



# Newsletter of the Sappers Association (NSW) Inc.

Patron COL Sandy MacGregor, MC RFD (Retd)

September 2022

## Queen Elizabeth II

1926 -2022



On 8 September 2022  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
passed away at Balmoral Castle,  
Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

**May She Rest in Peace**

-

**God Save the King**



Her Majesty was Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms, including Australia, from 6 February 1952 until her death. She was Queen Regnant of 32 sovereign states during her lifetime and 15 at the time of her death and was the Head of the Commonwealth. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days is the longest of any British monarch and the longest recorded of any female head of state in history.

**Particular import to us Sappers is that Her Majesty was also the  
Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Engineers.**

It hasn't been announced who will replace Her Majesty as our Colonel-in-Chief. We are hopeful that this will be announced in the near future.

Changes will be required with our cap badge, service dress buttons and possibly our cipher. Our cap badge and service dress buttons include the letters 'EIR' and our cap badge and cipher include what is often called 'The Queens Crown'. With His Majesty King Charles III now on the throne 'EIR' will be replaced by 'CIII R' and depending on which crown His Majesty nominates the crown on our cap badge and cipher may also need to be changed, as will the crown that designates or is part of the designation of rank of some non-commissioned and commissioned officers.

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Sappers Spring Slosh  
Annual Sappers Dinner

### **Our Office Bearers**

President	Brian Malouf	M 0409 666 216
Vice President	John Hanley	M 0424 841 581
Secretary	Danny Duke	M 0417 722 551
Treasurer	Jeff James	M 0409 901 800
Committee		
Sjouke Havenaar	Adam Davis	Dave Hadfield

### **Calender**

Sat 1/ Sun 2 Oct 22	Sappers Spring Slosh
Sat 22 Oct 22	Annual General Meeting
Sat 12 Nov 22	47th Sappers Annual Dinner

# President's Message

It is with much sadness that we mourn the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II, our Monarch and the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Engineers. We have been blessed to have served under Her Majesty and, on behalf of our membership, I extend our condolences to the Royal Family and the many people who have been affected by her passing.

This edition of the Newsletter honours the life of Queen Elizabeth II and outlines some symbolic changes we may see in the Corps in the future.

I hope you and yours have not been significantly affected by the recent floods in NSW. We should be cognisant of those so affected and the emergency services personnel (including RAE members) who have rendered such valuable assistance to flood victims and ongoing recovery tasks.

Although the Sappers' Autumn Sloss event in April was cancelled due to persistent rain, don't forget the Sappers Spring Sloss (SSS) is scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, 1/2 October 2022. I appreciate this is a long public holiday weekend, but the only weekend when 5 Engineer Regiment members do not have training and other commitments. I encourage members, particularly serving members, to attend this event SSS 2022 (refer attached flyer).

In previous Newsletters I have alluded to the fact that some of the existing Committee members are gradually approaching their "use by date". It is imperative that regional and younger members (that is, less than 70 years old) be prepared to nominate for positions or assistant positions on the Committee, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 1400h on Saturday, 22 October 2022. This will help us to plan activities that cater for the interests of our younger and serving members, as well as ensuring the longevity of the Association. The responsibilities of the Committee members are not onerous, and business is now mostly conducted during relatively short quarterly teleconferences. The existing Committee members are more than happy to mentor younger members, who would find this contribution to other serving and ex-serving Sappers most satisfying and rewarding. I encourage our regional and younger members to nominate for positions on the Committee at the AGM. The AGM will be held at a physical meeting and by teleconference. Details of the AGM arrangements will be provided to members by email in early October 2022.

We have been liaising with the School of Military Engineering to combine our Annual Dinner with the touted School Ball on Saturday, 5 November 2022. Disappointingly, the anticipated SME Ball has translated into a cocktail function at the Museum of Contemporary Art, The Rocks, principally to farewell the outgoing Commanding Officer. Members have already been provided with details of the cocktail function. Your Committee, however, is planning a short notice, "down and dirty" much-delayed 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Sappers Dinner at the Holiday Inn, Warwick Farm, on Saturday, 12 November 2022. This will be much less formal than our usual dinners (there will be no Army band, no dancing and no presentations), but a great opportunity for Sappers and their guests to shake off the COVID lockdown blues and socialise over a buffet meal and in congenial company. The attached dinner flyer provides the relevant information. It is imperative that the RSVP date be adhered to, so we can confirm numbers and avoid any future financial penalty for the Association.

In our June 2022 Newsletter, I referred to a donation made to the Association by a former Committee member, John Ray, in memory of his late wife, Faye. You were also advised that the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron Association was seeking funding for a memorial Bailey Bridge to be erected in Amiens, France, in recognition of the courageous service of Sappers on the Western Front during World War One. Following investigation of the Bailey Bridge project, the Committee has decided to defer making any donation until more information is provided by the organisers.

You may be aware that John Pritchard has, for a number of years, facilitated "Sappers Quarterly Luncheons" in the City (Sydney), usually at a pub or club. These lunches have proved to be a very successful way for Sappers to share short and tall stories during a meal, as well as discussing topical issues that affect the RAE Corps and Army. The Committee is keen to facilitate this kind of comradeship amongst members who reside outside the Sydney metropolitan area. Would any member who resides in the

Newcastle, Illawarra, Canberra or other regional area and is prepared to host or attend such quarterly get-togethers in their local area, please advise the Secretary so we can put locals in touch with each other. The lunches (or morning teas, or afternoon teas or dinners) could be held on the same days as the "Sappers Quarterly Luncheons", to provide a sense of common bonding of members in various parts of the State.

I hope to receive feedback and ideas from members and look forward to seeing you at future Sapper events.

Sincerely,

*Brian Malouf*

Brian Malouf

## 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM is scheduled for Saturday, 22 October 2022, commencing at 1400 hours (2:00pm). The AGM will be conducted as a physical meeting and teleconference, where you can either attend in person or use your landline or mobile phone to "phone in" and join a Zoom audio (not video) meeting.

Please note that you will have to practice your Army radio/telephone voice procedures, in order to maintain a level of radio discipline over the airwaves (sometimes a challenge for Sappers). Details of the AGM by phone will be sent to you with the AGM Notice, in early October 2022.



## Humour Out of Uniform

The President reports that a Sappers Association member (let's call him Joe), born well after World War Two, travelled some distance to attend the Sydney CBD ANZAC Day march this year.

Joe arrived late at the Association assembly area and missed joining his fellow Sappers in the march (he hadn't heard of the "7 P" principle!).

Undeterred, Joe used his Sapper ingenuity and sought out a marching group that he could easily join.

He chose well.

Late that evening, our President watched the recording of the ABC TV march coverage. And there he was!

The only person in that marching group who was in step, less than 90 years old and wearing a beret with the RAE hat badge.

Joe completed the entire march route marching with the RAAF Spitfire Association.

Well done, Joe!!

(PS: Joe still attended the Sappers reunion at Hotel Harry – late, and very thirsty!).

## Memories of Our Queen

I was fortunate enough to have met the Queen, and other members of the royal family on numerous occasions during both my military service and later with the Police. One I recall with some affection was the day Her Majesty visited the RSME, Brompton Barracks during our 200-year celebrations (RE), along with many other local school children my daughter and I were waiting to greet the Queen, as she passed she stopped to talk to a soldier to our right, my daughter took the opportunity to ask "My daddy says you are his boss. Is that true?" Her Majesty just smiled and replied "Yes I suppose I am." (Dave Hadfield)

We would love to hear any memories you may have that we can relay over coming issues.

### SAPPERS' SPRING SLOSH (SSS) 1/2 OCT 22

The Sappers' Association of NSW is keen to promote social activities that develop and maintain *esprit de corps* amongst its Members. Although the Mar 22 "Slosh" event was cancelled due to persistent heavy rain, Brian Malouf has again offered the use of his Blue Mountains semi-rural home for a Sappers' gathering to enjoy good company and food, tell yarns and sing songs (with appropriate vocal cord lubrication) around a campfire, sleep under the stars (or hoochie/tent) and escape suburbia. There will also be a compulsory game of "Slosh" (a fun pool table game designed to invigorate participants!)

Date and Location: **Sat, 1 Oct 22** (say, 1200h) to **Sun, 2 Oct 22** (say, 1200h); 235 Chapman Parade, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776 (1km north of Norman Lindsay's Gallery and 200m north of Rita Ave).

#### General Idea:

Sat 1200-1700 – arrive, afternoon tea, familiarisation, pitch tents (extreme wet weather plan – camp in garage).

Sat 1700-1800 – "Slosh" instruction, for beginners (if required)

Sat 1800-2000 – BBQ dinner

Sat 2000-2359 – campfire, sing-a-long/yarns, refreshments, "Slosh", lights out

Sun 0800-1100 – hot and/or cold breakfast, settle "Slosh" technical points

Sun 1100-1200 – pack up, farewells and depart.

Catering: Brian to supply all food and beverages (cost \$30/head).

Member to Bring: Tent/hoochie, sleeping bag, air bed, stretcher, folding chair, etc, as required. (Brian can assist Members who have no camping gear – see return slip below). Drinks (non-beverage) in esky. Singing/yarn voices. "Slosh" skills (or a willingness to learn and enjoy).

Contact Brian: Mob: 0409 666 216.

Spouses: Should spouses wish to travel to the Mountains with their Sapper Member, they could (individually or as a group) stay at the Faulconbridge Motel (Tel: (02) 4751 2194 or 4751 2100), visit Norman Lindsay's Gallery, patronise local restaurants, attend local events (visit [www.bluemts.com.au](http://www.bluemts.com.au) for details) and then collect the Member on Sun.

**RSVP 24 Sep 22:** Please confirm your attendance by posting the return slip (below) to Brian or by phone, smoke signal, semaphore or email: [bgmalouf75@gmail.com](mailto:bgmalouf75@gmail.com) (giving the relevant information).

----- (Please tear off and post) -----

#### SAPPERS' SPRING SLOSH (SSS)

I will be attending the SSS on Sat/Sun 1/2 Oct 22.

Please find attached \$30 cheque/money order payable to "Brian Malouf" or I will pay on the day (delete, as appropriate)

Name ..... Email: .....

Telephone: Home..... Mob .....

#### NOK Contact Details

Name.....Tel/Mob.....

Special dietary needs (nominate) .....

Camping gear assistance required (nominate) .....



The President and Members  
of the Sappers Association (NSW) Inc  
cordially invite you to attend our

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Sappers Dinner**  
**Saturday, 12 November 2022**

1800 hrs

at

Estate Room  
Holiday Inn

355 Hume Highway, Warwick Farm  
(Some GPS devices show this as Cabramatta)

**Dress**

Members and Guests: Suit/jacket and tie; evening wear (with miniature medals)

**RSVP**

**Wednesday, 26 October 2022** by email to [danny.duke@bigpond.com](mailto:danny.duke@bigpond.com)

Please include your phone number and any special dietary requirements in your email.

**Cost \$65 pp** - includes sit-down buffet three course meal. Drinks individually purchased.

Entertainment on the night will be good company, convivial conversation, toasts, lucky door prizes, impromptu humorous or interesting military experience recollections by members.

Payment is to be made upon acceptance by electronic funds transfer (EFT). Bank details are:

**Westpac Banking Corporation**

**BSB:** 032-167 **Account Number:** 228388

**Account Name:** Sappers Association (NSW) Inc.

**NB.** Ensure your name is included on the funds transfer.

**ACCOMMODATION PACKAGE.** The Holiday Inn has B&B accommodation available. Single or Double - \$189. To book please phone the Holiday Inn direct (Ph. 02 9726 1222), quoting **Sappers Association Package** to receive this discounted tariff.