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The Purple Circle

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13 Engineer Regiment is Born

As of 1 July 2022, 13 Engineer Regiment will be a reality and no longer a pipe dream.

At the Association's June meeting, COL Craig Madden was the guest speaker and spoke about the new direction of defence in WA and the formation of 13 Engineer Regiment.



RAE Association President Ian Johnston presenting COL Craig Madden with a copy of the book "Sappers in the West" after his well-received talk on 13ER.

Passing Parade

John Raymond Thorburn passed away on 4 April 2022 aged 78 years and 2 months. John served in Vietnam from June 1965 to April 1966 with Australian Logistics Support Company.

Brian Desmond O'Sullivan passed away on 5 April 2022 aged 91 years and 8 months. Brian served in Vietnam from April to October 1968 with AFV Det 55 Engineer Works and Park Squadron.

John (Robbo) Robertson passed away on 18 April 2022 aged 75 years and 6 months. John served in Vietnam from June 67 to June 68 with 17 Construction Squadron,

Peter John Sheehan passed away on 13 May 2022 aged 75 years and 5 months. Peter served in Vietnam from May 1967 to May 1968 with 1 Field Squadron.

Anthony Brian (Tony) Smith passed away on ? May 2022 aged 80 years and 9 months. Tony served in Vietnam from November 1968 to November 1969 with 21 Engineer Support Troop and 1 Field Squadron.

Paul Gregory Wilmot passed away on 13 June 2022 aged 76 years. Paul served overseas with PNG Construction Squadron 1969 -1971, Israel & Egypt with United Nations Military Observer Team 1974 - 1976 and RSME in UK 1983 – 1985. Paul was a member of the Association.

LEST WE FORGET

Freedom is not free! It carries a heavy price
that only a few are prepared to pay

Queen's Birthday Honours

Congratulations to Geoff Stooke for being made a "Member of the Order of Australia (AM)" in this year's Honours List

Meet our Members



Evan Jones

Evan was born in Perth in April 1962 and has 2 sister and 1 brother. He grew up in the North Beach, Karrinyup, Duncraig area and attended North Beach primary school, then Scarborough SHS and Carine SHS.

Evan left school at age 17 and started work as an apprentice camera operator and after 6 months went to work with Stirling City Council.

He joined the Army Reserve in 1986 and served with 13 Field Squadron until 1998.

In about 2003, he worked as a self-employed courier driver and in 2013 became a P.T.A bus driver working for Swan Transit driving buses in the northern suburbs and hopes to continue for a few more years yet.

Evan met Keri Lee in 1984 at a friend's house and they married in March 1986. They have a son and a daughter.

In his spare time, he is a trainer and assessor as well as being a patrol member of the 4 Quinn Surf Life Saving Club for the last 18 years. He is also a member of the 4WD Club of WA.

Evan and Keri Lee currently live in Merriwa.



Don (Bing) Crossley

Don was born in Newcastle, NSW in July 1958 and has 3 sisters and a brother. Being the son of a long serving Army medic, he grew up in and around military establishments in NSW, Qld, Vic, SA, WA and PNG, attending Primary and High schools in whichever state his father was posted at the time.

Bing left school at age 15 and started work as a storeman for HS Jones & Co Importers in Hay Street Mall, Perth.

In 1976, he joined the Army and served with 24 Spt Sqn 2FER, 25 Spt Sqn 3FER, 18 Fd Sqn Lt 2/3FER and 22 Const Sqn, taking discharge in 1985. In 1986, he joined the ARes serving with 13 Fd Sqn and 16 RWAR (Kalgoorlie) until 2010.

After leaving the Army, Don worked as a plant operator at Brockway Tip, Graylands and as a prison officer for Eastern Goldfields Prisons. He is currently unemployed.

Don met Jo at a Stevie Wright concert in 1974 and they married in October 1986. They have 6 children, the 'Brady Bunch' as Don put it, and 9 grandchildren.

His father, Roland served as the Sgt Medic with 21 Const Sqn in Borneo.

Don and Jo currently live in Aveley.

13 ENGINEER REGIMENT

On 1 July 2022, Western Australia will have an increase in the number of Sappers with the formation of 13 Engineer Regiment. It will double in size with a Regimental Headquarters, the incorporation of the existing 13 Field Squadron and the formation of the new 22 Squadron.

On the 1st July, the Chief of the Army will issue an 'Order of the Day' announcing the forming of the new Engineer Regiment and the Australian Army 'Order of Battle' will be updated to include the new 13 Engineer Regiment.

For the first six months the new Regiment will be led by LTCOL Michael Hadlow (AUSTINT) and WO1 Paul Dehnert (RAINF) (Capability Implementation Team) will head up the raising and transformation of the unit and its capabilities. In January 2023 an Engineer CO and RSM will march in and take command of the Regiment.

Details of the new unit manning and equipment have not been published yet nor the details of sub-units within the Squadron.

The increase in personal will be a gradual process over a period of 3 to 5 years before the Regiment will be up to full strength. There will be a mix of ARA and ARes sappers, the majority being ARes.

Being an Engineer Regiment, they will be a stand-alone unit and although there will be no changes to the existing 13 Field Squadron, they will continue to operate in the current role but will no longer be under command of the 16 Battalion Battle Group, they will now be in-support of the 16 Battalion.

On Tuesday 5th July, there will be a low-key unit parade held on the parade ground opposite the old 11/28 Battalion building. The proposed arrival time is 7.00 pm (1900 hrs) for a 7.30 pm (1930 hrs) march on time.

The Sappers will be dressed in cams and will not carry rifles. No other details of the parade are available at this time. After the parade the Ryan Club will be opened for drinks and a BBQ.

Anyone wishing to attend the parade and afterwards will have to register their names with the President RAE Association before midday 24 June 2022 so that a list of names can be submitted to 13 Fd Sqn for access into Irwin Barracks.

ANZAC DAY

The Dawn service conducted at the RAE Memorial was very well attended with sappers from 13 Field Squadron, Association members with wives/partners and families of deceased members and veterans in attendance.

Although numbers were down for this years march compared with previous years, it was still good to see some of the old faces again as well as a few new ones who decided to march with us this year.

Thanks to Jim Spink for providing a Transperth bus to get us to and from the march safely.



Footbridge at Pinjarra

Back on the 18th March last year, 42 members, wives/partners and friends made a trip to Pinjarra for a luncheon and to have a look at a footbridge built by 22 Construction Squadron before the Local Shire rebuilt the bridge to new safety standards.

Thanks to a photo sent to the editor by Trevor Johnson, it appears that work is well under way in carrying out the upgrade.



The committee will be keeping a close eye on progress as it is hoped that another luncheon can be organised when the refurbished bridge is finished and we can be there for the opening ceremony.

Watch this space.

South Australian Railways WW1 Memorial Re-dedication

In 2018, whilst carrying out research on the history of Sappers in South Australia, MAJ Patrick Trainor, former OC of 3 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers, based at Warradale, found information on a substantial memorial in the Adelaide Parklands. The memorial was originally erected to those workers who were employed by SA Railways and served in the AIF in World War 1. Later World War 2 railway workers were included.

The Memorial was erected by LTCOL Stan Watson DSO MC CBE who was the Deputy Commissioner of the South Australian Railways. LTCOL Watson and several 2nd Australia Field Company sappers constructed the first pier at Anzac Cove *using a defused Turkish shell as a pile-driver, they completed the jetty on 18 June 1915; it was named 'Watson's Pier'*. There is a display and working model of the construction of Watson's Pier in the Army Museum of South Australia.

LTCOL Watson was the second last person to leave Gallipoli. He remained behind with three sergeants and 17 sappers to ensure a successful evacuation of Gallipoli.

Governor Sir Hore-Ruthven VC who, in his role as Governor of South Australia, originally unveiled the memorial on 11 October 1930.

A site inspection indicated that the memorial had been neglected with little maintenance in recent years. On this basis, MAJ Trainor took it upon himself to initiate a project to refurbish the memorial and restore it to the respectful condition for which it was designed.



The original memorial – taken 12th October 1930



The refurbished memorial – October 2021

Due to COVID restriction, the re-dedication of the Memorial was delayed a year and was re-dedicated on 30 October 2021.

Apart from the attendance of dignitaries and official guests, also attending the re-dedication were the surviving granddaughters of LTCOL Stan Watson. They laid a wreath during the service.

Members of 3 Field Squadron provided the Catafalque Party.

I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand.

I'm an engineer, to save time let's just assume that I'm never wrong.



Law of Close Encounters -

The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

The following information has been extracted from the Department of Veterans' Affairs "DVA PENSIONER SUMMARY" December 2021

Net Total Persons Receiving Income Support or a Compensation Pension From The Department of Veterans' Affairs - December 2021

Veteran Service Pensioners	42,593
Partner/Widow(er) Service Pensioners	38,934
Total Service Pensioners	81,527
Income Support Supplement recipients	29,357
Social Security Age Pensioners	3,438
Commonwealth Seniors' Health Card holders	3,534
Disability Pensioners receiving Income Support⁽¹⁾	33,055
Disability Pensioners not receiving Income Support	45,795
Total Disability Pensioners	78,850
War Widow(er) Pensioners receiving Income Support⁽¹⁾	29,305
War Widow(er) Pensioners not receiving Income Support	12,915
Total War Widow(er) Pensioners	42,220
Orphan Pensioners	153
Net Total⁽²⁾	174,553

(1) 'Income Support' includes Service Pension, Age Pension or Income Support Supplement.

(2) Components do not add to total due to overlaps.

Table 05: Veteran Service Pensioners by Conflict and State - December 2021

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	O'seas	Total
Second World War	651	492	418	226	207	90	3	18	6	2 111
Korea and Malayan Forces	592	319	590	119	199	72	6	25	6	1 928
Far East Strategic Reserve	557	249	589	182	246	53	19	47	6	1 948
Vietnam	6 726	4 456	8 784	2 591	3 170	984	119	355	133	27 318
British Commonwealth	335	213	321	203	292	30	5	11	41	1 451
Allied Veterans	2 491	1 763	445	339	414	6	6	56	40	5 560
British Commonwealth & Allied Mariners	12	8	8	2	6	2	0	0	3	41
Australian Mariners	17	9	12	5	4	4	0	1	1	53
Gulf War	49	17	50	9	23	4	1	3	0	156
East Timor	175	87	421	35	57	37	6	4	7	829
Other Post 1972 Conflicts	235	117	483	69	106	45	2	13	10	1 080
Unknown	20	11	46	13	20	3	2	2	1	118
All Wars and Conflicts	11 860	7 741	12 167	3 793	4 744	1 330	169	535	254	42 593

NOTICES

Next Meeting

The next meeting is the AGM and will be held on Sunday 17 July at the Osborne Park RSL hall, on the corner of Main St and Cape St. The meeting will start at the usual time of 11.00am with a light lunch and drinks provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

Contact Details

When you decide to move house or change contact details, please let the Secretary know of your new details so we can stay in touch.

A couple of members have contacted the Editor wanting to know why they have not received the last 2 editions of the Purple Circle.

The answer was simple – they had changed their email addresses.

The Secretary, Trevor Jones can be contacted on 0413 376 273 or email as shown on the front page of the newsletter.

Laughs

Most of us know how to say nothing. Few of us know when.

If you've made your point, stop talking.

I'm not arguing, I am just explaining why I am right.

ENGINEER: (noun) 1. A person who does precision guesswork based on unreliable data provide by those of questionable knowledge.

A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" The reply, " Call for backup".

Them: What inspires you to get out of bed every morning?

Me: My bladder mostly.