Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper

ANZAC CENTENARY 2015
SAPPERS MARCH IN MELBOURNE

The 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli in 1915 was a cold and wet day in Melbourne however serving and retired sappers turned out in large numbers at dawn services, community commemorations and the Melbourne ANZAC Day Commemoration March to the Shrine of Remembrance. This edition of Sapper Summit will highlight ANZAC Day 2015.
Sapper Summit is produced four times a year
By the RAE Association (Vic) Inc
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Inside this issue

- ANZAC Day 2015 ........................................... p1
- Patron’s Column ........................................... p3
- President’s Column ...................................... p4
- From the Regiment ...................................... p5
- Sapper Profiles .......................................... p8
- Letter to the Editor ...................................... p9
- Military History Podcasts ............................ p9
- CO 22ER Anzac Day Address ...................... p10
- Rob Youl’s Column .................................... p11
- ANZAC Day Pictorial ................................ p14
- Sapper Medal .............................................. p17
- Sapper Muster ............................................. p18
- Service Pistols of the Great War .................... p21
- Unit History Project ................................... p24
- From the Associations ................................. p26
- RCH Jock Howatt ....................................... p28
- Tattoo ......................................................... p29
- Ringwood RSL President ............................ p30
- 100 Years Young Essay .............................. p33
- Sapper History ........................................... p35
- Application Form ....................................... p37

Your Royal Australian Engineers
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Sappers Receive Queen’s Birthday Honours 2015

- Member of the Order of Australia (AM)
  Military Division
  BRIGADIER Wayne Gregory BUDD CSC
  BRIGADIER Darren Scott NAUMANN

- Member of the Order of Australia (AM)
  General Division
  Mr Arvo TINNI RFD
  COLONEL Arvo Tinni AM RFD was Commander 5
  Engineer Group in Sydney 18982-1984 and senior
  engineer with NSW Roads.

RAE Association (Vic) congratulates these outstanding sappers.
Firstly, I thank the AGM, Lt Col Colin Bowater (Ret’d) and the RAE Association (Vic) Inc, for the honour of being the Association’s inaugural Patron.

For this edition of the Sapper Summit I am pleased to highlight some RAE activities past and future.

The RAE Association (Vic) contingent marching on Anzac Day to the Shrine of Remembrance was very impressive with 90 or so sappers, families and supporters participating.

The move of SME from Casula to Holsworthy is complete and officially opened on Friday 26 June, 2015 after about 80 years at Casula.

Head of Corps Brig Wayne Budd CSC, led a party of about 90 sappers including school cadets from around Australia, to commemorate the Gallipoli landing and the first Waterloo Dinner at Gallipoli on 18th June, 1915. The dinner was to celebrate the completion of Watson’s Pier. Stan Watson’s grandson travelled with the party and all celebrated the 100th anniversary dinner on 18th June, 2015, at Gallipoli. The RAE Foundation supported the attendance of Cpl Thomas Vallas from 22 Engineer Regiment who won the 2014 RAE Award for the best Junior NCO.

The RAE Foundation has provided other assistance to sappers in the past year including:
Production of 1 Fd Sqn Gp Vietnam History and launch at the Shrine.
Travel expenses for a sapper to attend grandmother’s funeral.
Contribution to a memorial to 32 Small Ships Squadron.

The Old Sappers Association, which established a special room for social occasions and for memorabilia at Oakleigh Barracks in 1992 after the move from Swan Street (now Olympic Boulevard), have commenced discussions to join the RAE Association (Vic). This move will preserve the Old Sapper group and strengthen the Association. The Old Sappers were a very strong group at Swan Street for about 80 years. They generously donated $5,000 to the RAE Foundation this year.

An important date in 2015 is 9 October. This is the commemoration of one of the first sappers to be killed at Gallipoli, Spr Reynolds. This is the fourth Reynolds Dinner since the inaugural dinner in Canberra in 2012. Subsequent dinners were held in Brisbane in 2013 and Sydney in 2014. The dinner is hosted by the Head of Corps, Brig Budd, and all are invited to attend this fundraising event.

A special thank you to the CO & RSM of 22 Engineer Regiment. The Regiment loaned a M16 to the Shrine Galleries of Remembrance before the Dedication on 11 November 2015. With the agreements on the non-use of anti-personnel mines there is a good chance the Regiment’s mines are among the few remaining in Australia.

An important current activity is the updating and/or writing RAE Victoria Histories. Don Hughes is coordinating the 4 CER writing team and Noel Tipton is coordinating the 22 Construction Regiment team. Some members may not be aware, we have available “The Swan Street Sappers” -the history of Swan Street based sappers to 1992.

I commend and thank the many contributions to the Sapper Summit since 1992. In particular, to mention Bruce Campbell, Rob Youl, Austin Byrne and now Graeme Lambert who has produced some amazing editions. I would also single out perhaps the prime mover in 1992, Lt Col Bob Eastick for this important communication.

John Wertheimer
Dear fellow sappers,

I write this after the ANZAC Day parades with a sense of satisfaction. April was a very busy month for the Association with three major activities occurring during the month.

The Centenary of WW1 Sapper Muster was an outstanding success with 140 people in attendance. My thanks to the organising subcommittee of Don Hughes, Margaret Handte and Jock Howatt. Five members who have made outstanding contributions to the Association over many years were appointed as honorary life members. They are:

Bruce Campbell
Les Malseed
Austin Byrne
Rob Youl
Norm Dodgson

These gentlemen are inaugural Honorary Life Members. In addition Neville Trevina was awarded a Complementary Life membership for his very generous financial contribution to the Association.

The highlight of the night was the appearance of two of our living treasures, Mr Harry New and Mr Lionel Larpent, both men are 98 years old and both served with 2/22 Field Park Company in WW2. They are a credit to the Corps.

The Annual General Meeting
This was conducted on 14 April at Ringwood Depot. Twenty-three members were present. A number of Special Resolutions were presented. They covered membership categories, financial reporting period, quorum at the general meeting, appointment of Patron, definition of a sapper and a number of other resolutions. There was lively discussion on some points but all resolutions were passed, some with alterations.

The next step is to forward the resolutions to Consumer Affairs for ratification.

ANZAC MARCH
Wreaths were laid by the Association at the dawn services at Oakleigh depot and at Ringwood RSL ceremonies.

The Association’s members assembled at Collins St, for the Melbourne ANZAC Day march. There was light rain but this failed to dampen the excitement as we waited to march. The banner was carried by six cadets from Melbourne High School. By the time we marched some 80 sappers formed the main body. We marched along St Kilda Road with heads held high, then up ANZAC Parade and an eyes right at the Eternal Flame, left wheel and marched to the dispersal area.

Members then moved to the south side of the Shrine where group photos were taken. A great day.

Colin Bowater
PRESIDENT

REDEDICATION OF THE RAE VIETNAM MEMORIAL, VIETNAM VETERANS’ DAY 18th AUGUST 2015

The RAE Vietnam Memorial Committee invites you to attend this year’s Vietnam Veterans’ Day service that will also see the rededication of our Memorial at the new Home of the Sapper within the Holsworthy Military Precinct.

We gather each year at the Memorial to not only remember those who did not return from the Vietnam War but also those from the more recent operations.

The service which will commence at 11.00 am sharp, will be followed by a luncheon, camaraderie and refreshments, detail of these will follow.

The newly completed RAE Museum, Chapel and Corps shop will be available for you to visit both before the service and in the afternoon following luncheon.

All Sappers and fellow veterans of all conflicts are welcome to attend, BUT due to base security, entry can be a little onerous so, be patient, be early and have a cuppa.

YOU MUST be registered to attend, so please drop us a line or send an E-mail that lists the names of all those attending and the registration number of your vehicle, so we can get you on the list and keep you informed. A photo ID will be required at the precinct entry for all but children.

E-mail to: vietmemorialcom@tpg.com.au
Mail: PO Box 165, Moorebank NSW 1875
Another three months have sped by and the unit has continued to sustain a high tempo. Activities and events have included internal and external to unit individual and collective training, professional development training, a variety of ANZAC Day activities, the Sir Clive Steele lecture, the Battle Group deployment to Cultana Training Area (CUTA) and the Waterloo Dinner.

As always, it is imperative that our soldiers have the opportunity for training, professional development and advancement, so sending them on promotion and specialist courses remains high priority. In March, the unit ran a non-continuous Dem's User course with 21 members qualified. The final weekend of the course coincided with an IMT and counter-mobility training weekend for the remainder of the unit, incorporating the construction and reserve demolition of a 2-span 8-bay non-equipment bridge utilising Bailey panels. The soldiers learnt a lot from this activity, particularly in regard to preparing a reserve demolition under the cover of darkness and in a tactical environment.

As part of the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations, many members of the unit participated in a variety of activities ranging from catafalque parties, ceremonial attendance, speaking engagements at various schools, the Dawn Service or the Ringwood and City marches themselves. The Sappers and JNCOs conducted themselves with distinction in 13 catafalque parties for RSLs and other community groups. I also had the privilege of presenting the ANZAC Day Dawn Service address at Oakleigh Barracks, which was very well attended by current and former members, as well as members of the wider community.

Timed to occur immediately after the ANZAC Day activities was the annual Sir Clive Steele lecture. CO 3CER, LTCOL John Daunt, presented on the theme of ‘The Centenary of ANZAC Sappers, and its relevance to the Sappers of today’. For those current and former serving members of the Corps who attended, you would agree that it was an excellent presentation and one which generated much discussion in the Mess afterward.

The unit has recently returned from a successful Exercise COURTNEY’S POST, a collective training exercise for the Reinforcing Battle Group from the 4th and 9th Brigades. Prior to now, it has been some time since we have had the opportunity to exercise as part of a combined arms team and all Battle Group soldiers and officers benefited from this immensely. We now have an exciting year ahead as we continue our training towards our Ready year.

Current and former serving Southern Region RAE Officers, WOs and SNCOs attended the annual Waterloo Dinner on 20 June in strong numbers. This year marks the Centenary of the first dinner at Gallipoli after the completion of Watson’s Pier at ANZAC Cove so it was a particularly special event, and a huge night for many! Hosted by 22ER, it was held as a traditional formal dinner at Victoria Barracks Officers Mess – with the recreation of the pier set up at the entrance to the Mess, and the dining room itself decked out in the theme.

Looking forward to the next quarter, tempo will remain constant as we bed down our lessons learnt from Ex COURTNEY’S POST and focus on our road to our Ready year. We are also running, or preparing for, a number of in-house courses which will assist in bridging a significant capability gap amongst our JNCOs and specialist skillsets.

Ubique.

LTCOL Michelle McCormack
CO 22ER

LTCOL McCormack leading 22 ER ANZAC Day march Melbourne 2015
BATTLE GROUP JACKA's ENGINEER SQUADRON: EX COURTNEY’S POST

Written by LT Andreas Bischof

On 22 MAY 15, approximately 75 engineers deployed from Victoria and South Australia under the command of OC MAJ Scott D’Rozario to Cultana Defence Training Area (CUTA) as part of the 4th/9th Bde’s Engineer Squadron commitment to Exercise Courtney’s Post.

EX Courtney’s Post was the first of several formal training exercises that are being undertaken from May 2015 as part of the Army’s Force Generation Cycle, in preparation for the certification Exercise Hamel between Army’s 1st Combat Bde and the 4th/9th Bde’s Reinforcing Battle Group in July 2016.

This nine day exercise consisted of one Battle Group containing three Infantry Companies, one Engineer Squadron, one Combat Services Support team, Joint Fire Teams and a section of Armoured Personnel Carriers for Troop lift. Ex Courtney’s Post saw the positive integration of 4 and 9 BDE’s engineer elements as combat engineers, plant operators, drivers and trades personnel in support of the Battle Group’s other force elements. The engineers were the only truly merged Squadron within the Battle Group, with one Troop being a mixture of both 22 ER and Adelaide’s 3 FD SQN. The ‘Jacka’ Engineer Squadron will continue to provide combat and general engineer support to Battle Group JACKA and 1 Brigade throughout the Force Generation Cycle.

The enemy threat picture included squad-sized elements of both special operations forces and an amphibious motorized infantry brigade, as well as irregular militia elements of localised separatist groups. This underscores the changing make-up of modern-day conflict environments: incorporating both elements of conventional and non-conventional warfare (including Australian Forces requirement to adapt to a response, especially regarding the need to incorporate stability operations).

Over the course of the exercise, the Engineer Squadron provided reconnaissance, Mobility, Counter-Mobility and Survivability support via Route Check (incorporating elements of route search and route clearance), counter-mobility and extensive defensive position construction works. The ENG SQN also provided operational liaison capability to the BG HQ which served to inject ENG capability to Combat Teams as well as increase awareness in the benefit of ENG skill sets into their own schemes of manoeuvre.

The unique nature of this training ensures that as engineers we are able to work with, integrate, assist and support not just each other as engineers from different BDEs, but to view and interact within Combined Arms teams. Gone are the days of ‘Brigade/Corps isolation’ where regiments would only ever undertake training tasks within their own skillsets or call signs.

By extension and as an ENG SQN, to directly utilise and work with Combat Service Support elements was also enlightening for many of the newer members who had never been involved in exercises beyond what their SQNs or REGTs have previously undertaken.

We are now in an unparalleled and exciting phase of our existence where we can work towards and build our force response capability – this is achievable via the ability for all members of 22ER and 3 FD SQN to take part in training involving 1 CER (of which there will be at least six Australia-wide exercises preceding EX Hamel from now until July 2016).

Post EX, the collation of AAR points and the ramping up of training before the next formal exercise (in October - EX Pozieres) will keep all 22 ER and 3 FD SQN members busy. One major benefit acknowledged by all
within the ENG SQN is that this interaction has enhanced our own Engineer capability, rendering our actions as real and relevant for the future. Our enthusiasm to be part of something both exciting and worthwhile will ensure that our ENG SQN capability to BG Jacka will remain constant and beneficial to all involved.

**Exercise Platypus Demolishes**

*Exercise Platypus Demolishes*, conducted over the weekend 20-22 March 2015, focused on the development and application of practical demolition skills in a tactical environment. The scenario focused on an ENGR SQN conducting a reserve demolition whilst maintaining their security in a field environment. TP orders had been delivered by LT Miller to the section commanders - CPLs Tzanabetis, Bush and Way - a fortnight previously and then section commander orders were delivered the parade night immediately prior to the weekend. Completion of battle prep and loading occurred later that same night and then with only a few shorts days wait the composite ENGR SQN RV’d at Ringwood for the bus trip up to Puckapunyal.

Figure 1 CPL Tzanabetis (standing, centre) spent a good portion of the afternoon and evening providing guidance and direction to junior.

First up was the conduct of the confidence practice under the watchful eye of WO1 Attlier, whilst the TP COMDs and SNCOs conducted a reconnaissance of the bridge site and surrounding areas as we would need to secure these areas from infiltration and interference by the enemy. This finished up about 1100h, then off to the rehearsal site at the old bridge we went! Ferrying sappers resulted in it taking about an hour or more to move the entire call sign down to the rehearsal site just to the SE of the National Service Lines. After rehearsals under the equally watchful eye of SGT Oakley, a quick ration pack lunch and confirmatory orders we returned back to the DEMS WEST sentry point for final battle prep and step off.

Figure 2 The bridge; prior to the reserve demolition (left), and after the bang (right).

2 TP, under LT Bischof, was first in the OOM followed by LT Miller’s 1 TP. A primary firing point had been sited during the recon, and once this was secure a standing patrol was dispatched to the N. Once this standing patrol was secure a clearance of the demolition site commenced. The placing of charges continued into the night until about 0100h before 2 TP departed to establish a standing patrol on a nearby feature whilst 1 TP split into three section night harbours to guard the demolition site, the primary firing point and the alternate firing point. A probe of the alternate firing point by the enemy was quickly seen off just before dawn, at which point the TPs were called in to complete the reserve demolition. A visit by the Commander 4 Bde, BRIG Annett, was a welcome distraction from the task and before the bang was fired late in the morning. Thus EX Plat Demolishes was complete minus the cleaning up.

**LT Paul Miller, TP COMD, 8 CES**
SAPPER PROFILES

Name: Willem (Bill) van Ree
Rank: Lieutenant Colonel
Unit: Retired

Bill, born in 1954 in Wodonga Vic, started his military life as an Australian Army Apprentice electrical mechanic in 1970, fully intending to return to Wodonga at the end of his initial period of service (9 years). Finding that he enjoyed his escape from a rural town and life in the Army, he decided to pursue a military career, graduating from the Officer Cadet School Portsea in December 1974.

Following a typical career path for a full time soldier, postings included time with 21 Construction Squadron and School of Military Engineering as a Second Lieutenant and Lieutenant. As a Captain, he enjoyed his first posting to a Reserve unit, 7 Field Engineer Regiment, and other postings to Headquarters 3rd Military District, 1st Field Squadron and School of Military Engineering. On promotion to Major, Bill moved on to 19th CE Works, Headquarters 5th Engineer Group/2nd Division Engineers, 1st Recruit Training Battalion and 3rd Army Recruiting Unit.

A turning point in Bill’s life was his 5 month tour of duty as the Officer Commanding the Australian Contingent of the United Nations Mine Clearance Training Team (Afghanistan), which influenced his future civilian career.

In 1994 having transferred from regular to reserve service, Bill returned to Pakistan/Afghanistan to work with the development and management of the United Nations Mine Action Programme, first as the Senior Technical Adviser and later as the Programme Manager. During this period, the UN Deming Programme in Afghanistan was the largest humanitarian demining programme in the world. This period also coincided with the Taliban takeover of most of Afghanistan including the capital, Kabul.

Returning to Australia in 1998, he resumed military service a reservist while continuing his work in the Mine Action Sector as a consultant. Postings at this stage included 3rd Training Group, 55 Resources Squadron, and Land Warfare Development Centre.

On Promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he went on to enjoy the best three years of his military career, commanding 22 Construction Regiment before moving on to Army Personnel Agency Melbourne, Joint Logistics Command, and finally transferring to the Standby Reserve in 2009.

In a sentence, a challenging and rewarding of 39 years, 30 more than he intended escaping home as a fifteen year old country lad.

Bill is married with four adult children, which has provided the opportunity for him to move from teaching into his fourth career, early childhood development. He now spends his time minding grandchildren, the best non-military job he has ever, as it also allows ample time for golf and cycling.

UN Demining Programme Manager-Afghanistan, Bill van Ree briefing US Secretary of State, Madeline Albright

In 1996 the Australian TV current affairs programme, “Witness” travelled to Afghanistan to cover the civil war and the demining programme, Bill van Ree features prominently in this programme. It can be viewed on the Association’s web site at:

https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/image-library.php (Ed)

Breaking News: AWM to visit Melbourne to seek information on the Mozambique demining deployment. RAE personnel who served in Op Coracle are invited to attend a RAE Assoc—Vic sponsored seminar at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital on Monday 27 July. Contact vicepresident@raevictoria.asn.au for details.
Dear Editor,

I write as the great-grandson of Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Holm Watson, Gallipoli veteran, leader of the construction of Watson’s Pier, guest of honour at the original Waterloo Dinner and the second last Anzac to leave the shore as part of the remarkable evacuation of Gallipoli. In small part I hope to carry Watson’s legacy and with it the contribution of sappers to the Great War and to Australia.

Australia has just commemorated the centenary of the Anzac Landings. On June 18th, Australian and Turkish sappers will meet at Gallipoli for the Waterloo Dinner, commemorating the construction of Watson’s Pier one hundred years ago. Currently there is no formal plan to commemorate the centenary of the evacuation of Gallipoli, when dusk set on two enemies and dawn rose on the Anzacs’ freedom and part of a new Turkish homeland. The evacuation should be a shared moment of national pride and reflection. Sappers were instrumental in this remarkable military achievement. I call on Australians, sappers among them, to come together to commemorate the evacuation of Gallipoli on 20th December 2015, an Anzac Night to complement our commemoration of Anzac Day.

Sincerely,

Joshua Funder
author Watson’s Pier

Joshua V Funder Ph.D.
Email: jvfunder@yahoo.com
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May 2015

Image: Gallipoli - this battle is as special to the Turkish people as it is for Australians.

Throughout the centenary of ANZAC year, Sapper Summit will highlight podcasts that highlight diverse insights and views on Australian military history.

The following podcast explores issues surrounding Richard Flanagan’s acclaimed novel, “The Narrow Road to the Deep North”

Richard Flanagan’s novels have won national awards and worldwide acclaim, while his social justice journalism has galvanised public opinion – and sparked social movements. In fact and fiction alike, Flanagan is one of our foremost ambassadors of ideas. Here, he’s joined in conversation by Ramona Koval for an intimate exploration of the process and ideas behind his latest book, The Narrow Road to the Deep North.

Flanagan’s highly anticipated sixth novel is about the cruelty of war, the tenuousness of life and the impossibility of love.

As one day in a Japanese slave labour camp builds to its horrific climax, Dorrigo Evans battles and fails in his quest to save the lives of his fellow POWs, a man is killed for no reason, and a love story unfolds.


A Turkish Australian perspective on Gallipoli

Gelibolu - that’s what Gallipoli is called in Turkey. Anzac Day has become a cornerstone of Australia’s national history, helping to shape our identity. But this event also has a Turkish perspective. So what does the battle of Gallipoli mean to the Turkish people?

What place does it hold in their history?

http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/a-turkish-australian-perspective-on-gallipoli/6381524

ANZAC Day Address - 22 Engr Regt DAWN SERVICE – 25 April 2015
Lieutenant Colonel Michelle McCormack, Commanding Officer
Good morning BRIG Slater, Cr Micaela Drieberg, Members of 22nd Engineer Regiment, ladies & Gentlemen, boys and girls.
We meet here, at this bleak hour, on this day every year, to honour the heroism, tenacity, and resilience of that group of young men who were sent to Gallipoli 100 years ago, where, connecting up with equally raw young men from New Zealand, they joined British and French forces and fought in a campaign designed to relieve pressure on our ally, Russia, by opening up permanent and safe sea communications with eastern Europe and bringing the Balkans on to our side. By this it was hoped that the duration of the war would be shortened considerably.
But the overwhelming strength of the Turks and, let it be said, their bravery, prevented the allies’ success.
The total Gallipoli casualties on our side, including the French and naval, were 33,000 killed, 78,000 wounded and 8,000 missing. Of these, the Australians made up 8,500 of those killed and more than 19,000 of those wounded.
But the shock news of these casualties, far from weakening our country’s resolve at that time, actually served to strengthen it, for the recruiting rate of these brave volunteers increased.
The way these ANZACs bore the brunt of the fight in the Dardanelles stirred in Australians everywhere a new feeling of camaraderie, a feeling that matched the way in which the rest of the world suddenly began to look at Australia - not just as an offshoot of Britain, but as an independent nation of a very independent character.
The ANZAC legend was born at Gallipoli. In the face of adversity, the ANZACs demonstrated beyond any doubt the necessary military virtues of duty, courage, teamwork, resolution and self sacrifice.
But to these they added a few unique qualities of their own; mateship, trust, a discipline based on earned respect and not assumed worth, initiative, resourcefulness, wry humour and, what is often forgotten, a respect for the courage and capability of friend and foe alike. The excellent and unique reputation surrounding ANZAC survives even today in our armed forces.
In August 1914, the Victorian Engineers Coy was raised. It was called the 2nd Field Coy of the 1st Div Engrs. The Coy was based at the depot in Alexandra Avenue along the Yarra River at the Domain and used the local area to practise their engineering corps skills - the Yarra was used for bridging training.
2Fd Coy, supporting the 2nd Inf Bde, landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. They were the second Inf Bde in the Order of March, the first being the 3rd Inf Bde, supported by the engineers of the 1st Fd Coy. 2 Fd Coy had two priority tasks. The first, under command of LT Dawkins, was to create a water supply by sinking tube wells in what is known today as Shrapnel Gully. The second, under command of MAJ Martyn, was to build two roads up to Shrapnel Gully and MacLagan’s Ridge, which allowed the first field gun to be hauled into position by Sappers and emplaced on the ridge by 1630h. At 1900h the same day - 2 Field Coy began digging trenches on Plugee’s Plateau, the high ground overlooking Ari Burnu, and manned them until relieved by NZ infantry, at which point they were placed in Reserve for the night.
100 years later, the current members of 22 Engineer Regiment have served our nation in operations and deployments many and varied, both internationally and domestically.
Internationally, our current members have served our nation in:
- Afghanistan,
- Iraq,
- the Gulf States
- Timor Leste
- Namibia
- Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)
- Bougainville
- Solomon Islands; and
- Indonesia

Domestically, our current members have served our nation in operations in:
- Our northern waters for Border Protection operations
- Bushfire and flood Assist operations; and
- Commonwealth Games

We pause today on this sacred day not to glorify war, but to acknowledge all current and former members of our defence forces – the brave men and women who have represented our country and continue to represent our country on a daily basis – carrying on the spirit of ANZAC.
We think of the families, those who stayed behind. They supported their families back at home – they had their own hardships whilst also supporting their loved ones deployed. Of particular difficulty for all the families in all wars in the last 100 years is not knowing whether they would see their loved ones again, and if they did, what sort of person would return home to them. We think also of the families and friends who have lost their loved ones when a member of our defence family is killed in action. It is difficult to comprehend the grief and we salute theirs, and all families, endurance and strength.
On ANZAC Day we also pay tribute to the prisoners of war, those lost in training, the wounded, injured and ill - and those who still suffer today.
Most importantly, above all, on ANZAC day, we honour those who died for us, for our nation Australia and for peace.
Today, we give thanks and reflect on what a
With Anzac's centenary imminent, John Wertheimer suggested covering some World War I themes. My first is Frankston-born Sir Vernon Ashton Hobart Sturdee KBE CB DSO (16 April 1890–25 May 1966). The second will be Donald Darwin MM, onetime chair of the CRB.

Sturdee’s parents were Dr Alfred Sturdee, whose brother Doveton, ultimately an admiral of the fleet, led the winning British forces in the battle of the Falklands in 1914, and Laura Merrett from a prominent business and military family. Alfred Sturdee had migrated to Australia in the 1880s; serving in the Boer War, he was MID after riding under fire to treat wounded. Re-enlisting as a captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps in 1905, by 1912 he was a lieutenant colonel. He commanded 2 Field Ambulance at Gallipoli, and, as a colonel and Assistant Director of Medical Services, 1 Division in France, received three more MID and a CMG.

After Melbourne Grammar, Vernon Sturdee was an apprentice mechanical engineer at Jaques Brothers, Richmond. Commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, the militia sappers, on 19 October 1908, he soon ‘joined the Regs’, the RAE, was promoted to lieutenant on 1 February 1911, and three days later married Edith Robins at St Luke’s Church of England, North Fitzroy.

A long, tough war

Sturdee’s WWI service began as an AIF lieutenant on 25 August 1914. Promoted to captain on 18 October as Adjutant, 1 Division Engineers, he left for Egypt on P&O’s RMS Orvieto three days later. Disembarking from SS Minnewaska, he landed at Gallipoli on Day 1 before 0900 hrs. His earliest duties included supervising the engineer stores park on Anzac Cove beach and fabrication of jam-tin grenades. He suffered from enteric fever and serious stomach problems from the heavy lacings of Condy’s crystals used to disinfect the drinking water; internal burns plagued him thereafter. When influenza hit him in July he was evacuated from Anzac Cove. Nevertheless, promoted to major on 28 August, he soon took over 5 Field Company, raised in Egypt to support 2 Division and destined for Turkey. Back on the peninsula with 5 Company, he directed all sapper tasks at the very exposed Steeles, Quinns and Courtneys Posts, leaving finally on 17 December, two days before the last and legendary exit.

In Egypt after the evacuation, Sturdee’s job was to build huts for AIF reinforcements at Tel el Kebir. As another AIF sapper unit named 5 Field Company had been raised back home, the original 5 Company was
renamed 8 Field Company and assigned to 5 Division, which formed in February 1916. The new division therefore gained an experienced field company, but mail often went astray.

Moving to France in June 1916, 5 Division fought at disaster-riven Fromelles, with its huge losses on 19–20 July for no gain. Sturdee’s 8 Field Company supported 8 Infantry Brigade, digging a trench across no-man’s-land that facilitated the withdrawal. For his hard work here and on Gallipoli, Sturdee gained an MID and DSO. The heavy Fromelles toll meant 5 Division could not participate in the Battle of the Somme. To free up a division, II ANZAC Corps hastily organised ‘Franks Force’ to cover a divisional frontage within Houplines sector, with Sturdee its CRE. When 5 Division finally regrouped and moved to the Somme in November, he became CRE in charge of the Albert–Montauban road.

On 13 February 1917, as a lieutenant colonel, Sturdee took over 4 Pioneer Battalion. Pioneer battalions were infantry units with a high percentage of tradesmen who could be employed on construction tasks under engineer supervision. Over the next nine months 4 Pioneer Battalion maintained roads, built camps, laid cables and dug trenches and dugouts. By now, the Australian government was urging that Australians replace British officers holding Australian commands and staff posts. Accordingly, Sturdee became 5 Division’s CRE on 25 November 1917, replacing the RE incumbent. Then, on 27 March 1918, Sturdee was seconded to GHQ British Expeditionary Force, remaining there until 22 October 1918, a rare chance for an Australian staff officer to work in a major operational headquarters. Sturdee’s field and planning services on the Western Front merited a second MID and an OBE.

Interim

Sturdee embarked for Australia on 16 November 1918; his AIF appointment terminated on 14 March 1919. Promotion was frustratingly scarce between the wars. His substantive rank remained captain until 1 April 1932, when he again became a lieutenant colonel. Sturdee initially served as Senior Engineer Officer in 3MD at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, then attended staff college at Quetta and instructed in military engineering and surveying at RMC Duntroon. From 1925–early 1929 he was a staff officer with 4 Division in Melbourne, before a long posting to the UK until December 1932, where he served at the War Office, studied at Imperial Defence College and was a military representative at Australia’s High Commission. More staff postings followed: Director of Military Operations and Intelligence at AHQ Melbourne (following John Lavarack) from February 1933–March 1938, then Director of Staff Duties until October 1938. Brevet rank of colonel conferred on 1 July 1935 became temporary on 1 July 1936 and finally substantive on 1 July 1937, over twenty years after his AIF service at the same level. A CBE in New Year 1939 for his staffing skills was a minor consolation. In those pre-war years, he recognised Japan was a potential opponent, well equipped and able, and that centring defence on Singapore, including naval resources, would fail.

Another war

In 1939, CGS Lieutenant General Squires, a British officer, led an army reorganisation; larger commands under lieutenant generals replaced military districts. Made up to that rank on 13 October 1939, Sturdee was given Eastern Command, supervising the raising, training and equipping of the new AIF in NSW, and the now-conscripted Militia, before accepting command of infant 8 Division on 1 July 1940, one rank below as a major general. This command was brief, because on 13 August 1940 the CGS, General Sir Brudenell White, died, along with cabinet members Gullett, Street and Fairbairn and staff, when a VIP Hudson crashed near Canberra. Sturdee regained his rank of lieutenant general and became CGS, overseeing the expansion, training and maintenance of the AIF in the Middle East and Far East – although not its operations – and the Militia. As war with Japan became more probable, Australia needed to prepare its defences. In 1935, General Lavarack had recommended that, if war broke out, a Commander-in-Chief should replace the Military Board. Thus Percy Spender nominated Sturdee as C-in-C of the AMF in April 1941. However, the government decided to retain the Military Board, with a GOC Home Forces (Britain had something similar), and on 5 August 1941, Major General Sir Iven Mackay assumed the latter command. Nevertheless, influential newspapers still promoted the idea of a C-in-C.

Supremely steadfast, Sturdee encouraged local munitions production, drafted plans to meet Japan’s southward thrust, developed coastal and anti-aircraft defences and initiated a huge works program. Despite his efforts, Australia remained vulnerable when Japan

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS FOUNDATION

For information about the Foundation and news of events and projects, visit the Foundation’s web site or click this link:

www.raefoundation.org.au
entered the war in December 1941. Sturdee attempted to defend the islands north of Australia. With just 23 Infantry Brigade 2AIF available, he had to select the most strategic locations, sending 2/21 Battalion to Ambon, 2/22 Battalion to Rabaul, and 2/40 Battalion and 2/2 Independent Company to Timor, knowing their missions were more than challenging, but hoping they would slow the Japanese advance so Australia could be reinforced. Indeed, all were overrun, except for 2/2 Independent Company, which fought on in East Timor. By then, with the Dutch East Indies’ imminent collapse, Sturdee urged the government to divert to Australia the 17 800 troops from 7 Division bound for Java from the Middle East. Sturdee, threatening to resign, knew Java was untenable – only from Australia could an Allied offensive be launched. Churchill and Roosevelt wanted the AIF in Burma, but Curtin backed his CGS and won the debate. Historians have strongly endorsed Sturdee’s stand ever since – 7 Division could have achieved little in Java, and might have ended up in India, but, rested and regrouped back home, it could play a crucial role in Papua and New Guinea, with Port Moresby the initial forward base, and eventually defeat the enemy.

In March 1942, Lavarack’s original concept was reappraised; the government abolished the Military Board and appointed General Sir Thomas Blamey as C-in-C. Blamey sent Sturdee, partly for a rest, to Washington, the heart of the Allied war effort, to lead Australia’s military mission. Sturdee limited the posting to one year, insisting on a major command afterwards. In Washington he had direct access to General George Marshall. A CB came his way on 1 January 1943. Returning home slightly belatedly on 1 March 1944, Sturdee took over the 110 000-strong First Army, headquartered in Queensland, but soon shifted to Lae, and responsible for the territory between the Solomons and the Dutch New Guinea border. His subordinates included Generals Savige, Ramsay and Stevens. They found him ‘a wise and tolerant commander who gave clear orders’ and let subordinates ‘get on with the job, whilst he did his utmost to see that they were adequately supported’. His mission: to destroy enemy resistance as opportunity offers without committing major forces. With limited resources and inadequate shipping, caution was necessary, but aggressive patrols would determine Japanese strengths and positions before undertaking large offensives.

Juggling these blurry requirements, Sturdee had to conduct three widely separated campaigns at Aitape-Wewak, and on New Britain and Bougainville, which he did with steady success. On 6 September 1945, the commanders of Japan’s Eighth Area Army and South East Area Fleet surrendered their swords to Sturdee on the carrier deck of HMS Glory. Blamey recommended Sturdee for a knighthood because of this last of many campaigns, but a third MID had to suffice.

Post-war
In November 1945, the government re-established the Military Board and made Sturdee acting C-in-C on 1 December 1945. On 1 March 1946, this post was abolished and Sturdee again became CGS, in charge of dismantling the wartime Army of 383 000 personnel, of whom 177 000 were overseas, and raising an appropriate and effective peacetime force. Huge stockpiles of materiel needed to be disposed of; military hospitals were still needed, but the Repatriation Department was moving into this arena. Schools and training establishments continued, and BCOF needed resources in Japan. Sturdee created two new entities, the Australian Regular Army, which has existed ever since, and the reconstituted Citizen Military Forces, rather than the country relying on militia or specially enlisted expeditionary forces, with a minute PMF. Moreover, he strongly advocated maintaining the domestic industrial capacity in strategic sectors developed during 1939-45.

Retiring on 17 April 1950, Sturdee was finally knighted via the 1 January 1951 lists. Living in Kooyong he was a director of STC, and RAEME’s honorary colonel from 1951-56. In his original corps, 32 Small Ships Squadron RAE operated the LSM Vernon Sturdee of 638 tons, including through the Vietnam era. He died on 25 May 1966 at RGH Heidelberg; a full military funeral followed, with his school friend Sir Edmund Herring (grandfather of sapper officer Henry Turnbull) principal pallbearer. What an able and tough man!

Sources: Wikipedia and Australian Dictionary of Biography

Vernon STURDEE
ANZAC DAY 2015
Centenary of ANZAC

22 Engineer Regiment on parade 19 April 2015  Ringwood RSL Anzac Day Commemoration

Oakleigh Dawn Service

CO Address Ringwood Dawn Service
ANZAC DAY—MELBOURNE 2015
Ms Vikki Ward, Member for Eltham and RAE Association Vice President D. Hughes at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital Anzac Day Service 2015
SAPPER MEDALS FEATURE
This is part 1 of a series of features highlighting medals commonly worn by Australian Sappers. Subsequent parts to this feature will be published in future editions of Sapper Summit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medal</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Australian Defence Medal</strong></td>
<td>Recognises Australian Defence Force personnel who have efficiently completed either:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- an initial enlistment period, or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- four years service, whichever is the lesser, and all of the relevant service was after 3 September 1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75</strong></td>
<td>Was approved in 1997. It may be awarded for service in, or in connection with prescribed warlike operations from 3 September 1945 until 13 February 1975.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Australian Service Medal</strong></td>
<td>Was approved in 1988, and may be awarded for service in, or in connection with a prescribed non-warlike operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Australian Active Service Medal</strong></td>
<td>Was introduced in 1988 to recognise service in prescribed warlike operations since 14 February 1975.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Iraq Medal</strong></td>
<td>Was introduced in 2004 for service with the US led coalition operations in Iraq. The medal was awarded initially for a period of 7 days service in the prescribed area from 18 March 2003.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Afghanistan Medal</strong></td>
<td>Introduced in 2004 to recognise Australian involvement in military operations in Afghanistan and other prescribed areas within Operation SLIPPER. The basic eligibility requirement is 30 days service or 30 sorties in the prescribed area after 11 October 2001.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clasps are awarded for each further periods of 5 years efficient regular service. Reserve service and Continuous Full Time service in the Reserve does not qualify towards clasps for this medal.

From 20 April 1999 the Defence Force Service Medal was replaced by the **Defence Long Service Medal**. Qualifying service for clasps can be accrued after 19 April 1999.

**INTERFET MEDAL**
In 1999, Australia led the international force that saw the removal of the occupying Indonesian power from the former Portuguese territory of East Timor. To recognise the importance of this operation, the International Force East Timor Medal was established in 2000. As well as being awarded to members of the ADF, the medal was offered by Australia to all countries that provided contingents to the International Force in East Timor.

**Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal**
The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal honours members of recognised Australian groups for emergency humanitarian service overseas in hazardous circumstances.

**The Vietnam Medal**
The Vietnam Medal was issued under the Imperial system but was mainly awarded to Australian and New Zealand personnel.
CENTENARY OF ANZAC
SAPPER MUSTER

CENTENARY OF WW1 SAPPER MUSTER
OAKLEIGH BARRACKS 11TH APRIL 2015

Following on from the success of the Association’s 2014 “Back to the Regiment” activity and after many months of planning and hard work by a dedicated group a reunion was held on 11th April 2015 themed along WW1 lines to commemorate 2015 as the significant military year that it is.

Judging by the number of people who attended and supported the function there is no doubt that the night can be deemed as a success with over 150 people joining in a wonderful night.

The night was a very important event for the Association not only for the social and comradery aspect but also because the Association made its first ever awards of Life Memberships to five very longstanding, loyal and dedicated people who helped create the Historical and Heritage Association (the forerunner of the current RAE Association). Those receiving the Life Membership awards were Bruce Campbell, Austin Byrne, Les Malseed, Rob Youl and Norm Dodgson. A special presentation of a bouquet of flowers was made to Mrs Elaine Malseed in recognition of her support to the H&H Association and her many hours of hard work in assisting her husband. Many times the Malseed’s provided sandwiches and refreshments.

A second significant presentation was made on behalf of the RAE Association by BRIG P.J. (Hutch) Hutchinson (Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region Corps RAE) to the CO 22nd Engineer Regiment (LTCOL Michelle McCormack) of an honour board which will record the names of the annual recipients of the Association’s awards to members of the Regiment.

On display for all to see was the RAE Association’s new banner (first paraded on ANZAC Day) along with the two bronze plaques that are to be installed at Site 17 at Seymour (date yet to be confirmed) – one detailing the RAE units that trained in the area and the other outlining the use of the Bailey Bridge – these plaques will be attached to a Bailey Bridge panel over a walkway which was recently constructed by 22 Engineer Regiment.

The function was held in the combined Officers Sgts Mess at the Oakleigh Barracks and special thanks must go to LTCOL Michelle McCormack for the use of these facilities along with her staff because without LTCOL McCormack’s personal contribution and support this event would not have been possible.

The cooks SGT Ron Willis and CPL Brent Wilson and stewards did an excellent job in providing a continuous supply of hot finger foods. CAPT Josh Farnsworth provided support as the Duty Officer and WO1 Neil Christie looked after the bar.

Special guests were the Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerberus, Captain Steve Bowater OAM RAN. Capt Bowater was invited as the senior Victorian Naval Officer because of the RAE’s close links with HMAS Cerberus over the years, RAE Colonel Commandant Southern Brigadier Peter Hutchinson, DSC and Mr Geoff and Mrs Laurel Coghlan representing the President of the Ringwood RSL (David Jamison)
The gathering was honoured to have two RAE WW2 veterans also attend in Harry New and Lionel de Hoochepied-Larpent. Both these gentlemen saw active service during WW2 and can only be described as true “living legends”. Lionel is the father of Alan Larpent who was a long serving WO2 of 7 FER. A presentation of an Association cap was made to Lionel in recognition of his contribution. Harry has previously been presented with a cap but this is the first event that we have had Lionel come along too.

The night brought together a good cross section of sappers of various ages and ranks and this was the principal objective of the night. It was good to see a number of currently serving sappers from the Regiment.

Bearing in mind the ages of some of the guests they did a marvellous job to travel to the function and remain there for many hours. The knowledge and amount of service in the room is hard to comprehend.

Lots of stories about the old days, two week Exs, SLR’s, M60’s, on the job training, and winning many battles and the thought that the soldiers of today would not be able to handle the “old days” but all certainly acknowledged the professional attitude and approach of today’s soldiers. Jim Davis.
Major General John Cantwell (retired)

05:17 “Hello everybody, and Sally thank you so much for that very embarrassing but wonderful introduction. I’m going to have to revisit the manuscript for my next book to make it actually good to match the rhetoric. I am delighted to have this chance to launch what I think is an absolutely superb book today. Late last year, I made my very first visit to Gallipoli. It was for me an enormously emotional experience. As a military man you would expect that I had been immersed in the military history of Gallipoli and the Anzac campaign for so many years. I have read dozens of books, I think almost every significant work on Gallipoli. And when I arrived at that desolate, beautiful place, I was ready for an experience that was eye opening and informative. What I wasn’t ready for was the emotional experience.

06:13 “I stepped onto the beach, I stood with my heels in the lapping waves of the Aegean Sea in my boots on the rounded stones of that beach, and looked up at those extraordinary cliffs and bluffs, and I am absolutely convinced that in that moment of quiet reflection I could feel the ghosts of men bumping me gently as they moved past up that beach. (Cont p22)
Centenary of ANZAC Feature
SERVICE PISTOLS OF THE GREAT WAR
(This is not an exhaustive list but it provides a snapshot of the variety of standard issue firearms used by the major combatant forces.)

This is the second feature in a series on service firearms used in the Great War. In the centenary year of the first ANZACs, Sapper Summit will publish a number of features related to the Great War. A feature on Service Rifles of the Great War was included in Sapper Summit 89.

BRITAIN and EMPIRE FORCES including AUSTRALIA
Webley Mk VI 0.455in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calibre</th>
<th>11.2mm, 0.441in</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>1.09kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>286mm, barrel 152mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzle Velocity</td>
<td>189mps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cylinder Capacity</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common pistol cartridges shown to compare the Webley .455 L-R 22LR, Webley .455, .38 Special, .357 Magnum, .45ACP, .44 Special and .44 Magnum

GERMANY
Pistole :08 (Luger)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calibre</th>
<th>9mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>0.876kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>222mm Barrel 103mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzle Velocity</td>
<td>320mps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazine Capacity</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mauser C96

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calibre</th>
<th>7.63mm or 9mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>1.22kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>308mm Barrel 140mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muzzle Velocity</td>
<td>433mps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazine Capacity</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Gun Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>Lebel Revolver Model 1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED STATES</td>
<td>M1917 Revolver 0.45in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRIA HUNGARY</td>
<td>Steyr Hahn M12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSSIA</td>
<td>NAGANT Model 1895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
And later that visit, I walked to the whole battlefield and I walked up into Lone Pine, and the wind was gently blowing through those pines, and the sound of that wind, I believe absolutely, it was the voice of Anzac ghosts speaking. It was an amazing experience. But I do wish that I had read Josh Funder’s book before I went because my appreciation of the things I saw and felt that day has been immeasurably increased by this work.

07:21 “I’ve read a lot of books, as I’ve said, on Gallipoli. I can say honestly, Josh, this is one of the best that I have encountered. It opens up Gallipoli in ways that have not been done before. It is marvellous. It is truly wonderful. It mixes reality and narrative fiction in a way which is sensitive and accurate and remarkably evocative of the time and the experiences of a man who I now wish I had met. And that’s Stanley Watson, Captain Stan Watson, who amongst other achievements constructed the pier that was instrumental in the safe delivery of the Anzac corps off that dreadful beach at end of a failed, fruitless and stupid campaign.

08:07 “There’s no doubt that Stan Watson saved many lives, and the account that has rendered here is to be absorbed and experienced and I commend it to you unreservedly if you haven’t yet had a chance to read it. Why do I say such things about it? Because it connects in a way that is deeply emotional in its context. Of all the other books I’ve read, it’s been about the adventure, the futility, the losses, the bravery, the extraordinary courage. And you finish reading those accounts with a sense of great admiration and awe and great pride in the things that were achieved. You get all of that from Josh’s book but you get more. You get an emotional gift. You get to experience, through Josh’s words, through Stan Watson’s eyes, the way that it was for an individual, for a man who was intelligent, sufficiently in touch with his own core to feel despair, to feel loss, to weep for a lost child, week for lost colleagues. The emotional delivery, in my view, is what makes this book stand out. It is tremendous in that regard.

09:26 “It also is beautifully written. I mean it’s seriously well written, as you’d expect of a smarty-pants Rhodes Scholar and Oxford graduate, but there are some wonderful pieces. Let me just read you something. Listen to this. How’s this for a sentence? This is describing a battle in which streams of Turks were attacking the Anzac line. This sentence is just wonderful. It says ‘countless bullets filled the night, and yet still more Turks exhumed themselves from their trenches in wave after wave of futile attack.’ Isn’t that wonderful: exhumed themselves. It carries weight that works on so many levels.

10:14 “His discussion of the slowly withdrawing thinning-out of the lines in December of 2015 as the Anzac contingent was withdrawn, aided very much by Stan Watson. Here’s another wonderful couple of sentences. Remember at this point there is virtually no-one left holding the line. Josh writes ‘the Anzac frontline trenches were now empty, forfeited to no-man’s land. Like a crab shedding its shell, the Anzac army was soft and exposed and skipping away to find shelter, leaving behind only a brittle carapace of its former defences.’ That’s seriously good. That’s really good. Bravo.

11:04 “The other thing I admire so much about this account of an extraordinary Australian is Josh’s ability to bring us to understand with extraordinary clarity some of the small events that make the big picture so much more real, so much more compelling. And one of the intriguing things about reading this book is that in some cases you’re quite sure what’s true but there are many cases where you are not quite sure is this true or is this fiction. And in many cases there’s a really intriguing blur, and it works so, so well. I also admire the way that Josh has drawn out one of the components that Sally alluded to that is so important to me, and that is the cost that veterans pay, and their families pay, for their service, and in so many cases how they are damaged by their service.

12:00 “At the risk of speaking a little too long, let me just read you one other short extract where Josh talks about Watson’s horror, dismay and grief when one of his soldiers, a young man named Sapper Fitzroy, is killed early in the war. He talks about how a sour taste, of vomit, lingered in his mouth “…and another wave of emotion rose up within him. He suppressed it savagely. This was a time to think and act, not to understand. Watson knew that if he didn’t push his feelings away, his nerve would fail. He saw the scene from above, saw himself slipping down the slope, and detachment now became his protector.’ It’s just such a wonderful insight into how veterans manage the ghastly things that we do and see. It’s pretty special.

13:01 “Josh, I’m very pleased to have this chance to launch this book. I’m very proud to have done this. You can be proud of what you’ve achieved here. It is a special gift, it is a gift. It’s a gift for people like me to immerse themselves at a different level in a way that is so rewarding. It’s a gift for others who have no military experience and want to know more and to delve into that experience at a deeply personal level. So, with great pride, I declare Joshua Funder’s book, Watson’s Pier, officially launched.

MAJGEN G. Cantwell (Ret’d)

This text is published to provide readers of Sapper Summit with MAJGEN Cantwell’s thoughts on this book which covers both a soldier and events that are relevant to our Corps history. (Ed)
Victorian Engineers: 4 CER & 22 CONST REGT

Brigadier “Hutch” Hutchinson DSC, our Colonel Commandant RAE Southern Region, is impressed with the enthusiasm displayed towards the Victorian Sapper Regimental history project, thus far! The teams are based on “CO’s Years of Command” of both of our Regiments and the writing teams are starting to group together well! Stronger teams however, are always desirable & much needed!

The secret of a good history is to get a broad diversity of views and a true assessment from both the Political level to the Sapper on the ground, “blood & guts” level! We welcome diverse input to your history and we encourage the various “eras” to get together and produce your story!

To align both unit histories Brig “Hutch” decided to have both the 4CER and 22 Construction Regiment histories follow on from the classic Victorian Sapper History up to 1995, “The Swan Street Sappers” written by Lt Col Rob Youl OAM, RFD (Ret’d). This is a most sensible approach as it includes both Regiments from 1995 until 2013 – including some amazing years for 22 Construction Regiment at both Weipa and Cultana that would have otherwise been excluded if we had only commenced 22 Construction Regt’s history from 2000 as previously proposed!

We always need assistance. A suggested template or guide for the project is included at the RAE Victoria Website: https://www.raevictoria.asn.au/projects-and-events.php

Any submissions should be directed to: sapper.history.vic@hotmail.com.au

Major Russell Kirby as the 2IC 22 ER is the overall project co-ordinator. Captain Noel Tipton is looking after the 22 Construction Regiment history whilst Lt Col Don Hughes is monitoring the 4 CER history.
Operation Coracle
Demining Operations in Mozambique
SEP 1994 – MAR 2002
One of the Corps’ most forgotten recent success stories is the Mine Clearance programme in Mozambique! Initially, as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), the programme was later sponsored under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 31 RAE Officers & Warrant Officers were intimately involved in the execution of the training and operations that have made the program such an international success story. Many Victorian based Sappers were involved in this in Mozambique. Details are currently being gathered for Volume 5 of the RAE Corps History. The project’s special advisor is Dr Corrinne Manning who was recently Historical Advisor to the Chief of Army. Any contributions should be directed to Commander Australian Service Contingent 2, Operation Coracle, Lt Col Don Hughes at hughes.building@unite.com.au.

UBIQUE
Postscript: The Australian War Memorial is also collecting information of Op Coracle. Please send any information to: Don Hughes or miesje.devogel@awm.gov.au

DE-MINERS MEMORIAL
Many Victorian Sappers have had demining experience in many countries around the globe. A suitable Memorial is proposed to be constructed in an appropriate location to commemorate this important military and humanitarian activity. Please Contact Lt Col Don Hughes at hughes.building@unite.com.au.

UBIQUE
Sarbi the wonder dog dies of cancer
SARBi, a former army explosives detection dog who survived enemy gunfire and explosions in Afghanistan, succumbed to brain cancer.

RELAY FOR LIFE
Many readers will remember Andrew Pitt who served with 7 FER and 10 Fd Sqn. Andrew went on to serve as a sapper in the ARA. Sapper summit proudly publishes this message from Andrew. Please visit the web site and assist Andrew if you are able. (Ed)

We are going to again raise funds for cancer research via the Relay for Life. This year Pine Rivers has combined with Redcliffe and we will be participating in the Moreton Bay Relay. I have changed our name this year to "Follow the Sapper". Could you please pass on the link to our fundraising page through all your contacts including NSW, WA and Vic associations.

Much appreciated and "Follow the Sapper"


Andrew Pitt

Her handler, Army Warrant Officer David Simpson said Sarbi died peacefully on Friday.

"Sarbi had a wonderful life serving Australia as an explosive detection dog and as a pet at home for the last five years," he said in a statement.

"Sarbi will live on in everyone's hearts and minds and I hope that her story of perseverance and determination will inspire you to do whatever you can to achieve your goals and dreams."

Sarbi was attached to the Australian Special Operations Task Group in 2008, vanishing from the same patrol and in the same action for which Trooper Mark Donaldson was awarded the Victoria Cross.

During the bitter fighting, nine Australian soldiers, including Sarbi's handler, were wounded.

Thirteen months later a US soldier on patrol in the same area spotted a black labrador walking with a local villager, an unusual sight in Afghanistan.

Back at the Australian base at Tarin Kowt, a quick check of the dog's microchip confirmed this was Sarbi.

For her brave efforts, Sarbi was awarded the War Dog Operational Medal, the Canine Service Medal and RSPCA Purple Cross Award.

The RSPCA Purple Cross recognises animals that have shown outstanding service to humans.

Only eight have been awarded, including that to John Simpson's donkey Murphy, posthumously recognised on behalf of all donkeys who carried wounded soldier on Gallipoli.

Turn to p 33
BLUE TONGUES REUNION 15 – 17 MAY 15

The annual “Blue Tongues Reunion” was held at Nagambie during the weekend of 15 – 17 May 15. The background of this activity, which has been running for a number of years now, was originally devised by George Weeks, Les (Foxy) Francis (ex SRWSC) and Billy (Mitch) Mitchell (also ex SRWSC) who wanted to have a “country bash” like they used to enjoy in the Reserve. To these people this meant a large fire, food, drinks and good company in a relaxed atmosphere.

Billy Mitchell was a big absentee this year as he has just retired and is currently in the North of Australia – some people just have all the luck.

The original idea was mainly directed towards members of 105 Construction Squadron but the popularity of the gathering has grown and now encompasses many other sister and related units.

The reunion is open to all ranks and as in the past, it was supported by ex OC’s, WO’s, SNCO and OR’s with the only provisos being, leave your rank slides 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.

Weather conditions this year were favourable and although the mornings started very crisply, the days saw a large number of people coming and going over the weekend. Some people just drop in for a few hours to catch up and renew acquaintances with the old crew and talk ‘war stories’.

There was a good turn up of the originals and old faithfulls along with some newer members. Several members were that keen they turned up a day early so that they could secure the best camp sites closest to the fire and facilities. There was a good number of caravans and assortment of tents.

Travel and distance is not something that has deterred people turning up to support this activity with Paddy over from Ouyen and Beth Stevenson all the way from New Zealand. Bill (Irish) Phelan was even down from Darwin and he, Vic Morrow and their partners travelled up for time on the Friday – Irish could not stay long as he was flying back to Darwin on Sunday 17th May 2015. Others travelled from Gippsland and the Yarra Valley. Always a favourite, was Norm Dodgson.

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 camp fire.

This is a great little activity and George and his team need to be thanked for their efforts and encouraged to keep up the good work.

Well the reunion will now be put to bed (lights out) for another 12 months with the escapades reminisced and talked about until 2016.

If any reader gets the opportunity of participating in the 2016 reunion you should jump at it with both hands and come along for the experience of a life time. It is a great weekend.

Saturday 16th May 2015 – Group photo
Hello fellow Sappers,

I just thought I would share with you all, on how this year’s ANZAC Day Centenary Commemorative event went at the Doncaster RSL. The day officially began prior to 05:00hrs, where one by one, I gradually met up with my old Sapper Comrades in Arms, who were Alan Hawkins, Tony Lamorticella & Arthur Porporis. Maria (Porpy’s partner) also came along, which was very much appreciated, as she was of great assistance to us all on the day. Maria is also a fellow historical re-enactor.

After briefly talking to Mr Charles Collins, the Doncaster RSL President and catching up briefly with Chris Sargeant & Les Manning, who are the other executive members of this RSL, we were then shown where we would get changed and prepare for this day. While we were fumbling about getting ready and occasionally cursing (or at least I was), the young men and woman of the Catafalque party and their support arrived. All are currently serving members of the RAN and are stationed at HMAS Cerberus. The young members of the local Air League also arrived at around the same time.

By about 05:30hrs, we were all just about ready and we were then briefed. A large crowd was now building-up outside and it was also becoming a little crowded inside, as well. Unfortunately, the last plan had to be altered considerably, due to the large growing crowd now in attendance and just the lack of overall room. Thus, the initial plan to shadow the Catafalque party, which would’ve hopefully represented both the old & new, had to be scrapped and an alternative plan was quickly devised, discussed and then implemented. Our new role was to act as “Ushers” and assist the elderly members of the community, in attendance. The only Ceremonial duty was to be performed near the end of proceedings, where we would march out, in pairs to the Cenotaph, then kneel & place poppies; Stand & take one march step back; Salute and then march off. Obviously, we were all attired in WW1 Australian Army Uniforms. Therefore, our main role was just to add a little authenticity to this commemorative event.

The ceremony commenced at 06:00hrs and on time, but didn’t conclude at the anticipated time, due to the large crowd turn-out on the day, which was beyond all our wildest expectations. Instead the ceremony took about hour or longer to finish and after the Gun Fire Breakfast, Mingling and having our photos taken etc…, we all managed to leave at around 08:30hrs. It was also very pleasing to see a large number of young people in attendance and this will most likely ensure the sacrifices made by all our Service Personnel, will not be forgotten. Overall, it was quite a humbling experience and I look forward to next year’s ANZAC Day.

I’ve attached two photos for all of you to view. In the photo on the left, the people standing from left to right are as follows: Mr Arthur Porporis; Myself; The Local Member, the Hon. Mary Woolridge MLC; Mr Alan Hawkins; Mr Charles Collins, the Doncaster RSL President; Mr Tony Lamorticella & finally, Mr Les Manning, who is an executive member of this RSL & a former Sapper himself. In the photo on the right; The RAN Catafalque party and all, except for Alan are depicted from our team.

Finally, I would like to thank Porpy, Alan, Tony & Maria for helping-out by participating or assisting, on this day. I would also like to thank the RAE Association for their support.

Best Regards:
Former Sapper: 3143209 John S Meade.

ROTARY CLUB OF BENDIGO SOUTH
COMMEMERATIVE ANZAC DINING IN NIGHT
REPORT BY TOM GLAZEBROOK AM, RFD, ED

MAJ Tom Glazebrook (Retd) is a Sapper with a long and distinguished military career within the RAE here in Victoria and even though he has long retired from Defence he still holds close to him the customs and
traditions associated with military activities including mess functions.

Bearing in mind that 2015 is the Centenary of the ANZAC landings Tom along with other former military personnel decided to hold a dinner in Bendigo to commemorate this important Military year. The dinner was conducted along the lines of a dinning night but on a semi-formal basis.

The organisation roles fell onto the shoulders of Tom and a recently retired Brigadier Steven Lee AM. Tom acted as the Dining President with the youngest member of the Rotary Club commandeered to be the Dining Vice President.

There were a number of guest speakers with the principal being MAJ Dean Simmons (Armoured) who recently retired from the ARA and now is a Reservist. In addition the gathering heard from BRIG Lee and Tom Glazebrook. The Presidents of the Bendigo RSL and Rotary also gave a short speeches.

The night was certainly a success with some 47 people in attendance with the theme based around military experiences and family involvements in various conflicts. Guests were encouraged to wear their own medals or those of family members.

Tom was very anxious to make sure the night was a success and sought the help of a RAE fellow Officer and borrowed part of his Mess Uniform so that Tom could be part of the military theme.

Tom Glazebrook

After I returned form the exercise Adam was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer that had developed inside his mouth.

In 1988 I made enquires through the Children’s Hospital Foundation on how to go about collecting for the Good Friday Appeal. I was allocated all the intersections in front of the Children’s Hospital and so we started our first Appeal in 1988.

This first appeal was pushing a wheelbarrow behind a Land Rover with a truck full of helpers in support to the old Herald Sun building in Flinders Street Melb. I think this would not happen today with all the rules & regs with permits etc.

Although this was good fun, we did not make a great deal of money so I then put out a call on 3AW to try and get the support of a bus company to take the group in each year to our collecting spot in front of the Children’s Hospital which we had established for the 1989 Appeal and keep to this day.

During this time Adam had many operations and in 1989 joined us to raise funds but sadly died a few weeks after his 8th birthday on the 14 of June.

The fund raising support was initially made up of all ranks of the unit at that time and their friends and family.

Over the years the name of our group has changed to reflect the Regiment of the day and we are now called 22ER & Friends.

In 1990 my wife and I were given the privilege of being awarded Honorary Life Governor Certificates for our support to the Hospital.

Since 1988 our group to date has raised over $392.00.00. This could never have been possible without the “Espirit Corps” of many people within the Regiment along friends and family. Over the years it has been amazing without it I am sure that my life would be different today.

So I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you who have helped and supported me over the years. You have made a huge difference to the Kids at the Royal Children’s Hospital.

See you next Good Friday 2016.

Cheers Jock

Jock –front right– and his RCH fund raising team 2015

in 1986 I was at a 2 week field exercise at Beardmore’s in the hills above the Thompson Dam, Towards the last days of that camp I received a message via the old ANPRAC 77 radio set ( no mobile phones around then) that my son Adam was undergoing tests .
The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will march into Melbourne for the first time ever in February 2016, when more than 1200 performers will gather at Etihad Stadium.

The Editor of Sapper Summit attended the launch in Melbourne on 13 May 15. The official launch was made by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Robert Doyle in the presence of BRIG David Allfrey MBE, the current producer of the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo.

The Melbourne Tattoo will feature a full sized replica of Edinburgh Castle, the massed pipes and drums of Scotland’s famous Regiments, a number of bands representing the ADF and performers from around the world.

BRIG Allfrey said, “Australian audiences have always embraced the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Edinburgh every August (Australians make up about 9% of the audience in Edinburgh) ..... But in February 2016, the Tattoo will return to Australia, for performances that will be amongst the most spectacular ever staged. In over six and a half decades our unique event has been presented abroad on only three occasions. So we are delighted to be returning to Melbourne for the first time ever.”

For members and friends interested in attending the Edinburgh Tattoo in Melbourne, performances will be on:

Friday 12 February 2016 at 7pm  
Saturday 13 February 2016 at 1pm and 7pm.

For more information on the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Melbourne:

Visit: www.edinburghtattoo.com.au

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM’S WW1 GLOBAL TOURING EXHIBITION COMES TO MELBOURNE

The IWM was founded in 1917 while the First World War was still being fought, to collect and record the stories of the millions who lived, served and died across Britain and its former empire. As the world comes together to mark this landmark conflict a hundred years on, this expertly curated exhibition will showcase over 350 precious WW1 objects selected from the IWM’s world-renowned collections.

Diane Lees, Director-General of IWM says, “The First World War was a war that changed the world; it cost 16 million lives and affected the lives of many more. IWM’s collections bear witness to the ordinary and extraordinary stories of those affected by the war, and our First World War collections are the richest in the world. I am delighted that for the first time ever, IWM’s collections will be touring the globe in this brand-new centenary exhibition, and it is an honour to be able to share them with people across the world. Visitors will encounter everything from artillery and weapons, diaries and mementoes through to significant artworks by famous war artists as well as state-of-the-art digital interactives.”

“Melbourne Museum is delighted to host this powerful exhibition drawn from the remarkable collections of the Imperial War Museum..”, said Museum Victoria CEO Dr. Patrick Greene.
**RINGWOOD RSL President’s Column**

**ANZAC Services**
The ANZAC commemorations in Ringwood saw what must be record crowds in attendance. The Dawn Service drew a crowd in the region of 5,000 which spilled out over the Maroondah Highway and Wantirna Road, both of which were closed to traffic by the police. The ANZAC Sunday and the Dawn Services were enhanced with the Ringwood Pipe Band and Maroondah Brass providing the musical component. The catafalque parties were provided by 22 Engineer Regiment with their usual professionalism which I greatly appreciate. I was also very pleased that the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria was represented and laid a wreath as part of the service.

Many of the attendees came back to the RSL Sub Branch following the services and on ANZAC Day we served some 1,000 breakfasts which we provided free of charge as a service to the community.

As part of our contribution to the Centenary of ANZAC we have been given approval to paint murals on the Ringwood railway bridge uprights on Wantirna Road adjacent to the Clock Tower Memorial Park. So far two images honouring the service of our naval and military personnel have been completed. Pictured are Kaz McCormack from Ringwood RSL Committee and artist Brad Colling at the bridge.

**Ringwood Sub Branch Club News**

The Renovations of the Sub Branch facility have progressed very well and should be complete by the time of publication. Already those areas that have been completed are being well received by members and their guests as well as the community. It is gratifying to see that we have a growing number of ex-service personnel, their family members and members of the local community signing up to become members. Overall our membership has increased this year and I look forward to continued growth as the year progresses.

I expect we will be fully operational in our completed premises in July and we will be expanding the range of services and entertainment we provide over the coming months. You are welcome to visit any time with your family and mates to enjoy the hospitality we provide.

Don’t forget the Ringwood RSL app that can be downloaded to any smart phone (android or Iphone). The Ringwood RSL App keeps all its Members and Guests up-to-date on day to day activities, featured events, live entertainment and performing artists, dining menus, daily specials. It notifies you of special events, and provides you with all the Sub Branch information at your finger tips.
ADF Member and Veteran Support Issues
Since the last edition of Sapper Summit the Government has made a number of favourable decisions for serving personnel and veterans. Firstly the Administrative Appeals Tribunal upheld a National Archive decision to restrict the release of information from the personal records of former ADF members. This means that previously releasable personal data that should remain private will be exempt from automatic release to members of the general public. This decision follows a strong submission from the Defence Force Welfare Association after it was alerted to the release of private information on one of its members that caused personal hurt and anguish to his close family members. Then the Government relaxed its insistence that to gain a 1.5% pay increase, ADF members had to give up a number of service conditions and this was followed by an offer of an additional 0.5% increase per year giving ADF members an annual increase of 2%.
In a document that is generally positive for veterans, the 2015-16 Budget finally laid to rest the flawed proposal to reduce the twice annual increase of the Veterans’ Disability, Age and Service Pensions to CPI only so that the existing method using the higher of the Public Beneficiary Living Cost index or the CPI and benchmarked to the Male Total Average Weekly earnings remains in place. These decisions follow the strong representations of the combined leadership of most national service and ex-service organisations which have given both the serving and former ADF members a strong and effective voice which our parliamentarians no longer ignore.
David Jamison President Ringwood
RSL

WELFARE and SUPPORT
Sapper Summit recognizes the demands placed on individuals through their military service. Through Sapper Summit, the RAE Association (Vic) aims to provide information to the Sapper Community on support and welfare services available both locally and nationally. The Association also aims to promote welfare, well being awareness and education. Members have suggested the following support services.

Alcoholics Anonymous
Specialist Meeting for the Services. Current & Past members including; Police, Fire, Ambulance, Army, Navy, Air Force, Prison etc; Sappers most welcome!
The Phoenix Group: Unity, Service, Recovery

The Angel Squad will return to Sapper Summit for issue 91. In the meantime:
We welcome any inquiries and questions regarding the operation of the Squad. For Application forms and other queries please email Colleen McKenna (Founder) at photoexplorer57@yahoo.com.au or Damon Valentine (Team Leader) at j10damo@yahoo.com.au.

DID YOU SERVE ON OP CORACLE?
The AWM is undertaking research on Operation Coracle—the demining operation in Mozambique. Researchers are seeking input from veterans of that deployment. The RAE Association Vic will be sponsoring an Op Coracle seminar at the Repatriation Hospital on Monday 27 July 2015. Veterans of Op Coracle are encouraged to contact Don Hughes for further information at:
vicepresident@raevictoria.asn.au
To the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria,

Let me introduce to ex sapper Dean, “The driving force behind my motivation is to promote suicide awareness & prevention for returned veterans and also try and assist in finding homes for homeless veterans.

I plan to fundraise and complete the Kokoda trail this year. For this reason and also, in memory of all of my late mates but mostly one brother in particular………………Jamie.

Jamie Larcombe was KIA on the 19th February 2011 in Chalmerston Valley, Afghanistan. On that day, I was standing beside Jamie when he was shot. I provided him with first aid but unfortunately it wasn't enough. I held him tight until it was time to say goodbye and CASEVAC him back to multi national base - Tarin Kot. A day that has so much detail that I will never forget. I will never forget him.”

Please get behind a follow sapper to support a good cause.

All you have to do is copy and paste in the following: http://www.gofundme.com/trek4vets or click on the alternative link.

http://www.gofundme.com/trek4vets?
faction_id=858193787633786&faction_types=og.shares&faction=undefined

Kindest regards
Michael Williams
williams291285@gmail.com
0432048723
Facebook Page manager of https://www.facebook.com/Ward17PTRS

RAE Association Stickers Now Available
Click link for ordering details
101 Years Young!

**Dr John Connell AM**

**SOLDIER, BUILDER, ENGINEER & INSPIRATIONAL LEADER!**

*By Don Hughes*

Every so often you meet an Individual who just oozes charisma, confidence and a deep love of life! Doctor of Engineering, VX81067 Major (Company Commander in the 57/60 Battalion during the New Guinea Offensives in WW2) John W. D. Connell AM is one of these people. I met this “ex builder bloke” at my new volunteer job at the “Sir William Hall Hostel” aged care facility next to the Repatriation Hospital in Heidelberg.

Dr John Connell had not long turned 101 years old when I first met him and yet he seemed as sprightly as a new AFL recruit! Bubbling with energy, he outlined his amazing and full life: as a Soldier; Engineer in the Academic & Professional World; a Builder in the demanding Commercial world, whilst also excelling in many areas of public and humanitarian endeavour along his life journey.

He was a frontline Infantry Company Commander in the 57th-60th Battalion (Merri Regiment at Preston & the Heidelberg Regiment, Westgarth) 15 Brigade, 3rd Division and deployed to the nasty and difficult campaigns throughout the New Guinea Offensives during the latter stages of WW2. This experience provided him a great foundation for his later professional and humanitarian pursuits.

I never realised Dr John was the Connell in “Connell Wagner” of international Engineering & Building fame! With offices throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong Malaysia Middle East & England he undertook a few more jobs than just the odd deck or kitchen upgrade! Some of his notable Melbourne construction projects include: The Victorian Arts Centre; Eureka Tower; Etihad Stadium; The Fruit, Vegetable & Fruit Market at Fisherman’s Bend (including the largest 3 pin steel arches supporting the structure in the world); rebuilding the MCG; Melbourne underground rail loop along with numerous hospital upgrades and other multi storey buildings in the CBD.

Add to this his board memberships (the Royal Zoological Gardens; Gas & Fuel Company; Austin Hospital; Ivanhoe Grammar School and the Overseas Project Commission to name a few) and you end up with a pretty capable man. Awarded a Doctor of Engineering by RMIT in 1990 he had been awarded the Kernst Meda for “Distinguished Engineering Service to Australia” by University of Melbourne in 1980 and made a “Member of the Order of Australia” in 1987.

I asked him why he never joined the RAE: he pondered deeply and said that “at the time he just wanted to fight the Enemy and thought the Infantry was the best Corps to undertake that”. Later, he realised that the RAE is also in the thick of battle and has great ability to impose maximum damage and disruption on an enemy! The Sappers are always there with the Infantry to assist in mobility!
Post Script to Service Rifles of the Great War featured in Sapper Summit 89.

The SMLE No1 Mk III* remained in service with the Australian Army throughout the World War 2 and the conflicts in Korea and Malaya. Many readers will have served during the period of service of the SMLE No1 MkIII*

In 1959 the Australian Army adopted the 7.62mm Self Loading Rifle L1A1 as the standard service rifle. This saw service in Vietnam and through into the 1990’s.

1989 saw the introduction of the 5.56mm F88 AUS Steyr which has seen service in every area of operational deployment since that time.

And for the future ........................................

COL Wertheimer (Patron RAE Association—Vic) Medals: Member of the Order of Australia, Active Service Medal—Malaysia, Vietnam, General Service Medal Borneo (British), Vietnam Medal, Service Medal Papua and New Guinea, Centenary Medal, Defence Long Service Medal, Reserve Forces Decoration, National Medal, Australian Defence Medal, Confrontation Medal (Malaysia), General Service Medal (PNG), Vietnam Medal (RVN)

The 100th anniversary RAE Corps Dinner, the 2015 Waterloo Dinner was held at Victoria Barracks in Melbourne on 20 June 2015.

See Sapper Summit for a full report on this historical event along with photographs and a copy of the annual address by the Head of Corps.

Check the RAE Association’s web site for more details. www.raevictoria.asn.au
Victorian Sappers
A History in Photographs
Feature No 3

Left to right Carl Seccull, Sarah Janes, Jock Howatt and Paul Houching.
Official handover of the cheque to the Royal Children’s Hospital 6 weeks after the 2015 Appeal.

Twig (Cooper) & Rat (Furlong) Licola 1996
“Regardless of season, weather or terrain.”

10 Field Squadron Vital Asset Protection
RAAF Base Point Cook 1988

Unimog taking to Port Phillip Bay

Can you name our Patron’s Medals? COL John Wertheimer’s medals are displayed on p3 of this issue of Sapper Summit. Can you identify them? COL Wertheimer has named his medals See p34 to see how well you could identify his medals.

Request for contributions from readers:
If you have photographs of Sappers from Victoria “doing what Sappers do” please scan them and forward the copies to sapper-summit@gmail.com along with a brief description of the event and the date. With your contributions, Sapper Summit can continue with this historical feature.
RESERVE FORCES DAY 2015
ANZAC CENTENARY YEAR

RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE
SUNDAY 5th JULY 2015

Shrine of Remembrance - Melbourne

A message from the
Patron-in-Chief His Excellency The Honourable General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret’d)
Governor General and Commander in Chief

Quote:
“Reservists are vital part of Australia’s long and distinguished military history, from the Boer War to our current commitments around the globe. Reservists continue to be recognised and honoured.”

Assemble – Government House drive at 1000hrs
Then March to Shrine for Parade and Commemorative Service

100 years of Reflection – “NOW” AND “THEN”

Reserve Forces Day 2015 pays tribute to the former and current era Reservists, and commemorates WW1 events of 1915 especially the RAN Reserve Naval Bridging Train Gallipoli/Sinai.
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 enhance 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, click on:
www.raevictoria.asn.au

Association Shirts Available to Order


Association Caps Available to Order

Join Us—Royal Australian Engineers Association (Vic) Inc
Membership Categories

1. Ordinary Members and Associate Members (members who support the Association but do not meet service membership criteria) who pay their subscriptions by 1st of January receive a receipt.

2. Concessional Life Membership. A member, who upon reaching the age of 65 years (prior to 1st of January of the membership year) may elect to make a one off payment equal to ten times the annual subscription for an Ordinary Member. Such members will be granted Concessional Life Membership with no further fees being payable. They will receive a letter from the Committee to confirm the granting of this category of membership.

3. Complementary Life Membership. A member who has made a significant contribution to the Association either by way of a substantial financial or memorabilia donation, maybe awarded a Complementary Life Membership together with a letter from the committee confirming the granting of this membership.

4. Honorary Life Membership. Members over the age of 80 will be awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their age status and contribution to both the community and the Corps. They will receive a letter from the committee confirming the granting of this membership.

5. Honorary Life Membership. Members who have made and outstanding contribution to the Association will be awarded Honorary Life Membership together with a framed certificate confirming the granting of this membership.

In categories 3 and 5, nominations are to be submitted to the committee with supporting justification and documentation. Nominations will be considered n a case by case basis.

Membership of the RAE Association Victoria costs $15 per year with subscriptions due on 1 January each year. All members will receive an electronic copy of each issue Sapper Summit, the magazine of the Association. Hard copies will be available to members without email. All members will receive a coloured, hard copy of the post ANZAC Day edition of Sapper Summit along with an e copy of that edition.

Applicants over the age of 65 may elect to pay ten times the annual fee to receive lifetime membership. Fees are not required from applicants over the age of 80.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC
ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

Jim Davis
Honorary Secretary
28 Inland Avenue
WANTIRNA SOUTH, Vic 3152  E-mail: jdavis01@bigpond.net.au

SURNAMEN: ____________________________

GIVEN NAMES: ____________________________

DATE OF BIRTH: / / NAME OF PARTNER/WIFE/NOK: ____________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________

PHONE: (H):__________________________ (W):__________________________ (M):__________

E-MAIL: _______________________________________________________________

REGIMENTAL/PMKEYS No.________________ RANK: ____________________________

DATES OF ENLISTMENT AND DISCHARGE / / TO / /

AWARDS/DECORATIONS/AWARDS HELD: __________________________________________

DETAILS OF SERVICE AND UNITS (any approximate dates would be useful)

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

If more space is needed please use back of form.

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: ____________________________

SIGNED: ___________________________________ / /

Wish to become a member of The Royal Australian Engineers Association of Victoria Incorporated (RAE Association (Vic) Inc. for the time being in force. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to:

1. Support the purposes of the Association.
2. Comply with the rules of the Association.

Note: Under the Application for Membership clause in the Association Rules, a person who wishes to join the Association must submit a signed written application to a committee member, and agree to the two items 1 & 2 listed above.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR 2015 HAS BEEN SET AT $15.00 AND IS PAYABLE NOW WITH YOUR APPLICATION. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CHEQUE OR DIRECT CREDIT (see below). SHOULD YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT, IT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Electronic Banking: Payment can now be made by electronic transfer. Please use the details below and during the transfer please ensure that you show your full name and write in “subscription” in the reference box. Show here that you sent subs/donation electronically on / / and amount $ . Don’t forget to post off the original application to the Hon Secretary-address is above.

BANK – Westpac Banking Corp: BSB 033181 - Account No 169032 Account Name RAE Association (Vic) Inc.