

PRESIDENT

Mr Ian Johnston

50 Nicholli Street
DUNCRAIG WA 6023
Ph: 08 9448 5590

Email: raeassoc2016@gmail.com



SECRETARY

Mr Trevor Jones

PO Box 94
DIANELLA WA 6059
Ph: 08 9371 1290

Email: raeassocwasec2017@gmail.com

Patron: Mr Geoff Stooke OAM

Website: www.wasappers.com.au

The Purple Circle

Editor: Ian Johnston

Contact: 0409 019 518

Summer Edition 2022



**The President and Committee of the Royal
Australian Engineers Association of Western
Australia Inc**

**would like to wish all our members, families and
friends, including our friends in other states and
overseas**

**a very Merry Christmas and a happy and
prosperous New Year**

Be careful, drive safely and we will see you all in 2023

PASSING PARADE

Edwin Moore passed away on 9 November 2021 aged 94 years. Ed served with 22 Construction Squadron in Perth from 1948 to 1954. Ed was a member of the Association.

Carl Axel Nobelius passed away on 3 November 2022 aged 71 years and 7 months. Carl served with 32 Small Ship Squadron and sailed to Vietnam on board AS3051 John Monash from 30 July to 4 August 1971 and again from 5 to 20 August 1971. He then did two more trips to Vietnam on John Monash with 1 Terminal Group from 1 to 14 August 1972 and 29 August to 10 September 1972.

Geoffrey Robert Hunt (COL Ret) RFD ED passed away on 8 November 2022 aged 91 years and 3 months. Geoff was a CMF/ARes officer who undertook a 14 day training tour to Vietnam from April to May 1971 with 17 Construction Squadron.

Kenneth Jago passed away on 10 November 2022 aged 86 years and 1 month. Ken served in Vietnam from October 1970 to September 1971 with 17 Construction Squadron.

Peter Robert Burns passed away on 12 November 2022 aged 77 years. Peter served with 32 Small Ship Squadron and sailed to Vietnam on AV1355 Vernon Sturdee from January to June 1967 and again on AV1353 Harry Chauvel from October 1967 to March 1968.

Carl James Miller (LTCOL) passed away on 15 November 2022 aged 47 years. Carl was a serving member of the GRes at 9 Brigade HQ, SA. He served in Afghanistan.

Barney William Victor (Vic) Fitzsimmons passed away on 18 November 2022 aged 80 years and 5 months. Vic served with 32 Small Ship Squadron and sailed to Vietnam twice on AV3051 John Monash in May 1966 and in October to November 1969. He also sailed to Vietnam twice on AV1356 Clive Steele from June to October 1966 and January to June 1968.

Bruce John Reilly passed away on 1 December 2022 aged 81 years and 5 months. Bruce served with 32 Small Ship Squadron and sailed to Vietnam on AV1356 Clive Steele from July to September 1966 and on AV1355 Vernon Sturdee from June to December 1967.

LEST WE FORGET

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Barry Johnson

Barry was born in North Perth in June 1941 and has 2 sisters and a brother. He grew up in Mt Hawthorn where he attended Mt Hawthorn Primary School and then attended Perth High School.

Barry left school at age 15 and started work as an apprentice in his uncle's electrical contracting business. He later joined his father's electrical business and became a partner. He retired in 2006

In 1964, he joined the CMF (ARes) serving with 13 Fd Sqn before leaving the ARes in 1972 as a corporal. Barry was lucky enough to go to Wewak in PNG with the Squadron for their annual camp as a part of 22 Const Sqn enabling the married members of the Sqn to come home for Christmas.

He met his wife Lesley through a mate's girlfriend and they married in September 1964. Sadly, Lesley passed away in December 2019. They had 2 daughter and a son and Barry has 6 grandchildren.

In 1984, Barry and Lesley and the 2 girls spent a year travelling extensively through Europe in a mobile home. When he retired, they bought another mobile home in Queensland and toured the east coast and Tasmania before coming back to Perth. They joined a motor home club enjoying the friendship of other mobile travellers.

Barry currently live in Morley.



Warren Stuber

Warren was born in Perth in June 1949 and has 2 sisters. He grew up in Scarborough where he attended St John's and CBC Leederville Primary Schools and then went to Scarborough High School.

Warren left school at age 15 and started work at Woolworths where he was given a trainee cadetship. He left after 18 months as he was required to work Saturdays and couldn't go surfing with his mates. He then joined Western Power in the real estate branch where he ended up as the manager before retiring in 2006.

In 1967, Warren joined the CMF (ARes), serving with 13 Fd Sqn and 5 Trg Gp before leaving the Army in 1985 with the rank of WO2. He was SSM of 13 Fd Sqn in 1983-84.

He met his wife Elizabeth at the S.E.C (Western Power) and they married in April 1971. They have 2 daughter and a son and 8 grandchildren.

After 12 months of retirement Warren got sick of being at home, so did 3 years of part-time property management. Now he enjoys being a chauffeur to his grandchildren and writing his memoirs.

Warren and Elizabeth currently live in Warwick.



13 ENGINEER REGIMENT

This is the new shoulder patch to be worn by all members of 13 Engineer Regiment.

The light blue and the 13 in the top left corner depicts 13 Brigade while the Purple Circle and 13 ER depicts 13 Engineer Regiment.

LT COL Lachlan (Lach) Robertson made a quick trip to Perth during the week Monday 7 to Friday 11 November for meetings with 13 Brigade Commander, Deputy Commander, 13 ER transition CO and other unit commanders. He was also given a tour of Irwin Barracks and the difficulties facing the ER with limited facilities.

LT COL Robertson is due to march into the Regt on Monday 16 January 2023 and with what he heard and saw, will hit the deck ready to go. The incoming RSM, WO2 Eron Sage on promotion to WO1, is expected to march into the Regt about the same time.

Promotions, Awards & Postings

Promotions

Since September the following members of 13 ER have been promoted -
Capt Dean Caporn promoted to Major – OC 13 Fd Sqn,
Cpls Shane Newton and Will Rickard promoted to Sgt,
Lcpl Jared Bray promoted to Cpl,
Sprs Justin Bui, Mark Johnson, Richard Manship, Talia Nicholson, Sam Tennant and Aaron Toubia promoted to LCpl.

Awards

Sapper of the Year 2022 awarded to Lcpl Sam Tennant,
Junior NCO of the Year 2022 awarded to Cpl Jason Aleknavicius.

Postings

Capt Kyle Bradley and Sgt Jeff Lawson were farewelled and are being posted to WAUR.

Also farewelled were the Capability Implementation Team of LtCol Micheal Hadlow, CO and Capt (then WO1) Paul Dehnert, RSM. Both finish their time with 13 ER at the Xmas break.

Maj Glen McDermott was farewelled by members of 13 Fd Sqn as he moved sideways as OC 22 Engr Sqn with the formation of 13 ER. He will officially be posted out of 13 ER about the middle of next year to attend his Command and Staff course with the Canadian Forces College in Toronto in a part time capacity by correspondence.



13 ER Update

It's been a busy couple of months for the Regiment with multiple lines of effort (as usual!) in the training cycle.

For 13th Field Squadron, the Combat Engineers have been focusing on combining their recent training in both light urban explosive breaching and urban infantry skills. This culminated in an activity with 11/28 RWAR where the Sappers led the way, breaching doors for their infantry colleagues. Additionally, they have recertified in their CBRND training, conducting a Mask Testing Facility. A nice introduction to the Squadron for a couple of new faces



Plant and Services Troops have also been busy, with the Services guys running both the Chainsaw Operator and Basic Tree felling courses through the period. Teaching students the basics of chainsaw operation and maintenance before heading to Jarrahdale to fell some trees.



In the horizontal construction space, Plant Troop took the lead in the construction of a concrete hard stand for 16RWAR as well as continuing their internal push to train more and more planties. They also spent a block training period in Lancelin refurbishing one of the range tracks completing over 1km.

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The training period has wrapped up with the Squadron running a core skills courses weekend with trainees focused on their First Aid certification and training on the new Night Fighting Equipment.



22 ENGINEER REGIMENT

Sunday 6th November saw 22ER exercise the custom of Freedom of the City of Maroondah when the Regiment marched through the eastern Melbourne suburb of Croydon. A full complement of sappers marched along with the Banner Party. A minimum of 64 ORs are required to march.

The following pictures were sent over by Jim Davis, secretary Victorian Association.



March on the Banner



Banner during March



The Challenge by Victorian Police



Presentation of Freedom Certificate

VISIT TO RON GOMBOC GALLERY

Sunday 23 October saw 63 association members, partners and friends gather at the Gomboc Gallery for a late finger food lunch and drinks. The rain gods did not look favourably on us as it rained for most of the afternoon which was not conducive to allow guests to walk around the Gomboc outdoor gallery to view the sculptures located on the property.





Finally, I would like to thank Ron and Terri Gomboc for allowing the Association to hold the luncheon in their studio and allowing guests to move around the studio to view the many artworks on display. A special thanks to Ron who opened his workshop so people to wander and view various aspects of his works while he explained the process in sculpturing.

A thank you also to Peter Billington for all his work in organising the function which from all accounts was enjoyed by everyone.

Visit by DVA Member

At the last general meeting, our guest speaker was Jo Maclean from DVA. Jo gave an excellent talk on the changes being made within DVA because of the Royal Commission into Veterans and service personal suicides and delays within the DVA system.

DVA is in the throes of hiring some 800 new staff Australia wide with 130 of those new staff being in the Perth office. The downside is, ringing DVA with all calls going through to a central answering service where your call could be answered by the next available case worker who picks up your call and could be anywhere in Australia.

Good news of Western Australians in that if you call after 3.00pm WST, your call will be answered by someone in the Perth office as the eastern states offices have shut for the day.

NOTICES

Next Meeting

The next general meeting will be held on Sunday 5 February which is our El Kantara meeting. After that, our next meeting is on 2 April and our guest speaker will be John Koekemoer, a former Rhodesian Army Engineer.

All meetings are held at the Osborne Park RSL hall, on the corner of Main St and Cape St. Meeting start at the usual time of 11.00am with a light lunch and drinks provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

Contact Details

Since the last Purple Circle, the treasurer was not able to make contact with some of our members. After a ring around of those members, the secretary was able to speak with some of them, he found that some had changed email address, changed postal address or dropped their email contact.

Others were contacted and did not return calls or text messages.

So, when you move house or change contact details, please do the polite thing and let the Secretary know of your new details so we can stay in touch. It saves a lot of hard work and time by committee members to chase up details.

The Secretary, Trevor Jones can be contacted by phone - 0413 376 273 or by email - raeassocwasec2017@gmail.com

If you decide you do not wish to continue your membership, please also let the secretary know so we can remove your name from the membership list.

Did You Know

80% of Australian animals are unique to Australia.

Australia is home to 21 of the world's 25 most venomous snakes'.

You can fly from Perth to Melbourne faster than you can fly from one end of Western Australia to the other.

Australia is the only continent covered by a single country.

Laughs

A chicken farmer went to a local bar, sat next to a woman and ordered a glass of champagne.

The woman perked up and said "How about that? I just ordered a glass of champagne, too".

"What a coincidence" the farmer said. "This is a special day for me: I am celebrating".

"My husband and I have been trying to have a child, and today my gynecologist told me that I was pregnant".

What a coincidence!" the man said. "I'm a chicken farmer .and for years all of my hens were infertile, but today they are all laying eggs" .

That's great!" the woman asked. "How did your chickens become fertile?".

"I used a different rooster" he replied.

The woman smiled, clinked his glass and said "What a coincidence".

I don't trip, I do gravity checks

I'm a multitasker: I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time

May your troubles be less

May your blessing be more

May nothing but happiness

Come through your door