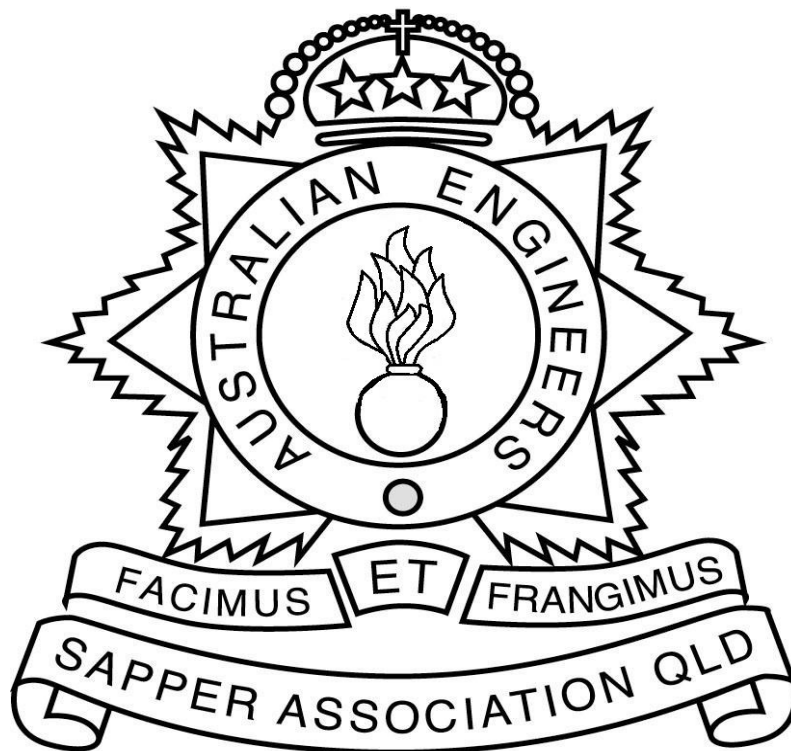


THE SAPPER
ASSOCIATION
QUEENSLAND
(INC.)

PATRON
HECTOR MACDONALD



NEWSLETTER 4/2022

The President and Committee wish all Sappers and their families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

BRISBANE
The Sapper Association Queensland (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1043
STAFFORD,
Queensland 4053
E-mail: sapper.association.qld@gmail.com

NORTH QUEENSLAND
The Sapper Association Queensland (Inc)
P.O. Box 1828
AITKENVALE,
Queensland 4814
E-mail: president@nqsappers.org

QUEENSLAND COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023

President:	Gordon Kratzmann	0419 647 568	gkratzmann@ozemail.com.au
Vice President:	Barry Low	0417 106 435	welfare@nqsappers.org
NQ Branch Rep:	Tony Kealley	0420 404 994	president@nqsappers.org
Secretary:	John Jesser	07 3356 9297	johnjesser@iinet.net.au
Asst Secretary:			
Treasurer:	Peter Campbell	0422 638 218	p.rcampbell@optusnet.com.au
Asst Treasurer:	Peter C Aylett	07 3298 5526	pca47@bigpond.com.au
Editor:			
Welfare North:	Peter Cairnes	0427 558 685	welfare.kwrs@bigpond.com
South:	Harry Claassen	0422 525 575	harrycc@bigpond.net.au
Committee/ Social:	Blue Mackellar	07 3869 0834	pauline.mackellar@bigpond.com
	Ron Larsen	07 3822 3787	ralarsen@tpg.com.au
	Barry Lovelock	0421 980 386	bazlock@optusnet.com.au

NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023

President:	Tony Kealley	0420404994	president@nqsappers.org
Vice President:	Cliff Kemp	0409 892 257	vpres@nqsappers.org
Membership:	Cliff Kemp	0409 892 257	vpres@nqsappers.org
Secretary:			secretary@nqsappers.org
Asst Secretary:			
Treasurer:	Gary Beveridge	0403 266 106	treasurer@nqsappers.org
Asst Treasurer:	Terry James	0428 069 443	eod-engineer@hotmail.com
Welfare:	Barry Low	0417 106 435	welfare@nqsappers.org
Social:	Jeremy Browne	0498 691 611	bull-frog4269@hotmail.com
Property:	Adrian Ross	0447 316 121	sapper28@bigpond.net.au
Member:	Pat Daley	0438 740 028	FRO@nqsappers.org
Member:	Joanne Daley	07 4774 0028	FRO@nqsappers.org
Member:	Terry McKeown	0458 377 801	tdmckeown@gmail.com
Member:	Greg Cottier	0488 228 949	gregcotts@gmail.com
Member:	Rodney Knight	0427 777 525	rod.knight63@gmail.com

Please do not hesitate to contact your committee should the need arise.

The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc. **Brisbane**

Committee meetings will be:-

Sunday 4th Dec 2022 at Ironbark Gully

Saturday 4th Feb 2023 - Constitution - KWRSL

Saturday 1st Apr 2023 at Redcliffe RSL

Sunday 4th Jun 2023 at Gaythorne RSL (TBC)

The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc. **NQ Branch**

Thuringowa RSL Club – 11am
1st Sunday of each month.

Check with your committee members regarding
Meetings and when they will be held.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2022

This weekend has been a little more hectic than I am now used to given I'm a couple of years into retirement. On Friday night Gayle and I represented the Association at the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment's Annual ball. We were the only official guests. This is a tribute to the relationship developed in the past between the regiment and our association. As a previous commander of 2 CER I was happy to be going back to listen to their current Commander review the activities of the unit during 2022. I was very happy to hear that for the second year in a row the Regiment won the Brigade unit competition. The unit has its tail up and morale is high. Next year will be challenging as it turns back to manoeuvre warfare. Away time is expected to increase greatly: Some things never change!!

In particular I want to mention John McCreadie who has worked tirelessly to strengthen the relationship between us and 2 CER.

Highlights since I took over the reins have been:

A successful Sapper's Reunion on the Sunshine Coast. Although I enjoyed once again being a part of the Sapper Family for the weekend it was special to meet Pat Daley who knew my brother when they were both living in Townsville. The intersection of my heredity family and my Sapper family was a feel-good moment. A lot of work was put into the reunion to make it so successful and I know all who attended very much appreciated the effort put into it and enjoyed the functions and outings.

Attendance at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Brisbane's Cenotaph to lay a wreath on behalf of the association.

The re-write of the Association Constitution with the aims of making it both compliant with current legislation and easier to use as a reference. The DRAFT 10.2 (dated 22 November 2022) has been widely distributed and comments are invited on proposed improvements. I want to thank Tony Kealley for his sound advice that my first proposed timeline up to and including approval by our members was too rushed and needed to be slowed down. He was right and the revised timeline now allows plenty of time for all members to review it, get comments back to me and the Final DRAFT to be prepared and presented to the first General Meeting of next year. Go to it! Make sure you read my covering letter to the DRAFT before you start.

This February 2023 version of the Constitution may not be perfect but it will provide us with something acceptable to ACNC and in need of only minor changes in the future.

I've been reviewing the great success our Northern Sappers are having and looking for anything that would successfully transfer from North to South, lifting our future prospects here in SE Queensland.

A number of issues stand out and although I don't intend to cover them now I do want to set SE QLD members on the pathway to a better more active future with a younger membership. ***This will take change: so get ready for it.*** I've seen how good Sappers are at managing huge changes and I know we can do it together once again.

As a last serious thought I want to again thank those association members who have volunteered to be part of the backbone of the association and worked to make being in the association so pleasant. I've heard a few members express the view that they're too old to volunteer to help. When I hear this I'm reminded of a Sapper I grew to respect as much as any other! Buck Rogers. Buck was 86 years old and painting his home as well as running Veteran's Dinners in Redcliffe, volunteering with Probus and others organisations too many to mention.

If you wake up breathing it's a good day and there's something you can do to help someone-somewhere. Look first to our Sapper Family.

Gayle and I wish you all a very merry Christmas, an enjoyable time doing things you enjoy with those dear to you. We hope that 2023 brings you all you wish for yourself, your family and loved ones.

We both look forward to seeing you sometime during 2023.

UBIQUE,

Gordon Kratzmann

President

PASSING PARADE

It is important that all members understand that we honour the memory of all Sappers who have passed away. Lest We Forget.

The following Sappers have passed away since the last newsletter.

RICE Lawson Graham, passed away peacefully 31 October 2022, a memorial service was held 4 Nov 2022.

NOBELIUS Carl Axel, passed away, 3 Nov 2022, Ringwood VIC, Carl's funeral will be held 14 Nov 2022, it will be live streamed www.vividstream.com.au/live/carl-nobelious

GOLDING Steven AM RFD, has passed away, on 1 Nov 22 a private family service was held 8 Nov 2022.

HUNT Geoffrey Robert RFD, ED, passed away 8 Nov 22, his funeral was held 21 Nov 2022.

BURNS Peter, passed away 12 Nov 22, Peters funeral was held 23 Nov 22

JAGO Kenneth (Ken) passed away 10 Nov 22, Ken's funeral was held 21 Nov 22 at Rookwood NSW

FITZSIMMONS Vic passed away 18 Nov 22, his funeral was held 28 Nov 2022

Our Condolences go to their families

QUEENSLAND (BRISBANE) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC BANKING, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

We have now introduced electronic banking so that members have the option of paying annual subs by this method. We ask that all who use this option make sure they identify each transaction as theirs, so our treasurer is able to keep the books of account correctly, as required by the Office of Fair Trading. This will also allow our nominal roll to be kept up to date. Annual Subs are due by 1st April each year.

When the new Constitution comes into effect the Financial year will be the 1st July each year.

Ordinary membership \$20, Country membership \$10 (Over 100km from the Brisbane City Centre), Associate membership \$5.

BANK: BANK OF QUEENSLAND

NAME OF ACCOUNT: THE SAPPER ASSOCIATION QLD INC.

BSB NO.: 124021

ATTENTION! INFORMATION FOR WIDOWS & MEMBERS

The Association has for some time been trying to get some information for Widows & Members, about what should happen when a loved one passes, and things the Member should put in place well before the event of his or her death.

The following are available on the net from the Department of Veteran's Affairs:-

Planning ahead booklet – a guide to putting your affairs in order

Personal information sheet – D8729

Planning ahead – checklist -P00068

Medical details of Veteran – D8730

Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) DFRDB - DB01; MSBS - MB02.

As we are all of that age and not forgetting younger Veterans, we should ALL leave our loved ones with information “what to do”, “where to go”,

First Stop your **Sub-branch RSL advocate** (not RSL service clubs), and DVA who can assist you. Also you should register with Legacy (07) 3029 5600 41 Merivale St Brisbane

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Happenings from the Deep North 4/2022

By John Cotter Esq

FROM THE PRESIDENT

NQ Sappers president presenting the NQ Sappers Top Sapper Award for 3CER 2022 – Congratulations Dean Ridgway...



And presents a Qld Sappers Association plaque to Lt Col Ken Golder, the departing CO of 3CER in appreciation of the support provided to the NQ Sappers.



Vice President Cliff Kemp presents the NQ Sappers Top Officer Award for 3CER 2022. Congratulations Lt Emily Ovenden



The Crew from NQ Sappers providing refreshments to the Sappers of 3CER at their soldiers' lunch.



And an epic Christmas Function to end another amazing year – with the annual Pain in The Arse (PITA) awarded to our Treasurer Gary Beveridge.



Thanks to the hard working team of the NQ Sappers for another exceptional year – stay safe everyone and bring on 2023!

UBIQUE

Tony Kealley



AROUND THE TRAPS

It appears that the recommendation of the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal for medallic and emblematic recognition for the families of seriously injured veterans has not been taken up by the Government. However the RAAF introduced a Remembrance Pin in 2006 and the RAN introduced theirs in 2007 for the families of their service people who died in service. The Army Remembrance Pin is a symbol for the families of Army Servicemen and women who have died while in service. The Army Remembrance Pin was introduced in 2015 and is a gift from the Chief of Army and demonstrates Army's deep appreciation of the members' and their families' contributions to the Australian Army.

Recent events at the Third Combat Engineer Regiment saw the North Queensland Sappers Shield for Outstanding Junior Officer awarded to LT Emily Ovenden, Combat Engineer, 18 Combat Engineer Squadron. The North Queensland Sappers Shield for Top Sapper was awarded to SPR Dean Ridgeway, Combat Engineer, 25 Support Squadron. Well done to both members.

Good to see that Pat Cashion's place is now looking a lot better and well on the way to once again being a garden that Pat can use. Well done to our Welfare Officer Barry Low in looking after one of our widows and to the committee for stumping up the necessary readies to get the job done. By all reports Pat is very happy with it.



From Craig Summerfield the National Customer Applications Manager for Komatsu (ex plantie with a great title) comes news of their continued involvement with the School of Military Engineering and in particular, plant operator's courses. It seems that due to continued involvement with planties at the School, it was time to extend that assistance to the CPL Subject 4 Course. A cunning plan was then hatched to have the course member's drop into the two largest quarries in NSW as part of their course curriculum. An hour south west of Sydney in a bus delivered the group to Peppertree quarry where they use an 'in pit' crushing system. They then headed west to the Wilburys and a more traditional methodology of 'load & haul' to a fixed plant system. Greater awareness was gained in matching loading tools to dump trucks for overburden removal and the hauling of ore.

Feedback from course members was that it was a great day out with good exposure to a larger industry!

The NQ Sappers Raffles at the Vale Hotel are going great under the stewardship of Barry "Wombat" Low every Saturday at 2.30pm. Among the usual suspects in attendance recently were Kevin and Yvonne Fleming and country member Tim Slattery all the way from South of the border. Must be the quality of the beer that brings people north? Many thanks to all who support this activity.

The veteran's Catalogue App went live on Tuesday November 1, 2022. The app has been developed with a vision of empowering veterans and their families to more easily find and access services and support when needed. The Veterans' Catalogue provides users with free access to over 1500 registered veteran service providers, across a range of holistic wellbeing, personal, professional, community network and family needs. Importantly, the platform has the flexibility to list and direct its users to other valuable online resources that are being developed by ex-service and veteran support organisations. <https://www.rslaustralia.org/veterans-catalogue>

So HOLDFAST 2022 is done and dusted and a great time was had by those who made the trip. Those who drove down certainly had a great time to observe their vehicle registration dollars at work on Highway 1. And we won't mention traffic control, will we!

But on a much brighter note the sub-committee for HOLDFAST 2024 (to be held in the North of the state) has stood itself up and planning has commenced. They hope to have information out in the early part of next year and of course will keep everyone well informed as planning continues.

A very well done to Cpl C Latimer and Spr T Arnold of 3CER for their award of the Soldier Medallion for Exemplary Service.

Don't know what to do with your old mobile phones? Why not donate them to DV Safe Phone, the domestic violence support mob who provide clean phone to victim of DV. In Townsville they can be dropped off at Townsville Chrysler or TYAFE Pimlico, in Charters Towers at Robbie Katter's office or mail them to DV Safe Phone, Box 1440, Mooloolaba 4557.



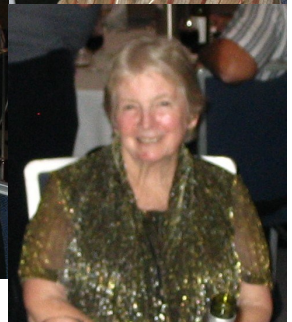
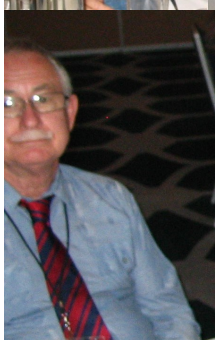
The 1st Field Squadron Group Association held its reunion from 10 to 12 November last. The highlight of the reunion being the dedication of the Bridge of Friendship between France and Australia which honours all Australian Army Engineers from World War One. It was intended to build the bridge (a Bailey of course) in Amiens France but COVID threw a spanner in that works, so one was constructed at ANZAC Park, Toowong, by members of 2 CER. The Association still intends to construct a 'sister' bridge in Amiens in 2024. A number of VIP's were invited including the French Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Monsieur Jean-

Pierre Thebault along with his Senior Military Attaché, Navy Captain Jean-Marc Quilliet and two French Officer Cadets from their college in St. Cyr, France. Other guests included the RAE Representative Colonel Commandant MAJGEN Stephen Day DSC, AM and the Head of Corps RAE and Patron of the 1st Field Squadron Group Association, Brigadier Michael Say DSC. It was a big deal event.

On the day, the Association President, George Hulse OAM tasked the venerable editor of the Follow the Sapper Newsletter, one Derek Vincent Smith OAM, to be at the Western Districts Rugby Union Football Club to meet the Ambassador and his group and to ensure they got to the bridge site at ANZAC Park in ample time. The group was expected to fly in from Canberra about 2PM. Derek was at the club at about 1.25PM and who was it that forgot about daylight saving? Yep, and His Excellency and party had been there for a while! So with much bowing and scraping, Derek sincerely apologised, wondering no doubt what it was going to cost him. However *"It is quite alright. Please do not worry."*



Holdfast 2022 Reunion
Maroochydore RSL
Meet & Greet
Friday 7 October 2022





Holdfast 2022 Maroochydore RSL Memorial Dinner

AROUND AND ABOUT...



At the Remembrance Day Sales Campaign... organised and led by Pat and Jo Daley Locations also included the Willows Shopping Centre. The campaign was a great success taking in more than \$10,000.00. Many thanks to the members who helped out and to 3CER who provided their good natured and very willing and enthusiastic soldiers.

And at **HOLDFAST 2022** where one of our senior members, one Patrick Daley, experienced a spot of bother with his new wardrobe accessory. However a helping hand or three was dutifully provided by wife Jo and friend Liz and captured for posterity by Lance Bryant. Who says braces are dull.



Brisbane Branch Christmas Party

The Brisbane Branch Christmas Party was held on Saturday 19 November 2022 at the Full Moon Hotel in Sandgate. It was well attended with fantastic food and drink on offer, stimulating conversation, and beautiful views across the foreshore. The lucky door prize was won by Beth Aylett.



The treasurer provided wine on each table for the ladies. Many thanks goes to Blue MacKellar and Ron Larsen for organising the event. A good time was had by all and we look forward to more social functions throughout 2023.



EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

ATTENTION! The Sapper Association QLD Inc is in need of an Editor. The newsletter is the only way our members have of keeping up with the goings on of the Association. PLEASE if you can help, submit your name to the Secretary by email or phone which are listed on page 2 of this newsletter

NOTE: The Constitution has been distributed, and remember any comments are to be RSVP by 23 Jan 2023 for both Brisbane Branch (John Jesser) and NQ Branch (Tony Kealley). Email addresses for both are on page two of this newsletter. This will allow for Gordon Kratzmann to amend the Draft 10.2 (22 Nov 2022)

SICK PARADE

Best wishes for a full recovery to all those who are undergoing treatment at present. A special "Get Well" also to all those who may just be "feeling off their oats" right now. Of course, our thoughts are also with their often hard-pressed spouses and families.

Barry Low reports that Ted Hinton is back home recovering after surgery and Desley Robertson is also back home recovering from knee replacement surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery.

NORTH QUEENSLAND (TOWNSVILLE) BRANCH.

Please note that fees are now \$25.00 for country members and \$35.00 for city members.

For those of you who are into electronic banking and would prefer to pay by that means our details are:

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633-000

Account Number: 162988240

Account Name: Sapper Association Queensland Inc – North Queensland Branch

Please use your surname and initial to identify payment.

FEES DUE BY THE FIRST OF APRIL. IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that, because of the pandemic and social distancing regulations, most future events have been put on hold at present. If you need answers to any questions, contact your local committee.

Brisbane

Christmas in July 2023 will be held at the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club, Sinbad Street, Shorncliffe on Saturday 15 July 2023 from 11.30am
RSVP 30 June 2023 to Blue MacKellar, Ron Larsen, or Barry Lovelock (see page 2 for contact details).

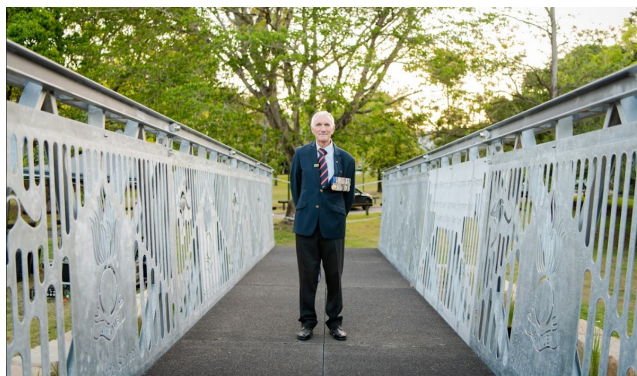
North Queensland

If members have any thoughts/ideas for functions please speak to Jeremy Browne the Social Coordinator. He would welcome your input.

Thuringowa RSL Christmas Function is on 10 December at the Moondarga Pony Club at 43 Hammond Way Kelso starting at 5.00pm. Contact Jeb Browne if attending.

For further details please see the Events Calendar. Remember that meetings are now back at the Thuringowa RSL Club.

Engineer bridge dedication and reception afterwards 11 November 2022



G'Day fellow Sappers,

Our (1 FD SQN RAE Assoc) bridge dedication in ANZAC Park, Toowong, Brisbane and the reception afterwards on 11 November 2022 went off really well. Even the weather was great. I have included a link to all the shots taken by our official photographer. Here is a quick-soldiers-five on the happening:

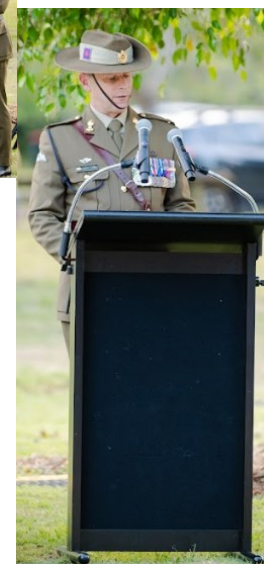
The reason for the dedication was to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers and to declare the name of the bridge which is: "The Bridge of Friendship between Australia and France: Dedicated to every Australian Army engineer unit involved in World War One".

The dedication included:

- * The Ambassador of France and his service personnel - of whom two were dressed in traditional French uniforms.
- * General Stephen Day DSC AM who accepted, as a gift of friendship, the National Flag of France at the hand of French Navy Captain Jean-Marc Quilliet on behalf of His Excellency, The Ambassador of France, Monsieur Jean-Pierre Thebault.
- * Brigadier Michael Say DSC and his RSM WO1 Sean Chainey DSM OAM. Brigadier Say in his role as the Head of Corps of Royal Australian Engineers handed the Australian National Flag to the Ambassador of France as a gift of friendship between Australia and France.
- * Commanding Officer 2CER LTCOL Craig Bury and his RSM WO1 Benjamin King.
- * Officer Commanding 1st Field Squadron (1CER) Major Peter Witcomb.
- * The Master of Ceremonies was Major Andrew Coburn who spoke French to the French dignitaries during the ceremony.
- * RAE Banner Party of Lieutenant Alex Jackson, Sergeant Karl Booth and Sergeant Jesse Hall.
- * Chaplain of 2CER, Madre Cindy Waugh blessed the bridge and led the assembly in prayer.
- * Ribbon cutters were (from l to r): Mr Peter Gow representing the RSL, Cr James Mackay representing the Lord-Mayor of Brisbane, Captain Jean-Marc Quilliet, General Stephen Day, Monsieur Jean-Pierre Thebault, Brigadier Michael Say, Mr Bart Mellish MP representing the Premier of Qld, and yours truly representing the 1st Field Squadron Association. The ribbon holders were Sapper Bailey Wagner and Corporal Daniel O'Sullivan, both of 1st Field Squadron, 1CER. The ribbon is held up by French and Australian service personnel. It states "Bridge of Friendship - Pont de l'amitie - 11 November 2022".
- * The band was from the Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology and the choir from Chantefique de l'Alliance de Francaise de Brisbane.
- * At the reception a 95 year old French Foreign Legion veteran received his Legion of Honour from the French team.
- * We conducted a public valedictory for Colonel John Kemp's DSC which was approbated vigorously by the rest of us.

Here is the link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OGBdqN9OyLOYWLkD767pUaXUhKqW70Fk?usp=share_link



BOOKS OF INTEREST

“Blood Sweat & Steal” is Curtis McGrath’s account of his time in the Army, his loss of both legs, and the incredible story of his recovery. Curtis went on to achieve his goal of becoming a Paralympian and world champion. The book is available at Kmart for \$22.00, or on Kindle \$12.95.

‘DOGS OF WAR’ co –authored by Tony Park with Sapper Shane Bryant. The book tells the story of Shanes time in the RAE and NSW Police Force as a dog handler and his subsequent deployment in Afghanistan as a civilian contract Dog Handler. Shanes time in Afghanistan included service with US Special Forces. The book is available online from: Amazon, Booktopia and Other on-line book stores. It is available as an eBook, Print and audio. The best link to obtain a copy of the book is <https://www.tonypark.net/war-dogs-tony-park-international-author.html>

WELFARE & PENSIONS THE SAPPER ASSOC., QLD

Any members seeking advice regarding DVA,
Pensions or Welfare

Can contact;

Peter (Fat Cat) Cairnes, Mobile:0427-558 685

Or

Harry Claassen, Mobile: 0422 525 575

email: svp@sunnybankrsl.org

AATTVA (Qld BR) Inc Pensions Officer/ Advocate

Mr John McDonagh

Mobile 0423 138 346,

email aattvqldbr@westnet.com.au

John is a vastly experienced Pensions Officer who has had many years with DVA and Brisbane Legacy. “DVA have discontinued funding for this service. However, he is willing to continue this service by Working from his home. Association members who wish to contact John should Call him via the mobile phone above.

SAPPERS’ LUNCHEES, GAYTHORNE RSL

The next luncheon will be held at the Gaythorne RSL on **Thursday 2 March 2023** beginning at 11.30am, Bring a mate. These luncheons are held the first Thursday of the month in March, June, September, and December. Mark them on your calendar.

Cheers Jethro

You can contact John (Jethro) Thompson for details on Mobile: 0488 680 360.

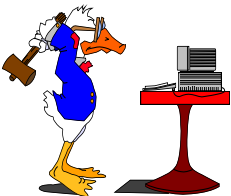
MEMORABILIA ITEMS FOR SALE, BRISBANE

The following items are for sale to members:

Lapel badges	\$8.00	Association Plaques	\$40.00
Engineer Belt Buckles	\$23.50	Embroidered cloth badges	\$7.00
Stubbie holders (tubes)	\$ 2.50	Stubbie holders (with Bases)	\$3.50

Don’t hesitate to contact the Committee if you wish to purchase an item.

Website & Email addresses of interest.



WANT TO RESEARCH A DIGGER RELATIVE?

For all the clues try:-

RAE CORPS SHOP

RAE ASSOCIATION – WA:

COCKSCOMB –

VETERAN HELP – Central Qld

WATER TRANSPORT ASSOC

MUSEUM OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

<http://www.dva.gov.au/help/digger.htm>

corpsshop@gmail.com

www.wasappers.com.au

<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

<http://talk.to/veteransupport>

www.32smallshipsqn.org.au

aame.mailbox@defence.gov.au

Please advise the Association Secretary either by email, phone or snail mail when you move to a new address or change your email.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of this association.