

RAE CORPS MAGAZINE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc



SAPPER SUMMIT

Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper

DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FORMATION OF
THE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN
ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) INC

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FORMATION OF
THE
22ND ENGINEER
REGIMENT



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General Association mail can be sent to:
The Secretary,
Royal Australian Engineers Association (Vic) Inc
P.O.Box 246
RINGWOOD EAST VIC 3135

Sapper Summit items should be mailed to
The Editor, Sapper Summit,
PO Box 246
RINGWOOD EAST VIC 3135
Email: sappersummit@raevictoria.com
Electronic articles are preferred using MS Word
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Contact details, past copies of Sapper Summit and
general information about the RAE Association (Vic)
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President's Column

Despatches

from the President's Bunker:



Greetings Fellow Victorian Sappers.

In 2024 we commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria (RAEAV) and the 22nd Engineer Regiment (22 ER).

Both share a rich heritage and ongoing devotion to military engineering in Victoria.

Victorian sappers have always contributed to the protection of our wonderful country in numerous wars, conflicts and operations conducted around the globe and at home.

Many are involved in numerous infrastructure and building projects.

Others have made great contributions to a kaleidoscope of other community, professional and business organisations and projects.

Many have made the ultimate sacrifice.

We salute and acknowledge all Victorian sappers - past, present and aspiring. We know it is important to learn from the past, embrace new technologies and adapt them to conquer future challenges. Sappers have always been good at this.

This tenth anniversary year has enjoyed the full array of commemorative, social and heritage activities. We visited *Fort Scratchley* in Newcastle, attended the *Kapooka Memorial* commemoration and blessed the *Sappers Tree* at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

Our serving sappers continue to excel in all their current challenges.

Thankfully, a diverse, talented, and devoted committee helps navigate this pathway forward. We always, however, seek fresh perspectives and talent to continue providing the comradeship, spirit de corps and sense of identity so vital for sappers.

Please enjoy this Saint Barbara edition of *Sapper Summit*.

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

DIVERSITY OF SAPPER INFLUENCE

The Sir Clive Steele Lecture

1 November 2024

The *Sir Clive Steele Lectures* are conducted annually in the *Brigadier Bob Slater AM, RFD Lecture Room* at Oakleigh Barracks.

The inaugural lecture was conducted in 1995 by Major Don Hughes who had just returned from his appointment as the Australian Service Contingent Commander with the United Nations Peacekeeping and Demining Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) OP CORACLE.

Each year since, both historical and contemporary topics are explored for the professional development of sappers of all ranks and trades.

The 2024 lecture was hosted by the 22nd Engineer Regiment (22 ER) in the wonderful lecture room and messing facilities at Oakleigh Barracks.

It was an informative and well conducted evening, highlighting the diversity and importance of Sapper influence around the globe.

Two topics were presented this year:

Sapper Scott Balestra described the recent construction of a pedestrian swing footbridge close to the former massacre site at Kibeho in Rwanda (1995).

Captain Emily Mirabella provided a powerful reminder of the Japanese thrust into the Southwest Pacific during WWII.

The principal guest for the evening was Brigadier Michelle McCormack, the newly appointed Commander of the 4th Brigade. As a former Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Brigadier McCormack was most impressed with the involvement, skill and adaptability displayed by the current young Sapper leaders.

Sapper Scotty Balestra, a structural engineer in civilian life, brought alive his hands-on experience of constructing a pedestrian foot bridge in the now thriving Rwanda. Scotty highlighted the importance of good leadership and project management skills at all levels.



SPR Balestra provided background to the need for pedestrian bridges in Rwanda, the land of a thousand hills, which allow safe access and opportunities for local communities, enabling them to reach





essential resources, such as health centres, schools, and markets.

The bridge SPR Balestra helped construct was a 75m long and 1.2m wide suspension bridge spanning the Akanyaru River in Southern Rwanda (GPS COORDINATES: -2.612650°, 29.508770°)

During the construction phase, SPR Balestra was able to visit a local school that will be directly impacted by the construction of the new bridge in-

frastructure. The primary school teaches 90-100 children each day in a variety of subjects. Despite limited resources, Rwanda boasts an impressive educational system. Children approach their studies with eagerness and hope, viewing education as a vital tool for transformation and a pathway to a brighter future. The children greeted the visitors with enormous amounts of energy and joy, especially when bags of donated soccer balls (and one AFL ball) were kicked around the school grounds.



SPR Balestra found the trip to be extremely humbling and rewarding. He overcame multiple challenges including a looming medical pandemic, exhausting days and a hand injury.



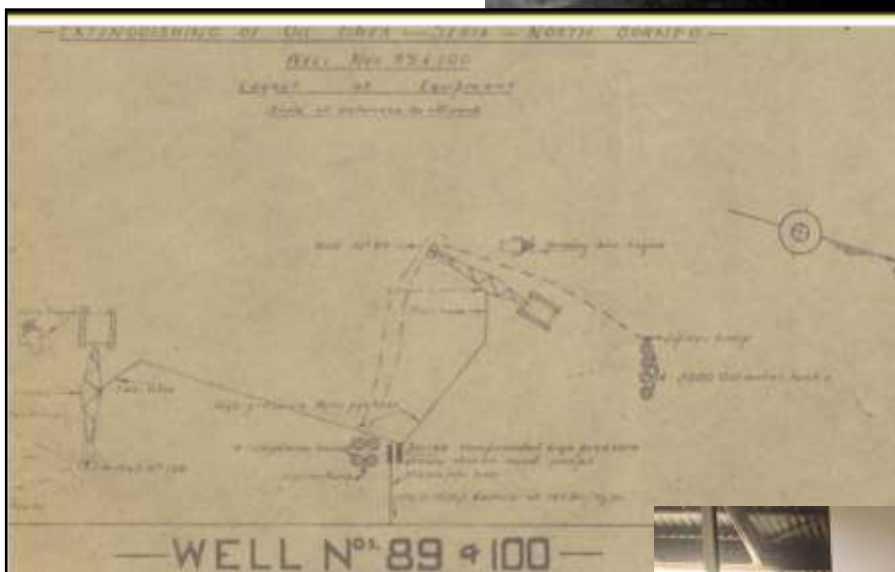
Captain Mirabella reinforced the critical need for sappers to be able to execute basic sapper skills such as breaching, search, route clearance and ad hoc construction tasks in challenging environmental conditions. This was demonstrated in each of the three OBOE operations where sappers supported amphibious landings through overt and covert breaching, disarming thousands of mines and booby traps and expedient route repair to enable mobility of assaulting forces.

The presentation also highlighted the need to foster mission command and sapper ingenuity resolve complex problems, which was prevalent during the stability efforts that followed the am-

[illegible]

Captain Mirabella found the trip to be extremely insightful and took many learnings away from walking the ground where these operations had

been conducted. This gave her a sound appreciation of the sheer complexity involved in littoral operations. As the only sapper on the trip, there were extensive opportunities to engage with ADF personnel from diverse specialisations, particularly in the amphibious space. She valued the engagement with foreign military personnel, particularly the Royal Gurkhas in Brunei, as well as discussions with Australian diplomatic officials posted in the near region.



STANDING ALONGSIDE

His Majesty King Charles III at Oakleigh Barracks

RSM 22 ER, WO1 Thomas Jesser, CAPT Emily Mirabella, SPR Scotty Balestra, COMD 4 BDE, BRIG Michelle McCormack, President RAE Assoc Vic, LTCOL Don Hughes (Retd) and Zeus.



Map of the island of Borneo



SIR JOHN HOLLAND CUP

ROYAL MELBOURNE GOLF CLUB

21 October 2024

by Hutch

The 2024 RAE Sir John Holland Cup was played out under blue skies and outstanding camaraderie.

Our gracious host, Mr Bill McAuley, was a late scratching, but otherwise physically and spiritually in attendance. That left sixteen players in four foursomes to brave the sand dunes and obstacles of the meticulously kept Royal Melbourne Golf Course. Players came from as far as Townsville, the Sunshine Coast, Sydney and Puckapunyal, with some new faces and guests.

We were slightly up on numbers from last year but well down on previous years where numbers had approached 30, so a call out to keen golfers for next year to put this one day in October into your forward planning. It is a unique day – the opportunity for a round of golf with fellow Sappers on one of the world's premier golf courses. It is only possible because of the status of Sir John Holland who established the event over 60 years ago and remains a unique private event on the Royal Melbourne calendar. Sir John was a Corps luminary who served with distinction in WW2 as a Special Operations engineer Lieutenant Colonel, before establishing his construction company following the War with many veterans filling important roles in the business and taking Sapper nuity and the skills learnt in the Army to commercial building and construction. Many of our senior members will remember Sir John as a strong supporter of the Corps and the Sir John Holland awards still go to the top students on our RAE officer courses.

Back to the golf day which started under the firm control of our starter Dave Rye. Play went well for the first three or four holes but then our fourth group went AWOL and decid-

ed to take the 'indirect approach' – missing the road crossing and heading off on the wrong hole. They eventually joined the course again but were about an hour late in finishing, so the rest were well lubricated by the time of their arrival for the presentations. Royal Melbourne was as tough as always – the greens were lightning fast and the layout challenging for the level of most of our players. This correspondent hit what I thought was an excellent short chip over the bunker onto the centre of the green only to see the ball roll off the green and get a four over.



On another green three of the players played the old bunker to bunker to bunker shuffle to all scrub the hole. But we had great fun and camaraderie anyway!



The Best Player trophy went to Alan Brimelow with a score of 38 from a handicap of 20. The Best RAE Player, who have their name engraved on the Holland Cup, went to Simon Neilsen with a score of 35 from a handicap of 20.



The Best Team determines the names to be engraved on the Evans-Zoller Trophy; and with a score of 43 went to the sibling team of Peter (Hutch) and Michael Hutchinson – they teamed well with Michael scoring 33 points and Hutch only 23 but they each scored well on different holes, the essence of teamwork. The trophy for Longest Drive on hole 18 went to Gerard Koen and the trophy for Nearest to Pin on hole 16 went to Josh Myers. A final trophy for the Luckiest Sapper went to Remi Rafter.

The non-perpetual trophies and vouchers were generously provided by the event's sponsor, Hansen Yuncken, who were ably represented by Mr Dean King.

Although luck played its part, and not all went home with the 'spoils of the toils', all agreed that RAE and attendees were the winners from the day.

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 report at the Holsworthy Barracks Pass Office.
Current, government issued photo identification will be required for all visitors over 18 years of age.
Group bookings are essential, other visitors are advised to call to confirm timings.

Location
Macquarie Road, Holsworthy Barracks, Holsworthy (Enter via Macquarie Road)

Contact
Tel: 02 8361 0022 Fax: 02 8361 0042
Email: AAMME.museum@defence.gov.au

Hours
A&P Member and Defence Civilians: Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm
General Public: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10am to 4pm and 12.30pm to 4pm
Other times can be arranged by appointment

NEWBOROUGH REUNION FUNCTION

04th OCTOBER 2024



For the last few years, the RAE Association has supported the Latrobe Valley Sappers by sponsoring their annual October gathering. Continuing this tradition the function was again held at the Yallourn-Newborough RSL to acknowledge and thank the Valley members, family, and friends for their support to the Association.

This year's attendance numbers were a little lower but there was still a good turn up with about 30 people attending and whilst many were not members of the Association this function gave everyone the chance to come together and catch up and relive the days of Yallourn and Newborough. Regrettably there were no current serving members of the Regiment in attendance.

The main reason for the Association funding this gathering is that we manage to put on activities in Melbourne but in many cases attendance at these city functions for the Valley people is very difficult either due to travel distance or medical restrictions. The Newborough function is to let them know that they are not neglected.

Mark Shanks represented the President (Don Hughes) and spoke about his time as the OC of 38 Field Squadron and the pleasure he enjoyed with this posting – Mark mentioned that he was the last OC of the Sqn and served there before the establishment of 4 CER (1995) - also representing the Association were Jim Davis, Duncan Howarth and Mel Constable. Mel was also able to bring home some great pieces of memorabilia for the history room that were brought along to the evening.



George Harris and Mark Shanks



The Association provides a light finger food supper which is put together by an old friend in Heather Calder (nee Draper) and her husband Peter who certainly put on a very good spread for the gathering – thank you again Heather and Peter and all others who helped prepare for the night. The theme of the night can be summed up by saying it is when the “city comes to the country” and typical of the country hospitality there is plenty of food available.

George Harris is the main driver behind the night and gets the word out to the very strong sapper family in the Valley. George is a great ambassador for the Valley Sappers and the Association and arranges a gathering at the RSL on the first Friday of each month.

This function, which is becoming a regular fixture on our calendar, is a great night out and the “city folk” are certainly made very welcome by the Valley sappers and everyone should take the opportunity of attending next

year’s function. It is certainly worth the trip.

As with most things age is catching up with many of the Valley Sappers who served but those who come along are certainly very passionate about their service and the proud tradition of being a sapper. Without reunions like this much of the Corps Victorian history would be lost along with the characters and people who have helped shape and develop the strong traditions of the RAE.



Thank you again Heather and George for all your wonderful work and contribution to this function and to all those people who came along to the function to make it such a success.

***Remembering Hayden (Slim) Somerville
and the Haines brothers – Ray and Kevin.***

RIP.





MAINTAINING MORALE:

MILITARY POSTAL SERVICES

By Don Hughes

The power of a simple letter or message.

(As published in part in the *Warrandyte Diary* April 2024)

Messages from home have always been a great means of bolstering morale for our deployed service personnel.

Sending and receiving messages, or packages, is a powerful medium for our Diggers' overall wellbeing and morale.

This basic human need to communicate underpins our very survival instinct.

Australia's First Nations people too, have always transmitted information over long distances, using messengers and message sticks, for thousands of years.

Diggers need Mail

In the Gold Rush era of Warrandyte, the first goldfield in Victoria, the establishment of communications was one of the miner's first items of business so, like the military, they could stay in touch with their loved ones back at home.

A large crowd had gathered at the newly erected Cameron's Store to meet the first Ford & Co coach service when it began servicing the Warrandyte goldfields in October 1856.

No doubt with mail and parcels for the diggers.

However, the coach, bogged at Deep Creek, never arrived.

Within weeks of the goldfield's first land sales in 1857, storekeeper Cameron was appointed as first Postmaster, when a twice weekly mail service with Melbourne was inaugurated.

It was not that long ago, that messages could only be sent by surface mail, essentially by hand, foot, animal, bird, or increasingly sophisticated transportation modes.

Today, instant communication is in everyone's pocket.

Florence Nightingale invents the International Money Order

Early forms of military mail distribution systems date back to Ancient Egypt from around the 2nd Millennium BC.

The origins of Australia's military postal service dates from various messenger systems used in medieval times such as the Royal Postal service established by King Edward IV (1461–83).

The first specific British military postal unit was formed in 1882 when a Royal Warrant authorised the formation of the Army Post Office Corps.

This small Corps provided postal and courier services - their motto was "Swift and Secure". During the Crimean War (1854-56) British troops also utilised the French Army Postal Service.

In response to demands made by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War, a method of transmitting money was devised to allow troops to remit monies back to Britain.

This was to help prevent drunkenness and became the world's first international Money Order Service.

In its first month of operation, 7000 British pounds was remitted back home by British troops.

The responsibility for postal services for British forces was ultimately subsumed by the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1913 who, along with construction and breaching tasks on the battlefield, were responsible for communications (including electric telegraph systems) and transportation to the rear areas.

In Australia, this responsibility followed a slightly differing path.

Military Postal Services WW1

For the 1st Australian Imperial Force (1st AIF), the main expeditionary force of the Australian Army during WW1, a separate and specific Corps was raised to perform postal services - the Australian Postal Corps.

Staffed mostly by women, the 700 employees at the Australian Base Post Office London received mail shipped from Australia via Liverpool.

It was transported by rail to London for sorting and redirection to reach soldiers based on their record cards.

Mail being despatched to soldiers deployed in France was then transported by van to Folkestone and shipped to Boulogne, France, where it was taken by rail and truck to field post offices.

Mail was then delivered to Diggers in the trenches by ration parties.

Return mail was censored and consigned from the field post offices via the same convoluted

General was responsible for military postal services.

Royal Australian Engineers WW1

Soon after the start of WWII, the Royal Aus-



Soldiers unloading sacks of mail which is being checked at the Base Post Office by the Suez Canal, 1918.



Interior view of the Australian Base Post Office, 1918.

tralian Engineers (RAE) became responsible for postal services following the tradition established by the Royal Engineers.

The first Director of the Army Postal Service (DAPS) was Lieutenant Colonel A. Sladdin MC who had been a 5th Division Signals officer with the 1st AIF in France.

Appointed part-time in 1939, he wore his military hat as the DAPS in the mornings, and in the afternoons, he returned to his role with the PMG.

RAE depended upon this civilian expertise throughout the 1939-45 War.

It also depended on a vast team of servicemen and women to swiftly and securely des-

journey back to Australia.

For those interested, there is a marvellous 35mm, silent, black & white, 16-minute movie depicting actual footage of *How the Digger Gets His Mail: The Australian Army Postal Services At Work*, which can be watched on the Australian War Memorial website.

Integral to this amazing service, was a close relationship between the postal service and the Postmaster General (PMG) Department, now Australia Post.

Between the two world wars, with much smaller military demand, the Quartermaster



Sorting room, Adelaide River NT October 1942. AWM 026976

patch mail to our troops deployed to increasingly diverse locations around the globe.

For those Delving more Deeply

Jude Pinkerton-Trelor, a retired Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) Sergeant, distinctly remembers Postal Sergeant Ethel St. John proudly explaining the importance of women in the postal service to help ensure the mail was delivered.

Several wonderful books have been published showcasing the Australian military postal services at this time by a range of authors: P. Collas, Neil C. Smith, Edward B. Proud and Arnold Crabb.

Peter Dunn ([ozatwar](#) 28 Feb 2001) also explained that each Army Post Office (APO) or Fleet Post Office (FPO) was issued a specific number in a similar way to Australian Postcodes and US Zip codes are used today.

A typical address might have been:

***Sapper Clive Steele,
APO 929,
Port Moresby, New Guinea***

Jude also remembers her mother, Dorothy Wood, sending packages containing a *"bottle of soft drink concealed in bread"* to husband Harold, serving with 4th Field Ambulance in Milne Bay.

Back at Home

Postal services were also in great demand back at home for our repatriated service men and women recovering from both physical and mental injuries.

The Post Office at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital (originally 115th Heidelberg Military Hospital), for example, was one of the busiest in Melbourne handling huge quantities of mail, parcels, and telegrams for our repatriated soldiers, sailors, and aircrew.

It continued its important work after WW2.

Initially run by the Army, a worker was employed to run the post office when the management of the hospital moved to the Repatriation Commission in 1947.

Continuing as one of the busiest post offices

in Melbourne, from 1989 until its closure in 2005, it was run by volunteers.

Vietnam – Punch a Postie

In 1966, the responsibility for military mail transferred from the RAE to the Royal Australian Army Service Corps (RAASC).

When that corps dissolved in 1972, postal services became the responsibility of a new corps, the Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT).

Military mail services varied for each war, conflict, or operation.

For example, in Vietnam (1966 – 1975), the mail was generally delivered by ship or plane to Vietnam then distributed to the troops.



Michael Mosley, a National Serviceman RACT Corporal, remembers well the refusal by Australian "Posties" and "Wharfies" to send any mail to Vietnam during the 1968 Christmas period.

This occurred as a direct result of compounding political and social dissent in Australia at the time.

Conscripted soldiers returning home for R&R (rest and recreation) started the "Punch a Postie" campaign in protest.

Corporal Mosley recalls one soldier from his transport platoon writing home to his parents in a country town, forewarning them of the great angst the lack of mail delivery to the troops was causing and the proposed campaign to rectify it.

The letter was published in a local newspaper, resulting in the soldier being charged under military law with "conduct unbecoming of

good military order and discipline”.

National serviceman Jeff Freeman, who served in 8 Platoon, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), well remembers his forward scout (Barry Tolley) writing to his grandma asking for some secateurs and sturdy gardening gloves to help tackle the jungle terrain.

Grandma promptly despatched them, and these items became standard and essential equipment for future forward scouts.

Peace Operations

Two wars (Iraq and Afghanistan) coupled with a diversity of peacekeeping, peacemaking, humanitarian, and security operations, continue to require tailored and specific solutions for mail delivery.

For example, in 1995, Wayne Hay, an RAE Warrant Officer Class Two, spent three days tracking down a backlog of missing mail that had been despatched months earlier to the small demining team deployed with the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) (OP CORACLE).

Eventually, he located the backlog of the contingent’s mail in a dilapidated storage facility as part of the crippled postal system in war-torn Mozambique.

The contingent had not received mail for months.

This necessitated the use of an international commercial courier service, DHL (a German based international logistics company), to ensure mail was delivered directly to the soldiers.

Timor Leste

In East Timor (now Timor Leste) an Australian Forces Post Office (AFPO) was established in the capital Dili.

Echoing and building upon the sapper legacy of swiftness and security, postal services remained vital for our deployed diggers.

Long-serving Australia Post employee, Tony Jackson, assisted.

He had first delivered mail in Melbourne in 1986 mounted on an old red pushbike.

More recently he used a motorbike and cur-

rently mounts an electric vehicle.

An Army Engineer in the Reserves, Corporal Jackson deployed to Dili in 2003 as part of Operation Citadel to assist erecting the marquee and staging as part of the *Tour de Force V* support concert for the deployed troops.

Mail and care packages, along with concerts, remained critical to maintaining good morale.

Middle East

In 2021, Postmaster Sergeant Alexander (Stretch) Landel, Joint Task Force 633 Post Office as part of Operation Accordion in the Middle East region, said:

“Advances in technology continue to offer a range of options for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) members to communicate with loved ones whilst on deployment but physical mail remains as important as ever”.

Modern personal communication devices come with numerous security issues as does the delivery of morale boosting, and most welcome, packages from home.

The critical outcome is that mail is delivered swiftly and securely.

The Future

Apart from providing specialised postal services in operational areas, Australian Defence Force mail is now generally provided by Australia Post both within Australia and overseas. They also service Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships at sea.

Twice yearly Australia Post delivers care packages sent by the public to Defence personnel deployed overseas addressed as:

**AFPO 60,
Australian Defence Force,
Sydney NSW 2890**

Family and friends can send addressed parcels at any time, and email via:

supportthetroops@defence.gov.au.

In military terms however, each future operation will require a tailored solution.

Never underestimate the morale boosting power of a simple letter or message.

JUST A TREE WITHIN THE FOREST?

The Sapper Tree of Remembrance

By Sapper Summit

Nestled within a garden like forest of especially planted and curated trees, stands a significant tree.

Surrounding one of the world's most iconic Shrines of Remembrance, this commemorative inner-city forest is home to a tree that stirs the soul, ensuring sappers are never forgotten.

Just two years after the establishment of the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria (RAEAV) in 2014, a special tree was planted to commemorate sappers.

The tree was dedicated on 11th November 2016 at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

The *Engineers Memorial Tree*, a Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*), provides a natural spiritual focus for all sappers to commemorate and remember their fallen, struggling and injured comrades.

The bronze plaque is inscribed:

"To Australian Sappers past and present for their courage, sacrifice and dedication to their service, their Corps and the Nation"

Located south-west of the Shrine (reference number D70) towards St Kilda Road, our tree is well cared for and prospers.

Braving the onslaught of encroaching windy and stormy spring weather, a dedicated team of sappers and sapper supporters gathered to honour our tree for the 10th Anniversary of the RAEAV established in 2014.

Remembering our sappers

Officiated by our President Don Hughes, the Association's Chaplain, Captain Kirsten Linden,

rededicated the tree during a ceremony conducted at 1100hrs on Sunday 17 November.

This occurred just one week after the Shrine's 90th Anniversary on Remembrance Day.

Our principal guest, Brigadier Bob Slater AM, RFD, reinforced the President's comments about the underlying importance of paying respects to all sappers, past and present.



Coupled with this observance, the President also spoke of the critical importance of having a strong understanding of the heritage of sappers in Victoria.



Victorian Sapper Heritage

With Victoria's separation from NSW in July 1851, coinciding with the discovery of gold, the new colony desperately needed engineers, the Victorian government sought military assistance. After numerous attempts the appointment of a Colonial Engineer in September 1853 went to Lieutenant Charles Pasley RE, son of General Sir Charles Pasley, one of the leading military engineers of his time and founder of the School of Military Engineering at Chatham in England. The

young Pasley had served in Canada and Bermuda as well as on the staff of the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Meanwhile, to assist with the colony's defences, a temporary barracks was built in 1852 for the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot (1759-1877). These barracks were located on the eastern side of St Kilda Road, on a site which now forms part of the Queen Victoria gardens. Recently, a new plaque commemorating one of the early training depots was placed on the magnificent Trades Hall building in Lygon Street, Carlton. This is one of Melbourne's most iconic heritage buildings.



Growing from the conflict of Eureka Stockade, the trade union movement in Victoria have a soft spot for sappers.

Eureka Stockade

With continued unrest and disturbances on the Ballarat goldfields in 1854, the 40th Regiment were involved in both foot and mounted roles against the miners at Eureka Stockade. Sapper officer Pasley deployed as Second-in Command of the British Forces.

After the surrender of the greatly outnumbered miners (Diggers) at Eureka, butchering of the survivors continued by soldiers of the 40th Regiment who had become enraged by the earlier loss of their drummer boy.

Pasley, sickened by the carnage, saved a group of prisoners from being bayoneted and threatened to shoot any Police or Soldiers who continued the slaughter. Pasley's valuable assistance

was acknowledged in despatches printed and laid before the Victorian Legislative Council. Pasley later served in the New Zealand wars and retired as a Major General.

Federation

The first Colony in Australia to raise a corps of engineers, the Victorian Volunteer Engineers, was established in 1860 after a meeting in the Duke of Rothesay Hotel.



A year after Federation, the Corps of Engineers Victoria was amalgamated into the Corps of Australian Engineers in 1902. The "Royal" title was added in 1907 to the regular component of the Corps.

After the calamity of WW2, Australia understood that a talented and experienced engineer-

ing capability was critical for the nation's interests.

The Supplementary Reserve was raised in 1950 to meet this military engineering need.

In 2025 the 75th (Diamond) anniversary of the Supplementary Reserve will be commemorated. Our current Engineer Regiment, 22nd Engineer Regiment (Victoria's Own Sappers), has direct links to this heritage, particularly with 105th Construction Squadron.

The amalgamation of the 4th Combat Engineer Regiment and 22nd Construction Regiment in 2014 to become 22nd Engineer Regiment (22 ER) celebrates its Tenth Anniversary alongside the RAEAV in 2024.

Understanding and recognising our past provides a solid foundation to build upon into the future.



Victorian sappers are proud to commemorate their wonderful heritage around a tree in such a significant location.



22 ENGINEER REGIMENT – FAMILY DAY

01 December 2024

by Jim Davis

Moving away from past traditions, on the 01st December 2024 the Regiment conducted its annual Family Day and thank you function at the Oakleigh depot, but with no formal parade and only a minimal number of presentations.

Being a family day there was a jumping castle along with displays of vehicles and equipment. To add to the day the RAE Association was invited by the CO to provide a barbecue lunch. This invitation offered the Association the opportunity to be at the forefront and again show the sappers and their families and friends that we are here to assist.

The Association provided a great crew of workers which included Michael Potts (OIC), Kevin Moss, Eric (Jock) Howatt and Tony Jackson. Mel Constable was also in attendance and opened the Engineer Room but aided the BBQ crew when required. Jim Davis was kept busy taking photos.

As mentioned formalities were kept to a minimum with the Regiment only presenting two awards to sappers of the Regiment who received recognition under the annual RAE Head of Corps awards scheme. It should be pointed out here that the recipients of the awards were judged as the best against their peers from all Reserve Units throughout Australia. For the Regiment to receive two awards in the same year is a testament to the high level of training and skills that are taught. The CO (LTCOL Russell Collins) presented the awards on behalf of the Head of Corps BRIG Michael Say, DSC.

The winners were:

Warrant Officer Class One R 'John' Raddatz
OAM Award for *Most Outstanding Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (SERCAT 3/5)*,
Corporal AT Purcell (22 ER)



Sergeant M Chalk MG Award for *Most Outstanding Sapper (SERCAT 3/5)*,
Sapper CJ Finch (22 ER)



Jock Howatt, representing the Royal Children's Hospital, made a presentation to the CO (LTCOL Russell Collins) and the Regiment acknowledging the wonderful support that they Regiment has provided over 36 years along with the substantial amount of money that has been raised. Jock mentioned that this year the Regiment supported the RCH Appeal even more by allowing members of

the Regiment to attend as part of their community contribution.

Thank you to CO and RSM for allowing the RAE Association to assist and for giving us the chance to show our faces to the many new people of the Regiment. The Association is here to help and support the Regiment at any time.

Special thanks must go to Michael Potts for his organisational skills with the barbecue and for his band of merry helpers who worked very hard to ensure that everything was right and that our catering was up to standard – what great workers you all are and you did the Association proud.





Mel Constable has been presented with a special “Challenge Coin” for the History room collection. “Mud Club” Treasurer L/Cpl Stephen Devenish presented the coin, to become part of the History Room display. (See next page)

Mud Club Challenge Coin

By Sapper Summit

Oakleigh Barracks Other Ranks Club (The MUD Club) has minted a spectacular new Challenge Coin.

Destined to become a collectible, the coins are selling fast.

As the first Multi-User Depot (MUD) in Australia, Oakleigh Barracks remains an attractive and functional home for the Australian Army located in the middle of metropolitan Melbourne.

Originally the site of an abattoir, the barracks was built and officially opened in 1991.

The MUD Club was quickly established and soon became a popular place of recreation and camaraderie.

The Club is home to soldiers from a variety of Corps and trades.

The coin features a striking design reminiscent of an iconic Victorian beverage coupled with a fit and healthy looking well known crustacean – a Mud Crab.

Individually numbered, the coins are popular and fetching handsome bids at auction with all proceeds used to support the club.

Coin numbers are often purchased to relate to old units, employment categories, birth years, intake or course numbers and a wide range of other individual “special numbers”.

Lance Corporal Stephen “Devo” Devenish, the Treasurer of the MUD Club, proudly reported that at the end of year function held on Saturday 7th December, Sapper Schindler fought off some passionate bidding to successfully win the auction for coin number “22”.

The winning bid was \$222.

Normally, the coins retail for \$25 plus postage.

Well done Sapper Schindler.

The MUD Club also graciously donated one of the new coins to the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria.

This coin is now proudly displayed in the Oakleigh Barracks History Room.



AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND FAREWELLS

22nd ENGINEER REGIMENT

December 3rd 2024

By Jim Davis

On the 03rd December 2024 the Association was invited to attend Oakleigh Barracks to be part of the Regiment's awards night and to present the Association's annual awards to the 2024 winners. Representing the Association was Don Hughes (and Zeus) who were assisted by Noel Tipton who read out the synopsis for the Association's award winners.

Before commencing the presentations the RSM called out the members of the Regiment's shooting team who recently competed in a tournament and whilst they did not win the competition they were certainly very near the top – the RSM particularly mentioned CPL Harrison King whose list of awards from the competition was extensive – in addition he earned his Crossed Rifles.

There were many awards presented by the Regiment including Bushfire Assist (2019-2020), Long Service Medals, Operational medals, Commission Certificates along with many promotions at all levels. Congratulations to all the Sappers who were promoted to LCPL – you are beginning a wonderful promotional journey. In addition there were several farewells including WO2 Ben Stevens (off to 1 CER), MAJ Brad Cree (HQ 2 DIV) and WO1 Tom Jesser (RSM) who leaves after 2 years of wonderful service to the Regiment – Tom is off to somewhere in Vic Barracks so hopefully he won't forget us. Nathan O'Malley was promoted and received several awards on the night (including RAE Association) and a Soldier's Medallion.

There were just too many awards, promotions, commendations and acknowledgements for me to individually list but to everyone who was recognised by the Regiment on the night the Association sends you congratulations – we are so very proud of your service to the Regiment and Australia.

Following the formalities a BBQ was provided and the festivities were soon in full swing allowing the Regiment's members to socialise and enjoy the penultimate parade night for 2024. The Squadrons will parade next week at their respective depots before stand down. Hopefully there will be no emergency call outs.

The winners of the RAE Association's annual awards were:

Most outstanding Sapper of the Regiment for 2024.

8664840 Sapper Cameron Finch (also received the HOC RAE Award for most outstanding Sapper) (but wait - there's more! - see below)



Most outstanding JNCO of the Regiment for 2024

8622242 LCPL Nathan O'Malley



Most outstanding Junior Officer of the Regiment for 2024.

8634959 LT William Chen



The RAE Association is very proud to be involved in providing these awards to recognise the individuals selected by the Regiment as providing outstanding service throughout 2024. Thank you to CO and RSM for allowing the RAE Association to assist and for giving us the chance to attend this very important night. The Association is here to help and support the Regiment at any time.

It should also be mentioned that the HOC award for most outstanding Junior NCO went to Cpl A T Purcell of 22ER. So the Regiment has both the Sapper and the Junior NCO Head of Corps Awards.

What an outstanding achievement!



Austin Health

Community Advisory Board New Committee Member

A new Veteran Committee Member has joined the Austin Health Community Advisory Committee that provides advice to the Austin Health Board on matters relating to consumers, carers and the community.

Chris Gray succeeds Don Hughes in this pivotal role on the Community Advisory Committee, drawing from lived experience within the Veteran community.

Austin Health is one of Victoria's largest health care providers. Comprising of the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Royal Talbot Rehabilitation, Hospital in the Home and community-based health services: Austin Health is an internationally recognised leader in clinical teaching, training and research, with numerous university and research institute affiliations.

Dating from WWII, Austin Health, essentially through the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, has provided exceptional care for our servicemen and women.

Engaging with the Veteran community is crucial to improving the care and services provided at Austin Health.

Chris Gray is the Executive General Manager of Vasey RSL Care with the specific role to address veteran homelessness and its causes thus empowering veterans to achieve a life they value.

As a consumer member of the CAC since 2022, Don Hughes has provided advice from a consumer perspective assisting Austin Health in the delivery of programs and services.

Both Chris and Don have extensive overseas military service combined with more recent exposure and involvement in the Veteran community.



Don Hughes, Chris Gray and Zeus.

RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

_06th December 2024



The Association's annual "Christmas Function" was held on the 06th December 2024 at the Croydon RSL. This is the 3rd year that we have used the facilities of the Croydon RSL and it was a definite success, with an estimated 60 people attending. Attendance numbers were down from last year but those people who attended certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. The purpose and aim of this night is to provide something back to the members of the Association and their families for their loyalty and support.

The function was organised by Michael Potts and Jock Howatt who brought together a successful and enjoyable night ably assisted by the staff of the Croydon RSL.

Catering for this year's function was a little different in that the food was purchased ready to eat, meaning that members of the committee did not have to spend hours in the kitchen warming food and then serving it. There was an array of sandwiches, nibbles and pizzas which seemed to cater for everyone's needs with no one going away hungry.

Everyone who attended is considered a special person and our thanks goes to everyone who came along and supported the night but in particular I would like to mention that it was wonderful to see the Association's Patron John Wertheimer there. Others worthy of a mention are John Duck (who was down from Newcastle), David Stevenson (Kerang) and Les (Brushy) Clark.



We also had some serving members of the Regiment come along however we could certainly do with more members of the Regiment supporting us (maybe next year).

Formalities were kept to a minimum but Don Hughes addressed the gathering and thanked everyone for their attendance and contribu-

tion to the Association.



Don is keen to give this activity a more fitting name – “Christmas Nibbles or Christmas Function” are such bland titles and just do not do the night justice – maybe by the time the 2025 function comes around it may be re-named. During his speech Don did again mention Saint Barbara (Patron Saint of Military Engineers and other things that go bang) as a possible name for the night.



Once again a very special thanks must go to the ever-reliable Michael Potts, Jock Howatt and Marg Handte for their tireless efforts here

in ensuring the night is a success but to everyone who came along and supported the night and the Association a very big thank you.







Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!!

We Remember

106th Anniversary of Remembrance Day

11 November 2024

By Sapper Summit

Across the State, Victorian Sappers commemorated the courage and sacrifice of all veterans.

Whilst the iconic Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance celebrated its 90th Anniversary, Sappers around the State commemorated in their own special way honouring all who have served in warlike, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

Australia's 102nd Victoria Cross recipient, Private Richard Norden, was announced by the Governor General.

Private Norden was posthumously awarded Australia's highest honour for exceptional bravery whilst under enemy fire in the Vietnam war.



The Repat

At the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, our Madre Captain Kirsten Linden, recited *The Ode* to a large crowd of Veterans, their loved ones and many supporters.

Our President, Don Hughes accompanied by Zeus, laid a wreath for all Victorian Sappers.

Ringwood

The Association was represented by Eric (Jock) Howatt who laid a wreath at the Clocktower.

Croydon

Michael Potts laid a wreath at the Croydon War Memorial in Civic Square.





Lest We
Forget

WANTED

For 2025

Capable Sappers (or friends of Sappers)

As the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria continues to grow and mature, we always need good help.

In addition to a well-functioning committee/board of management, the Association needs keen people to assist in various areas.

No formal applications are required, just a strong desire to help.

Please just email, text or chat directly to Don, Jim or any committee representative.

Areas of expertise/assistance required:

Tour/outing organisers (single events are fine)

Heritage trail/history room project co-ordinators/assistants

Social media gurus

Article contributors (Sapper Summit)

Function assistants (it's not just sausage sizzlers we need)

Mascot (traditionally canines preferred, but Zeus (now 11) is open to suggestions)

Facimus et Frangimus

31 ACU ON PARADE



For some years now, the RAE Association has been assisted on ANZAC Day by Army Cadets, most recently from 31 Army Cadet Unit, our local group parading at Dublin Rd. They have given great service acting as a Banner Party leading us in the march to the Shrine. Some even say we could never keep in step without them!

In 2024 our half dozen Cadets, under the watchful eyes of Kevin Moss, again performed magnificently.

On October 10, Don Hughes and Zeus paid a visit to 31ACU for two reasons: to thank the Unit yet again for their support on ANZAC Day, and perhaps more importantly this year to congratulate them on the 50th anniversary of their first parade in 1974.

Three students at Norwood High School first proposed the idea in 1972, and gained the support of Principal Lionel Waterson.

The raising of the unit was approved and became official in 1974. NCO and Officer training was supported by established school cadet units.

In 1974 there was a major restructure of the Australian Army Cadet Corps. This Unit was never disbanded, merely redesignated as 31

Regional Cadet Unit.

Female Cadets were admitted in 1976, and the Unit was relocated to the Dublin Road barracks of 7 Field Engineer Regiment in 1982. Units were renamed in 2004 from Regional Cadet Units to Army Cadet Units.

In recognition of the 50 year milestone, the RAE Association presented the Unit with a Peacekeeper statuette.





Don Hughes and Zeus with CAPT(AAC) Adam Griffith accepting the Peacekeeper figurine.



In appreciation of 31ACU's support to the Association, each of the cadets in this year's Banner Party was presented with a framed photo of the Banner Party on parade, and a copy of Sapper Summit 110, featuring photos of the parade on ANZAC Day.

The Association looks forward to many more years of close contact with 31 ACU.



COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE COURSE COMPLETION MAJ ASTRID HAGQVIST & MAJ BEN HEALY PLUS ADDITIONAL AWARD TO MAJ HAGQVIST

The RAE Association would like to congratulate MAJ Astrid Hagqvist and MAJ Ben Healy on the successful completion of the Command and Staff College course. This course is a particularly demanding one conducted over a 12-month period and is a prerequisite for Officers from all Services before a senior command appointment. There were 85 members on the course.

In addition, Astrid was recognised for her hard work, dedication and contribution to the course and was awarded the Chief of Army Prize (awarded to the Army Officer who achieved the best overall result in attaining the psc (passed staff college) qualification).

Astrid and Ben – congratulations to you both – the Association is very proud of your achievements and we look forward to seeing you both soon at one of our functions and will watch with much interest your further development within the Reserve.



Chief of Army Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, AO DSC presents MAJ Astrid Hagqvist with her COA award for best in course.

Chief of Defence Force Admiral David Johnston AC RAN presents MAJ Ben Healy with his course certificate.



CROYDON RSL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment the Croydon Sub Branch of the RSL.

To celebrate this milestone, a special luncheon was held at Eastwood Golf Club on 26 May 2024.



Piper Peter Falconer led the procession into the dining room to begin the proceedings.

A good crowd was in attendance.



President John Baade welcomed about 80 guests, who enjoyed a delicious lunch as they were treated to the reminiscences of long time members of the Sub Branch.





The RAE was well represented.

HISTORY OF THE SUB BRANCH 1924—2024 (adapted partly from the Croydon RSL web- site)

The roots of the RSL as an Australian Ex-Service organisation came in to being with the South African Soldier's Association, formed in Melbourne in 1908 by Boer War veterans. During WW1, when veterans of the September 1914 German New Guinea campaign returned home in 1915, they formed the Returned Servicemen's Association of Victoria. Over the following year similar groups were formed in other states, and a meeting of delegates in Melbourne in June of 1916 resulted in the formation of a federal organisation, to be known as the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia. Membership at this time was restricted to men who had enlisted, served overseas in any war, and returned.

One of the earliest sub-branches formed was in Lilydale in January 1919, and since Croydon was then part of Lilydale Shire, ex Service members in the Croydon area joined the Lilydale group, meeting at the Athanæum Hall.

By 1924 a Croydon Sub Branch was a viable proposition, and formed with John Knox as founding President and John Tate as Secretary.



The group would meet in the hall of the Croydon Mechanics' Institute in Oxford Rd (formerly Sawmill Rd and since renamed to Mt Dandenong Rd).



The original Croydon Mechanics' Institute was opened in December 1909.

In 1928 the Sub Branch decided it would like to join forces with the Hall committee, sharing the work and responsibility for management and control of the Hall. They also wanted to change the name of the hall to Croydon Memorial Hall and Mechanics' Institute. Differences over the details meant those negotiations failed, but later that year further developments saw that a new Hall Committee, along with representatives of the RSSILA and the adjacent Bowls Club, formed an alliance to manage the Hall and adjacent recreational facilities.

The Hall was extended and given a new brick façade during the 1930s and in 1937 renamed as Croydon Hall.

Desiring to be free of the constraints of a shared meeting place, the Croydon sub branch acquired a building close to the Croydon Hall in Oxford Road, on the site which later held Arndale Shopping Centre (now Civic Square S.C.). It was refurbished, and at 32000 sq ft (3000 sq m) had the potential to become a significant community asset as a dance hall and for other social events. Sadly that was not to be, and the hall was sold in 1950 to Jeldi Mills of Sydney, to be extended and converted to a fabric factory.

Eventually the Croydon RSL took a lease on some land behind the Croydon Hall which had been the site of tennis courts, and were able to build a dedicated facility for their meetings and social gatherings, and which is still in use. This building has provided excellent service over its 70 years, but is now deteriorating, and soon the RSL will be obliged to move next door, to the vacated Child Care building which is currently being modified to suit. Over the next few years the entire block (save the Art Deco Hall façade) will be replaced by the Community Wellbeing Precinct which will include a space for the RSL.



The Art Deco front of Croydon Hall in 1967

Despite this series of changes, the Sub Branch has provided enormous benefits to the community over its 100 years service. It served as a focal point for ex service personnel from all conflicts as well as those who served at home, both full time and reservists.

One example: in 1934 the Croydon Sub Branch played host to a number of Royal Navy and R.A.N. sailors on a tour of the Dandenong Ranges. Seventeen carloads of ratings had lunch at Belgrave, then moved on for afternoon tea at Croydon Mechanic's Hall.



Most WW1 veterans were too old to serve in WW2, but the RSL encouraged them to enlist in the Volunteer Defence Corps, or in the Militia. Veterans from Allied forces were also welcomed, and many migrants were made to feel more welcome by way of their shared military experiences.

During WW2 serving soldiers were welcomed while on leave, and their stories were listened to with interest.

The branch would organise memorial services for local service personnel killed in the war, and see that bereaved families were taken care of.

Croydon RSL was also instrumental in the building of the Croydon War Memorial, including the recent relocation away from the Level Crossing Removal work.

Of course, the Welfare role of the RSL is ongoing, and a dedicated Welfare Officer ensures

that Veterans and their families are taken care of, and put in touch with Veteran services.

The Croydon RSL continues to encourage the community to participate in important commemorations such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

LEST WE FORGET



ANNUAL SAPPER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

KOOYONG TENNIS CLUB

13 DECEMBER 2024

by Hutch

The Annual Sapper Christmas Lunch was held at Kooyong Tennis Club on 13 December 2024. Once again our host Colonel Glen Fenton organised a great function in this iconic venue. Numbers were down a bit on previous years at 18 attendees, but that is a great number to be able to move around and have a good catch up with everyone there. So a great time was had by all with good food, fun and fellowship.



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.

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.

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

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www.OpenArms.gov.au



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Open Arms is a national service which offers:

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- + peer networks to enhance support
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- + 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

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- + Twitter - @OpenArmsSupport

www.OpenArms.gov.au

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

PO3813

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
P.O. Box 246
RINGWOOD EAST VIC 3135

MERCHANDISE



2025 Membership Renewal
\$25.00



Mailed hard copy of Sapper Summit
\$25.00



RAE Association Plaques
\$50.00



Donations—any amount



Apron with RAE logo—\$30.00



Caps Navy/White, Navy/Red or White—\$25.00 ea.



Polo Shirt Navy
\$45.00



Polo Shirt White
\$45.00



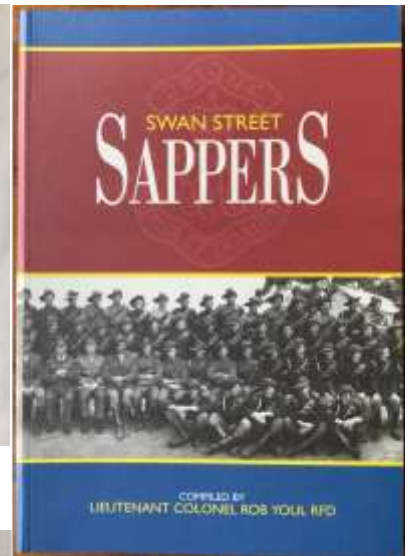
Jumper Navy with RAE Logo
\$80.00



Scarf with RAE Logo
\$20.00



Beanie with RAE Logo
\$20.00



Swan Street Sappers book
\$10.00 plus postage



Jacket—Soft Shell Navy
\$95.00



Jacket—Fleece Top Navy
\$60.00



Jacket— Fleece Top Sleeveless Navy
\$45.00

Association merchandise is constantly evolving. To check our current offerings and to order, visit <https://raevic.tidyhq.com/public/shop/products> .
Dress the part at meetings, events and excursions.

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. Complimentary Life Membership. A member who has made a significant contribution to the Association either by way of a substantial financial or memorabilia donation, may be awarded a Complimentary 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 \$25 per year with subscriptions due on 1 January each year. All members will receive an electronic copy of each issue of 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.

To apply for membership, visit **raevictoria.com** and follow the prompts, or contact the Secretary at **P.O. Box 246 Ringwood East 3135**.



RAE Sappers' Fund



RAE Sappers' Fund subscriptions are due 1 Jul each year.

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.

For more information out the Royal Australian Engineers, visit the [Home Page](#).
General enquires: RAE.HOC@defence.gov.au
RAE loans, grants and the Corps subscription: rae.sappersfund@defence.gov.au

SERCAT 7 Sergeant – Officer: \$52.00

SERCAT 7 Other Ranks: \$26.00

SERCAT 2-5 Sergeant – Officer: \$30.00

SERCAT 2-5 Other Ranks: \$20.00

To make your contribution, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/CJRTF>



Follow the Sapper

SOLDIER ON

Soldier On is a not-for-profit organisation delivering holistic support services that enable current and former Australian Defence Force personnel, and their families, to lead meaningful civilian lives.

Please consider supporting them in their important work. <https://soldieron.org.au/>

Need help now?

Soldier On is not an immediate crisis support charity, but if you do need help right away, there are organisations you can reach out to who are ready to help you.

Emergency
000

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Beyond Blue
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