

2026 WATERLOO EDITION

RAE CORPS MAGAZINE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION (Vic) Inc



SAPPER SUMMIT

Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper



**MAJGEN MATT BURR, COMMANDER 2nd DIVISION,
VISITS 22 ENGINEER REGIMENT
FOR PROMOTION OF WO2 SCOTT WHITE**

Sapper Summit is edited by Michael Potts for the Royal
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SAPPER SUMMIT

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General Association mail can be sent to:

*The Secretary,
Royal Australian Engineers Association (Vic) Inc
c/- 22 Engineer Regiment
56B Dublin Rd
RINGWOOD EAST VIC 3135*

Sapper Summit items should be mailed to

*The Editor, Sapper Summit,
c/- 22 Engineer Regiment
56B Dublin Rd
RINGWOOD EAST VIC 3135*

Email: sappersummit@raevictoria.com

Electronic articles are preferred using MS Word for text and Jpeg (for images) formats.

*Contact details, past copies of Sapper Summit and general information about the RAE Association (Vic) and its activities can be found on our website:
www.raevictoria.com*

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Editor.



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Vice President:	Noel TIPTON
Secretary:	Jim DAVIS
Treasurer:	Duncan HOWARTH
Elected Members:	Mel CONSTABLE Eric HOWATT JP Margaret HANDTE Michael POTTS Stephen DAVIS
Ex Officio members:	BRIG David WAINWRIGHT DSC (COL COMDT & SRCC Rep)
Patron:	John WERTHEIMER AM RFD
Chaplain:	Kirsten LINDEN
22ER liaison:	SGT Ben THOMSON SGT Justin MERRETT

See: www.raevictoria.com for up to date news about the Association and its activities.

Visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RAE-Association-Victoria-893405714081186/timeline/>

Despatches

from the President's Bunker:



Greetings Fellow Victorian Sappers,

Three hundred metres above sea level, RAE Head of Corps, Brigadier Mick Scott CSC, announced the recent contract signing for an author to produce volume five of the official RAE Corps history.

Brigadier Scott made this important announcement during his formal address at a spectacular *Southern Region Waterloo Dinner* conducted on the 89th floor of *Eureka Tower* in Melbourne's riverside Southbank precinct proudly hosted by 22nd Engineer Regiment.

Dr Robert Wyse, a military history expert and winner of Army's 2019 CEW Bean Prize for military history, has been awarded this important contract.

We acknowledge his expertise and will enjoy working alongside him.

Victorian sappers are keen to share their lived experience gained during the period covered by this exciting new volume - 1973 to 2003.

An inherent core purpose of our Association is to record the history and heritage, distinct ethos, character, identity and ultimate results of its sappers and sapper units.

This ensures these stories, and subsequent lessons learnt, become an essential ingredient in the overall military engineering fabric and tapestry crucial to the business of supporting our nation.

Victorian sappers have a critical contribution to make.

Please enjoy this Waterloo edition of *Sapper Summit*.

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

FROM THE REGIMENT:

THE VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

MAY 31 2026

The **Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service** is held annually on May 31 to honour the military contributions of First Nations service men and women. It is the focal point of state commemorations during National Reconciliation Week and marks the long-overdue recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

CPL Trevor Mays is a proud Yorta Yorta man living on Wurundjeri country and attends the ceremony every year. Aunty Dot was one of CPL Mays beloved Elders: he adored her fierce advocacy for recognition on Indigenous soldiers that were overlooked when returning from active service.

Once again CPL Mays represented the 22nd Engineer regiment alongside the CO, LTCOL Jason Eltham and LTCOL Joseph West from 4CSSB

The weather was kind, the event was well presented with many members from the three services. Politicians, and dignitaries including the Governor of Victoria Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC were once again in abundance.

The catafalque party performed at a high level of precision under drum beat and the haunting tones of the Didgeridoo (Yidaki). Smoking ceremony was presented

differently with the smoke from the Manna gum wafting throughout the area, cleansing the spirits of all.

Traditional songs in language were undertaken by the Mullum Mullum choir during the ceremony, and an overwhelming number of wreaths were placed at the Shrine to mark the 20th anniversary.



Aunty Dot Peters AM was a respected First Nations Elder and a descendant of the Yorta Yorta and Yarra Yarra people of Victoria. She raised awareness of issues facing her community and First Nations people in Victoria.

Aunty Dot advocated for the recognition and honour of First Nations service men and women. She was inspired by the legacy of her father, Vincent Peters, who was a prisoner of war and died on the Thai Burma Railway in 1943. In 2006, Aunty Dot and Healesville RSL Sub-branch President Sam Halim held a remembrance service to recognise First Nations service men and women.



Each year until her passing, Aunty Dot lay a gum leaf wreath at the service. This tradition is now continued by her son, Dr Andrew Peters.

Dr Andrew Peters (L), Chair of the Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Committee laying a gum leaf wreath, and Co-founder, Sam Halim laying a wreath at the service.



VISIT BY MAJOR GENERAL RICK BURR COMMANDER 2 DIVISION

14 June 2026



On 14th June 2026 – the Commander 2nd Division (MAJGEN Matt Burr) accompanied by the Commander 4th Brigade (BRIG Michelle McCormack) visited Ringwood East depot – the primary purpose of the visit was to promote WO2 Scott White to WO1.

It was certainly an honour to be present for the promotion of Scott White and to acknowledge his contribution to the Regiment and Defence. MAJGEN Burr conducted the promotion and spoke of the outstanding service that Scott has

made and the honour that is being bestowed upon him with his promotion.





The RAE Association was requested to provide a BBQ lunch for the Regiment and visitors with initial indications being that we would need to cater for 110 people. Being able to assist the Regiment with an activity like this is what we are all about, so it was deemed a real honour to be asked.

Calls went out to the committee and some others to help with the cooking with an excellent response and we had 11 people put their hand up as volunteers.





Prior to the commencement of our cooking duties the Association also had a small ceremony where name tags were presented to the recently elected members of the committee being Noel Tipton, Stephen Davis and Tony Jackson.

The COL COMDT Southern Region (elect) David Wainwright also attended. Regrettably Don Hughes could not attend as he is recovering from surgery, so the Vice President Noel

Tipton represented the Association.

This weekend was a training weekend for the Regiment which deployed to Bendigo so they had been on ration packs for the activity, and we knew that we would have hungry people returning to Ringwood and Oakleigh.



On the day the weather was certainly kind to us and whilst it was cool there was no rain. The Association used the BBQ facilities outside the Junior Ranks Club at Ringwood East which were certainly adequate and whilst the BBQ's gave a little bit of grief at the start we managed to achieve our objective and that was feed the Regiment and visitors – no one went hungry and there was food left over for members of the Regiment who had duties at Oakleigh before coming to Ringwood East.



Another very important presentation that needs to be mentioned was by Eric (Jock) Howatt on behalf of the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) to the CO (LTCOL Jason Eltham) and representative of the JRC (Jack Williams) of certificates acknowledging the amazing amount collected for the hospital through the efforts of the sappers of the Regiment. Jock mentioned that for the first time sappers of the Regiment rattled tins at the new Parkville Railway Station – Jock's and the Regiment's involvement with RCH fundraising goes back 38 years and as Jock

said the Regiment's support is so critical in the success of the activity.

On behalf of the RAE Association I would like to acknowledge and thank WO2 Warwick Harvey for his personal efforts and outstanding assistance in bringing this activity together. He assisted the Association through regular and detailed communication and updates which contributed to the success of the day. Due to illness of the RSM (WO1 Clint Matheson) WO2 Harvey is currently fulfilling the role of RSM along with his other duties as CCLK so he has a lot on his plate but he certainly



managed to bring the day together. I would also like to thank the CO (LTCOL Jason Etham) for allowing the Association to be involved in such a special event.



At very short notice Michael Potts took on the task of planning this activity along with the purchase of food for the BBQ. This was certainly no easy task with a fluid and moving number that we were to cater for but as I mentioned no one went hungry and there was food available for the late comers. – many thanks Pottsy for all your work, cooking and organisation – an outstanding outcome.



I would also like to thank and acknowledge the work of Kevin Moss and Jim Paxton who are not members of the committee but are happy to come along and assist on days like this – committee members also need to be thanked are Noel Tipton, Duncan Howarth, Jock Howatt, Marg Handte, Stephen Davis, Tony Jackson and Mel Constable who each contributed to the success of the day.

Jim Davis
Secretary 15th June 2026

105 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON

THE SILHOUETTES PROJECT

Laurence Crase and Albert Le

In late 2025, RSM of Joint Capabilities Group - Joint Training Command, Marcel Ouwinga approached 22ER with a project to create a mobile memorial piece that could be used for ANZAC Day 2026 at Simpson Barracks, something that could give homage to the service men and women during a time of reflection and remembrance that could be easily taken out and packed away as required.

The craftsmen from 105 Construction Squadron comprising the trade section got to work with concept design and planning conducted by LCPL Daniel Adams with assistance and support from WO2 Scott White. The idea was to create three cenotaphs that were silhouettes of service people from the three Services in a catafalque party backlit by lights. Once the designs were approved, SPR Laurence Crase, the most experienced carpenter within the regiment was tasked to bring the design to life and have it delivered before ANZAC Day.



SPR Crase contributed painstaking hours between work and during parade nights to construct the three memorial cenotaphs. He was assisted by LCPL Finch to bring the project to completion, with LCPL Wooden organizing the electrical components of the backlights. These three members with support from WO2 White during construction were the reason the project was delivered on time. Their dedication and attention to detail is a testament to their commitment, skills and imagination. The results speak for themselves and this memorial piece will certainly last for many years to come.



22nd Engineer Regiment

Command Structure and Appointments for 2026

CO	LTCOL Jason Eltham (appointment 01 st January 2026 on CFTS)
RSM	WO1 Clinton Matheson (ARA – appointed 01 st January 2025)
XO/2IC	CAPT John Alekoz
OPSO	MAJ Paul McComb (ARA)
OPS CAPT	CAPT Michael Plant
ADJT	CAPT Halley Barber (ARA)
Chaplain	CAPT Kirsten Linden

SUBUNITS

105 Construction Squadron

OC	MAJ Jake Kilsby
SQN 2IC	LT Ahmed
SSM	WO2 Tim Place

203 Works Section

OC	CAPT M Doolan
Works Supervisor	WO2 Scott White

10 Combat Engineer Squadron

OC	MAJ Martin Stawski
SQN 2IC	CAPT Rob Baillieu
SSM	SGT Scott Eaton

8 Combat Engineer Squadron

OC	MAJ Laura Cook
SQN 2IC	CAPT R Simon
SSM	WO2 David Kelly-Grimshaw.

**REFERENCE LIST OF ACRONYMS AND
INITIALISMS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN
SAPPER SUMMIT AND ELSEWHERE:**

CE	Combat Engineer
CIED	Counter Improvised Explosive Device
COMD	Command
CSSB	Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
DMEO	Destruction of Malfunctioned Explosive Ordnance
EUOTF	Enhanced Urban Operations Training Facility
IRR	Incident Response Regiment
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
IVO	In the Vicinity Of
JCG	Joint Capabilities Group
JTC	Joint Training Command
JTF	Joint Task Force
LUEB	Light Urban Explosive Breaching
PMA	Puckapunyal Military Area
PWLH	Prince of Wales Light Horse
RCB	Rifle Company Butterworth
RTR	Royal Tasmanian Regiment
RVR	Royal Victorian Regiment

SERCAT	Service Category
SOCOMD	Southern Command
SRTU	Security & Response Task Unit
TCCC	Tactical Combat Casualty Care
TTP	Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
TE	Task Element
VAP	Vital Asset Protection
VCP	Vehicle Checkpoint
WRT	With Respect To

Unofficial but important:

GTTWM	Going to Toilet Without Mummy
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Note – this list is a work in progress – it will grow as the need arises. If you find other potential entries, please contact Sapper Summit and we'll see what we can do. – Ed.

P.S. We already have all the variations on SNAFU, thanks.

ALBURY TO THE SEA OR BUST!

Army engineers' world record

Part TWO – execution

Don Hughes

A well-trained and determined team of Australian Army engineers (sappers) established a world record by paddling the length of the Murray River as an adventure training exercise in 1979.

The record journey totalled 2225 Km including crossing the notorious Lake Alexandrina near the mouth. They set a record of 16 days 3 hours and 55 minutes for paddling from Albury to Murray Bridge (the previous record was 36 days) and created a new record of 17 days 6 hours and 50 minutes for Albury to Goolwa.

Nearly half a century later, this world record still stands.

An old army axiom is to *“train hard, so that you can fight easy”*.

The water-based team, particularly the world record contenders, Michael (Willy) Wentworth and Ian (Mort) Dellar, trained relentlessly for 12 months leading up to the challenge.

Mort reflects on this important preliminary phase:

“Our training and preparation throughout 1979 were not hugely different to our Red Cross Murray River Marathon training, paddling down the Goulburn River combined with a few local races. The exception was that Willy somehow contacted an ex Olympic paddling coach.



We would drive to Melbourne in Willy's Toyota Celica with the kayak on the roof, paddle up and down about a kilometre or two on the Birrarung (Yarra) River (somewhere around Kew) all under the watchful eye of our coach. The coach had a motorised dinghy and a megaphone; he would follow us up and down the river particularly focusing on our technique. This helped us immensely”.

Readiness

The Officer Commanding the 21st Construction Squadron, Major Reiner Frisch, was a long-distance runner who had competed at the Commonwealth Games level.

A forthright and determined leader, he knew the value of realistic and tough training for soldiers and that well-practised military readiness procedure needs to be ingrained in soldiers at all levels of a professional army. Under his command, fervent activity accompanied the preparations for the team to become ready to take on this world record challenge attempt.

Stores and equipment were assembled, checked and prepared.

There is no doubt, that this underlying, and often invisible military ethos, of good training, strong focus on achieving the mission coupled with good teamwork, played a significant role in preparing the team for what lay ahead. It is only on deep reflection, that you realise the enormous advantage this gave our two paddlers whose only mission in life was to hurtle down a river as fast as humanly possible.

On the river

At the unit parade ground in Puckapunyal on 2nd December 1979, the convoy assembled, some photographs were posed for, and the adventure training exercise began.

Driving to our first overnight stay at the Bonegilla Army camp was uneventful.

Mort takes up the story:



"We started the paddle the following morning, the weather was fine, we paddled to the wall of the weir and pushed off. It seemed to take forever to reach Albury-Wodonga, passing under the bridge at the border I thought goodness me (or words to that effect) only 2215 km and 15 and a bit, days to go.

That first day I thought we were flying, the Murray was flowing strongly, and paddling was relatively easy. There were no major obstacles along the way although the river

threw up some interesting and challenging eddies, currents and submerged trees that had to be negotiated carefully but all with enthusiastic confidence.

We ended up padding 100 miles (160 kilometres) that first day and we never achieved that again. We were on a high after that first day and I think we felt extremely confident. Full credit must go to the ground crew, as they had to change the planned stop and overnight campsite as our progress was far better than expected. As was the case for the whole trip we arrived each evening to a hot meal and a well-prepared camp. On reflection, the ground crew's anticipation of where we would stop each night, and have everything in place, was amazing.

The following morning was particularly hard, I don't know how Willy felt but I was sore, and it probably took until mid-morning or lunchtime until I felt good again. Paddling into the Yarrawonga weir was our first real taste of open water, finding the path on the river was difficult. The dam also became choppy, so spray decks protecting the open hatch in our kayak, were in order. It was nothing like we experienced further on, there was no current and we carried the kayak around the weir and lock.



At one lock (I don't remember where that was) we clung to the side of the support boat as the lock emptied and lowered us to the other side. I can recall passing through Picnic Point (good current) and the Barmah Red Gum Forest. There was a long slow section we traversed in our kayak, that was a portage section in the Red Cross Murray River Canoe Marathon.

Near Echuca we encountered a paddle steamer coming upriver. Paddle boats create two waves, a bow wave which is easy to manage, and a wave off the paddles that run perpendicular to the boat and at right angles to the shore. This wave is short and steep.

I can remember paddling through the waves with the water coming up over the kayak. It was fortunate that we had the spray decks on. Sapper Fairbrother (Fairy) and Corporal Leach (Leachy) were pacing for us at the time; they did not have spray decks. The second or third wave engulfed their kayak, and I remember Fairy still sitting in the boat as it sunk, head just above the water, arm in the air waving. Very funny. Fairy and Leachy were unhurt and the boats emptied out and off they went again, supporting us.

I remember passing through Swan Hill, then it was on to Mildura where we stopped to meet some of the people signing our official documentation. Signing of the official logbook was to verify the world record attempt and was organised by our land crew. That afternoon there was a fierce dust storm, and we hid under the hulls of some moored house boats. Dust penetrated everything and we lost a couple of hours.

The river from now on was big, wide and had long stretches with no current, the wind made for a choppy surface. Our pacers and support boat were critically important at this stage of the challenge and consistently proved this throughout the whole attempt. From a safety perspective

(not something I thought a lot about at the time) they were invaluable, if something was to happen, they were right there.

They were always on hand to talk to, put us in our place if we got too precious, have a joke with and to feed us. They even provided music. The support boat had a small transistor radio rigged to a loud hailer mounted at the bow of the boat powered by a military radio (AN/PRC-77 set) battery”.

Willy also distinctly remembers the effects of boredom and fatigue whilst undertaking the challenge and often retells the story of the “sailing boat” incident:

“After a particularly long and repetitious days paddling, Mort, paddling in the forward cockpit of the kayak, cried a warning “sailing boats ahead”. Tilting my head starboard and gazing downriver – there were no sailing boats. Changing my gaze to the port side, past Mort’s well sun protected head – still no sailing boats. As we paddled further down the river all I could see was a flock of pelicans that suddenly burst into flight! Mort was convinced he had seen sailing boats. His actual vision was just peacefully floating pelicans. The mind can do strange things when under duress. I cackled with laughter along with all the support crew. This kept us amused for hours.”



Sailboats on the Murray!

Simultaneously, the land-based crew were kept busy leap frogging the campsite forward each day including replenishing essential provisions, marshalling officials to sign the logbook and keeping all the equipment operable and moving forward to keep up with the paddlers.

All well trained and disciplined, the land-based crew was critical to the success of the attempt.

Mission and motivation, Sappers love a celebratory drink

Essentially, our world record attempt was an alcohol-free expedition.

Major Frisch had insisted upon this with particularly explicit final instructions to the OIC,

“Hughes, this is a world record attempt, not a bloody camping trip, no alcohol!”

With these explicit instructions well understood by the team, this was the case.

However, sometimes, in special operational circumstances, the overall commander’s mission must take precedence over previously issued orders.

Well over halfway now, paddling south past Blanchetown, the team sensed we had to really work hard to achieve our goal.

Mort takes up the story,

“That day, we decided to paddle through the night to try to make up some time. When the support crew had stopped near a local hotel in Blanchetown, the publican donated a few bottles of port in a most generous gesture of support for the team. A couple of these found their way onto the support boat. After paddling for two days straight, by about 2200hrs (10pm) I was starting to fall asleep. Leachy, our teams acting sergeant said, “try some of this (port)”. It did the trick, we kept paddling a bit further, then I just crashed. That night we curled up on the bank of the river and slept for a few precious hours.



The next morning, we met up with the media at Murray Bridge where three South Australian commercial television networks conducted interviews. My Mum and Dad met us there as well. Mum (Alma Dellar) later painted a lovely oil painting capturing the scene. Then it was on to Lake Alexandrina.”

The team had excelled on both the land and water to reach this point.

By now it had become a slick and well-oiled machine and, by some primeval and mysterious method, had physically left its mark with the unit’s emblem (*the Red Rooster*) emblazoned on every bridge, weir, lock, causeway, barrage, wharf or landing on the whole length of the Murray River.

Crossing Lake Alexandrina – nearly there

Undoubtedly, crossing lake Alexandrina was the most dangerous phase of the expedition.

Close to achieving our goal, the well synchronised team had built up such a momentum of determination that it was nearly unstoppable.

We all knew that this would be our make-or-break point, the team came together as one for the final assault.

Mort summarises,

"We arrived at Lake Alexandrina late in the afternoon but needed to cross it to get to our final campsite. The lake is a very big and dangerous expanse of water. I'm sure we got lost, it was choppy, it was difficult to paddle across, and it was dark. It wasn't a pleasant experience. Once again, our support crew was there and made the crossing possible.

Finally, after hours of dangerous and hard paddling we saw headlights on the far shore and were greeted by our ground crew, Major Frisch and WO1 Brett Nolan. All welcome sights I can assure you. For me, crossing Lake Alexandrina was the most uncertain and dangerous part of the whole trip."

The sheer joy and relief of seeing our world record attempt paddlers emerge out of the lake that night, safe and on schedule, was memorable.

Major Frisch and the SSM, WO1 Nolan, were overjoyed, as was the whole team.

After a rousing speech of congratulations to the team, Major Frisch then turned to the OIC and barked,



"Well Hughes, where are the beers? These sappers deserve a bloody drink!"

Halfway through my explanation of why not, the SSM, who always had a trick or two up his sleeve, produced a cache of appropriate refreshments.

We were not far from the sea, and not yet busted.

Mort recalls the final leg,

"Then it was to the barrage at Goolwa, we traversed the weir then paddled to the sea. Fortunately, the tide was running out, it was great to have some current again and the six or so kilometres seemed to take no time at all. We paddled through the mouth and into the Southern Ocean. Corporal Leach and Sapper Fairbrother paddled out far enough to catch a wave, great skills. From there we went to a pub, then on the vehicles for a very long journey back to Puckapunyal. I slept most of the way".

A new world record had been established.



1973 Page 11-79

The NORTHERN Times SPORT

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24 Scoreby Street, Karing - Phone 52 1725

ON BUST MICHAEL WENTWORTH

Picture by BEN JENKIN

Paddling to a record

TWO canoeing soldiers are now more than one-third of the way to recognition in the Guinness Book of Records. The soldiers passed through Barham-Somerset late on Friday and had a breakfast stop at Murrumbidgee on Saturday in their bid to...

RAE ASSOCIATION

SAPPER MUSTER 2026

OAKLEIGH BARRACKS 28 February

The annual Muster is the most important event on the Association's calendar and provides members, family and friends the opportunity to gather and enjoy the social and camaraderie aspects of the night. This year support for the Muster was good with an attendance of more than 100 people which contributed to a very successful and enjoyable night.



Jock Howatt conducted a raffle with some wonderful prizes – as always we had some great gifts donated including a sizeable donation by Stu (Ace) Williams (a former 4 CER sapper) who has

supported us for many years. Kevin and Marilyn Moss also donated a military book which was won by Malcolm Hinson (ex 7 FER) who was visiting from Queensland. The support of people like Ace and Kevin and Marilyn helps us provide fantastic prizes and allow us to keep entry costs low.

Once again, we were so fortunate to have the support of the CO 22nd Engineer Regiment (LTCOL Jason Eltham) who made the facilities of Oakleigh available for the event and supported the night by providing a Duty Officer and staff. Without doubt Oakleigh is an ideal venue in relation to location and facilities for a night like this.



For the 10th year the Association provided a spit roast meal which was served in the Drill Hall – people were not disappointed with the quality or quantity of the meal with many going back for seconds. The meal consisted of a main and sweets.

Regrettably, due to a family trauma the President Don Hughes could not attend, and our new Vice President (Noel Tipton) deputised for Don and welcomed everyone to the function, but in particular the Patron, CO, RSM, Chaplain and several senior Officers.



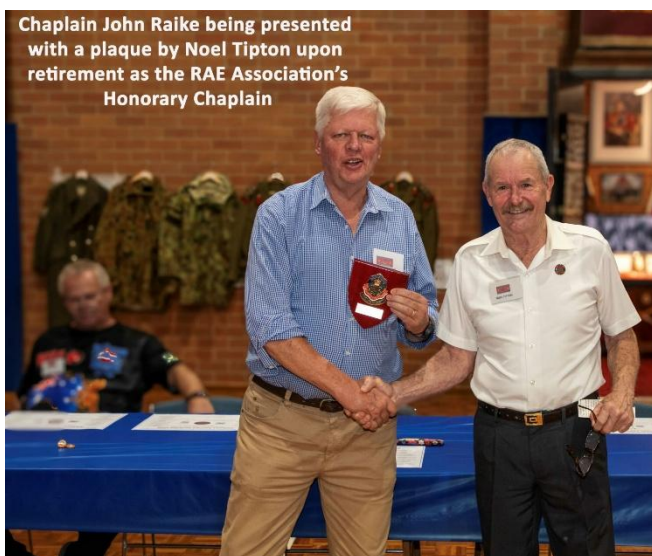
BRIG Bob Slater (Retd)
and BRIG David Wainwright

It was great to see BRIG David Wainwright who is the Colonel Commandant (Elect) for Southern Region. A placemat was provided to everyone detailing upcoming activities and events and this was also a souvenir from the night.



BRIG Bob Slater, AM. RFD (Retd)
being presented with Life
Membership by Noel Tipton

One of the highlights of the night was the awarding of Honorary Life Membership to Brigadier Robert (Bob) Slater for his enormous contribution to the RAE over so many years, but in particular for the foresight of having the Old Sappers (OSA) Room incorporated within the original design plans for Oakleigh and designated for the specific use of the Association, providing space for the display of memorabilia and historical items. With the amalgamation of the OSA and the RAE Association this room now houses an extensive collection which will be available to the RAE family for many, many years to come.



Chaplain John Raike being presented
with a plaque by Noel Tipton upon
retirement as the RAE Association's
Honorary Chaplain

The second presentation of the night was made to Chaplain John Raike who was the Honorary Chaplain of the RAE Association for many years, and he was acknowledged for his spiritual guidance during this time.

Our thanks must be extended to the CO (LTCOL Jason Eltham) for allowing the Association the use of these wonderful facilities along with great support from the staff in setting up the depot. Duty Officer (DO) was CAPT John Alekoz and GD's Yo, Fausett and Altay. The bar was

manned by Scott White. Special thanks to Anne Court and Daniel Kowalski from the Q Store who spent a lot of time to make sure everything was right and I must not forget the outstanding efforts of OPS Cell at Ringwood including CAPT Jordan Abbott. There was terrific cooperation and support from all elements of the Regiment who contributed to the success of the night.

So many people deserve to be acknowledged for making the night a success but thank you to Jock (and Joanne) for your raffle work, Duncan Howarth, Jim Paxton, Steve Davis, Andrew Ashton, Tony

(Jacko) Jackson and Brendan Simons for coming in early and helping to set the Drill Hall up. The ever-reliable Mel Constable for making the History Room available and providing your valuable explanation to the various items on display – you are such an important part of this successful night.



The Muster is the Association's major fellowship event for the year and is not convened to make money but to bring together a good cross section of sappers of various ages and ranks to enjoy the company of like-

minded people and this evidenced with many people travelling from Echuca, Girgarre, Wagga, Darwin and Ballarat.

A noticeable supporter who was missing this year was Margaret Handte who is recovering from a fall. Another apology was Michael Potts, who was celebrating the 50th birthday of his son, Sapper Daniel Potts.



The most important thank you is saved until last and that is to the people who came along on the night and supported the Association by attending because without your support and encouragement the night would be a failure. Sappers and their families are amazing people.





Peter and Di Wilmot and
John and Norma Short



David and Chase
Kelly-Grimshaw



Scott D'Rozario and
Scott Eaton



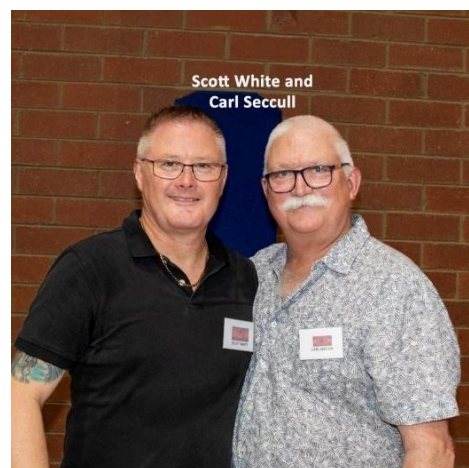
Trent Rosenberg, Raphael Maranon,
William Tu & Karen Nguyen



John Morey, Wayne Kenelley, Laurie Young
Jim Davis & Alex Doumbos



Mel Constable,
Kath and George Ward



Scott White and
Carl Seccull



AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM *of* MILITARY ENGINEERING

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To collect, preserve and exhibit the history of the Corps of Royal Australia Engineers and the Royal Australian Survey Corps



Public Access

The museum is open to the general public. Visitors without a Defence Pass are to meet at the Holworthy Barracks Pass Office.

Current, government issued photo identification will be required for all visitors over 16 years of age.

Group bookings are essential, other visitors are advised to call to confirm timings.

Location:

Macarthur Precinct, Soldiers Way, Holworthy Barracks, Holworthy (Enter via Heathcote Road)

Contact:

Tel: 02 8782 8822 Fax: 02 8782 8842
Email: AAMME.mailbox@defence.gov.au

Hours:

ADF Members and Defence Civilians
Monday to Friday,
9am to 3pm

General Public:

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
Visits commence at 9:45am and 12:45pm
Other times can be arranged by appointment

FORT QUEENSCLIFF TOUR



After much planning and a lot of hard work by Mel Constable and Bruce Murray, the long-awaited excursion to Fort Queenscliff took place on 14th March 2026.

The adventure started in the upstairs restaurant of the Queenscliff Bowling Club where around 34 people gathered to enjoy a lovely lunch before proceeding the short distance over to the Fort to conduct the mandatory identification check in.



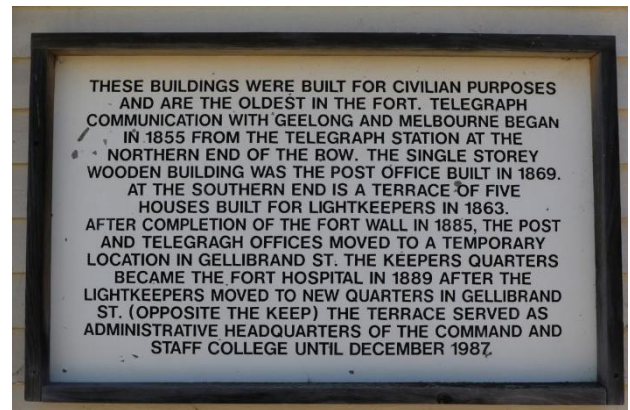
The Fort is still an active military base and security is very high on the priority list so it certainly took time to get through the formalities. Prior to leaving the restaurant we had the opportunity of wishing Andrew (Boots) Bryant a happy 63rd birthday and through the efforts of Kiersten (Twiggy) Cooper a small cake was organised.



Our guide was Bruce Murray (President of the Friends of Fort Queenscliff) who was assisted by Andrew. There were some mobility issues with some of our group but the tour was set at an easy pace and those in wheelchairs etc. were kept away from the stairs and steep inclines but did not miss out on visiting the main features of the Fort.



What a wonderful monument the Fort is with so much history along with outstanding architectural structures which were obviously very important in the development of the RAE here in Victoria.



Bruce was a wealth of knowledge and certainly kept the group amused and entertained with his vast awareness of the Fort and its facilities, and when he was unsure of a particularly point Andrew hopped in and helped clear up any doubtful issues.



We were so lucky to be able to enjoy this day and appreciated a wonderful clear, warm day at an outstanding location along with a group of people of varying ages who obviously all had an interest in the history of Victoria and what the Fort had to offer.



Again, many thanks to Mel and Bruce for everything that you did to bring this day together but also a big thank you to all the people who came along and supported this day – I am sure that nobody would have gone away disappointed and would be wiser for the visit.



Under the recent Divestment plans announced by the Federal Government, which also include Fort Queenscliff, there will be some difficult challenges ahead for the Fort and Friends of Fort Queenscliff and I am pleased that we may have supported their cause by doing this tour.

Jim Davis



75 YEARS OF SERVICE 1950 – 2025

22 CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT – 22 ENGINEER REGIMENT

Dr J. K. Haken

At the conclusion of World War 11, demobilisation was fairly rapid, often guided by available transportation. Australia had a small permanent military force and responsibilities to provide troops for the British Commonwealth Occupation of Japan Force (BCOF). The Cairns Group of the Institution of Engineers Australia (now Engineers Australia) suggested in 1945 (1) that that the void would be reduced by the formation of a Supplementary Reserve (SR)(2) of qualified employees of State Departments, enrolled under special and specified. conditions. The Department of Defence rejected the first proposal of the Institution, but a subsequent proposal incorporating new developments was accepted and authorized the raising of 2 regiments (3) The 21 Construction Regiment was raised in New South Wales (NSW) and 22 Construction Regiment was raised in Victoria (3). The unit history of the 22 Construction Regiment and appointments, indicate raising on 4 August 1950 (4), while a former Chief Engineer states 1 July 1950 (5). By the time the Supplementary Reserve was initiated, the original intention had passed, the post war Citizen Army dates from April 1948, with general recruiting from June 1948 (6). Both forces operated together for many years, with the SR being absorbed by the CMF in the early 90's. The archives of the Institution of Engineers have been considered, and proceedings leading to the formation of the SR reported (2).

The 22 Construction Regiment consisted of three Construction Squadrons (104th, 105th and 106th) and the 107th Plant Squadron. On 17 April 2013 (7), the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence visited Ringwood, to announce the forthcoming merger of the 4 Combat Engineer Regiment, which had been raised on 1 July 1995, with the 22 Construction Regiment to form the 22 Engineer Regiment in accordance with the then fledgling Plan Beersheba. The Plan required all Engineer Regiments to have a Construction capability. The 22 Engineer Regiment was raised on 1 January 2014 and includes the 105 Construction Squadron, initially designated as 105 Works Squadron. The second Supplementary Reserve Regiment, the 21 Construction Regiment in NSW, was disbanded on 23 November 2013 and the components assigned to other units.

REFERENCES:

1. Institution of Engineers Minutes 107th Council Meeting 26.03.1946
2. J.K. Haken Reconnaissance No. 56 22 December 2023
3. Institution of Engineers Minutes 118th Council Meeting 22.03.1949
4. 22 Construction Regiment Royal Australian Engineers. Unit History 1950 – 2000
Published 2004
5. P. J. Greville Royal Australian Engineers Paving the Way Vol 4 5 April 2002
6. Post War Reconstruction AWM 51/146
7. Press Release Department of Defence 17 April 2013

ROYAL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL 2026

22 ENGINEER REGIMENT & FRIENDS



Once again, the troops have rallied to raise funds to assist the Royal Children's Hospital. In this, the 38th year of involvement by the Regiment, a record sum of more than \$36,300 was collected by tin rattlers, supporting organisations and cashless donations.

This year the weather was relatively friendly, though the passing traffic was lighter. Some of our uniformed Sappers were lucky enough to be posted to the new Parkville Railway Station, close to our usual street collection

points. This was the first time collection at a rail station has been permitted, and it was a great success.



Furry friends are always an asset when appealing for funds!





If you missed out, it's not too late – you can scan this QR code, enter your donation and it will be added to the official total for the group.

RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

09 APRIL 2026

On 09th April 2026 the RAE Association conducted its AGM which was held for the first time at the Croydon RSL – the usual venue (RSL Ringwood) was not available due to renovations but the Croydon RSL facilities were more than adequate and proved to be a wonderful choice for this important event – John Baade (Croydon RSL President) provided bar service along with ensuring that we had everything that we required. The Croydon RSL does not offer meals so the Association provided a light supper with sandwiches, coffee, tea and company.

Considering the terrible weather conditions attendance was very good with about 32 members and 1 guest coming along. We also had 32 recorded apologies. The biggest regret with the attendance is that we did not have a single serving member of the Regiment come along on the night and support us – by holding the AGM at night, and in a central location, we hoped that we might attract members of the Regiment to come along and I am at a loss to know what else we can do to attract the members of the Regiment, as it is from the members of the Regiment that our future Association leaders will come from.

There were certainly a lot of familiar faces on the night It was good to catch up with some friends and to mention just a few: Gary Campbell, Bill van Ree, Neil Christie, Kevin Moss, Dave and Maureen Rundell. The Association's Patron COL John Wertheimer was also with us. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank COL Bruce Murray, AM (retiring Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region) who travelled from Queenscliff and conducted the voting for the committee positions - it took him over 2 hours to get to the AGM.

Along with the normal business associated with any AGM there was the election of office bearers for the 2026 – 2027 year, results of which are as follows:

President	Don Hughes
Vice President	Noel Tipton
Secretary	Jim Davis
Treasurer	Duncan Howarth
Committee	Mel Constable
	Eric (Jock) Howatt
	Margaret Handte
	Michael Potts
	Stephen Davis (a current serving WO2 ARA member)
	Vacant - Ex-officio as COL COMDT RAE Southern Region



At this stage the appointment of the COL COMDT RAE Southern Region has not been signed off by the Chief of Army and whilst BRIG David Wainwright has been identified to hold this role he is yet to receive his written Instrument of Appointment and until this is received we will leave the Ex-Officio position vacant.

A former committee member in Tony (Jacko) Jackson has offered to come on board as an assistant to the committee to help with memorabilia but also look to revitalise the “History and Heritage trail” project which has certainly been neglected, and we welcome Jacko back and look forward to his contribution and input.



Don provided a great address and summary of the Association’s past year and the future ahead, and he reminded the members that the book project which had been started some time back to commemorate 75 years of Engineers in Victoria (Forests, Fires and Fortifications), is well advanced and is currently with the Brigade Commander for comment. The plan is then tidy it up and make it available to the wider audience for comment and input. Don’s address was extensive and informative.

The Association will continue with its primary focus of supporting the Regiment and its Sappers, but the question that needs addressing is how can the Association integrate more with the Regiment and gain the support and confidence of the serving members to ensure the future viability of the RAE Association of Vic?



Following an extensive review of the Association's Constitution some minor amendments are going to be made to the Constitution and these proposed changes were presented to the meeting and unanimously passed. They are minor amendments associated with the membership categories which streamlines and simplifies membership – many thanks for Michael Potts for all the work he has done on this project

Noel and Stephen, welcome to the committee and many thanks to Todd MacDougall for his contribution and we wish him well. Stephen is the first serving member of the Defence Force who has joined the committee.



Jim Davis
Secretary 10th April 2026

RINGWOOD RSL SUNDAY MARCH

RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

19th APRIL 2026

The RAE Association was again invited to participate in the 2026 march conducted by the Ringwood RSL. The march commenced at Ringwood Square, and included many local groups such as veterans, Scouts, Army and Air Force Cadets along with community groups. There was also a contingent from the South African Association who were regular participants in the previous Reserve Forces Day.

This march is a family day activity with many young children representing their loved ones and able to happily participate in the march as the guidelines are not as strict as with the ANZAC Day city march. It was great to see the younger children marching and participating as there is no doubt as they are the future of events like this and will keep the values of ANZAC Day alive.



The weather was very kind to us and we could not have asked for a better day – cool, clear and fresh but with no rain.

Number wise we were down a little but as I am reminded “quality before quantity Jim”. Nevertheless, there was a contingent of some 40 people behind the RAE Association banner which comprised of

veterans from all elements of the Defence Force. I am sure those marching and their families enjoyed the day irrespective of the number of participants. I know of several people who were away and sent apologies. We were very honoured to have the CO of 22nd Engineer Regiment (LTCOL Jason Eltham) join us for the march.



The President (Don Hughes) was our Parade Commander. The Association was supported with our banner by 2 members of 22 Engineer Regiment and we must pay thanks to the Regiment for their support at such a busy time of the year. By having the banner carried it allows the members of the Association to march with their family and friends and not have to worry about this task.



The Regiment provided a cenotaph party for the formal activity at the clock tower and the drill was performed to a remarkably high standard – In charge was CPL Nathien Wex and they can all be



proud that they represented the Regiment to the highest standard. This year we were also very honoured to have the cenotaph party join in for the march with us which added an extra dimension to the day.



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

On the completion of formalities at the Clock Tower the gathering moved back to the RSL where finger food was provided and where everyone had the opportunity to catch and enjoy the day.



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All in all, a successful day only made possible by the outstanding support of the members of the Association, their family and friends and the 22nd Engineer Regiment. The day also provided the opportunity to march

behind our banner and be on display within our local area of Ringwood. By participating with the RSL on this special day it strengthens our ties with the Ringwood community.

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

Jim Davis

CROYDON RSL SUNDAY MARCH

19th April 2026



The Croydon RSL Sub-Branch pre ANZAC Day march was again well supported by veterans, (including a number from the RAE Association) and by numerous Community groups.



Musical support was again provided from the Old Scotch Pipes and Drums and the Croydon Brass Band, plus 408 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets took their familiar role as Catafalque Party. Michael Potts laid a wreath on behalf of the RAE Association (Vic)

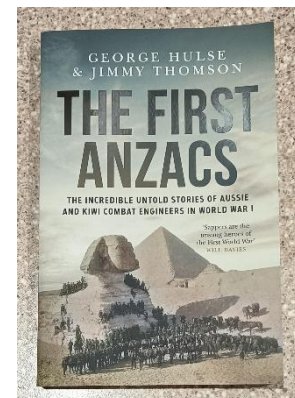


REPATRIATION HOSPITAL ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

Always held on the working day before the actual ANZAC day, the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital conducts its commemorative service in the beautifully manicured Remembrance Garden. The MC for the event, Robert Winther OAM, JP, the Veteran Liaison Officer for Austin Health, welcomed veterans, patients, staff and members of the local community. He introduced several dignitaries including the Federal Member for Jaga Jaga, Kate Thwaites MP, the Victorian State Emergency Services Minister and member for Eltham, Vicki Ward MP, along with the Victorian Minister for Police and Member for Ivanhoe, Anthony Carabines MP.

Representing the hospital was the CEO Austin Health, Jodie Geissler, along with the Board Chair Austin Health, Ross Cooke OAM.

A highlight of the service, and of particular interest to sappers, were a few yarns relayed to the crowd by the MC from the newly published book *The First Anzacs* (Allen & Unwin, 2026) by George Hulse and Jimmy Thompson.



This is the little known story of the combat engineers who kept World War 1 running.

Although it has been repeatedly denied by the army, they were the first Australians and New Zealanders to land at Anzac Cove: in any combat, even today, sappers are always the first in and last out.

As highlighted by Will Davies (*Beneath Hill 60*), “Sappers are the unsung heroes of the First World War, and this book helps bring them back into the limelight where they belong.”

A wreath was laid at the Engineer Memorial, *The Bridge of Repatriation*, located in Sappers Lane.

ANZAC DAY 2026

RINGWOOD RSL DAWN SERVICE



Photo: Ringwood RSL

A huge crowd gathered at the Ringwood Clocktower commemorating the ANZAC legacy so prized by our nation. A solemn and moving service was silently witnessed by a full cross section of modern Australian society.

The highlight of the ceremony was undoubtedly the wonderful address delivered by Heston Russell in his confident and inspiring style. Targeted at the broader Australian community, the speech highlighted that the great ANZAC qualities held by veterans so dearly, are just as applicable in life to the broader community. The address is reproduced here in full:

ANZAC DAY ADDRESS – RINGWOOD RSL DAWN SERVICE

By Heston Russell

Anzac Day is a sacred pause in our national calendar. A moment where Australians come together – not divided by politics, background, or opinion – but united in remembrance.

But I've come to realize something recently...

Many Australians don't fully understand what Anzac Day is, what it stands for and how it is different to Remembrance Day.

Remembrance Day marks the end of war, it honours those who died.

Anzac Day is different. Anzac Day is about the beginning. The beginning of our national identity. The beginning of a standard. The beginning of a spirit that would define Australia to the world. For me – understanding that has never felt more important than it does right now.

Because for me, Anzac Day is about service. Not just service in uniform...but the values that service demands: *Camaraderie, Mateship, Excellence and Accountability.*

A standard of human performance and character that I have never experienced anywhere else in life...outside of my time in combat, with the men I called my family by choice. In those moments — through fear, through loss, through life-and-death decisions — there is no pretending, only truth, only character. And that is what Anzac Day represents to me.

But more broadly — as Australians — Anzac Day marks our coming of age.

In the First World War, the world was drawn into conflict on a scale never seen before. And onto that global stage stepped a young nation...a former convict colony...Australia. Alongside our Kiwi brothers, landing on the shores of Gallipoli...facing what could only be described as hell on earth.

And yet — through the chaos, the loss, and the destruction...they found something extraordinary. Not just courage, but character. Not just sacrifice, but a standard. A standard built on mateship, on duty, on putting others before yourself — no matter the cost.

And that is what we now call the ANZAC spirit.

And make no mistake — that spirit became our reputation. Around the world, Australians became known as tough... capable... dependable. Good in a fight. Loyal to their mates. And never losing their sense of humour.

I have seen that reputation firsthand — on operations, and in countries across the world. It is real. But here's the part that sits uncomfortably with me...That identity—so respected internationally...Sometimes feels less certain here at home.

And that is why Anzac Day matters. Because the Anzac spirit is not guaranteed. It is not something we inherit automatically. It is something we must choose to live.

That spirit did not end at Gallipoli. It has been carried through every generation since. From battlefields abroad...to floods, fires, and crises here at home...where Australians still step forward when others cannot.

Because service has never been about words. It has always been about actions. And that is where Anzac Day asks something of us all. Because if today is only about ceremony...If it is only about wreaths, speeches, and tradition...Then we are missing the point.

The Anzacs did not define themselves by what they said. They defined themselves by what they did — when it mattered most.

For me, Anzac Day is a call to responsibility. For those who have served —and those who have not. To uphold the standard that was set. To live with courage. To look after each other. To put something greater than ourselves first.

Because the Anzac spirit does not live in history books. It lives — or dies — through us. Through our actions. Through our standards. Through whom we choose to be when it matters.

So today, we remember those who gave everything for this nation...those who shaped an Australian identity respected around the world — for its strength of character, and its culture of service.

Remembrance today is more than reflection; it is responsibility to live in a way that is worthy of their service. Not just today. But every day.

Lest we forget.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

The weather for our 2026 march could not have been better – a very cool start to the day, warming up to over 25°C with clear beautiful skies – we certainly need the rain but I am glad that we had such great weather for the march.

Our Form up Point (FUP) was in the same location as last year in Flinders Street West on the same side as the Flinders Street Station and down towards Elizabeth Street - typically though, we were told to be in the FUP much earlier than the proposed march off time and there seemed to be a bit of confusion with the Order of March, however everything came together and we marched off around the designated departure time. The main thing was that



even with all the confusion we all achieved our objective and that was to participate in this very important day and march.

Looking after the organisation at the FUP was Dave Rundell who certainly had things under control from the early stages to the completion of the march and the group photo at the rear of the Shrine. Dave did an exceptional job and we send him our very grateful thanks – good to see the old RSM traits come out in him.



Our contingent was led by BRIG David Wainwright, DSC (COL COMDT elect Southern Region), who led the salute at the Eternal Flame. The Association certainly had good support with about 45 people marching behind the banner. Our numbers were a little down this year partly because the

Regiment was marching as part of the Brigade so we lost a few serving members to the Regiment, and there were several people away.

It was great to see a contingent of Royal Engineers join us again this year – thanks to Mike Silvester for arranging this and providing 9 of the best.



Spectator numbers this year seemed stronger and those people who did attend certainly gave a lot of vocal encouragement to the marchers – how great it is to hear support and encouragement from the onlookers. We all

should be so appreciative of the support provided by people who line the barriers all the way to the Shrine - we have much to be proud of.



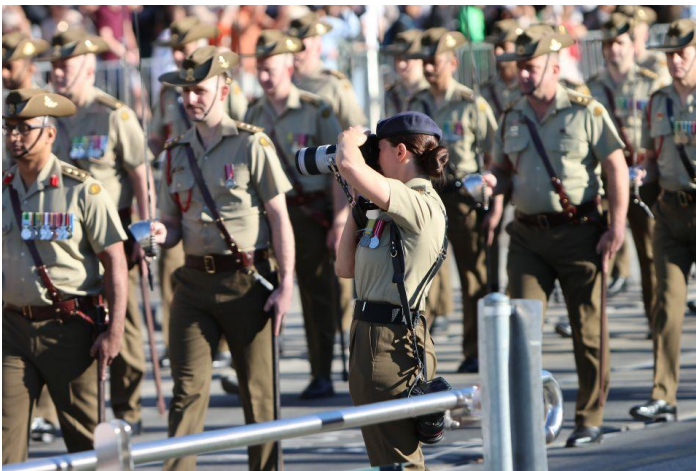
The people marching behind our banner certainly looked the part in their dress, bearing and drill. I also felt that we were certainly one of the larger Associations participating.

Once again this year we were supported with our banner by Cadets from 31 Army Cadet Unit, (Ringwood) who were so keen to come into the city and help us – they represented their Unit with pride and certainly did us proud – let's hope that this support will be ongoing for many years to come – it also gives us a chance to meet some of the Cadets, whose attendance was organised by Michael Potts and ably managed on the day by 2LT(AAC) Kara Diakomanolis, and were in place with the banner ready well before the scheduled step off.





This year there was a choice of After March meeting points – the Royal Engineer (RE) contingent have located an alternative venue being the St Kilda RSL where the drinks are a bit cheaper and which opens a bit earlier too – the alternative venue is one that we have used for several years, being the Elephant and Wheelbarrow (E&W) hotel. The choice of which venue to attend was left with the individuals but I am sure no matter which venue was chosen it would have been a good afternoon. Due to feeling a little bit unwell I did not attend either but from all reports there were reasonable crowds at both. The negative here is that by having two venues and a choice we are splitting the group up but we have to acknowledge that cost is a consideration with the venue - the E&W does apply surcharges and costs are higher but in defence they provide a room, bar staff, good service and it is located near a major railway station whilst the St Kilda RSL has cheaper drinks and provides finger food to the tables throughout the day but is located a little bit further away from the city which disadvantages some, particularly those heading off to the MCG for the footy.





Our photographer Gavin joined us again this year and photographed us at various locations throughout the march including the “class photo” on the rear steps of the Shrine – very difficult getting our class photo this year as the Brigade took over our normal location and we had to compete against them for the steps. The Woodies joined us a little bit later for more photos. The class photo is the primary photo from the day but each photo that is taken creates a memory.

Thank you all again.

Jim Davis



A BELATED RECOGNITION: LIEUTENANT THOMAS DEAM MC & BAR

Des Lambley

Most Australians know about the Anzac legend but many stories remain untold. It is typically simplified and repeated for new generations of children. It was once treated as a compulsory subject. Some Australian revisionists eloquently continue to present alternative views in an attempt to sanitise or redefine the story and others trivialise the concept of commemorating the sacrifice of Australian service men and women. Hopefully, collective memory will never allow this to happen.¹ Nihilists might deny there ever has been or ever will be a need for world 'policemen' to defend those people who are unprepared, unwilling or untrained to defend themselves. There is a basic continuum of good versus evil that separates an advanced society from an uncivilised one, and it is accepted that humans are motivated by their physiological needs and in turn, their security, their belongingness, their self-esteem and the highest need, self-actualization. All human behaviour is oriented towards achieving these goals but not all people have the intelligence to achieve the highest levels.

This is a story about an Australian man serving at Gallipoli with the Engineering Signal Service. The Service was comprised of ordinary men doing extraordinary things in a different time, to a different set of values and expectations. They were integral to the resoluteness of the armies of the Free World, and the ultimate success of a war fought for democracy.

Communication technology in that era rapidly changed as the war progressed. The different theatres presented different problems too, but primitive means of communication became increasingly sophisticated but consider the topography of Gallipoli. The ex-Australian Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC visited Anzac Cove a few years ago and made the observation:

The terrain was incredibly difficult, especially for novice soldiers with crook maps as well as indifferent plans and senior leadership. This confirmation of all I'd read and studied offended my professional instincts. The "muddling through" reaction to a poor plan with poor initial execution, has always been, and always will be, a "soldier killer" tactic. It would make you weep to think of these wonderful young men, inexperienced, yet brave and resolute, clawing their way towards the deadly heights. In some ways their inexperience was both their downfall and the upliftment of the legend – more experienced troops would probably have baulked.²

¹ *The Australian*, 'Germans question their guilt over WW1', Wednesday 30 July 2014, p. 9.

² General Peter Cosgrove, *My Story*, Harper Collins, Sydney, 2006.

The Australian War Historian C.E.W. Bean wrote:

I found the telephone line leaving the road to go up a steep gully to the right. The gully was densely covered in scrub and very steep. But one managed to fight a way up it, occasionally meeting someone who was going the same way...I puffed up to a tiny ledge- mostly sand- in which were the signallers; they told me that one could nip into the trench just above them- HQ was there.³

The Engineering Signal Service men were there too. Lieutenant Thomas Deam MC & Bar was a twenty-six year old single man from Bairnsdale, Victoria when he enlisted on 18 August 1914. He learned his trade as a saddler with the Gippsland firm of Medling and Hackett and had served two years with the 28th Signal Company in the Citizens Forces. He signed his Oath of Allegiance at Adelaide on 18 August 1914. Deam embarked from Melbourne as a Sergeant in October 1914 and served with the 1st Division Signal Company at Gallipoli.



Brigadier General Duncan Glasford, Commander of the 12th Australian Brigade on 30 June 1916 wrote a recommendation that led to Deam being awarded a Military Cross:

Evacuation of Gallipoli December 1915. Company Sergeant Major (W.O.2) Thomas Deam. The success of the operation depended largely on communication; this was well maintained. This Warrant Officer was, at that time, in charge of the Divisional signal station close behind the firing line; he was one of the last to leave. This Warrant Officer was also present at the landing, the action of 19 May, and the fighting at Lone Pine in August 1915 where he rendered good services. I can testify to W.O. Deam's good work from daily experience at all hours of the day and night for about eight months in immediate presence of the enemy at Anzac, Gallipoli.

Deam was subsequently awarded a Bar to his Military Cross for gallantry on the Western Front. Lieutenant Deam returned to Australia in March 1919.⁴

The diary of Infantry Signaller Ellis Silas remains a valuable primary source of generic signalling history at Gallipoli. He told of the incredible manpower wastage, and of the signals work under the most adverse conditions. He doubted whether he could stand up to the pressure and the great personal risk. He said that all of the signallers in 'A' and 'B' Companies had become casualties and only he remained after the second day. Silas was ordered to signal a message by semaphore flag but it meant that he had to expose himself to enemy sniper fire. The effort of sending the messages for a long period resulted in his collapse from fatigue. Silas afterwards said, 'thank God, message is through. I drop down, have gone all to pieces', and later, 'I dread being asleep more than awake as

³ Kevin Fewster, (ed.), *Bean's Gallipoli, The diaries of Australia's official war correspondent*, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Third Edition, 2007, p. 94.

⁴ National Archives Australia: B2455 DEAM T., Service Record.

my dreams are so frightful'.⁵ He gives us an insight into the personal trauma suffered by an Infantry Battalion Signaller at Gallipoli. His diary also provides early evidence of the elastic connection between unit signallers and the Signal Service Engineers. Later in the war, particularly on the Western Front many unit signallers were transferred to the Signal Service for centralised training, to provide better control over specialist communication roles, to augment manpower needs, and to optimise operations.

Figure 1 shows a crudely drawn fire support and communications plan for the seven ships supporting Gallipoli. The order also said that as there were only two telephone lines to the beach and the F.O.O. (Forward Observation Officer) must connect with one or other of these lines to send spotting observations. Also that there was no cable or wireless telegraphy direct to the ship, but a signal station at the beachhead would relay the message to the HMS *Queen*, and in turn it would be relayed to the relevant fire support ship. Ships were given arcs of fire and grid squares they were to be responsible for.⁶

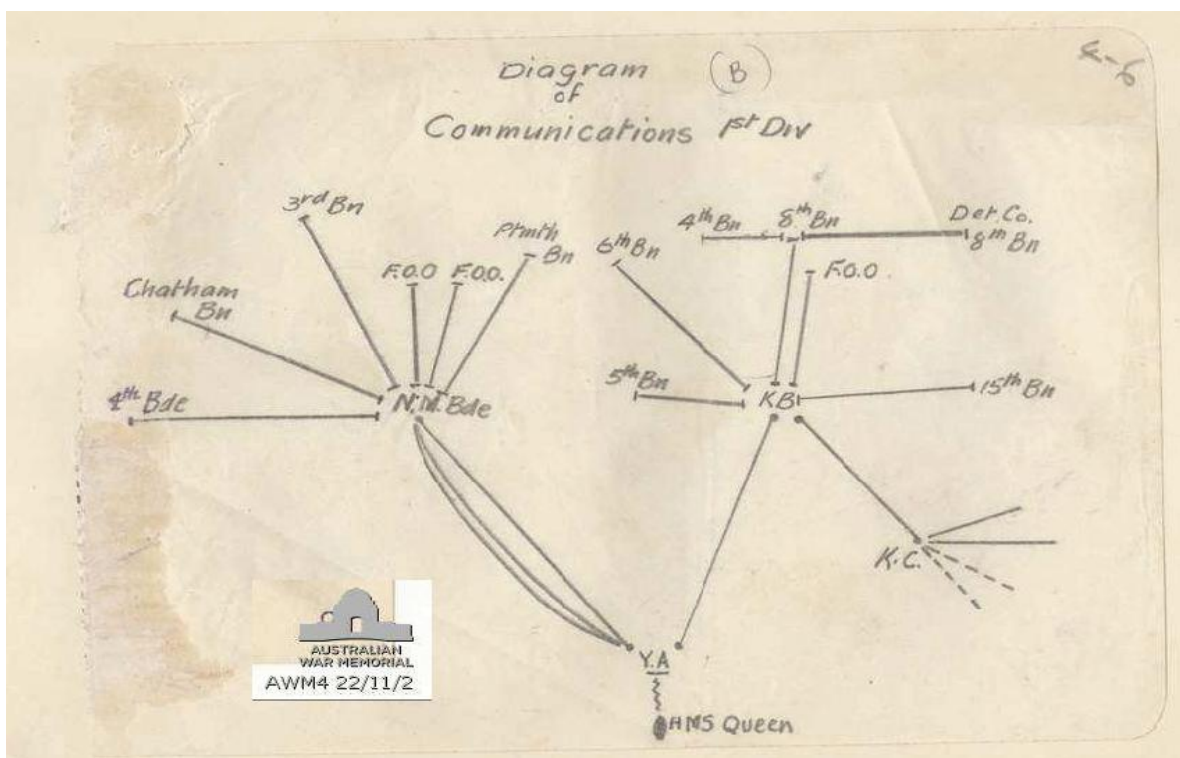


Figure 1. The Engineer Signal Service's line communication plan for Gallipoli April 1915. 'YA' was the 1st Division Headquarters on the beach, 'KB' was the 4th Brigade Headquarters probably located at Bolton's Ridge (after the Commanding Officer of the 8th Battalion), and 'KC' probably refers to a line junction point and Headquarters for both the 1st and 2nd Brigades. The Flagship HMS *Queen Elizabeth* stood offshore.

Dennis et al in the Oxford Companion to Australian Military History allocates barely a page to Kokoda, two pages to Tobruk, five pages to Vietnam and seven pages to Gallipoli. This rough measure indicates how much the Gallipoli campaign resonates amongst scholars and within the psyche of the Australian public. Dennis too said that there was defective political and strategic

⁵ AWM, Collection, 1DRL, 0566, Ellis Silas.

⁶ Australian War Memorial War Diaries, AWM4 Subclass 1/25 Part 8 - April 1915 - General Staff, Headquarters, Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

leadership at the Dardanelles within the British authorities. Major General Harry Chauvel knew that the Gallipoli siege was a waste of good men but his views were scorned by Hamilton because as Perry said, Chauvel would not say what the British overlords wished to hear. Much has been written by eminent historians and scholars of military tactics about the farce of military planning by the British on Gallipoli.

It would seem that the idea for war in this theatre was only a political whim that was easily ordered (but poorly managed) from the safety of London. For example, in a secret message from the British Cabinet Office to Sir Charles Munro on 2 December 1915 it was advised, 'There is a strong feeling against evacuation, even partial, owing to the political consequences which would follow'. Six days later another secret message arrived from Lord Kitchener advising that the Cabinet had decided to evacuate Suvla and Anzac and ordered them to act without delay. It was fortunate that provisional local planning was underway. Lieutenant General Birdwood Commanding the Dardanelles Army diarised on 1st December 1915 that 'the Corps Commander is hopeful that, owing to the peculiarities of the terrain, the front line may be held until the last, and that provided the normal conditions are undisturbed, the withdrawal of the greater part of the troops may be effected without the enemy's knowledge. They are now attempting to accustom the enemy to spells of total quiescence followed by periods of violent fire action, in the hope that a sudden cessation of activity in the final stage will not then arouse suspicion'.⁷

Major General R.R. McNicoll wrote of this period at Gallipoli and included a list of the sappers who were recognised for their gallant work there, but he inadvertently omitted Lieutenant Deam's name. This paper corrects that oversight.⁸



Australian War Memorial

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Group portrait of five officers of the 1st Division Signal Company outside the headquarters signal section dugout at Anzac Cove. The officers said that they would not shave until they reached Constantinople but they recanted on the vow after several weeks, when the prospect of a forward move disappeared. Identified left to right: Company Sergeant Major Thomas (Tommy) Deam (later promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant and was awarded a Military Cross and Bar); Major Henry Llewellyn Mackworth, Commanding Officer; Lieutenant (Lt) Stanley Holm Watson, (after whom the pier was named); Lt Grosvenor George Gordon (later Major and awarded a Distinguished Service Order), wearing a pair of binoculars around his neck; unidentified batman.

⁷ AWM4 Australian Imperial Force Unit War Diaries, 1914-18 War, Formation Headquarters Item 1/4/9 Part 1.

⁸ R.R. McNicoll, *Royal Australian Engineers 1902 to 1919, 'Making and Breaking'*, Royal Australian Engineers Corps Committee, Canberra, 1979, pp. 40-51.

BLUE TONGUES REUNION

15th – 17th MAY 2026

The annual “Blue Tongues Reunion” was held at Major Creek Streamside Reserve, Nagambie which I attended on Saturday 16th May 2025.

The weather was overcast with threatening skies but thankfully the rain did hold off and whilst that was great for our gathering, the one thing that was very evident, with the drive up to Nagambie, was that the country is in desperate need for a good long soaking rain. When I arrived mid-morning the campfires were certainly most welcome.

The reunion is open to all sappers and families with the only proviso being is that you leave your rank at home, come with a great attitude, plenty of photos, stories and be prepared to be amazed by the great people that you will meet.



The area where the reunion is held is a public camping ground and this year there was a very large number of other people staying within the facility making it a bit difficult to find a suitable spot where our group could congregate in some isolation. To try to overcome the space problem a couple of the group arrived on Thursday to try to “claim” positions but this effort only had limited success. As this is public camping ground there are limitations on what you can and can’t do, including the lighting of campfires. It is obvious that each year more people are choosing to camp here so the area is

getting very busy and there is no easy solution to this other than maybe investigate another location.

As in the past the objective of this weekend is to enable people to catch up with old friends and renew acquaintances. Many people stay for the entire weekend whilst others just drop in to say hello and stay a few hours. There were certainly some very good caravans on display and this year there seemed to be more of these “homes on wheels” here.



Attendance numbers were pretty good this year and it is thanks to a very strong and supportive core of people who come along every year to support the reunion like Tony Jackson, Greg (Vic) Morrow (on Friday), Bob “Redman” Jones, Ritchie and Cath Cunningham and Alex Doumbos. Now I know everyone has to make an effort and travel to get to the reunion but some people travel quite a distance to get to it most years like “Doc” Kincaid, Dave Stevenson and Paddy.

Regrettably, indicative of our ages, the Honour Board has had a few extra names added since last year and we remember those people who can no longer join us namely Rod Olsen and Brian “Blue” Bettles. Thanks, George, for looking after this very sad but important part of the history.

Food was aplenty with wonderful treats and roasts from the camp ovens showing that the boys have not lost their touch. In addition, BBQ's were ongoing with ample nibbles available for those who wanted to venture from the campfire.



This is a great activity and George, Bill, Fish and Foxy need to be thanked for their efforts and encouraged to keep up the good work. At the same time thanks must be given to all those people who take the time to come along to the reunion and support it because without them it would just not happen no matter how much work the organisers put into it. What is obvious is that we must try and attract younger people to come along and this is easier said than done. Complicating attracting younger and serving members is the fact that the Regiment normally schedules a training weekend on the same weekend.

A highlight of the Saturday was that we were able to celebrate Ian Wagstaff's 70th birthday with a lovely cake and birthday song. After lunch Shane O'Keefe and Colin (Fish) Fraser provided wonderful entertainment with their musical skills and singing.

Without reunions and gatherings like this so much of the Corps Victorian history would be lost and whilst not everyone would agree with the concept of this weekend it is an important event on the social calendar.



Personally I am so pleased that I went along as everyone makes you so welcome. Even though I did not stay for long (I was on my way to Wagga for the Kapooka Tragedy Memorial on 21st May 2026) I really look forward to this outing.

Thanks again to all those who came along to make this a great weekend – you have all helped add some wonderful memories to this old mind. One thing I will mention is that no matter where I stand or move to the campfire smoke it seems to follow me – maybe I am being sent a message!



KAPOOKA TRAGEDY MEMORIAL EXCURSION

21ST MAY 2026 (81ST ANNIVERSARY)



The annual visit to attend the Kapooka Tragedy Memorial service is a feature of the Association's calendar and one I would urge everyone to consider attending at some time. The journey to Kapooka is certainly a very long one but it is so worthwhile. Personally, I certainly look forward to going along and making it a bit of a trip away.

The weather for the ceremony was sunny but with a cool breeze which kept the temperature down. There is no doubt that attendance numbers were down on previous years and I am not sure if this was the result of the current fuel crises or because we are aging and it is that little bit harder to make the long journey to the ceremony. There was certainly a good turn up of serving members and in particular SME had a reasonable turnout for the Service acknowledging this terrible event which claimed the lives of 26 Sappers. This year the number of relatives and descendants of the Sappers who lost their lives had also diminished.



WO2 Stephen Davis (newly elected committee member) and Jim Davis laid a wreath on behalf of the RAE Association in memory of those who died in this tragedy and all sappers who are no longer with us. There were many wreaths laid by the various Service organisations from within Wagga along with military representatives such as CO 1 RTB (COL Gerrard Kearns and RSM Michael Smith) along with representatives from the RAAF.



A Catafalque Party (all RAE members) was provided by 1 RTB and were outstanding in their dress, bearing and drill. The Service concluded with a light afternoon tea which provided the opportunity of catching up with friends.

The Head of Corps (BRIG Michael Scott, CSC) was unable to attend the Service and representing him was COL Paul Wright, CSC who gave the principal address. COL Wright along with the Corps RSM (WO1 Russell Peel) laid a wreath on behalf of the HOC.

Supporting this very important activity were several senior RSM's and Warrant Officers from the School and other various locations. Also in attendance was a large contingent of trainees from 1 RTB who have been allocated to the Corps. It is great that they were given time off from their training to attend and learn firsthand about this tragedy.



It was great to catch up with some ex 22 ER people in MAJ Jacob Frahn (served as the ADJT) and WO2 Luke Van Bakel (VB) along with WO1 Tom Vallas – Luke has just learnt that he has been selected for a posting to the UK with the Royal Engineers – congratulations VB.

It is obvious that not enough is known within the Corps about this tragic event and it should be disseminated more widely and even included with the training packages to ensure that the day is not forgotten and continues to be commemorated and supported for many years to come. The attendance of the trainees today is certainly a small step in the right direction of overcoming the lack of knowledge within the Corps of this event.

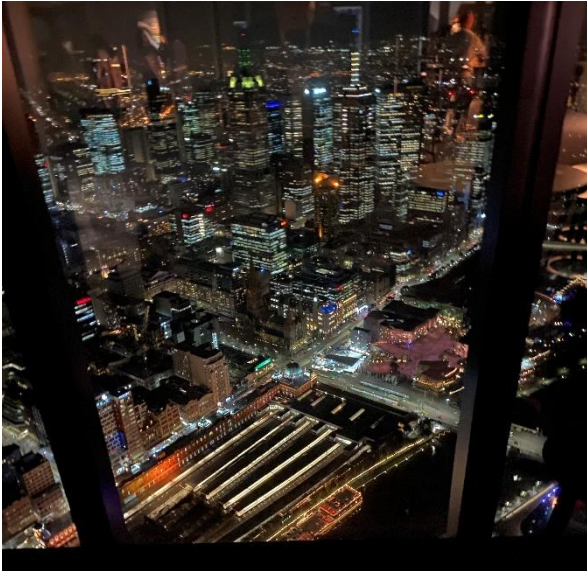


A regular attender at this Memorial Day is the local Federal MP – Michael McCormack along with representatives from the City of Wagga Wagga (Dallas Tout – Mayor and Peter Thompson – General Manager). Many thanks to those who



came along and supported the day and the memory of those brave souls who lost their lives and trust that you enjoyed the adventure and that you will consider attending this event again in the future.

WATERLOO DINNER – 19th JUNE 2026



The annual Waterloo Dinner is one of the most important social events on the Engineer calendar for SNCO/Officers and accordingly it is eagerly anticipated.

Under the stewardship of the CO (LTCOL Jason Eltham) this year's function was conducted at a non-military establishment on the 89th floor of the Eureka Towers in the Melbourne CBD. There were some misgivings concerning the loss of traditions by moving the dinner away from a military/RSL site but the use in recent years of similar venues proved such a success that it was decided to return and a non-military site.

Whilst customs and traditions are an extremely important part of any function, such as the Waterloo Dinner, the other characteristic of the night is to bring members of the Corps together in a social atmosphere where there is an opportunity to catch up with people with similar interests and renew acquaintances and acknowledge this historical event.



The dinner had a wonderful cross representation of the Corps in both rank and trade with about 75 people attending many of whom travelled quite long distances from locations such as Canberra, Albury, Puckapunyal, and Western Australia. There was also a good representation from Victoria Barracks.



Dining President was LTCOL Jason Eltham (CO 22 Engineer Regiment) with the senior guest being the Head of Corps (BRIG Michael Scott, CSC) along with other senior members of the Corps in BRIG Michelle McCormack (Commander 4th BDE), BRIG Peter (Hutch)



Hutchinson (Retd), BRIG David Westphalen, BRIG Bob Slater (Retd), COL Craig (Spit) Madden (COL COMDT Western Region), COL Bruce Murray, COL Sharon Coates, COL Scott D’Rozario, WO1 Russell Peel (Corps RSM for RAE). Representing the Signals Corps was COL Chris Robinson. How honoured was the Victorian Waterloo Dinner to have HOC BRIG Scott attend and personally deliver his annual speech. BRIG Scott chose Victoria’s Waterloo Dinner as his inaugural Waterloo Dinner since assuming the role as Head of Corps.

During his address COL Robinson (RASigs) pointed out the very strong links between the RAE and RASigs which had developed over so many years and continues until this day. In responding LTCOL Eltham thanked COL Robinson for his kind words and took the opportunity of pointing out some Historical aspects of both the RAE and RASigs.



A couple of highlights from the night that deserve mentioning were the presentation by BRIG Scott of a Certificate of Appreciation to MAJ Brent Rodgers who recently retired from Army and WO2 Gordon Daly who was presented with his 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Clasps to his Long Service Medal and his Federation Star.

Jim Davis was also acknowledged as he was celebrating his 79th birthday that day. COL Craig (Spit) Madden was accompanied by his daughter LT Genevieve Madden who is posted to 3 CER and is currently undergoing her mechanisation Commanders course at Puckapunyal.



Although there were some concerns concerning the cost of the function there are several positives to be taken out of having the function offsite and these include the fact that the staff, food, drink, clean up and overhead costs are the responsibility of the venue. At the end of the night it is just a matter of closing the doors on the way out. Other reasons why an offsite venue is ideal is that I am sure

everyone would be aware that safety is a high priority at all bases and the entry requirements for non-serving personnel is very demanding in addition you must hire stewards and cooks when the budgets of all units is under stress.



Thanks from all must go to CAPT Robert Baillieu for arranging the night and selecting this venue – there is a huge demand placed on the person tasked with arranging an event like the Waterloo Dinner. Not only is it very time consuming but there are so many moving parts to coordinate with high expectations for a successful

outcome. In this case there was an added complexity to the planning and evening as there was the need to transport people from Watsonia and Oakleigh Barracks requiring drivers, support staff and vehicles.

Music for the night was provided by 5 members of the Army Band from Watsonia who certainly provided wonderful entertainment. For those who attended I am sure that they had a wonderful night with ample food, drink and friendship and the venue was, without doubt, a great choice.

Let's hope the wonderful tradition of the Waterloo Dinner will be ongoing and be passed onto the Corps future SNCO's/WO's and OFFRS.

Jim Davis



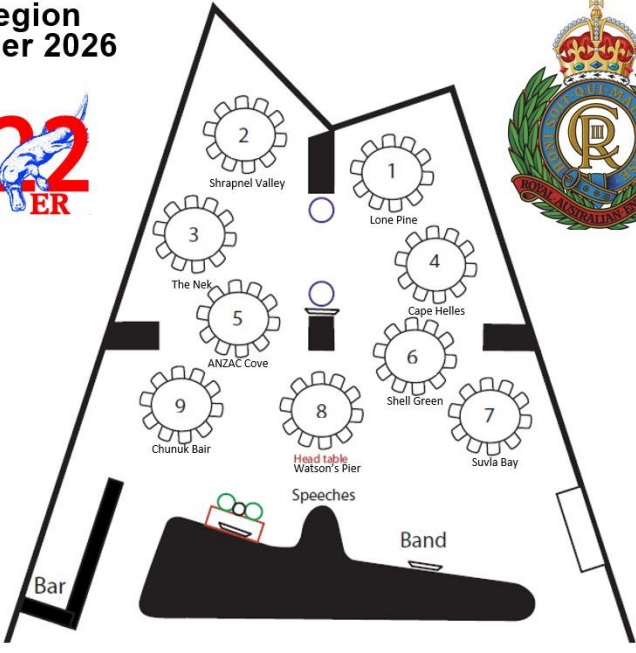
**Army Amenities
Fund Company**

Southern Region Waterloo Dinner 2026





Table 1 Lone Pine BRIG Hutch Hutchinson CAPT Kelly Williams COL Sharon Coates LT Ali Aden LTCOL Russell Collins MAJ Brent Rodgers Mr Matthew Sanderson WO1 Michael Hutchinson	Table 4 Cape Helles MAJ Alex Kocovski CAPT John Alekoz COL Robin Petersen LT Bruce McDonald MAJ Jake Kilsby WO1 Scott White WO1 Aaron Watts	Table 7 Suvla Bay CAPT Julio Pinochet LT Owen Townsend LTCOL Benjamin Healy MAJ Greg Buckley MAJ Laura Cook WO1 James Davis SGT Gregory Aidone WO2 Brad Wilson
Table 2 Shrapnel Valley BRIG David Westphalen CAPT Jordyn Abbott COL Bruce Murray MAJ Michael Longmire Miss Maddison Dodd SGT Ben Thomson SGT Philipp Escreza SGT John Duck WO2 Warwick Harvey	Table 5 ANZAC Cove WO2 Gerard van der Velden BRIG Michelle McCormack CAPT Reece Simon CAPT Daniel Mabil LT Albert Le LTCOL Daniel Palmer MAJ Robert Cos MAJ Martin Stawski WO2 Christopher Chase	Table 8 Watson's Pier LTCOL Jason Eltham CAPT Hugh McKinlay COL Chris Robinson LT Tanvir Ahmed LT Scott Giddings MAJ Robert Bailey MAJ Andrew Howes Mr Kriston Symons WO1 Fiona Ince
Table 3 The Nek LT Wei Dong WO2 David Nicholls CAPT Michelle Doolan COL Scott D'Rozario LTCOL Bruce McClure MAJ Filip Likar WO1 Russell Peel WO2 David Kelly-Grimshaw	Table 6 Shell Green BRIG Michael Scott CAPT Robert Baillieu COL Craig Madden LT Rachel Wardell LT Genevieve Madden LTCOL John Raika MAJ Brad Cree SGT Scott Eaton CAPT Marc Zanier	Table 9 Chunuk Bair BRIG Bob Slater CAPT Noel Tipton Dr Des Lambley LCPL Stuart Coghill LTCOL Declan Ellis MAJ Ashley Bishop WO2 Gordon Daly WO2 Matt Wilson



RAE CORPS BIRTHDAY

HAPPY 124th!

Back to lovely Upwey RSL for the 2026 RAE CORPS Birthday on June 27th. A total of 25 revellers shook up the old town, with delicious meals and great company. Many thanks to Mel Constable for organising the day, and to Duncan Howarth for arranging the cake, which was cut ceremoniously by Trevor Mays.





About the RAE Association (Victoria) Inc

Vision Statement

The Royal Australian Engineers Association (Victoria) Incorporated will be the most relevant and recognized Sapper Association in Victoria with substantial membership and an enhanced profile and standing within the serving and retired sapper community.

Mission Statement

To promote the wellbeing and betterment of our members along with serving and retired sappers by the provision of a collegiate sapper association that values and promotes comradeship, esprit de corps, service identity and traditions.

Objectives

- Increase the Association's membership.
- Develop the capacity of the Association to communicate with the serving and retired sapper community through the enhancement of the Association's journal "Sapper Summit" and through an internet presence.
- Establish and enhance the relevance of the Association to all sappers - serving and retired.
- Undertake the research and recording of sapper history in Victoria.
- Provide sappers with an organized identity for participation in ANZAC Day and other commemorative events.
- Promote the achievements of 22 Engineer Regiment and those of its members.
- Disseminate information relating to sapper events and activities.
- Recognize and acknowledge excellence and achievement within the sapper community.
- Provide and promote awareness of welfare issues and resources relevant to service personnel.
- Promote mateship.
- Promote esprit de corps between all members of the sapper family.
- Maintain and promote the traditions and achievements of the Australian Defence Force in general and the Royal Australian Engineers in particular.
- Seek continual improvement in administrative practices to ensure members receive optimal value for the membership fees and donations.
- Liaise with and develop co-operative working arrangements with like organizations and associations.
- Formally develop succession planning for key appointments within the Association.
- Raise funds to support these objectives and other Association priorities that may arise from time to time

For full details and news about the Association's projects and events, or to download an application form click on:

www.raevictoria.com

You can request an application form from:

The Secretary
RAE Association Victoria Inc
c/- 22 Engineer Regiment
56B Dublin Rd
RINGWOOD EAST VIC 3135

MERCHANDISE



2025 Membership Renewal
\$25.00



SAPPER SUMMIT

Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper

Mailed hard copy of Sapper Summit
\$25.00



RAE Association Plaques
\$50.00

Merchandise featuring the new badge and cipher will be progressively available as old stocks run down.



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



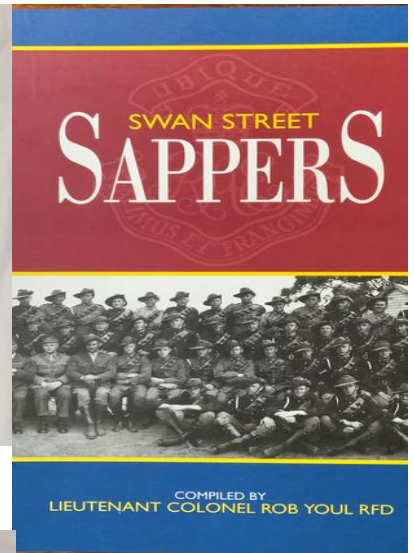
Jumper Navy with RAE Logo
\$80.00



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

Any person who supports the aims of the Association may apply for membership.

Membership Categories:

Ordinary member: any person who meets the definition of 'Sapper' as defined in the Constitution.

Over 65 Concessional Member: members who have reached the age of 65 years (prior to the 1st January) may elect to pay a one-off subscription equal to ten times (10) the annual rate of an ordinary member as set out in Rule 12 (1) which will entitle them to a concessional life membership with no further subscriptions necessary. They will receive a letter from the Association confirming this status.

Over 80 complimentary member: members who have reached the age of 65 years (prior to the 1st January) may elect to pay a one-off subscription equal to ten times (10) the annual rate of an ordinary member as set out in Rule 12 (1) which will entitle them to a concessional life membership with no further subscriptions necessary. They will receive a letter from the Association confirming this status.

Honorary Life Member: A member who has made a significant contribution to the Association either by way of a substantial financial donation, memorabilia or service contribution may be awarded Honorary Life Membership together with a framed certificate, and no further subscriptions payable.

Associate Member: these include:

- (a) members under the age of 15 years
- (b) any non-Sappers who satisfy the Committee of their interest in the RAE
- (c) any other category of member as determined by special resolution at a general meeting

For further details, refer to the Constitution which is available at RAEvictoria.com.

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 printed, remove cropped area bound copies in addition to their e-copies for an additional subscription fee. Contact the Secretary for details.

To apply for membership, visit **raevictoria.com** and follow the prompts, or contact:

The Secretary
RAE Association Victoria Inc
c/- 22 Engineer Regiment
56B Dublin Rd
RINGWOOD EAST VIC 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 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
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Open Arms
1800 011 046

Beyond Blue
1300 224 636

Lifeline
13 11 14

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, wellbeing awareness and education.

OPEN ARMS

Veterans & Families
Counselling

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

OPEN ARMS – VETERANS & FAMILIES COUNSELLING

(formerly VVCS)



To get support or find out more:

1800 011 046

www.OpenArms.gov.au



**24-HOUR FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL
COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT
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» Get Support

Open Arms is a national service which offers:

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

» Eligibility

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

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

» Stay in touch

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

www.OpenArms.gov.au

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

PO3833

RAE OVERWATCH

is a Corps-specific subsidiary of Overwatch Australia, specifically to
support serving and retired Sappers.

Sappers looking out for Sappers in times of need.

No matter how long you've been in or out.

The group Coordinator is Bob Ihlein (robert.ihlein@gmail.com) or phone 0434550556

You can also find them at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RAEOverwatch/>

