



AUSTRALIAN ARMY



MUSEUM OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

(Newsletter produced by the Military Engineering Heritage Company)

*Journey with our 'Sappers'*

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## "Australian Water Transport Association Tour"

The troops from the AWTA recently visited the AAMME - *The water transport display is well worth a Captain Cook!*



**A little history;** The AWTA was raised in Chowder Bay, Sydney in 1942 and their original origin actually dates back to the siege of Tobruk. This group assisted the Navy destroyers unload during the night. Back then they were called 'Tugs & Lighters' and were a key element in the survival of the Tobruk garrison. In 1945 there were around 5,000 Sappers and they had approximately 500 small ships and landing craft. Post WW2 our Sapper Sailors served in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and in the rivers and waters of South Vietnam.

The AWTA joined the AAMME precinct about 3 years ago and they currently have 120 NSW members.



*I have it on good advice that the recruiting process was very extensive for inclusion into the water transport back then – Guess what, if you had travelled on the Manly ferry – you were qualified!*

Accompanying the tour was Ken Duncan – AWTA Patron; and Cec Weekes – AWTA President and MEHC Director.



Midway through the tour – lunch and refreshments were taken at the RAE SGTS's Mess

The AWTA exhibit simply gets bigger and better; the members have done a great job with this memorabilia.

If you haven't seen this display; do yourself a favour and check out our seafaring Sappers history.