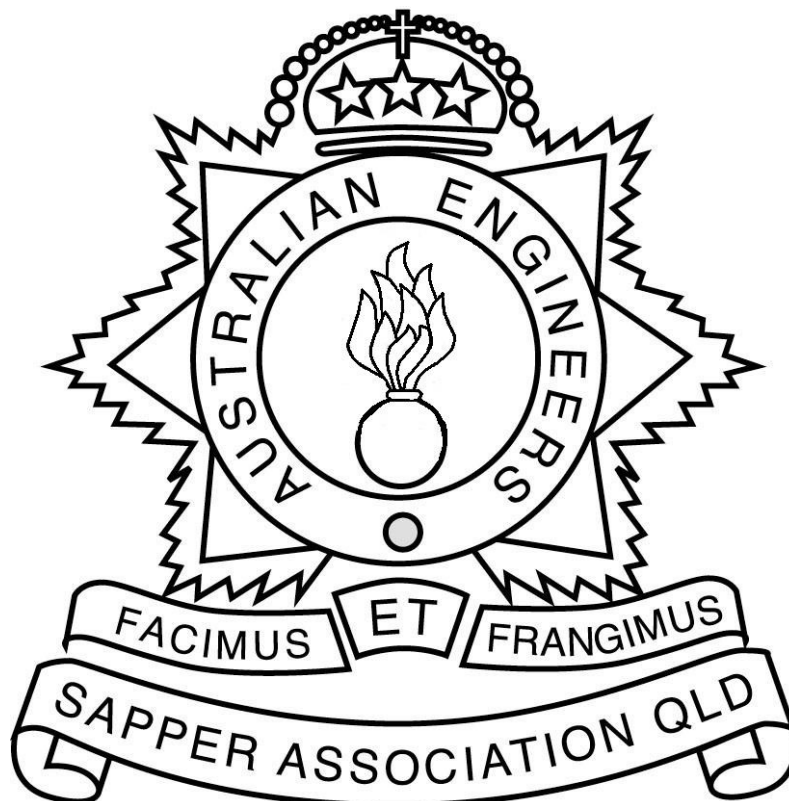


THE SAPPER
ASSOCIATION
QUEENSLAND
(INC.)

PATRON
HECTOR MACDONALD



NEWSLETTER 2/2020

Breaking news: The AGM Brisbane and Townsville will now be held on Sunday, 2nd August 2020.

The NQ Branch meeting will be at Thuringowa RSL.

Brisbane Branch meeting will be at Ironbark Gully at 10am, followed by a BBQ lunch. You will need to bring a chair as we need to "Social Distance" at the meeting. If attending, please advise your secretary for catering.

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

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

QUEENSLAND COMMITTEE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

PATRON:	HECTOR MACDONALD	
PRESIDENT:	BOB CRAWFORD	3359 5338
VICE PRESIDENT:	BOB PFEIFFER	0497 501 960
NQ BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE	TONY KEALLEY	Ph 4779 5951
SECRETARY:	JOHN JESSER	3356 9297
ASST SECRETARY:	JOHN MACREADIE	
TREASURER:	PETER C AYLETT	3298 5526
ASST TREASURER:	PETER CAMPBELL	0422 638 218
EDITOR	BOB BANNAN	3205 1820
ASST EDITOR	PETER CAMPBELL	0422 638 218
WELFARE	PETER CAIRNES	0427 558 685
	HARRY CLAASSEN	3273 6701
COMMITTEE/SOCIAL:	BLUE MACKELLAR	3869 0834
	RON LARSEN	3822 3787
	TIM WILDE	

NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

President:	Tony Kealley	Mob: 0420404994	email: president@nqsappers.org
Vice President	Cliff Kemp	Mob: 0409 892 257	email: vpres@nqsappers.org
Membership	Cliff Kemp	Mob: 0409 892 257	email: vpres@nqsappers.org
Secretary	Scott Reid	Mob: 0408 719 230	email: secretary@nqsappers.org
Asst Secretary	Clare Berry	Ph.: 411377574	email: clare.berry@defence.com.au
Treasurer	Gary Beveridge	Mob: 0403 266 106	email: treasurer@nqsappers.org
Asst Treasurer	Deb Kealley	Mob: 0407 242 200	email: kealleys@bigpond.com
Welfare	Barry Low	Mob: 0417 106 435	email: welfare@nqsappers.org
Social	Don Cameron	Mob: 0429034399	email: camperdown49@hotmail.com
Property	Ron Smith	Mob: 0438508104	email: maron63@bigpond.com
Fund Raising	Pat Daley	Ph.: 47740028	email: FRO@nqsappers.org
Committee	Allan Mansell	Mob: 0416977404	email: allanandreldi@bigpond.com

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

The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc. Brisbane

Saturday 26 Sept 2020 TBA
Saturday 28 Nov 2020 TBA
Saturday 30 Jan 2021 TBA
Saturday 27 March 2021 TBA

- the end of the month meetings means that Treasury can give us a better financial figure.
- Easter Break for 2021, 2 Apr – 5 Apr 2021, allowing for the 2021 AGM to be held Sunday 18 April 2021, ANZAC Day will be the following Sunday.

ANZAC Day
Sunday 25th April 2021

The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc. NQ Branch

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

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

2020 Annual General Meeting

The AGM Brisbane and Townsville will now be held on Sunday, 2nd August 2020.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

By the time you receive this Newsletter we will be over the midyear hump and on the downhill run to years end. What a six months it has been with most events cancelled or delayed and different ways found to hold Committee meetings. Brisbane Branch has held the past two meetings via Tele Conferencing. A by-product of this method has enabled Tony Kealley to join us. Thank you Tony for your input, a most welcome addition.

Where, how and when our proposed AGM's and Committee meetings will be held yet to be confirmed. I must admit to looking forward to face to face meetings and Social gatherings.

During the period since our last Newsletter we have farewelled some mates and have had a number in ill health. Their details are included in the Passing /Sick Parade in the Newsletter. For those on the recovery trail all members look forward to your return to duty.

This only emphasizes our need to grow our membership. Difficult in these times but we can but try. New members serving on our Committees would be a start. To those who are returning or joining the Committees when the AGM's are held, thank you for your input.

Photo of wreath on sappers rock at 2CER, ANZAC Day 2020.

Meanwhile, stay safe, hopefully things will return to normality.

Regards,

Bob C.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Please note that, because of the pandemic and social distancing regulations, all future events have been put on hold at present.

If you need answers to any questions, contact your local committee.

Exception; 21 Const. Sqn 70th Birthday Activity is planned for the weekend 18th September 2020. For details contact WO2 Andrew Humphreys SSM, 21 Const. Sqn, 6 Engr Spt Regt, ZUBUL Lines, RAAF, Amberley. Ph: 07 5361 5503 mobile: 0409 069 331 email: andrew.humphreys@defence.gov.au

SICK PARADE

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

Dave Wilson was back in Greenslopes during May with another infection, Ward 33 Room 27, you can phone David after 10.30am on 0413 482 258.

Don Cameron is back home after a stint in hospital in June.

Brian Jones was in the Mater Hospital, T'ville, with Pneumonia back in June.

Rusty Sunner had a fall back in June and suffered a broken arm. He had to have more scans, but is recovering well.

QUEENSLAND (BRISBANE) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION ELECTRONIC BANKING, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

BANK:	BANK OF QUEENSLAND
NAME OF ACCOUNT:	THE SAPPER ASSOCIATION QLD INC.
BSB NO.:	124021
ACCOUNT NO.:	21814271

PLEASE SHOW BOTH YOUR **MEMBERSHIP NUMBER** AND YOUR **SURNAME** AS A REFERENCE.

PASSING PARADE

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

The following have passed away since last newsletter.

4719943, LAMB, Phillip, ex Sapper, passed away on 24 February 2020. Phil served in South Vietnam, 1968– 69, with 1 Fd Sqn, RAE. A private family Service for Phil would have been held at Angaston, S.A.

DUNNING Ivan Royle (Blue), Capt, RAE, (Retd), passed away in March 2020. Blue served in VietNam, visiting Water Tpt Unit. He also served in 34 Water Tpt Unit Brisbane. His funeral was held on 25 March 2020, at Brisbane Qld. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

2783420, EVANS, Anthony George (Tony), Cpl, RAE, passed away on 05 April 2020 after a battle with Cancer. Tony served in Vietnam, Jan 1967– Dec 1967, with 1 Fd Sqn, RAE. A Private family Funeral was held for Tony (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

16130, FRASER, Angus (Gus) Robert, Craftsman, RAEME, passed away on 07 April 2020. Gus served in Vietnam and was a member of our Association. Private family Funeral was held for Gus. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

14718, MACLEAN, Ian Marshall Ross, LTCOL, RAE (Retd), passed away on 18 April 2020, aged 83 years. He served in South Vietnam, 1968– 69, with 17 Const. Sqn. Private family Funeral was held for Ian (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

HORTON, Rodney Harold (Bluey), Sapper, passed away on 19 April 2020. Bluey mserved in South Vietnam, May– December 1967, with Detachment, 55 Advance Engr Stores Sqn, RAE. Private funeral was held (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

Q222958/QX56073, STAUNTON, James Francis (Jim), Cpl RAE, passed away on 23 April 2020. at the age of 95 years. When he was 16 Jim put his age up to enlist in the VDC. Later, he and most of the Unit were accepted into the AIF. During WWII he served with B Coy, # Battalion, RAE, Kapooka, then HQ, 3 Div, AIF and 4 Fd Coy on Bouganville and New Britain. A small Funeral Service for Jim was held on Wednesday 20 May 2020 at the Rose Garden, Lakeside Chapel, Albany Creek, Brisbane (due to COVID 19 restrictions attendance was limited).

BAGULEY, Robert (Bob), Sapper, passed away on 25 April 2020, ANZAC Day, in Victoria. Bob saw Active Service in Borneo. A private family service would have been held for Bob (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

13371, KUDNIG, Rudolf Philip (Phil), LTCOL RAE (Retd), passed away on 27 April 2020. Phil served in South Vietnam, Jan—Nov 1971, where he commanded 1 Fd Sqn, RAE. A celebration of Phil's life was held at the Yacht Club, Sorrento, VIC. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

FITZSIMMONS, Jacqueline Joy (Daughter of Bob Fitzsimmons), passed away on 28 April 2020. A private family funeral was held (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

315720, EDWARDS, Leigh David, Major RAE + RASigs (Retd), passed away on 04 May 2020. Leigh served from 1972– 1986 (RAE) with 21 Const. Sqn, SME, 23 Const. Sqn and in PNG. He then served with RASigs from 1986– 1992 & 2007– 2010. A private family funeral would have been held for Leigh in Canberra, ACT. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

CROSS, Francis James, Brig, RAE (Retd), AM, DSM, MID, passed away on 09 May 2020. Frank served in South Vietnam, 1969– 70, with HQ, 1st Aust. Task Force. Private family service was held for Frank (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

21371, BUCKLEY, Harold (Harry) Warrant Officer Class One, RAE, passed away on 13 May 2020 at the age of 94 years. Harry was very well known in our Corps, a warrior, a Soldier and friend and mentor to many. He had also put his age up to enlist in Rabaul in 1947. His career included service in Malaya, 1959, Tp Sgt, 1 Tp, 7 Ind Fd Sqn, RAE with 11 Ind Fd Sqn, RE; Vietnam, 1971– 72, with AATTV. A small Funeral Service for Harry was held on Friday, 22 May 2020, at Palmdale Crematorium, NSW (COVID 19 restrictions applied).

.2141145, DUFFY, Phillip Raymond, Sapper, passed away on 20 May 2020 after a lengthy illness. Phil served in Vietnam, 1970-71, with 1 Fd Sqn, RAE. A small Funeral Service for Phillip, followed by burial, was held on Friday, 29 May 2020, at St John's Church, Riverstone, NSW.

PERRY Anita (wife of Peter Perry), passed away on 22 May 2020 after a courageous fight against the odds, despite them all being stacked against her (Message through the Apprentice Net from Bob Fitzgerald in Perth).

3137566 , MUIR John “Jack”, WO2, RAE, passed away on 20 May 2020. He enlisted in the Supplementary Reserve in 1955 when he worked for the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. In 1963 he deployed to PNG with 105 Const. Sqn to relieve 21 Const. Sqn with road building from Wewak to Maprik (103 km). His experience with Forestry Crews was invaluable for bridging and river crossings. Jack’s funeral was Private (COVID-19 restrictions), held on Monday 25 May 2020, at Tatura, VIC.

KEEN, Michael (Mick), WO2, RAE, passed away on 26 May 2020 in Laos where he had lived. Mick served in West Germany, 1981– 82; PNG, 1983– 86; Pakistan, 1991. On discharge he joined a demining unit in the Middle East. A Service and cremation for Mick was held in Laos.

3797123 , GAY Timothy , Sapper, passed away on 28 May 2020 at Hervey Bay Hospital, aged 71 years. Tim served with 32 Small Ship Sqn and 35 Water Tpt Sqn. During Vietnam Service in 1970 he served on AV 3053, Harry Chauvel, AV 3054, Brudenell White and was seconded to AS 3051, John Monash. He was a National Serviceman who was a hard working seaman on both the ships and was also decorated for extremely brave actions whilst in ANARE (Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition). A Private Service was held for Tim at Fraser Coast, Qld. (Covid 19 restrictions).

3807733/8255402, WATERFORD, Brett Alexander, Cpl, RAE, passed away on 28 May 2020 at the age of 48 years. He had endured a long battle with an insidious disease. After serving for 24 years, Brett retired from 105 Const. Sqn, 22 Engr Regt in December 2017. He was a very conscientious Transport NCO. In civilian life Brett was a Fire Fighter. Brett’s Funeral was held on 04 June 2020 (Covid 19 restrictions) at Nelson Brothers Chapel, VIC.

51647, FLETCHER, James (Jim) George, WO1, RAE, passed away on 24 May 2020. Jim served with 32 Small Ship Squadron and was well respected. His family only Funeral (Covid 19 restrictions) was held on 03 June 2020 at Warwick Church of Christ, Perth, W.A.

WX27981, BANYARD, Fredrick Andrew, Sapper, passed away on 31 May 2020, aged 101 years and 5 months. Fred was the last surviving Sapper from W.A’s 13 Field Company (WW2). His Funeral was a private Family affair (Covid 19 restrictions).

1732393, SMITH, John Albert, Sapper, passed away on 10 June 2020. John served in Vietnam with 17 Const. Sqn. He died when he rolled the tractor mower while maintenance mowing at Deep Creek Retreat at the Burdekin, North Queensland, for Veterans and Service Personnel.

337708, MEAD, John Bruce, Major, RAE, (Later E2761, Lt Commnd.). Passed away on 17 June 2020 just 3 days short of his 94th birthday. He had a distinguished service career as a Sapper, Trooper and Naval Officer. John served with the RAN from 1943– 1946, WW2 service then RANVR; 1952-1966, with Armoured Corps then RAE; 1966– 1979, with RAN. He was Chief Engineer on board LSM AV 1355, Vernon Sturdee on its maiden voyage from Japan to Australia in 1960. His Vietnam service in 1970 was on board HMAS Sydney. John’s family held a Private Service and scattered his ashes in Port Phillip Bay.

12316, GRAHAM, Laurie James, WO1, RAE, passed away on 27 June 2020. Laurie had served in many Water Transport Units since 1946, including AV1379 Tarra and many LSMs. He was on the delivery voyage from Japan on AV 1355, Vernon Sturdee. His Vietnam service in 1970 was with 32 Small Ship Sqn, RAE, on AV 1356, Clive Steele and AV 1353, Harry Chauvel (2 voyages). Laurie’s Funeral Service was held on 06 July 2020 at Pinegrove Memorial Park, Minchinbury, NSW (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

1200999, BURCHILL, Kenneth John, Cpl, RAE, passed away on 15 June 2020 at home at Witta, Qld. Ken served in Water Transport Units. Ken’s Vietnam service in 1969 was with 32 Small Ship Sqn, RAE, on board AV 1356, Clive Steele. His Family held a small Funeral Service (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

BOOT John, Sapper, passed away on 05 July 2020 in Brisbane. Family and close friends held an intimate service for John on 21 July 2020, at Bribie Island, Qld (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

CAVANAGH, Righton Walter (Wally, Sapper, passed away on 01 June 2020, aged 95 years and 6 months. Wally served in WW2 with 5th Welding Platoon on Morotai and Balikpapan where they built bulk fuel storage tanks for the 7th Division.

BENARI, John (Jack) Roland Shannon, Sapper, passed away on 13 June 2020 aged 97 years, in W.A. Jack served in WW2 with 7 Army Troops Company.

Our condolences go to all their families.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Happenings from the Deep North 1/2020

By John Cotter Esq



OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Happenings from the Deep North 2/2020

By John Cotter Esq

ANZAC DAY 2020 WITH A DIFFERENCE

ANZAC Day this year as we all know had its very own distinctive style. I have always believed that the commemoration of ANZAC Day especially the dawn service and particularly for returned people is very much a personal preference. For me it was rum and coffee on my front step at dawn watching a parade of memories. I'm sure we all marked the occasion in our own unique way.



For Derek Smith the dawn service was on his driveway. A small table was set up with his Dad's beret and medals (1st Australian Parachute Battalion WW2) and his



Grandfathers unit badge and medals (5th Australian Light Horse Regiment WW1). The ABC broadcast of the Last Post etc. completed his commemoration.



And for Pat and Jo Daley it was a simple candle on the driveway and a small memorial in the back yard that marked their commemoration of ANZAC Day 2020.

Hopefully next year we will be back to our more traditional commemorations and the equally important social activities after the march. 😊



AROUND THE TRAPS

1 FD SQN GP has a new web site at www.1fieldsappers.org. It's well worth a visit and has some interesting history. Our very own Derek Smith is the editor of their newsletter "Follow the Sapper." Interesting to note that the command "Follow the Sapper. Quick March!" was used by Allied Troops during the Crimean War 1853-1856. Sappers wore a white band around their cap.

Derek also made his annual foray to Vietnam early this year to open their sixth well, this time installed at the village of Plei Klau and fitted out to produce good clean water. Traipsing around the country they visited Ho Chi Min City (Saigon to those of a certain era), Vung Tau, Nui Dat (to visit his favourite piece of concrete), Pleiku, Kon Tum, Hanoi and Dien Bein Phu where the French met their Waterloo at the hands of the Viet Minh in 1954. Apparently Derek and his tent mate poured the slab of concrete at the entrance to their tent...yes I know, a Pogo with a shovel and building material? Sigh.

I see that our erstwhile assistant secretary tied for runner up in the 2020 AFLW Club Champion count. Well done Jade Pregelj.

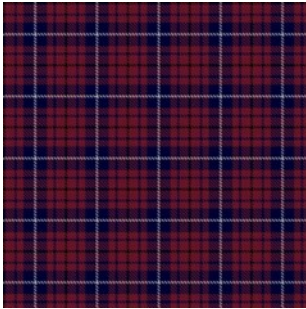
Word from DVA is that the websites for the three Nominal Rolls were decommissioned in February this year and a single website installed for all Nominal Rolls. The new URL is

<http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au> and will give access to the Rolls for WW2, Korean War, Vietnam War and the First Gulf War. To search for Vietnam veterans directly use <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/>

vietnamWar#Search

News from the long lost southern Wilbury aka Shine Summerfield that the first Civil Construction Plant Course (basic plant course to the older generation) marched out this month. Komatsu has sponsored the Trainee of Merit since 1985 when the RAE took on Komatsu dozers and scrapers. The course of 16 had one overseas soldier and all progressed well through the course. The Most Improved Trainee and Trainer of Merit Awards were also sponsored by Komatsu who are very proud to have been continually involved and greatly appreciate the service of these fine young soldiers.

Good to see Rusty Sunner and Don Cameron are home again after brief sojourns in hospital for quite different reasons. Their stay may have short but I'm guessing not too sweet and we wish them all the best for their recovery.



I see that the Corps of Royal Engineers has a new tartan (Scottish type) that celebrates all past and present personnel and achievements of the Corps since its formation in 1716 as a separate corps. We all know that the word sapper derives from the French word *sappe* and became connected with military engineering during the 17th century. Why a French word? Could it be because the Royal Engineers (and later the American Corps of Engineers and the Corps of Australian Engineers were founded by Frenchmen? The King's Engineers were known as *Ingeniators* in 1066 and from the 14th to mid-17th century as *Attillators*. Talk about being multi-cultural!



Last year Barry Low one of our Life Members received a Presidential Commendation from the President NQ Sappers for "Outstanding Service as the NQ Sappers Welfare Officer." This year he has been awarded an Australian Government Certificate of Appreciation for Volunteers 2020 for "Commitment and Dedication to the Community." Wombat puts a lot of time and effort into his portfolio. Well done that man, your efforts are very much appreciated by members.



One for the planties...what is it? It's an Aveling – Barford Calf Dozer made in England in the 1940's as seen from the front. Well it will be a dozer when it gets its blade. Seems that away back a couple of these were located with rusted out blades West of Townsville and donated to the Military Museum. The volunteers made two into one and the result is shown at left. On a visit to the museum our Shiny One asked



if they would like a blade made for the dozer and in getting a reply in the affirmative, it was arranged to deliver the beast to the Komatsu Fairfield workshops where their apprentices would fabricate the missing bit. When finished it will look a bit like the one at right but in a green skin. 😊

HOLDFAST 2020 REUNION

As already advised the reunion has fallen foul of the Covid19 restrictions and has been cancelled. The committee explored all avenues open to it and decided that the best course of action was to cancel the event and allow the normal programme of HOLDFAST Reunions to continue. So the next reunion for the Sapper Association Queensland Inc. will be in 2022 over the May Day weekend, somewhere in the south of the state and hosted by the Brisbane Branch.

The committee is in the process of refunding all monies paid however they have hit a wall in that despite numerous emails and text messages sent out there are still individuals that have not sent in their bank details so a refund can be made. If you are one of these, please do so to allow the books to be closed. There are also two people who paid but neglected to provide any contact details; if either WF Davis or Mitch Honeysett is known to you please ask them to get in touch with Gary Beveridge whose details are in the committee block below. 😊

COMING EVENTS

As expected under the current conditions the Events Calendar 2020 has to a great extent been made redundant although there are still some signs of life struggling to be seen. The Events Calendar will be reissued once the current situation has settled down somewhat.

The Branch Committee held a meeting on 14 June and after much consideration, discussion and meaningful

musings some dates of interest appeared. All these activities and dates are yet to be confirmed but they will suffice for our planning purposes (entering flat white crystal balls etc.).

12 July General/Committee Meetings at Thuringowa RSL (TBC)
2 August Annual General Meeting at Thuringowa RSL (TBC)
August Mid-year Function possibly Magnetic Island (TBC)
September Black River Fishing Odyssey at Gary's Hut (TBC) ☺

FROM THE ARCHIVES

1/2007 Sapper Association Queensland Inc. Newsletter 1/2007

NEW LOGO

Way back in the seventies a very talented cartoonist named Lex Van Blyenburgh, then a Second

Lieutenant Troop Commander with Depot Squadron SME, drew a cartoon for the Sapper Magazine published by the SME of a character he called Super Sapper. Lex reckoned that he was not modelled on any one individual but was a cartoonist's impression of the whole mob. For some time the northern part of the association had been looking for a logo to call their own that was not based on an item of heraldry and was a representation of the whole mob up here as well as having a link to the Corps. (He even wears a North Queensland tuxedo!) So with many thanks to Warren Ennis for his assistance and to the Commanding Officer of the SME for his approval to use the figure, we present the logo of the NQ Branch of the Sapper Association Queensland (Inc.)



NORTH QUEENSLAND (TOWNSVILLE) BRANCH.

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

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

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633-000

Account Number: 162988240

Account Name: Sapper Association Queensland Inc – North Queensland Branch

Please use your surname and initial to identify payment.

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



11 ENGINEER REGIMENT

104 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON -

Having only returned from Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20 in mid-March, 2 CER's training program had to again be revamped in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to protect our people, our families and our mates, and ensure the maintenance of capability, most of the Regiment dispersed and were subsequently required to work from home from early April to late May.

To keep our members engaged and connected while working from home, the team at 2 CER rapidly built a range of online training packages. The training made the most of a 'virtual classroom' to facilitate the delivery of education and training, or even just for a troop discussion or catch-up. The lessons were developed by the JNCOs and junior officers, and allowed members to revise basic soldier and combat engineer skills. This method of training was a key enabler to remaining connected throughout the work-from-home period.

As COVID-19 restrictions progressively eased, 2 CER gradually and deliberately recommenced individual and small team training. This included Sappers in 2 CER's Combat Rescue Troop. Combat Rescue Teams tested new Light Rescue Kits, consisting of Spreader and Cutters, Diamond Blade Cutters, and Rescue Crash Axes. The kits are carried in Sappers' packs and assist them in accessing vehicles that have crashed or been compromised.

The gradual easing of restrictions also presented an opportunity for the new Commander of the 7th Combat Brigade – Brigadier Jason Blain DSC CSC – to visit 2 CER to assess the Unit's equipment, training, and capabilities. The displays provided by the Squadrons of 2 CER covered CBRND, Search, Mechanised Combat Engineering, the Dry Support Bridge, Combat Rescue, our workshops, and our logistic support capability.

On Sunday, 07 June 2020 2 CER held a memorial service to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the deaths of Sapper Darren Smith and Sapper Jacob Moerland who were killed in action while on patrol in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan. Darren's Explosive Detection Dog Herbie was also killed in the incident. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the service was limited to 20 people, which included some close family and friends. The service was recorded by a Military Camera Team and shared with family who were unable to attend. Lest we forget.

As COVID-19 restrictions eased further in the second half of June, one of the first activities undertaken by 2 CER's 24th Support Squadron was to practice the construction of their Dry Support Bridge (DSB). The DSB is a vital piece of equipment that allows troops and vehicles to cross rivers, creeks, and other obstacles. It can support loads of over 120 tonnes and spans up to 49 metres. The bridge comes in handy both internationally and domestically, especially for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

In order to maintain our tactical planning skills, 2 CER also took part in a 7th Combat Brigade tactical exercise without troops (TEWT). 2 CER integrated engineer planners to various organisations within the Brigade including the Brigade headquarters, the 2/14th Light Horse Regiment, 6th Battalion Royal Regiment and the 8/9th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.



Figure 1: Sapper Domjahn uses a spreader and cutter tool from the new Light Rescue Kit



Figure 2: Construction of a Dry Support Bridge (DSB) during the Regiment's refresher training at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.



Figure 3: 2 CER Corporal McGuckin and his military working dog, Echo, stand as Honour Guards for the 10th anniversary memorial service for Sapper Darren Smith and Sapper Jacob Moerland, held at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera on Sunday, 07 June 2020.

EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

Queen's Birthday Honours

President & Members of the Sapper Association, Qld. Send congratulations to Mr George Leslie Hulse on his award of the OAM. Also, warm congratulations to Mr Neville John Clark on his award of the OAM. Both are well deserved awards for service to veterans.

Head of Corps

Both of the messages on these pages were made available to the wider Sapper community by our Head of Corps, via the internet. I believe it is appropriate that older comrades who don't access computers be reminded here of our history and global bonds tying our Sapper Family together.

OFFICIAL

Colonel Matthew Quare MBE ADC



Corps Colonel Royal Engineers

Headquarters Royal Engineers
Ravelin Building, Brompton Barracks,
CHATHAM, Kent, ME4 4UG

Phone: 01634 822227 ATN: (9)4661 2227

Mobile: 07769 875545

Email: Matthew.Quare859@mod.gov.uk

Brigadier John Carey CSC
Head of Corps
Royal Australian Engineers
Kings Highway
Bungendore NSW 2621

24th April 2020

Dear Brigadier John.

We live in difficult and demanding times. Our countries are currently engaged with the rest of the world in fighting a common cause, COVID-19, but we are deeply conscious that you have had many other challenges to cope with in recent years including devastating fires, long periods of extreme drought and earthquakes.

At times like these we can draw strength from our long-standing friendships, heritage and deep-rooted connections of loyalty and family which have seen us through similar challenges before and will do so again in the future. On Anzac Day, on behalf of the Chief Royal Engineer and the Corps of Royal Engineers everywhere, I extend to you, our Brothers-in-Arms in Australia and New Zealand, our strongest and most heart-felt expressions of sympathy, condolence, support and affection. Whilst formalities on the morning of the 25th will be significant different, our thoughts, prayers and best wishes remain as strong as ever.

As we look forward, once again we will meet on sports pitches, training areas and in operational theatres across the globe, to reinforcing further the already strong and enduring bond between us all as part of the global "Sapper Family".

Ubique.

Yours loyal

Matth

Matthew Quare MBE ADC
Colonel



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
ORDER OF THE DAY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
KAPOOKA TRAGEDY
21st May 2020

In 1945, during the Second World War, the Royal Australian Engineers Centre was sited at the present location of the Army Recruit Training Centre. Sappers were prepared for combat and trained in basic soldiering skills and military engineering. In the mid-afternoon of the 21st of May 1945, a massive explosion echoed across Kapooka and was heard in Wagga Wagga, more than 10 kilometres away. In preparing for the war in the Pacific, twenty-six Sappers were tragically killed in a demolitions accident that, to this day, remains the Australian Army's largest loss of life in training. These brave men came from all parts of Australia including New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland. Most of them were reinforcement troops, some already having served in the Middle East and New Guinea.

In the funeral that followed it was estimated that 7,000 people lined the streets to pay their respects bringing the City of Wagga Wagga to a standstill and taking some 45 minutes to pass. At the conclusion of war, little recognition was afforded to this tragic event and it was not until 1992 that a plaque commemorating those who lost their lives was erected on the site. Momentum continued to build and to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the so-called 'Kapooka Tragedy' in 2010, a permanent memorial was opened. Today, located a few hundred metres from the front gate of Blarney Barracks Kapooka, is a grove of 26 Kurrajong trees. This peaceful area on the side of a country road is surrounded by rolling hills and open paddocks, with a memorial stone and several remembrance boards to enshrine their story in Kapooka's history.

It is regrettable that current restrictions on gatherings will prevent a public service at the site this year, however this day is not forgotten. On ANZAC Day we stood in our driveways to remember those heroes who braved the gunfire that fateful morning in Gallipoli, and every Australian soldier since who has followed in their footsteps in defence of our Nation. These twenty-six men are an equal part of this legacy and I ask all Sappers to pause today and remember their sacrifice. They will forever be part of the Sapper Family and their legacy will remain embodied as a part of our proud Corps history. Lest We Forget.

John Carey, CSC
Brigadier
Head of Corps
Royal Australian Engineers
21 / May 2020

END of Financial Year 31 Mar 2020.

Reminder that Fees are now due on the 1 Apr 2020, either Electronically (**details below for Brisbane**) (**Townsville details on page 7**) or by mail Cheques made out to The Sapper Association QLD Inc, posted to P O Box 1043, STAFFORD QLD 4053.

Brisbane fees are Ordinary member \$20.00, Country member \$10.00, Associate member \$5.00.

To assist the Association if you have an email address, let the Secretary know, all correspondence is sent out Bcc... so your email address is safe & secure.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

“A TWIST IN THE POGO’S TALE” written by Derek Smith.. Price \$25.00 He will post to anyone wishing to buy one. Cost including postage and packaging is \$31.20. email contact is dvsmith@ozemail.com.au—mobile phone number is 0438 221 114. ISBN 9780994 559104.

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

WELFARE & PENSIONS THE SAPPER ASSOC., QLD

Any members seeking advice regarding DVA,
Pensions or Welfare

Can contact;
Peter (Fat Cat) Cairnes, Mobile:0427-558 685
Or
Harry Claassen, Phone: (07) 3273 6701

AATTVA (Qld BR) Inc Pensions Officer/ Advocate

Mr John McDonagh

Mobile 0423 138 346,

email aattvqldbr@westnet.com.au

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

SAPPERS’LUNCHES, GAYTHORNE RSL

The Sapper Luncheon has been put on hold owing to the Covid 19 Restrictions. Watch this space.

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

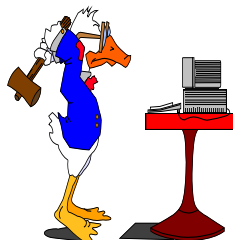
ITEMS FOR SALE, BRISBANE

The following items are for sale to members:

Lapel badges	\$8.00	Association Plaques	\$40.00
Embroidered cloth badges	\$6.00	Stubbie holders (tubes)	\$ 2.50
Stubbie holders (with Bases)	\$3.50		

Contact the committee if you wish to make a purchase..

Website & Email addresses of interest.



WANT TO RESEARCH A DIGGER RELATIVE?

For all the clues try:-

RAE CORPS SHOP

RAE ASSOCIATION – WA:

COCKSCOMB –

VETERAN HELP – Central Qld

WATER TRANSPORT ASSOC

MUSEUM OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

THE SAPPERFACEBOOK PAGE IS

RAE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

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

corpsshop@gmail.com

www.wasappers.com.au

<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

<http://talk.to/veteransupport>

www.32smallshipsqn.org.au

www.aamme.com.au

Queensland Sapper Association

<https://www.raevictoria.asn.au>

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

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