



AUSTRALIAN ARMY



MUSEUM OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

(Newsletter produced by the Military Engineering Heritage Company)

*Journey with our
'Sappers'*

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From Humble Beginnings

So what happens when a group of motivated individuals meet at a hotel on a fine November day? Well, the result from this little gathering was the raising of the Victorian Volunteer Engineer Corps. And as we now know, this led to the Royal Australian Engineer Corps; yep... the RAE!

The AAMME is currently holding an exhibition to honour this humble beginning; the exhibition started on 18 October, and will continue until mid March 2011; the official opening was conducted on 13 November 2010. The event was proudly supported by 'Interlink Roads'; so lets have a closer look.....

Visitors were greeted with some background information hanging on a gyn with a block set and rope



Young ladies discussing some period equipment



Some every day engineer tools; including the famed broad axe!



A snap shot of the official opening crowd; a great roll up!



MAJ Bob Petrenko welcoming dignitaries and guests



The sponsor's reply – Mr Rex Wright (Interlink Roads)



Pam Browne (Exhibition Manager) thanking WO1 Mick Dunne for his assistance



A couple of notable young fellows enjoying the moment



Whilst Phil and John had no choice with this photo; there were many other regular MEHC members involved. Additionally, many community volunteers provided many hours of labour to assist in plinth construction, proof reading and editing – many thanks to all.

Phil Hurren presenting Keith Polsen with a 'Sapper Tapper'. Keith donated a broad axe for Mick.



There were numerous information panels constructed, hung and illuminated throughout the main building entrance to enlighten visitors on the everyday life and timeline from the formation beginning

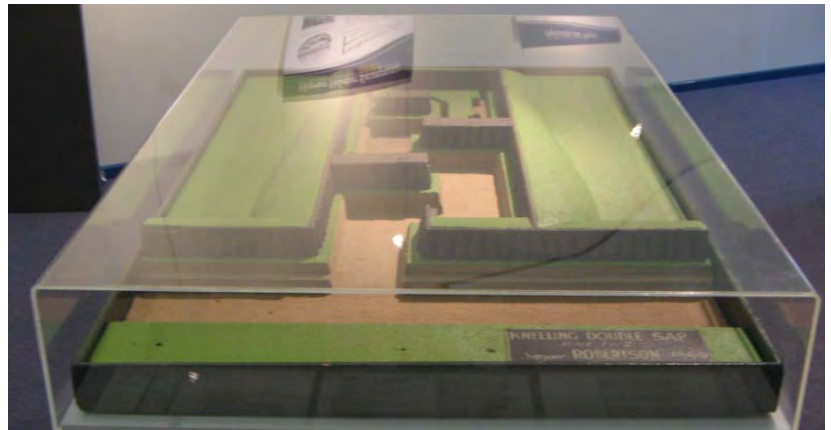
An array of period survey instruments



An engineer's possessions



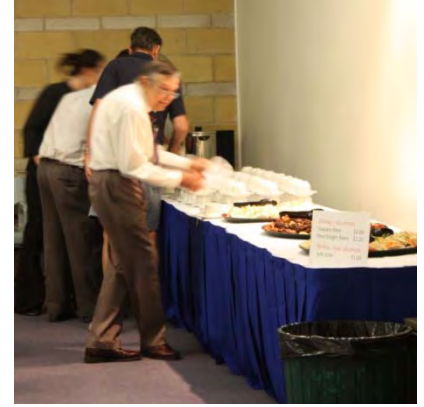
Some typical fortification type work



A wickerwork gabion basket



The theatrette was setup for a nice cuppa!



150 YEARS.....

There you have it, a quick overview of this current AAMME exhibition to commemorate the early formation of the Corps'. Without doubt many thanks must go to all involved (AAMME staff, MEHC members, community volunteers & Interlink) to name a few; however, a special mention must go to the exhibition manager – Pam Browne. Pam, thanks for the behind the scenes coordination of the exhibits and effort to showcase our earliest history.

After the exhibition opening, patrons wandered through the other AAMME displays – this building contains the Survey and the Australian Water Transport Association collections



So, if you have not seen this gem of a display; come in before mid March 2011 and check it out – a humble beginning!
So we know our origin, we also know where we are at; where to from here? **You'll have to wait and watch this space!**