversion course on to the Lancaster which involved only 4 days of flying. We were a mixed crew of 7; the Wireless Operator, Mid-Upper Gunner and Rear Gunner and I were Australians; the Navigator, Engineer and Bomb Aimer were English. It was in February, 1944, while we were on Wellingtons, that I learned that the friend from school-days had been shot down and killed in Italy.

August 17, 1944, about 10 weeks after D-Day, saw us

finally arrive at an operational squadron – the Australian No 460 Squadron, a well-renown squadron located at Binbrook, just south of Grimsby. The squadron motto was ‘Strike and Return’; our cynical translation of that was ‘Hit and Run’. Here I met up with several pilots who I had been with at various stages of training, both in Australia and in England. Alan Baskerville was one, his crew were known as ‘The Hounds’. Neville Twyford was another, more about him shortly. A few days of local flying to become familiar with the local layout and landmarks, and some training in dealing with attacks by fighters in co-operation with Spitfires and Hurricanes from a neighbouring airfield, using camera guns. This was on-going during our time on the squadron, as was instrument flying practice in the Link trainer simulator. It was during this time that



“G for George” returned to the squadron for a farewell visit after having been away having long range petrol tanks fitted for the trip out to Australia. Then my first operation, - as a 2nd pilot with an experienced pilot and crew to become familiar with operational procedures on a night raid on a V1 or buzz-bomb factory at Russelheim. On this one, Neville Twyford’s aircraft was hit by flak, and couldn’t make it back across the channel so he crash-landed it (safely as far as the crew was concerned, the plane was a write off) on the beach at Normandy. Our first operation as a crew was a short daylight raid across the channel to Le Havre. Our 4th operation, on the night of September 16, was our first night operation. It was with 28 other aircraft from the squadron, on an airfield at Rheine-Salzbergen in Belgium with 20 500 lb. bombs on each aircraft, the idea being to put that airfield and others nearby out of action. What we didn’t know was that the next day, some thousands of allied airborne troops would be dropping and landing at some place nearby called Arnhem – the famous Arnhem landing.

The general procedure was for a crew to do a first tour of 30 operations, then go on to other duties such as instructing crews-in-training for 6 months before returning to do a second tour of 20 operations. So, we had 4 down, with 26 to go to complete the first tour.

Our 7th operation turned out to be the most frightening experience we had, not due to enemy action, but to faulty navigation. Our crew navigator had fallen down the stairs after celebrating his 21st birthday rather too well, and broken his wrist. So, on this trip, a night operation to Saarbrücken, in Germany, we had a navigator who was a spare on the squadron. At briefing, the weather officer had told us of extreme weather conditions to the south, but that our course had been set so that we would avoid them. Not so with this navigator! He didn't notice that the radar grid showing on his screen was not the normal one, but the reserve grid showing different reference points.

So, the courses he gave me to fly took us well to the south, right into the storm with its heavy towering cumulo-nimbus clouds. At the time, we thought that the weather forecasters had been out in their forecast, and that everyone else would be encountering the same conditions. We started to ice up, we had lightning dancing all over the Perspex canopy, I lost the gyro compass and some of the other instruments due to icing, the controls became sluggish due to the build up of ice on the wings and we had to increase power quite a bit just to maintain height. I was flying solely on the remaining instruments, which I hoped were still reliable, because we couldn't see a thing in dense cloud. In those conditions, it would have been very easy to become disoriented and lose control. Chunks of ice were flying off the propellers and hitting the side of the aircraft. Finally, the navigator admitted that we were lost; he had no idea where we were. It was too risky to lose height to try and get below the cloud, because for all we knew, we could have been over high mountains. Although I could not be sure that the magnetic compass had not been affected by the lightning, it was all I had to go by, and, as the weather report had said that the stormy conditions should be to the south of us, I decided that I would fly on a north-easterly heading as shown by the magnetic compass. And after some time flying blind on that heading, we broke out of the cloud into clear weather. The remaining problem was- where were we? It was pitch-black night.

Ahead of us, in the distance we could see a large glow on the ground. That could only be one thing – the target, so we flew towards it, reached it after about quarter of an hour and dropped our bombs, 20 minutes after everyone else had left to go home as it turned out. At least we knew where we were, I had my instruments back in operation, and we navigated back to England, only to be told via radio that there was fog covering our part of the country, and we had to divert to another airfield. When we landed, we found that all the other crews had had a trouble-free trip as far as the weather

was concerned. That navigator was grounded as a result of his efforts on that operation. That was a more unnerving experience than any other that we encountered during our tour, even those in which we flew into very heavily defended targets.

For the purpose for which it was built, the Lancaster was an excellent aircraft – easy to fly and most reliable. It had 4 Rolls Royce Merlin engines, each 1250 HP; at low levels and unloaded, it could maintain height on one engine. It could carry a bomb-load of 15,000 lb., and for comparison, the bomb-load of the American Flying Fortress was less than a quarter of that, only 3500 lb. One of the bombs we usually carried, the 4000 pounder, was heavier than total Fortress bomb-load. It carried a crew of 11; our crew was 7. The Americans did nearly all daylight raids, usually flying in formations, all dropping their bombs at the one instant as directed by the lead aircraft. We flew as an individual crew, each having to navigate to the target, to arrive at the time allocated for the particular squadron, plus or minus 2 minutes, run in and bomb as guided by the bomb aimer in the crew, then navigate back to base. An attack involving about 300 aircraft might be timed to last for 20 minutes, for 500-600 aircraft, the time would be 30 minutes, and for 800-1000 aircraft, it might be 40 or 45 minutes. Such concentrations meant an aircraft about every 3 seconds, but of course we weren't all lined up one behind the other at three-second intervals. The stream of aircraft, all in about an 2000 feet height band, might have been about two miles wide some twenty miles from the target. But on the run in, everyone was trying to converge on the one aiming point. There was quite a bit of jockeying for position with crew members having to keep a watch out for aircraft above, aircraft below and those closing in from the side. There were



occasional collisions, and instances of aircraft being struck by falling bombs from aircraft above them.

The route to the target for us to take was laid out for us at pre-operation briefing, and navigators did an advance plotting, using forecast wind directions. The route was never a straight line from base to target; instead, it was a series of dog-legs. The first course was from each of the scores of airfields in England where

some 90 bomber squadrons were based to a rendez-vous point somewhere over England. Very often, this was Reading, west of London. In daylight, often at dusk it was an awe-inspiring sight to see 400, 600, 800 aircraft all at about the same height, converging together over the rendez-vous and then turning on to a common heading to form a stream perhaps two or three miles wide. The second leg would be roughly south-east to take us down into France before turning more easterly towards what was the selected target for the attack, with perhaps more dog-legs to skirt around heavily defended areas. Then there was always a late turn and a short run-in of about 10 or 20 miles to the target itself. At night, we flew without navigation lights. Earlier in the war, this applied right from take off, because of the possible presence of enemy aircraft over England; later on, lights could be left on until the enemy coast was reached, and later still, the front line. So crew members had to keep a vigilant watch all the time for other aircraft, not only hostile ones but our own as well. Turning points were particularly hazardous.

On the run in, if there was no cloud cover, we would see areas of fire on the ground, the air would perhaps be full of puffs of black smoke from anti-aircraft fire, and at night searchlights would be probing trying to light up an aircraft for the gun crews. The bomb-aimer would select his 15 bomb switches and settle down behind his bomb-sight. As the aiming point reached the end of his sight, he would start giving me his directions – Left – left – Steady – Steady – Right and so on until ‘Bomb doors open’, a few more Lefts – Lefts, Steadies and Rights, then ‘Bombs going’ – ‘Bombs gone – Bomb doors closed’. We would continue on that heading for about 5 or 10 miles before turning on to the next heading towards base. While this was going on, the rest of the crew would be advising me of any nearby and overhead aircraft, and perhaps telling me to slide out to port or starboard. This was all just standard and well-practiced procedure. It was always a good feeling to get rid of these bombs; we felt so much more vulnerable while they were still aboard, and particularly when the bomb-doors were open!

By late October, we had completed 11 operations. October 28, which was my 21st birthday, saw us on No. 12, a daylight raid on Cologne in the Ruhr Valley – no big deal except that flak was very heavy as it always was in Happy Valley as it was called – we had already been to Essen and Stuttgart at night.

For the Cologne trip, we were in the air for 5 hours. The following morning, we went across the North Sea to bomb 11 gun emplacements on Walcheren Island near the mouth of the Rhine. The allies had captured the city of Rotterdam, but were unable to use the port because

of those guns. There was a squadron to each gun, at 20 minute intervals, at a height of 7000 ft. This was only a 2 and half hour trip this time. We were in about the middle of our squadron’s attack, and because we scored a direct hit, the remaining aircraft were directed to return to base with their bomb-loads. This was not a welcome procedure, – one tried to be very, very light in putting down, and to feel for the runway very gently. There were a couple of occasions when we had to return with our bombs on due to raids being cancelled after we had taken off. We went back to Cologne again on the nights of October 30th and 31st.

A crew didn’t fly on every operation, nor did a squadron take part in every operation that Bomber Command conducted. There were about 40 crews on the squadron, and the number of aircraft usually required of the squadron by Bomber Command might vary between 15 and 24. That winter was severe; we were unable to fly due to snow on some days, but during November and December, we did 10 night operations and 4 daylight, with raids on oil refineries, railway marshalling yards and even one dropping sea-mines in the Kattegatte to the east of Denmark.

Boxing Day saw us on No. 27, a daylight raid across snow-covered France and West Germany to the town of St Vith which was in the middle of ‘The Bulge’ made in the Allied front line when von Rundstedt’s troops counter-attacked rather vigorously. And it was about that time that the order was issued by Bomber Command that the number of operations for the first tour was to be increased from 30 to 36! It had been realised that after the allied invasion of Europe had commenced on June 6, many of the operations were only short trips across the Channel and back.

But, since that date, the allied front line had been advancing across France, and by then, operations had become much longer. The months of January and February saw us visit an oil refinery near Leipzig and an oil plant near Stettin among other targets. On longer trips, the bomb load had to be reduced because of the need to carry more fuel. Our longest operation was to Chemnitz, 9 hours 50 minutes from take-off to tough-down. For the gunners, that meant over 10 hours confined in their turrets, and for pilot, strapped in his seat.

During the last two or three years of the war, each RAF raid was under the direction of a ‘Master Bomber’ who flew round the target in a Mosquito as a kind of Master of Ceremonies, The Pathfinder crews would arrive with him at the target before the appointed time, and at night he would first call for flares to be dropped so that the exact target could be identified. Next he would call for other Pathfinders to come in and drop long-burning

red and green napalm flares as target indicators.

If we had an early time in the attack, we would see all of this happening ahead of us, without being able to hear any of the dialogue because they were using a different frequency. Next he would call us with something like – “Hullo, Mainforce, this is Marmalade (or some other code word). There is your target marked for you. Bomb between the two red markers, (or it may have been between the red and the first green marker or something similar) Good luck”. As the markers began to burn out, he would call for more Pathfinders to run in underneath it all and re-mark the target. Also, he may be telling us to perhaps overshoot a little, or aim a little to the right or similar in order to concentrate the attack on a different area, and in this way, he directed the attack.

On one occasion, 6 crews from our squadron, including us, were given the job of running through the target ahead of the Pathfinders in an endeavour to get the night-fighters chasing us and so draw them away from the Pathfinders.

March 2nd, our 34th operation, saw us back at Cologne for our fourth time, on this occasion in daylight. The city was taken by the advancing allies three days later, and our task on that day was to block the approaches to the bridges across the Rhine to hamper the retreating forces, but to leave the bridges themselves intact for the advancing army to use.

During February, one of the new pilots arriving at the squadron was a friend from school, a year or so younger than I. On March 4, he was listed to fly with our crew to do his introductory operation as 2nd pilot, but the operation was cancelled before take-off due to bad weather. It was scheduled again for the following night, but this time he was listed to fly with another crew. They were shot down and all were killed. This was the long trip to Chemnitz.

On March 7th, we did our final operation, No. 36, a 9-hour night trip to Dessau. And what would you know, about a month later, an order from Bomber Command changed the number of operations for the first tour back to 30.

I was then posted to a Lancaster conversion unit as an instructor for crews in training for my 6 months of instructing duties, and this continued for the next four months, during which time the war in Europe ended, followed by the war in the Pacific. I returned home in mid-October after 2 and half years overseas, and was discharged on December 12. I turned 22 just after I got home.

Casualties in Bomber Command were very heavy indeed; over 47,000 were killed in action. A further 8,000 were killed in training for Bomber Command.

These figures do not include American Air Force losses. There was only one branch of a service with a higher casualty rate, and that was the U-Boat section of the German navy.

Over the course of the war, the odds of surviving a first tour of operations were exactly one in two; the chances of surviving two tours were one in three. But I must say that the odds were more favourable than that at the time we were on operations, which just goes to show how tough they were in the earlier years.

The total number of Australians killed on Bomber Command was 3486. The number of wounded was 265 – these figures give an idea of the pattern of casualties. The number of Australians who flew in Bomber Command amounted to less than 2 percent of all Australians who enlisted in World War II, yet the 3486 who died accounted for almost 20 percent of all Australian deaths in combat. Twenty percent of all Australians killed on Active Service in World War II came from the 2% who flew in Bomber Command.

But let us not forget the terrible toll among those as the receiving end of these operations. The number of German people killed as a result of Allied air raids was estimated to be more than 400,000.

And then of course we have to add to that the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

What a tragedy! What a waste of human life!

These figures should surely drive home to us all the utter stupidity and futility of large-scale war – of any war, - because even a small skirmish can escalate.

Thank you for the opportunity of telling this story. Many of these facts and figures tend to have been forgotten over the intervening 60 years, and some of them may not have been generally known at the time. But it may be worthwhile to take our memories down now and again and dust them off occasionally and give them an airing, and use them to remind ourselves of what can happen when the leaders of nations decide



to take their countries to war against each other. **As individuals, and as nations, we would do well to remember and learn from the lessons that history can teach us.**

**Left: John
“Laurie” Williams
DFC Author**

Editor's Note: The text in the previous story is that of the author. Illustrations have been added by the editor.

The Sir Peter Scratchley Sword



On Friday 16 April 2021, Jim Davis, RAE Association (Vic) Secretary, received an email from a collector in Ireland stating that he had just bought a sword at an auction in England. The sword, complete with scabbard and original oilskin carrying bag, had a note attached to it from the descendants of Sir Peter Scratchley stating that it was his ceremonial sword.

The collector investigated who Sir Peter Scratchley was and as the collector said, "I see he is a very notable person in the history of Australia, specifically in the foundation of the Royal Australian Engineer Corps".

He then reached out to RAE Association via Jim to see if we would like to have it in the Association's collection, as he said, "Ultimately all antique swords hang on walls - it might mean more on yours than mine". He offered it to us for what he bought it for at the auction, plus postage to Australia.

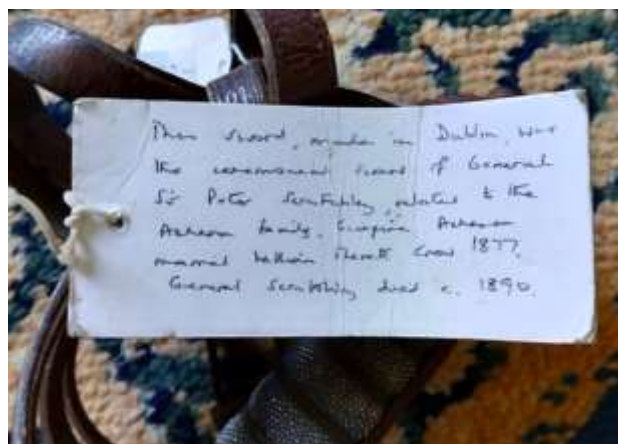
To first verify authenticity of the sword and the links in the family we established the following;

The sword is actually an 1845 British officer's sword that was issued to the Royal Artillery,

Royal Engineers and the Rifles officers. It is a Wilkinson version as it has the Star of David acid etched into the blade, it is also made by Sexton & Sons in Dawson St, Dublin, Ireland. These swords were in use until 1892.

A lot of the swords like this that are available for sale are Rifle volunteer swords and they are marked accordingly, however this sword has no such markings adding to the authenticity of the sword.

Another check is the "Proof Slug" this is a brass plug that is inserted into the sword just in front of the hilt and it is surrounded by an acid etched symbol of the Star of David. This sword has these items, which means it is a genuine, tested for strength sword and not a ceremonial one.



We then researched the family tree of Sir Peter Scratchley and established that the lady's name mentioned on the note attached to the hilt was Sir Peter's first cousin Georgina Acheson.

Sir Peter's mother, Maria Roberts and Georgina Adelaide Acheson's mother Georgina Margaret Roberts were sisters, therefore it is assumed that it was passed down through the generations on the Crow family side.



ARTIST, MINER & SAPPER:

Penleigh Boyd

By Don Hughes

A call from the Editor of the *Warrandyte Diary*, based in an old mining town on the outskirts of Melbourne - startled me. Still in my lockdown slumber, I soon reflected on the message intently.

"There is a mistake on the honour board at the RSL - "T. Penleigh-Boyd" is not accurate. It should be Theodore Penleigh Boyd, with no hyphen! He prefers to be known as just - Penleigh Boyd. He is one of Australia's noted landscape painters."

Accepting responsibility for this dilemma; I was inspired to make good the mistake and seek out the deeper story.

When the Editor also mentioned that Penleigh was a senior member of the Boyd artistic dynasty, she casually included that he was an Australian Army Engineer (Sapper) in WW1.

As a current day sapper, my guilt went into overdrive. I had not heard of him. This needed further research. A man who combined two of Warrandyte's great heritages – Mining and Art. The current President of the Warrandyte RSL, is also a sapper- David (Rhino) Ryan who comes from a plumbing background.

Who is a Sapper?

A "sap" is a trench, dug usually in a zig zag alignment, to safely approach a fortification (such as a castle) to then undermine it, collapse it and allow the infantry access. One who digs saps, is therefore called a sapper. Modern day sappers' clear obstacles (landmines, wire etc) and also provide engineering services (water, power, construction etc).

Well knowing the reputation of the renowned Warrandyte architect, educator and social commentator, Robin Boyd, I never made the connection that he was Penleigh's son. Also, I personally know Linda Noke & Andrew Sisson

who live in *The Robins* on Warrandyte/Kangaroo Ground Road but I did not know that Penleigh was a WW1 Sapper? His reputation as an artist has been chronicled as *equal to that of Arthur Streeton!*

The Artist and "The Robins"

Theodore Penleigh Boyd (1890-1923) was a noted landscape painter born in Westbury, Wiltshire, England to parents who were both successful painters. Before WW1 he became a successful and profitable artist travelling to Europe where he married Edith Anderson (1880- 1961) before purchasing about 14 acres in the township of Warrandyte sloping steeply down to the Yarra River, to the north of the bridge, to establish the family seat - *The Robins* - occupying it in 1914.

Linda and Andrew, the current owners of *The Robins*, hosted a Robin Boyd Foundation open day on 15 May 2011. The Foundation described its architectural and artistic heritage:

"at this time a flourishing community of artists began to settle around the township. Chosen for its natural beauty, Penleigh designed and built a single-storey cottage with a generous attic that was broadly Tudor - with a crooked terracotta gabled roof, bay windows and cross-beamed ceilings.

The ground floor walls were constructed of earth mixed with concrete, an early example of in-situ concrete, and possibly one of the first examples of reinforced concrete being used to build a house in Australia!

The biographer Brenda Niall describes that:

"....the style of the house and the physical and emotional energy that went into its building express the contradictions of Penleigh's personality. Venturesome and self-reliant, he carved his own space out of the Warrandyte bush, but the style he chose for the house was quaint, nostalgic and very English." (Niall, *The Boyd's*, 2002)

Mining

Penleigh Boyd (service number 5) enlisted as a Sapper in November 1915 into the newly formed Australian Mining Corps. Soon he was promoted to Sergeant and joined a special Australian Army Engineer unit; the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Mining and Boring Company. Jocularly called by the Diggers, the “Alphabet Company” because of its abbreviation - **AE&MM&B Coy!**

This unit had the responsibility of providing and maintaining the equipment required to light, ventilate and de-water the extensive tunnel and dug-out systems along the entire length of the Western front. The unit deservedly earned many plaudits for the support it provided to all Imperial forces. Sergeant Boyd detailed lorry drivers and the distribution of stores and equipment.

Other Sapper units at the time included; Field,

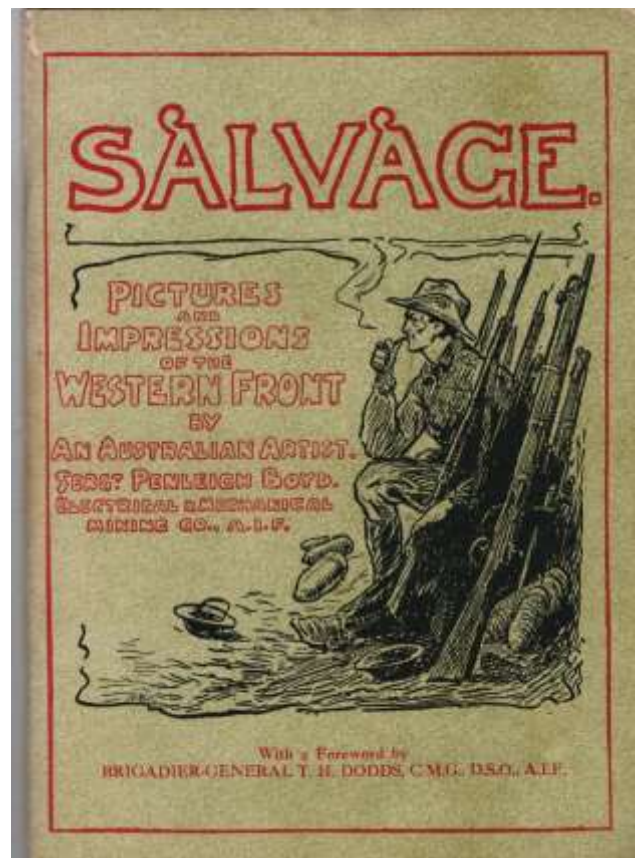


Mounted, Signals, Submarine Mining, Works & Fortifications (Fortress), Railway, Training & Survey (McNicoll, History of the Royal Australian Engineers 1902 -1919, Volume 2,

Making and Breaking, Canberra, 1979).

Underground warfare, or mining and tunnelling, is little known to most but was prolific during WW1 - particularly on the Western Front. Throughout history tunnelling has been used by Sappers of all nations to breach enemy fortifications. Traditionally, undermining castles. A more modern example would include the infamous tunnels of Vietnam.

As one of Australia’s earliest deployed artists into France, he took the opportunity to become an unofficial war artist capturing impressions and images of a place, period and situation that otherwise would have gone unrecorded. As a sapper on the ground, he had a unique vantage point to record daily life on the Western Front. Many of his drawings were published in his wonderful book – *Salvage* (P. Boyd, British Australasian, London, 1918).



Penleigh was badly gassed in Ypres in 1917 then invalided to England. He repatriated home aboard the *Euripides* in 1918 to

continue his painting and living in *The Robins*. He suffered permanent lung damage but continued his artistic work with unabated energy including assisting fellow returned soldiers.

The Drunken Lion Tamer (The First Warrandyte Festival?)



The current owners of *The Robins*, Linda, a Project Manager constructing Victorian Police Stations, and Andrew, a School Teacher, share their favourite Penleigh Boyd story as reported in the Argus (Jan 1921) and digitised by the State Library of Victoria:

“As President of the Warrandyte branch of the Returned Soldiers’ League, Mr Penleigh Boyd, in order to build a soldiers’ institute, persuaded his neighbours to hold a week long fete. With their assistance, he transformed the glen at the foot of the bridge into a veritable fairy dell!

The pathway from the main road to the glen, were artistically illuminated with festoons of Chinese lanterns - all the way to the banks of the Yarra. In the moonlight, with the reflection from the lights, the river appeared as if it were

a stream of silver. Hidden amongst the trees were gaily decorated stalls who did a roaring trade. Food, drinks, dancing, fireworks and music along with many other attractions, entertained a multitude of residents from the whole District.

The proprietor of the travelling circus, reported to the local constabulary that; the Lion Tamer, who had a drinking problem, was missing. All cafes and the hotel were searched in vain, finally, the Lion Tamer was found in the cage with the Lion and Lioness! All three lying fast asleep!

The searchers tried to arouse the trio but were met with noisy and frightening protests! They were permitted to sleep on. After 8 hours the Lion Tamer awoke, patted the Lions, adorned his cape, and then proceeded home to his wife for breakfast!”

Penleigh sold *The Robins* in 1922 but tragically died in a car accident at Warrigal in 1923. Robin Boyd was 4 years old. Edith lived until 1961.



RINGWOOD RSL President's Column



CONTRACT SIGNED FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE RINGWOOD RSL SUB BRANCH

David Jamison, President of the Ringwood Sub Branch, announced that the Ringwood RSL Sub Branch, its trustees and a development consortium, Costa Asset Management (Ringwood) comprising CostaFox Developments Pty Ltd and REDC Pty Ltd, have signed a contract to develop the RSL site on Station Street. It is planned that the complex will comprise apartments, the RSL facilities, an office and function complex, a wellness centre with pool and gym along with commercial or professional office space.

"This is an exciting development that will complement the other recent projects in the immediate central activities area. On completion of the project in 2025, we look forward to occupying state the art facilities to replace our aging club rooms." he said.

RSL Veteran Support Services

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Veteran News

The Afghanistan Situation

I can only express my profound disappointment on how our involvement in this war has evolved. The Government announcement that it will close the Embassy in Kabul shows what little progress the intervention by Australia and its allies has achieved. My question therefore is has the cost paid in Australian lives been in vain?

In addition the allegations of misconduct by our Special Forces circulated by the media are having a very serious impact on Special Forces personnel and their families. It seems the situation will get much worse with the defamation proceedings brought by a VC winner against certain media outlets. Worryingly the impact is not just confined to these personnel and their mental wellbeing but is decimating the military capacity of the cutting edge of the Army. I wonder how bad the impact on Australia's defence capacity is. The Federal Government and the leadership of the ADF must step up to the mark and show a level of wisdom, courage and ethical leadership not evident at the moment, to ensure the Country's defence capacity is not further diminished in a time of increasing instability in our region of the World.

Editor's Note:

The RAE Association—Victoria has received significant support from the Ringwood RSL. Members have benefited from the club's services including its welfare support service. The association thanks the sub branch for its ongoing support and I especially thank the President for his support of this magazine.

Royal Commission into Veteran Suicides

With the agreement of the Committee I submitted a short paper the Attorney General's Department on the impending Royal Commission. A short synopsis is:

The Australian Government has written a covenant with the members of the Australian Defence Community in which it commits to supporting veterans and their families and build greater community awareness of the unique nature of military service. It also promises amongst other things, to support all who have served. This commitment is not always carried through by Federal Government departments and agencies. Some examples are;

- The ATO withholds tax from a number of veterans despite courts of the land finding that doing so is not legal.
- The adversarial nature of the military compensation and rehabilitation legislation sets up a situation that pits individual veterans against the Department of Veterans Affairs in a "David vs Goliath" battle.
- The Federal Parliament continues to support the unconscionable use of 50 year+ out of date life tables to deduct monies from military pensioners in excess of the intent of the legislation.

The Royal Commission (RC) provides an opportunity to reset the way the Federal Government provides support to serving and former members of the ADF and their immediate families. The present system has evolved over the last some 100 years and can be fairly characterized as being something of a patchwork quilt of highly centralized programs requiring an extensive and very costly organisational structure to administer these. Too often an individual seeking support finds the system complex and frustratingly difficult to access. The genesis of the complexity is the legislative structure. This aspect must be a

major focus for the Royal Commission. The aim should be to devise a legislative basis that allows for a simple, singular and easy to access compensation and rehabilitation support scheme to provide comprehensive support. Any scheme must also be fair and easy to understand and administer.

The Royal Commission presents a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to highlight and identify remedies to the many failures in government support for veterans. As well we can reset the atmosphere within the veteran community from a victim mentality (in the eyes of many) to an attitude that veterans don't just survive after service but they thrive. Information about the commission can be found at:

<https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au>.

RSL Sub Branch News

Veterans Lunch 11 August 2021



The Sub Branch along with the Vietnam Veterans Association is hosting a lunch for all veterans and their partners on the 11th August @ 12noon. The guest speaker will be Heston Russell a former Commando Regiment Major. Cost for the two course meal including liquid refreshments is \$35 for RSL members and

visitors \$45.

Redevelopment of our Property

Work continues on the redevelopment project. Recently the developers moved drills into the car park as they took soil samples and tested the water table.

Preliminary work on layouts and design is underway by the development architect but we await the Minister's decision the Maroondah Activities Centre rezoning proposal.

Veteran Fitness Engagement

The VFE 'boxersize' programme is designed to invite, engage and promote connection through exercise and conversation with the modern day veteran, families and friends at Ringwood RSL. Our aim is to create an environment in a space that's familiar with the model of camaraderie within the ADF and create lasting friendships for a life after service. Connection is the key to conversation, being available as a mate to spend time in a mutual activity, sharing a meal afterwards to unwind and allow people to relax and enjoy their evening with a sense of achievement and connection scheduled for Thursday nights @ 1830-1930hrs.

More Lockdowns!!!!

Once again the State Government has imposed restrictions on Victorians as it battles to contain the spread of a new variant of the COVID 19 virus. So we were forced to close again. We expect that there will be continuing restrictions and based on experience so far, that there will be future snap lockdowns that we will all have to cope with.



The Committee shares the frustration felt by members and staff but we are at the mercy of the State Government.

Unfortunately we are still without a Welfare Coordinator and the selection process has been disrupted by the lockdowns. However our welfare volunteer may be able to help. As well limited support for DVA pension matters may still be possible from our Oasis Support Centre. So if you really are in need of assistance please call the Sub Branch (9870 6604) and every endeavour will be made to help.

Look to our social media sites for updates on how the government COVID restrictions impact our activities.

Colonel David Jamison AM (Retd)
Ringwood Sub Branch President



Ringwood RSL ANZAC Services 2021



Brief Service History Bob Ihlein.

I joined the Army on the 15th January 1968 in York St Sydney at 19 years of age.

We spent the first two nights at Watsons Bay and had free rain for the first two days and nights in the Army.

17th January very hung over we went by bus to Kapooka 1st Recruit Training Battalion. Next day it started training until the end of March when I was posted for Corps Training at SME from the beginning of April till mid June. At the end of training I was posted to South Vietnam as a potential driver.

The we were sent to Eastern Command trade Training Centre for an eight week drivers course.

In August, we went to Jungle Training Centre Canungra to a three week course to get us fit and learn all the skills etc from the staff who were all Vietnam Veterans.

We spent time at SME in holding troop under the watchful eyes of a Cpl Bill Unemopia who made sure we maintained our fitness from Canungra.

Next there was pre embarkation leave and on the plane from Mascot to Saigon Via Darwin and Singapore arriving in Saigon 29th October 1968. I was posted as a Driver to 21 Engineer Support Troop, a part of the 1Field Squadron

Group.

For the first few months, I was the driver for the fridge mechanics. A swan job going to all the kitchens throughout the base getting the good morning tea's ice cream etc.

Eventually I was given the job of driving a tipper which was what we all wanted. We built the Dam and tar sealed the roads in Nui Dat. Outside the base we built the road from The Horseshoe to Dat Do. Eventually, I started towing the tilt bed trailer which was my ticket to travel carrying plant to and from fire support bases. I was promoted Temporary Corporal 14th May 1969 and in charge of 21 Spt Tp transport.

This is when I taught myself to drive the 1942 Federal Low Loader. Eventually I returned to Australia on the 29th October 1969. After my leave I took up my posting as a Driver Cpl at 24 Construction Sqn Enoggera at the end of 1969. I got married and a son was bor I completed my promotion subjects, also a Transport Supervisors Course, while I was posted to 24 Const Sqn. March 1972 I was posted as Transport Supervisor to RHQ 2 Field Engineer Regiment Enoggera. I remained there until I was posted to District Engineers Office Mendi in Papua New Guinea on 23rd September 1973 where I remained until 9th October 1975. During my time in Mendi the Country gained Self Government and Independence and the unit name changed to Provincial Engineers Office after Independence.

I took my leave and then took up my posting to SME as Cpl Tpt Spv for the next two years. I was then offered a posting back to PNG to replace my replacement from my previous posting there and promised promotion to Sgt. I took the posting in November 1977 and was promoted to Sgt May 1978. The postings to Mendi were very eventful and were a very big learning curve. I was in charge of the hiring of plant and vehicles to all government departments in the southern highlands. Also

at times I would replace a plant supervisor on many of the road construction jobs plus I was sent to the many outstations to do blasting for the local patrol officers who were building minor roads or needed quarries blasted.

I was in Mendi for just under three years. The unit name changed again to 12 CE WKS. Late 1980 I returned to Australia, took Leave and took up my posting to 21 Construction at Puckapunyal as Transport Supervisor and Troop Commander of Transport troop. After completing my Warrant Officers Course at Canungra early 1981, I was promoted to WO2 4th Jun 1981. This was an eventful two years. I ran a 109 Drivers course and an Operator Specialist Vehicle course and organized the Convoys to Deploy to Shoal Water Bay as part of Operation Normandy Ranger and K81. In 1982 we ran the trial on the new Mack Dump Truck and conducted more Mack Conversion courses.

1983 I was Posted to 22 Construction Sqn Karrakatta Perth. This was by far my best posting in Australia. I spent three very good years there running Mack conversion courses an Operator Specialist Vehicle course plus numerous exercises and detachments one being to a School Cadet Camp at Northam where I ran the rifle range putting 2000 school cadets through the 25 meter range firing M16's . It was mvery eventful to say the least.

In 1986 I was the posted to 20 Div Engr Support Sqn Enoggera for one year after which I took a year's long service at half pay checking out the civilian life. I returned to SME and was posted to the Museum where I only lasted a few months taking my discharge in May 1988 after 20 years and a few months.

After discharge, I drove concrete trucks, became a concrete batcher and spent a year in Townsville as the Operations Manager at the Ampol depot. The heat drove us back to Brisbane where I worked for Concrete Constructions on the cross city rail tunnels

then I worked for CSR Readymix Concrete as the batcher in charge of a Computerized Concrete plant at Ipswich.

I retired from there and moved to the Central Coast NSW and spent a lot of time travelling Australia and eventually had to settle down due to various reasons and ended up where I am today at Long Jetty NSW Central Coast.

In 2009, being bored, I joined The Entrance Men's Shed and The Entrance Long Jetty RSL Sub Branch. After training I became a Pensions Officer as well as being on the Committee. This is where I saw that there was a need to help the veteran community. I became involved in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations, Lobbying the Federal Government for the Fair Indexation of DFRDB Superannuation Pensions.

Early in 2016 I joined Overwatch Australia and became the National Coordinator of RAE Overwatch. It has grown for less than 20 to 685 members.

So, now I am still involved in the Men's Shed and Overwatch. This keeps me on my toes and keeps me young.

Overwatch Australia is a Closed Facebook Page divided into the three services and the Army, into the major Corps.

Overwatch is designed to help those in danger of self-harm and also the welfare of veterans of their families.



RAE OVERWATCH AS I SEE IT

By Robert (Bob) Ihlein

RAE Overwatch is part of OVERWATCH AUSTRALIA which was founded in 2013 for members of the RAR, SAS and 2 Commando Regt.

In 2015 Overwatch changed to encompass all services.

At the beginning of February in 2016 myself, David Edwards and Adrien Hopkins joined RAE Overwatch and formed an interim Admin Group from there we have expanded to have a total 683 members as of this date 25th May 2021. There were some members that had been added before our time that we eventually made contact with them and started a contact register.

We have been involved in the prevention of Suicide attempts and general welfare checking of RAE and other service members. We also arrange follow up contact with those members that have needed our assistance, plus visits to those in Hospital.

Being RAE, we seem to have a very strong brother and sister hood and are always able to find a Sapper willing to help those in need. Prior rank has no bearing on our membership: we are all Sappers and other corps members that have served with us over the years.

We do ask questions on your service when you request to join as it is a closed Facebook page and we need to know that the person requesting to join is genuine.

Also, we need the Suburb location and phone number of the person requesting to join so that if we need help in a location, we can look up the register to the nearest member and call them for help. As a last resort, if there is an attempt of Self-harm, we call the Police in that State for a welfare check. We do not want to put our members in harm's way.

I also keep a contact register for all of our interventions as at times we have those that repeat attempts to Self-harm in this case I have the location details to give emergency services.

It is also a benefit if our members attend Open Arms Suicide Prevention Training such as Safe Talk and Assist. Both of these courses are very helpful when talking to someone who is contemplating Suicide. Members Contact information is kept confidential and is stored on my computer and the computer of the Overwatch Australia Admin. It is also available to the admins who may be involved in an incident and need boots on the ground.

Robert Ihlein: RAE OVERWATCH National Coordinator.

1800 MYWATCH (1800 699 2824)

Editor's Note: The above article was sent to the RAE Association Vic and has been forwarded to Sapper Summit for publication.

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.

OPEN Veterans & Families Counselling ARMS

If you have served or are currently serving in the ADF, you and your family members can use

OPEN ARMS – VETERANS & FAMILIES COUNSELLING

(formerly VVCS)



To get support or find out more:

1800 011 046

www.OpenArms.gov.au

SOLDIER ON

During May, Soldier On celebrated National Volunteer Week with Volunteering Australia. Each year over six million Australians volunteers over 600 million hours to help others. At Soldier On we are incredibly grateful for the support provided by our amazing volunteers. We sat down and interviewed Soldier On volunteer Jye Martyn. [Read More.](#)

HEALTH & WELLBEING

At Soldier On, we know it's important to connect with others, especially during these trying times.

We have a range of social activities and mental health support programs to help you find the tools and mechanisms you need to keep going. Reach out to us today for a chat about what we can do for you.

For those of you transitioning from military to civilian life, or you are directly involved with someone who is, [this article](#) may be a helpful tool to help you navigate life without the same structure and balance that comes with being in the military.

REACH OUT

*Click the link above or email:
psychology@soldieron.org.au*

Take control of your life and pursue your dreams by learning how to think and act entrepreneurially in business and in your life. Udemy Licences IBM are offering Soldier On participants another fantastic opportunity to access a Business Udemy licence until December 2021.





**24-HOUR FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL
COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT
SERVICES**

» Get Support

Open Arms is a national service which offers:

- + counselling for individuals, couples and families
- + group programs
- + on transition - stepping out and life management skills
- + peer networks to enhance support
- + case management for clients with complex needs
- + suicide prevention training
- + information, education and self-help resources
- + a phone line for people to call and speak to someone 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- + referrals to other services or specialist treatment programs, as needed

» Eligibility

- + Current serving ADF personnel
- + Personnel transitioning to civilian life
- + Ex-serving members
- + Partners and children of serving and ex-serving personnel
- + Ex-partners who are co-parenting
- + Reservists with one day continuous full time service or hazardous service

Where there has been a death of a service person, parents and siblings can also access the service.

» Stay in touch

- + Facebook - @OpenArmsVeteransAndFamiliesCounselling
- + Twitter - @OpenArmsSupport

www.OpenArms.gov.au

*A service founded by Vietnam Veterans,
now for all veterans*

PSBEE



RAE Association-Vic plaques now available. Orders can be made via our web site.



Victoria hosted the first-ever Women's Vet Connect weekend and it was a huge success. This program is designed for those transitioning or have transitioned out of the Australian Defence Force and to connect female personnel focusing on mental health, relationship and life skills along with physical health knowledge. One of the standout activities included a ceramics class providing a tranquil and free-flowing space to cultivate creativity and relaxation.

Soldier On staff were humbled to receive positive feedback from many of the participants;

"Firstly thank you so much for the weekend it changed my life. To have it broken down why our brains are trained for defence life and allowing me to understand why I am feeling disconnected to my civilian friends now makes so much more sense. I also finally felt that after 16 years I felt that I now have a community that I belong to and it has actually given me so much more hope as I felt I didn't belong anywhere." - Womens Vet-Connect Participant

Women Vet-Connect is proudly supported by the Thyne Reid Foundation.

June 2021

MERCHANDISE

RAE Association—Victoria merchandise is constantly changing. To check our current offerings and to order, please visit our web site:

www.raevictoria.com With many events and excursions bound to resume once COVID 19 restrictions ease, dress the part in your association's shirts, caps and jackets.



RAE Association—Vic fleece jackets \$50 and matching beanies \$15 now available.



SOLDIER ON

"Supporting Our Wounded Warriors"

Visit: www.soldieron.org.au

RAE Association (Vic) is a proud supporter of

SOLDIER ON

Association Shirts & Caps Available to Order



"Soft Shell" jackets and white Association caps are now in stock. Check the merchandise page on our web site. (model not included) Jackets \$90





ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS SAPPERS' FUND



Why subscribe?

Subscriptions to Sappers' Funds provide the income that allows us to care for our heritage and foster Esprit-de-Corps.

The Corps of Royal Australian Engineers has a collective responsibility to our predecessors and ourselves to ensure we preserve, protect and develop our heritage as well as continue to build our identity into the future.

Your contribution, along with all the other serving and retired members of the Royal Australian Engineers making a similar commitment, is extremely important. This ensures your Corps Committee can support the fostering of our esprit-de-corps and the unique 'Sapper identity' remains a fundamental part of Army's culture and traditions.

What is the cost?

The annual cost of subscriptions is as follows:

ARA Officers - Sergeant: \$52 per annum (\$2 per fortnight)
ARA Corporal - Sapper: \$26 per annum (\$1 per fortnight)
ARes Officers: \$30 per annum
ARes ORs: \$20 per annum
Ex-Service Officers: \$30 per annum
Ex-Service ORs: \$20 per annum
RAE ex-service Association: Annual Donation

For further information or to request support from the Fund, contact the RAE Head of Corps Cell via email at: rae.hoc@defence.gov.au

What is the benefit?

Individuals may benefit from Sappers' Funds, either directly or indirectly. The Sappers' Fund provides financial support to:

- Corps sporting events, teams and tours
- Corps adventure training activities
- individual and team engineer awards and prizes including Battle Field Tour
- publication of Corps and unit histories
- RAE Association Victoria heritage and history trail plaques
- establishment and upgrade of RAE Memorials
- purchase of wreaths for funerals and remembrance of serving members
- assistance to Army History Unit to manage historical items relevant to the RAE
- RMC graduation prize

Individuals, groups and sub-units/units of the Royal Australian Engineers and affiliated Associations can apply for support from the fund at any time.

How do I subscribe?

Subscriptions can be made by electronic transfer / direct debit to the following account:

- Australian Military Bank BSB No: 642-170
- Account Number: 100001677
- Name of Account: RAE Sappers' Funds

Please include your PMKeys number and surname with your payment.

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.com

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 \$20 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 lifetime 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

(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) 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 qualification for membership.*

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR 2020 HAS BEEN SET AT \$25.00 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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