

THE SAPPER
ASSOCIATION
QUEENSLAND
(INC.)

PATRON
HECTOR MACDONALD



NEWSLETTER 1/2021

END of Financial Year 31 Mar 2021.

Reminder that Fees are due on the 1 Apr 2021

(details on page 3 for Brisbane) (Townsville details on page 9)

Remember, members' need to be financial to vote at our AGM.

ATTENTION

Expressions of Interest are sought for the sale of the following item:

Cannon Pixma Printer Model: G7060 CISS MFX

4 Months old.

Original price: \$620.00

As new condition.

Please forward any Offers to the: sapper.association.qld@gmail.com

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	0420- 404 994
SECRETARY	JOHN MCCREADIE	0419 279 907
ASST SECRETARY:	JOHN JESSER	3356 9297
TREASURER	PETER CAMPBELL	0422 638 218
ASST TREASURER:	PETER C AYLETT	3298 5526
EDITOR	BOB BANNAN	3205 1820
ASST EDITOR	RHEANNA VEHLLOW	
WELFARE	PETER CAIRNES	0427 558 685
	HARRY CLAASSEN	0422 525 575
COMMITTEE/SOCIAL:	BLUE MACKELLAR	3869 0834
	RON LARSEN	3822 3787

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: 0418 889541	email: secretary@nqsappers.org
Asst Secretary	Lachlan Tracey	Mob: 0448 565 410	email: lachlan.tracey@defence.gov.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	Jeremy Browne	Mob: 0498 691 611	email: bull-frog4269@hotmail.com
Property	Ron Smith	Mob: 0438 508 104	email: maron63@bigpond.com
Member	Pat Daley	Mob: 0438 740 028	email: FRO@nqsappers.org
Member	Joanne Daley	Ph.: (07) 47740028	email: FRO@nqsappers.org
Member	Terry McKeown	Mob: 0458 377 801	email: tdmckeown@gmail.com
Member	Greg Cottier	Mob: 0488 228 949	email: gregcotts@gmail.com

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

The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc. **Brisbane**

Sunday 28th March 2021 - 9am at
Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch
19 Gager Street, Sunnybank QLD 4109

Sunday, 18th April 2021 AGM

ANZAC Day
Sunday 25th April 2021

The Sapper Association, Queensland Inc. **NQ Branch**

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

2021 Annual General Meeting

**The AGM Brisbane and Townsville will be
held on Sunday, 18th April 2021.**

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome. The publication of Newsletter 01/2021 tells us that we are well into the New Year. Last year was trying for all with its restrictions etc but it is to be hoped the remainder of this year will be a vast improvement. Despite the conditions, both Branches have been able to maintain some stability. The New Year has enabled us to reinforce our Commitment to the various Units and plan activities for the Year.

Brisbane Branch has started planning for our Sapper Reunion 2022. It will be great to once again enjoy each others company if only for a few days.

The main task at hand for the Association is to review the Association Constitution against the current version of the Act in order to develop proposed amendments for presentation to members at the next Annual general Meeting for endorsement. A steering committee has been formed to fulfill this task.

Meanwhile, stay safe, look after each other, and with the easing of restrictions we can all enjoy the remainder of the year and what it has in store.

Bob Crawford.

ATTENTION! INFORMATION FOR WIDOWS & MEMBERS

The Association has for some time been trying to get some information for Widows & Members, about what should happen when a loved one passes, and things the Member should put in place well before the event of his or her death.

The following are available on the net from the Department of Veteran's Affairs:-

Planning ahead booklet – a guide to putting your affairs in order

Personal information sheet – D8729

Planning ahead – checklist -P00068

Medical details of Veteran – D8730

Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) DFRDB - DB01; MSBS - MB02.

As we are all of that age and not forgetting younger Veterans, we should ALL leave our loved ones with information “what to do”, “where to go”,

First Stop your Sub-branch RSL advocate (not RSL service clubs), and DVA who can assist you.

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.

VX136605 Colin Lindsay FULFORD, ex Sapper, passed away on Magnetic Island on the 10th November 2020 at 103 years of age. Colin served with 2/5 Fd Coy, AE, in New Guinea, Morotai and Borneo— a proud member of the Corps. A large crowd of family and friends attended his funeral on the island. Our association representatives there witnessed the RSL poppy service supported by the Island and Townsville sub branches. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

Francis (Frank) HOLLAND— STABBACK, ex Sapper, who turned 100 years of recently, passed away on the 15th November 2020. He is one of the many WW1 and WW2 veterans who upped their ages to enable him to enlist into the Army in time of war. Frank found himself in the 2/10th Engineer Company AE, a unit of the 8th Division of the 2nd AIF in the defence of Singapore which fell to the Japanese in February 1942 with most of the British garrison force being taken POW. We read about the atrocities carried out against these POWs by their captors. Frank was the custodian of his units Banner which he had donated to the Highett RSL in Victoria. His was a small family funeral in late November 2020. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

235235, David Leslie Howard BURING, Brigadier (Rtd) RAE, AM. Passed away on the 20th November 2020. As a Captain David served with 1 Fd Sqn in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. An officer and a Gentleman, always available to offer advice and help to many.

Sid ECCLESTON, ex SSgt RE, passed away on 9th November 2020 loosing a battle with Cancer. He was in his late eighties. Sid was a National Serviceman and served overseas in Egypt (perhaps in the Canal Zone) at some time and was awarded the British General Service Medal. Adrian Rogers was able to help him obtain his British Veterans' lapel badge a few years ago. Sid's funeral was held on 14th November 2020, at St Cuthbert's Anglican Church, Tweed Heads.

Leslie (Les) MALSEED, Major (Rtd) RAE, RFD, ED, passed away on 19th December 2020 aged 93. There is no doubt Les never really got over the loss of his beloved wife, Elaine, who died last September. He was a stalwart of the RAE. Les and others helped lay the foundation for the 22nd Construction Regiment down in Victoria. His contribution to the RAE cannot be acknowledged in just a few words. His funeral was held on 4th January 2021 at Bethel Funerals, Carrum Downs, VIC. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

214361, Gregory William BATISTE, ex SSGT (Later Major) RAE, passed away on 23rd December 2020. In Vietnam Greg served with 32 Small Ship Sqn in 1966 aboard Army Ship 3051, JOHN MONASH and in 1969-70 aboard Army Ship 1356, CLIVE STEEL. He also was posted as RQMS and QM in several other RAE Units. A Celebration of Life for Greg was held on 30th December 2020 at Maroochy RSL Events Centre, QLD.

3790595, Raymond Alexander FAULKNER, ex Sapper, passed away on 10th January 2021. Alex served with 55 EWPS in Vietnam from November 1967 to November 1968. His family held a small funeral service on 18th January 2021 at Latrobe Valley Funeral Chapel, Taralgon then to the Cemetery, Gippsland Memorial Park, VIC. (Covid 19 restrictions applied.).

18914, Kerry William JONES, ex Sapper, passed away on 23rd January 2021 after being unwell for some time. Kerry was a 20th Intake Army Apprentice Electrician. He was also on the Steering Committee of our Association in 1982 and a long time member. A small funeral for Kerry, attended by Family and friends, was held on 29th January 2021 at the Great Northern Garden of Remembrance Chapel, Deception Bay, QLD. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

43785, Thomas John (Paddy/Tom) MADIGAN, ex Sapper, passed away on 25th January 2021 in Noosa Hospital. Tom served in Vietnam with 1 Fd Sqn Group from 1967 to 1968. He also served in many RAE units including SME, then with Land Warfare Centre, Canungra. Tom's funeral was held on 2nd February 2021 at Gregson and Weight Funeral Directors Chapel, Noosaville, QLD. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

453739, Graham (Cowboy) CURTIS, ex Sapper, passed away on 30th January 2021, in Palliative Care, Townsville, after loosing a battle with Cancer. Graham served with 18 Fd Sqn. He was also a member of our association. Graham's funeral was on 12th February 2021 at Holy Spirit Church, Cranbrook, Townsville, QLD. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

46780, David (Blue) SCARCE, ex CPL RAE/RAEME, passed away on 27th January 2021. David was a 28th Intake Army Apprentice Electrician /Mech David went to Darwin in June/July 1975, with other apprentices from SME, for follow up support efforts following Cyclone Tracy. He was also posted to 2 FER 24 Support Troop, 1976; 20 Div Engr Spt Sqn Resources Troop, 1977; 11 Field Ambulance, Sapper Electrician, 1980; Discharged approx. January 1982. His funeral was held on 11th February 2021 at Traditional Funerals , Burpengary, QLD. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

1411050, Allan Graham ROBINSON, ex Sapper, passed away on 12th February 2021. He served with 18 Fd Sqn and saw service in Borneo, Malaya and Singapore. He also was a member of our association and a great supporter of our Western Tours out around Boulia. Allan's funeral was held on 19th February 2021 at the Lakes Chapel, Morley's Funeral Home, Townsville, QLD. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

3793061, David Christopher WOOD, ex Sapper, passed away on 5th February 2021 at Emerald, QLD. David served in Vietnam as a Plant Operator Dozer Driver with 17 Const Sqn Land Clearing Team from 1969 to 1970. He was proud of his service in Vietnam— even after his dozer was blown up by a mine in the Barrier minefield. David's funeral was held on 22nd February 2021 at Tobin Bros. Funeral Chapel, Springvale, VIC. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

7017, Gilbert Walter HARRIS, ex Sgt RAE, passed away on 4th March 2021. His Army service spanned 12 years. Gil served in Vietnam with 55 EWPS. He also served in 1 Fd Sqn; 26 ESS; 7 Fd Sqn; 1 AESD, HQ Coy Singapore; and 3 Fd Engr Regt. Gil was a long time active member of our association. Gil's funeral was held on 12th March 2021 at the Holy Family Catholic Church, Gulliver, Townsville, QLD. (Covid 19 restrictions applied).

Jim YOUNG, Lt Col, RAE (Rtd), passed away on 7th March 2021 after losing a battle with Blood Cancer. Jim was OC of 21 Const Sqn several years back. His Family held a small private family Funeral for him on 12th March 2021. I believe they plan to have a Memorial Function for Jim in the near future.

14786 Bryan Albert Frederick HEAL, ex Sgt RAE, passed away on 16th January 2021. Bryan served in Vietnam with DET 55 AEES.

Our condolences go to all their families.

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 in mid-February 2021 with another infection. He is now back home recovering.

Eddie ZUCH was injured in a car accident back in April. He is now recovering back home with a carer at Nanango. He will be undergoing Rehab for quite a while as injuries were severe. You can cheer him up by calling on (07) 4163 7203.

Alan (Butch) WALKER was in Greenslopes Hospital back in early December.

Kevin (Defor) HUGHES was getting treatment at Wesley Hospital for six weeks a while back. He is now home and can be contacted for a yarn on Mobile 0421- 959 674.

Max FOOT was in ICU, St Vincents Hospital, Toowoomba, back in early January 2021. He is now home taking it easy.

John ROBERTSON was in intensive care at the Mater Hospital, Townsville, back in mid January 2021 . getting treatment for an infection. He is now home recovering and on a heavy course of Antibiotics.

Darrell Bluey WILSON was in Greenslopes Hospital back in late January 2021. He had surgery to his neck. He was released from hospital and went back up north. He should be recovering well.

Ron SMITH was in Townsville Hospital in late January 2021. He had surgery to remove Cancer from a Kidney. He is recovering well.

Mal EDMINSTON was in the Mater Hospital, Townsville, in early February 2021. He had surgery to remove blood clots from vessels in back of his neck, causing blackouts. He is recovering well.

Jim FRASER was in a Brisbane Private Hospital back in early February 2021. He had major surgery and is now home recovering with 3 to 6 months Rehab ahead.

George HULSE fell off his bike and broke a hip. He was in Wesley Hospital back in early February 2021 and underwent surgery to replace hip. Now home and getting about on sticks. Wants to get back on bike –but only in gymnasium.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BRISBANE SUNDAY 18 APRIL 2021

TOWNSVILLE SUNDAY , 18 APRIL 2021

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS 2021/2022

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Seconder
Patron			
President			
Vice-President			
Secretary			
Assistant Secretary			
Treasurer			
Assistant Treasurer			
Welfare Officer			
Social			
Editor			
Auditor			
Committee			

PROXY VOTING FORM

All Ordinary & Affiliated financial members plus Life Members can vote at an Annual General Meeting, those members who are unable to attend can vote by proxy or can nominate a person to vote on their behalf by filling out the proxy form below.

SAPPER ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND (INC)

I, of ,
being a Member of the above named Association, hereby appoint

.....ofor failing him
.....of

as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the (annual) general meeting of the Association, to be held on
Sunday 18 April 2021, at Brisbane* or at Townsville and at any adjournment there of.

Signed thisday of.....2021,

Signature

This form is to be used * in favour of * against the resolution.

* Strike whichever is not desired.

- Unless otherwise instructed the proxy may vote as he thinks fit.
- Each instrument appointing a proxy must be given to the Secretary before the start of the meeting, or adjourned meeting, at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote.

Received by Secretary:

Date:Signature:

RAE ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2021

This year the Dawn Service will be held at the RAE Memorial in the UBIQUE Lines, Enoggera.

The best vehicle access should be via the Lloyd Street Gate (Heightened security). Then drive up through the round about in front of the Chapel Drive up through the roundabout and take the 4th exit into the 2 CER compound, once in the compound take the right turn –Ushers will be on location to give direction. All gates will be open **0330 hrs.** Any access to other parts of the barracks will need to be by escort only.

Here parking will be available. You will have to walk back across to the memorial – not far.

**0415- 0445 Gunfire Breakfast
by 0445 Guests seated
0500 Catafalque Party mounts
and Service Commences**

**Last Post
0540 Dawn Service Concludes
0600—0700 Breakfast and Refreshments,
Sportsman's Club**

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS **ANZAC DAY PARADE AND SAPPER REUNION, BRISBANE CITY**

This year all WWII veterans will march in block up the front, with those who cannot march being in buses or vehicles. All Barriers at road closures will be water filled. This year there will be **NO** free bus to the FUP area before the parade.

This year, because of State Health Dept. Covid 19 restrictions for large gatherings, each Unit/Association Leader is to make a Contact Tracing List of all who take part in the City Parade available to the Parade Organizers on ANZAC Day. This list will include names and contact details.

All please note that Air Force leads the parade this year. All marchers are asked to be at our FUP (**this year in William Street (between North Quay & Stephens Lane, facing Elizabeth Street) by 10.20hrs. - look for the Banner– ready to move off at 1045hrs.** We are in group 7, Unit No 46 in the parade.

Near the saluting dais, King George Square an area will be set up for Veterans of the WWII and Korea campaigns and Carers to watch the parade.

After the parade **NOTE THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR REUNION (TBA).**

Our Sapper marchers will fall out at the usual position. After the banner, shovel and pick are secured we will proceed to a venue to be advised. Hopefully, the venue for our ANZAC Day Reunion will be revealed at the Annual General Meeting and subsidized food will be provided as at previous reunions. Beer and spirits \$5 per glass a choice of two ales. A good time should be had by all.

ANZAC DAY, SUNDAY, 25TH APRIL 2021 CITY PARADE INFORMATION

The city parade this year will be led by the **RAAF** followed by the **Navy** and then the **Army** and steps off at 0930 hrs.

This year, Unit/Association Leaders will provide Contact Tracing Lists to the Parade Organizers on the DAY.

March Past Procedure (Saluting Base) Unit / group leaders are to give the command “Eyes Left” on approaching the first uniformed marker just before the saluting base. “Eyes front” will be given on passing the second uniformed marker just past the saluting base.

Concessional travel

Normal concessions will apply.

Refreshments

The Salvation Army will provide a refreshment service to ex-service personnel in and around Queens Park.

Toilet facilities

Toilet facilities are available inside the Treasury Hotel, the Executive Building as well as facilities in Queens Wharf Road between Queen and Elizabeth Streets.

Television Coverage

The ABC will provide live coverage from 10.00am to 1.00pm. An OB Van will be located in Albert Street opposite the saluting base. Channel Nine will also broadcast.

Rain / Alternative arrangements

The parade will be held irrespective of weather condition. The Sappers will meet at the FUP under our banner in WILLIAM STREET, facing Elizabeth Street, between NORTH QUAY & STEPHENS LANE.

NB. All marchers are asked to arrive by 10.20am.

END of Financial Year 31 Mar 2021.

Reminder that Fees are now due on the 1 Apr 2021 either Electronically (**details on page 3 for Brisbane**) (**Townsville details on page 9**) 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.

“SECRETARY’S REPORT

I hope this Newsletter finds you safe and well. Since the last newsletter a number of events have occurred that affects the day to day running of the Association. The first was a move to MailChimp as the primary way of distributing notices to Association members. This was a result of Gmail blocking a number of bulk emails we sent out because the algorithms it uses classed our notices as Spam. MailChimp is designed to send out bulk notices without being blocked however, we are aware that some members have found their emails in Spam or Junk folders depending on the Anti-Virus software they use, or their providers use. The alternative is to pay for a domain and email account. At this point in time we do not wish to progress to a paid provider as it will drain the limited financial resources of the Association.

We have also become aware that the Queensland Government has passed the Associations Incorporations and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 that governs management of Incorporated Associations such as ours. They have also forecast further changes in 2021 and 2022. As a result the committee is required to take a couple of steps to comply with the amendments to the legislation.

The first step was to confirm the current contact details of our members. I sent an email out in early January to all registered email addresses on our nominal roll so members could respond and confirm contact details. If you have not received this email please contact myself to confirm your details. at your earliest convenience. Members without email addresses can call/phone 0419– 279 907 to confirm their contact details.

The second step we are required to take is to align the Association Constitution with the new and expected changes to ensure we remain compliant with State legislation. A small subcommittee, headed by the President with a representative from both North Queensland and Brisbane branches, is working on this. We have completed a “mapping” exercise between the current Constitution and the Model rules. The key differences we have identified so far are:

- Greater focus on the responsibilities and accountability of the Secretary
- Simplified wording
- Modified order of the rules.

There may be some additional minor changes to our Constitution as we work through. However, we do not anticipate any major changes to the provisions of the Constitution. The result of the “mapping” exercise was made available to attendees at the committee meeting on 31 Jan 21 and once we have progressed further, a draft will be made available to all financial members. An email with a link will be sent out in due course.

Members without email or internet access will receive a draft of the amended constitution (rules) via Australia Post so they can have an informed vote when this matter is raised as a special resolution at a forthcoming General Meeting.

Save the Date:

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 18 Apr 2021 at a venue to be advised. Further details will be provided in due course.

Kind regards,

John McCreadie

Secretary”

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Happenings from the Deep North 1/2021

By John Cotter Esq

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well here we are again, another year started.

I would like to start by thanking Col Paul Pembroke for the last 2 years at the helm of 3CER. Welcome to Lt Col Ken Golder, back here at 3CER as his replacement, and MAJ Dave Edwards as the new OC of 35 Sqn.

We have already had our first meeting for 2021, and it was great to see all the usual and some new members, welcome back all!

Our March meeting will be completed by the time this is printed, and is to be held at 3CER in conjunction with Horse Mansell's Sapper Muster, so that should be a great day! Looking forward to catching up with some old Sappers. Making that happen is the CO and Mick McMahon, with the help from The Regiment, so a huge thank you to you all, they are putting on a display of equipment and a tour of the Regiment.

I would like to congratulate the Junior Officer of the year 2020 Lt Nathan Duncan and the Top Sapper for 2020 Spr Guy Phillip, well done to you both.

With ANZAC day back to normal this year we will be gearing up with 3CER to put together a Dawn Service, our usual Guard of the Bridge with our pick and shovel, the march in Thuringowa and then back to the home of the NQ Sapper, the Thuringowa RSL, for a couple of stories: should be a great day I would imagine.

I'll sign off by thanking the NQ committee for a great year and the work done by all has been amazing. My job would be so much harder without you all, anyone leaving, I say thank you and good luck, for any member joining us at the front desk I say thank you, welcome, and good luck.

Tony Kealley



NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR OPERATION OVERLORD – THE BATTLE OF LONG KHAN

(From George Hulse OAM President 1 FD SQN GP RAE Association)

The Department of Veterans Affairs is hosting the 50th anniversary National Commemorative Service of Operation Overlord – The Battle of Long Khan at the Vietnam Memorial in ANZAC Parade, Bardon, Canberra on Monday 7 June 2021. The event will include a parade of unit Colours, Banners and Guidons and a memorial service at which the Sovereign's Banner of the RAE will be on-parade. There will **not** be a march past of veterans.

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) has scheduled a Last Post Ceremony (LPC) in the Commemorative Courtyard commencing at 4:45 pm 7 June 2021 in memory of Flight Lieutenant Everitt Lance who was KIA on Operation Overlord on 7 June 1971. This is a ticketed event and anybody who wishes to attend this LPC must register individually with the AWM beforehand. There were numerous Sappers of 1 FD SQN GP who contributed to this Operation and who are cordially invited to attend the memorial service in Canberra on 7 June 2021.

The National Commemorative Service for the 50th anniversary of Operation Overlord – the Battle of Long Khan will commence at 10:30 am Monday 7 June 2021 at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on ANZAC Parade Canberra. It is expected that this service will run for about one hour. Further information from George at eddsniffer@optusnet.com.au or SMS 0412 341 363 and advise him if you intend to attend.



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.



ON THE SOCIAL SCENE

The Christmas function on 19 December last on the foredeck of the Townsville Yacht Club was by all reports a great success very well put together by Social Director Jeremy Brown and thoroughly enjoyed by the many members and guests who attended. A new feature was the dinner of four courses of canapés that seemed to go down well, with ample draughts of liquid lubricant of course. A major feature of the evening was the Secret Santa with many varied and wondrous gifts ranging from drink coasters to a wall clock bearing the Association Badge. Also of note was the presentation of the Pain in the Arse Award (PINA) to Vice President Cliff Kemp which is a tad ironic in that the PINA is the Vice President's award. Well done that man!

The North Queensland Sappers Junior Officer Award for 2020 for the Third Combat Engineer Regiment was awarded to Lt Nathan Duncan of 18 Combat Engineer Squadron and the Top sapper award went to Spr Guy Phillips, Explosive Detection Dog Handler of 25 Support Squadron. Along with the shield for each award, each recipient received an EOD Leatherman Knife as well as a copy of a drawing from the Engineer's Collection compliments of Craig 'Shine' Summerfield and the RAE Museum.



Shown at left is Vice President Cliff Kemp with shield, Lt Nathan Duncan and President Tony Kealley. Spr Guy Phillips was on leave and unavailable. Well done to both men.

The 3CER Fishing Competition was held towards the end of last year and attracted 160 competitors from various defence communities including the NQ Sappers. The event raised \$12,000 for Legacy and helped to support the widows Christmas parties. Categories included reef, estuary and land based as well as teams. Spr Mitchell Moffatt won the lucky entry draw of a customized fishing kayak Cpl Brian Duynhoven won the reef category with a 59cm bump head parrotfish and Spr Harrison Reinaudo's 130cm cobia gave him the pelagic division. Last but not least Robert Bell from The NQ Sappers pulled in the largest barramundi at 112.5cm from Peter Faust Dam down near Proserpine. A good time was had by all even if not all were successful.

The March meeting held at 3CER Lavarack Barracks was a roaring success helped in no small way by the addition of the many old and bolds who had travelled up for the Sapper Muster organized by Alan Mansell. Hosted by the Commanding Officer LtCol Ken Golder the event included a display of equipment and vehicles that was enjoyed by the gathering and whose appreciation was shown in the time honoured manner. That the CO had left his regiment during a field exercise was noted and well appreciated. President Tony proved a deft hand behind the bar in keeping the lubrication flowing although the financial arm of the branch seemed to look a tad concerned when he called for a lot more stock. A great day and it was good to catch up with a lot of old faces. 😊

AROUND THE TRAPS

- Fund raising is progressing with sausage sizzles at Bunning's and Kings 4WD and the ANZAC Day memorabilia sale will arc up again with Pat and Jo Daley at the helm. Why not check the Events Calendar for dates and times and give Cliff Kemp a call to help with the sizzles and Pat to help with the memorabilia sales. Won't you do that? But please don't just rock up without speaking to them first as they have certain conditions to meet with the landlords.

- I see that the Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester has directed the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal to consider recognition for members of the ADF who are injured, wounded or killed in or as a result of their service. Hmm, more work for the RAP?

•It looks like Defence may be looking to replace the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) Tiger with the more lethal and hi-tech Apache - considered to be the “Diggers’ choice”. If it comes off it may well be the very first digger’s choice to actually happen. As a piece of useless information it has been reported that HRH Prince Harry actually qualified to operate from both seats of the Apache. Those that have intimate knowledge of these things tell me that is no mean feat.

•Those with a bent for the haggis and all things Scottish may like to know that they can get a regular fix of all things Scottish from the Australian Gaelic Singers website www.gaelicsingers.com. Mal Edmiston our resident Scot says to double click on this link and when the site opens click on the Scottish News link at the top of the web page and follow through. Now you know.

•Good to see that our erstwhile assistant secretary Jade Pregelj is still making moves in the Australian Football League Women’s competition playing for the Gold Coast Suns. Jade has long been involved in the sport and was a leading light while in Townsville posted to 3CER. A star no less and well earned.



•It seems that the new Command Sergeant Major of Special Operations Command is WO1 Jae Robinson, Royal Australian Armoured Corps. Now won’t that raise some eyebrows and possibly other things as well?

•Christmas wishes from Craig “Shine” Summerfield down in our southern outpost of Sydney to all members and families. The shiny one does a great job for the sapper world in general as well as with his involvement with the Army Engineer’s Museum. But I guess the question has to be asked; how did he get into that position in a Santa suit?



•The Annual General Meeting on 18 April will be at the Thuringowa RSL Club and if recent trends continue, it will be a good turnout. All committee positions will of course be vacated however the Secretary is still looking for nominations for Property Manager and Secretary. If you reckon you can do any of the jobs on offer why not give Scotty Reid a bell and zot in your nomination. 😊

COMING EVENTS

If members have any thoughts/ideas for functions please speak to Jeremy Browne the Social Coordinator. He would welcome your input.

It would appear that August is shaping to be a busy time socially for 3CER and of course by extension, the NQ Sappers. More will appear as dates and events are planned but it may be a good idea to block out the month in the flat white crystal ball. Or your favourite electronic gizmo if you feel that way inclined.

For further details please see the Events Calendar. Remember that meetings are at the Townsville RSL till further notice except for the AGM which will be at the Thuringowa RSL Club. 😊

ANZAC DAY

Dawn Service	5.15am	Gunfire Breakfast at 3CER Lavarack Barracks
	5.45am	Start Dawn Service
		Breakfast will be available
		The Dingo Bar will be open
March and Service	8.30am	Assemble at the Weir State School Car Park
(All details TBC)	9.00am	March steps off
	9.30am	Service starts at the Thuringowa Cenotaph, Village Green, Riverway Parkland
Post March		Thuringowa RSL Club
		Pergola and seating will be available 😊



EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

Sappers Luncheon, Thursday, 3rd December 2020.

We had about 25 folks at our luncheon on 3rd December at Gaythorne RSL. Despite our tables being right beside the vocalist and band, we were able to catch up with old and new friends and enjoy the outing. See photo at left with Jethro at the head of a table.

Association Brisbane Branch Christmas Luncheon.



A beautiful sunny day greeted us on Saturday, 28th November 2020, for our Christmas Luncheon at Royal Queensland Yacht Club, Manly. Those attending enjoyed the meal, venue and good company, although Covid 19 restrictions were in place.. These photos show the setting and those at the function. Photos—by Mike Muirhead



FUTURE COMMEMORATIONS

Saturday, 8th May 2021, VE Day at Riverside Memorial
 Saturday, 8th May 2021, Battle of Coral Sea Commemoration, Newstead Park
 Monday, 24th May 2021, US Memorial Day
 Sunday, 27th June 2021, Reserve Forces Day Commemoration, ANZAC Square
 Sunday, 8th August 2021, Kokoda Day, Sherwood—Indooroopilly RSL

Sunday, 15th August 2021, VP Day, ANZAC Square
 Wednesday, 18th August 2021, Vietnam Veterans (Long Tan) Day
 Wednesday, 25th August 2021, Milne Bay Day
 Wednesday, 1st September 2021, Battle for Australia Day, Chermside Precinct.
 Thursday, 11th November 2021, Remembrance Day, ANZAC Square.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that, because of the pandemic and social distancing regulations, most future events have been put on hold at present. If you need answers to any questions, contact your local committee.

The Sapper Association Christmas in July Event, Saturday, 17 July 2021. It will be held at The Little Ship Club, Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island.
 RSVP by 2 July 2021 to John Jesser, Phone: 3356 9297 or by email.

The Sappers Association Christmas Luncheon, Saturday, 20 November 2021. It will be held at Moreton Bay Yacht Club, Pird O'Passage Parade, Scarborough.
 RSVP by 5 November 2021 to John Jesser, Phone: 3356 9297 or by email.

21 Engineer Support Troop Reunion, Monday 30 August to Friday, 3 September 2021, at Forster, Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club.

For Details & RSVP contact;
 Ian McLean, 0412-431 297
 Joe Bonnici, -0429-390 306
 Phil Hincks, 0414-761 032.



Message received from the Head of Corps in December 2020, members without email contact might have missed this.

Dear Fellow Sappers,

I spoke recently with a young combat engineer who supported Operation Bushfire Assist and participated in Australia's response to COVID19. His year like many of us started amidst a crisis. With the Nation on fire, he was constantly on task – opening and clearing routes, manning community centres, coordinating and delivering essential supplies to isolated communities. Then, with limited respite, he was redeployed for quarantine and border control.

This lad recounted to me how proud he was helping Australians at home; how he enjoyed working alongside our South West Pacific partners; and how much he had learned being a key part of the State and Territory police and health response. Most importantly, he mentioned to me how inspired he was by the people in his Regiment – they had responded with vigour, enthusiasm, passion, pride and professionalism.

His story has stayed with me. Like so many others' stories it speaks to the power of inspiration. In our 118th anniversary year, it reminds us why we train so hard and why our effort matters in a tangible way. This year has been challenging for all of us both as a Corps and for our Families – bushfires, floods, pandemics, isolation, a troubled global economy and increasing geopolitical tension. However, a ready and resilient Army and Nation is kept ready and resilient through its Engineers. RAE exists to provide engineering solutions for our Nation's toughest challenges. In 2020, we have again led from the front – our Sappers are leaders among their peers; innovators at the forefront of national security, military engineering, humanitarian response, disaster relief, capacity building, facility management and technical design. Together, as a Corps of over 3,500 men and women, we continue to be a globally-engaged force providing unmatched strength and value to others.

The Corps has been achieving 'more together' by 'partnering for impact.' Restrictions limited travel, however, I was impressed by how we reached out to academia, Industry, the other Services, Government agencies and our international allies and partners. Notably, this included all of us - all Engineer specialisations, Engineers in the Joint Army Staff, the Part Time Force and Sapper Associations. Although things were planned and then frustratingly postponed or cancelled, remarkably, the Corps was still able to bring together SAPPER – Plan 2028 'A Strategy for Army's Military Engineer Capability.' This offers a pathway for the Corps and Defence to inform future innovation and adaptation.

This has been an awesome endeavour...but my posting order has arrived...I'm deploying overseas for a while to Headquarters US Forces Korea. It has been the greatest of honours to have served as your Head of Corps and this responsibility has now passed from me to my good friend BRIG Matt Galton DSC. Matt is a combat hardened seasoned professional, with enormous full spectrum engineer experience. He will continue the momentum and lead our Corps to the next level. I know you will give BRIG Galton the same enthusiastic, passionate, candid and professional support you provided me.

I would like to thank the COs/RSMs and key Engineer staff; MAJGEN Steve Day and the team of RAE Colonel Commandants; the RAE Foundation; and the Veteran community who are an absolute force multiplier, essential in supporting influence and advocacy, and sharing information to the wider community. Special thanks goes to the Corps RSM WO1 Sean Chainey; a wise leader and strong advocate for all soldiers. He has gone the extra mile this year to ensure our men and women are being remunerated appropriately and honoured at every opportunity.

I've always been proud of the men and women who have gone through the *Home of the Sapper*. They are the heroes who set the demolitions, clear the minefields and defuse the IEDs; renovate the schools and hospitals; build the roads, bridges and airfields; help train and mentor our partners; deliver strategic infrastructure both at home and abroad—and fight as close combatants when the need arises. For all of you who are deployed around the world, including throughout Australia, whether training now or on operations – THANK YOU! You are doing incredible work of tremendous importance and are making an enormous positive difference. For those of you preparing to go into harm's way, please take care – make sure you maintain the highest of standards, remember our rich Sapper heritage and enduring legacy, and importantly, keep safe.

I wish you and your Families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your service.

Follow the Sapper!

All the Best,

John

JOHN CAREY, CSC

Brigadier

Chief of Staff | Headquarters Joint Operations Command

Head of Corps, Royal Australian Engineers

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john.carey3@defence.gov.au

"Follow the Sapper!"

<https://army-d8.govcms.gov.au/our-people/organisation-structure/army-corps/royal-australian-engineers>

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, Mobile: 0422 525 575
email: svp@sunnybankrsl.org

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

G'day, it gives me great pleasure to report that Trevor got the correct table today, 4th March, well away from the band and sufficient for the 28 - 32 individuals to sit and enjoy lunch and each others company, I'll ask him to do it again for the June lunch. We had a number of friends and partners along, visitors contribute to the diversity of conversation, hopefully we'll see them again. A number of regular attendees were unable to join us for a variety of reasons, we certainly wish those with medical issues a speedy recovery.

Cheers Jethro

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

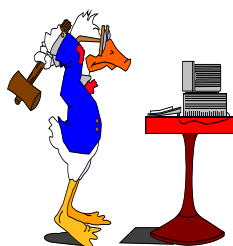
MEMORABILIA ITEMS FOR SALE, BRISBANE

The following items are for sale to members:

Lapel badges	\$8.00	Association Plaques	\$40.00
Engineer Belt Buckles	\$23.50	Embroidered cloth badges	\$7.00
Stubbie holders (tubes)	\$ 2.50	Stubbie holders (with Bases)	\$3.50

Don't hesitate to contact the Committee if you wish to purchase an item.

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.

1 FD SQN GP

<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

raevictoria.com

www.1fieldsappers.org

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.