



Newsletter of the Sappers Association (NSW) Inc.

Patron COL Sandy MacGregor, MC RFD (Retd)

September 2023

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Attchments

Sappers Annual Dinner Invite

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		Dave Hadfield (Editor)

Calendar

Sat 14 Oct – 14:00 – AGM (TeleConference)
Sat 28 Oct – 18:30 – Sappers Annual Dinner, Holiday Inn, Warwick Farm
Wed 1 Nov - 12:00 – Sappers Quarterly Lunch – York Club, 95 York Street, Sydney
(10 Minute walk from Town Hall Station)
Sat 11 Nov 23 – Remembrance Day

Disclaimer:

Any opinion or view expressed in the Newsletter is not necessarily that of the Association or its membership.

Change of Contact Details:

Members who have changed, or are about to change, their contact details (address, telephone or email) are requested to advise our Secretary, Danny Duke (danny.duke@bigpond.com) at the earliest opportunity.

Invitation to Submit Articles:

Members are encouraged to submit news or information articles, humorous or otherwise, that may be of general interest to Sappers. These articles will be considered for inclusion in future Newsletters. Articles can be sent to our Editor, David Hadfield (davewhadfield@outlook.com)

President's Message

Welcome to this edition of your Newsletter. Spring has sprung !

Our **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) will be held at 1400h on Saturday, 14 October 2023 (the AGM date was set before the Voice referendum date was announced). 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 all-ranks Committee. 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 by teleconference. Details of the AGM arrangements will be emailed to members by the end of September 2023.

The **48th Annual Sappers Dinner** will be held at the Holiday Inn, Warwick Farm, on Saturday, 28 October 2023. The 4/3 Battalion RNSWR dance band will be providing background and dance music and, together with various awards, prizes and a sumptuous buffet dinner, this event promises to be a memorable occasion for all Sappers and their guests. 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. Should you be planning to book overnight accommodation at the venue, please follow the booking instructions at the foot of the flyer.

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 1st Field Squadron Group RAE Association (FSG Assn) 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, your Committee has recently become aware that the FSG Assn is a registered charity in the Queensland jurisdiction (Charitable Organisation No. CP6457), thereby allowing the donation to proceed.

You may be aware that John Pritchard has, for a number of years, facilitated "**Sappers Quarterly Lunches**" 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 Lunches", to provide a sense of common bonding of members in various parts of the State.

Your Committee is currently investigating our possible involvement with **Remembrance Day** commemorations at the Sydney War Memorial, Hyde Park South. This is considered a solemn occasion that can bring members together in a manner that promotes the Sapper esprit de corps. When further details are available, the membership will be informed by email.

We have become aware that the **Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering** (AAMME) produces a regular Bulletin outlining events and news that would be of interest to all Sappers. The current edition of the AAMME Bulletin is attached for your information. We plan to bring you future editions of the Bulletin.

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

Sincerely



Brian Malouf

LAST POST

Sadly, we have lost two of our members/former members since the issuing of our June Newsletter:

William Francis 'Johno' Johnson died of a heart attack on 1 Sep 23. 'Johno' served in RAE in the CMF before he did National Service in Artillery, where he served in Vietnam, then returned to RAE CMF/ARES. He is a former member of our Association and well known in the RAE Reserve world. He served in 4 FD SQN, 5 FD SQN, 4 FER, 103 CONST SQN, 26 DIV ENG SPT SQN and 5 CER

David Edward 'Joe' Coleman died on 4 May 2023 David was on our Sick Parade list in the in our March 2023 Newsletter, where we reported that his wife had advised that he had had a setback with his melanoma. He did his National Service in 23 CONST SQN and 18 FD SQN and later joined the Ares and served in the Transport Corps, but always considered himself a Sapper.

SICK PARADE

Brian Houlahan = has told us that he is pleased to say that he is not suffering much in the way of side effects (yet). He is in the second week of four treatment cycles, following which he will have a bone marrow transplant, after some heavy doses of Chemo. After that he will have a break of between 60-100 days before the final two cycles of chemo. He feels like a bit of a pin cushion with 5-6 blood tests, 4-6 injections and one infusion each month.

NEW MEMBERS

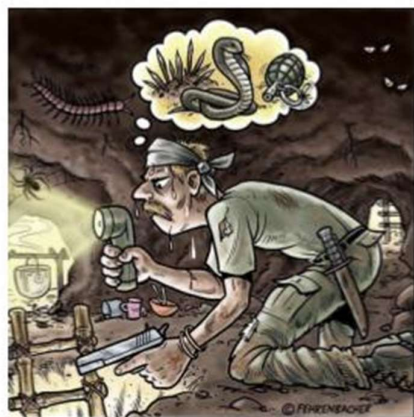
We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our Association:

Oli Bradshaw
Phil Du
Mir Hossain
Samuel Jones
Ianfield Metilla
Angus Sinclair

Mounzer Boustany
Shirleen Ellawala
Claire Howarth
Andrew Le
Jake Picknell
Matt Skellern

Neal Dalton
Connor Elliffe
Paul Jones
Kelvin Marquinez
Walter Robinson
LT COL Heath Stevens

New members are always welcome. If there are sappers that you know that are not members that might be interested in joining, contact our Secretary, Danny Duke, via his email danny.duke@bigpond.com and he will send you an introductory letter and membership application form.



THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RAT...
OR THE ULTIMATE GAME OF HIDE AND GO SEEK

1978	2023
Long hair	Longing for hair
8 Tracks	Cataracts
KEGs	EKGs
Streaking	Leaking
Acid Rock	Acid Reflux
Seeds and stems	Fiber
Stayin' Alive (the song)	Stayin' Alive (the goal)
Hoping for a BMW	Hoping for a BM
Going to a new, hip joint	Getting a new hip joint
Rolling Stones	Kidney Stones
Bell bottoms	Big bottoms
Disco	Costco
Whatever	Depends
Rock n' roll all night	Sleep through the night
Think you know everything	Think you know your name

News Updates

2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM is scheduled for Saturday, 14 October 2023, commencing at 1400 hours (2:00pm).

The AGM will be conducted as a teleconference, where you can use your landline or mobile phone to "phone in" and join the 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 will be emailed to you with the AGM Notice, in late September 2023.

CHANGES FLOWING FROM THE PASSING OF HER MAJESTY

In our September 2022 Newsletter there was discussion of the changes that are likely to occur following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. These included:

- The appointment of a Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Engineers;
- Changes to the RAE cap badge with the change from EIIR to CIIIR and the change of the crown;
- Possible change of the crown on the RAE cipher; and
- Changes to the crown that are, or are part of, the designation of rank of some non-commissioned and commissioned officers.

RAE Head of Corps staff have advised that these are all still 'work-in-progress', with our corps working with other Australian and Commonwealth corps and appropriate officials.

Meanwhile, the Royal Engineers have:

- A new Colonel-in-Chief, King Charles III; and
- A new cap badge, which as you can see below includes the King's cypher, which is the crown and CRIII.

There are no images of the new Royal Engineers cypher but, again, it is reasonable to assume it and ultimately ours will have the same crown as the King's Cypher and similarly the badges of rank, which include a crown, will change to that crown.



Old Royal Engineers Cap Badge



King Charles III Cypher



New Royal Engineers Cap Badge

As we reported in the September 2021 edition of our newsletter:

Curtis McGrath joined the Australian Army in 2006 and on 23 August 2012, as a Combat Engineer with the 6th Engineer Support Regiment, he was badly injured by an Improvised Explosive Device during operations in Urozgan Province, Afghanistan. The explosion resulted in him losing his left leg below the knee and his right leg at the knee. He suffered shattered bones in his wrist, burnt left arm, perforated ear drums and large wound at the back of his thigh. He was originally taken to an American medical base in Germany and then to Royal Brisbane Hospital for rehabilitation. Within three months, he was walking on prosthetic legs.

Prior to his military injury, Curtis was a keen white-water canoeist, rugby player and swimmer. He took up canoeing and swimming as part of his rehabilitation. In devoting his energy to sport, Curtis commented: "In sport, you are getting your body to do things you don't do every day. It helps your body to adjust more easily to everyday things."

An inspirational young man that we are proud to say is a Sapper.

Source: Wikipedia



Six-time Paralympic Games athletics representative Angie Ballard and triple Paralympic canoeing gold medallist Curtis McGrath have been bestowed the honour and responsibility of leading the Australian Paralympic Team at the Paris 2024 Games

New Foreign Award from the Vietnam War

NEW APPROVED FOREIGN AWARD - REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM UNIT CITATION (RVCGWPUC)

The Hon Matt Keogh MP, the Minister for Defence Personnel, announced that the Department of Defence has recently completed the necessary research required to identify the relevant units, and consequently individuals, who are eligible to apply for and receive the RVCGWPUC, may do so.

All ADF personnel who served in the war of South Vietnam are eligible to wear the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation. However, you must check the information sheets which contain the units that are eligible and the dates that those units are approved to apply, e.g. Small Ships have a listing of dates that are not the same as other RAE units. See an extract of the information sheet below.

Families/NOK of those who died post-Vietnam will also be eligible to apply for this device on behalf of their deceased loved ones.

Go to: <https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/medals/foreign-awards/republic-vietnam-cross-gallantry-palm-unit-citation>

This address provides a link to the application form which you complete on-line. The Directorate of Honours and Awards will provide you with a reference number when your application form has been accepted. Your Citation will be sent to you in the mail after the DH&A has checked your details on the application form. This address also provides a link to check your unit and the dates of eligibility.

This link applies to families of deceased veterans: <https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/policy-information/unissued-service-awards-deceased-members>

Royal Australian Engineer and Related Units, Eligible for the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation

Note: The following is the list of RAE and related units extracted from the list of Australian Army Units Eligible for the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation on the defence.gov.au website.

UNIT	FROM	TO
3 Field Troop	14-Sep-65	31-Mar-66
1 Field Squadron	01-Apr-66 01-Dec-67	30-Nov-67 18-Nov-71
21 Engineer Support Troop	01-Apr-66	09-Dec-71
1 Field Squadron Workshop	01-Apr-66	31-Oct-71
17 Construction Squadron	01-Apr-66	01-Mar-67
	02-Mar-67	02-Feb-72
17 Construction Squadron Workshop	01-Apr-66	25-Nov-71
Detachment 11 Movement Control Group	01-Apr-66	12-Mar-72
Detachment 55 Advanced Engineer Stores Squadron	01-Apr-66	16-Feb-68
55 Engineer Workshop and Park Squadron	15-Jun-71	12-Mar-72
- Detachment 55 Engineer Workshop and Park Squadron	17-Feb-68	14-Jun-71
Detachment 30 Terminal Squadron	09-Jan-67	12-Mar-72
3 Small Ship Troop (AV 1355 Vernon Sturdee)	11-Apr-66 23-Jun-67	25-Jun-66 14-Dec-67
1 Small Ship Troop (AV 1356 Clive Steele)	26-Jun-66 03-Dec-66 17-Jan-67 29-Jan-68 21-Jul-69 11-Jul-70 02-Mar-71	23-Nov-66 09-Jan-67 16-Mar-67 27-Apr-69 02-Mar-70 03-Sep-70 12-Mar-71
2 Small Ship Troop (AV 1353 Harry Chauvel)	23-Oct-67 21-May-70	21-Mar-68 06-Jun-70
4 Small Ship Troop (AV 1354 Brudenell White)	22-Sep-70	24-Oct-70
Detachment 32 Small Ship Squadron (AS 3051 John Monash)	05-May-66 03-Dec-67 17-Feb-68 16-Dec-68 20-Feb-69 25-Oct-69 27-Jul-71	14-May-66 13-Jan-68 31-Mar-68 26-Dec-68 04-Mar-69 07-Dec-69 14-Aug-71
Detachment 32 Small Ship Squadron (AV 1356 Clive Steele)	23-Feb-71	20-Mar-71
Detachment 32 Small Ship Squadron (AV 1353 Harry Chauvel)	11-Nov-70	15-Dec-70

Foot Note: If you served in Vietnam in other corps, use the above link and scroll down: Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation | ADF Members & Families | Defence



BULLETIN 06/2023

Introduction

This bulletin provides an update, at irregular intervals, on the AAMME operations between 06 Jul - 28 Aug 2023.

Mission

Promote the collection of significant material of RAE Corps History and Heritage (H2), and implement best practice in the management, preservation, and display of that H2 IOT educate Sappers, and contribute towards esprit de corps, future doctrine and materiel development. Also, enhance broader awareness of the RAE Corps achievements.

Theme

- Vietnam Veterans Day.
- RAE Corps diverse¹ representation.
- Hulse Exploder.

Worthy Achievements

WWII Searchlight relocated, and new Females Sappers display build progressing.

Promulgation of the AAMME bulletin to a much wider RAE audience Australia-wide.

WO1 Keith Bennett RACT, was presented his second FEDSTAR by MAJGEN R. Vagg.

Curator assisting 6 ESR with their research project.

Virtual tour of the AAMME on the SME Facebook site. This includes 'Find Tommy', a 28cm high WWI Perspex figure hidden in only one of fifteen pictures.

Assist the Intelligence Museum in Canungra with items relating to Military Survey.

Why not visit SME on Facebook

WO1 Keith Bennett FEDSTAR presentation



Visitors

Many MIL and CIV personnel continue to visit the AAMME, some regularly, including:

- HOLSBKS CIV support Staff and their families.
- Head of Land Capability, MAJGEN R. Vagg
- CO and RSM SME.
- SME staff & students.
- Overseas EX TS23 personnel.
- MIL pers HOLSBKS.
- RAN/Army/RAAF Cadets.
- Various RSL's & Associations.
- Schools/Families.

Training/Courses

Groups continue to utilise, and/or forecast to utilise the facilities within the AAMME, some regularly including:

- SME and SOER EDD.
- SME IET PME involving research into a number of significant RAE Corps events in History.

Medals - LT J Appleby, MAJ Leslie Robertson, and Sapper E Hudson



Curator

Created a display in support the commemoration of Vietnam Veterans Day on 18 Aug 2023. It was pleasing to see so many veterans revisit the AAMME post the SME service in HOLSBKS.

Our Thursday volunteers have the 22RB Project is up and running. Fish oil applied (a couple of more coats required before painting).

22RB Project



Plan for the next quarter

Relocate various eqpt including MV10, M113 (Bukoo Boom Boom), Husky, and Svy items.

Work with 20 EOD SQN on an OP RENDER SAFE display.

Continue to liaise with shareholders IOT try and secure a MK3 Husky.

Continue to increase the number of Medals on display.

Map & guide in Simplified Chinese; ongoing.

Monitor authorised promotion platforms for content and accuracy.

Take receipt of a new large scale printer capable of producing life-size images for display.

Support NSW Army Cadets in Sep with a 'Women-at-War' display in Majura.

aamme.mailbox@defence.gov.au



**The President and Members
of the Sappers Association (NSW) Inc**
cordially invite serving and ex-serving Sappers
and their partners and friends to attend our
48th Annual Sappers' Dinner
Saturday, 28 October 2023
1830 hrs
Estate Room
Holiday Inn
355 Hume Highway, Warwick Farm
(Some navigation devices show this as Cabramatta)

Dress

Members and Guests: Mess Dress Summer/Suit or jacket and tie/Evening wear (with awarded miniature medals)

RSVP

Wednesday, 4 October 2023 by email to **danny.duke@bigpond.com**

Please include your phone number and any special dietary requirements in your email.
Consider organising a table for up to 10 friends and/or advise your preferred seating.

Cost \$70pp - includes sit-down buffet three course meal. Drinks individually purchased.

4/3 Battalion RNSWR dance band, Sapper's Excellence Award presentation, lucky door prizes, good company.

Payment is to be made upon acceptance by electronic funds transfer. Our 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 bed and breakfast accommodation available. Single or Double - \$189. To book, please phone the Holiday Inn direct (Ph. 02 9726 1222, and select extension **option 2** "Weddings, Conferences and Events", preferably Mon-Fri, 0900-1700h), quoting **Sappers Association Package** to receive this discounted tariff.