



SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC

ABN: 62 163 057 132

NEWSLETTER

UBIQUE



Patron: Colonel Sandy MacGregor MC RFD (Retd)

June 2020

Calendar 2020

- Sappers' Autumn Slosh - TBA
- Sappers Quarterly Luncheon – TBA (probably in Spring)
- Executive Committee Meeting– Burwood RSL- Wed 16 Sep TBC
- Annual General Meeting – Burwood RSL - Sat 17 Oct TBC
- 46th Sappers Annual Dinner - Location TBA - Sat 31 Oct TBC

(TBA – To Be Advised - TBC – To Be Confirmed)

President's Message



Welcome to this brief, but most important, winter 2020 Newsletter.

I trust you and yours are coping well with the current COVID-19 restrictions on our lives. I feel confident the ongoing easing of social distancing controls will allow us all to return to our normal lifestyles, sooner rather than later.

You may be aware that that our Patron, COL Sandy MacGregor, has suffered a stroke and his wife, Sandra, also has been unwell. However, I am pleased by reports that they both continue to make steady progress towards good health.

Previous Newsletters have raised my concerns regarding the succession of the Association Committee. Most of the current long-serving executive are nearing their “use by” date. It is time to “change the guard” in a measured and sensible manner that preserves and grows the Association in a post-COVID-19 environment. The current Committee members are more than willing to mentor enthusiastic members who are initially prepared to fill “assistant” roles on the Committee. This injection of fresh ideas and new skills is essential to ensure the longevity of our organisation. Although the Association is in a very good financial position, it is imperative that the next generation of

Sappers step up to the plate and get involved with the “all ranks” Committee. If this does not occur at the Annual General Meeting in October, the remnant Committee will have to consider its options, realistically. The worst-case scenario may be to wind up the Association, refund any membership fees paid in advance and donate our significant funds to a kindred organisation, such as the Sappers Foundation.

This is the time to stand up and be counted. Committee membership is not an onerous task and will ensure we develop the wonderful Sapper *esprit de corps* for the next generation of soldiers.

This is an opportunity for younger members of the Association to contribute and build the Sapper fraternity in NSW, in the new and exciting post-COVID-19 world. Members are encouraged to promptly express their interest to any of the current Committee members, to allow us to make positive plans for the future.



Sincerely, Brian Malouf

Sappers' Dinner 2020

Despite the uncertainties of COVID-19 restrictions, the Association is conducting some tentative planning with 5 Engineer Regiment to hold the next Sappers Annual/Regimental Dinner on **Sat 31 Oct 20**. Please pencil this date into your diaries and we will provide updates as they become available. Please be prepared to purchase tickets and attend the Dinner at short notice

Two Soldiers



Two soldiers were having a chat during their free time.

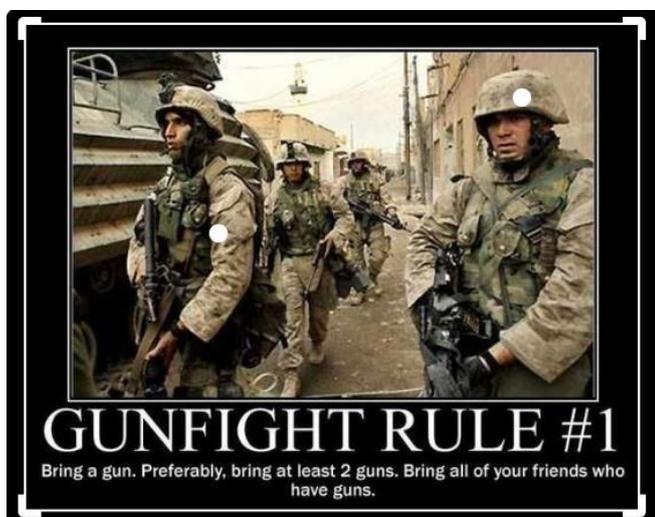
First soldier: "Why did you join the Army?"

Second soldier: "I didn't have a wife and I love war. So I joined. How about you? Why did you sign up?"

First soldier: "I had a wife and I love peace. So I joined."

Sappers' Quarterly Luncheons

As previously advised these luncheons have been organised by John Pritchard over the years and are a wonderful opportunity for Sappers to get together for a yarn, meal and liquid refreshment. However, with the spread of COVID-19 and the closure of Clubs and Restaurants they had to be suspended. John is hoping to be able to restart this in August. We will keep you advised.



Annual General Meeting.

Given the continued uncertainties surrounding the Corona Virus and recognising the requirement to hold the AGM within 6 months of the close of the financial year, the committee has decided to defer this year's AGM till Saturday, 17th October, 2020.

Please note this date in your diaries and please make yourself available to attend. Amongst the usual business to be conducted we will also be discussing your Associations direction and future.

To Loyally Serve and Save

By: Tomas Hamilton 6-Feb-20

They were the guardian angels, to rescue mates from harm

Their only form of self-defence, the red cross on their arm

Saving wounded warriors, in rain and heat and snow
Never discriminating, who was friend or foe.

Struggling over hostile ground, the enemy didn't care
When names were carved upon a plinth, a medic was often there
Emerging through the gates of hell, answering a dying plea
And carrying them to safety, in an r.a.p.

Medical staff who calmed them, in the hours before the dawn
The muffled cries of agony, from young lives scarred and torn
Not each wound was visible, like post traumatic shock
Every task that was performed, was a race against the clock

Doctors, nurses, medics, united with one aim
No matter where the battlefield, their duty was the same
Souls duly rescued, from fury and from fray
Snatched from the jaws of death, to live another day

The mate. Upon the football field, the sister you never had
United with one purpose, through good times and the bad
In the history of our nation, they stand proud, with the brave
Their unofficial motto, to loyally serve and save

Ed. – Relevant also to our many medical staff during the current pandemic.

Covid from a Veterans Perspective.

The current events have made me realise that my present life and my previous life in the military hold a number of similarities.....

- * Never any toilet paper
- * Lots of tinned food
- * Being told what to do all the time
- * Ordered into groups or defined size of groups
- * Watching others panic
- * Constant instructions which are always changing
- * Information which is out of date by the time you receive it.
- * Being told what to do in your free time
- * Standing in long queues to get food
- * Carrying a mask around all the time
- * Weekend plans all bugged up
- * Your favourite bars are off limits
- * Living under a permanent curfew
- * Constant travel restrictions

Membership Renewal Reminder

A number of our members have their membership fees falling due on 30 June. Reminder emails have been sent but if you are unsure of your financial status please contact the Secretary or Treasurer who will be happy to let you know.

Did you know?

Follow the Sapper is a saying, coined in the Crimean War (1854-56) which is as relevant now as it was then. The term "Sapper" originates from the French word "sapeur" meaning to sap or dig, where soldiers would sap under fortifications or form protective trenches to allow equipment and soldiers to move forward. Sappers have a unique set of skills and abilities which are highly sought after, and are often at the front removing obstacles to allow the land battle to continue, hence the saying "Follow the Sapper".

No Eye Contact

I was instructing new recruits when an officer entered my classroom to observe and report on my teaching style. I thought I was on top of my game that day, but he was quite scrupulous, as evidenced by the fact that his written evaluation of me cited this issue: "Instructor loses eye contact with class while writing on blackboard."

Honorary Secretary

The Secretary has advised the Committee that he would not be standing for any Committee position effective at the next AGM. It is imperative therefore that we identify a replacement before October. It's over to you, the members, to find a suitable replacement.

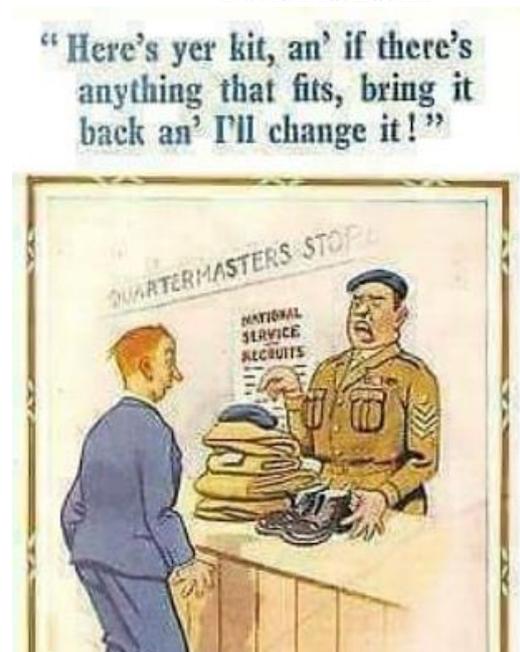
Executive Meetings

We welcome all members who may wish to attend the Sappers Association Executive meetings. Unfortunately we needed to cancel the March meeting and the June Meeting was held via teleconferencing. However the next meeting is scheduled to be held at Burwood RSL, on Wednesday, 16th September, 2020 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.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS SAPPERS' FUND



Why subscribe?

Subscriptions to Sappers' Funds provide the income that allows us to care for our heritage and foster Esprit-de-Corps.

The Corps of Royal Australian Engineers has a collective responsibility to our predecessors and ourselves to ensure we preserve, protect and develop our heritage as well as continue to build our identity into the future.

Your contribution, along with all the other serving and retired members of the Royal Australian Engineers making a similar commitment, is extremely important. This ensures your Corps Committee can support the fostering of our esprit-de-corps and the unique 'Sapper identity' remains a fundamental part of Army's culture and traditions.

What is the cost?

The annual cost of subscriptions is as follows:

ARA Officers - Sergeant: \$52 per annum (\$2 per fortnight)

ARA Corporal - Sapper: \$26 per annum (\$1 per fortnight)

ARes Officers: \$30 per annum

ARes ORs: \$20 per annum

Ex-Service Officers: \$30 per annum

Ex-Service ORs: \$20 per annum

RAE ex-service Association: Annual Donation

For further information or to request support from the Fund, contact the RAE Head of Corps Cell via email at: rae.hoc@defence.gov.au

What is the benefit?

Individuals may benefit from Sappers' Funds, either directly or indirectly. The Sappers' Fund provides financial support to:

- Corps sporting events, teams and tours
- Corps adventure training activities
- individual and team engineer awards and prizes including Battle Field Tour
- publication of Corps and unit histories
- RAE Association Victoria heritage and history trail plaques
- establishment and upgrade of RAE Memorials
- purchase of wreaths for funerals and remembrance of serving members
- assistance to Army History Unit to manage historical items relevant to the RAE
- RMC graduation prize

Individuals, groups and sub-units/units of the Royal Australian Engineers and affiliated Associations can apply for support from the fund at any time.

How do I subscribe?

Subscriptions can be made by electronic transfer / direct debit to the following account:

- Australian Military Bank BSB No: 642-170
- Account Number: 100001677
- Name of Account: RAE Sappers' Funds

Please include your PMKeys number and surname with your payment.