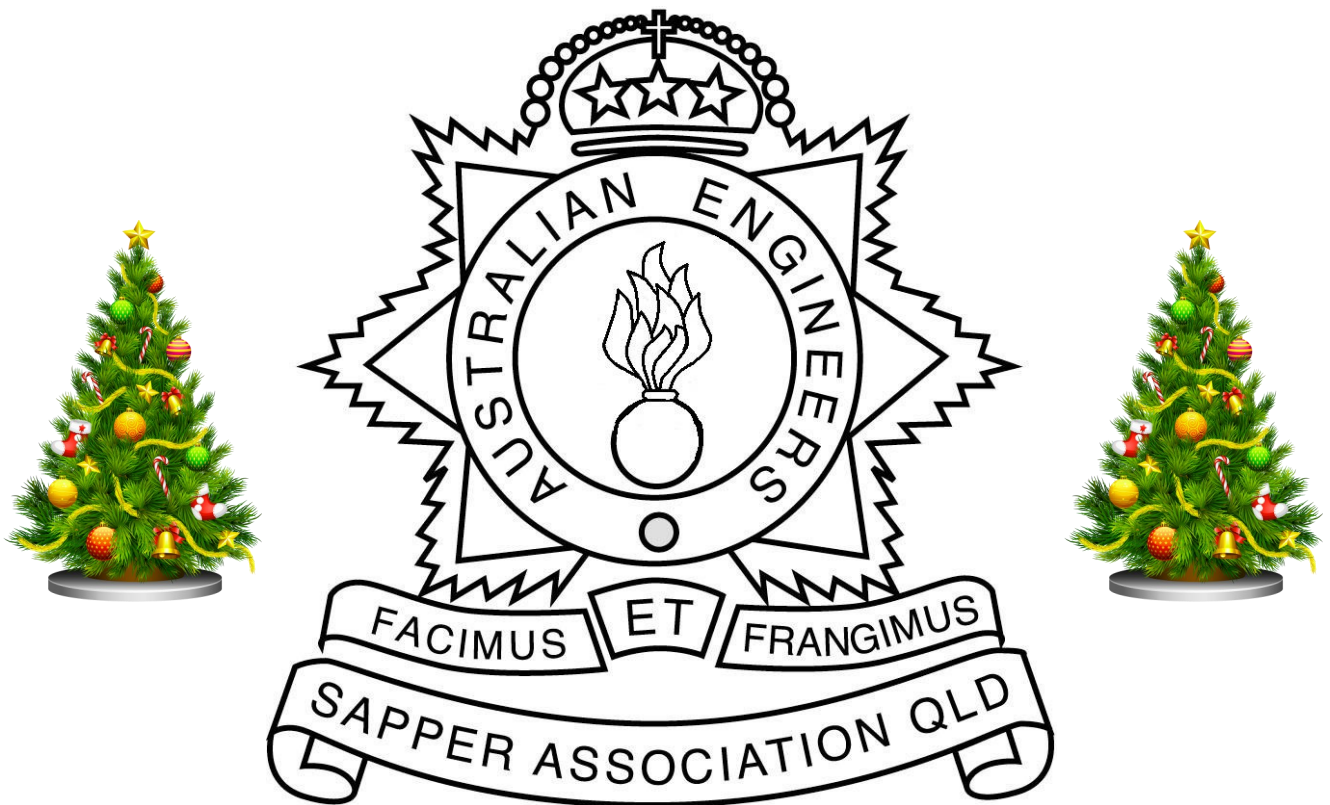


**THE SAPPER**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**QUEENSLAND**  
**(INC.)**

**PATRON**  
HECTOR MACDONALD



*Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year*

**NEWSLETTER 2/2021**

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STAFFORD,  
Queensland 4053  
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Queensland 4814  
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### **QUEENSLAND COMMITTEE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

PATRON:	HECTOR MACDONALD	
PRESIDENT:	BOB CRAWFORD	3359 5338
VICE PRESIDENT:	BOB BANNAN	3205 1820
NQ BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE	TONY KEALLEY	0420- 404 994
SECRETARY	JOHN MCCREADIE	0419 279 907
ASST SECRETARY:		
TREASURER	PETER CAMPBELL	0422 638 218
ASST TREASURER:	PETER C AYLETT	3298 5526
EDITOR		
ASST EDITOR		
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: <a href="mailto:president@nqsappers.org">president@nqsappers.org</a>
Vice President	Cliff Kemp	Mob: 0409 892 257	email: <a href="mailto:vpres@nqsappers.org">vpres@nqsappers.org</a>
Membership	Cliff Kemp	Mob: 0409 892 257	email: <a href="mailto:vpres@nqsappers.org">vpres@nqsappers.org</a>
Secretary		Mob:	email: <a href="mailto:secretary@nqsappers.org">secretary@nqsappers.org</a>
Asst Secretary	Lachlan Tracey	Mob: 0448 565 410	email: <a href="mailto:lachlan.tracey@defence.gov.au">lachlan.tracey@defence.gov.au</a>
Treasurer	Gary Beveridge	Mob: 0403 266 106	email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@nqsappers.org">treasurer@nqsappers.org</a>
Asst Treasurer	Deb Kealley	Mob: 0407 242 200	email: <a href="mailto:kealleys@bigpond.com">kealleys@bigpond.com</a>
Welfare	Barry Low	Mob: 0417 106 435	email: <a href="mailto:welfare@nqsappers.org">welfare@nqsappers.org</a>
Social	Jeremy Browne	Mob: 0498 691 611	email: <a href="mailto:bull-frog4269@hotmail.com">bull-frog4269@hotmail.com</a>
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Member	Pat Daley	Mob: 0438 740 028	email: <a href="mailto:FRO@nqsappers.org">FRO@nqsappers.org</a>
Member	Joanne Daley	Ph.: (07) 47740028	email: <a href="mailto:FRO@nqsappers.org">FRO@nqsappers.org</a>
Member	Terry McKeown	Mob: 0458 377 801	email: <a href="mailto:tdmckeown@gmail.com">tdmckeown@gmail.com</a>
Member	Greg Cottier	Mob: 0488 228 949	email: <a href="mailto:gregcotts@gmail.com">gregcotts@gmail.com</a>
Member	Ron Smith	Mob: 0438 508 104	email: <a href="mailto:maron63@bigpond.com">maron63@bigpond.com</a>

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

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

Next meeting 5 Dec 2021  
2 Somers St Cashmere  
1pm

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

Thuringowa RSL Club – 11am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

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

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**Good** Day to all. Well with Christmas fast approaching I wonder where the year went. COVID and the resulting restrictions have no doubt played with branches plans.

Before I go any further I must thank John Jesser for manning his computer and producing this newsletter. It has been a while since our last one, due as they say to circumstances beyond our control.

Restrictions aside, there have been some activities that, as President, I have attended on behalf of the Association while both Branches have also been able to carry on as near to normal as possible and will continue to do so for the rest of the year. Brisbane Branch members will be attending a number of functions at 2CER as a Christmas luncheon to finish the year off.

Recently, I attended the HOC zoom conference where a number of topics relating to the various Associations were discussed. I will wait until I receive a copy of the summary of the proceedings before I go into further detail. One topic discussed was what the Associations were planning for the Corps 120th Birthday next year. I would urge both Branches, if they have not done so already, to liaise with the various Units they are involved with to see how they can best assist each other to celebrate the occasion.

Enough from me. On behalf of the Association I would like to wish all the best for the Festive Season and look forward to a better year to follow.

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.

### **END of Financial Year**

**Due to the Constitution being amended/refigured as a requirement of the Office of Fair trading, the end of year may change.**

Reminder that Fees are payable either Electronically (**details on page 6 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.

## **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.

**210978, WO1 Lancelot Terence (Terry ) RADFORD, ex WO1 RAE**, passed away on 13th March 2021 after a long battle with Cancer. During his Vietnam Service with 32 Small Ship Squadron Terry served on Army Ship AS 3051, John Monash, 1968– 69, then on Army Vessel AV 1354, Brundell White, 1970.

**8299290, Hamish Ian GODDARD, Officer Cadet, Corporal RAE**, died suddenly aged 40 years, on 18th March 2021. Hamish had finished his course and was awaiting Officer Commissioning. He served with 4 CER and leaves behind a young family.

**218941, Graham Keith CUSACK, ex Corporal RAE**, passed away on 29th March 2021. He served in South Vietnam with 17 Const Sqn, from 1971 to 1972.

**215124, Warren Hugh JOHNSON, ex Corporal RAE**, passed away on 30th March 2021. Warren served in South Vietnam from 1966– 67 and 1968– 69, with 17 Const Sqn. His Funeral was held at the Garden Chapel, Albany Creek, QLD, on the 7th April 2021.

**37575, Trevor John BOADEN, ex WO1 RAE**, passed away on the 23rd March 2021. Trevor was posted to PNGDF, SME, 18 Fd Sqn, 7 Fd Sqn and served with 1 Fd Sqn in South Vietnam. Trevor was also a long– time member of our Association. His Funeral was a small family affair..

**QX 58503/ 61060, Robert Henderson, ex Gunner WWII RAA then Corporal RAE**, passed away on 12 April 2021 aged 96. He served with 24 Const Sqn and at SME where he retired in 1969. Bob's family Funeral was held on 22 April 2021 at Exeter, Tasmania.

**4731705, John William SCANLAN, ex Sapper**, passed away on 26 April 2021. John served in South Vietnam from Feb 1971 to Jun 1971 with 21 Engr Spt Tp, then from Jun 1971 to Oct 1971 with 1 Fd Sqn. He was in 1 Fd Sqn at the withdrawal from Nui Dat. John's Funeral was held on 15 May 2021 at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Maitland, NSW.

**5411198, Leslie (Geordie) McIntosh STEPHENSON, ex Sgt RAE**, passed away on 17th April 2019 after a long battle with Cancer. He served in PNG and South Vietnam. Geordie sailed home on the last HMAS Sydney trip in 1972, after handing over the Unit to the ARVN. He served two tours in South Vietnam from May 1966 to June 1967 with 21 Engr Spt Tp, then from September 1971 to March 1972 with 55 Engr W'shop & Park Sqn.

**James (Jim) (Taipan) TRUSCOTT, Major , OAM (Retd), RAE and several other Corps**, passed away on 28 April 2021. He suffered a Heart Attack while on a bike ride along the Bourke & Wills Track, near Mildura. Jim served with Queensland University Regiment before entering RMC as a cadet in 1975. He graduated in 1977 and was awarded a BA (Hons) in 1978. He later completed a BA, out of interest. Jim served as Tp Comdr in 1 Fd Sqn in 1 Fd Engr Regt and as an Observer with the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Rhodesia in the 1970s. He then completed selection and served as OPSO in 3 SAS Sqn. Jim served as Garrison Engineer in Newcastle and on the Ops Staff in Field Force Command, Army HQ and HQ, Special Forces. He then served as OC, 2 Commando Coy and in the Pilbara Regt as Surveillance Sqn Comdr. He was a Civil Affairs Officer in the NT and then back to SASR.

Jim was also a adventurer. Throughout his career he was a keen mountaineer, rock climber and Nordic skier. He took part in 3 expeditions to the Himalayas spanning 9 months and other expeditions to mountain peaks on many continents. He conducted long distance sea kayak trips and spent months in the jungles of Borneo. At the time of his death he was finalising a detailed "Battle Field Guide" to East Timor. He was also a prolific writer and authored several books, including his autobiography "Snakes in the Jungle — Special Operations in War and Business". His funeral was to be held at the chapel, RMC, Duntroon.

**37866, Anthony (Tony) John (Williams) Harris ex Sapper**, passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021. served with 32 Small Ships Sqn. RAE. He served on Army vessel AV Clive Steele and on the Army Vessel AV Brundell White on 2 voyages to PNG. One was a lengthy PIR Regiment Prestige Patrol from Port Moresby up the coast out to Bougainville Manus and Vanimo and a supply run for an oil rig up the Vilola River South Papua. Tony's funeral was held on the 18th May 2021 at the Crematorium Rockhampton, Queensland.

**V280520, David Bertram Kenneth LAUGHTON , ex Sapper, 2/10 Fd Coy RAE**, passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021. David served in WW2 from 1941 to 1946 with the 2/10 Fd Coy, RAE 8th Div., AIF. His funeral was held late April at the Presbyterian Church, Mt Gambia, South Australia.

**16869 Robert William (Bob) Henry Embrey ex Sgt, RAE**, passed away on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Bob served in South Vietnam with 1 Field Squadron 1967 - 1968 and also served in 7 Fd Sqn. He was a long time member of the Association and served on our committee for several years. Bob and Wendy sold their home and moved to the Caravan Park, Cottonree around 15 years ago. Bob's funeral was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at Stan Weight Chapel, Buderim, Queensland.

**47018, Peter Jullian DAY, Major General, AO, (Retd)**, passed away on the 8th May 2021. He graduated from RMC in 1956 and served in 17 Const Sqn, 7 Fd Sqn, 29 Engr Spt Sqn. Peter served in South Vietnam as OC, 17 Const Sqn 1966, then with HQ, Australia Force Vietnam (Army Component), 1966– 67 and 1969– 70 and also in Malaya. Notable appointments ; Services Attache, Manila; Deputy Chief of General Staff; Comdt, ADF Academy. Peter's Funeral was held on 17th May 2021 at the Chapel, RMC, Duntroon, ACT.

**16698, Peter Roy WIEDEN, ex Sapper**, passed away on the 14th May 2021 in St Vincents Hospital, Chermside, Brisbane. Peter had been instrumental in setting up the Sub Branch of our Association in Cairns around 2002. It only lasted a couple of years. He was a long time member. Peter served with 32 Small Ship Sqn, 30 Port Sqn, 30 Terminal Sqn, 1 Fd Sqn and 7 Fd Sqn. He and Amelia moved home about 20 years ago to live in the Caboolture area and he was involved in the Mens Shed there. Amelia passed away on New Years Day this year. Peter's Funeral was held on 25th May 2021 at Traditional Funerals Chapel, Burpengary, QLD.



**2/42625 (ARA); 860437 (CMF) Brian Edward John JONES, Capt (Retd) RFM, ASM, ADM**, passed away on Monday 24th May 2021. Brian joined the regular Army in 1951 and served until February 1963. He was with the 6th Intake, Australian Army Apprentice School, Victoria, at age 15 years. Brian qualified as a Plumber. During his service in the RAE he served with 17, 21 and 24 Const Sqns, 7 Fd Sqn and SME. He joined PNGVR in 1964 and was there until it's disbandment in December 1973. Whilst in the PNGVR he served as a Sergeant and Warrant Officer Class 2 at HQ, Port Moresby, A and C Coys at Lae and Goroka. In February 1986 he was commissioned Captain in the RA Inf, Active CMF, serving in HQ 1 Div, 49 RQR Bushmen Rifles and 31 RQR the Kennedy Regiment in Queensland. He finished his military career when posted to the Reserve of Officers, Northern Command in 1991. Brian was a member of our association for some years. As per Brian's wishes there was no funeral.

**1801782, David Andrew GIRVAN, ex Sapper**, passed away on 31st May 2021. David joined the army in 1968 with 23rd intake at Army Apprentice School, Balcombe and served until 1975. He qualified as a Brick Layer and served at SME Trade Wing then went to 21 or 17 Const Sqn before discharge. His Funeral was held on 15th June 2021 at Fitzgerald's Funeral Home, Townsville, QLD.

**29655, Michael George HOLTON, Brigadier (Retd) RAE**, passed away on 3rd June 2021. He served in South Vietnam from June 1966 to June 1967 at HQ, Australian Force Vietnam (Army Component)..

**3144452, Laurence (Laurie) ROBINSON, ex-Cpl RAE**, passed away on 11th June 2021. Laurie served in 106 Const Sqn, 22 Const Regt. He was awarded the RFM and ADM.

**Alan (Al) WOLSKI, Lt (Retd) RAE**, passed away early this year, unexpectedly. Al earned his commission at OCTU, Wacol around 1984/85. He was posted to 11 Fd Sqn, 5 FER, in 1985 as a Troop Commander. Later he was posted to Ipswich as Tp Comd, 28 Fd Tp about 1990 and was there until after 1995. In recent years Al worked at G,H & D consulting engineers. He was well known there and well liked. His was private family Funeral.

**Christine (Big Bird) KAYE (nee GILL), ex Cpl RAE**, passed away on 30 August 2021 after a long battle with Cancer. Christine served in HQ, 11 Fd Sqn, 5 FER. She was well liked and popular with all who worked with her in the Unit. Christine's family Funeral was held on the 6 September 2021 at St Paul's Anglican Church, Cleveland, QLD.

**34768, John (Jack) Neville SALTER, Major RAE**, passed away on the 15 July 2021 after fighting Lung Cancer and Asbestosis. John served in the Corps for over 35 years in many Units. He served in South Vietnam with HQ, Australian Force Vietnam (Army Component) from November 1969 to November 1970. John's Funeral was a Family Service on the 3 August 2021 at Forest Place Cemetery.

**13407, William (Bill) Joseph HOLZWORTH, ex-Cpl RAE**, passed away on 11 July 2021 at 96 years of age. He was well known in the Corps. Bill served in South Vietnam with 1 Field Squadron from May 1967 to May 1968. He also served in 24 Const Sqn. Bill's small Family Funeral was held on 26 July 2021 at Pinnaroo Crematorium Chapel, Albany Creek, QLD.

**38574, John Francis WALLIS, ex-WO1 RAE**, passed away on 26 July 2021 in NSW. John served in South Vietnam as a Corporal with 17 Const Sqn from 1967 to 1968. He was a WO1 upon discharge from the Army.

**3797155, Michael (Mick) Patrick BERGIN, ex-Sapper**, passed away on 4 August 2021 after a battle with Cancer. Mick served in South Vietnam with 2 Tp, 1 Field Squadron, as a Tunnel Rat, from June 1970 to June 1971. Mick's Family Funeral was held on 16 August 2021 at Our Lady of The Way Church, Kingsbury, VIC.

**46056, Michael Anthony WEEKS (Kronk), ex-Sapper**, passed away on 25 July 2021 after a battle with Cancer. Michael served as a FE in 17 Const Sqn and later in 7 Fd Sqn he moved over to Transport Section. He went to Darwin for the clean-up after the cyclone and took part in the Tully Trials. He discharged from Army in May 1977. A small Family Service was held for Michael around the end of July or Early August 2021 at Wudinna, South Australia.

**37859, Barry Robert BUCKLEY, ex-Sgt RAE, OAM**, passed away on 21 August 2021. Barry served with 32 Small Ship Sqn and then with ANZUC (Public Relations), HQ, ANZUC, on board Army Ship AS3051, John Monash in 1972; and Official Duty, HQ, ANZUC Support Group Singapore in 1972.

**45410, James (Jamie) Norman ELLIOTT, ex-Sapper**, passed away on 28 August 2021 after a battle with a long standing illness. He served in South Vietnam with 17 Const Sqn from November 1970 to January 1972.

**Mrs Elizabeth (Liz) COLEMAN, Wife of Rod**, passed away after a long illness on 31 August 2021. Due to the pandemic Liz was cremated and a Memorial Service will be held at a later date to farewell her.

**3177918, Keith John RAYMANT, ex-Sapper**, passed away on 31 August 2021. Keith enlisted in the CMF in the late 1960s and served in 31 Terminal Squadron (TN) RAE. He was then conscripted into 24th National Service Intake and served in 21 Const Sqn. During his career Keith spent time with RACT, 5/6 RVR, and RAE before transferring to Catering Corps where he stayed till discharge about 2006 with the rank of Corporal. Keith's service included two deployments to East Timor.

**1732137, Daniel (Danny) Vincent CONNOLLY, ex-Sapper**, passed away on 2 September 2021 after a battle with Mesothelioma Asbestos Cancer. Daniel served in South Vietnam with 17 Const Sqn from March 1967 to February 1968. His Graveside Service was held on 11 September 2021 at Emu Park Cemetery, QLD.

**38717, Stuart Neil HURST, Lt Col RAE**, passed away on 7 September 2021. Neil served in South Vietnam with Detachment 11 Movement Control Group RAE from July 1966 to July 1967; 32 Small Ship Sqn, Army Ship, AS3051, July 1971 to August 1971. A private Family Service was held on 14 September 2021.

**28681, Phillip Roy CANNANE, ex-WO1 RAE**, passed away on 27 September 2021 after being in pain for a while. He was an icon of 32 Small Ship Sqn and a mentor to many young Sappers posted to the unit. Phil served in South Vietnam with 32 Small Ship Sqn, aboard AV 1356, CLIVE Steele, from June 1966 to October 1966, January 1969 to April 1969 and July 1969 to October 1969; aboard AV 1353, Harry Chauvel, from May 1969 to June 1970. A small Family Service for Phil was held on 29 September 2021.

**1733943, Edward (Ted) Robert WAUGH, ex-L/Cpl RAE**, passed away on 29 September 2021 at Greenslopes Hospital, Brisbane after a battle with Mesothelioma. Ted was a National Serviceman who's trade was Carpenter. He served in South Vietnam with 21 Engr Spt Tp at Nui Dat from September 1968 to September 1969.

**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** is back in St Andrews Hospital, in Palliative Care

Max Foot OAM has been in hospital for hip surgery and hopes to be back home soon after physio.

Robert Van Harskamp has had another burst of Chemo,

Cliff Kemp has been in hospital in Townsville

John Bradshaw has not been well (off his Oats as they say)

We wish all members the best

### **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**

### **Christmas at Moreton Bay Boat Club**

#### **Scarborough**

The Brisbane Branch, held their Christmas function at the MBBC Scarborough just up the road from Morgan’s Seafood fresh fish shop. Organisers Blue Mackellar & Ron Larsen ensured we had a set up inside with air conditioned comfort, as previously we had been outside with the sun beating down.

Once we all sorted where we were going to sit, a raffle ticket was given to those who attended (53 indicating, 45 actual, some people sending last minute apologies), this was for a lucky door prize, which was a copy of Curtis McGrath’s book titled Blood Sweat & Steel, which when drawn was won by Rosemary Bannan.

Cold beverages and food were ordered and the service was first class. The crowd was brought to order for the raffle (tickets 6 for \$5), which was sold out quickly and the Treasurer was again happy at the influx of more funds.

The President’s wife drew out the first ticket which was won by Trevor Leitch, who chose a “Basket of Goodies”, Trevor drew out the next ticket, which was won by Denis Bright, he chose the Engineer Number Plate (kindly donated by Peter Hallam), Denis drew out the final ticket which after a little discussion between Peter Coloretti & Beth Aylett (was it red ticket C91 or D91) Beth won and accepted a wooden board inscribed with The Ode.

The crowd slowly began to leave and comments were heard that the venue was an ideal location for our Christmas function, all were well watered and fed.



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS  
ORDER OF THE DAY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE  
2021 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS AWARDS**

**5th November 2021**

To all Sappers past and present, it gives me great pleasure to announce the recipients of the Royal Australian Engineers Awards for 2021. These awards acknowledge the achievements and enduring service of Sappers.

**RAE Excellence in Engineering Awards:**

- Lieutenant General FJ Hickling AO, CSC Award for Most Outstanding Engineer, **Lieutenant Olivier Beaumont (2 CER)**
- Major General S Day DSC, AM Award for Most Outstanding Lieutenant ARA, **Lieutenant Olivier Beaumont (2 CER)**
- Warrant Officer Class Two RC 'Mick' Mace MM, BEM Award for Most Outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer ARA, **Corporal Sefanaia Namoa (3 CER)**
- Warrant Officer Class One B Wade OAM, CDS Award for Most Outstanding Sapper ARA, **Sapper Donald Currie (6 ESR)**
- Colonel AH 'Sandy' McGregor MC Award for Most Outstanding Lieutenant ARes, **Lieutenant Emily Mirabella (22 ER)**
- Warrant Officer Class One R 'John' Raddatz OAM Award for Most Outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer ARes, **Corporal Robert Camilleri (22 ER)**
- Sergeant M Chalk MG Award for Most Outstanding Sapper ARes, **Sapper Andrew Tonkih (5 ER)**

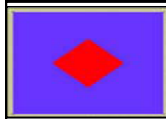
**The Brigadier General CH Foott CB, CMG Award:**

Award for an individual who has rendered outstanding and significant support or service to the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers — **Mr James Davis**

I congratulate all recipients on the dedicated application and determination of service which has earned you high regard from your superiors and peers. Your efforts bring great credit upon yourself, your unit and the Corps.

Ubique  
**Mathew Galton, DSC**  
Brigadier  
Head of Corps  
Royal Australian Engineers  
November 2021





Submitted by  
Captain Ancel Lupke

## 2 CER NEWS

2 CER have had a very busy and rewarding year. After a disruptive 2020, it was great getting back straight into 7 Combat Brigade simulation exercise, Ex DIAMOND DAWN.

Things quickly escalated in March with the floods that inundated northern NSW. 2 CER formed one of the Task Group Headquarters for Op NSW FLOOD ASSIST 21 (Op NSW FA 21) and rapidly deployed to a number of local government areas from Port Macquarie to Lismore. Op NSW FA 21 provided 2 CER another incredibly valuable training activity, where the Regiment employed specialist skills and capabilities to provide assistance to a number of communities in need.

After a complex start to the year, elements of RHQ participated in the Joint Warfighter Assessment 21 (JWA 21) as part of a wider 7th Combat Brigade contingent at Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The aim of the activity was to test future force concepts across multi-domain operations and enhance interoperability within a coalition environment. The ORBAT included a range of projected ADF capabilities as part of the Army Objective Force 2028.

The culminating Brigade activity for 2021 was Ex DIAMOND DAGGER, which took place in Townsville Field Training Area. It saw the Regiment deployed for the first time this year with 7 CE SQN integrating with 6 RAR, the Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment (RRD) to 2/14 LHR, and 24 SPT SQN within the Brigade Maintenance Area. Meanwhile, 2 CE SQN constituted the OPFOR, supported by elements from 8/9 RAR. Having Combat Engineers on both sides of the fight resulted in the achievement of some exceptional training outcomes, whilst presenting myriad of challenging obstacles for Battle Group HEELER to negotiate.

The RRD is a unique capability that has seen extensive redevelopment during 2021. The team continue to service critical engineer information requirements, directly enabling formation ISR collection and reconnaissance. This intelligence proved to be critical for success on both Op NSW FA 21 and the suite of 2021 foundation warfighting exercises. The RRD will continuously seek out opportunities for innovation and further integration with specialist elements of the Brigade.

The back end of the year has resulted in some particularly impressive collective efforts from the men and women of the Regiment. 2 CER convincingly won both the Brigade Commander's Trophy and the Brigade Sports competition, putting an end to the dominance of the Brigade's Infantry Battalions. It was fantastic to see all the hard work from those who took part, and also the amount of people who were out there supporting and encouraging our teams to victory.

This was another busy year for training and modernisation. The year will culminate with a significant milestone as the Regiment celebrates its 30th Birthday and prepares for the new training year, whilst standing ready to react to Australia's call during the upcoming High Risk Weather Season.





## OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Happenings from the Deep North 2/2021

*By John Cotter Esq*

### AROUND THE TRAPS

Fund raising continues with sausage sizzles and raffles at various establishments around the city. The sale of memorabilia for Remembrance Day has also proven profitable thanks to Pat and Jo Daley and their many helpers. As mentioned in previous newsletters why not give Cliff Kemp a call to help with the sizzles coming up on 20 November at the Oasis for Legacy, 28 November at Bunnings North Shore, 1 December at Kelso State School and 23 January at Bunnings North Shore. Won't you do that? But please don't just rock up without speaking to him first as there are certain conditions set down by the landlords that have to be met.

The November meetings were held at the Thuringowa RSL Club and upon their conclusion some of the ashes of our late member Dave Girvan were interred near the memorial for Flo-Joe by Dave's widow Vanna. Chaplain Bennett from Lavarack Barracks officiated and all members present paid their respects. This was a first for everyone however the simple ceremony was conducted with dignity and understanding. Many thanks also to those members and soldiers from 3CER who assisted in the packing and removal of Dave's effects earlier this year.

At the conclusion of activities the RSL Club provided divers plates of goodies for lunch including a plate of fairy bread. Of the hundreds and thousands variety. Now who was it that stirred the staff, hmm? No one's telling but I hear that the odd SWAG was bandied about.

Our esteemed Social Director has reached into his bag of dates and came up with Sunday the 19 December for the Christmas Function to be held at the Brother's League Club starting at 11.00am in the morning. There will be divers prizes for such things as lucky doors and of course presents for all. A good time is assured so why not zot your name into Jeremy, you'll be glad you did.

Seems the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will re-examine the issue of unit recognition for the service of our Australian Defence Force (ADF) in Somalia. Hopefully a better result this time around.

The 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment hosted the 2021 North Queensland Waterloo Dinner back in June and by all reports our members that attended were very well looked after at Barry's Place.

The Report of the latest Senate Committee Inquiry into DFRDB has been published and provides no real assistance or closure for DFRDB recipients. It appears any further action would be through the courts.

Don't forget for further details of planned activities please see the Events Calendar. Remember that meetings are at the Townsville RSL till further notice. ☺

### **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.**

### Kapooka Memorial

Please find below some initial photos from the completed task. Special mention to LT Jack Warfield from 5<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment for his outstanding work as the task Troop Commander which included taking an idea of a telescope sighted to mark the tragedy location and an accompanying story board from a concept to reality in a few days.

Sean Chainey

WO1

RSM RAE



Happy Birthday 3 CER!

The Regiment turned 29 today and we celebrated with the Commanding Officer and the youngest member cutting a cake for the Soldier's Lunch.





3CER with support from 10th Force Battalion Australian Army & 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion completed rafting & bridging operations at Lake Dalrymple. Our Explosive Detection Dogs showing they are always ready to respond & support Combined Arms effects in the 3rd Brigade. Sapper D Gilbee with Explosive Detection Dog Archie effects in the 3rd Brigade.. Spr Dalton Gilbee & EDDog Archie



1 Combat Engineer Regiment continuing to build our partnership with the F-FDTL. 23 Support Squadron in Timor Leste supporting Ex Hari'I Hamutuk 21



Picture below on left show members of 6ESR working on new classrooms at the Letkutu Secondary School in FIJI.

Representatives were honoured to attend the much-anticipated opening of the Afghanistan War Memorial Garden Brisbane on Saturday 16 Oct 2021 .





### EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

**ATTENTION!** The Sapper Association QLD Inc is in need of an Editor, Mr Bob Bannan who has been doing the job with assistance, for quite a few years, and finds that he can no longer do the job. Therefore at the last AGM he resigned as Editor, Rheanna Vehlows threw her hat into the ring and was duly appointed, but due to a heavier work load has also resigned the position, leaving us with a dilemma. I have stepped up to put out the 2 of 2021 newsletter, as the newsletter is the only way our members have of keeping up with the goings on of the Association. PLEASE if you can help submit your name to the Secretary by email or phone which are listed on page 2 of this newsletter..

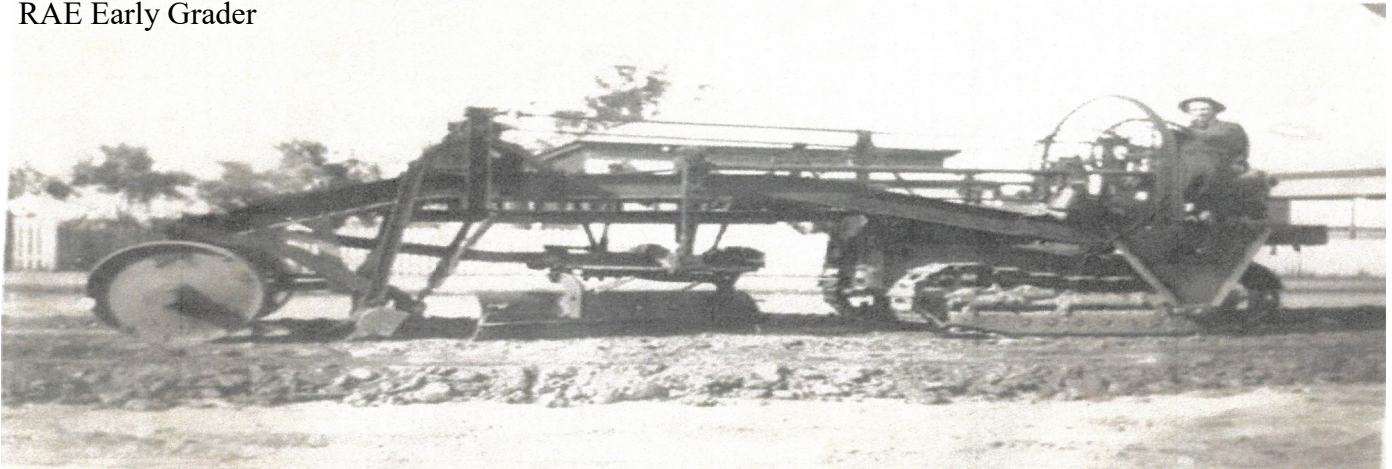
The Treasurer (Brisbane Branch) has reviewed the running costs of the Association, unless we get more members to pay their subscription and therefore boost our funds of running the Association, he will have no other option but to raise the subscription be it \$5.00—\$10.00. We have been surviving over the last 15—20 years without a rise, so come on fellas help him out.

On another matter we hold a large amount of stock, Engineer belt buckles (\$23.50), tube Stubby holders (\$2.50), Base Stubby holders (\$3.50), Association Pocket Badges (\$7.00), Lapel Badges (\$8.00), Plaques (\$40.00), Polo Shirts (\$45.00, phone John Jesser 3356 9297).

The Association has a policy for members whom wish to get in touch with a mate, the Secretary will forward the email to the member concerned, leaving it up to that member to make contact. At no point will details be given out to anyone we have on the roll, as this is an invasion of Privacy.

The reunion planned for Oct 2022 has received expressions of interest from around 16 couples, we have paid our deposit for the functions on Friday & Saturday nights, so hopefully next year will be a better year for functions and COVID-19 giving us a break.

RAE Early Grader



### 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.

**21 Engineer Support Troop Reunion,  
Due to COVID—19 this event has been  
cancelled.**

**1 Fld Sqn Grp Reunion  
Due to COVID—19 this event has been  
cancelled.**

**Remembrance Day Thursday 11th  
November 2021 at ANZAC Square.**

**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.





# HOLDFAST 2022

## THE ENGINEER REUNION

### WHY?

To commemorate the Bi-annual get together of the Corps of Engineers, held by the **Sapper Association QLD Inc** and it is the **Brisbane Branch** who will be organising it.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Why **you!** of course! If you are a member of the Sapper Association QLD Inc, or ever wore the badge of the RAE, or still wearing it as a serving member, or wore the Engineer badge from a friendly country, then you are most welcome.

**WHEN – 7 – 10 Oct 2022**

**WHERE – Maroochydore RSL QLD**

### WHAT IS GOING ON?

There will be plenty to do over the weekend, Meet & Greet at Maroochydore RSL, Reunion Dinner, Sightseeing tours, a Memorial service, breakfast Monday morning, where the reunion will cease at 12 noon.

### MORE DETAILS?

These will be distributed to all later on about Aug -Sept please be patient with us as we work out the Accommodation list, Itinerary, Costs etc.

#### CONTACTS

John Jesser Ph 07 3356 9297 email: [johnjesser@iinet.net.au](mailto:johnjesser@iinet.net.au)

Holdfast 2022 P.O. Box 1043, STAFFORD QLD 4053

### **BOOKS OF INTEREST**

“Blood Sweat & Steal” is Curtis McGrath’s account of his time in the Army , his loss off both legs, and the incredible story of his recovery. Curitis went on to achieve his goal of becoming a Paralimpian and world champion. The book is available at Kmart for \$22.00, or on Kindle \$12.95.

‘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](mailto:svp@sunnybankrsl.org)

### **AATTVA ( Qld BR ) Inc Pensions Officer/ Advocate**

**Mr John McDonagh**

Mobile 0423 138 346,

email [aattvqldbr@westnet.com.au](mailto: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’ LUNCHEONS, GAYTHORNE RSL**

The next luncheon will be held at the Gaythorne RSL on Thursday 2 Dec 2021 beginning at 11.30am, Bring a mate . These luncheons are held the first Thursday of the month, March, June, September and December, Mark the on your calendar.

Cheers Jethro

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

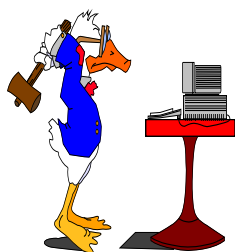
### **MEMORABILIA ITEMS FOR SALE, BRISBANE**

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](mailto:corpsshop@gmail.com)

[www.wasappers.com.au](http://www.wasappers.com.au)

<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

<http://talk.to/veteransupport>

[www.32smallshipsqn.org.au](http://www.32smallshipsqn.org.au)

[www.aamme.com.au](http://www.aamme.com.au)

Queensland Sapper Association

[raevictoria.com](http://raevictoria.com)

[www.1fieldsappers.org](http://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.