



Fire On!

**The Newsletter of the Royal
Australian Engineers
Association of Tasmania Inc**



Welcome to the December 2022 issue,

President's Christmas Message

Hello fellow Sappers,

I have been in the President's position for just over a year now and I am very pleased with the progress made. I see four main areas of activity for the Association, which are: 1. Heritage, 2. Commemoration, 3. Social, 4. Welfare and Mateship, and whilst continuously promoting the Corps of RAE to the Tasmanian Community.

The history and heritage side has really taken off and I welcome Lyn Jackson as another member of the team. We are all volunteers and I appreciate the many sorts of contributions made by all participative members of the Association and the committee. I sincerely thank you all. As an inspirational Troop Commander use to say to us when I was a young Sapper, "you get out of it in direct proportion to what you put into it". So I hope you are all feeling pretty chuffed with yourselves. Apparently even "old and bolds" can experience new bonding and mateship. Could be something too in that old "Esprit de Corps" waffle – a pride in belonging.

The 2022 AGM and Reunion dinner was an outstanding success. I thank Vice President Bill Morley for presiding over both events. Unfortunately, I was double booked and owed it to my very supportive partner Dianne to accompany her at an activity in which she was heavily involved. While the cat was away the mice indeed did play to such an extent that the end of the evening rolled around very quickly. I believe some of the last to leave were our patron Major John Opie and Major David Crosby and Mrs. Carol Crosby, I am sorry that I missed you.

A timely opportunity now to issue a warning order (WNGO) for the 2023 Corps Birthday which will be held at Devonport RSL on the evening of Saturday 01 Jul 23, and the 2023 AGM and Reunion dinner will be held at Claremont RSL Saturday 18 Nov 23, and unless advised otherwise. Time to start planning transport and accommodation. If enough interest is shown the association will arrange a coach and convenient overnight accommodation. (members to pay) I can guarantee this will be more comfortable than wooden seats under a canopy in the back of a TCV. We are a state wide organization serving some very interesting Sappers. A positive expression of interest to attend the Corps Birthday has been received from Colonel Bruce Murray, Colonel Commandant RAE, Southern Region.

As part of the improvement of our administration system the Association is in the process of applying for Charity and Not for Profit status to enable us to access administrative and IT services at a more affordable price.

I recently attend a celebration of life of SSGT Arthur Stagg. Conversation with family members has resulted in the offer of copies of photos of early 12 FD Sqn days building Bailey Bridges for HEC. The Association will commence an oral video history recording program in the near future. Should any of you readers feel inclined to participate either as sorry tellers or interviewers, or know of people with interviewing skills please contact the committee. Far too much goes to the grave.

Consistent with our statewide theme, commemorative activities will occur at the Afghanistan Combat Engineers Memorial in Kings Park Launceston, along with our normal ANZAC day activities. Our secretary will once again be at Arthurs Lake dawn service to help maintain the initial momentum. Any other opportunities to participate or support relevant commemoration services will always be considered by the Association and all suggestions to the committee are keenly sort, along with volunteers to attend.

A small quantity of 'Once a Sapper, Always a Sapper' bumper stickers are still available from the Secretary at \$10 each.

With the resurgence of Covid in mind I take the opportunity to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and an untroubled 2023. Those of you who are unwell or have been undergoing medical procedures I wish a good and speedy recovery. Remember too, please, our lonely old mates that find Christmas hard or are doing it by themselves and if possible, share some time with them.

Follow the Sapper!

Bogdan "Micho" Michalowski
President
RAEA Tas

RAE Assn Committee Meeting Dates 2023

The committee proposes to meet during 2023 on the following dates,

19 Jan '23
16 Mar '23
18 May '23
20 Jul '23
21 Sept '23

If members have any matters for the attention of the committee, please forward to the Secretary not less than seven days prior to any committee meeting.

Meetings will normally be held at the Claremont RSL, but the Secretary will trial 'Teams' for virtual attendance, more information to follow.

Committee Contact Details are,

Bogdan Michalkowski, 0419 282814
Bill Morley, 0428 976349
Andrew Montgomery, 0418 125760
Alan Pierce, 0431 352417
Lindsay Hamilton, 0409 993554
Richard Cains, 0418 754537
Steve Bramich, 0400 823191
John Clark, 0414 581103

Other Significant Dates for 2023

Please note the following dates,

18 Nov '23, RAE Assn AGM and Annual Dinner at Claremont RSL

Andrew Montgomery
Secretary
RAE Assn of Tas Inc.