



SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC

ABN: 62 163 057 132

NEWSLETTER

UBIQUE



Patron: Colonel Sandy MacGregor MC RFD (Retd)

March 2019

Calendar 2019

- Sat 13–Sun 14 Apr - Sappers' Autumn Slosh (notice attached)
- Wed 25 Apr - ANZAC DAY
- Wed 1 May – Sappers Quarterly Luncheon – York Club
- Wed 12 Jun – Executive Committee Meeting – Burwood RSL
- Wed 7 Aug – Sappers Quarterly Luncheon – York Club
- Sat 24 Aug Annual General Meeting – Burwood RSL
- Sep TBA – Executive Committee Meeting – Burwood RSL
- TBA - 45th Sappers Annual Dinner
- TBA - Blue Mountains RAE Memorial Hike
- Wed 6 Nov Sappers Quarterly Luncheon – York Club

to the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Evans and all members of SME.

I encourage all Association members, and particularly our younger members and their Sapper mates, to consider attending the Sappers'



Autumn "Slosh" (an overnight camp-out that includes a dynamic and fun-filled pool table game)

on 13/14 April 2019. This is a great opportunity to escape suburbia and enjoy a relaxing time around a camp fire, BBQ and the Blue Mountains bush (refer to the information sheet at the end of this Newsletter for details).

All Association members are encouraged to participate in a commemorative event for this year's ANZAC Day. Please support your local events or the Sydney CBD march, as best as you are able. A Dawn Service will be held at SME and members will be invited to attend. Details of the Dawn Service (timings and access to Holsworthy Barracks) will be circulated in the near future. The Sydney parade details are included in this Newsletter.

You will be aware from previous Newsletters that



we are seeking younger members to serve on the Association Committee to ensure the longevity of our organisation for past, present and future Sappers. Although

some of the current Committee members may have reached their service zenith (getting old), they are more than willing to mentor enthusiastic members who are prepared to fill "assistant" roles on the Committee. The Committee business is

President's Message

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2019.



I trust you and yours had a relaxing break over the Christmas holiday season.

We have been advised of the well-deserved appointment of the new Head of Corps, Royal Australian Engineers, BRIG Carey CSC, replacing BRIG Wainwright DSC. I have congratulated BRIG Carey on behalf of the Association and I am pleased to note that he is keen to see the relationship between the wider Sapper fraternity and HOC flourish.

With gratitude to the fantastic liaison skills of the Association Vice President, John Hanley, the first



Association activity for 2019 was the School of Military Engineering Open Day, centred on the Australian Army Military Engineering

Museum, Holsworthy Barracks, on 24 February 2019. The Open Day was a wonderful success and my congratulations for the event are extended

conducted at four meetings during the year, usually at the Burwood RSL Club. Where you are to contribute to the Association in this way, please contact any of the current Committee members for further information and be prepared to attend our Annual General Meeting in August 2019.

Please support the up-coming activities as best you can, to maintain that wonderful Sapper *esprit de corps*.

I wish all Sappers and their loved ones a happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you at Association activities throughout 2019.

Sincerely, Brian Malouf

ANZAC Day Dawn Service SME

We have been advised by LTCOL Evans that members of the NSW Sappers Association will be welcome to attend the SME Dawn Service 2019 at Holsworthy Barracks.

At the time of going to press we haven't been advised of timing or security arrangements for this event. Once these are known we will advise you by separate email.

ANZAC Day 2019 - Sydney Parade Arrangements

Assemble – NLT 1000 hrs, Bent Street (between O'Connell and Bligh Streets), Sydney (look out for the Association banner).

March Off – 1030 hrs (scheduled, but may be delayed as the new march route arrangements settle in).

Post-Parade Venue – Hotel Harry, 40-44 Wentworth Ave (Cnr Goulburn St) Surry Hills.



Hotel Harry is a 5-10 minute walk south of the Parade dismissal area and a 10 minute walk from Central Railway Station.

This refurbished venue is the traditional post-Parade “watering hole” for Sappers marching in the Parade or otherwise involved in the ANZAC Day commemoration.

The Association has booked the Lounge on the 1st floor. Complimentary nibbles on arrival.

Preferred Standard of Dress

Serving members

Dress 2E Ceremonial (optional)

Other members

Shoes – black

Trousers – grey

Shirt – light blue/white

Tie – preferably the RAE tie

Jacket – navy blue/dark

Medals

Beret and RAE hat badge.

Christie's Pty Ltd (Tel: 9264 6751; Email: christies@christies.net.au; 276 Pitt St, Sydney) generally have stocks of the RAE Corps tie (\$30, approx.), beret (\$35, approx.) and RAE hat badge, metal (\$30, approx.).

Suggestions:

Small plastic bottle/popper of water/juice (for hydration before the march).

Light poncho/raincoat, if rain is forecast (no umbrellas).

Please remember that our dress, bearing and behaviour reflect on the Association, other Sappers and the RAE Corps. There are to be no spontaneous “Aussie Aussie Aussie, Oi Oi Oi” (or similar) calls from the ranks of marchers.

Let's commemorate ANZAC Day with all due respect, pride, mateship and gratitude to our fellow Diggers, past and present.

Membership

We have great pleasure in welcoming Joseph Bonnici to our membership. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Joseph.

There are a number of members whose membership expired last year or will expire in June.

If you are in any doubt on your financial status, please contact the Treasurer or Secretary. Please don't let your membership lapse, your support of your Association is important. Besides we do want to keep sending you copies of our Newsletter and generally keeping you informed of upcoming events and what is happening in the Sapper world.

Sappers' Quarterly Luncheons



These luncheons are organised by John Pritchard and are a wonderful opportunity for Sappers to get together for a yarn, meal and liquid refreshment. The location has been moved to

Amore Ristorante (Italian theme) in the York Club, 99 York St Sydney, as RC Continental no longer caters for Lunch.

You can check out the menu by clicking on this link:

https://clubyork.com.au/content/uploads/2018/10/Amore_Ristorante_Menu.pdf

For a very modest \$3 per year you can become a Social Member and receive a 10% discount.

The next luncheon is: **Wednesday, 1st May 2019 at 12:30pm**

Phone John Pritchard (0411 107 445) to let him know if you are planning to attend.

At a Military Hospital

A major visits sick soldiers, goes up to one private and asks:

"What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic syphilis, Sir."

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

"What's your ambition?"

"To get back to the front, Sir."

"Good man." says the Major.

He goes to the next bed.

"What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic piles, Sir"

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

"What's your ambition?"

"To get back to the front, Sir."

"Good man." says the Major.

He goes to the next bed occupied by a Sapper.

"What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic gum disease, Sir"

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

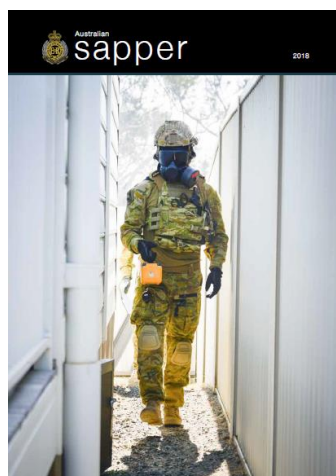
"What's your ambition?"

"To get the wire brush before the other two, Sir"

Australian Sapper Magazine

We have available, a PDF version of the latest edition of the Australian Sapper Magazine.

If you would like a copy sent to your inbox, let us know at sappersnsw@gmail.com



We would also draw your attention to the comments by the CO of 5 ER, LTCOL Renee Kidson, in her SITREP where, on page 62, she says:

"5ER prides itself on forging enduring relationships; and the NSW Sapper's Association is amongst our

strongest HOLDFAST supporters in the community. In 2018 we co-hosted not one, but three Regimental Dinners, celebrating our connections with the Canberra, Sydney and Newcastle communities respectively. The Association has again generously sponsored the highly prized Sapper Excellence Award."

We thank LTCOL Kidson for her comments and this is a reflection of the hard work done by your President, Vice President and Treasurer in ensuring the success of those dinners. Special thanks to all involved.



Army

For those who like to keep up to date with what's happening in your Army you can download the latest "Soldiers Newspaper" at this link:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews/>

A Veteran's Tears

I recall the day I met him, when I went to read my poem

About the Anzac spirit, at the district veterans home

He was sitting in the corner, medals on his chest

But from his haunting memories. He would never rest

He beckoned me to join him and I sat beside his chair

In tones he spoke so softly, his eyes a vacant stare

He said "I'm grateful for your visit and the way you make words rhyme

Having listened to your story, it's time to tell you mine

I was barely nineteen years of age, when I donned my jungle greens

I never had a second thought, it was all part of my genes

Pop served on the Western Front, Dad Kokoda Track

I had no inhibitions, 'cause they all made it back

I found myself at Nui Dat, boarding choppers at first light

If I practiced all I'd learned, I thought that I'd be right

But all the courses I had done, didn't seem to count

Trudging through the paddy fields and the casualties began to mount

After twelve months they sent me home and I saw how life had changed

As if everything I valued, had all been rearranged

Friends had turned against me, for going to that war

So I embarked on the Vung Tau Ferry and went off for a second tour

Tet should have seen a ceasefire, but that was just a con

In villages and cities the firefights still dragged on

We were from many units, fulfilling our own role

We wore different coloured lanyards, but we only had one goal

The enemy fell upon us and all that I can say

These were no peasant farmers, they were regular NVA

They nearly over ran us, at Coral and Balmoral

And when we finally drove them off, there was no victors' laurel

I came home in the dead of night and they sent me on my way

I wished I had of joined my mates, laying buried in the clay

I drifted as a homeless drunk, no one shed a tear

Until the Salvos dried me out and I found myself in here

A nurse observed this tortured soul as he began to cry

And said "I think that he has had enough, it is time to say goodbye

So thank you for your visit and for listening to what he said"

And she wheeled him quietly sobbing, to the sanctuary of his bed

TOMAS HAMILTON

12/09/2017

Lazy Digger

A Sergeant was addressing a squad of 25 and said: "I have a nice easy job for the laziest man here.

"Put up your hand if you are the laziest."

When 24 men raised their hands, the Sergeant asked the other man: "Why didn't you raise your hand?"

The man replied: "Too much trouble raising the hand, Sarge."

Did You Know?



West Point (the United States Military Academy) was originally founded as a school for the US Corps of engineers in 1802. It is one of the oldest service academies in the world.

President Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing the United States Military Academy in 1802. He took this action after ensuring that those attending the Academy would be representative of a democratic society.

Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, the "father of the Military Academy," served as Superintendent from 1817 to 1833. He upgraded academic standards, instilled military discipline and emphasized honourable conduct. Aware of the young nation's need for engineers, Thayer made civil engineering the foundation of the curriculum. For the first half century, USMA graduates were largely responsible for the construction of the bulk of the nation's initial railway lines, bridges, harbors and roads.

After gaining experience and national recognition during the Mexican and Indian wars, West Point graduates dominated the highest ranks on both sides during the Civil War. Academy graduates, headed by generals such as Grant, Lee, Sherman and Jackson, set high standards of military leadership for both the North and South.

Never Lose Your Rifle

When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me \$2,000 and I was charged.

That's why in the Navy, the captain goes down with the ship.

Executive Meetings

We welcome all members who may wish to attend the Sappers Association Executive meetings. The next meeting will be held at Burwood RSL, on Wednesday, 12 June 19 preceded by a meal and drink at the Restaurant starting at 1800.

If you are planning on coming, please let the Secretary know so that he can keep you advised of any last-minute changes.

Our Office Bearers 2018/2019

President	Brian Malouf (9839 6129 W)
Vice President	John Hanley (0424 841 581)
Secretary	Sjouke Havenaar (9624 7689 H)
Treasurer	Jeff James (9533 5238 H)
Committee	John Ray, Warren Page, David MacLaurin

Note: Any opinion expressed by any contributor is not necessarily the opinion of the Association or its Executive Committee.

SAPPERS' AUTUMN SLOSH (SAS) 13/14 April 2019

The Sappers' Association of NSW is keen to promote social activities that develop and maintain *esprit de corps* amongst its Members.

Brian Malouf has offered the use of his Blue Mountains semi-rural home for a Sappers' get together, enjoy good company and food, tell yarns and sing songs (with appropriate vocal cord lubrication) around a campfire, sleep under the stars (or hoochie/tent) and escape suburbia. There will also be a compulsory game of "slosh" (a fun pool table game designed to invigorate participants!)

Date Sat, 13 Apr 19 (say, 1200h) to Sun, 14 Apr 19 (say, 1200h)

Location 235 Chapman Parade (1km north of Norman Lindsay's Gallery and 200m north of Rita Ave), Faulconbridge, NSW.

General Idea

Sat 1200-1700 – arrive, afternoon tea, familiarisation, pitch tents (extreme wet weather plan – camp in garage).

Sat 1700-1800 – bash and shave your beret – under Graeme Armour's direction

Sat 1800-2000 – BBQ dinner

Sat 2000-2359 – campfire, sing-a-long/yarns, refreshments, "slosh", lights out

Sun 0800-1100 – hot and/or cold breakfast, settle "slosh" technical points

Sun 1100-1200 – pack up, farewells and depart.

Catering Brian to supply all food and beverages (cost \$25/head).

Member to Bring Tent/hoochie, sleeping bag, air bed, stretcher, folding chair, etc, as required.

(Brian can assist Members who have no camping gear – see return slip below).

Drinks (non-beverage) in esky.

Singing/yarn voices.

Beret (if required).

"Slosh" skills (or a willingness to learn and enjoy).

Contact Brian Tel: (02) 9839-6129 (work) (02) 4751 3094 (home – msg after 10 rings) Mob: 0416 293 910 (on the day).

Spouses Should spouses wish to travel to the Mountains with their Sapper Member, they could (individually or as a group) stay at the Faulconbridge Motel (Tel: (02) 4751 2194 or 4751 2100), visit Norman Lindsay's Gallery, patronise local restaurants, attend local events (visit www.bluemts.com.au for details) and then collect the Member on Sun.

RSVP Fri, 5 Apr 19 - please confirm your attendance by telephone, smoke signal, email: brianandgail1@bigpond.com or posting the return slip (below) to:

Brian Malouf

235 Chapman Parade

FAULCONBRIDGE NSW 2776

Please tear off and post
**SAPPERS' AUTUMN SLOSH
(SAS)**

I will be attending the SAS on Sat/Sun 13/14 Apr 19.

Please find attached \$25 cheque/money order payable to "Brian Malouf"
or.

I will pay on the day (delete, as appropriate)

Name

Telephone

Home.....Mob.....

NOK Contact Details

Name.....Tel/Mob.....

Special dietary needs (nominate)

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Camping gear assistance required (nominate)

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